

Forces surge in US Southern Command

The Washington Post

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

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

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

tentions or arrests in drug interdictions.

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

The Navy would not say exactly where the ships will be operating, except that they are patrolling the Caribbean and awaiting more specific orders. The destroyers are “not right off the coast of Venezuela,” the official said. A White House spokesperson did not respond to questions about the increased U.S. presence in the region.

Two of the destroyers, the USS Gravelly and the USS Jason Dunham, were most recently in the

Eastern Caribbean, the official said. The destroyer USS Sampson was in the Pacific off the coast of Panama as of Tuesday.

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

Together, the ships provide a wide array of options for the administration. The Iwo Jima carries helicopters; the destroyers and cruisers have advanced sensor and surveillance capabilities, as well as cruise missiles capable of striking targets on land.

It is rare to see this many assets sent to support U.S. Southern Command, which is sometimes called the “forgotten AOR,” because it has struggled amid security demands in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific to keep a regular presence of U.S. troops or ships patrolling Central and South America. In

previous years, a normal presence would have been made up of Coast Guard vessels or an occasional littoral combat ship and regular missions by the Navy hospital ships USNS Mercy and USNS Comfort.

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

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

USS George Washington returns to Japan home port

BY ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

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

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

was relocated to Yokosuka back in November.

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

The British carrier left for Tokyo on Thursday.

Since its June departure, the George Washington has been engaged in operations throughout

the Pacific, carrying out flight operations in the Philippine Sea, making port calls in Manila and Guam and participating in the bi-annual Talisman Sabre exercise in Australia.

It also took part in a multicarrier drills alongside the amphibious assault ship USS America, the Prince of Wales and the Japanese flattop JS Kagaya.

In July, the George Washington lost an aviation boatswain’s

mate in a presumed overboard incident that occurred off of the northern coast of Australia.

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

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

2 civilians indicted for role in '21 fuel spill

Associated Press

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

The indictments are the first to result from the fuel spill that angered Hawaii residents, lawmakers and military service members and their families. The military decided to close the ag-

ing World War II-era fuel tanks after the spill.

A Navy investigation in 2022 found shoddy management and human error caused the leak at the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The Defense Department's inspector general last year found Navy officials lacked sufficient understanding of the risks of maintaining massive fuel storage tanks on top of a Pearl Harbor drinking water well. The Navy issued written reprimands to three retired military officers for their roles in the fuel spill.

The indictment returned

Thursday alleges John Floyd and Nelson Wu provided the Navy with inaccurate information about a May 2021 spill that occurred six months before the fuel got in the drinking water. The indictment says they caused the Navy to mislead the Hawaii Department of Health about how much fuel leaked from one of the tanks and reassured officers that their information was accurate.

This caused the Navy to tell the department in the months after May that 1,618 gallons leaked instead of 20,000 gallons and failed to report that it was unable to find

18,000 gallons, prosecutors say. The indictment alleges Floyd and Wu redacted data from records provided. Floyd and Wu were each indicted on one count of conspiracy and one count of making false statements.

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

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

USAF will provide military funeral honors for Babbitt

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

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

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

"I understand that the family's initial request was denied by Air Force leadership in a letter dated Feb. 9, 2021," Lohmeier wrote in

the letter to Ashli Babbitt's husband, Aaron Babbitt. "However, after reviewing the circumstances of Ashli's death, and considering the information that has come forward since then, I am persuaded that the previous determination was incorrect."

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

An Air Force spokesperson confirmed the contents of the letter on Thursday but declined further comment.

Babbitt, 35, was an ardent supporter of President Donald Trump who traveled from San Diego to attend the rallies and protests on Jan. 6, 2021, challenging former President Joe Biden's

win over Trump in the 2020 presidential election. She was a veteran of the Air Force and Air National Guard who had served in Iraq and Afghanistan as a security forces airman.

She was fatally shot by a Capitol Police officer while attempting to climb through a broken window of a door leading into the House Speaker's lobby that had been barricaded to protect evacuating Congress members from the mob of Trump's supporters seeking to stop the lawmakers from certifying Biden's victory.

The police officer was cleared by the Justice Department later in 2021 of wrongdoing in the shooting after investigators determined he fired a single shot at

Babbitt believing "it was necessary to do so in self-defense or in defense of the members of Congress and others evacuating the House chamber," according to an April 2021 DOJ probe.

But Judicial Watch challenged the DOJ's findings and filed a wrongful death lawsuit for Babbitt's family this year, charging Babbitt "was ambushed and defenseless" and should have not been shot. The Justice Department in May settled with the Babbitt family, granting them a nearly \$5 million settlement. That came after Trump on his first day back in the White House granted pardons to nearly all the individuals charged with crimes for their actions during the Jan. 6 attack.

Cunningham, naval aviator and corrupt appropriator, dies

CQ-Roll Call

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

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

Cunningham, a California Republican, joined the Navy at age 25 and during the Vietnam War became the first "ace," an honor

given to combat pilots who shoot down five enemy planes.

First elected to Congress in 1990, Cunningham resigned on Dec. 1, 2005, after he pleaded guilty. In pleading guilty, Cunningham admitted to accepting at least \$2.4 million in bribes in

exchange for using his Appropriations Committee role to obtain earmarks on behalf of defense contractors.

Cunningham spent more than seven years in prison. President Donald Trump pardoned him in 2021.

Appeals court ruling sets back tariffs

The Washington Post

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

That could all be over for now.

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

The ruling is a major setback for the White House and it threatens to stall much of Trump's second-term agenda. Trump has described tariffs as "the most beautiful word in the dictionary" and asserted that imposing the duties will "Make America Rich, Strong, and Powerful Again."

The tariffs, he has said, would offset the cost of his "One Big

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

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

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

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

alike to heel.

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

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

Trump responded by calling the court "highly partisan" on social media. Eight of the judges on the panel were appointed by Democratic presidents, and three by Republicans.

The court ruling won't affect tariffs on specific industries — steel, aluminum, copper, autos —

that Trump imposed under a different law, but it would block many of the sweeping country-by-country import taxes he set up.

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

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

Trump cutting VOA jobs despite legal challenges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The agency that oversees Voice of America and other government-funded international broadcasters is eliminating jobs for more than 500 employees, a Trump administration official said. The move could ratchet up a monthslong legal challenge over the news outlets' fate.

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

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth had ruled separately that the Republican administration had failed to show how it

was complying with his orders to restore VOA's operations. His order Monday gave the administration "one final opportunity, short of a contempt trial" to demonstrate its compliance. He also ordered Lake to sit for a deposition by lawyers for agency employees by Sept. 15.

On Thursday, Lamberth said Abramowitz could not be removed without the approval of the majority of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board. The administration said in a court filing Thursday that it planned to send RIF notices to 486 employees of VOA and 46 other agency employees but intended to retain 158 agency employees and 108 VOA employees.

Suspect in Mont. bar shooting faces multiple murder charges

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A man suspected of killing four people at a Montana bar and evading capture for a week while hundreds of law enforcement officers searched for him in the nearby mountains faces four counts of murder, according to court records. Defendant Michael Paul Brown lived next door to The Owl Bar in Anaconda, Mont., where a bartender and three patrons were shot and killed Aug. 1.

Authorities have not commented on a potential motive for the 45-year-old former soldier. His niece has said Brown long struggled with mental illness. Following the shooting, authorities said Brown stole a truck and then ditched it a few miles outside of town, close to where he was eventually apprehended.

hended.

He hid in nearby forests, moving locations while helicopters and drones circled overhead and officers and dogs searched on the ground, officials said. But he was eventually flushed into a sparsely populated area near a state highway by the pressure of so many officers searching for him, according to officials. Investigators also are examining whether he had any contact with individuals or property owners who might have helped him while he was on the run.

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

Cards comfort girl wounded in church shooting

Associated Press

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

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

"All of these handmade cards are just absolutely adorable and heartfelt," Genevieve's aunt, Wanda Stipek, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "This is

coming from other kids who also have their own trauma and yet are still reaching out and showing their love for her. She has these cards taped up on the walls in her room so that she can see this and be surrounded by that love."

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

cide.

Genevieve, a sixth grader at the Catholic school who loves animals and playing outside, was conscious after the shooting, Stipek said. After authorities cleared the church from danger, she was gathered with other children to assess their injuries and was brought to the hospital in an ambulance with another wounded student. Medical staff sedated Genevieve until Thursday.

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

Stipek said Genevieve told

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

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

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

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

Trump invests in US rare earth minerals

Associated Press

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

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

"This is the Manhattan Project moment for rare earths," said Joshua Ballard, CEO of USA Rare Earth.

The White House has made it a priority to revive the domestic critical minerals industry, which is proving urgent after Beijing leveraged its near-mono-

nopoly on the products to force negotiations during a trade war.

President Donald Trump said last week that China "intelligently went and they sort of took a monopoly of the world's magnets," but he expressed confidence in securing supplies because the U.S. has "much bigger and better cards."

Industry insiders, analysts and lawmakers have warned for years that America's dependence on China for critical minerals is a national vulnerability.

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

The Pentagon is investing \$400 million in rare-earth producer MP Materials.

It gave the U.S. company a \$150 million loan this month, has promised to ensure every magnet is bought and set a minimum price for its neodymium and praseodymium products for a decade.

Houthis raid UN offices days after Israeli strike

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

The U.N. official said contacts

with several other WFP and UNICEF staffers were lost and that they were likely also detained.

The raids were the latest in a long-running Houthi crackdown against the United Nations and other international organizations working in rebel-held areas in Yemen.

They have detained dozens of U.N. staffers, as well as people associated with aid groups, civil society and the now-closed U.S. Embassy in Sanaa.

The U.N. decided to suspend its operations in the Houthi stronghold of Saada in northern Yemen after the rebels detained eight U.N. staffers back in January.

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

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Crew arrested for \$10M in Home Depot thefts

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

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

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

Gun used in Emmett Till's lynching now on display

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

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

The gun belonged to John William "J.W." Milam who, alongside Roy Bryant, abducted Till

from his great-uncle's home on Aug. 28, 1955. The white men tortured and killed Till after the Black teenager was accused of whistling at a white woman in a rural Mississippi grocery store.

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

Cities decide to fight ban on rainbow crosswalks

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

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

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

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

The Department of Transportation under Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis has ordered communities to remove the cross-

walk art and other street art by early September and threatened to withhold state transportation funding for noncompliance. Many of the painted crosswalks celebrate historically marginalized groups such as the LGBTQ+ and Black communities.

Judges rule limits on guns unconstitutional

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

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

The Tennessee laws that were deemed unconstitutional include one that generally outlaws carrying a gun in a park or similar area, except for someone with a permit to carry a handgun; and a second for the somewhat ambiguous offense of the "intent to go armed," which includes broad exceptions and legal defenses. Both are misdemeanors.

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

News organization moves to end its print edition

GA ATLANTA — The Atlanta Journal-Constitution will stop providing a print edition at the end of the year and go completely digital, marking a dramatic change for a storied

newspaper that was founded just a few years after the end of the Civil War.

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

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

Officials probe cremated human remains in desert

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

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

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

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

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Ohio State sets tone in win over Texas

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State coach Ryan Day and his players spent the preseason saying the opener against top-ranked Texas wouldn't be about defending last year's national championship, but about establishing the identity of this year's team.

Julian Sayin and the defense took a big first step toward accomplishing that.

In his first collegiate start, Sayin gave the Buckeyes a two-score advantage early in the fourth quarter with a 40-yard touchdown pass to Carnell Tate. Add in the defense containing the much-hyped Arch Manning, along with two pivotal stops in the red zone and it resulted in third-ranked Ohio State defeating the Longhorns 14-7.

It was the fourth time the No. 1 team in the AP preseason poll has met the previous season's national champion in the opener. The defending champ has won the last three.

"When you start a season, you want to set the tone," Day said.

"There's a lot of guys who are stepping into roles for the first time ever. And for these guys to step in and really have great energy about them, I thought they were poised. I thought the moment was not too big for them."

Sayin completed 13 of 20 passes for 126 yards as the Buckeyes improved to 4-3 all-time against a visiting top-ranked team. Day admitted the game plan was a bit conservative, but with a first-time starter he wanted to put his signal caller in the best possible position.

"I thought he handled himself well. He took care of the ball and made some throws when he needed to. A couple times when it wasn't there, he didn't force it," Day said. "We talked about it this week. In Week 1, we can't beat ourselves. We wanted to make them beat us."

Sayin's best pass of the day came with 13:08 remaining in the game, when Tate beat Texas cornerback Jaylon Guilbeau for Ohio State's longest completion of the day. Tate juggled the ball

before pulling it down in the end zone to put the Buckeyes up by two touchdowns.

"Before the drive, they kind of let me know, 'Hey, this might be coming.' But we had done a great job in practice that week of repeating that play," Sayin said. "Carnell ran a great route and made a great catch and the offensive line protected me well up front."

The defense under first-year coordinator Matt Patricia made Manning a non-factor for three quarters. He completed 17 of 30 passes for 170 yards, a touchdown and an interception, but most of those yards came in the fourth quarter.

"I thought they tried to do everything we asked them to do. They were in some tough spots. It's a really good Texas team," Patricia said of his unit. "Arch is a great quarterback. I'm proud of our guys for stepping up to that challenge and all the way across the board, from the front end to the back end. I think those guys just did a tremendous job with the adjustments."

The Longhorns' downfall was

going 1 of 5 on fourth down, including being stopped twice inside the Ohio State 10. Manning was stuffed at the 1-yard line on fourth-and-goal by Caden Curry and Lorenzo Styles Jr. on a QB sneak in the third quarter.

The other red-zone stop came midway through the fourth quarter when the Buckeyes' Davison Igbinosun broke up a pass intended for Parker Livingstone.

"Granted the receivers are really good, but they've got an excellent secondary, and they've got a good scheme, and they've got a very smart secondary so they made Arch work," Texas coach Steve Sarkisian said.

CJ Donaldson Jr. opened the scoring midway through the second quarter on a 1-yard run up the middle to cap a 13-play, 87-yard drive that took eight minutes off the clock. Ohio State benefited from a pair of penalties, including a face mask call on Colin Simmons that wiped out an incomplete pass on third-and-4.

Nussmeier, defense spark LSU to victory at Clemson

Associated Press

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

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

Caden Durham rushed for 74 yards and a touchdown for LSU, which held the ball for all but

nine minutes of the second half.

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

He was sacked only twice, but pressured relentlessly.

"I think getting him out of the pocket and primarily got him out of rhythm," Kelly said. "I thought we did that very, very well and we took his running game away. Any quarterback

that doesn't have a running game, it becomes predictable and we had some predictable down the distances because they couldn't run the football."

Clemson had just 31 yards on 20 carries.

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

Clemson's defense gave Klubnik two chances late to tie the game after coming up with big stops.

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

plete.

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

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

Florida State stuns Crimson Tide 31-17

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

Under new offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn — who spent eight seasons as Auburn's head coach — Florida State was physical from the start, finishing with 230 rushing yards and averaging 4.7 yards per carry. The Seminoles averaged just 89.9 yards during their disastrous 2024

season.

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

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

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

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

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

Micah Danzy, Cazia Holmes and Gavin Sawchuk also had rushing touchdowns for Florida State.

Ty Simpson completed 23 of 43 passes for 254 yards and two touchdowns in his Alabama debut. Germie Bernard led Ala-

bama with eight catches for 146 yards.

Poll implications

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

Fourth-down stops

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

The takeaway

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

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

Up next

Alabama hosts Louisiana-Monroe next Saturday.

Florida State hosts East Texas A&M next Saturday.

Former champs Gauff, Osaka to meet again in US Open

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

She advanced to her first fourth-round match at any major since the 2021 Aus-

tralian Open by eliminating No. 15 seed Daria Kasatkina 6-0, 4-6, 6-3 at Louis Armstrong Stadium, after Gauff made it that far at the U.S. Open for the fourth consecutive year with a 6-3, 6-1 victory over No. 28 Magdalena Frech at Ashe.

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

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

So much has happened to both Osaka and Gauff since that headline-worthy encounter six years ago in New York.

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

No. 23 Osaka, 27, owns four major titles — including at the U.S. Open in 2018 and 2020 — and has been ranked No. 1. She

was among the athletes at the forefront of conversations about mental health, opening up at the 2021 French Open about dealing with anxiety and depression, then taking a series of breaks from the tour.

"Naomi and I, we aren't super close or anything, but we're definitely friendly with each other," Gauff said. "I support her from afar in all the things that she's done — on and off the court."

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

"I remember it was a tough moment for me, because it was a hyped-up match. ... I guess I put way too much pressure on myself, thinking I maybe had a chance in that moment to actually do something, which I definitely did, but I think it was just I felt more expectation than I should than maybe belief," Gauff said.

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

Turner lifts Phillies to walk off Braves in 10

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Guardians have won the first two games in the series to pull within three games of the

Mariners, who hold the third and final AL wild-card position. Seattle has lost seven straight on the road and is 5-11 overall since Aug. 13.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

then in the seventh when a fan ran out from the left field seats and stood next to Tampa Bay shortstop Carson Williams.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tucker reached base four times and scored twice, and Michael Busch, Ian Happ and Seiya Suzuki had two hits apiece for the Cubs, who have won all five games against the Rockies this season.

Diamondbacks 6, Dodgers 1: Corbin Carroll homered to break a scoreless tie in the seventh inning and Eduardo Rodríguez pitched Arizona over Los Angeles.

Rodríguez (6-8) gave up four hits in six shutout innings. He walked four and struck out four.