

Trump moves 2 subs after 'threat' from Russia

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump on Friday said he deployed two nuclear submarines into tactical positions after online threats from former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev, escalating tensions between the two nuclear superpowers as Trump's frustration against Moscow mounts.

Trump said on social media that Medvedev's "highly provocative statements" led him to dispatch the submarines "just in case these foolish and inflammatory statements are more than just that."

"Words are very important, and can often lead to unintended consequences," Trump continued, capping an intensifying exchange between the two men, who have long been at odds. "I hope this will not be one of those instances."

Medvedev, now deputy chairman of Russia's security council, had referenced the Soviet Union's emergency nuclear strike capabilities in a Telegram post that told Trump to imagine the Walking Dead, an apocalyptic television series.

Hours after the social media post, Trump said he deployed the submarines because Medvedev's "threat" was inappropriate.

"A threat was made ... so we just have to be very careful," Trump said Friday afternoon while leaving the White House to go to his golf club in Bedminster, N.J., for the weekend.

"We're going to protect our people," he added.

Trump on Friday afternoon did not answer a question about where he had sent the subs, but in an interview with the conservative outlet Newsmax that

aired hours later he said he sent them to "the region" and that "they're closer to Russia."

The Pentagon would not comment Friday on the deployment of resources that typically operate in secret, and experts said it was more likely that Trump intended to send a message than propel the world's superpowers toward armed conflict.

But the rare invocation of nuclear force appeared to reflect Trump's deepening displeasure with Russia over its continued war on Ukraine. The exchange followed what Ukrainian officials said had been the deadliest Russian airstrike on the capital city this year, and came as Trump threatens to enact steep tariffs on Moscow if it does not agree to a ceasefire within 10 days.

Trump's post sent officials and analysts scrambling to as-

sess the significance of the deployment. RIA Novosti, a state-controlled news agency, suggested the Russians are seeking clarity from Washington about Trump's actions and intentions. The agency said Friday it had sent inquiries to the White House, Pentagon, U.S. Central Command and the National Security Council but had not received a response.

On Capitol Hill, Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said that he planned to ask the U.S. Navy for more information. "Why would we ever signal plans to relocate nuclear submarines?" he asked.

The Pentagon typically does not reveal such details unless doing so sends a message or deters conflict, said Mark Cancian, a retired Marine colonel focused on security at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Senate advances \$21B boost to defense spending bill

BY SVETLANA
SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate Appropriations Committee advanced a nearly \$853 billion defense spending bill on Thursday that funds a 3.8% pay raise for troops while surging money for Ukraine and boosting the Pentagon's budget by more than \$21 billion.

The measure, passed in a 26-3 vote, pushes up the Trump administration's budget request for the Defense Department by 2.6% and allocates \$800 million for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative program in defiance of the administration's request.

The Pentagon did not ask for

any money for the long-running program used to purchase weapons for Ukraine's military, but lawmakers in both chambers have written legislation resurrecting the initiative in recent weeks.

"Shutting off engagement with Ukraine would undermine our military's efforts to prepare for the modern battlefield," Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the chairman of the defense appropriations subpanel, said Thursday.

The \$800 million appropriated for the Ukraine initiative is the largest amount yet.

The Senate Armed Services Committee is proposing \$500 million for the program, and the House Armed Services Com-

mittee authorized \$400 million. The House did not fund the program in the defense appropriations bill that it passed last month.

The Senate panel's appropriations bill also restores \$225 million in security assistance to the Baltic states.

"These allies are on the absolute front line of resisting Russian aggression, and we are learning critical lessons about the future of warfare, as well as standing with those who fight for freedom," said Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware, the top Democrat on the defense appropriations subpanel.

The appropriations committee also poured funds into other priorities that senators believe

are underfunded in the Pentagon's budget request, including munitions, shipbuilding and air and missile defense.

The legislation provides a \$7.3 billion increase to purchasing munitions and expanding production capacity, though a senior Senate GOP aide speaking on condition of anonymity said the investment is still not going to be enough to meet the military's needs.

Recent operations in the Middle East, particularly the bombing of Iranian nuclear facilities last month and the sustained campaign to counter Houthi rebels in the Red Sea, have shown how quickly critical munitions can be exhausted, McConnell said.

More Guard troops sent home from LA

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Only 250 California National Guard troops of the roughly 4,000 deployed to Los Angeles in June remained on duty Thursday after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth approved sending home another 1,350 troops, the Pentagon announced.

The remaining troops will continue the mission to protect federal personnel and property in and around the city that once had more than 5,000 troops, including active-duty Marines, deployed there. Hegseth authorized the drawdown Wednesday, according to Sean Parnell, Pentagon spokesman.

Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman

has served as commander of the mission, known as Task Force 51, for the nearly two months that troops have been deployed to the city.

Trump said the troops were necessary to keep the city from burning, but local and state officials argued the military inflamed the situation.

While the Marines were

primarily stationed as security outside of federal buildings, National Guard troops have gone with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to provide a safe perimeter as federal officers made arrests.

LA Mayor Karen Bass on Wednesday praised Hegseth's decision to send the majority of troops home.

Sailor presumed dead, lost at sea near Australia

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A 19-year-old sailor is believed to be lost at sea this week in an assumed overboard incident that led to a 45-hour search for him in the Timor Sea, the Navy said Friday.

Jose Antonio Rivera Lynch IV, an aviation boatswain's mate for launch and recovery equipment, was last seen aboard the USS George Wash-

ington on Monday, the Navy said. He was from Florida and enlisted in June 2024. He joined the aircraft carrier in January.

Several Navy ships, aircraft and squadrons searched for the sailor alongside Australian forces, covering roughly 2,200 square miles before calling off the efforts on Wednesday.

"Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of our shipmate, Airman Rivera

Lynch," Capt. Tim Waits, commander of the George Washington, said in a statement. "I am sincerely grateful for the support and coordination from all units who assisted in the search effort, including our partners from the Australian Defence Force and Border Force."

The Nimitz-class aircraft carrier was taking part in Operation Talisman Sabre when Rivera Lynch went missing.

When the sailor was reported missing Monday, the carrier and the warships in its strike group broke off from the exercise to conduct a search, the Navy said. The search included the destroyer USS Shoup, the cruiser USS Robert Smalls, Helicopter Squadron 12 and Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 78, as well as multiple aircraft from the U.S. and Australia.

New, improved Patriot battalion to bolster Guam defense

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The Army is sending an improved Patriot battalion to Guam as the Defense Department undertakes an \$8 billion plan to defend the U.S. territory and mid-ocean military platform from missile attacks.

The unit will be one of up to four new Patriot battalions, Gen. James Mingus, the Army vice chief of staff, said July 2 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. He did not say when the battalions would become operational.

The Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense System be-

ing built on the island includes Patriot air defense systems, according to the project's final Environmental Impact Statement released July 25.

The defense system is expected to provide continuous 360-degree protection against cruise, ballistic and hypersonic missile attacks. Its plans call for radars, sensors, missile launchers, missile interceptors and support facilities.

The system is expected to become operational as each of its 16 sites are completed over the next decade, according to the EIS.

Army Lt. Gen. Robert Rasch at a Senate Armed Services

Committee hearing estimated the project's cost at \$8 billion.

Modern versions of the Patriot system, first used in combat during Operation Desert Storm in 1991, can carry up to 16 missiles designed to intercept and destroy incoming projectiles.

Adm. Samuel Paparo, head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, told lawmakers this spring that a Patriot battalion had been transferred from his area of responsibility to U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East and South Asia.

In June, about 200 U.S. troops from a South Korea-based Patriot unit were temporarily re-

deployed to the Middle East.

Patriots defended Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar against Iranian missile attacks that month after U.S. B-2 Spirit stealth bombers attacked Iranian nuclear facilities.

The new Patriot battalions will use a powerful type of air and missile defense sensor to vastly extend the Patriots' range, Mingus said, according to an Army release.

The Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensor can identify and defeat multiple targets, including low-altitude cruise missiles, hypersonic missiles and short-range ballistic missiles, the release said.

Ex-soldier suspected of killing 4 in Montana

Associated Press

Deputies spent Saturday traversing a rugged mountainous area of Montana with helicopters overhead as a manhunt for a military veteran suspected of fatally shooting four people at a bar stretched into a second day with no capture.

Michael Paul Brown, 45, fled The Owl Bar in the small town of Anaconda in a white pickup before ditching it at some point, according to Lee Johnson, administrator of the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation, which is overseeing the case.

Authorities released a photo of the suspect said to be taken as he fled after the shooting:

Gaunt, barefoot and wearing nothing but black shorts, he is seen walking down what appears to be a flight of outdoor concrete steps.

"While law enforcement has not received reports of Brown harming any other individuals, he is believed to be armed, and he is extremely dangerous," Johnson said.

The search was still focused on an area off Stumptown Road west of Anaconda, both on the ground and by air, and included multiple local, state and federal agencies.

Anaconda-Deer Lodge Police Chief Bill Sather said Saturday that businesses in the area could open, but he urged

caution.

Anaconda, about 25 miles northwest of Butte, is home to roughly 9,000 people. Hemmed in by mountains, it was founded by copper barons who profited from nearby mines in the late 1800s.

Brown lived next door to The Owl Bar, according to owner David Gwerder, who was not there when the shooting happened Friday morning.

Gwerder told The Associated Press that the bartender and three patrons were killed, and he did not think anyone else was inside. He was not aware of any conflicts between Brown and the victims.

"He knew everybody that

was in that bar. I guarantee you that," Gwerder said. "He didn't have any running dispute with any of them. I just think he snapped."

Brown served in the Army as an armor crewman from 2001 to 2005 and deployed to Iraq from early 2004 until March 2005, according to Lt. Col. Ruth Castro, an Army spokesperson. Brown was in the Montana National Guard from 2006 to March 2009, Castro said, and left military service at the rank of sergeant.

Brown's niece, Clare Boyle, told AP her uncle has struggled with mental illness for years and she and other family members repeatedly sought help.

Tesla ordered to pay more than \$240M in crash case

Associated Press

MIAMI — A Miami jury decided that Elon Musk's car company Tesla was partly responsible for a deadly crash in Florida involving its Autopilot driver assist technology and must pay the victims more than \$240 million in damages.

The federal jury held that Tesla bore significant responsibility because its technology failed and that not all the blame can be put on a reckless driver, even one who admitted he was distracted by his cellphone before hitting a young couple out gazing at the stars. The decision comes as Musk seeks to convince Americans his cars are safe enough to drive on their own as he plans to roll out a driverless taxi service in the coming months.

The decision ends a four-year long case remarkable not just in its outcome but that it even made it to trial. Many similar cases against Tesla have been dismissed and, when that didn't happen, settled by the company to avoid the spotlight of a trial.

"This will open the floodgates," said Miguel Custodio, a car crash lawyer not involved in the Tesla case. "It will embolden a lot of people to come to court."

The case also included startling charges by lawyers for the family of the deceased, 22-year-old, Naibel Benavides Leon, and for her injured boyfriend, Dillon Angulo.

They claimed Tesla either hid or lost key evidence, including data and video recorded seconds before the accident. Tesla said it made a mistake after being shown the evidence and honestly hadn't thought it was there.

"We finally learned what happened that night, that the car was actually defective," said Benavides' sister, Neima Benavides. "Justice was achieved."

In addition to a punitive award of \$200 million, the jury said Tesla must also pay \$43 million of a total \$129 million in compensatory damages for the crash, bringing the total borne by the company to \$243 million.

Ex-Trump prosecutor Smith faces investigation

Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. — An independent watchdog agency responsible for enforcing a law against partisan political activity by federal employees has opened an investigation into Jack Smith, the Justice Department special counsel who brought two criminal cases against then-candidate Donald Trump before his election to the White House last year.

The Office of Special Counsel confirmed Saturday that it was investigating Smith on allegations he engaged in political activity through his inquiries into Trump. Smith was named special counsel by then-Attorney General Merrick Garland in November 2022.

The office has no criminal enforcement power but does have the authority to impose fines and other sanctions for violations.

It was not clear what basis exists to contend that Smith's investigations were political in nature or that he violated the Hatch Act, a federal law that

bans certain public officials from engaging in political activity.

Sen. Tom Cotton, an Arkansas Republican, had earlier last week encouraged the office to scrutinize Smith's activities and had alleged that his conduct was designed to help then-President Joe Biden and his vice president Kamala Harris.

Smith brought two cases against Trump, one accusing him of conspiring to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and the other of hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Both were brought in 2023, well over a year before the 2024 presidential election, and indictments in the two cases cited what Smith and his team described as clear violations of well-established federal law.

Both cases were abandoned by Smith after Trump's November win, with the prosecutor citing long-standing Justice Department policy prohibiting the indictment of a sitting president.

US troops aid Philippines after storms

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

American forces have flown food and other supplies to northern Philippines communities affected by recent typhoons, tropical storms and monsoon rains, according to U.S. State Department and Marine Corps officials.

Marine and Air Force Ospreys and Air Force MC-130J airlifters recently delivered “life-saving relief items to communities in Northern Luzon,” the U.S. Embassy in Manila said in a state-

ment on its website.

The death toll from recent heavy rains and tropical cyclones stood at 37 on Friday, according to the state-run Philippine News Agency.

Following a request from the Philippine government, the Ospreys flew more than 600 family food packs and emergency relief items from Clark Air Base on Luzon to Basco, Batanes, on Wednesday and Thursday, the embassy said.

The Batanes — an island

group in the Luzon Strait between Taiwan and the Philippines — have hosted U.S. forces during military exercises in recent years.

In October, Marine Rotational Force-Southeast Asia, at the start of a six-month deployment to the region, delivered aid to Batanes following Super Typhoon Krathon.

The embassy said operations to deliver 5,700 additional food packs to affected areas will continue in the coming days.

U.S. aircraft and personnel remain ready to assist the Philippine military in delivering more aid, the statement added.

“The United States stands shoulder to shoulder with our Filipino allies, especially in responding to disasters,” U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines MaryKay Carlson said in the statement. “We are grateful to the combined relief and rescue teams who have been working tirelessly on the ground to deliver emergency assistance to affected residents.”

US envoy tells families plan to bring hostages home

The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Steve Witkoff, President Donald Trump’s special envoy, told Israeli hostage families Saturday that the United States has a plan to bring home all the remaining captives held by Hamas in a sweeping deal and that an end to the war was near, according to a recording of the meeting published by Israeli Channel 12 television.

Witkoff met the families in Tel Aviv after attending an impromptu protest that was held in the city after Hamas released a video, late Friday, of a gaunt 24-year-old hostage, Evyatar David, describing a lack of food while in captivity in Gaza and urging Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to end the war.

Hamas and its militant affiliates have often released similar videos during critical

junctures in negotiations with Israel to stir public sentiment and apply pressure on the government.

Trump “now believes that everybody should come home at once, no piecemeal deals. That doesn’t work and we’ve tried everything,” Witkoff said, according to the recording of the meeting.

Trump’s envoy has previously proposed a staggered deal that would see roughly half of the remaining 20 living hostages released during the first day of a potential ceasefire and others released later.

But the framework has been criticized by families of the hostages who fear their loved ones may never be freed if they are not part of the initial wave of those released.

Witkoff also told the families that Hamas was ready to commit to laying down its arms, Israeli media reported, citing fam-

ilies who had met with Witkoff.

Hamas immediately denied on Saturday that it was ready to disarm.

“Resistance and its weapons are a national and legal right as long as the occupation persists,” it said in a statement. “We will never relinquish this right until all our national rights are restored, foremost among them the establishment of an independent, fully sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.”

Ruby Chen, the father of IDF soldier Itay Chen, a U.S.-Israel dual national who was taken hostage, said he did not interpret Witkoff’s comments during the meeting as implying that Hamas was ready to lay down its arms, but the key message was that the Trump administration sought to “end the war and release all the hostages in one shot.”

Ukrainian agencies uncover military graft scheme

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s anti-corruption agencies said they had uncovered a major graft scheme involving inflated military procurement contracts, just two days after Ukraine’s parliament voted to restore the agencies’ independence.

In a joint statement published Saturday on social media, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau (NABU) and the Spe-

cialized Anti-Corruption Prosecutor’s Office (SAPO) said the suspects had taken bribes in a scheme that used state funds to buy drones and other military equipment at inflated prices.

“The essence of the scheme was to conclude state contracts with supplier companies at deliberately inflated prices,” the statement said, adding that offenders had received kickbacks of up to 30% of the contracts’ value.

The anti-corruption bodies did not identify the detainees, but said a Ukrainian lawmaker, local district and city officials, and National Guard servicemen were involved. Four people have been arrested so far, they said.

The Interior Ministry said the National Guard personnel implicated in the case were removed from their positions.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the

development in his nightly address Saturday, calling the graft scheme “absolutely immoral” and thanking the anti-corruption agencies for their work.

“Unfortunately, these corruption schemes involved the procurement of electronic warfare systems and FPV drones ... There must be full and fair accountability for this,” he said in his address, posted to X.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Diddy' lawyers argue 'freak-offs' are a right

NY NEW YORK — In an effort to get Sean "Diddy" Combs out from behind bars, lawyers for the hip-hop mogul have asked the judge presiding over his Manhattan sex crimes case to set aside the recent guilty verdicts, arguing the disgraced rap icon had a First Amendment right to fund and organize the notorious "freak-off" sessions central to the case.

Combs' legal team argued that his July 2 conviction in Manhattan Federal Court on two Mann Act counts of transporting people for prostitution was unique — that, according to their research, nobody else had ever been held legally responsible for the same conduct.

"It should not stand at all," they said. They asked the verdict be set aside or a new trial ordered.

UCLA reaches \$6M deal with Jewish students

CA LOS ANGELES — The University of California, Los Angeles, reached a \$6 million settlement with three Jewish students and a Jewish professor whose lawsuit against the university argued it violated their civil rights by allowing pro-Palestinian protesters in 2024 to block their access to classes and other areas on campus.

The settlement comes nearly a year after a preliminary injunction was issued, marking the first time a U.S. judge had ruled against a university over their handling of on-campus demonstrations against Israel's

war in Gaza.

UCLA initially had argued that it had no legal responsibility over the issue because protesters, not the university, blocked Jewish students' access to areas.

But U.S. District Judge Mark Scarsi disagreed and ordered UCLA to create a plan to protect Jewish students on campus. The University of California, one of the nation's largest public university systems, has since created systemwide campus guidelines on protests.

Gary Busey pleads guilty to groping woman

NJ CHERRY HILL — Actor Gary Busey pleaded guilty to a sex crime charge Thursday in connection to a 2022 incident at a horror movie convention in New Jersey.

Busey, 81, pleaded guilty to one count of fourth-degree criminal sexual contact after admitting to intentionally touching a woman inappropriately at the Monster-Mania Convention at the Doubletree Hotel in Cherry Hill on Aug. 13, 2022.

"It was not an accidental touching," Busey told the judge.

Busey had initially been charged with two counts of criminal sexual contact, one count of attempted criminal sexual contact and one count of harassment. The actor was accused of groping at least three women during photo-ops at the convention and attempting to remove one's bra.

As the result of a plea agreement, three of those charges were dropped. For the one remaining count of criminal sex-

ual contact, Busey now faces between one and five years of probation, as well as fines.

Chincoteague ponies complete 100th swim

VA CHINCOTEAGUE — Thousands gathered in Virginia to watch the Chincoteague wild ponies make their annual swim across the Assateague Channel in the 100th anniversary of the popular tradition.

Foal No. 36 was the champion of the short channel swim on Wednesday and crowned "King Neptune," the title given each year to the first to complete the swim, according to the Chincoteague Fire Department.

"Saltwater Cowboys" on horseback round up the ponies, who then swim the channel and come ashore on the east side of Chincoteague Island.

The event hosted by the Chincoteague Fire Department includes an auction of some of the foals to help control the size of the herd and maintain a healthy pony population on Assateague Island, where the ponies live most of the year.

Dozens injured as Delta flight hits turbulence

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Delta flight heading from Salt Lake City to Amsterdam encountered "significant" turbulence after take off Wednesday, sending beverage carts and other items flying through the cabin and leaving at least 25 people hurt.

Nine of the injured were taken to Hennepin Healthcare in downtown Minneapolis after the Airbus A330-900 diverted to

the Twin Cities and landed safely at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, according to hospital spokeswoman Christine Hill.

The victims were treated and released, she said.

Delta Flight 56 had been in the air about 40 minutes and climbed to 37,000 feet where it met turbulence the airline described as "significant." The plane reached a maximum altitude of 38,075 at 5:23 p.m., before nosediving about 1,300 feet in two minutes. The aircraft returned to 37,000 and continued on to Minneapolis, according to Flightradar24.com, a flight tracking website.

Teacher admits to fatally stabbing couple

AR LITTLE ROCK — A teacher admitted he fatally stabbed a couple who were hiking with two of their children in an Arkansas state park, authorities said Thursday, after a five-day search and hundreds of tips led to his arrest.

State Police arrested Andrew James McGann, 28, on Wednesday at a barbershop in Springdale, about 30 miles north of Devil's Den State Park, said Maj. Stacie Rhoads, commander of the department's criminal investigation division.

McGann is charged with two counts of capital murder in the killing of Clinton David Brink, 43, and his wife Cristen Amanda Brink, 41.

Arkansas State Police Col. Mike Hagar said authorities are trying to determine a motive for the attack and have no reason to believe McGann knew the couple or their children.

- From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

4 inducted into Pro Football Hall of Fame

Associated Press

Sterling Sharpe stood at the podium a few feet from his bronze bust, took off his new gold jacket and gave it to his fellow Pro Football Hall of Fame brother.

Shannon Sharpe had given Sterling his first Super Bowl ring, and now big brother was returning the favor on stage after the crowning moment of his football career.

"This is why I played football," Sterling said, referring to his younger brother, who wrapped his arm around him and had tears streaming down his face. "This is why I got out of bed; it wasn't work. It was because of this right here. Before I leave you, I want to do two things. The most precious gift I've ever received is the Super Bowl ring. ... I wear this ring because of love. You gave me this not knowing you were going to get another one. And I prayed to God: 'Please, God, let him get another.' God blessed him with two.

"The second thing is, the last time I was here, you said that you were the only pro football player in the Hall of Fame that could say that you were the second-best

player in your own family. I agree with that statement, but it would be an extreme privilege. ... for you to be the only player in the Pro Football Hall of Fame with two gold jackets. You see, you have to learn to follow before you can lead."

Eric Allen, Jared Allen and Antonio Gates joined Sterling Sharpe as the Class of 2025 was inducted into football immortality during a ceremony at Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium, where the Los Angeles Chargers beat the Detroit Lions 34-7 on Thursday night to kick off the NFL preseason.

Sterling Sharpe averaged 85 catches and 1,162 yards, finishing with 65 touchdowns in seven seasons with the Green Bay Packers. The wide receiver was named to five Pro Bowls and earned first-team All-Pro honors three times. A neck injury cut his career short and he waited a long time to get the call from the Hall.

Jared Allen was the first player among the new class to take the stage. Wearing his trademark cowboy hat, Allen talked about his motivation for success.

"Why is what makes you dif-

ferent; it's your long game," he said. "It's the motivation that drives you to do all necessary action steps to achieve your goal. My why can be summed up in three things: fear, respect and the pursuit of greatness. ... I apply my why to everything in my life, to my walk with Christ, my marriage and being a father."

Allen made five Pro Bowls, was a four-time All-Pro and had 136 sacks in 12 seasons with the Chiefs, Vikings, Bears and Panthers. His final game was Super Bowl 50, a loss by Carolina against Peyton Manning and the Broncos.

Eric Allen, a six-time Pro Bowl cornerback who played for the Eagles, Saints and Raiders, was presented by one of his four sons. Allen, who had 54 career interceptions, including eight returned for touchdowns, gave the obligatory "Fly! Eagles! Fly!" to support the Super Bowl champions who drafted him in 1988.

"I grew up in Philadelphia. I became a man there. I have a special gratitude for the organization," Allen said.

Allen also thanked current Raiders owner Mark Davis, who was in attendance.

"Al Davis had a statement: 'Commitment to excellence,'" Allen said. "It's all over our building in Las Vegas. We are trying to make sure we fulfill that destiny, we fulfill what Al Davis was about."

Gates closed out the day with a 23-minute speech that began with him saying he wouldn't cry, but included several emotional moments. Gates, who was presented by Chargers owner Dean Spanos, never played a single down of college football yet ended up becoming the 23rd of 382 Hall of Famers who were undrafted by NFL teams.

He thanked former Chargers tight ends coach Tim Brewster for discovering him after he led Kent State's basketball team to the Elite Eight.

"Tim Brewster saw something special in me. He was pretty sure that I could make the team. He was adamant that I'd be All-Pro in three years," Gates said.

Gates played all 16 of his NFL seasons with the Chargers, finishing with 955 catches for 11,841 yards and 116 TDs. He made the Pro Bowl eight times and was All-Pro three times, the first in just his second season.

McLaren's Norris holds off teammate Piastri at Hungarian GP

Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Lando Norris held off his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri in a tense finish to win the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday and boost his Formula 1 title chances heading into the mid-season break.

Norris clung on with worn tires as Piastri loomed behind him in the final laps. He celebrated with a double fist pump on top of his car after claiming McLaren's 200th F1 win by less than a second to cut Piastri's standings lead to nine points from 16.

"I'm dead. It was tough, it was tough," Norris said. "The final stint, with Oscar catching, I was pushing flat out."

It was a race shaped as much by smart strategy as gritty driving. Norris briefly dropped to fifth on the first lap but made his tires last to stop only once, while Piastri changed tires twice.

Piastri steadily cut into Norris' lead in the latter stages of the race, but the British driver held on with old tires to take the win. Piastri nearly collided with his teammate when he locked up a wheel while trying to pass on the second-to-last lap. Still, it was Norris who held on to have the last word in their title fight as F1 heads into a four-week break.

"Good racing. Good strategy. Good call," was how Norris summed it up on the radio.

George Russell took third for Mercedes after fighting his way past Ferrari's Charles Leclerc in a contest that earned Leclerc a time penalty for nearly colliding with Russell while defending.

Defending champion Max Verstappen was only ninth after being off the pace all week. He stays third in the standings, but drops to 97 points off leader Piastri in another heavy blow to an already unlikely title defense.

Leclerc started on pole position with hopes of landing Ferrari its first Grand Prix win of the year, but ended up fourth after blaming the team for decisions he said left his car "undriveable."

"This is so incredibly frustrating. We've lost all competitiveness," he told the team over the radio.

A day after calling himself "useless" and questioning whether Ferrari might need to replace him, Lewis Hamilton ended up 12th, exactly where he started. Hamilton never seemed to have the pace to fight for points and was at one stage forced off the track by Verstappen as his old rival overtook him.

Fernando Alonso took Aston Martin's best result of the season with fifth on a slow track that suited his car, with Gabriel Bortoletto a surprise sixth for Sauber and Lance Stroll seventh in the other Aston Martin.

US women break world record in relay

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — The United States, which had a frustrating swim world championships, ended on a high note Sunday with a world record in the women's 4x100 medley relay in the last event of the eight-day championships.

The Americans swam a time of 3 minutes, 49.34 seconds, breaking their own old mark of 3:49.63 set a year ago in the Paris Olympics.

The U.S. finished with nine gold medals and 29 overall, ahead of Australia with eight gold and 20 overall. France and Canada were next in the gold-medal count with four. The 18-year-old Canadian star Summer McIntosh won all four golds.

The Americans battled a case of "acute gastroenteritis" picked up at a training camp in Thailand. The malady clearly affected the team's up-and-down performances in Singapore.

"This is the best way to end the meet," Gretchen Walsh said. "And I feel like we have such a good opportunity when you have this stacked group of women closing it out on a relay

like this.

"We're going to leave Singapore with a smile on our faces," she added.

Regan Smith, Kate Douglass and Walsh swam the first three legs with Torri Huske taking the anchor.

The Americans had only five gold medals through six days, but won four in the last two as team health clearly improved.

American Bobby Finke, the Paris Olympic champion at 1,500 meters, took a bronze in that event Sunday. But he also had a message for critics back home. They included former American swimmers Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte in a critical social media post.

"I'm proud of the USA team and what we've been able to accomplish despite all the people back at home saying whatever they want to say," Finke said. "But you know, I'm proud of these boys. If someone's angry, my DMs are open."

"Do whatever you want," he added. "But you know, I'm proud of the team and what we've been able to do here. It's a big stepping point for the 2028 LA Olympics."

Sunday's closing day fea-

tured eight finals and victories for seven different teams.

But there were two clear stars throughout the week.

Leon Marchand of France left the worlds Sunday with what he came for — two individual gold medals.

McIntosh came away with four individual golds — one shy of her quest to win five. Still, she is only the second woman at a world championships to win four individual golds.

Her only blip was finishing third to American Katie Ledecky in the 800 freestyle Saturday.

And 12-year-old Chinese swimmer Yu Zidi, in an astounding performance, finished fourth in all three of her individual races. She did pick up a bronze medal in a relay, however, where she swam in the prelims but not in the final. She swam the 200 fly, and both IM races.

Kliment Kolesnikov of the Neutral Athletes won the men's 50 backstroke in 23.68. Kolesnikov holds the world record (23.55). Pieter Coetzee of South Africa and Pavel Samusenko of the Neutral Athletes tied for silver (24.17).

Ruta Meilutyte of Lithuania, the world record holder, claimed the 50 breaststroke (29.55) with silver for Tang Qianting of China (30.03) and bronze to Benedetta Pilato of Italy (30.14).

Meg Harris of Australia took the women's 50 free (24.02). Harris was also the silver medalist in the same event in the Paris Olympics. China claimed the next two places with Wu Qingfeng (24.26) taking silver and bronze for Cheng Yujie (24.28).

Ahmed Jaouadi of Tunisia, winner of the 800 free, added the 1,500 title Sunday (14:34.41) with silver for Sven Schwarz of Germany (14:35.69) and bronze for American Finke (14:36.60).

Marchand won the 400 IM but didn't break his own world record. He won in 4:04.73, just off the world mark he set two years ago in Fukuoka, Japan (4:02.50). Tomoyuki Matsushita of Japan took silver (4:08.32) with bronze for Ilia Borodin of the Neutral Athletes (4:09.16).

Marchand, earlier in the championships, shattered the 200 IM mark in 1:52.69. The old mark was 1:54.00 set 14 years ago by Lochte.

Canadian teen tops Gauff to reach Montreal quarters

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Canadian teenager Victoria Mboko upset top-seeded Coco Gauff 6-1, 6-4 on Saturday night to reach the National Bank Open quarterfinals.

"Your support was incredible," Mboko told the crowd in French after a chorus of "Olé, Olé, Olé!" chants echoed around the venue. "I'm really happy to win today. .. It's incredible. I'm so happy to beat such a great champion."

Gauff dropped to 2-3 since winning the French Open. She followed the major victory with

opening losses in Berlin and Wimbledon, then overcame double-fault problems to win two three-set matches in Montreal. Gauff had five double-faults Saturday after having 23 in her opener against Danielle Collins and 14 against Veronika Kudermetova.

"She's playing high-level tennis," Gauff said. "I think that's what showed today. I think she was the better player."

The 18-year-old Mboko, ranked 85th in the world, finished off the 21-year-old Gauff — who had 24 unforced errors — in 1 hour, 2 minutes.

"When I was up 5-4, the crowd started cheering even louder, and everything got super noisy," Mboko said. "I used that as more fuel for myself and to pump myself up a little bit more. I just used the crowd to my advantage as much as I could."

Mboko will face Jessica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain, a 7-5, 6-1, 6-2 winner over Lin Zhu of China in a rain-interrupted match that ended just before midnight.

In Rome in May, Gauff rallied to beat Mboko 3-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Gauff's loss follows that of defending champ Jessica Pegula, who was eliminated in the third

round on Friday, falling 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 to Anastasija Sevastova, who was ranked 11th in 2018 but has fallen to 386th.

The loss continued a poor run for the fourth-ranked Pegula, who won her opener in Montreal over Maria Sakkari of Greece, but exited Wimbledon and the D.C. Open after one match in July.

"It hasn't been great, to be honest," Pegula said. "I don't really feel like I'm playing great tennis. At times I am, but I feel very up and down, kind of sloppy, which I don't like. It really bothers me."

Diaz hits 2 HRs, Rays defeat Dodgers

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Yandy Diaz hit two home runs off Blake Snell, Drew Rasmussen threw 5½ scoreless innings and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-0 on Saturday.

In front of a sold-out crowd of 10,046, Diaz opened the scoring in the first with a 326-foot shot off his former teammate Snell.

Diaz hit a two-run homer in the third inning for his 20th of the season. He also singled off Snell in the fifth with a line drive to center.

Rasmussen (9-5) struck out six and scattering four hits, all singles. The Dodgers never got a runner to second base against him. They threatened with the bases loaded against Garrett Cleavinger in the sixth, but he got an inning-ending double play to hold the lead.

Snell (1-1) was charged with three runs on five hits. He was activated off the injured list Saturday morning and struck out eight in just his third start for the Dodgers.

Junior Caminero added insurance in the sixth with his 27th home run of the season, a solo shot off Jack Dreyer.

Rangers 6, Mariners 4 (11): Wyatt Langford hit a tiebreaking single in the 11th inning as visiting Texas beat Seattle.

Batting with runners on the corners and nobody out, Langford sliced a fastball from Casey Legumina (4-6) into right field. Ezequiel Duran followed with a broken-bat single, driving in Sam Haggerty for a 6-4 lead.

Luis Curvelo (1-0) retired each of his four batters.

Texas grabbed a 4-2 lead with two runs in the 10th. Kyle Higashioka singled home Duran, and Marcus Semien had a run-scoring groundout.

Tigers 7, Phillies 5: All-Star starter Tarik Skubal won his first game since June and Javier Baez homered, doubled and knocked in four runs as visiting Detroit beat Philadelphia and Zack

Wheeler.

Skubal (11-3) limited the Phillies (62-48) to three runs and five hits in seven innings while striking out 10.

With AL Central-leading Detroit ahead 5-0, Bryce Harper opened with a single, J.T. Realmuto knocked him in with a double before Nick Castellanos golfed a two-run homer to center, cutting the Tigers' lead to two runs.

Baez added a two-run double in the eighth, but Harper (three hits) negated that with a two-out, two-run shot off reliever Will Vest.

Detroit's trade-deadline pickup Kyle Finnegan finished off the Phils with a four-out save.

Orioles 4, Cubs 3: Gunnar Henderson hit a three-run homer in a four-run eighth inning and visiting Baltimore beat Chicago for its seventh victory in 10 games.

Jordan Westburg had an RBI single off Caleb Thielbar (2-3) in the eighth to end the Orioles' scoreless streak at 18 innings. Henderson followed with his 13th homer.

Blue Jays 4, Royals 2: Max Scherzer pitched one-run ball for six innings and earned his second win of the season, Bo Bichette added three hits and host Toronto beat Kansas City.

Davis Schneider hit a two-run single for the AL East-leading Blue Jays, who came in having lost five of six.

Scherzer (2-1) allowed one run and five hits, including a solo homer by Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez.

Brewers 8, Nationals 2: Christian Yelich homered, Brandon Woodruff pitched six effective innings and visiting Milwaukee beat Washington.

With the majors' best record at 66-44, Milwaukee is 22 games over .500 for the first time this season. It also has a two-game lead in the NL Central over the Chicago Cubs.

Marlins 2, Yankees 0: Rookie

Agustín Ramírez homered twice for the only runs of the game and host Miami beat New York.

Eury Pérez pitched six innings of two-hit ball as the Marlins won their fourth straight and clinched the series against the Yankees following Friday's 13-12 series-opening win.

Guardians 5, Twins 4: Bo Naylor had an RBI double in the eighth inning, José Ramírez and Daniel Schneeman homered and Cleveland extended its winning streak to four with a home victory over Minnesota.

Schneeman had three hits, including a drive into the right-field stands to lead off the third inning. Ramírez tied it at 4 with a two-run homer down the right-field line in the fifth.

Cleveland's bullpen retired 13 of the 14 hitters it faced, striking out 10.

Ramírez led off the eighth with a base hit to right field, advanced to second on Carlos Santana's single and scored the go-ahead run on Naylor's double to right off Pierson Ohl (0-2).

Red Sox 7, Astros 3: Romy Gonzalez homered over the Green Monster on the first pitch faced by a Boston batter, Trevor Story added a two-run shot, and host Boston beat Houston.

Abraham Toro added a two-run drive and Story added an RBI double as Boston won its third straight.

Story's shot hit the top of a billboard over the Monster seats and bounced out of Fenway after Rob Refsnyder's RBI single.

Rockies 8, Pirates 5: Jordan Beck ended Paul Skenes' scoreless streak with a three-run homer in Colorado's six-run sixth inning, and the Rockies beat visiting Pittsburgh.

Skenes hadn't allowed a run in 18 straight innings before faltering in the sixth. Beck followed a leadoff single and walk with his 13th home run.

Skenes allowed four runs and five hits while striking out eight in five-plus innings.

Mets 12, Giants 6: Pete Alonso hit his 250th career homer, Francisco Lindor drove in four runs and host New York beat San Francisco to end a four-game losing streak.

Alonso hit a 427-foot, three-run blast in the first inning to pull within two of Darryl Strawberry's franchise record. The Giants scored the next four runs before Brandon Nimmo and Lindor each had run-scoring singles in the fourth and sixth.

Nimmo extended New York's lead with an RBI single in the seventh and Lindor followed with a two-run double for the Mets, who moved a half-game ahead of Philadelphia in the NL East.

White Sox 1, Angels 0: Aaron Civala pitched one-hit ball into the seventh inning, and visiting Chicago beat Los Angeles to surpass its win total from last season.

Chicago finished with a 41-121 record in 2024, breaking the modern major league record for most losses in a season.

Cardinals 8, Padres 5: Masyn Winn hit a tiebreaking two-run double, and St. Louis stopped San Diego's six-game win streak with a road victory.

Jackson Merrill hit a solo drive for San Diego, and Freddy Fermin drove in two runs.

Merrill's eighth homer made it 4-0 in the third. But the Cardinals rallied in the fourth. Nolan Gorman singled home Willson Contreras, and Pagés connected against Randy Vásquez for his seventh homer.

Diamondback 7, Athletics 2: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a go-ahead two-run single in the fifth inning, Ketel Marte, Alek Thomas and Corbin Carroll hit home runs, and visiting Arizona beat the Athletics to end a six-game losing streak.

Zac Gallen (8-12) allowed two runs on nine hits in six innings. Andrew Saalfrank, Kendall Graveman and Kevin Ginkel each pitched a scoreless inning to close it out.