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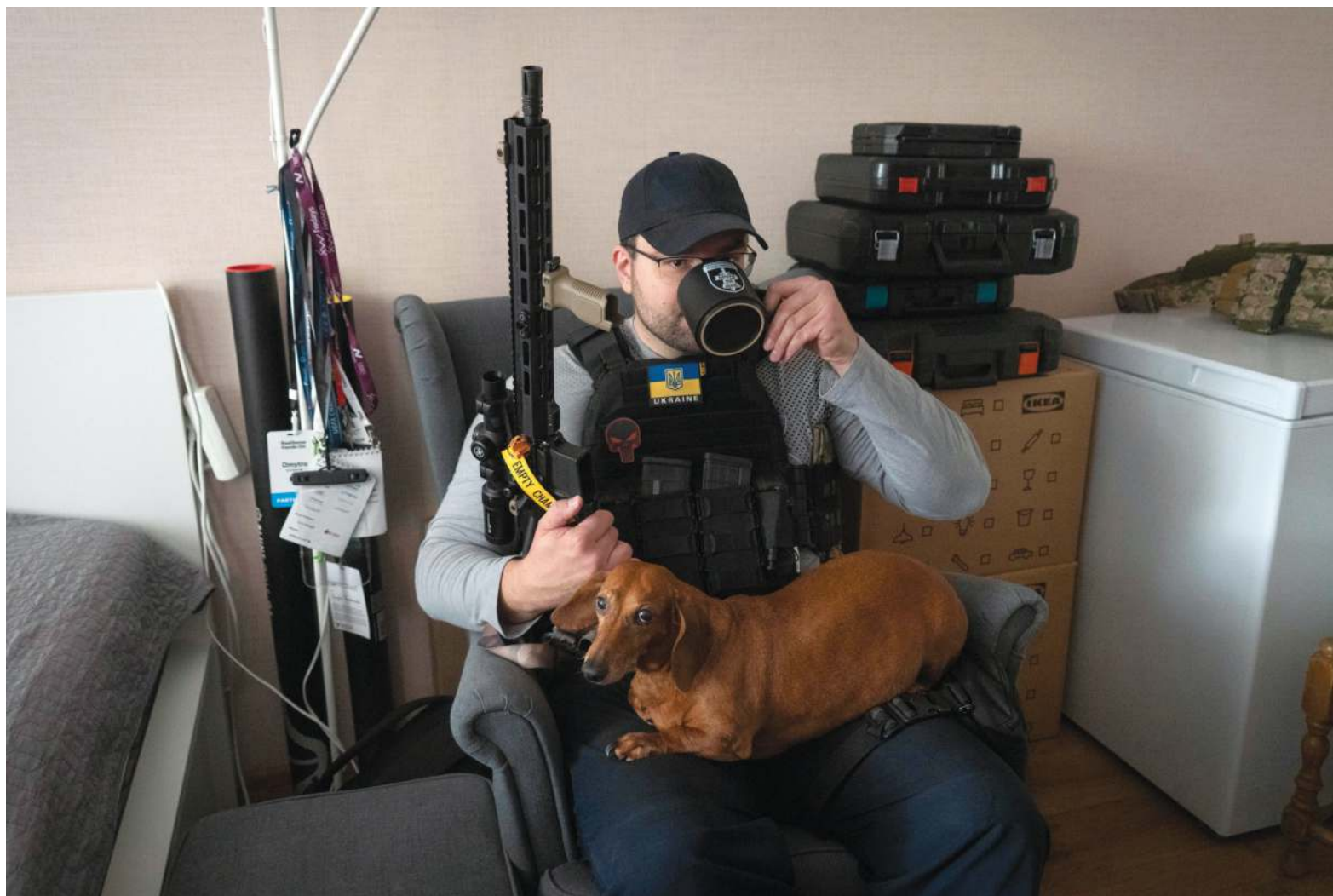
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EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Dmytro Bondarenko poses for a photo in his apartment in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

Ukrainians prep for nuke

Locals bring grit and dark humor to face Russian threats

By HANNA ARHIROVA
AND ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Dmytro Bondarenko is ready for the worst.

He's filled the storage area under his fold-up bed and just about every other nook of his apartment in eastern Kyiv with water and non-perishable food. There are rolls of packing tape to seal the windows from radioactive fallout. He has a gas-fired camping stove and walkie-talkies.

There's even an AR-15 rifle and a shotgun for

RELATED

Zelenskyy: Tehran still 'lying' even as it admits supplying combat drones

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protection, along with boxes of ammo. Fuel canisters and spare tires are stashed by his washing machine in case he needs to leave the city in a hurry.

"Any preparation can increase my chance to survive," he said, wearing a knife and a first-aid kit.

With the Russian invasion in its ninth month, many Ukrainians no longer ask if their country will be hit by nuclear weapons. They are actively preparing for that once-unthinkable possibility.

Over dinner tables and in bars, people often discuss which city would be the most likely target or what type of weapon could be used.

SEE PREP ON PAGE 6

Family: MP told to not report assault

By ALEXANDER RIEDEL
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A soldier told her family she had been assaulted by three soldiers in her squad and was then dissuaded by her first sergeant from filing an official report. Two weeks later, she was found dead in her barracks.

Spc. Denisha Montgomery, 27, was found unresponsive at Lucius Clay Barracks in Wiesbaden on Aug. 9 and was pronounced dead at the scene. Family members were told during preliminary findings that the death was likely a suicide.

Soon afterward, family members who believe she was murdered by her fellow military police soldiers publicly shared a July 19 video call in which Montgomery detailed the allegations of assault.

Now, text messages exchanged with her uncle that a family lawyer released to Stars and Stripes show a soldier fearful of reprisal and worried that she would be punished for fighting back, despite years of Army initiatives directed at preventing such violence

SEE ASSAULT ON PAGE 5



FACEBOOK

Members of Pfc. Denisha Montgomery's family say they do not believe she took her own life.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Philadelphia Home Depot workers reject unionization

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Home Depot workers in Philadelphia rejected the first storewide labor union at the world's largest home improvement retailer Saturday night, a loss for a fledgling movement to organize at major U.S. companies. Workers voted 165 to 51 against forming a union representing 274 employees at the store, WHYY-FM reported.

The National Labor Relations Board oversaw the voting. A board spokesperson did not immediately

respond to a request from The Associated Press for information about the vote.

The defeat for the organizers, who sought to join Home Depot Workers United, could discourage activist workers who have successfully formed the first unions at big chains, including Amazon, Starbucks, Trader Joe's and Apple, but have since suffered setbacks in getting collective bargaining off the ground or organizing more unions.

The Atlanta-based company

employs about 500,000 people at its 2,316 stores in the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

Vincent Quiles, the Home Depot employee leading the unionization effort, told WHYY that the attempt to organize workers had been a "tall order."

"I knew when I filed this petition we'd be taking on a \$300 billion company," Quiles said after the vote. "It wouldn't be an easy fight to have. But you do these things because you believe them to be right."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	1407.46
Euro costs (Nov. 7)	\$0.96	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9946
Dollar buys (Nov. 7)	0.9874	Thailand (Baht)	37.28
British pound (Nov. 7)	\$1.09	Turkey (NewLira)	18.5748
Japanese yen (Nov. 7)	143.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
South Korean won (Nov. 7)	1,389.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	6.25
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.00
Britain (Pound)	1.1364	Federal funds market rate	3.83
Canada (Dollar)	1.3476	3-month bill	0.10
China (Yuan)	7.1851	30-year bond	4.25
Denmark (Krone)	7.4813		
Egypt (Pound)	24.2507		
Euro	0.9946		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499		
Hungary (Forint)	404.61		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5486		
Japan (Yen)	146.79		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3099		
Norway (Krone)	10.237		
Philippines (Peso)	58.39		
Poland (Zloty)	4.70		
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7579		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4034		

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PACIFIC

At review, Japan PM vows to strengthen military

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan’s Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said at an international fleet review Sunday that his country urgently needs to strengthen its military capabilities as security risks increase, including threats from North Korea’s nuclear and missile advancement and Russia’s war on Ukraine.

Eighteen warships from 12 countries participated in the review, including the United States, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea, while the U.S. and France also sent warplanes.

South Korea joined for the first time in seven years, in the latest sign of improvement in badly strained ties between Tokyo and Seoul over Japan’s wartime atrocities.

“The security environment in the East and South China seas, especially around Japan, is increasingly becoming more severe,” Kishida said, noting North Korea’s increased missile firings, including one that flew over Japan last month, and growing concern about the impact in Asia of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Avoiding disputes and seeking dialogue is important, Kishida said, but it is also necessary to be prepared for provocations and threats to peace and stability. He repeated his pledge to significantly reinforce Japan’s military capability within five years.

Kishida said Japan urgently needs to build more warships, strengthen anti-missile capability and improve working conditions for troops.

“We have no time to waste,” Kishida said after his review



Kyodo News/AP

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, fifth from left; U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel, fourth from left; Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada, third from left; and other officials and military officers gather on the USS Ronald Reagan in Sagami Bay near Tokyo on Sunday.

aboard the JS Izumo, where naval officers from the participating countries gathered to review a demonstration of the frigates, submarines, supply ships and warplanes in Sagami Bay southwest of Tokyo.

The 813-foot-long Izumo has been retrofitted so that it can carry F-35Bs, stealth fighters capable of short takeoffs and vertical landings, as Japan increasingly works side-by-side with the U.S.

military.

Kishida said Japan will further strengthen the deterrence and response capability of the Japan-U.S. alliance.

Later Sunday, Kishida and U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel visited the USS Ronald Reagan, the U.S. Navy’s only aircraft carrier based outside the U.S. mainland, off the U.S. naval base of Yokosuka. Emanuel stressed the importance of coop-

eration among U.S. allies.

“Every time we do things in either a bilateral capacity, trilateral capacity of any other type of exercises that also brings in others, that puts China on their back heels because they realize that’s the one thing they do not have is the one thing America has in abundance, and we work at it extensively.”

The U.S. military, which had just finished a joint exercise with

South Korea that prompted missile barrages and other warnings from North Korea, is set to hold major drills with Japan later this month in southwestern Japan. Australia, Canada and Britain will join part of the drills, while France, India, New Zealand, the Philippines and South Korea are expected to take part as observers.

Japan has steadily stepped up its international defense role and military spending over the past decade, and plans to double its military budget in the next five to 10 years to about 2% of its GDP, citing a NATO standard, amid threats from North Korea and China’s growing assertiveness.

China has reinforced its claims to virtually the entire South China Sea by constructing artificial islands equipped with military installations and airfields. Beijing has also claimed a string of islands that are controlled by Japan in the East China Sea, and has stepped up military harassment of self-ruled Taiwan, which it has said is part of China to be annexed by force if necessary.

Kishida’s government is currently working on a revision to its national security strategy and mid- to long-term defense policies, and is considering allowing the use of preemptive strikes in a major shift to Japan’s self-defense-only postwar principle. Critics have said preemptive strikes could violate Japan’s pacifist constitution.

Apparently addressing concerns from Asian neighbors, Kishida said Japan will stick to its postwar pledge as a “pacifist nation” and continue to explain its security policy to gain understanding while asking other countries to do the same.

N. Korea fires more missiles as US flies bombers over South

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea added to its recent barrage of weapons demonstrations by launching four ballistic missiles into the sea on Saturday, as the United States sent two supersonic bombers streaking over South Ko-

rea in a dueling display of military might that underscored rising tensions in the region.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the four short-range missiles fired from a North Korean western coastal area around noon flew about 80 miles toward the country’s western sea.

The North has test-fired more than 30 missiles in the past week, including an intercontinental ballistic missile Thursday that triggered evacuation alerts in northern Japan, and flew large numbers of warplanes inside its territory in an angry reaction to a massive combined aerial exercise between the U.S. and South Korea.

The South Korean military said two B-1B bombers trained with four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and four South Korean F-35 jets during the

last day of the “Vigilant Storm” joint air force drills that wrapped up Saturday. It marked the first time since December 2017 that the bombers were deployed to the Korean Peninsula. The exercise involved around 240 warplanes, including advanced F-35 fighter jets from both countries.

North Korea’s Foreign Ministry late Friday described the country’s military actions in recent days as an appropriate response to the exercise, which it called a display of U.S. “military confrontation hysteria.” It said North Korea will respond with the “toughest counteraction” to any attempts by “hostile forces” to infringe on its sovereignty or security interests.

South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the participation of the B-1Bs in the joint drills demonstrated the allies’ readiness to

“sternly respond” to North Korean provocations and the U.S. commitment to defend its ally with the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear.

Vigilant Storm had been initially scheduled to end Friday, but the allies decided to extend the training to Saturday in response to a series of North Korean ballistic launches on Thursday, including an ICBM that triggered evacuation alerts and halted trains in northern Japan.

South Korea also on Friday scrambled about 80 military aircraft after tracking about 180 flights by North Korean warplanes inside North Korean territory. The South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff said the North Korean warplanes were detected in various areas inland and along the country’s eastern and western coasts,

but did not come particularly close to the Koreans’ border. The South Korean military spotted about 180 flight trails from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., but it wasn’t immediately clear how many North Korean planes were involved and whether some may have flown more than once.

In Friday’s statement attributed to an unidentified spokesperson, North Korea’s Foreign Ministry said the U.S. and South Korea had created a seriously “unstable atmosphere” in the region with their military exercises. It accused the U.S. of mobilizing its allies in a campaign using sanctions and military threats to pressure North Korea to unilaterally disarm.

“The sustained provocation is bound to be followed by sustained counteraction,” the statement said.

Clarification

Regarding a Nov. 4 story on lodging closures, the Wingo Inn will no longer be run by Air Force Inns but will transfer 20 of its rooms to the base outdoor recreation department for operation, officials at Arnold Air Force Base, Tenn., said Friday.

PACIFIC

Japan missile plan may need constitution change

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan’s reported plan to extend the range of a high-speed missile, currently in development, to reach the Senkaku Islands and parts of China and North Korea may require it to amend its pacifist constitution, according to a retired general.

Work on the land-based, long-range missile, which has yet to be named, began in fiscal year 2018, Kyodo News reported Oct. 30. Prototypes have a range of just over 400 miles. An improved missile would extend that range by an additional 200 miles, according to the report, which cited unnamed government sources.

The news came the same week North Korea fired six ballistic missiles, including one possible

intercontinental ballistic missile, into the sea west of Japan on Thursday.

Security experts believe the longer range is necessary due to burgeoning threats in the region, but at least one believes Japan may have to change its constitution to facilitate such an upgrade.

Article 9 of the country’s constitution states that its people “forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.”

“It is necessary to change [the constitution], but it is important that the political parties come together,” Toshiyuki Shikata, a former lieutenant general in the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. “It is not just about changing the capacity of the missiles; it’s about changing the con-

cept of national security.”

Shikata believes that increasing the missile’s range to include parts of China and North Korea would make the weapon offensive in nature, running afoul of Article 9.

Junjiro Shida, an associate professor of international politics at Meio University on Okinawa, believes increasing the missile range is appropriate.

“Each country must protect their territories by themselves against countries that conduct military attacks,” he told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday. “So, it is appropriate to think that the government is starting to consider these opinions.”

A spokesman from Japan’s Ministry of Defense requested questions in writing from Stars and Stripes on Tuesday but had not responded as of Friday afternoon. Some government officials in Ja-

pan speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their positions.

The missiles are expected to be “mass produced” sometime after April 2023 and deployed in fiscal 2026, the Kyodo report said.

They will contain a number of features that make them hard to intercept, according to the report. They may be fired from mobile launchers; warheads will separate at a high altitude and travel on an irregular path before gliding toward their targets at supersonic speed.

News of the possible upgrade comes at a time of increasing tensions in the region. Japan and China remain at odds over the uninhabited but resource rich Senkaku chain, which are approximately 105 miles northeast of Taiwan and about 280 miles west of Okinawa. Taiwan also claims the islands.

The Senkakus, which China calls Diaoyu Dao, are the scene of frequent territorial clashes between Japanese and Chinese fishermen and coast guard vessels.

Chinese threats of integrating Taiwan by force have also rankled Japan, as have North Korea’s constant missile barrages, including one missile earlier this year that flew over the Japanese mainland.

“The possibility of a military attack is getting higher,” Shida said.

Shikata believes the situation regarding Taiwan is more worrying than the war in Ukraine.

“If China attacks Taiwan, it will threaten the lives of the Japanese,” he said. “Japan has no choice but to reinforce their weapons.”

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F-22 begin rotating into Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The first F-22A Raptors roared into Kadena Air Base on Friday, kicking off a two-year plan to replace the installation’s aging F-15 fighters with a superior rotational force.

The 18th Wing declined to say how many Raptors arrived from the 3rd Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, but Japan’s Ministry of Defense said “around a dozen” would be touching down at the base in southern Japan in the “coming few weeks,” a spokesman told Stars and Stripes in an email Friday.

Some government officials in Japan speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their positions.

“These aircraft will work in conjunction with local Kadena-based assets to maintain steady-state fighter capabilities and enhance U.S. operational readiness to defend Japan while ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific,” the wing said in a statement Friday evening.

The plan calls for the Air Force to perform a “phased withdrawal” of the base’s two aging F-15C/D squadrons over the next two years by replacing them — at least initially — with F-22 fifth-generation stealth fighters on six-month rotational deployments.

There will be no gaps in fighter coverage, the 18th Wing wrote in a statement Friday to Stars and Stripes. As more Raptors arrive, more F-15s will depart.

It’s unclear if the rotational presence will be temporary or an interim measure until a new generation of fighters is positioned permanently on Okinawa, Ralph Cossa, president emeritus of the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii, told Stars and Stripes in an



An airman marshals an F-22A Raptor assigned to the 3rd Wing into position at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Friday.

email Oct. 28.

Critics have said the move sends the wrong message to China and U.S. allies in the region.

Prominent Republican lawmakers wrote a letter to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin on Tuesday asking to be briefed about the plan. They included Sen. Marco Rubio, of Florida; Rep. Mike Gallagher, of Wisconsin, the top Republican on the Armed Services personnel subcommittee; Sen. Bill Hagerty, of Tennessee, the former ambassador to Japan; and Rep. Mike McCaul, of Texas, the top Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee.

“We believe that DOD’s plans to replace permanently-based fighters with rotational forces will lead to a tangible reduction in American forward combat power in the Indo-Pacific, lowering the bar for aggression and demonstrating a continuing mismatch between the Biden Administration’s talking points on the Indo-Pacific and America’s actual commitments in the region,” the letter said.

The group agrees with modernization but is concerned there will be no permanent fighter presence, according to the letter.

Kadena is home to 48 F-15C/Ds of the 18th

Wing’s 44th and 67th Fighter Squadrons. The Air Force also has F-16 Fighting Falcons at Misawa Air Base in northeastern Honshu, the largest of Japan’s four main islands.

The F-15C/D has been in service for more than 30 years, the 18th Wing told Stars and Stripes. They are being retired due to “challenges” related to becoming obsolete, “sustainability costs, and technical airworthiness.”

The Raptor by Lockheed Martin and Boeing is a multirole fighter designed for air dominance, according to an Air Force fact sheet. The Air Force had 183 of the \$143 million aircraft as of August.

The Raptor boasts a “combination of stealth, supercruise, maneuverability, and integrated avionics, coupled with improved supportability,” the fact sheet said. It seats one and is armed with a 20-mm cannon, six AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles and two AIM-9 Sidewinders, a short-range air-to-air missile.

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Defueling of Navy’s Red Hill pipelines done

By KEVIN KNOELL
Honolulu Star-Advertiser

Joint Task Force Red Hill, which is overseeing the defueling, announced Thursday that it had successfully removed 1,058,187 gallons from the pipelines, which connect the massive Red Hill tanks to facilities at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

The military said it has successfully “unpacked” fuel from the Navy’s Red Hill pipelines, a critical first step to the ultimate plan to defuel the tanks at the decades-old underground Red Hill fuel farm.

It’s the first time the pipelines have moved fuel since the Navy stopped all Red Hill fueling operations in November 2021, when fuel from the facility contaminated the Navy’s water system. The Navy water system provides potable water to about 93,000 people on Oahu, including service members, military families, civilians living in former military housing areas, schools and businesses.

State officials and the military said they have successfully restored the Navy water system, but the Red Hill fuel tanks — whose current capacity was reported as 104 million gallons — sit just 100 feet above a critical aquifer that Honolulu relies on for almost all of its drinking water.

Joint Task Force Red Hill has been moving the fuel to above-ground tanks at the base and to fuel storage barges. The Red Hill facility holds three kinds of fuel that each travel down their own pipeline: F-24 commercial jet fuel; F-76 marine diesel fuel that is used to power the Navy’s ships; and JP-5, the kerosene-based jet fuel that contaminated the Navy’s Red Hill well.

During the unpacking process, Joint Task Force Red Hill removed 887,937 gallons of fuel from the pipes using gravity and 170,250 gallons by “low-point transfer,” which involved pumping the residual fuel through the pipes.

MILITARY

Assault: Transcripts say sergeant dissuaded victim from filing report

FROM PAGE 1

and providing pathways to report incidents.

Although the Army said recently that the investigation into the circumstances that led to her death remains ongoing, her death now has been officially ruled a suicide.

“The Armed Forces Medical Examiner has concluded their autopsy and associated laboratory analyses and have ruled the manner and cause of Spc. Denisha Montgomery’s death as suicide by asphyxiation,” an Army spokesman told Stars and Stripes in a statement.

Montgomery’s family members say they are frustrated by the pace of the investigation and remain unconvinced that she took her own life.

During the video call, part of which was first shared on Newsnationnow.com in September, Montgomery tells members of her family that she was assaulted in a vehicle after visiting a water park with soldiers.

“They choked me out ... I kept telling them ... I can’t breathe,” Montgomery said in the shaky cell phone video. “I’ve never been so scared in my life.”

Showing her family a series of bruises and wounds on her body, Montgomery said, “I just want to come home. Look what they did to me.”

Copies of phone transcripts provided to Stars and Stripes show that Montgomery’s father reached out to the Red Cross the day of the video call to request assistance for his daughter.

In a follow-up call, the Red Cross advised his daughter to contact her chain of command and report to a hospital. It’s unclear whether she went to the hospital before her death.

Transcripts provided to Stars and Stripes show she texted her uncle two days later, telling him that a first sergeant in her command had dissuaded her from filing a report.

“They told me if I report an assault, I’ll be charged with assault too because I mushed (sic) the female and bit the male that was choking me ... 1SG here told me self defense in the military isn’t a



Cliff Owen

Air Force Staff Sgt. Brenda Barnhart-Frame closes the door of a vehicle containing the remains of Spc. Denisha Montgomery at Dover Air Force Base, Del., on Aug. 15.

thing smh,” Montgomery wrote July 21, using the acronym for “shaking my head.”

Defense Department policy would require a first sergeant to report the allegations of a crime made by a soldier.

After several days of discussion and a couple of days of silence, Montgomery continued the conversation with her uncle.

“I’m sorry I’ve just been depressed and didn’t want to talk about it anymore I decided not to say anything I didn’t wanna end up getting in trouble too ...” she wrote July 27. “I’m okay my bruises are starting to go away I’ve just been keeping my head down staying in my room n going to work when I get back to Stewart I have another NCO who is going to get me in his squad so I don’t have to directly deal with those people.

“But I’m okay I love you so much n I appreciate all of your help.”

A spokesman for the Army’s Criminal Investigation Division said the agency has no record of Montgomery talking to its investigators.

“There have been no indications of criminal activity, but the Army CID law enforcement in-

vestigation will continue until all leads have been investigated,” a spokesman wrote by email.

Army investigators say they hope to complete the case soon and will provide Montgomery’s family with “a comprehensive update” of their findings.

The Army has not stated whether any soldiers were suspended, disarmed or placed on alternate duty pending the investigation.

“She told us ‘Please record this. We might need this in case something happens,’” recalled Sgt. Brooklyn Price, Montgomery’s sister and a logistics specialist with 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Montgomery’s body arrived in Elizabethtown, Ky., her hometown, on Aug. 26, and she received a burial with military honors.

“We’re not doing great,” Price said of the family. “There is a lot of emotion right now. We’re not only sad, we’re broken-hearted, confused and upset because we don’t have answers.”

A lawyer for the family said some of the confusion was created by the limited communication with the military early on.

During the initial casualty notification process, the family was

told Montgomery’s death was a suicide before autopsy results and other steps were complete, said Lindsey Knapp, who is also the executive director of Combat Sexual Assault, an advocacy organization. The Army insists that it was German authorities, not their investigators, who initially ruled the case a suicide. The service says Montgomery’s family should have been told the assessment was tentative.

“They essentially blamed the Germans,” Knapp said.

Wiesbaden police officers responded to Clay Kaserne along with a doctor, which is standard procedure in these cases, police chief superintendent Andreas Hemmes told Stars and Stripes by email Wednesday.

The German doctor and investigators did not find any evidence of third-party involvement, Hemmes said, adding that German officials did not perform an autopsy.

Local police then handed their findings to the Wiesbaden public prosecutor’s office, which did not assert jurisdiction and sent the case back to the Army for investigation.

It is unclear whether Army ca-

sualty assistance officers were cleared to share the early assessment with members of the family.

Price doesn’t believe her sister would have harmed herself without leaving a trace of her intentions.

“Denisha would not have killed herself suddenly,” her sister said. “She was always so thought-out and planned. It’s just not like her to just to act on impulse.”

Price said she delayed her own wedding when Montgomery’s military training conflicted with plans. After the death, Denisha’s mother handed Price a letter from Montgomery, which she wrote for her sister to open on her wedding day.

“If she wrote me a letter to open on my wedding day, really just in case she couldn’t make it because of military training, then I know for a fact she would’ve written something to her kids, to her family. At least something to say ‘I love you.’”

Montgomery joined the military two years ago, following other family members into the service. She was determined to provide for her three young boys.

She deployed from Fort Stewart, Ga., to Germany with the 139th Military Police Company as part of an influx of troops following Russia’s Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

“We come from a military family,” Price said. “I think she wanted that and wanted to be able to take care of her family and give them a better life than we had growing up.”

Montgomery was scheduled to return home at the end of September. She even sent pictures of her packed rucksack, Price said.

Price said she wants to keep awareness on her sister’s case. She has posted more than 40 TikTok videos with clips of Montgomery and calls for justice.

“She had so much life to live for,” Price said. “All she wanted to do was be an MP and serve her country. Just how she was willing to fight for us. The least we can do is fight for her.”

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Fort Riley soldier charged with murder in the death of another soldier

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

A 21-year-old Fort Riley soldier is facing a murder charge in the stabbing death of another soldier at the Army base in Kansas, according to Army court documents and local police. Spc. Jalen D. Thomas was charged with murder, manslaughter, assault and domestic violence, in connection with the death of Sgt. Stacy Subotich, 30. She died Aug. 6 in Junction

City, a town about five miles from Fort Riley.

Subotich, who was from Georgetown, Texas, enlisted in November 2017 and had been assigned to Fort Riley since May 2019, said Lt. Col. Alex Tignor, spokesman for the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley. Thomas also is charged with assault for stabbing a man in the leg, which caused a deep cut, according to Army court records. In addition,

Thomas is charged with domestic violence for hitting a third victim in the face with his hand. The third victim is a woman with whom he had an intimate relationship, according to the court documents. The names of all victims were redacted in the court documents, but Subotich was identified by the Junction City Police Department.

Thomas entered a guilty plea during his arraignment hearing Wednesday before Col. Steven

Henricks, a judge in the 3rd Judicial Circuit, according to the Army’s online court records. However, the records do not show whether he pleaded guilty to all or only some of the charges. Tignor declined to answer questions about the case, but said the next court appearance for Thomas is scheduled for Dec. 2.

Junction City police initially arrested Thomas, but the case was later turned over to the Army

Criminal Investigation Division and the charges were filed through the military justice system. Thomas was previously held at Geary County Jail, but has since moved into the Army’s custody.

Thomas, who is from Brandon, Fla., enlisted in the Army in June 2019 and was assigned to Fort Riley in February, Tignor said.

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EUROPE

Zelenskyy: Tehran ‘lying’ even with drone admission

BY GUNTHER CHALUPA
dpa
KYIV — Following the Iranian leadership’s admission of having supplied combat drones to Russia, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has accused Tehran of “lying.”

“Even with this confession, they are lying,” the Ukrainian leader said in his daily video message on Saturday.

The number of Iranian combat drones shot down by Ukrainian air defenses exceeds the “few” drones cited by Iran, Zelenskyy said, justifying his accusation.

“And the more Tehran lies, the more the international community will understand this terrorist collaboration between the regimes in Russia and Iran.”

Iran admitted drone deliveries to Russia for the first time on Saturday.

Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahan said the Islamic Republic had provided Russia with a limited number of drones ahead of the war in Ukraine, state news agency IRNA reported.

The chief diplomat denied further arms deliveries, however, as well as the provision of missiles after Moscow’s invasion of Ukraine began.

The Ukrainian military said it

has already shot down hundreds of Iranian-made Shahed-136 kamikaze drones.

“Yesterday alone, 11 Shahed drones were shot down,” Zelenskyy said. The Ukrainian military leadership suspects that Russia has ordered 2,400 such drones.

Zelenskyy said the military leadership in Kyiv had reviewed the current defense against Russian “missile and drone terrorism,” and said that while the number of missiles shot down by Ukrainian air defenses is increasing, there is “still a lot to do.”

In anticipation of greater numbers of tanks, armored vehicles and artillery, Ukraine is also facing several “crucial weeks,” according to Zelenskyy.

Ukraine is expecting “good news” on this point in a few weeks, however, the Ukrainian president said, without giving more details.

The past hours had brought little change on the fronts in heavy fighting. Zelenskyy said he had analyzed the situation on the war and energy fronts with the armed forces command staff.

“We know what the enemy is planning, we will respond to it and continue to liberate our country.”

Kyiv prepares for winter with no power or water

Associated Press
KYIV, Ukraine — The mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine’s capital, is warning residents that they must prepare for the worst this winter if Russia keeps striking the country’s energy infrastructure — and that means having no electricity, water or heat in the freezing cold cannot be ruled out.

“We are doing everything to avoid this. But let’s be frank, our enemies are doing everything for the city to be without heat, without electricity, without water supply, in general, so we all die. And the future of the country and the future of each of us depends on how prepared we are for different situations,” Mayor Vitali Klitschko told state media.

Russia has focused on striking Ukraine’s energy infrastructure over the last month, causing power shortages and rolling outages across the country. Kyiv was scheduled to have hourly ro-

tating blackouts Sunday in parts of the city and the surrounding region.

Rolling blackouts were also planned in the nearby Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Kharkiv and Poltava regions, Ukraine’s state-owned energy operator, Ukrenergo, said.

Kyiv plans to deploy about 1,000 heating points, but noted that this may not be enough for a city of 3 million people.

As Russia intensifies its attacks on the capital, Ukrainian forces are pushing forward in the south. Residents of Ukraine’s Russian-occupied city of Kherson received warning messages on their phones urging them to evacuate as soon as possible, Ukraine’s military said Sunday. Russian soldiers warned civilians that Ukraine’s army was preparing for a massive attack and told people to leave for the city’s right bank immediately.



EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Dmytro Bondarenko shows the storage area under his fold-up bed filled with nonperishable food as he demonstrates his readiness for Russia’s nuclear threat in his apartment in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday.

Prep: Nuclear attack fears bring up memories of Chernobyl disaster

FROM PAGE 1
Many, like Bondarenko, are stocking up on supplies and making survival plans.

Nobody wants to believe it can happen, but it seems to be on the mind of many in Ukraine, which saw the world’s worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl in 1986.

“Of course Ukraine takes this threat seriously, because we understand what kind of country we are dealing with,” presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said in an interview with The Associated Press, referring to Russia.

The Kremlin has made unsubstantiated claims that Ukraine is preparing a “dirty bomb” in Russian-occupied areas — an explosive to scatter radioactive material and sow fear. Kyiv strenuously denied it and said such statements are more probably a sign that Moscow is itself preparing such a bomb and blame it on Ukraine.

The nuclear fears trigger painful memories from those who lived through the Chernobyl disaster, when one of four reactors

exploded and burned about 60 miles north of Kyiv, releasing a plume of radiation. Soviet authorities initially kept the accident secret, and while the town near the plant was evacuated, Kyiv was not.

The capital again is preparing for the release of radioactivity, with more than 1,000 personnel trained to respond, said Roman Tkachuk, head of the capital’s Municipal Security Department. It has bought a large number of potassium iodide pills and protective equipment for distribution, he added.

With all the high-level talk from Moscow, Washington and Kyiv about atomic threats, Ukrainians’ conversations these days are studied with phrases like “strategic and tactical nuclear weapons,” “potassium iodide pills,” “radiation masks,” “plastic raincoats” and “hermetically sealed food.”

Websites offer tips for surviving a dirty bomb while TikTok has multiple posts of people packing “nuclear luggage” to make a quick

getaway and offering advice on what to do in case of a nuclear attack.

October has seen “huge spikes” of Ukrainian visits to NUKEMAP, a website that allows users to simulate an atomic bomb dropped on a given location, according to its creator, Alex Wellerstein.

The anxiety has prompted dark humor. More than 8,000 people joined a chat on the Telegram messaging service after a tweeted joke that in case of a nuclear strike, survivors should go to Kyiv’s Schekavytsia Hill for an orgy.

On the serious side, mental health experts have said having a support network is key to remaining resilient during uncertain times.

“That’s often the case in Ukraine and also you need to have the feeling that you can cope with this. And there is this group feeling (that is) quite strong,” said Dr. Koen Sevenants, lead for mental health and psychosocial support for global child protection for UNICEF.

US asks Ukraine for openness to Russia talks

The Washington Post
The Biden administration is privately encouraging Ukraine’s leaders to signal an openness to negotiate with Russia and drop their public refusal to engage in peace talks unless President Vladimir Putin is removed from power, according to people familiar with the discussions.

The request by American officials is not aimed at pushing Ukraine to the negotiating table, these people said. Rather, they called it a calculated attempt to ensure the government in Kyiv maintains the

support of other nations facing constituencies wary of fueling a war for many years to come.

The discussions illustrate how complex the Biden administration’s position on Ukraine has become, as U.S. officials publicly vow to support Kyiv with massive sums of aid “for as long as it takes” while hoping for a resolution to the conflict that over the past eight months has taken a punishing toll on the world economy and triggered fears of nuclear war.

While U.S. officials have shared their Ukrainian counterparts’ assessment that Putin, for now, isn’t

serious about negotiations, they have also acknowledged that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s ban on talks with him has generated concern in parts of Europe, Africa and Latin America, where the war’s disruptive effects on the availability and cost of food and fuel are felt most sharply.

“Ukraine fatigue is a real thing for some of our partners,” said one U.S. official who, like other interviewed for this report, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive conversations between Washington and Kyiv.

NATION

Presidents ominous in campaign pushes

Associated Press

LATROBE, Pa. — Former President Donald Trump is predicting America’s destruction if his fellow Republicans don’t deliver a massive electoral wave on Tuesday. Democrats, led by President Joe Biden and two other former presidents, are warning that abortion rights, Social Security and even democracy itself are at stake.

Three of the six living presidents delivered dire closing messages Saturday in battleground Pennsylvania entering the final weekend of the 2022 midterm elections, but their words echoed across the country as millions of Americans cast ballots to decide the balance of power in Washington and in key state capitals. Polls across America will close on Tuesday, but more than 39 million people have already voted.

On Sunday, Biden was set to campaign in suburban New York, while Trump was headed to Florida.

“If you want to stop the destruction of our country and save the American dream, then on Tuesday you must vote Republican in a giant red wave,” Trump told thousands of cheering supporters as he campaigned Saturday in western Pennsylvania, describing the United States as “a country in decline.”

Earlier in the day, Biden shared the stage with former President Barack Obama in Philadelphia, the



JACQUELINE LARMA/AP

Former President Donald Trump applauds toward the crowd at the conclusion of an election rally in Latrobe, Pa., on Saturday.

former running mates campaigning together for the first time since Biden took office.

In neighboring New York, even former President Bill Clinton, largely absent from national politics in recent years, was out defending his party.

“Sulking and moping is not an option,” Obama charged. “On Tuesday, let’s make sure our country doesn’t get set back 50 years.”

Not everyone, it seemed, was on message as the weekend began.

Even before arriving in Pennsylvania, Biden was dealing with a fresh political mess after upsetting some in his party for promoting

plans to shut down fossil fuel plants in favor of green energy. While he made the comments in California the day before, the fossil fuel industry is a major employer in Pennsylvania.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said the president owed coal workers across the country an apology. He called Biden’s comments “offensive and disgusting.”

Trump seized on the riff in western Pennsylvania, charging that Biden “has resumed the war on coal, your coal.”

The White House said Biden’s



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Joe Biden, former President Barack Obama and Pennsylvania’s Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Shapiro gesture after a campaign rally for Shapiro and Democratic Senate candidate Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, on Saturday, in Philadelphia.

words were “twisted to suggest a meaning that was not intended; he regrets it if anyone hearing these remarks took offense” and that he was “commenting on a fact of economics and technology.”

Democrats are deeply concerned about their narrow majorities in the House and Senate as voters sour on Biden’s leadership amid surging inflation, crime concerns and widespread pessimism about the direction of the country. History suggests that Democrats, as the party in power, will suffer significant losses in the midterms.

Trump peeked ahead toward Florida as he campaigned in Pennsylvania, slapping at the state’s Republican governor, Ron DeSantis. After displaying recent presidential poll numbers on the big screens, Trump called DeSantis, a potential 2024 GOP rival, “Ron DeSanctimonious.”

Trump’s weekend travels were part of a late blitz that will also take him to Ohio. He’s hoping a strong GOP showing on Tuesday will generate momentum for the 2024 run that he’s expected to launch in the days or weeks after polls close.

Complaint charges ex-Milwaukee election official with fraud involving military ballots

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — A former Milwaukee elections official charged Friday with sending fake military ballots to a Republican legislator who has advanced election fraud conspiracy theories told investigators she did it because she wanted to expose real vulnerabilities in Wisconsin elections, according to a criminal complaint.

Prosecutors charged Kimberly Zapata, who was fired earlier in the week, with felony misconduct in office and three misdemeanor counts of election fraud. Her attorney, Michael Maistelman, declined comment.

Zapata took over as the Milwaukee Elections Commission’s deputy

director this past summer. She told investigators that commission workers have been dealing with threats, harassment and accusations that they’re lying and hiding things and she was feeling overwhelmed, the complaint said.

On Oct. 25, she made up three names with fake Social Security numbers and requested military absentee ballots in those names through MyVote Wisconsin, the state’s voter database, the complaint said. Under state law, someone requesting a military absentee ballot does not need to register to vote or provide any photo ID to obtain an absentee ballot. Any request automatically results in a ballot being issued, according to the complaint.

Zapata told investigators she used her government access to MyVote Wisconsin’s voter registration records to find state Rep. Janel Brandtjen’s address and had the ballots sent to her home in Menomonee Falls, the complaint said. Brandtjen has advocated for decertifying President Joe Biden’s 2020 win in Wisconsin for the last two years and has espoused conspiracy theories supporting her position.

The complaint said Zapata told Claire Woodall-Vogg, the Milwaukee Election Commission’s executive director, on Tuesday that she created the fake voters and had the ballots sent to the lawmaker “to show how easy it is to commit fraud in this manner,” the complaint said.

Crenshaw: Republicans know 2020 election wasn’t rigged

New York Daily News

Texas Rep. Dan Crenshaw says fellow Republicans still pushing the lie that the 2020 election was rigged know they’re not telling the truth.

“It was always a lie,” he said on his “Hold These Truths” podcast. “The whole thing was always a lie.”

The 38-year-old lawmaker and former Navy SEAL said Wednesday that “political personalities” have continued promoting the big myth first floated by former President Donald Trump, calling it a “lie meant to rile people up.” Behind closed doors, the truth is commonly known, Crenshaw said.

The Lone Star State conservative said he’s told fellow Republicans it’s a problem for influential figures to

float conspiracy theories and has been assured, “Trust me, it’ll be fine.”

More than half of the GOP candidates competing in Tuesday’s midterm elections are deniers who won’t admit President Joe Biden trounced the incumbent Trump by more than 7 million ballots to become the nation’s 46th president, CBS News reported. Polling shows the Republican Party is poised to gain control of the House of Representatives and compete strongly to win the Senate this week.

Crenshaw accused people in his party of saying “the most extreme things” to get attention. He also noted the Democratic Party has its share of radicals, too.

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NATION

Biden stumps on job growth while voters dread inflation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has notched an enviable record on jobs, with 10.3 million gained during his tenure. But voters in Tuesday's midterm elections are far more focused on inflation hovering near 40-year highs.

That's left the president trying to convince the public that the job gains mean better days are ahead, even as fears of a recession build.

Presidents have long trusted that voters would reward them for strong economic growth, but inflation has thrown a monkey wrench into the already difficult probability of Democrats' retaining control of the House and Senate.

Economic anxieties have compounded as the Federal Reserve has repeatedly hiked its benchmark interest rates to lower inflation and possibly raise unemployment. Mortgage costs have shot upwards, while the S&P 500 stock index has dropped more than 20% so far this year as the world braces for a possible downturn.

Biden is asking voters to look beyond the current financial pain, saying that what matters are the job gains that he believes his policies are fostering.

The government reported Friday that employers added 261,000 jobs in October as the unemployment rate bumped up to 3.7%.

Roughly 740,000 manufacturing jobs have been added since the start of Biden's presidency, a figure that the president says will keep rising because of his funding for infrastructure projects, the production of computer chips and the switch to clean energy sources.

"America is reasserting itself — it's as simple as that," Biden said in a Friday speech. "We also know folks are still struggling with inflation. It's our number one priority."

Yet the president is also warning that a Republican majority in Congress could make inflation worse by seeking to undo his pro-



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

President Joe Biden waves as he steps off Air Force One at Philadelphia International Airport in Philadelphia on Saturday.

grams and treating payments on the federal debt as a bargaining chip instead of an obligation to honor.

His challenge is that the party in power generally faces skeptical voters in U.S. midterms and inflation looms over the public mindset more than job growth.

"If you have a job, it's small comfort to know that the job market is strong if at the same time you feel like every paycheck is worth less and less anyway," said pollster Kristen Soltis Anderson. "Inflation is such political poison because voters are reminded every day whenever they spend money that it is a problem we are experiencing."

As Biden tries to fend off fears that inflation is causing the country to slide into a recession, his chief evidence of the economy's resilience is the continued job growth.

"As we see the economy as a whole, we do not see it going into a recession," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters in anticipation of the latest jobs report.

Going into the election, Biden and Democrats are already at a disadvantage. Voters generally favor the party out of the White House in midterms, giving Repu-

blicans an automatic leg up. When Yale University economist Ray Fair looked at past elections, his model forecast that Democrats would get just 46.4% of the national vote largely because Biden was in the Oval Office.

Fair's analysis suggests that inflation basically erased the political boost that Democrats could have gotten from strong economic growth during three quarters in 2021.

Even if the economy is top of mind for many voters, the conflicting forces of past growth and high inflation cancel out each other.

This makes the Democrats' vote share roughly the same as suggested by the historical trend, Fair concluded.

But inflation compounds the obstacles for a president who has tried to convey optimism as he tours the country in the run-up to the elections.

Research in social psychology and behavioral economics generally shows that people often focus on the negatives and can block out the positives.

"People pay more attention to bad news than to good news and are more likely to retain and recall bad news," said Matthew Incantapulo, a political scientist at Yeshiva University.



NAM Y. HUH/AP

A hiring sign is seen at a retail store in Schaumburg, Ill., on April 1. America's employers kept hiring briskly in October, adding a substantial 261,000 positions.

US employers are hiring briskly in face of rate hikes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — America's employers kept hiring vigorously in October, adding 261,000 positions, a sign that as Election Day nears, the economy remains a picture of solid job growth and painful inflation.

Friday's report from the government showed that hiring was brisk across industries last month, though the overall gain declined from 315,000 in September. The unemployment rate rose from a five-decade low of 3.5% to a still-healthy 3.7%.

A strong job market is deepening the challenges the Federal Reserve faces as it raises interest rates at the fastest pace since the 1980s to try to bring inflation down from near a 40-year high. Steady hiring, solid pay growth and low unemployment have been good for workers. But they have also contributed to rising prices.

"Employers continue to be worried that it's going to be harder to hire tomorrow than today, so that actually suggests they don't see a recession on the horizon," said Betsey Stevenson, an economist at the University of Michigan who was an economic adviser to President Barack Obama.

Stevenson noted that more than half of last month's net hiring was in industries — health care, education, restaurants and hotels, for example — that still appear to be catching up from the sharp job losses they endured during the pandemic recession. Hiring in such sectors will likely continue, she suggested, even if the economy slows.

The October jobs figures were the last major economic report before Election Day, with voters keenly focused on the state of the economy. Chronic inflation is hammering the budgets of many households and has shot to the top of voter concerns in the midterm congressional elections. Republican candidates have attacked

Democrats over inflation in their drive to regain control of Congress.

The latest data offered hints that the job market might be cooling, if only gradually, as the Fed is hoping to see. Over the past three months, hiring gains have averaged 289,000, down from a sizzling monthly rate of 539,000 a year ago. Average hourly pay, on average, rose 4.7% from a year ago, a smaller year-over-year gain than in September and down from a 16-year peak of 5.6% in March.

The tick-up in the jobless rate occurred because about 300,000 Americans said they were no longer employed.

The unemployment rate is calculated from a separate survey from the jobs figure and can sometimes move in a different direction in the short term.

Still, last month's wage increase will likely continue to fuel inflation pressures.

"This report was definitely strong enough to keep the Fed on track raising rates," said Jonathan Pingle, an economist at UBS.

President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats have pointed to the vigorous resurgence in hiring as evidence that their policies have helped get Americans back to work faster than the nation managed to do after previous downturns. But that message has been overtaken in the midterm political campaigns by the crushing surge of inflation, which has soured many Americans on the economy under Democratic leadership in Congress and the White House.

The October jobs report showed that job gains were widespread. Health care added 53,000, with hospitals and doctors' offices continuing to re-staff after having lost many workers at the height of the pandemic. Manufacturing added 32,000. A category that includes engineers, accountants and lawyers added 39,000.

Last total lunar eclipse for 3 years arrives Tuesday

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Better catch the moon's disappearing act Tuesday — there won't be another like it for three years.

The total lunar eclipse will be visible throughout North America in the predawn hours — the farther west, the better — and across Asia, Australia and the rest of the Pacific after sunset.

As an extra treat, Uranus will be visible just a finger's width above the moon, resembling a bright star.

Totality will last nearly 1½ hours — from 5:16 a.m. to 6:41 a.m. EST — as Earth passes directly between the moon and sun.

Known as a blood moon, it will appear a reddish-orange from the light of Earth's sunsets and sunrises.

At the peak of the eclipse, the moon will be 242,740 miles away, according to NASA scientists. Binoculars and telescopes will enhance viewing, provided the skies are clear.

South America will get a glimpse of Tuesday's lunar eclipse, weather permitting.

Striking out altogether, Africa, the Middle East and most of Europe will have to wait until 2025.

Among those providing a livestream of Tuesday's lunar extravaganza: Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles and the Italian-based Virtual Telescope Project. It's the second total lunar eclipse this year; the first was in May. The next one won't be until 2025. Plenty of partial lunar eclipses will be available in the meantime.

NATION

Deadly tornadoes hit Texas, Oklahoma

Associated Press

IDABEL, Okla. — Residents in southeastern Oklahoma and northeastern Texas began assessing weather damage Saturday, working to recover and thankful to have survived after a storm stretching from Dallas to northwest Arkansas spawned tornadoes and produced flash flooding, killing at least two people, injuring others and leaving homes and buildings in ruins.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt went to the town of Idabel to see the damage. He said on social media that all the homes had been searched and a 90-year-old man was killed. Keli Cain, spokesperson for the state's Department of Emergency Management, said the man's body was found at his home in the Pickens area of McCurtain County, about 36 miles north of Idabel.

Morris County, Texas, Judge Doug Reeder said in a social media post that one person died as a result of a tornado in the far northeastern Texas County, offering no other details.

Reeder and other county officials did not immediately return phone calls for additional comment.

The Oklahoma Highway Patrol also reported a 6-year-old girl drowned and a 43-year-old man was missing after their vehicle was swept by water off a bridge near Stilwell, about 135 miles north of Idabel. The drowning has not been officially attributed to the storm and will be investigated by the medical examiner, Cain said.

Saturday afternoon Stitt declared a state of emergency for McCurtain County, where Idabel is located, and neighboring Bryan, Choctaw and LeFlore counties.

The declaration is a step in qualifying for federal assistance and funding and clears the way for

state agencies to make disaster-recovery related purchases without limits on bidding requirements.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said damage assessments and recovery efforts are under way in northeast Texas and encouraged residents to report damage to the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

"I have deployed all available resources to help respond and recover," Abbott said in a statement. "I thank all of our hardworking state and local emergency management personnel for their swift response."

National Weather Service meteorologist Robert Darby in Tulsa said the far-reaching storm produced heavy rain in the Stilwell area at the time, around 4 inches.

Idabel, a rural town of about 7,000 at the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains, saw extensive damage, Cain said. "There are well over 100 homes and businesses damaged from minor damage to totally destroyed," Cain said.

Trinity Baptist Church in Idabel was preparing to complete a new building when the storm ripped apart their sanctuary and flattened the shell of the new structure next door, according to Pastor Don Myer.

The 250-member congregation was to vote after the Sunday service on whether to move ahead with the final work to complete the building, Myer told The Associated Press.

"But we didn't get to that. Every vote counts and we had one vote trump us all," Myer, 67, said. "We were right on the verge of that. That's how close we were."

Myer said the congregation is going to pray on what happened, see how much their insurance covers and work to rebuild. On Saturday morning, a few mem-



PHOTOS BY LM OTERO/AP

Fred Davis talks to his daughter on a cellphone as he describes the damage to his home after a tornado hit in Powderly, Texas, Saturday. Davis said he built his home in 1981 and has insurance but said the decision to rebuild is up to his children.

bers of the church took an American flag that had been blown over in the storm and stood it upright amid the wreckage of the original church building.

Shelbie Villalpando, 27, of Powderly, Texas, said she was eating dinner with her family Friday when tornado sirens prompted them to congregate first in their rented home's hallways, then with her children, aged 5, 10 and 14, in the bathtub.

"Within two minutes of getting them in the bathtub, we had to lay over the kids because everything started going crazy," Villalpando said.

"I've never been so terrified," she said. "I could hear glass breaking and things shattering around, but whenever I got out of the bathroom, my heart and my stomach sank because I have kids and it could have been much worse. ... What if our bathroom



Danny Palmer, a deacon at Trinity Baptist Church, walks across the destroyed church's sanctuary while looking for items to salvage after a tornado hit in Idabel, Okla., Saturday.

had caved in just like everything else? We wouldn't be here."

Terimaine Davis and his son were huddled in the bathtub until just before the tornado barreled through Friday, reducing their home in Powderly to a roofless,

sagging heap.

"We left like five minutes before the tornado actually hit," Davis, 33, told The Associated Press. "Me and my son were in the house in the tub and that was about the only thing left standing."

Mississippi capital to receive millions in federal water funds

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss — Mississippi officials on Friday approved the city of Jackson's request for \$35.6 million in federal funds to help fix its crumbling water infrastructure, following this summer's flooding-induced breakdowns that left 150,000 people without running water for days.

The Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant Program approved the full amount the state's capital city requested to pay for seven water and sewer projects.

State lawmakers created the program in 2022 to provide grants matching the federal govern-

ment's aid for cities and counties financed through the American Rescue Plan Act. The dollar-for-dollar match means Jackson will have \$71.3 million to upgrade its water system.

Congress passed the sweeping American Rescue Plan Act to tame the public health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said the funds would help provide reliable drinking water to a city that has periodically lost access to such a basic necessity.

Over \$400 million in match funds will be awarded for the entire state in two rounds. Applica-

tions for the \$180 million first round closed on Sept. 30. About 430 cities and counties in Mississippi applied for funding. The second round of funds will be awarded sometime in the spring. Jackson-area legislative leaders plan to press for money during the 2022 legislative session, which begins in January.

"I was told by the executive director that one of the city's drinking water projects scored higher than any other application in this first round," said Democratic Sen. John Horhn of Jackson. "We are looking for the state to do more once the regular session begins in January."

Powerball jackpot reaches record high of \$1.9 billion

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A record Powerball jackpot grew to an even larger \$1.9 billion after no one won the lottery drawing on Saturday night.

The numbers for the drawing were: white balls 28, 45, 53, 56, 69 and red Powerball 20.

The website of the California Lottery Association said the next chance for someone to get lucky will be Monday.

The new \$1.9 billion jackpot is for a winner who is paid through an annuity over 29 years.

Winners of lottery jackpots usually prefer a lump sum of cash, which for Monday's drawing would be \$929.1 million, the Cali-

fornia lottery site said.

The Powerball prize keeps getting more massive because of the inability of anyone to overcome the long odds of 1 in 292.2 million and win the jackpot.

To take the top prize, players must match all five white balls and one red Powerball.

Since someone won the prize on Aug. 3, there have been 40 drawings without a winner. The longest previous run was in 2021, when it took 41 drawings before someone clinched a \$699.8 million jackpot, The Washington Post reported.

Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

NATION

HUD: Number of homeless vets in US decreases

By SARA SAMORA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The number of homeless veterans in the United States has decreased by more than 11% since the beginning of 2020, the biggest drop in more than five years, according to a new federal report.

On a single night in January, 33,136 veterans were experiencing homelessness — a decrease of 4,116 veterans from January 2020, according to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count released Thursday by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The count consists of data on homelessness and identifies people living in unsheltered and sheltered settings throughout the United States. The Department of Veterans Affairs said the new findings represent a 55.3% reduction in veteran homelessness since 2010.

“One veteran experiencing homelessness will always be one too many, but the 2022 count shows that we are making real progress in the fight to end veteran homelessness,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a prepared statement. “There is still a long way to go, but under President [Joe] Biden’s leadership, we at VA, HUD and [U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness] will not stop until every veteran has a good, safe, stable home in this country they fought to defend.”

This was also the first full Point-

in-Time Count since 2020 when the coronavirus pandemic began. The VA said many communities did not conduct unsheltered counts in order to stop or slow the spread of the virus, which the agency said resulted in incomplete data on veteran homelessness in the U.S. and hinder a comparison between 2020 and 2021 or 2021 and 2022.

However, a HUD spokesperson said during a media roundtable Wednesday that the data shows how many veterans found places to live in 2021. Moreover, the data shows Los Angeles still has the largest number of veterans experiencing homelessness, despite the decrease.

HUD has released the veteran numbers ahead of the full national Point-in-Time Count. The agency officials said they expect to release that data before the end of the year.

In April 2021, McDonough and HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge said they aligned their efforts to make the problem a top priority and work toward ending veteran homelessness.

The VA said the billions of dollars in relief aid funded by the American Rescue Plan, a coronavirus relief package signed into law in March 2021, included \$481 million to help veterans find homes by expanding some of the agency’s homeless programs, such as The Supportive Services for Veteran Families. The pro-



Stars and Stripes

The number of homeless veterans in the United States has decreased by more than 11% since the beginning of 2020, the biggest drop in more than five years, according to a Department of Housing and Urban Development report.

gram provides support and prevention services and rapid housing to veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

In February, the VA announced its goal to place at least 38,000 veterans experiencing homelessness into permanent housing for 2022. Last month, McDonough said the VA has found places to live for 30,914 veterans, 81% ahead of the agency’s goal, as of Sept. 30.

A VA spokesperson said the goal represents nearly the same number of veterans counted in the 2020 Point-in-Time Count, which found 37,252 veterans were experiencing homelessness on a single night in January 2020. It also marked the first increase in veteran homelessness since 2017.

McDonough said in June that the VA would use 75% of its HUD-VA Supportive Housing vouchers. According to the VA Homeless Programs website, the program pairs HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher rental assistance with VA case management and support-

ive services for homeless veterans.

For fiscal 2022, the VA said it has 102,073 active vouchers in use, which includes 80,157 veterans who have leases.

“All veterans deserve to have what they need to lead healthy, safe and successful lives — that starts with a place to call home,” Fudge said in a prepared statement. “The data released today shows we are closer than ever in ensuring that every veteran in America has a home and challenges us to ensure that every veteran — and every person in America — has a home.”

In September, the VA awarded \$137 million in grants to 150 nonprofits through its Supportive Services for Veteran Families program.

The grants will allow nonprofits to expand their services for veterans and their families.

Last month, the VA published a notice of funding opportunity for about \$11.3 million in legal service-

es grants for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness through the agency’s Legal Services for Veterans grant program.

The VA also announced it had three new funding opportunities for organizations to combat veteran homelessness. One is through its Supportive Services for Veteran Families program. The other two grants are through the VA’s Grants and Per Diem program, which provides transitional housing services that supply immediate shelter and case management to help veterans keep their homes.

The three grant opportunities offered by the VA will expand services and incentives already provided by the agency including one that encourages landlords to rent residences to veterans. The incentives will become available to organizations that receive the grants nationwide in fiscal 2024.

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On stand in 1/6 trial, Oath Keepers boss says he’s a patriot

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes took the witness stand Friday in his seditious conspiracy trial, telling jurors he is a patriotic American as he tries to counter allegations that his far-right extremist group planned an armed rebellion to stop the transfer of presidential power.

Rhodes mostly appeared relaxed, but at times seemed to choke up, as he began his testimony after prosecutors spent weeks laying out evidence they say proves Rhodes was behind a violent plot to keep Democrat Joe Biden out of the White House and Republican Donald Trump in.

Rhodes’ decision to testify carries risks for him, opening the way

for intense cross-examination from prosecutors, who will get a chance to question him after the trial resumes next week. Rhodes has yet to get into the details of Jan. 6, when his followers pushed through a mob of Trump supporters to storm the Capitol in military-style stack formation.

Rhodes, wearing a dark suit and tie, faced jurors as he described his military experience and decision to start the Oath Keepers in 2009. Rhodes, whose stint as an Army paratrooper was cut short by a training accident, said he con-

siders himself a patriotic person.

“You love your country?” Rhodes’ attorney asked him.

“Absolutely,” Rhodes responded.

Rhodes portrayed the Oath Keepers as peaceful and disciplined despite a mountain of evidence showing him rallying his band of extremists to prepare for violence and discussing the prospect of a “bloody” civil war ahead of Jan. 6. Asked whether he believed the 2020 election was stolen from Trump, Rhodes falsely described Biden’s victory as “unconstitutional” and “invalid.”

“You really can’t have a winner of an unconstitutional election,” Rhodes said.

Rhodes’ trial is the biggest test so far for the Justice Depart-

ment’s efforts to hold accountable those responsible for the attack on the Capitol, a violent assault that challenged the foundations of American democracy.

Rhodes, of Granbury, Texas, and his co-defendants are the first people arrested in the Jan. 6 attack to stand trial on the charge of seditious conspiracy. The Civil War-era charge, which carries a sentence of up to 20 years behind bars upon conviction, is rarely brought and can be hard to prove.

The others on trial are Kelly Meggs, leader of the Florida chapter of the Oath Keepers; Kenneth Harrelson, another Florida Oath Keeper; Thomas Caldwell, a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer from Virginia; and Jessica Watkins, who led an Ohio militia

group. Over a month of testimony, prosecutors sought to show that the riot for the Oath Keepers was not a spur-of-the-moment protest but part of a serious, weekslong plot to stop the transfer of power.

Rhodes’ attorneys have signaled they will mount a novel defense with Trump at the center. Rhodes is expected to argue that his actions leading up to Jan. 6, 2021, were in anticipation of orders he expected from Trump. Those orders never came.

Jurors have heard that Rhodes spent thousands of dollars on guns, ammunition and other equipment before Jan. 6, and that Oath Keepers stashed a massive cache of weapons referred to as a “quick reaction force” at a Virginia hotel.



Rhodes

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Investigators: Buried car in insurance fraud plan

CAATHERTON — A car was buried in the backyard of a mansion 30 years ago as part of a scheme to commit insurance fraud, authorities said.

The convertible Mercedes was discovered last month by landscapers in the affluent town of Atherton in Silicon Valley.

Investigators said they determined the Mercedes was buried for insurance fraud purposes, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The car was reported stolen in nearby Palo Alto in 1992. Its owner, the deceased Johnny Bocktune Lew, had owned the home where the Mercedes was found. He also was accused in 1999 of hiring people to sink a yacht worth \$1.2 million to cash in on the insurance, according to the Chronicle.

Union: Disney workers need \$18 an hour

FLORLANDO — Workers in central Florida’s tourism industry are pushing to raise their minimum wage to at least \$18 an hour, arguing that rising rents and inflation have cut into their ability to make ends meet.

Unite Here Local 737 released a report saying that an adult worker with no dependents would need to earn \$18.19 an hour to make a living wage, while a family with two children would need both parents earning \$23.91 an hour for a living wage.

Local 737 is part of a coalition of other unions currently negotiating a new, five-year contract for service workers at Walt Disney World, central Florida’s largest employer. Local 737 also is in the middle of contract negotiations with Sodexo, a food services and facilities management company, at the Orange County Convention Center.

In both cases, the union is proposing an \$18 an hour minimum wage effective in the first year of the contract.

Toll scofflaws face loss of vehicle registrations

PAHARRISBURG — A measure to help the Pennsylvania Turnpike recover more unpaid tolls was signed into law last week, legislation that could trigger the suspension of thousands of vehicle registrations early next year.

Gov. Tom Wolf gave final approval to legislation aimed at getting owners or operators of some 25,000 vehicles to pay their overdue bills for turnpike travel.

After the law takes effect in two months, the process will start with the Turnpike Commission notifying registrants they are seeking to have their registrations suspended.

At least a month later, the toll agency can ask the Transportation Department to start the process,



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

Peerless on the pier

Tom Bryant tries out kitesurfing along the north pier in his hometown of St. Joseph, Mich.

and PennDOT said it will give the owners six weeks’ notice.

Bakery worker found dead in walk-in freezer

NYNEW YORK—A worker at a Brooklyn bakery was found dead inside the company’s walk-in freezer, police said.

Police didn’t immediately say whether the 33-year-old man had been trapped in the freezer, and the cause of death was to be determined by the medical examiner. The man’s body was discovered in the morning by a co-worker at the Beigel’s bakery in Brooklyn’s Canarsie neighborhood.

There were no signs of trauma on the man’s body, police said. His identity was withheld by police pending notification of family.

Beigel’s is known for its signature black-and-white cookies.

No charges in shooting of man who had fake gun

CASACRAMENTO—California’s attorney general said that he will not seek criminal charges against Los Angeles police officers who fatally shot a man on Hollywood Boulevard last year, even though it turned out the gun he carried was fake.

It’s the first such review under a new California law that requires the state Department of Justice to review all incidents where an officer shoots and kills an unarmed civilian.

In this case, Matthew James So-

va was walking with a handgun along the Walk of Fame, and at least one person reported seeing him pointing the gun at someone. He also had a small black folding knife with an open blade that he earlier pointed toward a building security guard, according to the department’s report.

Sova “pointed what appeared to be a pistol, but was actually a lighter that looked like a firearm, at Officer (Christopher) Tabela,” said Attorney General Rob Bonta. “After a detailed analysis, DOJ concluded there was substantial evidence that officers (Isaiah) Galvez and Tabela acted in self-defense, and in the defense of others.”

The two LAPD officers fatally shot Sova near the famed corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Highland Avenue.

Hiker found alive after going missing on trail

ARHORSESHOE BEND — A Louisiana man who was reported missing while hiking in the Ozark Mountains was found alive after a four-day search, officials said.

Clinton Preston Smith, 67, of Baton Rouge, La., was found “in good spirits,” the Buffalo National River said in a statement.

He had been reported missing Oct. 27 after he failed to return home from a hike on a trail near the Buffalo National River in northern Arkansas, officials said. Crews found Smith near the river in the area of Horseshoe Bend,

which is about 105 miles north of Little Rock.

Newton County Sheriff Glenn Wheeler said Smith was sore, hungry and dehydrated but did not appear to have any serious injuries, Springfield, Mo., TV station KY3 reported.

Ex-prison guard charged in contraband case

ALBIRMINGHAM — A former corrections officer at an Alabama prison was charged for his alleged role in a conspiracy to smuggle cellphones, drugs and other items to inmates, federal prosecutors said.

A two-count bill of information filed in federal court charges Wilson Brian Clemons, 32, of Jasper, with one count each of conspiracy and using a facility in interstate commerce in furtherance of an unlawful activity.

U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona of the Northern District of Alabama, in a news release, said Clemons abused his position at William E. Donaldson Correctional Facility and agreed to accept bribes in exchange for smuggling contraband into the prison. The charging document alleges that Clemons used a fake name to create an account with the mobile payment service Cash App so that he could accept payments from inmates and their associates anonymously, authorities said.

According to a plea agreement, Clemons has agreed to plead guilty to both counts and to forfeit

the money he made from the conspiracy, the news release said. He faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine upon sentencing.

Colin Powell mementos, medals up for auction

VAALEXANDRIA — Colin Powell’s career spanned some of the most significant moments of the last 40 years, so it’s no surprise that an auction of items from his estate reflects that: gifts and medals from foreign dignitaries and presidents, photos of his swearing-in as secretary of state.

But it might be the more whimsical items that better tell the story of what kind of man he was: the “Star Wars” lightsaber given to him by George Lucas, a race car helmet, the memorabilia connected to the Buffalo Soldiers, the 19th-century African American Army regiments that Powell championed throughout his career.

In all, nearly 400 items big and small, momentous and mundane, are up for auction with proceeds to benefit the America’s Promise Alliance — which Powell once chaired — and the Colin Powell School at the City College of New York, his alma mater.

The auction is already underway and will run through Nov. 16. Bids can be placed online, and items can be viewed in person at the auction house in Alexandria.

Abortion landscape seen in Kansas clinic

Facility that opened days after Roe fell is inundated

By Heather Hollingsworth
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — When Planned Parenthood decided four years ago to open a new clinic in a medically underserved working-class neighborhood here, it envisioned a place that would save women living nearby from having to take hourslong bus rides to obtain birth control, testing or an abortion.

The U.S. Supreme Court's June decision overturning Roe v. Wade — four days before the clinic opened — changed all that. Because Kansas is one of the few states in the region where abortion remains legal, the clinic soon found itself inundated with calls not just from panicked patients in Kansas and nearby Missouri, but also in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas — even as far away as Louisiana.

This clinic and other Planned Parenthood centers in Kansas have been doing their best to help by lengthening hours, hiring staff and flying in physicians. Still, they have only been able to take about 10% to 15% of the patients seeking abortions.

"The ecosystem, it's not even fragile. It's broken," said Emily Wales, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Great Plains. "I think there's a perception that if you are seeking care, you can find it somewhere. And that's not true."

Haley Ruark, of Platte City, Mo., was able to get an appointment on a recent Wednesday after a two-week wait — longer than she wanted but better than driving hundreds of miles west to Colorado.

Ruark had panicked after a series of birth control mishaps. First a condom broke and then, despite using the morning-after pill, a pregnancy test came back positive. Missouri bans abortion in all cases but medical emergencies.

"It was just idiotic for a law to be put in place that you can't do what you feel is necessary for your body and not even your body, but your mental health also," Ruark said.

She already balances working 12-hour shifts as a patient care technician at a hospital with caring for her 2- and 6-year-olds.

"The two kids, like they're good, you know, ends are met," she said. "Bringing a baby into that, I just don't think that that would be a good

idea right now."

Ruark walked past shouting protesters to get inside the new clinic. It took her almost two hours to get the abortion pill after meeting with Dr. Elizabeth Brett Daily. By law, Daily only needed to wait 30 minutes after Ruark's arrival to dispense the medication, but the clinic was busy.

Thousands of patients likely aren't getting appointments at all, according to a national tracking effort called #WeCount, which is led by the Society of Family Planning, a nonprofit organization that promotes research on abortion and contraception.

The society's report, released in October, found 6% fewer abortions were administered nationwide in August — when many of the more-restrictive bans on abortion had taken effect — compared with the number of abortions administered nationwide in April, before Roe was overturned.

Some of the states with bans saw the number of abortions drop from as many as 2,770 in April to below 10 in August, while bordering states that still permit the procedure saw their abortion numbers ramp up, the survey found. In Kansas, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska and North Carolina, the number of abortions administered in August was at least 30% higher than the number administered in April. In Illinois, 28% more abortions were administered in August than in April.

The study had some limitations, including that only 79% of all identified abortion providers — including clinics, private medical offices and hospitals — provided data. The society says the figures represent an estimated 82% of all abortions provided nationwide.

Few outside Kansas anticipated the state would take on this larger role providing abortions, said Elizabeth Nash, principal policy associate for state issues for the Guttmacher Institute, a research group that supports abortion rights.

"It's a pretty conservative place. You know, it's not like Colorado or Illinois where people have been thinking these will definitely be access points," Nash said.

Abortion opponents have been influential in Kansas politics since the 1991 Summer of Mercy protests,



Dr. Elizabeth Brett Daily talks with patient Haley Ruark about the medical abortion process at a Planned Parenthood clinic last month in Kansas City, Kan. Ruark walked past shouting protesters to get inside.

when thousands of anti-abortion activists gathered in Wichita, sparking protests that led to nearly 2,700 arrests.

The picture may be changing. Voters continue to elect large anti-abortion majorities to the Legislature, but in August they overwhelmingly rejected a constitutional amendment that would have cleared the way for tougher abortion restrictions or a ban.

Abortion demand in Kansas promises only to grow. While the procedure remains legal in neighboring Iowa and Nebraska, both are conservative and Nash described the states as "bans in waiting."

Routinely, staff are turning away patients seeking appointments at the new clinic and the two other abortion clinics Planned Parenthood operates in Kansas, telling them they don't keep a waiting list, and if they can get an appointment in Colorado or New Mexico to take it.

But there are no guarantees in those two states either, said Dr. Kristina Tocce, medical director for Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains.

"I hypothesize that for every patient that can get to us and that we can see there are many patients who are not able to access care," Tocce



Demonstrators on both sides of the abortion issue stand outside the clinic last month.

said, adding that the number of out-of-state patients has soared.

Getting an appointment in Kansas City is luck of the draw. Local patients aren't prioritized, but have an advantage because it is easier for them to make it to mid-week consultations. Planned Parenthood leaders said adding a fourth clinic is among the options under consideration to increase access, but they haven't released details.

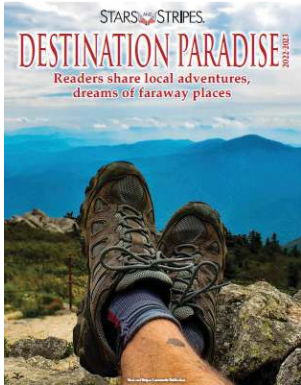
Daily, of the new Kansas clinic, said she was drawn to the work after a stint with the Peace Corps in the West African nation of Togo. She saw sexual assault victims and

"many, many" women and their babies die during childbirth.

The doctor sees horrific stories here, too. A recent abortion patient was 13, her face so bruised from the assault she endured that she could barely open one of her eyes in the waiting room.

Daily likens getting an appointment for an abortion these days to winning the lottery.

"Think about our current health care system and how hard it is just to get like a primary care visit," she said. "Times that by a thousand because that's how hard it is for abortion care nowadays."



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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Trapped S. Korean miners survived on coffee, water

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Two South Korean miners who were rescued after being trapped deep underground for nine days said they had lived on instant coffee powder and water falling from the ceiling of a blocked shaft.

The two men, aged 62 and 56, were pulled out to safety on Friday night from the shaft at a zinc mine in the southeastern town of Bonghwa. They had been stranded there after a heap of earth fell and clogged the entrance of the shaft about 620 feet underground on Oct. 26.

Bang Jong-hyo, a doctor who treated the miners at a local hospital, told reporters Saturday that both men were in fairly good condition though they initially said they were suffering hypothermia and muscle pains. He said the two were expected to be released from the hospital within days.

Bang said the two miners told him they shared 30 sticks of instant coffee while trapped under-

ground.

The two also drank water falling from the shaft's ceiling and made a fire to survive, local emergency officers said.

"I have lots of things to tell my father so I've written them down on a notebook in the past 10 days," said Park Geun-hyung, the son of one of the rescued miners, Park Jeong-ha. "Now I want to spend some time with my father to tell him what I want to say and listen to what I want to hear from him."

President Yoon Suk Yeol called their rescue "miracle-like" and "touching."

Yoon sent a senior presidential official to the miners to convey letters wishing for their quick recovery and unspecified gifts.

In the letters, Yoon was quoted as saying the miners have given "new hope to the Republic of South Korea, which has been stricken by grief," his office said Sunday, in a reference to a Halloween crowd surge in Seoul that killed 156 people last weekend.

Italy stops 35 migrants from getting off rescue ship in port

Associated Press

CATANIA, Sicily — Italian authorities prevented 35 migrants they did not deem vulnerable from getting off a boat in Sicily on Sunday as Italy's new far-right-led government takes a hard line against privately run maritime rescue ships operating in Italian waters.

Humanitarian groups and two Italian lawmakers who traveled to Sicily protested the selection process as both illegal and inhumane. The procedure was part of a directive ushered in by Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi as Italy again targets the non-governmental organizations it has long

accused of encouraging people trafficking in the central Mediterranean Sea.

"Free all the people, free them," Italian lawmaker Aboubakar Soumahoro said in an emotional appeal directed at Premier Giorgia Meloni from the Humanity 1 rescue ship, calling the new policy "inhuman."

The passengers have faced "trauma, they have faced everything that we can define as prolonged suffering, a hell," Soumahoro said.

Italian authorities completed the process of identifying vulnerable migrants on the German-operated Humanity 1 overnight.



SALVATORE CAVALLI/AP

Migrants disembark from the Humanity 1 rescue ship run by the German organization SOS Humanitarian, in the port of Catania, Sicily, southern Italy, early Sunday.

Bus bomb kills 1, wounds 10 in southern Philippines

Associated Press

COTABATO, Philippines — A homemade bomb went off in a bus and killed a passenger and wounded 10 others in a southern Philippine city on Sunday in an attack

authorities say may be part of an extortion attempt, officials said.

The bus was approaching a transport terminal in Tacurong city in Sultan Kudarat province when the bomb went off at the

back of the vehicle, police said.

Investigators were trying to determine if the attackers were from the same armed group that had staged similar bombings in past years.

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FACES

Rocking and rolling into Hall of Fame

Latest class of inductees take stage to celebrate

BY ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Lionel Richie soared. Pat Benatar roared. Duran Duran stumbled but stayed sophisticated. Eminem was Eminem.

The four acts found very different ways to celebrate on Saturday night, but all can now forever say they're Rock & Roll Hall of Famers. So are Carly Simon, Eurythmics, Harry Belafonte, Judas Priest and Dolly Parton, who gave the honor an enthusiastic embrace after temporarily turning it down.

The first act inducted at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles after a memorable speech from Robert Downey Jr., Duran Duran took the stage and launched into their 1981 breakthrough hit "Girls on Film."

The shrieking crowd was there for it, but the music wasn't.

The band was all but inaudible other than singer Simon Le Bon, whose vocals were essentially a cappella.

It was a fun if inauspicious beginning to a mostly slick and often triumphant show.

"The wonderful spontaneous world of rock 'n' roll!" the 64-year-old Le Bon shouted as the band stopped for a do-over.

They kicked back in at full volume, playing a set that included "Hungry Like the Wolf" and "Ordinary World," quickly snapping back into what Downey called their essential quality: "CSF — cool, sophisticated fun."

Lionel Richie brought both chill and warmth to the room hours later, opening his set with a spare rendition of his ballad "Hello" that seemed to make him nearly break down from the weight of the moment.

"His songs are the soundtrack of my life, your life, everyone's life," Lenny Kravitz said in inducting Richie.

After "Hello," Richie breezed into his



1977 hit with the Commodores, "Easy." The vibe went from smooth to triumphant when Foo Fighters front man Dave Grohl made a surprise appearance to play a guitar solo and swap vocals with Richie. That led into a singalong, celebratory rendition of 1983's "All Night Long" that brought the night's biggest reaction.

In his acceptance speech, Richie lashed out at those during his career who accused him of straying too far from his Black roots.

"Rock 'n' roll is not a color," he said. "It is a feeling. It is a vibe. And if we let that vibe come through, this room will grow and grow and grow."

Eurythmics took the stage next with a soulful, danceable rendition of 1986's "Missionary Man."

"Well I was born an original sinner, I was born from original sin," singer Annie Lennox belted, bringing the audience clapping and to its feet four hours into the show. It was followed by a rousing rendition of their best-known hit, "Sweet Dreams."

Moments later her musical partner, Dave

are greatly appreciated."

Carter, the younger brother of Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys, performed as an opening act for Britney Spears as well as his brother's boy band, and recorded several hits including "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)" and "I Want Candy."

Deputies responded around 11 a.m. following reports of a medical emergency at the home in Lancas-

ter, a city about 70 miles north of downtown Los Angeles, said Deputy Alejandra Parra with the LA County Sheriff's Department.

Parra said the deputies found a deceased person at the residence, but she could not immediately confirm it was Carter. Authorities later said a house sitter found a man in the bathtub in the home and resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

Carter opened for the Backstreet Boys tour in 1997 — the same year his gold-selling debut self-titled album released. He reached triple-platinum status

with his sophomore album, 2000's "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)," which produced hit singles including the title song and "I Want Candy." His videos received regular airplay on Disney and Nickelodeon.

The singer earned acting credits through his appearance on television shows including "Lizzie McGuire." He starred alongside his brother, Nick, and their siblings B.J., Leslie and Angel Carter on the E! unscripted series "House of Carters" in 2006.

Carter made his Broadway debut in 2001 as JoJo in the musical

"Seussical." In 2009, he appeared on the ABC competition show "Dancing with the Stars," finishing in fifth place with partner Karina Smirnoff.

In 2017, Carter opened up about his substance abuse on an episode of "The Doctors." He was in rehab that same year after he was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and marijuana charges. He checked himself in for treatment on a few occasions in an effort to regain custody of his son Prince.

Carter's fifth and final album, "LOVE," was released in 2018.



PHOTOS BY CHRIS PIZZELLO/AP

Left: Inductee Dolly Parton performs during the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday, at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Above: Inductee Lionel Richie performs.

Stewart, called Lennox "one of the greatest performers, singers and songwriters of all time."

As he has been throughout his career, Eminem was the outlier. He was the only hip-hop artist among the inductees, the only one whose heyday came after the 1980s, and he brought an edge to the evening that was otherwise missing outside of the heavy metal stylings of Judas Priest.

He also took the guest star game to another level. After opening briefly with 1999's "My Name Is," he brought on Aerosmith's Steven Tyler to sing the chorus of "Dream On" for 2003's "Sing for the Moment," which samples the Aerosmith classic. Then he brought on Ed Sheeran to sing his part on the 2017 Eminem jam "River" as rain fell on the stage.

But hitmakers of the 1980s defined the night.

"Pat always reached into the deepest part of herself and came roaring out of the speakers," Sheryl Crow said in her speech inducting Benatar.

Benatar, inducted along with her longtime musical partner and husband Neil Giraldo, took the stage with him and displayed that power moments later.

"We are young!" the 69-year-old sang, her long, gray hair flowing as she soared through a version of 1983's "Love is a Battlefield."

When the nominees were announced in May, Parton "respectfully" declined, saying it didn't seem suitable for her to take a spot as a country-to-the-core artist. She was convinced otherwise, and ended up the headliner Saturday night.

"I'm a rock star now!" she shouted as she accepted the honor. "This is a very, very, very special night."

Singer-rapper Aaron Carter, 34, found dead in his home

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Aaron Carter, the singer-rapper who began performing as a child and had hit albums starting in his teen years, was found dead Saturday at his home in Southern California. He was 34.

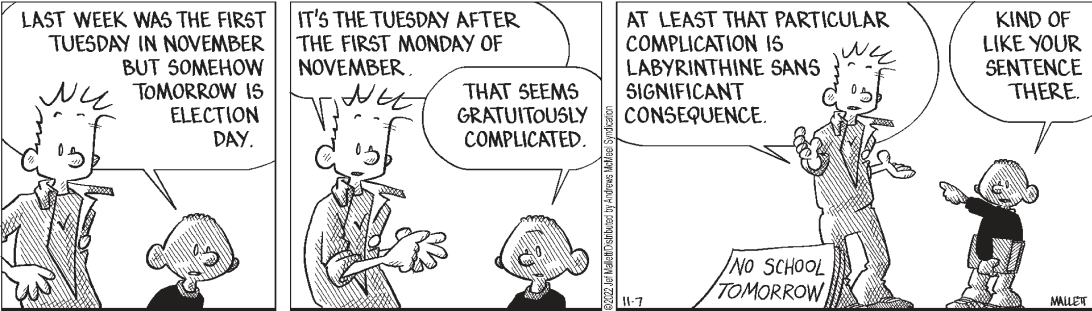
Representatives for Carter's family confirmed the singer's death. His fiancée, Melanie Martin, asked for privacy as the family grieves.

"We are still in the process of accepting this unfortunate reality," Martin said in a statement Saturday. "Your thoughts and prayers



Carter

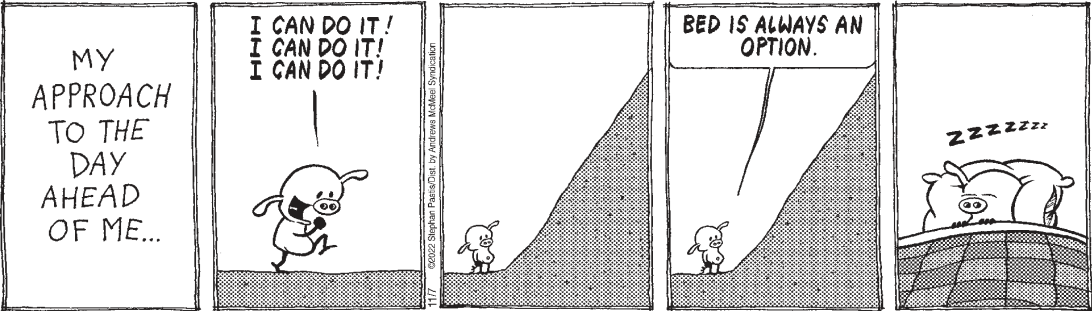
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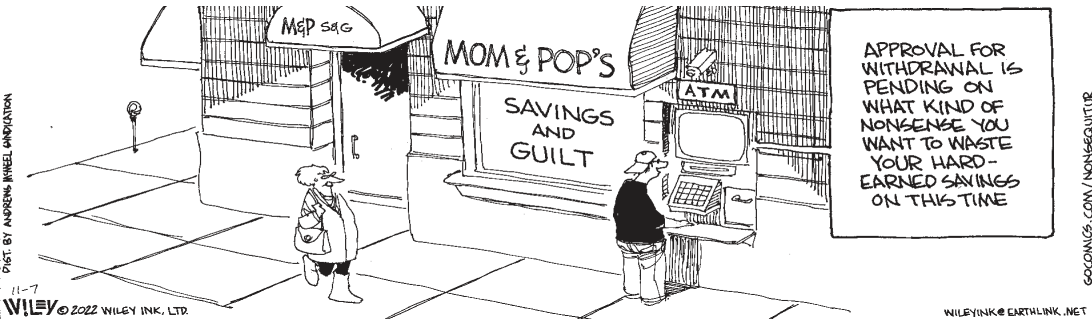
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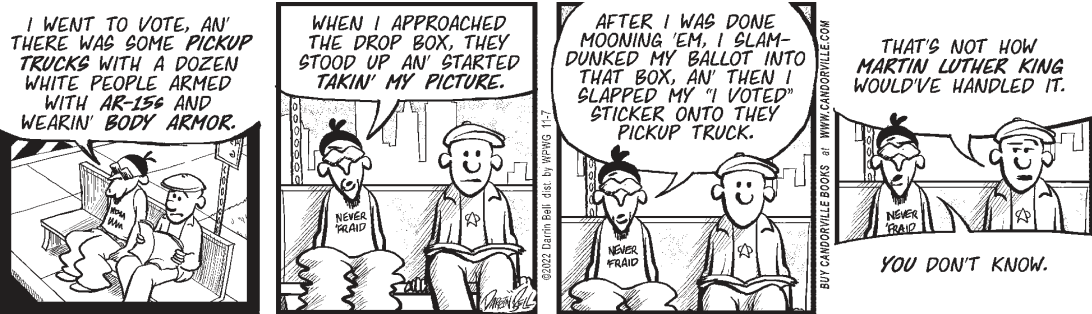
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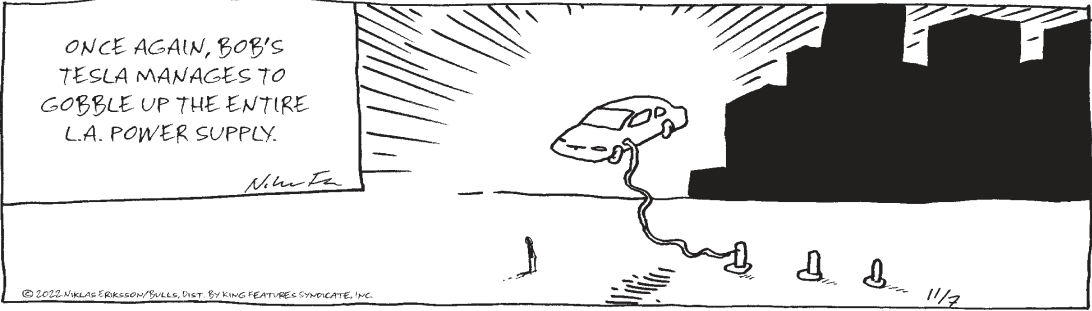
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Candorville



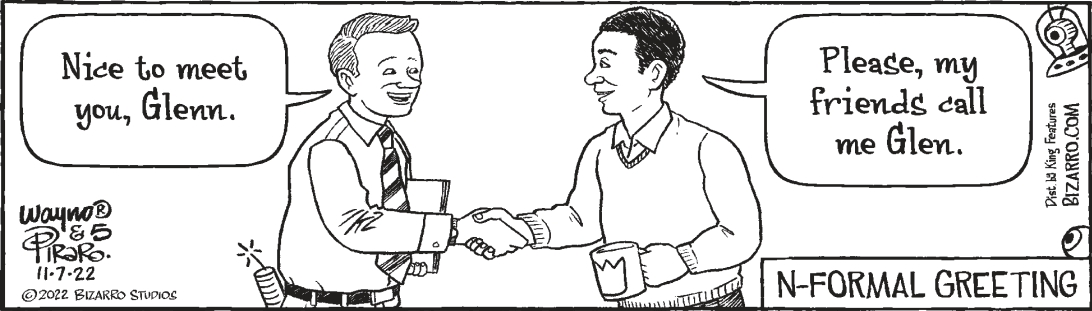
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- 23 Erect
- 25 Hint at
- 26 Cooking fat
- 27 Perimeter
- 29 Dread
- 31 Mafia boss
- 33 Trumpet sounds
- 34 Pass by
- 36 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
- 37 Mother of Zeus
- 38 British noble
- 39 Actress Gershon
- 40 Battery fluid
- 43 "Thar — blows!"
- 44 UFO crew
- 45 Hanoi holiday
- 46 Poem of praise
- 1 Commotion
- 5 Stanley Cup org.
- 8 Cygnet's parent
- 12 "Okay, get ready ..."
- 14 Gelato holder
- 15 Obey
- 16 Intro studio class
- 17 Music's Yoko
- 18 Corny bit?
- 20 Core
- 23 Lugosi of film
- 24 Bone-dry
- 25 Within earshot
- 28 Stashed
- 29 Darts about
- 30 Toss in
- 32 "Havana" singer Camila
- 34 Thus
- 35 Praise
- 36 From days of yore
- 37 Consider
- 40 Docs' org.
- 41 "Aquarius" musical
- 42 Reach, as a vacation isle
- 47 Sea eagle
- 48 Craved
- 49 "Sad to say ..."
- 50 British ref. work
- 51 Noble Italian family
- 1 — Na Na
- 2 Toe count
- 3 Tax-collecting org.
- 4 Express differently
- 5 Infamous emperor
- 6 Elev.
- 7 Relied on
- 8 Ornamental beetle
- 9 Frayed
- 10 Initial chip
- 11 Playwright Simon
- 13 Departed
- 19 Yale students
- 20 Taunting laugh
- 21 Guitarist Clapton

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	R	E	W		A	M	A	T		F	E	Z
L	A	L	A		T	A	X	I		E	L	O
O	V	A	L		T	R	I	M		T	I	O
P	I	N	K		E	C	O		T	E	E	M
				S	D	S		M	Y	A		
P	O	P	O	U	T			S	E	L	E	C
A	T	O	N	E				S	K	Y	P	E
M	O	S	A	I	C			U	N	S	E	A
				I	N	E		R	O	T		
I	B	A	R		N	E	A		O	P	E	D
R	E	G			A	T	T	N		U	R	G
A	B	E			B	E	A	U		G	A	G
Q	E	D			A	R	T	S		H	M	O

11-7 CRYPTOQUIP

LABFA ZMHY KT DMFA LDDV

NAKPCJ TKCVN NDY MNBJD YK

NPRWBY ZMXWDIYN KI YADBH

RBCCN? JPDN-JMX.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DO YOU CALL A CELEBRITY GROOMING HIS UNKEMPT HAIR AFTER WAKING? AN UP-AND-COMBING STAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals W



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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

What drives someone to smear food on the ‘Mona Lisa’?

By JACKIE DESFORGES
Special to the Los Angeles Times

In recent months climate activists have been in a food fight with art museums across Europe. Their protests include throwing tomato soup at a van Gogh painting in London’s National Gallery and smearing cake on the protective glass over the “Mona Lisa.” Last week they threw mashed potatoes on the glass covering a Monet in a German museum. Aside from some minor damage to a few frames, none of the art has been harmed.

I used to work as a gallery attendant in a contemporary art museum before COVID-19 hit. My job was twofold: protect the art and answer people’s questions. But mostly protect the art. None of the pieces where I worked was behind glass; many were worth more money than a Los Angeles mansion. My fellow gallery attendants and I were the only things standing between the art and all the people who came to take selfies with the works.

During one of my first shifts, a co-worker told me not to spiral if anything happened under my watch because all of the art was insured. Often, when I was tired and bored out of my mind at work, I would think about how these paintings had better insurance than I did.

There is still part of me that flinches whenever I’m visiting a museum and I see someone getting too close to a piece of art. I have made visual art in some form for my entire life, so I have reverence for the physical care of an artwork.

And yet there is another part of me, formed in those long hours guarding wealthy people’s paintings for minimum wage pay, that was darkly delighted when I saw the food hit those paintings.

It’s the part of me that understands that the only way to make these and other powerful institutions pay attention to you is to get too close — especially to something of great value with a high price tag. A part of me that understands that this isn’t about hurting art — if it were, these activists would pick pieces that aren’t behind glass.

Some of the activists, from a group called Last Generation, have said that these protests are about getting a conversation going about climate change and others, from the group Just Stop Oil, have asked the question “What is worth more, art or life?” Last Generation has two demands on its website, both of which are specific to reducing emissions in practical ways, such as lowering the speed limit on German highways from 130 km to 100 km per hour. I imagine that these groups are also protesting the institutions, the way they seem to operate as though they are separate from anything happening outside their walls, separate from the lives of average people.

I waver in thinking whether the act of throwing food at a painting is or isn’t insane, on practical and philosophical levels. But I feel strongly that the sentiment behind the act is spot on. I feel insane reading the news most days. I feel insane throwing my cans into the recycling bin, bringing my totes to the grocery store, wondering if any of it even makes a dent.

I watch as climate scientists continuously update our expiration date, I watch the topic trend on Twitter after an emissions policy passes or fails, and then watch as it is replaced by something a celebrity has done. I watch all of us, myself included, going about our days as though they aren’t numbered — and none of it feels more or less insane than throwing soup at a painting.

Whether or not smearing mashed potatoes on a glass-enclosed painting is an appropriate response, it feels like energy matching energy. We are facing extinction. More than that, we are creating it: We are the artists of our own extinction, painting ourselves out of the picture. If we are going to allow that then what is the point of the art we’re protecting? Who are we protecting it for?

I do wonder about the short-term effects of these protests. Will museums now become even less accessible than many already are because they fear for their artwork? Maybe more institutions will start putting up glass or locking people out — though I doubt it, if it keeps money from being made. Maybe humans will continue to focus more on protecting art than on protecting the Earth.

These activists feel to me like Earth’s version of gallery attendants running around telling us all to step back, we are getting too close. We’re walking straight past them. And then we’re somehow shocked that the hands that could nurture such a masterpiece could also be the ones that destroy it.

Jackie DesForges is a writer and artist in Los Angeles.

Netanyahu’s Israeli victory shows how not to stop Trump

By JASON WILLOCK
The Washington Post

“Israel is a speck on the map of the world,” Walter Russell Mead writes in his new book, “The Arc of a Covenant,” but “it occupies a continent in the American mind.” The Jewish state is a crucible for global contests over nationalism, religion and identity — and to the American liberal mind, its latest turn is a source of foreboding. But liberals are missing a point that hits closer to home.

Israelis last week voted out the centrist government headed by Prime Minister Yair Lapid, delivering a 64-seat majority (out of 120) to conservative and religious parties that support former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Israel’s leader from 2009 to 2021 is poised to return to power after a brief spell in the opposition — this time with the backing of a handful of hard-right lawmakers who would once have been outside the bounds of the political system’s cordon sanitaire.

But if the Israeli right’s stubborn attachment to a larger-than-life leader dismays American liberals, they can also learn from the country’s experience. The first lesson from Netanyahu’s comeback is that criminally indicting a political figure — say, Donald Trump — doesn’t necessarily knock him out of the electoral system. Netanyahu was indicted in 2019 on corruption-related charges after a nearly three-year investigation.

Trump might be in legal jeopardy for his handling of classified documents or his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, and Justice Department decisions are looming as he also eyes a political comeback. Bringing criminal charges against the former president would satisfy progressives, but it would not decide Trump’s political fate. Netanyahu won elec-

tion even as his trial was in progress in Jerusalem. (Last week’s Brazilian presidential election of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who was convicted on corruption charges and served time before his convictions were vacated, underscores the point.)

In fact, Netanyahu’s example shows how criminal prosecution can bind a leader more tightly to an office if retirement increases the chance that he will be convicted and punished. In electing Netanyahu, Israel’s polarized democracy effectively overrode its legal process, and something similar could happen in the United States. The ticktock of Trump investigations dominates headlines, but it’s the political case against the former president that should be paramount.

Netanyahu’s victory also calls into question the efficacy of another media fixation — that of the morally righteous Republican who, out of personal opposition to Trump, turns ostentatiously against his or her party. In Israel, it looked briefly as if something like this model could work to end Netanyahu’s political career. Naftali Bennett, a onetime Netanyahu aide who was seen as more conservative than his former boss, joined centrist and liberal parties after the 2021 elections to oust him and become prime minister himself.

That “unity government” won accolades in the United States as a model of compromise and moderation. The participation of an Arab party was an admirable demonstration of Israeli pluralism. But the sense of betrayal among voters for Bennett’s Yamina party was predictably intense and politically devastating. Many former Bennett voters appear to have migrated to the further-right Religious Zionist Party, which surged from six seats in the last election to 14 in this one. One of that party’s prominent representatives is Itamar

Ben-Gvir, a lawyer with a history of anti-Arab demagoguery who might be an international liability for Israel.

In other words, Bennett’s high-minded abandonment of Netanyahu in favor of a centrist coalition might have contributed within a year and a half to the formation of the most right-wing government Netanyahu has ever led. Again, a lesson for American politics: Politicians are accountable to their voters, and the sense of betrayal by one’s own political party is one of the most volatile forces in a democracy.

It’s common to hear laments that more established Republican politicians won’t break decisively with a GOP in which Trump still holds significant influence. But in many cases, the result would be to forfeit any moderating influence they might have had within the conservative coalition, while radicalizing some of its voters.

The Israeli left-of-center’s ideological fastidiousness appears to have also played a role in Netanyahu’s victory. The liberal Labor Party declined entreaties to merge with the leftist Meretz party, resulting in the latter’s falling just below the 3.25% vote threshold to be represented in parliament and boosting Netanyahu’s bloc. Democratic leaders in the U.S. have suffered from a different kind of rigidity, doubling down on progressive doctrine even as they face an energized conservative coalition.

If last month’s Tory crackup in Britain was a warning to American conservatives, then this month’s collapse of the anti-Netanyahu coalition in Israel is a warning to American liberals. The pull of hard-right politics won’t be resisted by legal prosecutions or moral indignation, but by realism, triangulation and leadership.

Jason Willock writes a regular Washington Post column on legal issues, political ideas and foreign affairs.

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	1	0	.857	203	98
Miami	5	3	0	.625	178	192
N.Y. Jets	5	3	0	.625	176	159
New England	4	4	0	.500	177	163

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	5	2	0	.714	132	138
Indianapolis	3	4	1	.438	129	157
Jacksonville	2	6	0	.250	172	158
Houston	1	6	1	.188	133	183

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	208	183
Cincinnati	4	4	0	.500	186	164
Cleveland	3	5	0	.375	200	199
Pittsburgh	2	6	0	.250	120	197

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	5	2	0	.714	223	172
L.A. Chargers	4	3	0	.571	164	189
Denver	3	5	0	.375	121	132
Las Vegas	2	5	0	.286	163	174

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	0	0	1.000	225	135
Dallas	6	2	0	.750	183	133
N.Y. Giants	6	2	0	.750	163	157
Washington	4	4	0	.500	142	172

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	4	4	0	.500	200	205
New Orleans	3	5	0	.375	199	200
Tampa Bay	3	5	0	.375	146	151
Carolina	2	6	0	.250	158	186

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	6	1	0	.857	173	144
Chicago	3	5	0	.375	155	181
Green Bay	3	5	0	.375	145	173
Detroit	1	6	0	.143	173	225

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	5	3	0	.625	210	199
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	176	147
L.A. Rams	3	4	0	.429	118	157
Arizona	3	5	0	.375	182	210

Sunday's games
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Carolina at Cincinnati
Green Bay at Detroit
Indianapolis at New England
L.A. Chargers at Atlanta
Las Vegas at Jacksonville
Miami at Chicago
Minnesota at Washington
Seattle at Arizona
L.A. Rams at Tampa Bay
Tennessee at Kansas City
Open: Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, San Francisco
Monday's game
Baltimore at New Orleans
Thursday's game
Atlanta at Carolina
Sunday, Nov. 13
Seattle vs Tampa Bay at Munich
Cleveland at Miami
Denver at Tennessee
Detroit at Chicago
Houston at N.Y. Giants
Jacksonville at Kansas City
Minnesota at Buffalo
New Orleans at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Las Vegas
Arizona at L.A. Rams
Dallas at Green Bay
L.A. Chargers at San Francisco
Open: Baltimore, Cincinnati, N.Y. Jets, New England

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT: Player will not play; DOUBTFUL: Player is unlikely to play; QUESTIONABLE: Player is not certain to play; DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):
Monday
BALTIMORE RAVENS at NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — **BALTIMORE:** OUT: WR Rashod Bateman (foot). DOUBTFUL: TE Mark Andrews (knee/shoulder), RB Gus Edwards (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: OLB Malik Harrison (foot), OL Patrick Mekari (back), CB Marcus Peters (NIR-resting player/quadricep/knee), WR Demarcus Robinson (groin). FULL: LB Tyus Bowser (Achilles), LB Josh Byrnes (quadricep), CB Marlon Humphrey (hamstring), LB David Ojabo (Achilles), CB Marcus Peters (quadricep, knee). **NEW ORLEANS:** OUT: LB Chase Hansen (knee), RB Mark Ingram (knee), CB Marshon Lattimore (abdomen). QUESTIONABLE: WR Jarvis Landry (ankle). FULL: C Erik McCoy (shoulder), DT David Onyemata (thigh), T Ryan Ramsey (NIR-resting player, knee), TE Adam Trautman (ankle).

PRO SOCCER

MLS playoffs
First Round
Saturday, Oct. 15
Cincinnati 2, New York Red Bulls 1
LA Galaxy 1, Nashville 0
Sunday, Oct. 16
Salt Lake 2, Austin 2, Austin wins 3-1 on penalty kicks
Montreal 2, Orlando 0
Monday, Oct. 17
New York City 3, Miami 0
Minnesota 1, Dallas 1, Dallas wins 5-4 on penalty kicks
Quarterfinals
Thursday, Oct. 20
Philadelphia 1, Cincinnati 0
Los Angeles FC 3, LA Galaxy 2
Sunday, Oct. 23
New York City 3, Montreal 1
Austin 2, Dallas 1
Conference Finals
Sunday, Oct. 30
Los Angeles FC 3, Austin 0
Philadelphia 3, New York City 1
Championship
Saturday, Nov. 5
Los Angeles FC 3, Philadelphia 3, LAFC wins 3-0 on penalty kicks

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
MLB — Announced approval of a roster substitution due to injury for 1B Yuli Gurriel. He will be replaced by C Corey Lee.
American League
HOUSTON ASTROS — Placed 1B Yuli Gurriel on the 10-day IL. Activated C Kory Lee.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed P Nolan Cooney to the practice squad and promoted him to the active roster. Promoted DL Manny Jones to the active roster from the practice squad. Released OL Koda Martin.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Reinstated RB Cordarrelle Patterson to the active roster from injured reserve. Signed DL Jalen Dalton to the active roster. Placed G Elijah Wilkinson on injured reserve. Released OLB Quinton Bell. Promoted S Jovante Moffatt and OL Ryan Neuzil to the active roster from the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Promoted S Marquise Blair and Spencer Brown to the active roster from the practice squad.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Signed DT Dominique Davis to the active roster from the practice squad. Promoted DB Allan George and WR Trenton Irwin to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed CB Chidobe Awuzie on injured reserve.
DETROIT LIONS — Signe WR Stanley Berryhill to the active roster. Promoted WR Brandon Zylstra and TE Sahne Zylstra to the active roster from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Reinstated LB Krys Barnes to the active roster from injured reserve.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Promoted RBs Phillip Lindsay and Jordan Wilkins to the active roster from the practice squad.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Promoted WR Marcus Kemp to the active roster from the practice squad.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Promoted CB Nickell Robey-Coleman to the active roster from the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Placed TE Donald Parham on injured reserve. Signed WR Keelan Doss to the active roster. Promoted K Cameron Dicker and CB Kemon Hall to the active roster from the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed T Chandler Brewer to the active roster. Reinstated LB Travin Howard to the active roster from injured reserve. Placed LB Jake Hummel on injured reserve. Promoted TE Jared Pinkney and RB Ronnie Rivers to the active roster from the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Promoted T Kion Smith to the active roster from the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Promoted TE Nick Muse and WR Dan Chisena to the active roster from the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed RB J.J. Taylor to the active roster from the practice squad. Placed OL Marcus Cannon on injured reserve. Promoted WR Lynn Bowden Jr. and OL Kody Russey to the active roster from the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed TE Kenny Yeboah to the active roster. Promoted OL Connor McDermott to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed S Jared Mayden to the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Promoted LB Joshua Onujiogu to the active roster from the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Promoted QB Logan Woodside and DL Larrell Murchison to the active roster from the practice squad.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Promoted FB/TE Alex Armah and LB Nathan Gerry to the active roster from the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled F Laurent Dauphin from Tucson (AHL).
DETROIT RED WINGS — Recalled F Austin Czarnik from Grand Rapids (AHL).
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled C Rasmus Kupari from Ontario (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Reassigned F Andreas Johnsson to Utica (AHL). Recalled G Akira Schmid from Utica.
TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Reinstated C David Krejci to the active roster from injured reserve.
WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Assigned RW Garrett Pilon to Hershey (AHL) on loan.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Monday's men's schedule

EAST
Fisher at Mass.-Lowell
La Salle at Villanova
Merrimack at St. John's
Albany (NY) at Towson
Brown at Vermont
Colgate at Buffalo
Columbia at Rutgers
Lebanon Valley at Bucknell
Mount St. Mary at St. Francis (NY)
Mount St. Mary's at West Virginia
NJIT at St. Peter's
Niagara at Maryland
Penn at Iona
Quinnipiac at Rhode Island
Sarah Lawrence at Yale
Siena at Holy Cross
St. Francis (Pa.) at St. Bonaventure
Thomas (Maine) at Bryant
UT Martin at Pittsburgh
Virginia St. at George Washington
Wagner at Temple
Wilmington (DC) at Delaware
Winthrop at Penn St.
Brandeis at New Hampshire
CCSU at UMass
Cazenovia at Binghamton
Dartmouth at Fordham
Hofstra at Princeton
Keystone at Army
Northeastern at Boston U.
Stonehill at UConn
Youngstown St. at Canisius
Cornell at Boston College
Lehigh at Syracuse

SOUTH
Brescia at Middle Tennessee
Valley Forge at James Madison
Harvard at Morehouse
Johnson & Wales (NC) at UNC-Greensboro
Coppin St. at Charlotte
Howard at Kentucky
Warren Wilson at Appalachian St.
Bob Jones at Wofford
Edward Waters at NC A&T
Erskine & Henry at ETSU
Erskine at Elon
Guilford at Davidson
Hannibal-LaGrange at Kennesaw St.
Houston Christian at FIU
Jacksonville at Duke
Kent St. at N. Kentucky
Lynn at FAU
Manhattan at VCU
Marshall at Queens (NC)
Md.-Eastern Shore at Old Dominion
Montevallo at Troy
North Greenville at Furman
Oakwood at North Alabama
Piedmont International at Presbyterian
Regent at Liberty
St. Mary's (Md.) at Coastal Carolina
Stetson at Florida St.
Tennessee Tech at Tennessee
The Citadel at Clemson
VMI at Richmond

AUTO RACING

Xfinity Series Championship
Saturday
At Phoenix Raceway
Avondale, Ariz.
Lap length: 1.00 miles
(Start position in parentheses)
1. (1) Ty Gibbs, Toyota, 200 laps, 40 points.
2. (4) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 200, 35.
3. (11) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 200, 34.
4. (6) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 200, 45.
5. (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 200, 36.
6. (8) Sheldon Creed, Chevrolet, 200, 38.
7. (19) Riley Herbst, Ford, 200, 30.
8. (10) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 200, 29.
9. (14) Austin Hill, Chevrolet, 200, 28.
10. (2) Sammy Smith, Toyota, 200, 37.
11. (5) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 200, 32.
12. (3) Nicholas Sanchez, Chevrolet, 200, 29.
13. (9) Josh Berry, Chevrolet, 200, 24.
14. (35) Kyle Weatherman, Chevrolet, 200, 23.
15. (30) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 200, 22.
16. (21) Jeb Burton, Chevrolet, 200, 21.
17. (37) Rajah Caruth, Chevrolet, 200, 0.
18. (33) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, 200, 19.
19. (20) Bayley Currey, Chevrolet, 200, 18.
20. (7) Ryan Sieg, Ford, 200, 17.
21. (17) Parker Retzlaff, Chevrolet, 200, 16.
22. (22) Kyle Sieg, Ford, 200, 15.
23. (18) Kaz Grala, Toyota, 200, 0.
24. (25) Joey Gase, Toyota, 200, 13.
25. (36) Myatt Snider, Chevrolet, 200, 12.
26. (31) Kryst Wright, Chevrolet, 200, 0.
27. (28) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 200, 10.
28. (15) Stefan Parsons, Chevrolet, 199, 0.
29. (26) Brennan Poole, Chevrolet, 198, 0.

GOLF

World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba
PGA Tour
Saturday
At El Camaleon Golf Club
Playa del Carmen, Mexico
Purse: \$8.2 million
Yardage: 7,034; Par: 71
Third Round
Russell Henley 63-63-65—191 -22
Will Gordon 62-67-68—197 -16
Patton Kizzire 65-65-67—197 -16
Seamus Power 67-68-63—198 -15
Brian Harman 66-66-67—199 -14
Troy Merritt 65-69-65—199 -14
Thomas Detry 70-66-64—200 -13
Viktor Hovland 65-69-66—200 -13
Matthias Schwab 66-68-66—200 -13

Alabama St. at UAB
Brevard at SC-Upstate
Chattanooga at Coll. of Charleston
Clayton St. at Georgia Tech
Lafayette at Miami
Miami (OH)-Middletown at E. Kentucky
Navy at William & Mary
Ohio at Belmont
Texas A&M-CC at Mississippi St.
Va.-Lynchburg at Norfolk St.
Anderson (SC) at Samford
Austin Peay at NC State
Champion Christian at McNeese St.
Coastal Georgia at Georgia St.
Fairfield at Wake Forest
George Mason at Auburn
Memphis at Vanderbilt
North Texas at Dallas at Grambling St.
Pfeiffer at High Point
SE Missouri at South Florida
St. Augustines at Campbell
Stony Brook at Florida
Toccoa Falls at Charleston Southern
UNC-Asheville at UCF
W. Carolina at Georgia
William Carey at Southern Miss.
Centenary at Louisiana-Lafayette
Longwood at Alabama
Loyola (NO) at SE Louisiana
UMBC at Tulane
Alcorn St. at Mississippi
Delaware St. at Virginia Tech
Fisk at Tennessee St.
Mississippi College at Louisiana Tech
NC Central at Virginia
Shorter at Jacksonville St.
UNC-Wilmington at North Carolina

MIDWEST
Defiance at Oakland
Milwaukee Engineering at Milwaukee
Fort Wayne at Michigan
New Orleans at Butler
Air Force at Bowling Green
Bethune-Cookman at Iowa
Chaminade at Cincinnati
Earlham at Ball St.
Green Bay at Indiana St.
Lindenwood (Mo.) at Dayton
Morehead St. at Indiana
N. Arizona at Michigan St.
Notre Dame (Ohio) at Cleveland St.
Robert Morris at Ohio St.
S. Dakota St. at Akron
Valparaiso at Toledo
Morgan St. at Xavier
Wayne St. (Mich.) at E. Michigan
Loyola (Md.) at DePaul
Cent. Arkansas at Wichita St.
Chicago St. at Northwestern
Fairleigh Dickinson at Loyola Chicago
Harris-Stowe at SIU-Edwardsville
IUPUI at Iowa St.
Ill.-Springfield at N. Illinois
Maine at Nebraska
Murray St. at Saint Louis
Omaha at Kansas
S. Indiana at Missouri
Trinity (Ill.) at Ill.-Chicago
UALR at S. Illinois

30. (29) JJ Yeley, Ford, 197, 7.
31. (32) Dawson Cram, Ford, 196, 6.
32. (24) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, 196, 5.
33. (34) Mason Massey, Chevrolet, 196, 4.
34. (13) Sam Mayer, Chevrolet, 195, 8.
35. (23) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 194, 2.
36. (38) Joe Graf Jr, Ford, 193, 1.
37. (27) Brandon Brown, Ford, suspension, 154, 1.
38. (12) Dillon Bassett, Chevrolet, engine, 152, 1.
Race statistics
Average speed of race winner: 91.177 mph.
Time of race: 2 hours, 11 minutes, 37 seconds.
Margin of victory: 0.397 seconds.
Caution flags: 8 for 49 laps.
Lead changes: 15 among 5 drivers.
Lap leaders: T.Gibbs 0-49; N.Sanchez 50-53; S.Smith 54; T.Gibbs 55-65; S.Smith 66-74; N.Gragson 75-78; T.Gibbs 79-94; J.Allgaier 95-99; T.Gibbs 100-116; N.Gragson 117-147; J.Allgaier 148-159; T.Gibbs 160-169; J.Allgaier 170-176; T.Gibbs 177; J.Allgaier 178-179; T.Gibbs 180-200
Leaders summary (driver, times led, laps led): T.Gibbs, 7 times for 125 laps; N.Gragson, 2 times for 35 laps; J.Allgaier, 4 times for 26 laps; S.Smith, 2 times for 10 laps; N.Sanchez, 1 time for 4 laps.
Wins: N.Gragson, 8; T.Gibbs, 7; A.Allmendinger, 5; J.Allgaier, 3; J.Berry, 3; A.Hill, 2; B.Jones, 1; J.Clements, 1.
Top 16 in points: 1. T.Gibbs, 4040; 2. N.Gragson, 4035; 3. J.Allgaier, 4034; 4. J.Berry, 4024; 5. A.Allmendinger, 2333; 6. A.Hill, 2273; 7. S.Mayer, 2239; 8. B.Jones, 2221; 9. D.Hemric, 2220; 10. R.Herbst, 2197; 11. R.Sieg, 2126; 12. J.Clements, 2069; 13. L.Cassill, 779; 14. S.Creed, 751; 15. A.Alfredo, 633; 16. J.Burton, 560.

TOTO Japan Classic
LPGA Tour
Saturday
At Seta Golf Club
Otsu, Japan
Purse: \$2.2 million
Yardage: 6,616; Par: 72
Third Round
Momoko Ueda 65-69-68—202 -14
Gemma Dryburgh 71-67-65—203 -13
Miyuu Yamashita 67-68-69—204 -12
Saiki Fujita 71-66-69—206 -10
Linn Grant 69-70-67—206 -10
Sakura Koivai 66-70-70—206 -10
Jeongeun Lee6 69-68-69—206 -10
Yuna Nishimura 70-69-67—206 -10
Pajaree Anannarukarn 69-69-69—207 -9
Ayaka Furue 66-71-70—207 -9

W. Illinois at Illinois St.
Wis.-Parkside at Bradley
Evansville at Miami (Ohio)
Radford at Marquette
South Dakota at Wisconsin
St. Thomas (MN) at Creighton
Warburg at N. Iowa
E. Illinois at Illinois
Texas Rio Grande Valley at Kansas St.
W. Michigan at Minnesota
SOUTHWEST
Kansas Christian at Prairie View
MVSU at Baylor
Ark.-Pine Bluff at TCU
Harding at Arkansas St.
Jackson St. at Abilene Christian
Louisiana-Monroe at Texas A&M
N. Colorado at Houston
N. Dakota St. at Arkansas
S. Nazarene at North Texas
Sam Houston St. at Oklahoma
St. Thomas (Texas) at Lamar
Trinity (Texas) at UTSA
North Dakota at Incarnate Word
Texas A&M Commerce at SMU
LeTourneau at Stephen F. Austin
Northwestern St. at Texas Tech
Texas-Arlington at Oklahoma St.
UTEP at Texas

FAR WEST
Pacific at Stanford
Idaho at Denver
Tarleton St. at Arizona St.
Texas St. at Washington St.
Lincoln (Mo.) at UMKC
UC Riverside at Colorado
Colorado Christian at Wyoming
Gardner-Webb at Colorado St.
Idaho St. at BYU
Montana St. at Grand Canyon
N.M. Highlands at New Mexico St.
North Florida at Gonzaga
S. Utah at New Mexico
Utah Valley St. at Utah St.
Florida Gulf Coast at Southern Cal
Nicholls at Arizona
Bethesda at Cal Poly
Cal St.-Fullerton at San Diego St.
Chapman at UC Irvine
E. Washington at Santa Clara
Florida A&M at Oregon
Fresno Pacific at Fresno St.
La Sierra at CS Northridge
Life Pacific at Loyola Marymount
Long Beach St. at Cal Baptist
Oral Roberts at Saint Mary's (Cal.)
Rice at Pepperdine
San Diego Christian at CS Bakersfield
San Francisco St. at UC Santa Barbara
Seattle at UC San Diego
Texas Southern at San Francisco
Utah Tech at Nevada
Southern U. at UNLV
Lewis & Clark at Portland
Sonoma St. at San Diego
LIU at Utah
UC Davis at California
Weber St. at Washington
Sacramento St. at UCLA

TENNIS

Dow Tennis Classic
Saturday
At Midland Community Tennis Center
Midland, Mich.
Purse: \$115,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
Women's Singles
Semifinals
Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, def. Ann Li, United States, 6-4, 6-2.
Cathy McNally (7), United States, def. Peyton Stearns, United States, 6-1, 6-2.
Women's Doubles
Championship
Asia Muhammad and Alycia Parks (1), United States, def. Nadiia Kichenok, Ukraine, and Anna-Lena Friedsam, Germany, 6-2, 6-3.
Paris Masters
Saturday
At Palais Omnisports de Paris-Bercy
Paris
Purse: Euro 5,415,410
Surface: Hardcourt indoor
Men's Singles
Semifinals
Holger Rune, Denmark, def. Felix Auger-Aliassime (8), Canada, 6-4, 6-2.
Novak Djokovic (6), Serbia, def. Stefanos Tsitsipas (5), Greece, 6-2, 3-6, 7-6 (4).
Men's Doubles
Semifinals
Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands, and Neal Skupski (2), Britain, def. Harri Heliouvaara, Finland, and Lloyd Glasspool (7), Britain, 6-1, 6-7 (4), 10-6.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Austin Krajicek (8), United States, def. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies, Germany, 6-3, 6-4.

TimberTech Championship
Champions Tour
Saturday
At Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club
Boca Raton, Fla.
Purse: \$2.2 million
Yardage: 7,015; Par: 72
Second Round
Bernhard Langer 70-63—133 -11
Paul Goydos 68-66—134 -10
Rod Pampling 68-69—137 -7
Steven Alker 70-68—138 -6
Stephen Ames 70-68—138 -6
Darren Clarke 72-66—138 -6
Joe Durant 71-67—138 -6
Thongchai Jaidee 70-68—138 -6
Padraig Harrington 72-67—139 -5
Miguel Angel Jimenez 67-72—139 -5

NBA/WORLD CUP

ROUNDUP

Antetokounmpo watches Bucks win ninth straight

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Brook Lopez scored 25 points and the Milwaukee Bucks extended their season-opening winning streak to a franchise-record nine games with Giannis Antetokounmpo on the bench, beating the Oklahoma City Thunder 108-94 Saturday night.

Antetokounmpo sat out for the first time this season. He was listed as “questionable” with left knee soreness after recording his first triple-double of the season a night earlier in Minnesota. He did not go through warmups ahead of the game, and head coach Mike Budenholzer said before the game that the league’s second-leading scorer at 32.6 points per game would get the night off.

“It’s kind of exciting,” Lopez said of playing without the two-time Most Valuable Player. “Giannis gets a chance to rest, to refill his cup and we get a chance to get better and see what it’s like without him on the court and get better in that way.”

With Antetokounmpo out, Lopez led Milwaukee on 10-for-16 shooting that included four of the Bucks’ 17 three-pointers — three of which came in the opening quarter.

“He’s had so many good games for us, but to shoot the three-ball so well out of the gate, then really be such a force in the paint, he really delivered in a lot of different ways,” Budenholzer said. “He was phenomenal.”

He also had plenty of help.

Jevon Carter and Grayson Allen each added five threes and finished with 18 points and 19 points, respectively. Bobby Portis notched his fifth double-double of the season with 12 points and 21 rebounds. Jrue Holiday also finished with a double-double, scoring 10 points with 13 assists.

“I think we all knew that we’d all have to chip in,” Lopez said. “You look across the board ... everyone who (played) had an impact.”

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander connected on 7 of 16 shots and led Oklahoma City with 18 points. Josh Giddey scored 15 points and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl 12.

Kings 126, Magic 123 (OT): De’Aaron Fox beat the buzzer from just inside halfcourt to give visiting Sacramento an overtime victory against Orlando after wiping out a 20-point deficit in the third quarter.

Fox’s 37 points included the first six in overtime. The Kings needed three more at the end after throwing away a pass in the back-



Bucks center Brook Lopez, right, drives to the basket against Thunder forward Darius Bazley during the second half on Saturday. Lopez scored 25 points that included four three-pointers.

court with 6.6 seconds left, allowing the Magic’s Chuma Okeke to tie the game with a dunk.

Fox then dribbled the ball up and launched his shot with his feet inside the Magic logo at center court, a shot that was officially listed at 31 feet.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 33 points and 16 rebounds.

Celtics 133, Knicks 118: Jaylen Brown scored 30 points, Jayson Tatum added 26 and visiting Boston made a franchise-record 27 three-pointers in a victory over New York.

Brown and Tatum each connected on six three-pointers, while reserve guard Sam Hauser set career highs with 16 points and five three-pointers.

Nets 98, Hornets 94: Kevin Durant scored 27 points and visiting Brooklyn erased a double-digit deficit in the fourth quarter to beat short-handed Charlotte, improving to 2-0 since Kyrie Irving’s suspension.

The Nets suspended Irving for at least five games without pay Thursday, dismayed by his repeated failure to “unequivocally say he has no antisemitic beliefs.”

Hawks 124, Pelicans 121 (OT): Dejounte Murray had 22 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, Trae Young added 34 points and 10 assists, and host Atlanta beat New Orleans.

CJ McCollum finished with 29

points for the Pelicans, who already have three overtime losses in the first three weeks of the season.

Timberwolves 129, Rockets 117: Karl-Anthony Towns scored 10 of his 25 points in the third quarter and Anthony Edwards added 19 points as host Minnesota cruised past Houston.

Playing without center Rudy Gobert, who was placed into the league’s health and safety protocols earlier in the day, Minnesota snapped a three-game losing streak. Kyle Anderson had 16 points while starting for Gobert.

Suns 102, Trail Blazers 82: Devin Booker scored 24 points, Chris Paul added 15 and host Phoenix cruised past Portland.

The Suns pushed to a 61-40 half-time lead and had a comfortable advantage throughout the second half.

The teams were playing each other for the second straight night. The Blazers won 108-106 on Friday when Jerami Grant hit a baseline jumper at the buzzer.

Nuggets 126, Spurs 101: Bones Hyland scored 24 points, Nikola Jokic added 21 and host Denver shot better than 60% from the field in a win over San Antonio.

Michael Porter Jr. added 15 points and Jamal Murray chipped in 13 for the Nuggets, who remained unbeaten in four games at home this season.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	3	.667	—
Toronto	5	4	.556	1
New York	4	5	.444	2
Brooklyn	4	6	.400	2½
Philadelphia	4	6	.400	2½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	6	3	.667	—
Washington	4	5	.444	2
Miami	4	6	.400	2½
Charlotte	3	7	.300	3½
Orlando	2	8	.200	4½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	9	0	1.000	—
Cleveland	7	1	.875	1½
Chicago	5	5	.500	4½
Indiana	4	5	.444	5
Detroit	2	8	.200	7½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	6	3	.667	—
Dallas	5	3	.625	½
New Orleans	5	4	.556	1
San Antonio	5	5	.500	1½
Houston	1	9	.100	5½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	7	3	.700	—
Portland	6	3	.667	½
Denver	6	3	.667	½
Minnesota	5	5	.500	2
Oklahoma City	4	5	.444	2½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	7	2	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	5	4	.556	2
Sacramento	3	5	.375	3½
Golden State	3	7	.300	4½
L.A. Lakers	2	6	.250	4½

Friday's games	
Brooklyn 128, Washington 86	
Cleveland 112, Detroit 88	
New York 106, Philadelphia 104	
Indiana 101, Miami 99	
Boston 123, Chicago 119	
Memphis 130, Charlotte 99	
New Orleans 114, Golden State 105	
Dallas 111, Toronto 110	
Portland 108, Phoenix 106	
Milwaukee 115, Minnesota 102	
Utah 130, L.A. Lakers 116	
L.A. Clippers 113, San Antonio 106	
Saturday's games	
Sacramento 126, Orlando 123, OT	
Boston 133, New York 118	
Atlanta 124, New Orleans 121, OT	
Milwaukee 108, Oklahoma City 94	
Minnesota 129, Houston 117	
Denver 126, San Antonio 101	
Phoenix 102, Portland 82	
Brooklyn 98, Charlotte 94	
Sunday's games	
Cleveland at L.A. Lakers	
Chicago at Toronto	
Washington at Memphis	
Utah at L.A. Clippers	
Monday's games	
Washington at Charlotte	
Houston at Orlando	
Oklahoma City at Detroit	
New Orleans at Indiana	
Phoenix at Philadelphia	
Milwaukee at Atlanta	
Portland at Miami	
Toronto at Chicago	
Boston at Memphis	
New York at Minnesota	
Denver at San Antonio	
Brooklyn at Dallas	
Sacramento at Golden State	
L.A. Lakers at Utah	
Cleveland at L.A. Clippers	
Tuesday's games	
No games scheduled	
Wednesday's games	
Dallas at Orlando	
Denver at Indiana	
Portland at Charlotte	
Detroit at Boston	
Houston at Toronto	
New York at Brooklyn	
Utah at Atlanta	
Memphis at San Antonio	
Milwaukee at Oklahoma City	
New Orleans at Chicago	
Phoenix at Minnesota	
Cleveland at Sacramento	
L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers	

FIFA urges teams to keep focus on soccer

By GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

GENEVA — FIFA’s top officials have urged the 32 teams preparing for the most political World Cup in the modern era to focus on the game in Qatar and avoid handing out lessons in morality.

A letter urging teams to “let football take center stage” was sent by FIFA president Gianni Infantino and secretary general Fatma Samoura ahead of intense media focus on coaches and players when World Cup squads are announced next week.

“Please, let’s now focus on the football!” Infantino and Samoura wrote, asking the 32 soccer federations to “not allow football to be dragged into every ideological or political battle that exists.”

Qatar being picked in 2010 as World Cup host sparked scrutiny on its treatment of low-paid migrant workers needed to build projects costing tens of billions of dollars and its laws criminalizing same-sex relationships.

FIFA’s comments in defense of Qatar follows more strident targeting of critics in recent weeks by public officials, including the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, as the Nov. 20 kickoff nears.

The Emir two weeks ago denounced “fabrications and double standards” in what he has called an “unprecedented campaign” against a World Cup host nation.

Eight European teams have committed to their captains wearing heart-shaped armbands — in breach of FIFA rules — to support an anti-discrimination campaign launched in the Netherlands, and Australia players took part in a video airing concerns about Qatar’s human rights record.

Several coaches and federations, including the United States, have backed calls to create a compensation fund for migrant workers’ families. Denmark’s squad is taking a black team jersey as a sign of “mourning” for those who died in Qatar.

The Dutch soccer federation pushed back at FIFA late Friday, restating its commitment to leave “lasting improvements in the situation of migrant workers in Qatar.”

The Netherlands plays Qatar on Nov. 29 in Group A and the team’s officials pledged on Friday to press FIFA on creating a long-term resource center in Doha for migrant workers when world soccer’s 211 member federations meet hours before attending the World Cup opening game.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference								
Atlantic Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	12	10	2	0	20	51	30	
Tampa Bay	12	7	4	1	15	40	38	
Detroit	11	6	3	2	14	34	33	
Buffalo	12	7	5	0	14	49	38	
Toronto	12	6	4	2	14	34	33	
Florida	12	6	5	1	13	38	39	
Montreal	12	5	6	1	11	34	40	
Ottawa	11	4	7	0	8	38	38	
Metropolitan Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
New Jersey	12	9	3	0	18	44	31	
Carolina	11	8	2	1	17	38	31	
Philadelphia	11	6	3	2	14	28	28	
N.Y. Islanders	12	7	5	0	14	41	30	
N.Y. Rangers	12	6	4	2	14	34	36	
Washington	13	5	6	2	12	35	38	
Pittsburgh	12	4	6	2	10	42	44	
Columbus	12	3	9	0	6	30	55	
Western Conference								
Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	12	8	3	1	17	46	27	
Winnipeg	11	7	3	1	15	33	27	
Colorado	11	6	4	1	13	40	31	
Chicago	12	5	5	2	12	34	39	
Minnesota	11	5	5	1	11	35	40	
Nashville	12	5	6	1	11	34	40	
Arizona	11	4	6	1	9	31	45	
St. Louis	9	3	6	0	6	21	35	
Pacific Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	13	11	2	0	22	46	27	
Seattle	13	7	4	2	16	45	40	
Los Angeles	14	7	6	1	15	49	53	
Edmonton	12	7	5	0	14	46	42	
Calgary	10	5	4	1	11	32	33	
Vancouver	12	3	6	3	9	41	49	
Anaheim	12	4	7	1	9	36	56	
San Jose	14	3	8	3	9	36	49	
Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.								
Saturday's games								
Detroit 3, N.Y. Islanders 0								
Colorado 5, Columbus 1								
Winnipeg 4, Chicago 0								
Dallas 6, Edmonton 2								
Seattle 3, Pittsburgh 2								
Toronto 2, Boston 1								
Arizona 3, Washington 2								
Tampa Bay 5, Buffalo 3								
Vegas 6, Montreal 4								
Philadelphia 2, Ottawa 1								
New Jersey 4, Calgary 3, OT								
Nashville 4, Vancouver 3, SO								
Los Angeles 5, Florida 4								
Anaheim 5, San Jose 4, SO								
Sunday's games								
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers								
Toronto at Carolina								
Florida at Anaheim								
Monday's games								
Calgary at N.Y. Islanders								
St. Louis at Boston								
Edmonton at Washington								
Tuesday's games								
Arizona at Buffalo								
Calgary at New Jersey								
Montreal at Detroit								
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers								
St. Louis at Philadelphia								
Vancouver at Ottawa								
Vegas at Toronto								
Edmonton at Tampa Bay								
Dallas at Winnipeg								
Nashville at Seattle								
Minnesota at Los Angeles								
Wednesday's games								
Carolina at Florida								
Pittsburgh at Washington								
Vancouver at Montreal								
Minnesota at Anaheim								
Scoring leaders								
Through Saturday								
	GP	G	A	PTS				
Connor McDavid, EDM	12	12	13	25				
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	12	7	16	23				
Nikita Kucherov, TB	12	6	14	20				
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	11	3	16	19				
David Pastrnak, BOS	12	8	11	19				
Erik Karlsson, SJ	14	10	9	19				
Jason Robertson, DAL	12	8	10	18				
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	12	5	12	17				
Jesper Bratt, NJ	12	5	12	17				
Martin Necas, CAR	11	7	10	17				
Troy Terry, ANA	12	5	11	16				
Artemi Panarin, NYR	12	5	11	16				
Roope Hintz, DAL	12	5	11	16				
Brady Tkachuk, OTT	11	6	10	16				
Mikko Rantanen, COL	11	7	9	16				

ROUNDUP

Ovechkin passes Howe, Coyotes rally

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin scored his 787th career goal to break Gordie Howe's record for scoring with one team, but the Arizona Coyotes scored three times in the third period to rally for a 3-2 win against the Washington Capitals on Saturday night.

Nick Ritchie had two goals, including the tiebreaker with 36 seconds remaining, and Josh Brown also scored for Arizona, which trailed 2-0 early in the third. Shayne Gostisbehere had two assists and Karel Vejmelka stopped 34 shots.

Anthony Mantha had a goal and an assist for Washington, which has lost four straight (0-2-2) while giving up a lead in each. Darcy Kuemper made 23 saves.

"No excuses, obviously," Ovechkin said. "It starts from us leaders, and we can't blame (injuries) on it. Every player who plays in the NHL has some level to play, and obviously we miss those guys. But right now, the situation is we have to pull on the rope with all our hands and don't panic and don't think it's over. We just have to bounce back and play together as a team and as a group."

With the Capitals on their third power play of the game, Ovechkin fired a one-timer off a pass from Trevor van Riemsdyk past Vejmelka with just under 9 minutes left in the second period to open the scoring. It moved Ovechkin past Howe for the most goals with one franchise in NHL history.

"Obviously, it's a huge moment," Ovechkin said. "The last couple games, it was big milestones and unfortunately, we didn't get the win, but it's a special moment and it's nice to have both my kids, my wife, all the fans (here). My parents watched in Moscow. So it's a special moment."

Ovechkin is now 14 goals away from tying Howe for second on the NHL's all-time goals list and 107 from Wayne Gretzky's all-time record. The 289th power-play goal of his career extended his point streak to five games.

Mantha made it 2-0 at 3:23 of the third with an unassisted goal before the Coyotes began their comeback.

Golden Knights 6, Canadiens 4: Reilly Smith scored two goals and visiting Las Vegas won its seventh straight.

Jonathan Marchessault and Keegan Kolesar each had a goal and an assist, and Nicolas Hague and Nicolas Roy also scored for the Golden Knights, who have won 11 of 13 to open the season. Adin Hill had 27 saves to improve to 5-0-0.

Nick Suzuki had two goals, and Cole Caufield and Juraj Slakovsky also scored for the Canadiens. Kir-



Nick Wass/AP

Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin, left, celebrates after his goal during the second period of Saturday's game against the Arizona Coyotes in Washington. It was Ovechkin's 787th career goal.

by Dach had three assists and Kai-den Guhle added two. Jake Allen finished with 36 saves.

Avalanche 5, Blue Jackets 1: At Tampere, Finland, Artturi Lehkonen scored in his home country, and Colorado completed a sweep of the two-game series overseas.

Cale Makar and Nathan MacKinnon each had three assists for the Stanley Cup champion Avalanche, who won for the fourth time in six games. Devon Toews and Martin Kaut each had a goal and an assist, and Logan O'Connor and Alex Newhook also scored.

Boone Jenner scored in the first period for Columbus, and Joonas Korpisalo made 40 stops in his home country. The Blue Jackets have lost five straight.

Flyers 2, Senators 1: Kevin Hayes and Zack McEwen scored to lead visiting Philadelphia past Ottawa.

Carter Hart stopped 31 shots as the Flyers snapped a three-game skid (0-1-2) and handed the Senators their fifth straight loss.

Ottawa's Claude Giroux scored his 300th career goal while facing his former team for the first time, giving him a goal against every NHL club.

Kraken 3, Penguins 2: Brandon Tanev scored the tiebreaking goal with 3:39 remaining and visiting Seattle handed Pittsburgh its seventh straight loss.

Tanev took a pass from Yanni Gourde and beat goaltender Tristan Jarry from point-blank range to snap a 2-all tie. It was Tanev's first goal of the season and it came against the team he played for from 2019-21.

Maple Leafs 2, Bruins 1: Auston Matthews' second goal of the game

came on a power play in the second period and host Toronto snapped Boston's seven-game winning streak.

Mitch Marner had two assists for the Maple Leafs. Ilya Samsonov made 13 saves before leaving the game after two periods with a knee injury. Erik Kallgren stopped seven shots the rest of the way.

Lightning 5, Sabres 3: Nikita Kucherov had an empty-net goal and three assists, Nick Perbix got his first NHL goal and host Tampa Bay beat Buffalo.

Nicholas Paul, Brayden Point and Brandon Hagel also scored for the Lightning, and backup Brian Elliott stopped 21 shots.

Red Wings 3, Islanders 0: Ville Husso made 26 saves, and host Detroit snapped New York's five-game winning streak.

Dominik Kubalik had a goal and an assist, helping Detroit to its third win in four games. Lucas Raymond scored a power-play goal, and Pius Suter had a short-handed goal.

Jets 4, Blackhawks 0: Connor Hellebuyck stopped 30 shots for his second shutout of the season and 30th of his career as host Winnipeg improved to 5-0-1 in its last six games.

Josh Morrissey and Pierre-Luc Dubois each had a goal and an assist, and Nate Schmidt and Adam Lowry also scored. All of the Jets' scoring came on special teams, with three on the power play and Lowry getting his second short-handed tally of the season.

Stars 6, Oilers 2: Jamie Benn scored three goals for his seventh career hat trick and Jason Robertson had a goal and two assists as visiting Dallas won its third

straight.

Joe Pavelski and Colin Miller also scored for the Stars. Scott Wedgewood stopped 28 shots while making his third consecutive start in place of the injured Jake Oettinger.

Predators 4, Canucks 3 (SO): Matt Duchene scored the only goal of the shootout to lift visiting Nashville.

Jordan Gross got his first two NHL goals, Nino Niederreiter had a goal and an assist, and Mattias Ekholm added two assists for the Predators. Juuse Saros stopped 43 shots through overtime.

Kings 5, Panthers 4: Gabe Vi-lardi scored late in the third period to lead host Los Angeles.

Trevor Moore and Viktor Arvidsson each had a goal and an assist, and Rasmus Kupari and Blake Lizotte also scored as the Kings won for the third time in five games. Jonathan Quick made 34 saves.

Ducks 5, Sharks 4 (SO): Adam Henrique scored the tying goal late in the third period and then got the deciding tally in the shootout for visiting Anaheim.

Mason McTavish and Brett Leason each had a goal and an assist, and Max Comtois also scored in regulation for the Ducks. Anthony Stolarz stopped 48 shots.

Devils 4, Flames 3 (OT): Fabian Zetterlund scored his second goal of the game 2:38 into overtime to give visiting New Jersey its sixth straight win.

Nathan Bastian and Miles Wood each had a goal and an assist as New Jersey won for the ninth time in 10 games. Vitek Vanecek stopped 27 shots to improve to 5-1-0.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SOCCER

TOP 25 TAKEAWAYS

Top Dawgs: Georgia is now the standard

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Georgia has aspired to be Alabama. Not just a national champion. The Bulldogs did that last year, going through the Crimson Tide to snap a 41-year title drought. Georgia wants to set the standard in college football, the program that contends for national titles every season and wins them routinely.

The old cliché goes: They don't rebuild they reload. Alabama has taken that to unprecedented levels over 15 years under Nick Saban, winning six national titles.

There is a long way for Georgia to go to match those accomplishments, but Kirby Smart's top-ranked Bulldogs have never looked more like peak Alabama than against No. 2 Tennessee on Saturday.

Georgia dominated the biggest game of the year, easily dispatching the team that just three weeks ago knocked off the Crimson Tide.

As a wild day in college football went played out, Alabama lost again, toppled by Brian Kelly and No. 15 LSU in a Death Valley overtime, and Clemson was dispatched from the ranks of the unbeaten in emphatic fashion at Notre Dame. It all only served to re-enforce: It's Georgia's world now.

"We're more hungry than ever," Georgia cornerback Kelee Ringo said.

The Bulldogs smothered the highest-scoring offense in the country. Hendon Hooker, Jalin Hyatt and the Volunteers were getting comparisons to LSU's 2019 team with Joe Burrow and Ja'Mar Chase since putting 52 on Alabama.

They scored one touchdown against defensive tackle Jalen Carter, cornerback Ke-

lee Ringo and a Bulldogs' defense that replaced five NFL first-round draft picks after last season and lost its best edge rusher, Nolan Smith, to an injury last week.

Tennessee coach Josh Heupel's offense had become a marvel across college football, with receivers running wide open with stunning regularity.

The Bulldogs turned off the fireworks. "I slept better as the week went on, because I felt good about the plan," Smart said.

Yes, there has been a drop off with Georgia's defense. It has gone from all-time great to merely the best in the country.

Stetson Bennett, Brock Bowers, Ladd McConkey and the offense broke off big plays early to jump out to a 21-3 lead and then — much the way Alabama used to before it transformed into a quarterback and receiver factory — it bullied the Volunteers for almost three quarters.

It might be time to start taking Bennett more seriously as a Heisman contender.

The Bulldogs spend the next two weeks on the road, at Mississippi State and Kentucky. They look as if they will cruise into another SEC championship game with a playoff spot all but locked up, no matter the outcome.

It's the time of the year when big-game results have to be looked at in the context of the CFP.

Tennessee was first last week. It won't be Tuesday.

Victories against Alabama and LSU should keep the Vols in the conversation as other conference races are sorted out.

But Tennessee was so thoroughly man-handled, the idea that it might make the playoff over an unbeaten team from another



JOHN BAZEMORE / AP

Tennessee quarterback Hendon Hooker, left, fumbles as he is hit by Georgia's Jalen Carter in the end zone during the first half on Saturday.

er Power Five conference can probably be put to rest.

Of course, not many of them are left. As for Alabama, the Crimson Tide have lost twice before Thanksgiving for the first time since 2010. Forget the playoff.

"Tough loss, but there's nobody that feels worse about it than our players," Saban said.

Clemson clinched its Atlantic Coast Conference division and a spot in the championship game even before it took the field Saturday night. Then Clemson got exposed as paper Tigers by the Irish.

"They just physically kicked our butt. Period. The end," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

For the third time in the CFP era, three of the top six teams lost on the same day.

Will all those losses provide a boost for unbeaten Michigan and TCU? Can Clemson recover?

All that jockeying is for others to worry about.

Not Georgia. Ten weeks into this college football season and the Bulldogs are without peer.

Around the country

Oregon's Bo Nix was a triple-threat against Colorado with touchdowns rushing, receiving and passing. As playoff and Heisman contenders ahead of them stumbled, it was a good day for the Ducks. ... The weather was miserable, but No. 2 Ohio State's inability to assert itself up front against Northwestern on either side of the ball was a bit disconcerting for a team heading toward a showdown against No. 4 Michigan. The Buckeyes did set an FBS record with 70 straight games of at least 20 points scored. ... No. 7 TCU did what TCU does, falling behind Texas Tech before surging back and away in the fourth quarter. At some point this is going to catch up to the Horned Frogs, but it's been a ton of fun to watch. TCU is 9-0 and heading to Texas for yet another huge Big 12 game next week. ... Wonder if anybody from Auburn was monitoring No. 23 Liberty's victory at Arkansas, which gave coach Hugh Freeze his first win at an SEC stadium since he was fired by Mississippi. Auburn could use a proven winner, but can it handle the baggage?

LAFc claims MLS title with SO win over Union

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A weary Carlos Vela reluctantly checked out of the MLS Cup final in the 97th minute, giving way to Gareth Bale in a tense 2-2 game.

Los Angeles FC's first player and longtime captain had no idea this epic final had only begun to exhaust him and everybody else involved in the most dramatic championship game in Major League Soccer's 27-year history.

"For the first 10, 15 minutes, it was a Halloween movie," Vela said. "And then we finish with a Hollywood movie."

Bale tied the score 3-3 on a dramatic header in the eighth minute of extra-time stoppage time, backup goalkeeper John McCarthy stopped two Philadelphia shots in the shootout, and LAFc beat the



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Los Angeles FC players Diego Palacios, left, and Gareth Bale celebrate after defeating the Philadelphia Union in a penalty kick shootout to win the MLS Cup on Saturday in Los Angeles.

Union 3-0 on penalty kicks to claim its first MLS Cup championship in spectacular fashion Saturday.

The afternoon ended with an LA

celebration including confetti and movie stars, capping this expansion team's five-year journey to the pinnacle of Major League Soc-

cer. The final step in that journey was wilder and longer than anybody could have expected, but LAFc was strong enough to finish.

"The game had a little bit of everything, for sure," said LAFc's Kellyn Acosta, who scored the first goal. "Goals galore. PKs. It was a roller coaster. It was crazy. It was an incredible game. It was a collective effort. We're proud of this moment, but we really earned it, and we're excited."

The two late second-half goals that forced extra time were soon followed by the two very latest goals in league history — the first by Philadelphia's Jack Elliott in the 124th minute, and the second by Bale to snatch the title from the Union's grasp.

Bale equalized even with LAFc down to 10 men after goalkeeper Maxime Crépeau badly injured a

leg while committing a red-card foul on Cory Burke.

"I saw his face, and we saw his emotion," said McCarthy, who won the MLS Cup MVP award. "To me, that's the play of the game. If he slides and misses, then it's 3-2 and who knows how the game is going to end. He made a big-time decision by coming out and making that play. I'm devastated for him, because it's a serious injury and it looks like he is going to miss the World Cup. You are not coming out of this game for a Band-Aid."

McCarthy, the Philadelphia native and former Union keeper who had exactly one previous game of MLS action for LAFc this season, was forced into action — and he performed flawlessly. McCarthy didn't allow a goal on the Union's three attempts.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Notre Dame runs all over No. 5 Clemson

By Tom Coyne
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — This time, Notre Dame got to feel what it’s like to celebrate a victory over Clemson with a stadium full of fans.

“I couldn’t get out of there,” tight end Michael Mayer said. “That was a way more drastic field rush than the last one.”

Two years ago, only 11,071 fans, mostly students and university employees, were on hand because of COVID-19 restrictions when Notre Dame upset top-ranked Clemson 47-40 in double overtime. On Saturday night, 77,622 people were on hand to witness the Irish beat the No. 5 Tigers 35-14, and a lot rushed the field and danced in celebration.

“It’s special,” Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said. “You can hear the fans, the students. I really didn’t want to leave the field. ... This is a game that I’ll never forget.”

Neither will Dabo Swinney. “They just physically kicked our butt. Period. The end,” Swinney said. “They absolutely dominated us in every aspect of football and it starts with coaching, tackling, blocking, you name it. It is what it is.”

Prince Kollie scored on a



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Notre Dame running back Audric Estime carries the ball as Clemson safety Jalyn Phillips comes up to make the tackle during the first half of Saturday’s game in South Bend, Ind. Notre Dame won 35-14.

blocked punt, Benjamin Morrison returned an interception 96 yards for a touchdown and had another interception to set up another score as Notre Dame earned its second straight win over a ranked opponent.

It was just the third win over a top-10 opponent for Notre Dame (6-3) in its past 10 games since

2018. The other wins were against No. 8 Stanford in 2018 and the 2020 win over Clemson. Freeman admitted being surprised by how much the Irish dominated.

“We didn’t foresee this game going this way,” Freeman said. “I’m happy the kids continue to believe in what we’re doing. Today was

one of those special moments.”

The loss ended a 14-game winning streak by the Tigers (8-1), the longest active streak among FBS teams. It was Clemson’s fifth road loss since 2015.

Swinney said it was one of his most disappointing games in his 14 years as head coach.

“We gave up a score on offense, a score on special teams and a score on defense, and that’s the first time that’s happened since I was a head coach,” he said “We just got out-coached in every aspect of football. I wish I could say I saw it coming, but we had a great week of practice, a great week of preparation. But football’s a crazy game.”

Swinney pulled DJ Uiagalelei for a second straight game, even though he had completed 13 of 19 passes for 78 yards when he was replaced by Cade Klubnik late in the third quarter. This time it backfired, though, as Klubnik was pressured by Justin Ademilola and his pass was intercepted by Morrison at the 14-yard line. The Irish scored three plays later on Audric Estime’s 2-yard run to make it 21-0.

Uiagabele returned in the next series and drove the Tigers to the Irish 19-yard line before Morrison intercepted the pass to Joseph Ngata at the 4-yard line and re-

turned it for a TD.

With winds of 20 mph, and Drew Pyne struggling in recent games, the Irish leaned heavily on their run game, even though Clemson entered the game ranked seventh nationally against the run, giving up 87.9 yards a game. Logan Diggs rushed for 114 yards on 17 carries, Estime had 104 yards on 18 carries and the Irish compiled 263 yards rushing, the most rushing yards allowed by Clemson this season. The previous high was 206 yards by Florida State.

“They were clearly the more physical team. It’s going to be a painful tape to watch for everybody,” Swinney said.

It was the second-highest rushing game for the Irish this season. The Irish improved to 5-0 when they rush for more than 200 yards.

Pyne was 9-for-17 passing for 85 yards and added a 5-yard rushing touchdown.

Uiagalelei finished the game 27-for-39 passing for 191 yards. Clemson was held to 90 yards rushing.

Tempers flared as the teams headed to the locker room at half-time after Clemson right guard Walker Parks pushed down Notre Dame defensive lineman Jayson Ademilola. Several players pushed before the teams were separated.

Scoreboard

Saturday's scores			
EAST			
19	Air Force 13, Army 7	St. Francis (Pa.) 38, Georgetown 24	
	Allegheny 20, Bethany (WV) 17, OT	St. Vincent 53, Waynesburg 16	
	Alvernia 21, Albright 14	Stevenson 28, Wilkes 0	
	American International 18, Bentley 10	Stonehill 50, Wagner 10	
	Amherst 17, Bowdoin 14	Stony Brook 24, Morgan St. 22	
	Anna Maria 36, Dean 22	Susquehanna 28, Muhlenberg 24	
	Assumption 21, St. Anselm 12	Temple 54, South Florida 28	
	Bowie St. 41, Lincoln (Pa.) 24	Towson 27, Villanova 3	
	Bridgewater (Mass.) 20, Framingham St.	Trinity (Conn.) 63, Bates 14	
		Tufts 35, Colby 7	
		Ursinus 65, Juniata 2	
		Utica 65, Alfred 16	
		W. Connecticut 41, Fitchburg St. 21	
		W. New England 33, New England 0	
		W. Virginia St. 42, West Liberty 32	
		WPI 30, Coast Guard 24, 2OT	
		Washington & Jefferson 31, Grove City 14	
		Wesleyan (Conn.) 35, Williams 21	
	21	Concord 50, Alderson-Broadbuss 13	West Chester 28, Kutztown 9
Cortland 56, St. John Fisher 14		Westfield St. 28, Worcester St. 18	
Delaware 49, Monmouth (NJ) 17		Westminster (Pa.) 14, Case Western 13	
Delaware Valley 42, FDU-Florham 7		Yale 69, Brown 17	
Duquesne 35, Sacred Heart 28, OT		SOUTH	
Endicott 42, Salve Regina 10		Alabama St. 37, Bethune-Cookman 22	
Fordham 59, Bucknell 17		Austin Peay 38, North Alabama 35	
Franklin & Marshall 56, Moravian 7		Belhaven 20, Brevard 7	
Frostburg St. 37, WV Wesleyan 0		Benedict 54, Allen 21	
Gallaudet 36, Alfred St. 22		Berry 63, Sewanee 14	
Gannon 25, California (Pa.) 13		Birmingham Southern 42, Centre 21	
Geneva 57, Thiel 20		Bridgewater (Va.) 13, Washington & Lee	
Glenville St. 38, Fairmont St. 36		6	
Hobart 63, Buffalo St. 7		Carson-Newman 38, Virginia-Wise 22	
Holy Cross 42, Lehigh 14		Charleston Southern 34, Robert Morris	
Husson 27, Nichols 14		21	
Indiana (Pa.) 45, Clarion 0		Chattanooga 31, The Citadel 21	
Ithaca 31, Union (NY) 28		Chowan 54, Elizabeth City St. 8	
Johns Hopkins 35, Dickinson 13		Davidson 56, Stetson 48, 2OT	
Keystone 21, SUNY Maritime 20	Dayton 52, Presbyterian 28		
Kings (Pa.) 14, Misericordia 0	Delaware St. 27, SC State 24, OT		
LIU Brooklyn 29, CCSU 20	E. Kentucky 42, Cent. Arkansas 14		
Lafayette 21, Colgate 16	Elon 27, Albany (NY) 3		
Lycoming 28, Widener 16	Emory & Henry 32, Erskine 0		
McDaniel 19, Gettysburg 16	Fayetteville St. 14, Winston-Salem 6		
Michigan 52, Rutgers 17	Florida A&M 30, Southern U. 16		
Middlebury 48, Hamilton 34	Florida St. 45, Miami 3		
Millersville 25, Bloomsburg 17	Fort Valley St. 31, Albany St. (Ga.) 21		
New Haven 50, Franklin Pierce 6	Georgia 27, Tennessee 13		
Penn 28, Cornell 21	Georgia St. 42, Southern Miss. 14		
Pittsburgh 19, Syracuse 9	Georgia Tech 28, Virginia Tech 27		
Plymouth St. 21, Mass. Maritime 7	Grambling St. 36, Ark.-Pine Bluff 10		
Princeton 17, Dartmouth 14	Guilford 26, Averett 0		
RPI 10, St. Lawrence 6	Hendrix 6, Rhodes 0		
Rhode Island 26, Maine 22	Huntingdon 34, NC Wesleyan 17		
Rochester 19, Hartwick 13	Kennesaw St. 44, UT Martin 27		
Rowan 27, Montclair St. 7	LSU 32, Alabama 31, OT		
S. Connecticut 44, Post 7	Lenoir-Rhyne 62, Catawba 10		
Salisbury 32, Kean 17	Limestone 34, Barton 28		
Seton Hill 7, Mercyhurst 0	Livingstone 26, Johnson C. Smith 20, OT		
Shepherd 37, East Stroudsburg 14	Louisiana Tech 40, Middle Tennessee 24		
Shippensburg 44, Lock Haven 7	Louisiana-Monroe 31, Texas State 30		
Slippery Rock 28, Edinboro 21	Louisville 34, James Madison 10		
Springfield 16, MIT 14	Marist 31, Morehead St. 21		
	Mars Hill 34, Tusculum 27		
	Marshall 12, Old Dominion 0		
	McNeese St. 29, E. Illinois 15		
	Methodist 48, Greensboro 23		
	Mississippi St. 39, Auburn 33, OT		
	NC A&T 49, Norfolk St. 24		
	NC Central 50, Howard 21		
	NC State 30, Wake Forest 21		
	Newberry 24, Wingate 15		
	North Carolina 31, Virginia 28		
	Randolph Macon 52, Ferrum 10		
	Richmond 40, New Hampshire 34		
	S. Virginia 35, Lagrange 21		
	SE Missouri 42, Tennessee St. 0		
	Samford 34, VMI 15		
	Savannah St. 44, Lane 38		
	Shaw 30, St. Augustines 27, 2OT		
	Shenandoah 23, Hampden-Sydney 7		
	Shorter 31, North Greenville 14		
	South Alabama 38, Georgia Southern 31		
	South Carolina 38, Vanderbilt 27		
	Tennessee Tech 35, Lindenwood (Mo.)		
	34		
	Tiffin 72, Kentucky Wesleyan 13		
	Trinity (Texas) 53, Millsaps 7		
	Troy 23, Louisiana-Lafayette 17		
	Tuskegee 26, Miles 23, 2OT		
	UCF 35, Memphis 28		
	UTSA 44, UAB 38, 2OT		
	Virginia Union 33, Virginia St. 21		
	W. Carolina 36, Wofford 29		
	W. Kentucky 59, Charlotte 7		
	West Florida 32, Valdosta St. 31, OT		
	West Georgia 52, Delta St. 42		
	William & Mary 20, Hampton 14		
	MIDWEST		
	Albion 35, Olivet 24		
	Alma 30, Adrian 10		
	Ashland 31, Lake Erie 23		
	Aurora 68, Lakeland 0		
	Baldwin Wallace 21, Heidelberg 20, OT		
	Bemidji St. 24, Northern St. 14		
	Bethel (Minn.) 30, Augsburg 27		
	Bluffton 27, Anderson (Ind.) 9		
	Carroll (Wis.) 26, Millikin 18		
	Carthage 37, Augustana (Ill.) 30		
	Cent. Missouri 40, Missouri Western 37,		
	20T		
	Central 61, Luther 13		
	Central St. (Ohio) 31, Kentucky St. 30		
	Chicago 60, Lawrence 0		
	Cincinnati 20, Navy 10		
	Coe 34, Nebraska Wesleyan 14		
	Concordia (Ill.) 34, Benedictine (Ill.) 26		
	Concordia (Moor.) 59, Hamline 0		
	Concordia (Wis.) 45, Wis. Lutheran 21		
	DePauw 72, Oberlin 0		
	Defiance 24, Manchester 21		
	Denison 28, Wooster 14		
	Dubuque 27, Loras 20, OT		
	Emporia St. 35, Lincoln (Mo.) 24		
	Ferris St. 28, Davenport 7		
	Findlay 20, Walsh 7		
	Fort Hays St. 27, Northeastern St. 14		
	Grand Valley St. 42, Wayne St. (Mich.) 14		
	Greenville 45, Finlandia 7		
	Gustavus Adolphus 49, St. Olaf 37		
	Hope 28, Trine 21		
	Indianapolis 48, William Jewell 14		
	Iowa 24, Purdue 3		
	Iowa St. 31, West Virginia 14		
	Kansas 37, Oklahoma St. 16		
	Kentucky 21, Missouri 17		
	Knox 31, Cornell (Iowa) 27		
	Lake Forest 36, Beloit 3		
	Macalester 54, St. Scholastica 35		
	Marietta 50, Capital 14		
	Martin Luther 10, Westminster (Mo.) 7		
	Michigan St. 23, Illinois 15		
	Michigan Tech 28, Hillsdale 24		
	Minn. Duluth 34, Augustana (SD) 24		
	Minn. St. (Moorhead) 21, Concordia		
	(St.P.) 20		
	Minnesota 20, Nebraska 13		
	Minnesota St. 45, SW Minnesota 24		
	Minot St. 17, Mary 10		
	Monmouth (Ill.) 39, Ripon 31		
	Mount St. Joseph 27, Franklin 20		
	Mount Union 34, John Carroll 28		
	Muskingum 27, Wilmington (Ohio) 13		
	N. Dakota St. 56, W. Illinois 17		
	NW Missouri St. 27, Missouri Southern 5		
	Neb.-Kearney 20, Cent. Oklahoma 18		
	North Central 68, Illinois Wesleyan 3		
	North Dakota 42, Indiana St. 7		
	North Park 23, Elmhurst 20		
	Northwestern (Minn.) 39, Crown (Minn.)		
	14		
	Notre Dame (Ohio) 27, UNC-Pembroke 0		
	Notre Dame 35, Clemson 14		
	Ohio Dominican 35, Northwood (Mich.)		
	24		
	Ohio Northern 42, Otterbein 7		
	Ohio St. 21, Northwestern 7		
	Ohio Wesleyan 14, Wittenberg 7		
	Penn St. 45, Indiana 14		
	Pittsburg St. 37, Washburn 23		
	Rose Hulman 47, Hanover 17		
	S. Dakota St. 31, N. Iowa 28		
	SW Baptist 42, Quincy 24		
	Saginaw Valley St. 30, N. Michigan 21		
	South Dakota 20, Missouri St. 13		
	St. John's (Minn.) 45, Carleton 16		
	St. Norbert 20, Eureka 7		
	St. Thomas (Minn.) 34, Valparaiso 7		
	Texas 34, Kansas St. 27		
	Truman St. 52, McKendree 7		
	Wabash 49, Kenyon 25		
	Warburg 81, Simpson 9		
	Wayne St. (Neb.) 31, Sioux Falls 24		
	Wheaton (Ill.) 42, Washington (Mo.) 35		
	Winona St. 45, Upper Iowa 7		
	Wis.-La Crosse 24, Wis.-River Falls 17		
	Wis.-Oshkosh 45, Wis.-Stevens Pt 0		
	Wis.-Platteville 38, Wis.-Eau Claire 14		
	Wis.-Whitewater 16, Wis.-Stout 7		
	Wisconsin 23, Maryland 10		
	Youngstown St. 19, Illinois St. 17		
SOUTHWEST			
	Abilene Christian 28, Tarleton St. 23		
	Angelo St. 22, Cent. Washington 12		
	Arkansas Tech 45, NW Oklahoma 20		
	Baylor 38, Oklahoma 35		
	E. Texas Baptist 17, Sul Ross St. 14		
	East Central 16, Ark.-Monticello 0		
	Florida 41, Texas A&M 24		
	Hardin Simmons 31, Austin 3		
	Harding 37, SW Oklahoma 29		
	Henderson St. 51, Oklahoma Baptist 24		
	Incarnate Word 73, Houston Christian 20		
	Jackson St. 41, Texas Southern 14		
	Liberty 21, Arkansas 19		
	Mary Hardin-Baylor 27, Howard Payne		
	24		
	Midwestern St. 41, Texas A&M Kingsville		
	37		
	North Texas 52, FIU 14		
	Northwestern St. 41, Texas A&M Com-		
	merce 14		
	Ouachita Baptist 40, SE Oklahoma 18		
	S. Nazarene 49, S. Arkansas 44		
	SE Louisiana 47, Lamar 31		
	SMU 77, Houston 63		
	TCU 34, Texas Tech 24		
	Texas Lutheran 21, Southwestern (Tex-		
	as) 17		
	Texas-Permian Basin 37, W. New Mexico		
	14		
	Tulane 27, Tulsa 13		
FAR WEST			
	BYU 31, Boise St. 28		
	Black Hills St. 38, Adams St. 7		
	Butler 26, San Diego 23		
	CSU-Pueblo 45, S.D. Mines 20		
	Chapman 65, California Lutheran 26		
	Claremont Mudd 42, Redlands 0		
	Colorado Mesa 38, Chadron St. 37, OT		
	Colorado Mines 54, N.M. Highlands 16		
	E. New Mexico 24, West Texas A&M 21		
	Fresno St. 55, Hawaii 13		
	George Fox 41, Lewis & Clark 20		
	Idaho 48, E. Washington 16		
	Linfield 65, Willamette 0		
	Montana 57, Cal Poly 0		
	Montana St. 41, N. Arizona 38		
	Oregon 49, Colorado 10		
	Pacific Lutheran 35, Puget Sound 10		
	Pomona Pitzer 43, Whittier 12		
	Portland St. 35, N. Colorado 21		
	Sacramento St. 33, Weber St. 30		
	San Diego St. 14, UNLV 10		
	San Jose St. 28, Colorado St. 16		
	Southern Cal 41, California 35		
	UC Davis 43, Idaho St. 3		
	UCLA 50, Arizona St. 36		
	Utah 45, Arizona 20		
	Utah St. 27, New Mexico 10		
	Utah Tech 48, S. Utah 36		
	W. Colorado 55, Fort Lewis 14		
	W. Oregon 32, Simon Fraser 7		
	Washington St. 52, Stanford 14		
	Whitworth 28, Pacific (Ore.) 17		

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



TYLER KAUFMAN/AP

LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels outruns Alabama defensive back DeMarcco Hellams for a two-point conversion during overtime of Saturday's game in Baton Rouge, La. LSU won 32-31.

Daniels, LSU top No. 6 Tide in OT

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — First-year LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels was unflappable in the face of an Alabama defense that sacked him six times.

First-year Tigers coach Brian Kelly made bold decisions while trying to capture a maiden victory over Nick Saban and the Crimson Tide.

Together, Daniels and Kelly helped produce a scene of sheer rapture at Death Valley — something that was hard to envision when the two joined a program coming off consecutive non-winning seasons.

Daniels ran for 25-yard touchdown in overtime and then found Mason Taylor for a do-or-die two-point conversion, and 15th-ranked LSU seized control of the SEC West race with 32-31 victory over No. 6 Alabama on Saturday night.

"I had never beaten Alabama," Kelly said. "I was emotional, not for myself, but I was emotional for our team. Because I know what we looked like in January and to see where we are today, that's pretty emotional."

Jubilant fans stormed the field after LSU (7-2, 5-1 Southeastern Conference) triumphed in a riveting game that included six second-half lead changes and a tying field goal

by Alabama in the final 30 seconds.

Alabama (7-2, 4-2) began overtime with the ball and took a 31-24 lead on Roydell Williams' second touchdown of the game.

But Daniels needed one play to score and force a decision by Kelly to try to tie it with a kick or let the Arizona State transfer try to win it.

"If you asked me before the game started, 'Hey, I'm going to give you one play and if you are successful on that one play you are going to beat Alabama,' I would have taken it 100 times out of a hundred," Kelly said. "At that moment, it kind of hit me that way. I knew we had a really good play that we hadn't used and (Alabama) hadn't seen. When you get (Daniels) out on the perimeter you truly have a threat. So I felt really good about the play."

The winning play began with Daniels rolling right before throwing to Taylor along the goal line. Taylor was tackled at the pylon but with the ball narrowly across the goal line.

"I felt comfortable with the play," Daniels said, adding the he, like Kelly, didn't want a second overtime. "If it wasn't there, hopefully I could make something of it with my legs. But I was able to give Mason a ball he could catch and the rest is history."

Daniels passed for 182 yards and two touchdowns, and also ran for 95 yards and a score.

No. 1 Georgia shuts down Hooker, No. 2 Tennessee

BY CHARLES ODUM
Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — In the biggest games, Stetson Bennett seems to rise to the occasion and above his often more heralded counterparts.

Bennett threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score as No. 1 Georgia shut down Hendon Hooker and the Vols' high-powered offense to win a Southeastern Conference showdown of the nation's top-ranked teams 27-13 Saturday.

After leading the Bulldogs to a national title last season, Bennett improved to 23-3 as a starter at Georgia.

"Competitive excellence, competitive toughness," said Georgia coach Kirby Smart when asked about Bennett's ability to shine on the grandest stages.

"He's a winner. Let's be honest. The guy knows how to win."

Bennett passed for 257 yards, completing 17 of 25 passes. He had a 13-yard scoring run in the matchup against Hooker, regarded as a Heisman Trophy favorite. Maybe Bennett should be now?

Bennett insisted his only motivation was for the team's hopes of returning to the SEC championship game, not for his personal validation "because at the end of the day we're playing for the East and if we lost it's a lower percentage we're playing in Atlanta."

Added Bennett: "I don't really care about quarterback vs. quarterback."

Georgia (9-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) turned the 25th regular-season matchup of the top two teams in the AP poll into a rout that made clear the defending national champions are still the team to beat.

"I kind of feel like it was a statement win," said Georgia wide receiver Ladd McConkey, who had five catches for 94 yards and a touchdown.

In a deafening and soggy Sanford Stadium, Georgia led 27-6 before



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Georgia running back Daijun Edwards runs away from Tennessee defensive back Doneiko Slaughter after making a catch on Saturday.

fore Tennessee scored its first touchdown with 4:15 remaining.

Hooker, whose Heisman hopes were bolstered by a win over Alabama last month, passed for only 195 yards for Tennessee (8-1, 4-1). Hooker was sacked six times by star defensive tackle Jalen Carter and the Bulldogs.

Tennessee wide receiver Jalin Hyatt said Georgia's defense was "way more physical than Alabama."

Georgia's special teams put more pressure on Tennessee. Punter Brett Thorson nailed a 75-yarder that went out of bounds at the Tennessee 1 in the first quarter. Jack Podlesny kicked two field goals.

Hooker threw an interception, lost a fumble that nearly resulted in a safety for Georgia and didn't throw a touchdown pass.

"They are a great ball team," Hooker said. "They played ex-

tremely hard, and they got the win today. We have got to clean some things up. It is a learning process."

The Volunteers came in averaging almost 50 points per game.

The Volunteers rode that Alabama victory to the top spot in the first College Football Playoff ranking. Georgia was No. 3 in last week's CFP ranking.

That will change Tuesday.

The Vols were held to two first-half field goals as Georgia took a 24-6 halftime lead. Rain in the second half made it only more difficult to move against the Bulldogs' defense.

Bennett threw scoring passes of 37 yards to McConkey and 5 yards to Marcus Rosemy-Jacksaint in the first half.

There were more big plays in Georgia's passing game. Bennett had completions of 52 yards to Arrian Smith and 49 yards to running back Kenny McIntosh.

Air Force tops Army for CIC trophy

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Brad Roberts carried it 33 times for 135 yards, Camby Goff intercepted a pass with 19 seconds left and Air Force edged Army 13-7 on Saturday at Globe Life Field for its first Commander in Chief's trophy since 2016.

Air Force was stopped for a loss on a third-and-3 run near midfield with 1:46 left, giving Army a chance at a game-winning touchdown drive. The Black Knights converted one fourth

down on the drive, but threw an interception on fourth-and-2 as Goff cut in front of Ay'Jaun Marshall along the Army sideline for his third pick of the season.

The Falcons clinched a record 21st trophy — awarded to the academy with the best record in the round-robin competition.

"It's a good place for it to be," Air Force coach Troy Calhoun said about the trophy coming back to Colorado Springs. "Now you have to earn it. It's not easy to do."

Haaziq Daniels was 6-for-13 passing for 98 yards with an interception and he carried it 14 times for 89 yards and a touchdown for Air Force (6-3), which also beat Navy 13-10 on Oct. 1.

Daniels' 17-yard touchdown early in the third quarter gave Air Force a 10-7 lead and Matthew Dapore made his second short field goal to cap the scoring with 12:06 left in the fourth.

Jemel Jones passed for 67 yards and rushed for 37 and a touchdown for Army (3-5).



EMIL LIPPE/AP

Air Force safety Camby Goff (11) celebrates intercepting an Army pass during the fourth quarter of Saturday's game in Arlington, Texas.

WORLD SERIES



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Astros rookie shortstop Jeremy Peña holds the MVP trophy after Saturday's 4-1 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 6 of the World Series in Houston.

Peña 1st rookie to win MVP

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jeremy Peña's key to success was keeping his head dry.

Capping a freshman season like no other, he became the first rookie position player to win a World Series MVP award Saturday night after hitting .400 in the Houston Astros' six-game victory over the Philadelphia Phillies.

"The hardest part was just blocking everything that's not part of the game," Peña said. "There's a saying that you can't sink a ship with water around. It sinks if water gets inside. So I just try to stay strong and keep the water outside my head."

Peña also won a Gold Glove and was the AL Championship Series MVP. The 25-year-old shortstop became the first hitter to win those three prizes in a career, according to OptaSTATS — and he did it all in his rookie season.

"It has a lot to do with my family, my upbringing," he said.

Peña praised Dusty Baker, the Astros' 73-year-old manager. When Baker made his major league managerial debut for San Francisco on April 6, 1993, the leadoff hitter for the other team was Peña's father, St. Louis Cardinals second baseman Gerónimo Peña.

"Dusty Baker's a legend in the sport," Jeremy Peña said. "Not just because he's been around. He's had success at this game. He brings the best out of his players. He gives you the confidence to just go out and play hard and let the game take care of itself."

Peña finished the postseason with a .345 batting average, four homers, eight RBIs and a 1.005 OPS. He also became the first rookie shortstop to win a Gold Glove.

Alvarez's blast lifts Astros to title

Houston manager Baker earns his first championship

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Yordan Alvarez hit a moon shot that sent Space City into a frenzy, and the Houston Astros to their second World Series title.

While the stain on Houston's first championship might never completely fade, Alvarez's majestic three-run homer helped fashion a fresh crown for the Astros — and the first for Dusty Baker as manager — in a 4-1 win over the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 6 on Saturday night.

"What happened before, it doesn't ever pass over completely," said Baker, the veteran manager hired by the Astros in the wake of their sign-stealing scandal. "But we have turned the page and hopefully we'll continue this run."

Alvarez blasted a ball over the 40-foot batter's eye in center field during the sixth inning immediately after Phillies starter Zack Wheeler was pulled with a 1-0 lead.

As Alvarez's 450-foot shot sailed, Astros starter Framber Valdez jumped and wildly screamed in the dugout while the crowd of 42,958 went crazy waving orange rally towels.

"When I was rounding second base, I felt the whole stadium moving," Alvarez said through a translator.

The 73-year-old Baker finally got his first title in his 25th season as a manager. He's spent the past three with the Astros after they hired him to help the team regain credibility after their trash can banging scheme cost manager A.J. Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow their jobs, and made Houston the most reviled team in baseball.

"I wasn't here in 2017, but it's definitely a weight off of everybody's shoulders. Ain't nobody can say (anything) now," said closer Ryan Pressly, who finished the Series with another scoreless inning.

Baker, who won a World Series as a player with the Los Angeles Dodgers and had been to the Fall Classic twice before as a skipper, is the oldest championship manager in any of the four major North American sports. The win came 20 years after a near-miss, when he came within five outs of taking the title while guiding the San Francisco Giants.

"What's next? I said if I win one, I want to win two," Baker said afterward.

Houston's coaching and training staffs circled around Baker af-



TONY GUTIERREZ, ABOVE, AND DAVID J. PHILLIP, BELOW/AP

Above: Astros left fielder Yordan Alvarez celebrates with third-base coach Gary Pettis after hitting a three-run home run during the sixth inning of Game 6 of the World Series against the Philadelphia Phillies on Saturday in Houston. Below: Manager Dusty Baker Jr. and the Astros celebrate their title.



ter Nick Castellanos fled out to end it, jumping up and down, and chanting "Dusty! Dusty! Dusty!" in the dugout before they joined the players on the field.

Astros rookie shortstop Jeremy Peña was the World Series MVP after getting another key hit, a single to set up Alvarez's drive.

The 25-year-old star born in the Dominican Republic also won a Gold Glove award and AL Championship Series MVP — Peña is the first hitter to win those three awards in a career, and he did it all in his first season, per OptaSTATS.

A year after watching the Atlanta Braves clinch the World Series title at Minute Maid Park, the Astros went 11-2 in the postseason and became the first team to seal the championship at home since the 2013 Boston Red Sox.

Alvarez homered for the first time since going deep in the first two games this postseason. Christian Vázquez added an RBI single later in the inning to make it 4-1.

Valdez earned his second win of this Series. He had been in the dugout only a few minutes after throwing his 93rd and final pitch while striking out nine over six innings.

But the lefty had walked off the mound with the wild-card Phillies up 1-0 on Kyle Schwarber's homer leading off the sixth.

Schwarber, who hit his third homer in the past four games, rounded the bases waving his raised empty hand in the same motion as the fans with their towels.

But by the time Schwarber batted in the eighth, the NL's home run leader was reduced to bunting, trying for a hit to stir a dormant Phillies offense. His bunt went foul with two strikes, resulting in a strikeout.

In the sixth, Houston got two runners on base against Wheeler for the first time in the game, when Martín Maldonado was hit by a pitch, Jose Altuve grounded into a forceout and Peña singled.

Phillies manager Rob Thomson

went to left-handed reliever José Alvarado to face the lefty slugger for the fourth time in the series — Alvarez had popped out twice and been hit by a pitch the first three times.

"I thought Wheels still had really good stuff. It wasn't about that. It was just I thought the matchup was better with Alvarado on Alvarez at that time," Thomson said.

And Alvarado had allowed only three homers to lefty hitters in his six big league seasons, until his 2-1 pitch, when Alvarez crushed the 99 mph sinker.

Houston won an American League-best 106 games and reached its fourth World Series during a span in which it made it to the AL Championship Series six seasons in a row. The Astros made their only other World Series appearance in 2005, while still in the National League, and were swept in four games by the Chicago White Sox.

This was their third ALCS and second consecutive World Series since former Astros pitcher Mike Fiers revealed after the 2019 season, when he had been gone from Houston for two years since being part of their 2017 championship, that the team had used a camera in center field to steal signs and signal hitters on which pitches to expect by banging on a garbage can.

Philadelphia was 22-29 when Joe Girardi was fired in early June and replaced by bench coach Thomson, the 59-year-old baseball lifer getting his first chance as a big league manager — he was on the Yankees big league staff for 10 seasons with Girardi, and was part of their last World Series and title in 2009.

SPORTS



Top Dawgs

Bennett, No. 1 Georgia win showdown with No. 2 Vols » College football, Page 22

The Astros celebrate their 4-1 World Series victory against the Philadelphia Phillies in Game 6 on Saturday in Houston. The Astros won the series 4-2.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

WORLD SERIES



Astros close it out

Alvarez's sixth-inning blast helps Houston claim second title

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LAFC edges Union in shootout for MLS crown » Page 20

