

West Coast to get upgraded dry dock

By GARY WARNER

Stars and Stripes

BREMERTON, Wash. — The Navy plans to build a new dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard that can accommodate its largest aircraft carriers and nuclear-powered submarines into the 22nd century.

Details of the proposal were released Thursday evening during a briefing for the public at a community center in Bremerton near the waterfront.

Capt. John Hale, commanding officer of Naval Base Kitsap, which includes the shipyard, said the plan would help ensure the Navy remains a major presence in the Seattle area well into the next century.

“This is the only place on the West Coast that you can do maintenance on aircraft carriers,” he said. “The new dry dock

maintains the capability here in the Pacific Northwest for the next 80 to 100 years.”

The shipyard has the only dry dock along the Pacific Ocean that can be used to repair Nimitz-class aircraft carriers and a variety of nuclear-powered submarines.

But the new Gerald R. Ford-class carriers weigh enough to displace more than 100,000 gallons of water and are just under 1,100 feet long.

David Gibson, a project manager for the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command, said the dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard was designed in the 1950s and built in the 1960s.

“Looking into the future, the Ford-class carriers will not fit in it,” he said. “You need to be able to have enough room at the back

of the carrier to get the rudder off, get the shaft out and get the prop off.”

The facility also needs triple the amount of electricity to maintain the operation of the modern-era reliance on computers aboard ships and new developments such as airplane elevators and launching mechanisms operated by electromagnets instead of steam used for those jobs on current carriers.

The Navy now has only one shipyard in Norfolk, Va., that can handle the Ford-class carriers.

A Ford-class carrier in Honolulu would need 22 days at a speed of 25 knots to travel the more than 13,000 miles to Norfolk, via Cape Horn at the southern tip of South America. The trip from Honolulu to Puget Sound at the same pace would

cover 2,500 miles in four days.

Spread across 12,000 acres on a peninsula west of Seattle, Naval Base Kitsap has more than 15,000 sailors and other military personnel, along with more than 30,000 civilians, dependents and retirees.

“We operate and maintain aircraft carriers,” Hale said. “We have all three classes of submarines: fast-attack submarines, guided-missile submarines and ballistic-missile submarines.”

The new dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard would also accommodate all sizes of active and proposed Navy ships, including Columbia-class, ballistic-missile submarines.

“So, we term it a multi-mission dry dock,” Gibson said. “It’s robust enough to handle any Navy mission.”

Russia and Ukraine stick to demands before summit

Associated Press

The threats, pressure and ultimatums have come and gone, but Russian President Vladimir Putin has maintained Moscow’s uncompromising demands in the war in Ukraine, raising fears he could use a planned summit with President Donald Trump in Alaska to coerce Kyiv into accepting an unfavorable deal.

The maximalist demands reflect Putin’s determination to reach the goals he set when he launched the full-scale invasion.

Putin sees a possible meeting with Trump as a chance to negotiate a broad deal that would not only cement Russia’s territorial gains but also keep Ukraine from joining NATO and hosting any Western troops, allowing

Moscow to gradually pull the country back into its orbit.

The Kremlin leader believes time is on his side as the exhausted and outgunned Ukrainian forces are struggling to stem Russian advances in many sectors of the over 600-mile front line while swarms of Russian missiles and drones batter Ukrainian cities.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy also has stood firm in his positions, agreeing to a ceasefire proposed by Trump while reaffirming the country’s refusal to abandon seeking NATO membership and rejecting acknowledgment of Russia’s annexation of any of its regions.

In a memorandum presented at talks in Istanbul in June, Rus-

sia offered Ukraine two options for establishing a 30-day ceasefire. One demanded Ukraine withdraw its forces from Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson — the four regions Moscow illegally annexed but never fully captured.

As an alternate condition for a ceasefire, Russia made a “package proposal” for Ukraine to halt mobilization efforts, freeze Western arms deliveries and ban any third-country forces on its soil. Moscow also suggested Ukraine end martial law and hold elections, after which the countries could sign a comprehensive peace treaty.

Once there’s a truce, Moscow wants a deal to include the “international legal recognition” of

its annexations of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and the four regions in 2022.

The memorandum that Ukraine presented to Moscow in Istanbul emphasized the need for a full and unconditional 30-day ceasefire to set stage for peace negotiations.

It reaffirmed Ukraine’s consistent rejection of Russian demands for neutral status as an attack on its sovereignty, declaring it is free to choose its alliances and adding that its NATO membership will depend on consensus with the alliance.

Ukraine’s memorandum also opposed recognizing any Russian territorial gains, while describing the current line of contact as a starting point.

Arrest made in death related to M18 halt

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has charged an airman with making false statements, obstructing justice and involuntary manslaughter in the July 20 shooting death of a security forces airman at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Wyoming, the service announced Friday.

The suspect was arrested recently as the investigations into the shooting and the safety of the military's M18 pistols launched in the wake of Airman Brayden Lovan's death progressed, the Air Force said in a brief statement. The suspect was not named in the statement.

"The investigation in this case is ongoing and further details are not available," the statement read.

Air Force Global Strike Command, which oversees the

service's nuclear capabilities including the intercontinental ballistic missiles at F.E. Warren, ordered a pause in the use of the M18 pistol after Lovan's death.

The concern was that the shooting might have been the result of a so-called "uncommanded discharge," which occurs when a gun fires without the trigger being pulled.

The suspect's charges indicate investigators believe Lovan's death was likely the result of a negligent discharge in which the gun's trigger was accidentally pulled and the gun fired.

Global Strike Command's pause in the use of the M18 pistol remained in place Friday, a spokesman for the command said. It was not expected to be lifted until after the investigations were completed and provided to Gen. Thomas Bussiere,

who leads Air Force Global Strike Command.

Some commanders in Air Force Combat Command — the service's largest four-star command — also ordered temporary halts of the pistol's use "as a precautionary measure until airmen undergo refresher training," that command announced last week.

As of Friday, the Air Force was continuing efforts to inspect all its roughly 125,000 M18 pistols to ensure safety, another Air Force spokesperson said.

The M18 is one of two variants of the Sig Sauer-built P320 handgun made for the U.S. military, along with a larger version — the M17. The two striker-fired, semi-automatic 9mm pistols replaced the Beretta M9 as the U.S. military's primary handguns in recent years.

But Sig Sauer has been plagued by numerous claims — and more than one dozen lawsuits — that its P320 models, including the M18 and M17, had fired without trigger pulls, injuring individuals including police officers and civilians. Those claims have resulted in dozens of law enforcement agencies — including some federal agencies — barring their officers from carrying P320s on duty. Many civilian shooting ranges have also barred the use of P320 variants at their facilities.

Sig has long insisted its P320 models were safe and incapable of producing "uncommanded" discharges.

The New Hampshire-based company has said it was cooperating with the investigations into the circumstances of Lovan's death.

Tricare will end weight loss drugs coverage for some

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

Some retired service members and others fighting the battle of the bulge will no longer have the cost of several popular weight loss drugs covered by the military health system, Tricare announced last week.

Starting Aug. 31, Tricare for Life beneficiaries won't receive coverage for Zepbound, Wegovy or other GLP-1 medications, a Tricare statement said Tuesday. Tricare is the federal health care program for active-duty service members, retirees and their families.

The change also applies to Defense Department civilians and other people not covered by Tricare but who are eligible to receive care at military hospitals, according to the statement.

Coverage of weight loss drugs for active-duty service members, retirees and their families enrolled in other health care plans, such as Tricare Prime or Tricare Select, will depend on a person's condition and certain criteria, Tricare said.

It wasn't clear exactly what benchmarks people would need to meet for weight loss drug coverage. Enrollment in a Tricare premium plan, prior authorization and a prescription from a network health care provider are among the requirements, according to the statement.

People affected by the change will get a notice in the mail in the coming weeks, Tricare added.

It's unclear how many people will be affected by the change.

James A. Lovell, Apollo 13 commander, dies at age 97

The Washington Post

James A. Lovell Jr., the American astronaut who commanded the Apollo 13 spacecraft on its lunar voyage in 1970 and shepherded it on a perilous four-day journey back to Earth after an oxygen tank exploded, an ordeal that transfixed the world, died Aug. 7 in Lake Forest, Ill. He was 97.

NASA announced his death in a statement, which did not cite a cause.

Apollo 13, which became the subject of a film starring Tom Hanks as Lovell, was one of the U.S. space missions most firmly etched in the public consciousness after John Glenn's orbit of the Earth in 1962 and the moon landing of Apollo 11 in 1969.

Those earlier flights were resounding triumphs for the space program, securing

American preeminence in the Cold War space race with the Soviet Union. The legacy of Apollo 13 was more complicated — a terrifying episode that spoke to the skill and levelheadedness of the crew trying to stabilize their spacecraft and Mission Control managers back in Houston.

NASA's verdict was that it was a "successful failure," as the space agency gained invaluable experience in crew rescue.

Lovell had participated in three earlier missions, notably on the 1968 voyage aboard the Apollo 8 mission — the first crewed spacecraft to orbit the moon and return safely to Earth. That flight paved the way for Apollo 11 the next year, commanded by Neil Armstrong.

Shooter at CDC said vaccine led to depression

Associated Press

A Georgia man who had blamed the COVID-19 vaccine for making him depressed and suicidal has been identified as the shooter who opened fire late Friday on the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention headquarters, killing a police officer.

The 30-year-old suspect, who died during the incident, had also tried to get into the CDC's headquarters in Atlanta but was stopped by guards before driving to a pharmacy across the street and opening fire, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press on Saturday.

The man, identified as Patrick Joseph White, was armed with five guns, including at least one long gun, the official said,

speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss the investigation.

A union representing workers at the CDC said the incident was not random and "compounds months of mistreatment, neglect and vilification that CDC staff have endured." It demanded federal officials condemn vaccine misinformation, saying it puts scientists at risk.

Police say White opened fire outside the CDC headquarters in Atlanta on Friday, leaving bullet marks in windows across the sprawling campus. At least four CDC buildings were hit, Director Susan Monarez said.

DeKalb County Police Officer David Rose was mortally wounded while responding.

Rose, 33, a former Marine who served in Afghanistan, had graduated from the police academy in March.

White was found on the second floor of a building across the street from the CDC campus and died at the scene, Atlanta Police Chief Darin Schierbaum said. He added that "we do not know at this time whether that was from officers or if it was self-inflicted."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigations said the crime scene was "complex" and the investigation would take "an extended period of time."

The American Federation of Government Employees, Local 2883, said the CDC and leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services

must provide a "clear and unequivocal stance in condemning vaccine misinformation."

Such a public statement by federal officials is needed to help prevent violence against scientists, the union said in a news release.

"Their leadership is critical in reinforcing public trust and ensuring that accurate, science-based information prevails," the union said.

Fired But Fighting, a group of laid-off CDC employees, has said HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is directly responsible for the villainization of CDC's workforce through "his continuous lies about science and vaccine safety, which have fueled a climate of hostility and mistrust."

Texas walkout launches national map fight

AP/Report For America

AUSTIN, Texas — A week-long walkout by Texas House Democrats is blocking redrawn congressional maps sought by President Donald Trump and put in motion a broadening national fight over redistricting.

There is still no swift end in sight to the standoff that has scattered dozens of Texas Democrats to Illinois, New York and California, where they have been given a warm reception by blue state governors and national party leaders.

As the holdout has dragged on, Texas Republicans have ratcheted up the pressure to try compelling them back. GOP state leaders have asked courts to remove absent Democratic lawmakers from office, issued civil arrest warrants and mobilized state troopers.

It is a political fight that has now spanned in state legislatures across the nation — from California to Florida — as Trump seeks to gain more win-

nable U.S. House seats and preserve the GOP's slim majority after the 2026 midterms.

On Aug. 3, Texas House Democrats fled to Illinois, Massachusetts and New York to stop the GOP-controlled state legislature from passing new U.S. House maps that would give Republicans more winnable seats in 2026.

Congressional maps are typically redrawn once every 10 years to coincide with population shifts captured by the census and is rare for it to occur in the middle of the decade. Democrats say the unusual mid-cycle redistricting is a partisan power grab by the Trump administration. California Gov. Gavin Newsom is scrambling to call for a November special election to ask voters to redraw the state's maps in retaliation if Texas proceeds. Govs. Kathy Hochul of New York and JB Pritzker of Illinois have also said they would consider partisan redistricting.

Tariffs to raise coffee, car and clothing prices

The Washington Post

Americans are paying more for appliances, home furnishings, toys and shoes than they were a few months ago, and they could soon face higher prices on more goods as the Trump administration's latest round of sharper tariffs kicks in.

The newest round of duties took effect at midnight Thursday, lifting the average U.S. tariff rate to its highest level since the Great Depression. The move solidifies the president's trade policy after months of negotiations, meaning more manufacturers and retailers are expected to begin raising prices in short order.

"Tariffs have moved from being tentative to permanent — and that changes how American businesses are going to respond," said Justin Wolfers, a professor of public policy and economics at the University of Michigan.

The higher tariffs, which businesses pay to the federal

government to import goods, are as high as 50% for Brazil and India but just 15% for the European Union and Japan.

For consumers, that escalation is expected to result in higher prices, costing households an average of \$2,400 per year, according to estimates from the Budget Lab at Yale University. Americans are likely to face large markups on clothing in the coming months, including a 39% increase in prices for leather goods and a 37% rise in clothing costs, the research center found. Even after long-run supply chain adjustments and buying shifts, those prices could remain elevated by nearly 20%.

Food prices, meanwhile, could rise more than 3%, while fresh produce could become 7% more expensive as a result of the Trump administration's tariffs, the Budget Lab found. The center also expects cars to get 12% more expensive, adding \$6,000 to the price of an average new vehicle.

Netanyahu defends new Gaza offensive

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday sought to defend a new military offensive in one of Gaza's most populated areas amid growing condemnation at home and abroad, declaring that Israel "has no choice but to finish the job and complete the defeat of Hamas."

He spoke to foreign media just before an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council on Gaza. Notably, Netanyahu said he has directed Israel's military to "bring in more foreign journalists" —

which would be a striking development, as they haven't been allowed into Gaza beyond military embeds during 22 months of war.

"Our goal is not to occupy Gaza, our goal is to free Gaza," Netanyahu asserted. He also rejected what he called a "global campaign of lies" — and said Chancellor Friedrich Merz of Germany, one of Israel's strongest backers, had "buckled under" by stopping exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza. Merz, for his part, told public broadcaster ARD that Germany and Israel

were talking "very critically" but Berlin's overall policies of friendship haven't changed.

Netanyahu said there is a "fairly short timetable" for next steps in Gaza, but didn't give specifics. The goals, he said, include demilitarizing the territory, the Israeli military having "overriding security control" and a non-Israeli civilian administration in charge.

Netanyahu again blamed many of Gaza's problems on the Hamas militant group, including civilian deaths, destruction and aid shortages.

The prime minister, who has

asserted that there is "no starvation in Gaza," did acknowledge hunger, saying, "there was a problem with deprivation, no question about it." Israel wants to increase the number of aid distribution sites, he said.

Israel's air and ground offensive has displaced most Palestinians and pushed the territory toward famine. Two Palestinian children died of malnutrition-related causes on Saturday, bringing the toll among children to 100 since the war began.

The hunger toll is in addition to the ministry's war toll of 61,400 Palestinians.

Germany halts its military exports to Israel for now

Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany won't authorize any exports of military equipment to Israel that could be used in Gaza "until further notice," Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Friday, in a strikingly quick response by one of Israel's strongest international backers to a decision by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Cabinet to take over Gaza City.

The move by Germany, which has previously stopped short of tougher lines against Israel's government taken by some of its European Union al-

lies, appeared likely to further isolate Israel in the wake of the military takeover plan that has been decried by the United Nations, aid and human rights groups, and supporters of Israeli hostages still held in Gaza, among others.

Germany, along with the United States and Italy, is among the top foreign suppliers of equipment used by Israel's military. The pause adds to action taken by European countries — including economic, military and diplomatic measures — against Israel in recent months out of concern over its

government's conduct in the nearly two-year war in Gaza.

Merz said in a statement that Israel "has the right to defend itself against Hamas' terror" and that the release of Israeli hostages and purposeful negotiations toward a ceasefire are "our top priority." He said that Hamas mustn't have a role in the future of Gaza.

"The even harsher military action by the Israeli army in the Gaza Strip, approved by the Israeli Cabinet last night, makes it increasingly difficult for the German government to see how these goals will be achieved," he

said. "Under these circumstances, the German government will not authorize any exports of military equipment that could be used in the Gaza Strip until further notice."

Netanyahu spoke with Merz Friday and expressed disappointment with the arms decision, according to an Israeli government statement. Germany is rewarding Hamas and failing to support Israel's "just war" against the group, the statement said.

It wasn't immediately clear which military equipment from Germany would be affected.

South Korea: North is removing speakers from border

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's military said Saturday it detected North Korea removing some of its loudspeakers from the inter-Korean border, days after the South dismantled its own front-line speakers used for anti-North Korean propaganda broadcasts, in a bid to ease tensions.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't disclose the sites where the North Koreans were

removing speakers and said it wasn't immediately clear whether the North would take all of them down.

In recent months, South Korean border residents have complained that North Korean speakers blasted irritating sounds, including howling animals and pounding gongs, in a tit-for-tat response to South Korean propaganda broadcasts.

The South Korean military said the North stopped its

broadcasts in June after Seoul's new liberal president, Lee Jae Myung, halted the South's broadcasts in his government's first concrete step toward easing tensions between the war-divided rivals. South Korea's military began removing its speakers from border areas last Monday but didn't specify how they would be stored or whether they could be quickly redeployed if tensions flared again.

North Korea, which is extremely sensitive to any outside criticism of its authoritarian leadership and its third-generation ruler, Kim Jong Un, didn't immediately confirm it was taking down its speakers.

South Korea's previous conservative government resumed daily loudspeaker broadcasts in June last year, following a yearslong pause, in retaliation for North Korea flying trash-laden balloons toward the South.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Beaches had unsafe levels of fecal bacteria

MA BOSTON — Over half of all Massachusetts beaches had an unsafe level of fecal bacteria last year, and 47 beaches reached the danger zone at least a quarter of the time they were tested, according to an Environment Massachusetts Research and Policy Center report released last week.

The report by Environment Massachusetts analyzed how many days over 3,000 beaches across the U.S. hit a dangerous threshold of fecal indicator bacteria. Nationwide, 61% of tested beaches tested positive for contamination at least once in 2024.

The threshold, the EPA's "Beach Action Value," is an estimated illness rate of 32 out of every 1,000 swimmers. Swimmers in polluted water may develop gastrointestinal illness, respiratory disease, ear and eye infection, and skin rash, the report states.

The 47 beaches in Massachusetts with the higher numbers of dangerous pollution days spread across the state's coast, researchers said.

Beauty queen claims revenge porn threat

FL TALLAHASSEE — The reigning Miss United States claims a Florida congressman threatened to release sex tapes and nude videos of her after she ended their relationship.

Lindsey Langston, 25, says U.S. Rep. Cory Mills, a 45-year-old Republican, grew increasingly upset after she broke off their relationship in February, Politico reported Tuesday. In

addition to her pageant career, Langston is a Republican state committee member.

In several messages on multiple platforms, Mills threatened to spread explicit videos of Langston and also made vague threats against any men who dated her in the future, according to a police report first obtained by D.C. outlet Drop Site News.

Langston said she ended her relationship with Mills after he was accused in February of assaulting another woman in Washington, D.C. No charges were filed in that case.

City workers searched landfill for records

LA NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans clerk of court staff stood ankle-deep in a massive landfill, digging through mounds of trash, to salvage court records that the city erroneously discarded.

As photos surfaced online — showing city staff scouring for the misplaced documents among heaps of garbage — city and state officials were outraged over the situation.

In a statement, Clerk of Criminal District Court Darren Lombard blasted the city for an "egregious breach of responsibility and negligence" of public records. Photos shared by the criminal clerk of court's office show city workers standing in debris beside an excavator and extracting tattered papers from heaps of garbage earlier last week.

Lombard said he was notified Aug. 1 that containers housing official court documents had been relocated from trailers without his knowledge and, in at

least one instance, destroyed. He blamed the Department of Public Works for moving the records and said he dispatched city employees to recover what they could.

Court rules it's legal to possess 'ghost guns'

MN MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Supreme Court ruled in a split decision last week that it is legal for Minnesotans to possess ghost guns without a serial number because current state law does not clearly restrict it.

Justice Paul Thissen's majority opinion delves into the intersection between federal law around what firearms require a serial number and the Minnesota legal statute for felony possession of a firearm without a serial number.

The case stemmed from a single-vehicle car crash in Fridley in 2022. A Minnesota state trooper who arrived on the scene saw a gun magazine inside the car and the driver told the trooper he had a pistol.

The trooper found a black 9-millimeter Glock 19 without a serial number and identified it as a privately made firearm, which are commonly called ghost guns.

The driver was charged with possessing a firearm without a serial number and filed a motion to dismiss the charge.

State's 1st malaria case is possibly contracted

WA SEATTLE — A woman in east Pierce County contracted malaria despite not having traveled out of state recently, ac-

cording to the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department.

The woman was diagnosed with malaria Aug. 2 and is receiving treatment, a news release states.

If the investigation finds the woman contracted the disease from a mosquito in Washington, it would be the state's first locally acquired case.

It would also be the first known instance of malaria being contracted west of the Rockies.

Federal approval of major wind farm nixed

ID BOISE — The Trump administration last week canceled a major wind farm development in Idaho, a project approved late in former President Joe Biden's term that had drawn criticism for its proximity to a historic site where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.

The Bureau of Land Management in December signed off on a scaled-down plan for the Lava Ridge Wind Project northeast of Twin Falls, with 241 wind turbines instead of 400. But the development had been on hold since the first day of President Donald Trump's second term, when he issued an executive order halting the permitting of wind power projects across the country and telling the Interior Department to review the Lava Ridge decision.

The project, five years in the works, faced opposition from local residents concerned about the height of the turbines — up to 660 feet, or more than twice the height of the Statue of Liberty.

— From wire reports

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Shedeur Sanders waits on role with Browns

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Less than 24 hours after Shedeur Sanders' impressive NFL debut, Browns coach Kevin Stefanski still wasn't ready to answer the question most on the mind of Cleveland fans.

Will Sanders start working with the first-team offense leading into next Saturday's second preseason game at Philadelphia?

"We need to get through the next couple of days from an injury standpoint and see where everybody is," Stefanski said Saturday. "I'm really focused on all of our quarterbacks' development and every single one of these reps last night, how important they are. So that's what I'm focused on more than anything."

Sanders played nearly three quarters and had 45 snaps in Friday night's 30-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers. He directed three touchdown drives in 10 series (including a kneel down at the end of the first half) and completed 14 of 23 passes for 138 yards and two TD passes.

The stat that pleased everyone the most, though, is that the

Browns didn't have a turnover.

Sanders is listed as the fourth-string QB and has not seen any snaps with the first string during the first three weeks of practices. He got the start and received extended playing time in the preseason opener because of Kenny Pickett and Dillon Gabriel sidelined with hamstring injuries. Joe Flacco got most of the work during last Wednesday's joint workouts.

Sanders made a strong case, however, in showing he should get opportunities to see how he fares against starters.

Cleveland's next practice is Monday at their team facility. The Browns travel to Philadelphia on Tuesday before joint workouts with the Eagles on Wednesday and Thursday.

For his part, Sanders continues to stay patient with the process Cleveland has set out for his development. It is the same mentality he has had since dropping to the fifth round and the 144th overall selection in April's draft.

"I just don't think that deep into everything because there's nothing you're going to be able to control," Sanders said when

asked if he is being given a fair chance in the Browns' four-way quarterback competition. "The most you can do is when you get your opportunity, when your number is called, perform, at least do the bare minimum and win the game. That's what I feel like we did today and definitely things I'm able to grow off of."

In addition to seeing how he would fare in the red zone and a variety of third down scenarios, the coaching staff also got to see how Sanders would fare on a couple of series where Cleveland started inside its 10 yard line.

For the most part, Stefanski was able to run through a lot of different game situations.

"You don't want to show much, but also you want to put your players in positions where you can evaluate them. We kind of did it all last night, including a jet sweep to Gage (Larvadain) for the touchdown," Stefanski said. "We want to win because they're keeping score but you also want to vary your run types, vary your pass types so you're learning more about each one of your players."

According to the NFL's Next Gen stats, Sanders was pressured on 12 of his 27 drop-backs. He was 5-for-9 for 81 yards, including a 12-yard touchdown to Kaden Davis to put the Browns up 14-7 in the second quarter.

Sanders was sacked twice, but also avoided trouble a couple of times on scrambles where it could have been a 15 to 20-yard loss.

Many considered Sanders to be one of the most accurate quarterbacks in this year's draft class. He showed that off on a couple of plays Friday—the second touchdown pass to Davis and a 30-yard completion to Luke Floriea where he layered it over four Carolina defenders and Floriea made a one-handed grab near the sideline.

"That next step is getting in the game settings and taking the practice field to the game. I thought that's what we saw by and large from Shedeur, that's what we saw by and large from our offense, was really taking those things that we're honing in on the practice field and then showing them in the games," Stefanski said.

Shilo Sanders quickly makes presence felt in Bucs debut

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — In his first NFL preseason game, Shilo Sanders crept up to the line of scrimmage, blitzed untouched and hit Brandon Allen, driving him to the ground just after he threw the ball away.

A night after his younger brother had an impressive debut for the Cleveland Browns as the starting quarterback, Shilo Sanders got a clean shot at the QB in the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' 29-7 win over the Tennessee Titans on Saturday night.

"It felt good," Sanders said about the hit. "Thank you, God, for putting me in position to even be on the field. I feel like I left some big hits on the table. Next game will be some improvement on my angles, on my tracking because you don't really get to work on it in an NFL practice or you're gonna get kicked out of practice. Seeing a game for the first time in a long time, did some good things. It is what it is."

Signed by the Buccaneers as an undrafted free agent out of Colorado, where he played with his brother for their Hall of Fame dad, Deion Sanders, Shilo Sanders is battling for a roster spot in a crowded defensive backfield.

He started the second half at safety and registered Tampa Bay's first quarterback hit of the game on his first series, finishing with one tackle and a strong impression.

Shilo called his dad after the game and showed him his game-worn, No. 28 jersey, offering it as a birthday present. Deion Sanders turned 58 on Saturday.

"He didn't want it," Shilo said, laughing. "He's a Hall of Famer. He expects 30 times more. I'm gonna give it to my mom, though. I gotta get like three picks or something (for him)."

Shedeur Sanders, who slipped to the fifth round of the draft, completed 14 of 23 passes for 138 yards and two TD passes and led three

TD drives in a 30-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers.

Both of Coach Prime's sons have received plenty of attention throughout training camp. But neither player is even assured a roster spot. Shedeur is competing with veterans Joe Flacco and Kenny Pickett and third-round pick Dillon Gabriel. Pickett and Gabriel missed the preseason opener because of hamstring injuries.

Shilo is battling with JJ Roberts and Rashad Wisdom behind 2023 All-Pro Antoine Winfield Jr., starter Tykee Smith and backups Christian Izien and Kaevon Merriweather.

"He played tough," Bucs coach Todd Bowles said. "I thought he went in and did a heck of a job. He had some good tackles inside. He had a pressure on the quarterback as well. He did some good coverage things, so he did a good job when he was in there."

Pawol breaks umpiring gender barrier

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Jen Pawol felt love and support from fans, family, peers and players as she made history as the first female umpire to work a regular-season game in the major leagues.

“It was amazing when we took the field,” Pawol said. “It seemed like quite a few people were clapping and calling my name. That was pretty intense and emotional.”

Pawol’s much-anticipated debut came as the first base umpire for Saturday’s first game of a split doubleheader between the Atlanta Braves and Miami Marlins. It was a smooth debut.

“She did a good job,” Braves manager Brian Snitker said. “You can tell she knows what she does.”

Pawol said she had a group of about 30 friends and family members at the game, including her father, and she immediately identified a major difference of working in a major league stadium. Those familiar faces were not so easy to find at Truist Park.

“When I looked up they weren’t in the lower tier like in the minor leagues,” Pawol said. “When I looked up it took me a while. Whoa, they’re up there! I’ll never forget that. That was just awesome.”

“The dream actually came true today. I’m still living in it. I’m so grateful to my family and Major League Baseball for creating such an incredible work environment. ... I’m just so thankful.”

Pawol’s first real test came in the third inning of Atlanta’s 7-1 win when she called Braves catcher Sean Murphy safe on a close play. Marlins manager Clayton McCullough did not challenge the call. Pawol also showed she will make animated calls. When Miami’s Xavier Edwards grounded into a double play in the third inning, Pawol pumped her fist and lifted her leg when she called Edwards out.

Pawol couldn’t help but notice her debut was being watched closely. Fans responded with a warm ovation when

the video board focused on the umpire between innings, forcing her to take a quick glance at her image.

Pawol worked third base in the second game of the doubleheader. She was in the spotlight even more when she called pitches behind the plate in Sunday’s final game of the series. As a rover, she’ll then be waiting for her next assignment.

While she waits, the umpire cap she wore in her first game will be on the way to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

“This is one of the proudest moments in all my career,” crew chief Chris Guccione said. “I’ve been blessed with working playoffs, I’ve worked two World Series, All-Star games, and this is right up there. It gives me chills even thinking about it. And the magnitude, it just hit me just now the magnitude of this thing and how hard she’s worked.”

“This is just a great role model for girls and women out there and I’m just so proud of her. This is a special moment.

I’m so proud of her.”

There was much anticipation for her historic debut Saturday. A crowd of photographers gathered while waiting for the umpires to walk onto the field from their entry ramp near the Marlins dugout.

McCullough and Atlanta bench coach Walt Weiss greeted Pawol when lineups were exchanged at home plate before the game.

Pawol then jogged down the first base line. She shook hands with Miami first base coach Tyler Smarslok before taking her position on the right field line for the first pitch.

Pawol said Thursday that she was “overcome with emotion” when notified she would make her Major League Baseball debut this weekend.

Pawol, 48, has been working in the minor leagues since she was assigned to the Gulf Coast League in 2016. She was assigned the Triple-A championship game in 2023 and worked spring training games in 2024 and again this year.

Little makes 70-yard FG in Hunter’s two-way debut

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Travis Hunter’s professional debut included 10 snaps on offense, eight on defense and no highlights.

The Heisman Trophy winner and second overall pick in the NFL draft was relatively quiet in Jacksonville’s 31-25 loss to Pittsburgh in a preseason game Saturday. He caught two passes for 9 yards, with a long gain of 6, and missed an open-field tackle.

“I felt great,” he said. “A little nervous, but it felt great. It definitely settled down when I got the first catch, really when the first play started.”

Hunter did, however, have a front-row seat for the most exciting play of the night: Cam Lit-

tle drilled a 70-yard field goal on the final play of the first half, a kick that would have broken the NFL record had it happened during the regular season.

“Adrenaline is a beautiful thing,” said Little, whose phone was filled with texts and messages. “It does (stink) (that it doesn’t count). That means we just have to go out there and make it again.”

Still, Little is keeping the ball — even if the Pro Football Hall of Fame calls.

“Heck, yeah,” he said. “Are you kidding me. ... That ball is staying with me. Canton, Ohio, can get another ball.”

Little and the Jaguars celebrated widely as the half ended. Holder Logan Cooke lifted both

arms shortly after the ball took flight. Little leaned forward a little and then raised an arm as it cleared the crossbar.

Cooke pushed Little to start the party, and then Hunter greeted Little on the field with a midair body-bump.

Baltimore’s Justin Tucker holds the NFL mark, having made a 66-yarder at Detroit in 2021.

Little, a sixth-round draft pick from Arkansas in 2024, made 27 of 29 field-goal attempts as a rookie and all 27 extra points. His long was 59 yards.

He seemed to know his latest one was good from the onset. He watched intently and pumped his fist as it slid a little left and cleared the bar by several yards

— far enough that the ball boy caught it.

The Steelers had much more to talk about after their preseason opener even though most of their starters watched from the sideline. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers, receiver DK Metcalf, linebacker T.J. Watt and cornerback Jalen Ramsey were among the Pittsburgh stars who got the night off.

They witnessed backup Mason Rudolph complete 9 of 10 passes for 84 yards and a touchdown. Rudolph carved up Jacksonville’s starting defense on the Steelers’ opening drive. Third-stringer Skylar Thompson was just as good in relief, throwing for 233 yards and three scores.

Raleigh helps Mariners extend win streak

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Cal Raleigh launched his major league-leading 44th home run, Julio Rodríguez went deep twice and the surging Seattle Mariners defeated the Tampa Bay Rays 7-4 on Saturday night after retiring Ichiro Suzuki's No. 51 jersey.

Seattle extended its win streak to six, the longest active run in the American League, and moved within a half-game of Houston atop the AL West.

After hitting the go-ahead homer in the eighth inning Friday night, Raleigh delivered another three-run shot Saturday to put the Mariners up 5-1 in the third. Rodríguez connected on the next pitch from starter Joe Boyle (1-2), who lasted 3⅓ innings.

Logan Evans (6-4) allowed three runs in 5⅓ innings before four Seattle relievers finished a five-hitter. Andrés Muñoz worked a scoreless ninth for his 27th save.

Cole Young scored on a wild pitch in the sixth to make it 7-4.

Braves 7-8, Marlins 1-6: Marcell Ozuna hit two home runs in the nightcap of a double-header, leading host Atlanta to sweep Miami in the first major league games with a female umpire, Jen Pawol.

The Braves won the opener 7-1 thanks to a strong outing from rookie Hurston Waldrep and a key three-run home run from Michael Harris II.

Waldrep (2-0), in just his second start this season, allowed four hits, one walk and one run. He struck out six. He has given up two runs in 11⅓ innings in his two starts.

In the second game, Erick Fedde (4-12) won for the first time in three starts with Atlanta. Raisel Iglesias had a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Brewers 7, Mets 4: William Contreras homered to cap a four-run seventh inning and host Milwaukee rallied past skidding New York on Saturday

for its eighth consecutive victory, spoiling Pete Alonso's record-tying night.

Alonso opened the second inning with his 252nd career home run, matching the franchise record held by Darryl Strawberry for 37 years. But the Mets lost their sixth straight game and 10th in their last 11 to fall 4½ games behind first-place Philadelphia in the NL East.

New York is only 2½ games ahead of Cincinnati for the final National League playoff spot.

Yankees 5, Astros 4: Trent Grisham hit a go-ahead homer in the eighth inning and host New York beat Houston after blowing a two-run lead.

Grisham snapped a 4-all tie when he drove a full-count fastball off Bryan King (3-3) into the second deck in right field.

Grisham homered after Camilo Doval and David Bednar (5-3) combined to blow a 4-2 lead in the eighth. Left fielder Jasson Domínguez committed a throwing error on another RBI single by Jose Altuve.

Phillies 3, Rangers 2: Max Kepler had a go-ahead two-run double and NL East-leading Philadelphia beat host Texas, handing All-Star right-hander Jacob deGrom his third consecutive loss.

The Phillies went ahead 2-1 after Brandon Marsh had a one-out single in the seventh, Harrison Bader walked and both scored on Kepler's hit into the right-field corner.

Jhoan Duran worked a perfect ninth for his third save with his new team and 19th of the season overall.

Padres 5, Red Sox 4 (10): Ramón Laureano singled in Xander Bogaerts from second base with no outs in the 10th inning and host San Diego beat Boston.

With runners on first and second and the infield drawn in, Laureano hit a chopper off off Garrett Whitlock (5-2) over third baseman Alex Bregman into left field.

The Red Sox's Roman Anthony tied it in the ninth when a ground-rule double off All-Star closer Robert Suarez that brought in Ceddanne Rafaela.

Angels 7, Tigers 4: Taylor Ward homered and fell a triple short of the cycle, driving in three runs to help visiting Los Angeles beat Detroit.

The Angels took a 1-0 lead in the first on Ward's RBI double, and the Tigers got two in the second on Andy Ibáñez's RBI single and Jake Rogers' sacrifice fly.

Charlie Morton struck out seven straight after Ward's double, with Mike Trout snapping the streak with a leadoff groundout in the fourth. Ward singled, Morton hit Yoán Moncada, and Jo Adell hit a three-run homer to make it 4-2.

Reds 2, Pirates 1: Nick Martinez pitched seven sharp innings and Noeivi Marte doubled three times as visiting Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh to snap a three-game slide.

Marte drove in one run and scored another. Martinez (10-9) permitted a run on four hits and two walks while striking out four.

Athletics 11, Orioles 3: Trent Rooker and Shea Langeliers homered and Jack Perkins earned his first victory in his second start of the season as the visiting Athletics beat Baltimore.

Langeliers hit a two-run homer in the first inning. After the Orioles countered with three runs in the bottom half, the A's went ahead to stay in the third, when Rooker hit a 393-foot, three-run shot in the third. Darrell Hernaiz drove in another run with a sacrifice fly for a 6-3 advantage.

Cubs 9, Cardinals 1: Michael Busch hit a three-run home run, Matt Shaw added a homer and an RBI triple, and visiting Chicago routed St. Louis.

Colin Rea (9-5) allowed one run in six innings, and Carson Kelly and Dansby Swanson each had three of the Cubs' 13 hits.

Dodgers 9, Blue Jays 1: Shohei Ohtani hit his 40th home run, Blake Snell struck out 10 batters in five shutout innings and host Los Angeles routed Toronto.

The Dodgers broke open the game with six runs in the sixth, as rookie Dalton Rushing and Mookie Betts each had a two-run single before Andy Pages tacked on a two-run double.

Guardians 3, White Sox 1: CJ Kayfus hit his first major league home run and scored twice to help visiting Cleveland beat Chicago for its fifth straight victory.

Kayfus, promoted to the majors Aug. 2, homered in the sixth for a 3-1 lead. He walked and scored the tiebreaking run on Brayan Rocchio's double in the fourth.

Royals 2, Twins 0: Noah Cameron (6-5) and four relievers combined on an eight-hitter, Mikel Garcia had two hits and an RBI, and visiting Kansas City beat Minnesota.

The Twins left 10 men on base and were 0-for-10 with runners in scoring position.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 5: Lourdes Gurriel Jr. doubled off the wall in left with one out in the ninth inning as host Arizona handed Colorado its sixth straight loss.

Geraldo Perdomo had his third hit off the game, a double to right-center off Jimmy Herget (0-2) with one out in the ninth. Gurriel followed with the drive off the wall to easily score Perdomo. Gurriel drove in three runs, the first two with a sacrifice fly and a single.

Nationals 4, Giants 2: Brad Lord (3-6) pitched six effective innings to earn his first career victory as a starter, and visiting Washington beat San Francisco.

James Wood, Paul DeJong and Josh Bell homered for the Nationals, who had been shut out in their previous two games. Wood's leadoff shot was his first homer in a month.