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'Putin's chef' admits to interfering in American elections

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NFC is upside down midway through season

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3 US soldiers helped save lives during fatal crush in S. Korea >> Page 3

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

N. Korea has sights on US, South targets with launches

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's military said Monday its recent barrage of missile tests were practices to "mercilessly" strike key South Korean and U.S. targets such as air bases and operation command systems with a variety of missiles that likely included nuclear-capable weapons.

The North's announcement underscored leader Kim Jong Un's determination not to back down in the face of his rivals' push to expand their military exercises. But some experts say Kim also used their drills as an excuse to modernize his nuclear arsenal and increase his leverage in future dealings with Washington and Seoul.

North Korea fired dozens of missiles and flew warplanes toward the sea last week — triggering evacuation alerts in some South Korean and Japanese areas — in protest of massive U.S.-South Korean air force drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

U.S. and South Korean officials responded that they would further enhance their joint training events and warned the North that the use of nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's regime.

"The recent corresponding military operations by the Korean People's Army are a clear answer of (North Korea) that the more persistently the enemies' provocative military moves continue, the more thoroughly and mercilessly the KPA will counter them," the General Staff of North Korea's military said in a statement carried by state media.

It said the weapons tests involved ballistic missiles loaded with dispersion warheads and underground infiltration warheads

SEE TARGETS ON PAGE 3



TWITTER

A drone vessel roughly the size of a kayak reportedly washed ashore on the Crimean Peninsula coast close to Russia's main naval base near Sevastopol in September. About a month later, Ukraine attacked Russia's Black Sea Fleet in port using aerial and surface drones.

Ukrainians make waves

Drone attack may be precursor to new maritime fight with Russia

By **ALISON BATH**
Stars and Stripes

Ukraine's recent attack in Crimea on Russia's Black Sea Fleet in port reveals glimpses of how the war with Moscow could develop if Kyiv makes a concerted push to retake the peninsula, naval analysts said.

The early morning drone offensive Oct. 29 also provides lessons for the U.S. Navy and its allies as they build future strategies for bases and shipyards, where billion-dollar assets will need protection from such attacks.

Details about the effectiveness of the aerial and surface strikes on ships in Sevastopol Bay

RELATED

Power partially restored in Russian-occupied Kherson following 'terrorist attack'
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remain under wraps, as do the defenses Russia employed against them.

But the frigate Admiral Makarov, which replaced the sunken Moskva as Black Sea Fleet flagship, and at least one other vessel may have

been significantly damaged, CNN reported Oct. 31, citing unidentified U.S. and Russian sources.

The Ukrainians appear to be testing what works against the Russians, and success here could mean greater willingness to go on offense at sea, said Alessio Patalano, a senior lecturer in war studies at King's College London.

The recent attack may come to represent "a fundamental shift in sea denial intended as a purely defensive measure" into a more active, attacking strategy of denying Russia effective

SEE WAVES ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Apple: iPhone supplies hurt by anti-virus curbs in China

Associated Press

BEIJING — Apple Inc. is warning customers they'll have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models after anti-virus restrictions were imposed on a contractor's factory in central China.

The company announcement Sunday gave no details but said the factory operated by Foxconn in the central city of Zhengzhou is "operating at significantly reduced capacity."

"We now expect lower iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max

shipments than we previously anticipated," the company said. "Customers will experience longer wait times to receive their new products."

Foxconn Technology Group said earlier it imposed anti-virus measures on the factory in Zhengzhou following virus outbreaks. Apple and Foxconn previously hadn't responded to questions about how iPhone production might be affected.

Last week, access to the industrial zone where the factory is lo-

cated was suspended for one week following a surge in infections in Zhengzhou and the departure of workers from the factory.

The lockdown is expected to cause further disruptions to the plant, which in recent weeks has seen a spate of coronavirus infections and an exodus of workers, some of whom fled the factory on foot.

Foxconn said in a statement that it is revising its outlook for this quarter downward due to the lockdown.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 8)	\$0.97	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
Dollar buys (Nov. 8)	0.9763	Britain (Pound)	1.1456
British pound (Nov. 8)	\$1.09	Canada (Dollar)	1.3513
Japanese yen (Nov. 8)	144.00	China (Yuan)	7.2254
South Korean won (Nov. 8)	1,373.00	Denmark (Krone)	7.4482
		Egypt (Pound)	24.3496
		Euro	0.9989
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499
		Hungary (Forint)	400.88
		Israel (Shekel)	3.5448
		Japan (Yen)	146.46
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3095
		Norway (Krone)	10.2900
		Philippines (Peso)	58.40
		Poland (Zloty)	4.69
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7578
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.4034

South Korea (Won)	1395.67
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9904
Thailand (Baht)	37.35
Turkey (New Lira)	18.5824

(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.)

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	6.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	3.83
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	4.25

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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PACIFIC

US soldiers save lives during surge in S. Korea

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Three U.S. soldiers are heralded as heroes in South Korea for rescuing people from the deadly crowd surge that killed more than 150 people Oct. 29 in Seoul.

Jarmil Taylor, Dane Beathard and Jerome Augusta were in Itaewon, the popular entertainment district in Seoul, for Halloween festivities that night, Agence France-Presse reported on Oct. 30. All three are stationed at the Army's Camp Casey, a spokesman for 2nd Infantry Division told Stars and Stripes by phone.

The three reportedly grew concerned with the size of the crowd, which Korean National Police estimated at around 100,000 people. The soldiers began pulling people out of the crowd, they told AFP.

"There were people on top of people — it was layers of people," Taylor told AFP. "They didn't have enough people there to help



DAVID CHOI/STARS AND STRIPES
A vigil at Osan Air Base on Friday remembered victims of the fatal crowd surge in nearby Seoul, South Korea, on Oct. 29.

them at once."

Lt. Col. Ryan Donald, spokesman for the 2nd ID, confirmed that the three soldiers are with the division at Camp Casey, but he otherwise declined comment on the AFP report. Stars and Stripes was unable to reach the three for com-

ment.

At least 156 people died as a result of the crowd surge. Most of the victims were in their 20s, according to South Korea's Central Disaster Security Countermeasure Headquarters. Twenty-six of the victims were foreigners, including two Americans.

An unidentified South Korean man from Cheongju told Yonhap News that he believed one of the three soldiers rescued him after he was crushed for 15 minutes. One of the soldiers "rescued him from the crowd as if pulling radishes from a field," the unidentified man said, according to a Yonhap report Thursday.

"The circumstances of the Itaewon disaster and rescue activities that the three U.S. soldiers revealed in their interviews are exactly identical to what I experienced," the man reportedly said.

Other U.S. soldiers were at the scene of the tragedy. Military police stationed in nearby Yongsan

Garrison were conducting a routine, courtesy patrol and assisted with crowd control and provided first aid, U.S. Forces Korea spokesman Wesley Hayes told Stars and Stripes.

All USFK service members, Defense Department civilian and local employees were accounted for after a check that began Sunday morning, Hayes told Stars and Stripes by email Monday. He would not comment, citing privacy concerns, on whether any USFK personnel were injured.

USFK offered its condolences Oct. 30 to "everyone impacted by last night's tragic event in Seoul, especially with the families who have lost loved ones and those who were injured," according to a USFK post on Twitter.

"The Itaewon community has opened its arms to us for many years and is part of the reason our alliance is so strong," the statement said. "During this time of grief, we will be there for you just

as you have been there for us."

Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek held a vigil attended by a small group of service members Friday afternoon for the victims of the Itaewon tragedy.

"Katchi kapshida means 'we go together,' and in times like this we will stand by our host nation in support, reflection and healing," according to a post Wednesday on Osan's official Facebook page.

The South Korean government will examine future festivals and conduct crowd management inspections, according to a press release Monday from Vice Minister for Disaster and Safety Management Kim Sung-ho.

"Once again, I pray for the souls of those who have passed away in this incident, express my consolation to their bereaved families and wish those injured a rapid recovery," Kim said.

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Targets: Tests lead to US, South Korea enhancing training

FROM PAGE 1

meant to launch strikes on enemy air bases; ground-to-air missiles designed to "annihilate" enemy aircraft at different altitudes and distances; and strategic cruise missiles that fell in international waters about 50 miles off South Korea's southeastern coastal city of Ulsan.

The North's military said it also carried out an important test of a ballistic missile with a special functional warhead missioned with "paralyzing the operation command system of the enemy." This could mean a simulation of electromagnetic pulse attacks, but some observers doubt whether North Korea has mastered key technologies to obtain such an attack capability.

The North's military statement didn't explicitly mention a reported launch Thursday of an intercontinental ballistic missile aimed at hitting the U.S. mainland, though its main newspaper published a photo of an ICBM-like weapon as one that was used during last week's testing activities.

Some experts say many other North Korean missiles launched

last week were short-range nuclear-capable weapons that place key military targets in South Korea, including U.S. military bases there, within striking range.

Later Monday, South Korea's military disputed some of the North's accounts of its missile tests. Spokesperson Kim Jun-rak said South Korea didn't detect the North's cruise missile launches and that it's also notable that North Korea didn't mention what Seoul assessed as an abnormal flight by an ICBM.

This year's "Vigilant Storm" air force drills between the United States and South Korea were the largest-ever for the annual fall maneuvers. The drills involved 240 warplanes including advanced F-35 fighter jets from both countries. The allies were initially supposed to run the drills for five days ending on Friday, but extended the training by another day in reaction to the North's missile tests.

On Saturday, the final day of the air force exercises, the United States flew two B-1B supersonic bombers over South Korea in a display of strength against North Korea, the aircraft's first such flyover since December 2017.

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.

After their annual meeting Thursday in Washington, U.S. De-

fense Secretary Lloyd Austin and South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-Sup issued a joint statement strongly condemning the North's recent launches and carrying Austin's warning that any nuclear attacks against the United States or its allies and partners "is unacceptable and will result in the end of the Kim regime." South Korea's military has previously warned the North that using its nuclear weapons would put it on a "path of self-destruction."

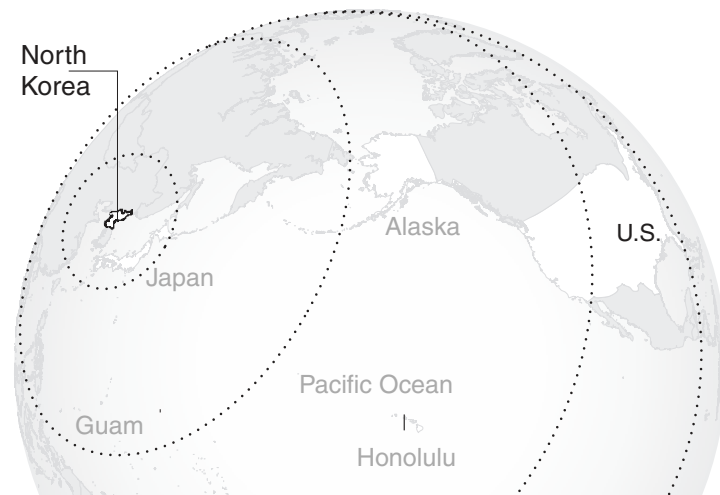
Both defense chiefs also agreed on the need to enhance combined exercises and training events to strengthen readiness against North Korean nuclear and missile threats. Even before the "Vigilant Storm" drills, North Korea test-launched a slew of missiles in what it called simulated nuclear attacks on U.S. and South Korean targets in protests of its rivals' other sets of military exercises that involved U.S. aircraft for the first time in five years. In September, North Korea also adopted a new law authorizing the preemptive use of its nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations.

South Korean and U.S. officials have steadfastly maintained their drills are defensive in nature and that they have no intentions of invading the North.

U.S. and South Korean militaries have been expanding their regular drills since the May inauguration of conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who has promised to take a tougher stance on North Korean provocations. Some of the allies' drills had been previously downsized or

Estimated range of North Korea's missiles

The ballistic missile inventory includes mobile systems designed to be fired from various vehicles and submarines. North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missiles have a range greater than 10,000 kilometers.



New SRBM	Hwasong-12 IRBM	Hwasong-14 ICBM	Hwasong-15 ICBM
>600 km	4,500	>10,000	>12,000
>372 miles	2,796	6,214	7,456

SOURCE: U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency Report, AP NOGA AMI-RAW/Stars and Stripes

canceled to support now-stalled diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear program or to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

For months, South Korean and U.S. officials have said North Korea has completed preparations to conduct its first nuclear test in five years. On Monday, South Korean Unification Minister Kwon Youngse told lawmakers that North Korea could carry out the nuclear test at any time but there were still no signs that such a test explosion was imminent.

The North's recent weapons tests came as it has struggled to overcome pandemic-related hardships. Russian officials said last week that they restarted train services with North Korea following more than 2½ years of suspension caused by the pandemic. Spokespeople of Russia's Far Eastern Railway told the state-run news agency last Wednesday that the first resumed train headed to North Korea carried 30 pedigreed horses and the next train were to carry medicines.

Correction

Stories on Oct. 31 and Nov. 4 about F-22 Raptors moving to Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, mistakenly referred to the F-15C/D as the Strike Eagle. The F-15E model is called the Strike Eagle.

PACIFIC

DODEA student doubles as competitive skater

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOHAMA, Japan — Among a dozen figure skating pupils on the ice at the Kose Shin Yokohama Skate Center on Thursday nights is a 9-year-old girl from Naval Air Facility Atsugi who has been skating for almost as long as she could walk.

Off the ice, Ava Jade Gurski, of Goodyear, Ariz., is an outgoing, unreserved and amiable student at NAF Atsugi's Shirley Lanham Elementary School. On the ice, however, she is riveted, concentrated and quiet as she sharpens her skills. That attitude earned her 15 medals in 15 competitions since she began skating at age 3.

Her biggest successes include four first place wins in U.S.-based competitions in 2019, including the Las Vegas Silver State Open and

the 2019 Autumn Classic, her mom, Jennifer Gurski, told Stars and Stripes on Oct. 22.

Since moving with her mother to Japan in 2020, Ava Jade said she's faced much more serious competition and must work harder to place in Japanese events. In two competitions in Yokohama so far, she placed 14th in August and seventh in October.

Her next competition will be in April at the Kose Shin Yokohama Skate Center, Jennifer Gurski said.

Ava Jade's coach, Nozomi Watanabe, 51, of Tokyo, is an Olympic skater who placed 15th in the 2006 Winter Games in Turin, Italy. She acknowledged the differences between Japanese and American skating programs.

"I think it's still a little difficult for her, because it's a little bit different in the United States," Wata-

nabe said Oct. 20. "I think in Japan it's a little bit stricter, and a bit more structured."

The challenges haven't dampened Ava Jade's spirit, however.

"Sometimes it's hard, and sometimes it's easy," she said. "But when you fall, you just get back up."

Jennifer Gurski, 53, a supervisor for NAF Atsugi's Counseling Advocacy Program, and her husband, Wade Gurski, 49, a Marine Corps veteran and private contractor working with the Defense Department in Kuwait, both said Ava Jade tried gymnastics before moving to ice skating at age 3. She found that she has a natural talent for the sport.

"She just loved it, and it stuck," Jennifer Gurski said.

Wade Gurski said his daughter is the best skater he's ever seen on the



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Ava Jade Gurski, 9, of Naval Air Facility Atsugi, practices at Kose Shin Yokohama Skate Center, on Oct. 20.

ice. He gets to Japan only a few weeks every year but each time he returns he sees Ava Jade improving noticeably.

"She always just seemed flawless to me," he told Stars and Stripes by phone in September. "I can't see any mistakes; I think she does everything perfectly. Watching her just makes me so proud."

Ava Jade said she plans to continue skating for the foreseeable future, and she's working on mastering several types of jumps and spins. She also wants to encourage other kids to give the sport a try.

"Skating is really fun," she said.

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Yokota Special Olympians shine with strong support

By KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — At the Special Olympics event at this airlift hub in western Tokyo, more than 17 volunteers turned up for every Olympian from the U.S. military and Japanese communities in the Tokyo area.

That's about 900 volunteers behind 52 young American and Japanese athletes competing at the Yokota High School and elsewhere at Yokota Air Base on Saturday.

"This event showcases the dedication of this community, volunteers, families and, most importantly, the athletes," Col. Andrew L. Roddan, commander of the 374th Airlift Wing, said during the 8:20 a.m. opening ceremony for the 43rd Kanto Plains Special Olympics.

Many Japanese athletes, precluded from attending the event the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, were back in action. The event itself was canceled in 2020.

Kaori Sugimoto, of Tokyo, said her daughter Nanami Sugimoto, who is in elementary school, was taking part in her fourth Special Olympics.

"My daughter likes coming to the events, especially participating in basketball," Sugimoto said.

The day's events included soccer, basketball, a 50-meter dash, disc throw and soccer shoot at the high school; swimming at the Yokota Natatorium; and bowling at the base lanes.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Lucas Paasch, 29, of Portland, Ore., was a volunteer coordinator this year, his first as a volunteer for the Special Olympics.

"I just thought it'd be a great cause," Paasch told Stars and Stripes at the event. "I saw the opportunity and I wanted to be part of something bigger."

A lot of preparation went into the event, he said.



KELLY AGEE/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Staff Sgt. Bevon Williams, 28, of Harlem, N.Y., cheers for athletes during the medal ceremony Saturday during the Kanto Plains Special Olympics at Yokota Air Base, Japan.

"I made a lot of phone calls to different bases and schools to recruit teachers, students and military member volunteers for this event," Paasch said. "I also helped book the facilities and ensure they had enough materials including T-shirts and hats."

Volunteers at the event cheered the athletes, grilled food, wiped down the sporting equipment and acted as buddies to support and guide the athletes in their individual events.

One buddy, Staff. Sgt. Dennis Dexter, 39, of Estacada, Ore., of the 374th Maintenance Squadron at Yokota, was another first-time Special Olympic volunteer.

"I see it every year and everybody looks like they are out here having a great time," Dexter told Stars and Stripes. "So, I thought

might as well join in."

Dexter escorted athlete Yamato Hashimoto to every event and cheered him on. Hashimoto participated in softball, disc throw and the award ceremony at the end. Dexter was most excited about Hashimoto's chances in the softball throw.

"I think he might have a pretty good arm," Dexter said.

Another volunteer, Staff Sgt. Bevon Williams, 28, of Harlem, N.Y., with the 374th Medical Group at Yokota, helped with the disc throw by handing the athletes their discs and helping score the event. She also placed the medals onto the winning athletes at the medal ceremony.

"This is a good cause," Williams said. "They are amazing. They're great athletes.

We had a lot of strong-armed people here and they all did a great job. It looks like they're having a good time and as long as they're having a good time, I'm having even a greater time."

Athlete Jessica McKinstry, 23, of Tokyo, competed in bowling, softball throw, disc throw and soccer. Her mother, Katsumi McKinstry, said they have been taking part in the event for years.

"She loves the bowling event," Katsumi said.

Daisy Elliot, daughter of Cynthia and Stacey Elliot, Defense Department civilian employees, has competed every year since 2019, when they arrived at Yokota.

"We love this event," Stacey Elliot, of Dallas, said. "It's a chance for Daisy to come out and compete, have fun and it's a great opportunity for Daisy to meet other athletes, the other Special Olympians. We absolutely love it."

Daisy Elliot, 16, a student at Yokota High School, is diagnosed with autism, her father said.

"It's very difficult for her to communicate with our peer group and meet friends," her mother said. "But at this event she is like a superstar."

The running events are Daisy Elliot's favorites, and she placed second in the 50-meter dash, but she also competed in soccer, basketball and the disc throw, Stacey Elliot said.

"These events are really good for her," Stacey said. "She feels the sense of reward when she competes. Those are some of the things that the therapists, you know, can't really teach because when you're doing the therapy, you don't have a crowd around you cheering you. So, she kind of feeds off of that and it encourages her so it's really a good learning method for her."

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MILITARY

Toxic screening to expand to enrolled vets in US

By SARA SAMORA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs on Tuesday will expand toxic screening to all veterans enrolled in its health care system in the United States under a new law that expands eligibility for care and benefits for those exposed to burn pits and other toxins, agency officials announced Monday.

“These screenings are an important step toward making sure that all toxic-exposed veterans get the care and benefits they deserve,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said in a prepared statement. “At the end of the day, these screenings will improve health outcomes for veterans — and there’s nothing more important than that.”

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, seeks to provide an easier path to health care and benefits for veterans who served near open-air burn pits, which were used throughout the 1990s and the post-9/11 wars to burn garbage, jet fuel and other materials.

The new law also required the VA to incorporate a screening to help determine potential toxic exposures during their active-duty service as part of a health care screening for veterans enrolled in the agency’s health care system.

When veterans visit their primary care provider, whether it’s for a yearly wellness checkup or a cold, they will be asked questions about potential exposure to burn pits or other hazards commonly associated with military environmental exposure.

In September, the VA tested the



SARA SAMORA/Stars and Stripes

Terrence Hayes, Department of Veterans Affairs press secretary and Army veteran, takes part in a demonstration of the VA’s new toxic screening on Thursday, with Dr. Joel Nations, a Navy veteran and deputy chief of staff for operations at the Washington DC Veterans Administration Medical Center.

toxic exposure screening at 12 VA medical centers. The VA then made modifications to the screening after receiving feedback from its health care workers, general counsel, leaders and congressional staffers. The screening also has been presented to leaders of its Healthcare Operations Center, which is responsible for collecting, analyzing, planning and disseminating information to its stakeholders.

VA press secretary Terrence Hayes said a multi-disciplinary team of clinicians, informatics, IT experts, union representatives, representatives from VA’s Health

Outcomes Military Exposures Office, VA’s Disability and Medical Assessment, project managers, and others developed the toxic exposure screening clinical reminders and recommendations.

The VA said more than 19,000 veterans were screened during the testing phase to ensure it prioritized the veteran experience and centered on veteran needs. Moreover, the agency said it found a 37% concern for exposure among the veterans who were screened.

The screening can take a minimum of five minutes. However, Hayes, a retired Army veteran who deployed to Iraq from Decem-

ber 2006 to March 2008, took part in a screening demonstration Thursday. He said the screening can take longer, depending on how veterans answer the questions. Based on the answers, their primary care provider will then recommend a consultation for a follow-up care appointment such as lab tests.

“The results will help VA understand the scope of the issue and monitor veterans for related illnesses, help VA better care for veterans and steer VA research on combat toxins,” Hayes said in a prepared statement.

After veterans complete their

toxic exposure screening, they will receive print materials that provide information about the types of toxic exposures, how to get involved in the VA’s health registries such as the burn pit registry and submit a claim, presumptive conditions, and connect with a VA health care team.

Rosie Torres, co-founder and executive director of the advocacy group Burn Pits 360, said the VA’s quick screening is concerning and it’s just a first step in connecting veterans to experts and resources.

Torres’ husband, Army Reserve veteran LeRoy Torres, deployed to Iraq and returned with constrictive bronchiolitis, a respiratory disease that consists of inflammation of small airways. He also has toxic brain injury and autoimmune issues. Torres began the efforts to lobby for legislation 13 years ago.

“It is our moral obligation to provide our veterans with proper treatment and benefits,” Torres said. “Veterans are still sick and dying, and we owe them the right to life. We need more than a 10-minute exam. We need specialized health care and technology that will tell our warfighters what the next few years mean for them and their families. Every day we wait is another flag draped over a coffin.”

Veterans who want a toxic screening can contact their local primary care provider through VA’s secure message or call 1-800-MyVA411 and press 8.

Veterans who are not enrolled in the VA health system but want a toxic screening can apply at <https://www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction>.

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Army sergeant killed in motorcycle crash

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A sergeant assigned to a Special Forces unit died Friday after his motorcycle crashed into a car at an intersection in Chatan town, Okinawa, according to Japanese police.

Army Sgt. Nathaniel Ballor, 25, assigned to 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Torii Station in Yomitan, was northbound on Route 58 at 7:11 p.m. when his Suzuki collided at a controlled intersection in Sunabe with a Toyota bB, an Okinawa police spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday. Ballor was pronounced dead at 8:05 p.m. at a local hospital, the spokesman said.

A native of Sterling Heights, Mich., Ballor “was a valued teammate, son, and brother. All of 1st

Group mourns for him, his family, and friends,” group commander Col. Benjamin Jahn said in a statement emailed to Stars and Stripes on Monday. “He was a great friend and soldier who will be missed.”

The Toyota driver, Kazuaki Namizato, 67, was also treated at a hospital but appeared uninjured, police said. Namizato was southbound when he turned right, into the intersection, and collided with Ballor, police said.

The spokesman declined to comment on the traffic light that controlled the intersection. He said police are checking dashcams from other vehicles at the scene as part of their investigation. Namizato is not in custody, the spokesman said.

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

Ballor enlisted in November

2017 and was designated as a wheeled vehicle mechanic, the Army said. He served with 5th Battalion, 73rd Cavalry Regiment and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, with whom he deployed to Afghanistan from 2019 to 2020.

He arrived on Okinawa as the scheduled-maintenance noncommissioned-officer-in-charge, the Army said. Ballor’s awards include the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster and the Army Achievement Medal with a C device for combat and six oak leaf clusters.

He is survived by his father, Christopher Ballor; mother, Melissa Spain; and half brother Barrett Nelson, according to the Army.

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US military spouse held by Okinawa police after crash

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A U.S. service member’s spouse was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving following a crash Friday that injured another driver, according to Japanese police.

Okinawa police alleged that Kishalyn Livingston, 38, rear-ended a vehicle stopped for a red light around 1:15 a.m. Friday on Route 58 in the Kuwae area of Chatan, a police spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone on Monday.

Police officers nearby heard the crash and rushed to the scene, the spokesman said. They reported that Livingston was shouting and “clearly drunk.” She was still in police custody Monday, the spokesman said.

The other driver was taken to a local hospital and treated for backaches, the spokesman said.

Livingston refused to take a Breathyzer test at the time of her arrest, the spokesman said. Police took a blood sample eight hours later and, using a formula, determined her blood-alcohol level at the time of the incident was 0.24%, eight times Japan’s legal limit of 0.03%.

Police said Livingston admits striking the vehicle but denies driving drunk. Police have not yet decided whether to refer the case for prosecution.

Police did not know the branch with which Livingston’s spouse serves.

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EUROPE

Kyiv region still struggles after Russian retreat

By SAM MEDNICK
Associated Press

MOSCHUN, Ukraine — Standing amid the wreckage of his home, Vadym Zherdetsky shows photos on his phone of how it once looked: handsome rooms, a hand-carved wooden bed and a chest of drawers he intended to leave to his grandchildren.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, two missiles struck the house in the tiny village of Moschun on the outskirts of Kyiv, the capital, ripping off the roof and nearly killing four family members. The town was recaptured from Russian forces in April, but Zherdetsky's house, like many others in the Kyiv region, remains in ruins.

"Everything changed. Our lives changed," the 51-year-old said, wiping away tears. "Thank God it was only property, and we are alive and healthy. ... I don't know where our kids and grandkids will live. I don't know anything."

More than six months after Russian forces retreated from the towns around Kyiv, residents of those communities are still struggling to rebuild their lives. An estimated 1 million people — half the number who fled the region — have returned, according to local authorities. But many no longer have jobs, cannot afford to fix their houses and say they need more assistance.

Nearly \$350 billion is needed for reconstruction across the war-ravaged country, and that amount is expected to grow, according to a report in September by Ukraine's government, the European Commission and the World Bank.

Burdened with the fighting and frequent Russian attacks on the country's power system, the Ukrainian government is straining to carry out the most urgent repairs to civilian residences. This month it plans to send 1,000 crews to do as much work as possible before winter, including fixing 117 high-rise buildings in the Kyiv region, the area's military administration said.

People submit photos of their destroyed homes to a government app to receive compensation. However, large-scale reconstruction — such as the \$300,000 that Zherdetsky estimates is needed to repair his house — has yet to begin.

Moschun, with a population of about 1,000, was hit hard at the start of the war. Approximately 37 people were killed and 160 homes destroyed, residents say. The town was occupied by Russian troops for nearly six weeks.

Walking through the debris, Zherdetsky nostalgically points to the carefully constructed archways he designed to allow two of his grandchildren to ride through on their scooters at the same time.



ANDREW KRAVCHENKO/AP

Vadym Zherdetsky is seen through a window of his house, which was destroyed by fighting in the village of Moschun, outside Kyiv, Ukraine, on Friday.

He and his wife have moved to a cramped space above a convenience store they own on the edge of town. He's now earning about 10 times less than he did before Russia's invasion, because prices have spiked and people don't have money to spend. The drop in income has prevented him from buying building materials and warm clothes ahead of winter, he said.

Reconstruction is challenging, especially since 60% of the country's budget is allocated for the war, Oleksiy Kuleba, head of the Kyiv region military administration, told The Associated Press.

"The Kyiv region is bombarded with missiles and drones ... We understand that everything is not happening as quickly as we would like, but 28,000 objects were damaged in the region. We will rebuild them all," said Kuleba, who said housing is a priority.

Moscow is targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure to drive the nation into the cold of the impending winter. Since early October, it has destroyed approximately 40% of the country's energy system, forcing Ukraine to impose rolling blackouts while racing to stabilize the grid.

The strikes drew a warning from the mayor of Kyiv, who said that residents should be prepared for the worst this winter, including the threat of having no electricity, water or heat.

Worried that the energy system will not hold, the government is urging Ukrainians who fled the country not to return until after winter, said Iryna Vereshchuk, the minister for the reintegration of the Russian-occupied territories.

Analysts warn that displaced people should be cautious about

going back to areas around Kyiv that have been regained by Ukraine because some are not yet fully secure, especially with Russia's military buildup in neighboring Belarus, which poses a risk of a renewed invasion from the north.

In the quest for assistance, Ukraine "still struggles to mobilize donors for rapid rebuilding and necessary security measures," said Orysia Lutsevych, head of the Ukraine forum at Chatham House, a London-based think tank.

Some aid groups are trying to help those who have returned. The International Committee of the Red Cross gave two generators to help Moschun cope with power cuts, as well as insulation to help prepare buildings for the fast-approaching cold, said Achille Despres, committee spokesman in Ukraine.

Waves: Attack could signal shift in Ukraine's maritime strategy

FROM PAGE 1

use of the seas, Patalano said.

Sea denial wouldn't give Ukraine maritime control but would hinder Russian reinforcement of the Crimean Peninsula, which was illegally annexed by Russia in 2014.

"For Crimea to go, the Russians cannot be feeling like they can move troops and assets around using the (backside) of that theater," Patalano said.

Early on Oct. 29, the chief executive of the Crimean city of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, posted on the social media site Telegram that the city was under siege by several aerial and surface drones, the Russian news agency Tass reported the same day.

Razvozhayev later said that no city facilities were hit and that all was calm.

Ukraine has not publicly talked about the operation. However, Russia called the action a terrorist attack and suspended its participation in an agreement allowing export of Ukrainian grain in the Black Sea.

The Russians said Wednesday, however, that they will return to the agreement, The New York Times reported the same day.

Observers point out that the technique of attacking ships in port, along the coast or at a chokepoint such as a strait with a manned or unmanned boat filled with explosives is a well-worn maritime strategy.

For example, an attack on a Saudi frigate in the Red Sea in 2017 by Houthi rebels was carried out by an unmanned, remote-controlled boat, the U.S. Navy told Defense News at the time.

Ukraine's attack on Russian military assets and facilities in Crimea follows a strike on an airfield north of Sevastopol in August and the bombing of a bridge in early October that connects the peninsula to mainland Russia, noted Bryan Clark, director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Defense Concepts and Technology.

Those efforts force the Russians to collapse their lines or fortify their defenses in Crimea, taking troops and units away from other fronts, he said.

"The other part of it, though, is to start softening up the Russian defenses on Crimea in preparation for some later operation," Clark said. "There are a couple of things at play here in terms of Ukraine's actions against Crimea itself."

It's likely that Ukraine would

launch a similar destabilizing attack if the opportunity arose, but it's unclear how Russia would respond, he said. Having been burned already, the Russians likely will fortify the port.

The attacks also serve to bolster the image of Ukraine's battlefield prowess and ability to maintain the fight as the war moves into the winter months, when international support may falter, Clark and other analysts say.

"(The drone attack also) drives home the point to the West that there is a maritime component of this conflict and one where naval drones play a significant role," said Sebastian Bruns, a 2022 Fulbright scholar in residence at the U.S. Naval Academy and maritime expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The takeaway for the U.S. Navy

and its NATO allies may be to rethink defense where they believe they are the safest, particularly in the North Atlantic or the Mediterranean Sea, Patalano said.

There also is the need for the U.S. and the West to better explore how aerial, surface and underwater drones can enhance existing assets, Patalano and Bruns said.

Ukraine's use of surface drones demonstrates that to fight a war at sea, cruisers, aircraft carriers or small and large surface combatants aren't always needed, Bruns said.

"All you need in this scenario is an armed vehicle that looks very much like it's commercial off the shelf ... that's paired with innovation and maybe ingenuity to create some real problems for a fleet," Bruns said.

EUROPE

Power being partially restored in occupied Kherson

By ANDREW MELDRUM
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian-appointed authorities say they are working to partially restore power in the occupied Ukrainian city of Kherson following what they have called a Ukrainian “terrorist attack” on power lines.

The southern city in the region that Moscow illegally annexed in September was cut off from power and water supplies on Sunday following damage to three power lines.

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the pro-Kremlin administration of the partially occupied Kherson region, said Monday that “power and connectivity is being partially restored” in Kherson city. The alleged attack occurred on the Berislav-Kakhovka power line, and Russian state media reported on Sunday that the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station had also been damaged by Ukrainian strikes.

Ukrainian officials haven’t responded to the allegations.

Stremousov has repeatedly called for civilians to evacuate from Kherson — which lies on the western bank of the Dnieper River — to Russian-controlled territory on the eastern bank in anticipation of a major Ukrainian counteroffensive to retake the strategic port city. Tens of thousands of civilians have already left the regional capital after being ordered to evacuate the area in October in the face of the Ukrainian counteroffensive that



ANDREW KRAVCHENKO/AP

People play a piano in a street during a blackout in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Sunday. The capital had hourly rotating blackouts Sunday in parts of the city and the surrounding region.

has retaken around 88 settlements in the region, or around 13% of territory previously held by Russian forces.

A daily update from Ukraine’s presidential office on Monday said that Russian soldiers in plainclothes have been moving into apartments in Kherson that civilians had left during the evacuation. One Kherson resident told The Associated Press that Russian military personnel were going door to door, checking

property deeds and forcing tenants to leave immediately if they can’t prove ownership of apartments.

Last month, Ukraine’s Southern Operational Command reported that occupying Russian forces in the Kherson region had been purposefully shutting off electricity and water and depriving the population of internet access in order to force them to evacuate.

Yet on Monday, the region’s Russian-in-

stalled administration announced it was halting “the movement of civilian vehicles across the Dnieper by water and pontoon ferry,” citing “increased military danger” and threats to civilians.

Russia has focused on striking Ukraine’s energy infrastructure over the last month, causing power shortages and rolling outages across the country. The capital, Kyiv, was having hourly rotating blackouts Sunday in parts of the city and the surrounding region.

To repair the energy system, experts say that Ukraine needs high-voltage transformers and distribution and communication equipment, and that the deliveries must be systematic.

“It is important that there are constant, not one-time deliveries,” Gennadii Riabtsev, chief researcher on energy security at the National Institute for Strategic Studies, told the AP.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation Sunday that about 4.5 million people were without electricity across the country.

Meanwhile, in another annexed region, Donetsk, Russian-installed officials accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the regional capital, also called Donetsk, with HIMARS rocket launchers early on Monday. Ukrainian authorities have not commented on the incident. The city of Donetsk has been controlled by Russian-backed separatists since 2014.

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NATION

Republicans sue to disqualify thousands of mail-in ballots

BY AMY GARDNER
AND EMMA BROWN
The Washington Post

Republican officials and candidates in at least three battleground states are pushing to disqualify thousands of mail ballots after urging their own supporters to vote on Election Day, in what critics are calling a concerted attempt at partisan voter suppression.

In Pennsylvania, the state Supreme Court has agreed with the Republican National Committee that election officials should not count ballots on which the voter neglected to put a date on the outer envelope — even in cases when the ballots arrive before Election Day. Thousands of ballots have been set aside as a result, enough to swing a close race.

In Michigan, Kristina Karamo, the Republican nominee for secretary of state, sued the top election official in Detroit last month, seeking to toss absentee ballots not cast in person with an ID, even though that runs contrary to state requirements. When asked in a recent court hearing, Karamo's lawyer declined to say why the suit targets Detroit, a heavily Democratic, majority-Black city, and not the entire state.

And in Wisconsin, Republicans won a court ruling that will prevent some mail ballots from being counted when the required wit-

ness address is not complete.

Over the past two years, Republicans have waged a sustained campaign against alleged voter fraud. Experts say the litigation — which could significantly affect Tuesday's vote — represents a parallel strategy of suing to disqualify mail ballots based on technicalities. While the rejections may have some basis in state law, experts say they appear to go against a principle, enshrined in federal law, of not disenfranchising voters for minor errors.

The suits coincide with a systematic attempt by Republicans — led by former President Donald Trump — to persuade GOP voters to cast their ballots only on Election Day. Critics argue that the overall purpose is to separate Republicans and Democrats by method of voting and then to use lawsuits to void mail ballots that are disproportionately Democratic.

"They're looking for every advantage they can get, and they've calculated that this is a way that they can win more seats," said Sylvia Albert, director of voting and elections for Common Cause, a nonpartisan democracy advocacy organization. "Research has shown that absentee ballots are more likely to be discarded if they are voted by young people and people of color, which are not generally seen as the Republican



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

After months of primaries, campaign events and fundraising, the midterm elections that will determine the balance of power in the U.S. Capitol in Washington and state capitals are here.

base."

Albert said legal battles over mail ballot eligibility have the potential to delay results and even change outcomes. In some cases, the disputes could wind up before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The potential for chaos is especially high in Pennsylvania, where the legal fight is ongoing and could influence or postpone the outcome in some of the state's tightest races, including a contest that could determine control of the U.S. Senate.

Republican National Committee spokeswoman Emma Vaughn said in a statement that the committee sued in Pennsylvania "because we are simply asking for counties to follow the state law, which by the way, dozens of Democrats supported."

"We look forward to continuing our legal actions to ensure that elections are administered in ac-

cordance with this bipartisan rule of law," Vaughn added.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf, a Democrat, issued a statement Sunday night in which he asserted that "no voter should be disenfranchised simply because they made a minor error in filling out their ballot."

"This was not a controversial concept in our country or our commonwealth until recently, with the rise of the Big Lie and the efforts to spread mis- and disinformation in the days leading up to the general election," Wolf continued. "I urge counties to continue to ensure that every vote counts."

Election officials are braced for a repeat of a protracted standoff following Pennsylvania's May primary between state officials and three counties — Berks, Fayette and Lancaster — that refused to include undated ballots in their certified results.

Wolf's administration sued those counties in July to force them to include the ballots, the majority of which were cast by Democrats, court records show. In August, a state judge ordered the counties to include "all lawfully cast ballots," including those with missing dates, in their certified results.

Republicans then successfully persuaded the state Supreme Court to reverse that policy for the general election in a decision released last week.

The state court deadlocked on whether rejecting the ballots was a violation of voters' federal civil rights.

Common Cause and others quickly filed a federal suit seeking to overturn the state court ruling on the grounds that rejecting ballots over a technical error violates the Civil Rights Act. The case remains pending.

'Putin's chef' admits to interfering in US elections, plans to continue

Associated Press

Kremlin-connected entrepreneur Yevgeny Prigozhin admitted Monday that he had interfered in U.S. elections and would continue to do so — confirming for the first time the accusations that he has rejected for years.

"We have interfered, are interfering and will continue to interfere. Carefully, precisely, surgically and in our own way," Prigozhin, 61, said in remarks posted on social media.

The statement, from the press service of his catering company that earned him the nickname "Putin's chef," came on the eve of U.S. midterm elections in response to a request for comment.

It was the second major admission in recent months by the businessman who has ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Prigozhin has previously sought to keep his activities under the radar and

now appears increasingly interested in gaining political clout.

In September, he also publicly stated that he was behind the Wagner Group mercenary force — something he also had previously denied — and talked openly about its involvement in Russia's war in Ukraine. The military contractor also has sent its forces to Syria and sub-Saharan Africa.

Video also has emerged recently of a man resembling Prigozhin visiting Russian penal colonies to recruit prisoners to fight in Ukraine.

In 2018, Prigozhin and a dozen other Russian nationals and three Russian companies were charged in the U.S. with operating a covert social media campaign aimed at fomenting discord and dividing American public opinion ahead of the 2016 presidential election won by Republican Donald Trump. They were indicted as part of spe-

cial counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference.

The Justice Department in 2020 moved to dismiss charges against two of the indicted firms, Concord Management and Consulting LLC and Concord Catering, saying they had concluded that a trial against a corporate defendant with no presence in the U.S. and no prospect of meaningful punishment even if convicted would likely expose sensitive law enforcement tools and techniques.

In July, the State Department offered a reward of up to \$10 million for information about Russian interference in U.S. elections, including on Prigozhin and the Internet Research Agency, the troll farm in St. Petersburg that his companies were accused of funding. Prigozhin had denied involvement in election interference until now.

Police say man meddled with voting machine in Colo.

Associated Press

DENVER — A Colorado man who is a registered Democrat has been arrested on suspicion of tampering with voting equipment by allegedly inserting a USB thumb drive into a voting machine at a polling station during the primary election in June, authorities said.

No elections data were accessed, and the June 28 incident didn't cause any major disruption to voting, authorities said. But it heightened concerns among election officials and security experts that conspiracy theories related to the 2020 presidential election could inspire some voters to meddle with — or even attempt to sabotage — election equipment.

Experts say even unsuccessful breaches could become major problems in the days leading up to and on Tuesday's midterm election, causing delays at polling places or sowing the seeds of mis-

information campaigns.

Richard Patton, 31, of Pueblo was arrested Thursday by members of the Pueblo Police Department High-Tech Crime Unit for investigation of tampering with voting equipment, a felony, and cybercrime-authorized access, a misdemeanor, the department said in a statement.

Gilbert Ortiz, Pueblo County's clerk and recorder, confirmed Friday that Patton has been a registered Democratic voter since 2019, when he switched his affiliation from the Green Party.

Election officials in Colorado use locks and tamper-evident seals on voting equipment, so it becomes clear if someone tries to access it. Trigger alerts make machines inoperable if someone tries to tamper with them, which is what happened in Pueblo, according to Ortiz and the Colorado Secretary of State's office.

NATION

At global summits, Biden aims to assert leadership

By ZEKE MILLER
AND SEUNG MIN KIM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden will aim to assert America's global leadership during his upcoming trip to Southeast Asia that will be shadowed by a verdict on his presidency after Tuesday's elections.

The foreign policy challenges that have helped define Biden's first two years in office — Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the increasing influence of China — will be on full display at a pair of summits in the region. Biden is preparing for a potential one-on-one meeting with a newly empowered Xi Jinping, who last month won a custom-shattering third term as China's Community Party leader.

Biden will also be confronted by global economic challenges at the Group of 20 summit, an annual gathering of leaders from the world's largest economies. He also will try to assure the nearly dozen countries that are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that the United States is invested in the region at a time when China is also stepping up its influence.

The ASEAN summit is in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Bali, Indonesia, is the site of the G-20

summit.

Before that, Biden will stop in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, at the U.N. climate conference, known as COP27. Unlike last year's conference in Glasgow, Scotland, the president will arrive at this year's gathering able to point to significant achievements at home, with the August signing of legislation that will deliver the biggest investment in U.S. history to battle climate change.

A look at some major themes that will dominate Biden's seven-day trip. The first stop is in Egypt on Friday.

■ **Keeping the pressure on Russia:** More than eight months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Biden is facing new challenges in his efforts to isolate Moscow. Elevated energy and food prices, and concerns in Europe about supplies of those vital commodities heading into the winter are testing global resolve to support Ukraine's defense and punish Russia's aggression.

At the G-20 summit, Biden will have his first opportunities to meet with two critical new partners in that effort: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni.

Sunak, who took office last month after the disastrously short tenure of Liz Truss, has promised

to continue his conservative predecessors' steadfast support for Ukraine. He and Biden are set to strategize on new ways to bolster Ukraine's defenses for the long haul.

Meloni has pledged to continue to provide arms and aid for Ukraine, but questions remain over her far-right coalition's commitment to stand up to Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has not made public whether he plans to participate in the summit. Biden has said he has no plans to meet with Putin, but left the door open to a conversation if Putin wants to discuss a deal to free Americans imprisoned in Russia.

■ **Navigating the autocrats:** Biden has spoken of a global struggle between autocracies and democracies. But increasingly he is having to rely on less-democratic leaders to further U.S. interests, from Egypt's Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who is hosting the climate conference, to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has resisted U.S. pleas to curtail purchases of Russian oil.

Biden used his remarks at the United Nations in September to emphasize that the U.S. was willing to work with all nations — no matter their systems of government — to effect change.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Joe Biden participates in the U.S.-ASEAN Special Summit to commemorate 45 years of U.S.-ASEAN relations at the State Department in Washington, May 13.

The administration says Biden has no plans to meet with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, after the OPEC+ cartel embarrassed Biden by cutting production months after his July meeting with the crown prince. Biden has blasted the move as indicating that Saudi Arabia was siding with Russia.

■ **Domestic politics:** American voters on Tuesday will deliver a verdict on Biden's governance and two years of Democratic control of Washington. It's not clear how quickly control of the House and Senate will be known after Election Day. The White House has persistently sought to frame the midterms as a choice between dueling visions for the nation, rather than a referendum on Biden's time in office.

Democrats are privately bracing to lose control of at least the

House. A slew of Senate races that could tip power in the 50-50 chamber are considered toss-ups. Depending on the results, Biden could embark on his overseas trip significantly weakened politically.

The most acute impact abroad from Tuesday's results in the United States could be the future of assistance to Ukraine. Though backing for aid has been broadly bipartisan, conservatives have increasingly voiced skepticism about the wisdom of continued support, as has California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the Republican leader who is poised to become House speaker should Republicans win that chamber.

Still, some observers believed the midterm outcome, no matter the judgment, would have no significant impact on Biden's maneuvering overseas.

Teen who killed her rapist escapes from probation center

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Iowa authorities say an 18-year-old sex trafficking victim who pleaded guilty to killing a man she said raped her escaped from a women's center where she was serving her probation sentence.

Pieper Lewis was seen walking out of the building at the Fresh Start Women's Center in Des Moines shortly after 6:15 a.m. Friday, and at some point that day her GPS monitor was cut off, according to a probation violation report.

A warrant was issued for Lewis' arrest and the probation report asked for her deferred judgment to be revoked and have her original sentence imposed, KCCI reported. She could face up to 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors had called the probation sentence she was given in September merciful for a teen who endured horrible abuse, although some questioned the \$150,000 restitution she was ordered to pay. A GoFundMe campaign raised over \$560,000 to cover the restitution and pay for her other needs.

Polk County Judge David Porter told Lewis that her probation sentence "was the second chance you asked for. You don't get a third," the Des Moines Register reported.

If Lewis had successfully completed five years of closely supervised probation her prison sentence



ZACH BOYDEN-HOLMES/AP

Pieper Lewis gives her allocution during a sentencing hearing Sept. 13 in Des Moines, Iowa.

would have been expunged.

Lewis pleaded guilty last year to involuntary manslaughter and willful injury in the June 2020 killing of 37-year-old Zachary Brooks, a married father of two. Lewis was 15 when she stabbed Brooks more than 30 times in a Des Moines apartment.

Lewis has said that she was trafficked against her will to Brooks for sex multiple times and stabbed him in a fit of rage. Police and prosecutors did not dispute that Lewis was sexually assaulted and trafficked.

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of sexual assault, but Lewis agreed to have her name used previously in stories about her case.

Jackson, in dissent, issues 1st Supreme Court opinion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson has issued her first Supreme Court opinion, a short dissent Monday in support of a death row inmate from Ohio.

Jackson wrote that she would have thrown out lower court rulings in the case of inmate Davel Chinn, whose lawyers argued that the state suppressed evidence that might have altered the outcome of his trial.

Jackson, in a two-page opinion, wrote that she would have ordered a new look at Chinn's case "because his life is on the line and given the substantial likelihood that the suppressed records would have changed the outcome at trial."

The evidence at issue indicated that a key witness against Chinn has an intellectual disability that might have affected his memory and ability to testify accurately, she wrote.

Prosecutors are required to turn over potentially exculpatory evidence to the defense. In this

case, lower courts determined that the outcome would not have been affected if the witness' records had been provided to Chinn's lawyers.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor was the only other member of the court to join Jackson's opinion. The two justices also were allies in dissent Monday in Sotomayor's opinion that

there was serious prosecutorial misconduct in the trial of a Louisiana man who was convicted of sex trafficking.

Jackson joined the high court on June 30, following the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer, her onetime boss.

The court has yet to decide any of the cases argued in October or the first few days of this month. Jackson almost certainly will be writing a majority opinion in one of those cases.



Jackson

NATION

Museum returns sacred items to Sioux tribes

Associated Press

BARRE, Mass. — About 150 artifacts considered sacred by the Lakota Sioux peoples are being returned to them after being stored at a small Massachusetts museum for more than a century.

Members of the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes traveled from South Dakota to take custody of the weapons, pipes, moccasins and clothing, including several items thought to have a direct link to the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre in South Dakota.

They had been held by the Founders Museum in Barre, Mass., about 74 miles west of Boston. A public ceremony was held Saturday inside the gym at a nearby elementary school that included prayers by the Lakota representatives. The artifacts will be officially handed over during a private ceremony.

“Ever since that Wounded Knee massacre happened, genocides have been instilled in our



PHIL MARCELO/AP

Leola One Feather, left, of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota, observes as John Willis photographs Native American artifacts on July 19 at the Founders Museum in Barre, Mass.

blood,” said Surrounded Bear, 20, who traveled to Barre from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, according to The Boston Globe. “And for us to bring back these artifacts, that’s a step to-

wards healing. That’s a step in the right direction.”

The ceremony marked the culmination of repatriation efforts that had been decades in the making.

“It was always important to me to give them back,” said Ann Meilus, president of the board at the Founders Museum. “I think the museum will be remembered for being on the right side of history for returning these items.”

The items being returned are just a tiny fraction of an estimated 870,000 Native American artifacts — including nearly 110,000 human remains — in the possession of the nation’s most prestigious colleges, museums and even the federal government. They’re supposed to be returned to the tribes under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Museum officials have said that as a private institution that does not receive federal funding, the institution is not subject to NAGPRA, but returning items in its collection that belong to Indigenous tribes is the right thing to do.

More than 200 men, women, children and elderly people were

killed in the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Congress issued a formal apology to the Sioux Nation a century later for one of the nation’s worst massacres of Native Americans.

The Barre museum acquired its Indigenous collection from Frank Root, a traveling shoe salesman who collected the items on his journeys during the 19th century, and once had a road show that rivaled P.T. Barnum’s extravaganzas, according to museum officials.

Wendell Yellow Bull, a descendant of Wounded Knee victim Joseph Horn Cloud, has said the items will be stored at Oglala Lakota College until tribal leaders decide what to do with them.

The items being returned to the Sioux people have all been authenticated by multiple experts, including tribal experts. The museum also has other Indigenous items not believed to have originated with the Sioux.

Trial set for Civil War reenactor charged with leaving a pipe bomb

Associated Press

WINCHESTER, Va. — A federal trial for a former Civil War reenactor accused of planting a pipe bomb at a Virginia battlefield and threatening to disrupt other events has been set for next year.

Gerald Leonard Drake, 63, had been on the docket for a jury trial in U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia starting Dec. 16. Last week, however, a judge ordered that the proceedings be rescheduled for July to give defense attorneys more time to prepare, The Winchester Star reported.

A federal indictment unsealed last month accused Drake of planting a pipe bomb at Cedar Creek Battlefield, about 80 miles west of Washington, during an annual reenactment in October 2017. The pipe bomb did not detonate and was rendered safe by police. But it resulted in the cancellation of the reenactment after its discovery.

The indictment also charges Drake with writing letters threatening violence at subsequent Cedar Creek reenactments as well as at an annual Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, Pa. Drake has pleaded not guilty.

According to Judge Elizabeth Dillon’s order, his trial is now scheduled for July 10 to Aug. 4, 2023.

Drake is being held without bond in the Central Virginia Regional Jail, the newspaper reported. His attorney, Donald Pender of Charlottesville, filed a motion last week asking that Drake be released until trial.

The motion says that since a prior detention hearing, all firearms were removed from his home. It also says that Drake has dietary restrictions due to allergies, acid reflux and ulcers, and that the jail has stopped accommodating those restrictions.

“He is currently only able to eat bread, water, and some fruit. In



GINGER PERRY, THE WINCHESTER STAR/AP

Union troops fire upon advancing Confederate troops during a reenactment of the Civil War Battle of Cedar Creek on Oct. 18, 2015, at the Cedar Creek battlefield just south of Middletown, Va.

addition, his dentures have recently broken, and the jail has been unable to fix them, which further limits what he can eat,” the filing says.

Christopher Kavanaugh, the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia, has said Drake

falsely claimed connections to antifa — short for “anti-fascists” and an umbrella term for far-left-leaning militant groups — in his threatening letters to hide his actual identity and create additional political angst.

In reality, according to the in-

dictment, Drake was a Civil War reenactor who regularly participated in events at Cedar Creek until he was expelled from his unit in 2014.

The indictment does not say that his expulsion motivated his alleged misconduct.

Dog walker’s killer is sentenced to life in prison with no parole

Associated Press

DENVER — A man convicted of using an AK-47 to kill a woman and wound her boyfriend as they walked their dog has been sentenced to life in prison.

A judge sentenced Michael Close on Friday to a life term without the

possibility of parole in the death of Isabella Thallas, 21, and added an additional 48-year sentence for the attempted murder of Darian Simon.

Prosecutors alleged Close got into a “verbal exchange” with the couple over a command they used

to get their dog to relieve itself outside Close’s apartment near Coors Field on June 10, 2020.

Close yelled out the window at the couple as they urged the dog to “go potty” before getting the AK-47, which he had taken from a friend who was a Denver police ser-

geant, The Denver Post reported. Prosecutors said he fired 24 times.

Close had pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity but jurors convicted him in September of first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and two counts of first-degree assault.

Close’s public defender, Sonja Prins, said then that Close had suffered a mental break, and that an abusive childhood, a string of job losses, a breakup and the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to his poor mental health at the time of the shooting.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

State warns of foraging bears amid crop failure

CT HARTFORD — Wildlife officials in Connecticut are warning residents to be especially vigilant about feeding bears this fall, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, a widespread acorn crop failure has reduced the amount of a food bears normally depend on as they try to put on as much weight as possible to prepare for winter hibernation. During their power-eating spree, known as hyperphagia, bears need to eat at least 20,000 calories per day.

DEEP officials said the lack of acorns could cause bears to forage through trash and seek out human-associated food. In a statement released Friday, they cautioned residents to never purposely feed bears, to wait until December, when bears are in their dens, to put out bird feeders and to store garbage in secure, airtight containers in closed garages or storage areas.

Wildlife officials have already recorded 69 incidents of bears breaking into homes this year, surpassing the previous record of 45 in 2020.



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

What's up, dock?

Fog blankets boats docked at the Bay Bridge Marina as Jared DeLeon works on dismantling a dock Friday in Stevensville, Md.

Bus driver guilty of assault after choking passenger

OR BEND — A fired bus driver in Oregon accused of choking a Black passenger to unconsciousness because the man was not wearing shoes has been found guilty of strangulation and assault.

A Deschutes County jury on Wednesday found Michael Brinster guilty of choking and assaulting Dorian Allstot and not guilty of menacing, The Bulletin reported.

The six-person jury returned the verdict after about four hours of deliberation over the 2020 incident that was caught by bus surveillance footage, according to Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel.

Brinster, who is white, contended he was defending himself against Allstot. The jury decided Brinster was not justified in the level of force he used against Allstot.

Brinster was fired after the incident. His sentencing is scheduled for Nov. 18.

Authorities say at least 5 dead in murder-suicide

MD LA PLATA — A 28-year-old man is suspected of killing his ex-girlfriend, two of her relatives and another man inside a Maryland home before fatally shooting himself, authorities said Saturday.

The five deceased individuals were found inside the La Plata residence Friday afternoon when an unidentified homeowner arrived after work, the Charles County

Sheriff's Office said in a news release Saturday afternoon.

According to a preliminary investigation, the sheriff's office said Andre Sales, 28, entered the home and killed his ex-girlfriend, 21-year-old Sara Mann; her brother, Kai Mann, 18; their mother, Sommaly Mann, 48; and another man who was inside, Javon Watson, 23, of White Plains.

Sales, who lived at a different residence, then shot himself with a gun that was later recovered, according to the sheriff's office.

Man bitten by deputy K-9; guns seized from home

IL GRAYSLAKE — A man accused of threatening to shoot people had guns and ammunition seized from his northern Illinois home, and was bitten by a law enforcement dog as deputies tried to place him under arrest, authorities said.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office said in a news release Saturday that relatives of the 49-year-old man reported that he had threatened to shoot them, and shoot anyone who attempted to remove him from his home. The man was taken into custody Friday night following a traffic stop near his home in Grayslake, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago.

A sheriff's office dog bit the man on his arm as he reached into his clothing when deputies told him he was under arrest, the news release said. A loaded pistol was found in the area he was reaching, according to the sheriff's office.

THE CENSUS

38 The number of people who were injured, two critically, in a fire at a high-rise apartment building in New York City caused by a faulty battery, fire officials said. The blaze broke out Saturday morning in the 37-story building on East 52nd Street in Manhattan, near the East River. Videos posted online showed people hanging out of apartment windows as firefighters used ropes to scale the building and smoke poured out of a window. Some residents above the floor where the fire started escaped to the roof, fire officials said. At a news conference, FDNY Commissioner Laura Kavanagh said the fire started in a 20th-floor apartment from a lithium battery connected to an unspecified micromobility device.

Authorities searched his home and seized high-powered and assault-style rifles, shotguns, pistols and ammunition. Investigators believe the man was prepared for a shootout with law enforcement based on the placement of the guns in the home, the news release said.

Assault of student leads to hate crime charge

OH CINCINNATI — An Ohio man is now facing a federal hate crime charge in an alleged assault on an Asian American student at the University of Cincinnati last year.

Darrin Johnson, 26, of Cincinnati, was arrested Thursday following his indictment by a federal grand jury, the U.S. attorney's office in the southern district of Ohio said.

Federal prosecutors said the victim was outside on a campus street preparing to go for a run in August of last year when a man began directing racial comments and threats at him while referring to the COVID-19 virus, including

"Go back to your country. ... You brought the kung flu here. ... You're going to die for bringing it."

The indictment alleges that he then punched the victim on the side of the head, causing the victim to fall and hit his head on the bumper of a parked car. The victim's injuries included a minor concussion and facial lacerations, prosecutors said.

Museum fires man who wore Hitler costume

WI MADISON — The Madison Children's Museum has fired a Wisconsin man with cognitive disabilities after he wore an Adolf Hitler costume over the Halloween weekend.

The museum said the man believed he was making a mockery of the Nazi Party's leader when he wore the costume on a busy street near the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus on Saturday. He was fired Tuesday night, after his costume was condemned on social media and by some news outlets, including The Jerusalem Post.

The museum also said the man

has cognitive disabilities due to a traumatic brain injury and that his work over the last decade has been supervised.

The Madison Police Department called the costume "offensive and reprehensible," but said wearing it was not a crime. Police said they told the man about the concerns his costume raised.

Security guard charged with raping woman

OR PORTLAND — A man working as a loss prevention officer for a Rite Aid store in Portland, Ore., has been charged with raping a woman he accused of shoplifting.

Daniel Luis Cassinelli, 43, was arraigned Wednesday on four counts of first-degree rape, first-degree sodomy and two counts of first-degree sex abuse, Multnomah County District Attorney Mike Schmidt said.

The charges stem from 2015 when Cassinelli was working at the Rite Aid and allegedly accused a woman in the store of shoplifting.

Cassinelli allegedly escorted her to a secluded room, used his position of authority and the threat of reporting her to police to make her feel that she was unable to leave. Cassinelli then subjected her to non-consensual sex acts, Schmidt said. He then allegedly escorted her back to the main store upstairs and allowed her to leave.

WORLD

UN chief tells climate summit to cooperate or perish

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**
Associated Press

SHARMEI-SHEIKH, Egypt — The only way to “put an end to all this suffering” from “a highway to climate hell” is for the world to cooperate or perish, dozens of leaders were admonished as they gathered Monday for international climate talks.

More than 100 world leaders will speak over the next few days to try deal with a worsening problem that scientists’ call Earth’s biggest challenge.

Nearly 50 heads of states or governments started to take the stage Monday in the first day of “high-level” talks at this year’s annual U.N. climate conference, known as COP27, with more to come in the following days.

Much of the focus will be on national leaders telling their stories of being devastated by climate disasters, culminating Tuesday with a speech by Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif, whose country’s summer floods caused at least \$40 billion in damage and displaced millions of people.

“The planet has become a world of suffering ... is it not high time to put an end to all this suffering,” Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, the summit host, told his fellow leaders. “Climate change will never stop without our intervention... Our time here is limited and we must use every second that we have.”

El-Sisi, who called for an end to the Russia-Ukraine war, was gen-

tle compared to a fiery United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who said the world “is on a highway to climate hell.”

He called for a new pact between rich and poor countries to work closer together, with financial help and phasing out of coal in rich nations by 2030 and elsewhere by 2040.

He called on the United States and China — the two biggest producers of climate-changing emissions — to especially work together on climate, something they used to do until the last few years.

“Humanity has a choice: cooperate or perish,” Guterres said. “It is either a Climate Solidarity Pact — or a Collective Suicide Pact.”

Most of the leaders are meeting Monday and Tuesday, just as the

United States has a potentially policy-shifting midterm election. Then the leaders of the world’s 20 wealthiest nations will have their powerful-only club confab in Bali in Indonesia days later.

Add to that, “there are big climate summits and little climate summits and this was never expected to be a big one,” said Climate Advisers CEO Nigel Purvis, a former U.S. negotiator.

Leaders of two of the three biggest carbon polluting nations — China and India — appear to be skipping the climate talks, although underlings are here negotiating. The leader of the other top polluting country — President Joe Biden — is coming days later than most of the other presidents and prime ministers on his way to Bali.



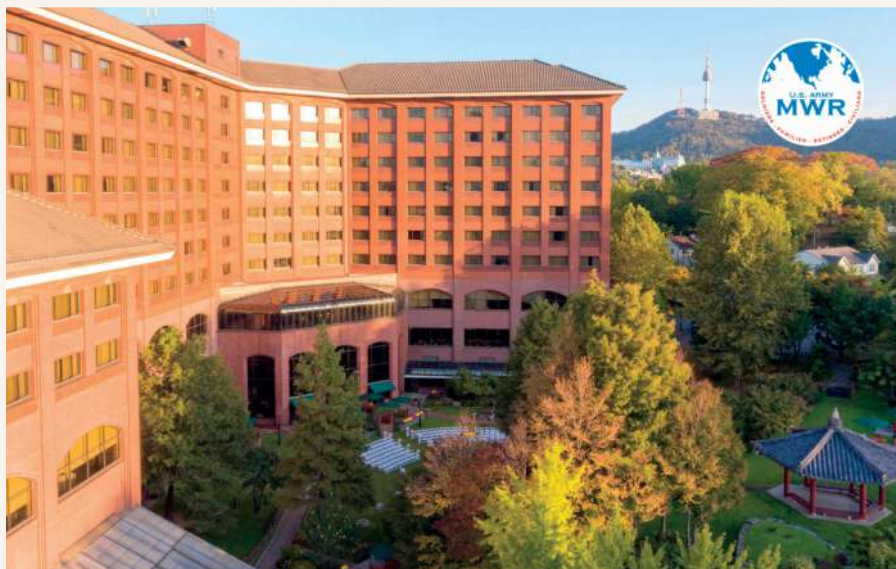
NARIMAN EL-MOFTY/AP

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, center right, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, center left, leave after a photo at the COP27 U.N. Climate Summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, on Monday.



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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

War monitors say 10 killed in Syria shelling

Associated Press
 IDLIB, Syria — Syrian government forces shelled tent settlements housing families displaced by the country's conflict in the rebel-held northwest early Sunday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens, opposition war monitors and first responders said. The shelling was the latest violation of a truce reached between Russia and Turkey in March 2020 that ended a Russian-backed government offensive on Idlib province.

Idlib is the last major rebel-held stronghold in Syria. The truce has been repeatedly violated over the past two years, killing and wounding scores of people. Three top United Nations officials dealing with the Syrian crisis — Muhanad Hadi, Ayman Gharaibeh and Sudipto Mukerjee — said in a joint statement Sunday that they are “deeply concerned by today's escalation of hostilities” in Idlib.

Polish leader blames low birthrate in country on young women using alcohol

Associated Press
 WARSAW, Poland — Poland's ruling party leader has triggered anger in the country and an explosion of jokes by claiming that the country's low birthrate is partly caused by overconsumption of alcohol by young women. Opposition politicians and many other critics accused Jaroslaw Kaczynski, a 73-year-old lifelong bachelor, of being out of touch. They also argue that Kaczynski, the most powerful politician in Poland since 2015, is himself partly responsible for the low birthrate in the central European nation of 38 million

people. In particular, critics point to restrictions on abortion that have discouraged some women from seeking to get pregnant. Others note the difficulty young people have in raising families due to rising costs in a country where inflation is now nearly 18%. Kaczynski, leader of the populist ruling party, Law and Justice, made his remark on the weekend as he travels around the country seeking to rally support for his party ahead of next year's parliamentary election. Kaczynski explained to his audience Saturday that he didn't favor

“very early motherhood” because a woman must first mature to become a mother. But, he went on, if women abuse alcohol up to the age of 25, then “it's not a good prognosis in these matters.” The remark triggered some predictable jokes along the lines of alcohol actually being helpful to conception, but also a lot of serious criticism. When one government representative argued on a TV talk show that alcohol's influence on fertility is actually a legitimate matter for debate, an opposition lawmaker, Kamila Gasik-Pihowicz, shot back: “This is not a debate, it is insulting Polish women.”

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FACES

Kimmel gets 3rd stint as Oscars host

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

Jimmy Kimmel is ready to host the Oscars again, completing a trilogy that started with him presiding over the chaotic “envelope-gate” ceremony.

The late-night talk show host will preside over the ceremony in March, the show’s producers said Monday.

“We’re super thrilled to have Jimmy score his hat trick on this global stage,” executive producers and show-runners Glenn Weiss and Ricky Kirshner said in a joint statement. “We know he will be funny and ready for anything!”



Kimmel

Kimmel has hosted the show twice before, in 2017, when he managed the chaotic final moments in which the wrong best picture winner was called, and then the next year, which came just months into the #MeToo reckoning.

“Being invited to host the Oscars for a third time is either a great honor or a trap,” Kimmel said. “Either way, I am grateful to the academy for asking me so quickly after everyone good said no.”

After the 90th Oscars in 2018, which Kimmel hosted to generally positive reviews, the Academy Awards went without a host until this year’s 94th ceremony when Regina Hall, Amy Schumer and Wanda Sykes shared the stage.

“Jimmy is the perfect host to help us recognize the incredible artists and films of our 95th Oscars,” added academy CEO Bill Kramer and academy President Janet Yang. “His love of movies, live TV expertise and ability to connect with our global audiences will create an unforgettable experience for our millions of viewers worldwide.”

Molly McNearney, who is the co-head writer and executive producer of “Jimmy Kimmel Live!” and is married to Kimmel, will also serve as an executive producer on the Oscars broadcast.

The event is the first to follow The Slap, in which Will Smith struck presenter Chris Rock on stage. Smith, who went on to win best actor that night, was banned from the Oscars for 10 years as a result.

The organization’s leadership has said that they’d like to move on from the slap and focus on a ceremony that celebrates cinema.

The 95th Oscars will be held on March 12 at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.



Chris Hemsworth returns as black ops mercenary Tyler Rake in “Extraction 2.”

NETFLIX/AP

Seeing double

From ‘Enola Holmes’ to ‘Extraction,’ Netflix bets on sequels

BY LINDSEY BAHR
Associated Press

It’s easy to forget that the Netflix original film department is still young. Five years ago, the streaming service didn’t really have one. But things move quickly in the competitive streaming world, especially when starting from scratch.

Now with a robust library of proprietary and commercially minded films and characters, Netflix is leaning into another important pillar of the movie business: Sequels.

They’ve dabbled before, with romantic comedies and teen-focused fare like “The Kissing Booth” and “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before,” but with a breakneck annual output, Netflix has now amassed enough of its own intellectual property to develop franchises in more genres, including adventure, mystery, comedy, action and thrillers, created by and starring some of the industry’s biggest names.

Kicking off with “Enola Holmes 2,” which is newly available to stream and sees Millie Bobby Brown back as the spirited young detective, Netflix has a slew of starry, high-profile follow-ups to some of their most successful films on the way. Later this year, “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery” will bring Daniel Craig’s Benoit Blanc back to solve a new murder case on a private Greek island. In 2023 and beyond, Chris Hemsworth will reprise his role as black ops mercenary Tyler Rake in “Extraction 2,” Jennifer Aniston and Adam Sandler will reunite for “Murder Mystery 2” and Charlize Theron and KiKi Layne will be back as immortals in “The Old Guard 2.”

“Our goal was always to build stories and films and characters that we can return to,” said Netflix executive Kira Goldberg. “We’re finally at that moment; we’re feeling really good about it.”

Goldberg and Ori Marmor co-head the studio film team at Netflix under global film chief Scott Stuber. Both were veterans of traditional studio filmmaking.

“We loved the idea that we could come to a studio that was starting from scratch,” Marmor said. “That just doesn’t happen, especially not at this scale.”

In the years they’ve been at Netflix, they’ve been able to draw on relationships they’ve made over the years and also forged new ones with directors, writers and talent they wanted to work with. They also knew they had to play catch-up with the legacy studios that had a century of intellectual property at their disposal.

“It’s pretty impressive that sequels are a conversation and a reality,” said Mary Parent, who produced both “Enola Holmes” movies.

The sequel was put into motion soon after it hit Netflix in September 2020, with Brown, Henry Cavill, writer Jack Thorne and director Harry Bradbeer all on board. An estimated 76 million households streamed the detective story in its first four weeks.

“We mobilized really quickly,” Parent said. “You try not to take it for granted. And you try to raise the bar on yourself, to up the storytelling, up the stakes with everything that you loved about the first but also something new.”

The sequel strategy is not so unlike that at traditional studios: They want to keep viewers coming back for familiar characters. And it’s an equation that has proved effective with their most popular television shows, like “Stranger Things,” “Bridgerton,” “Squid Game” and “The Witcher.”

There may not be a set formula or mandate around what gets another film, but most are among Netflix’s most-watched originals. In their first four weeks, “The Old Guard” was seen by 78 million households and “Extraction” drew in 99 million households, according to data provided by Netflix.

Part of the Netflix equation is looking at genres that either aren’t getting made at the big studio level anymore or aren’t getting enough audiences at the theaters to make them worth investing in frequently, like teen rom-coms. As a classic stunt-driven action movie, “Extraction,” Larocca said, was in that “dreaded middle that was getting killed theatrically.”

“People still want to see big, practical stunts and exotic locations and a really cool hero at the center,” Larocca said.

The notable exception is “Glass Onion,” as “Knives Out” did not originate at Netflix. But the streamer saw an opportunity in Rian Johnson’s fun murder mystery, which was a hit at the box office, and potential in spinning out more stories anchored by Craig’s shrewd detective. They shelled out \$450 million for two sequels.

“They’ve really succeeded in creating an environment where I think people can do their best work,” Parent said. “They’re there to offer support but don’t create unnecessary obstacles. They don’t overly micromanage, which can sometimes kill creativity. They understand the balance ... And the power of their platform is undeniable.”

‘Black Adam’ again No. 1 at box office

On a quiet weekend in movie theaters before the upcoming release of “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” Warner Bros.’ “Black Adam” topped the box office for the third consecutive weekend with \$18.5 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

“Black Adam,” Dwayne Johnson’s bid to launch a new DC Films superpower, has surpassed \$300 million globally in three weeks of release, including a domestic tally of \$137.4 million. That puts the \$195 million-budgeted film — the third film this year to lead the box office three consecutive weeks — on a trajectory to likely surpass the \$366 million that “Shazam!” grossed in 2019, but less certain to notch a profit in its theatrical run.

Only one new film opened in wide release: “One Piece Film: Red,” distributed by Sony Pictures’ anime division, Crunchyroll.

Third place went to “Ticket to Paradise,” starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts. The romantic comedy collected \$8.5 million in its third weekend, bringing the \$60 million-budgeted rom-com’s cumulative total to \$46.7 million domestically and \$137.2 million worldwide.

HBO cancels ‘Westworld’ after 4 seasons

HBO has pulled the plug on “Westworld,” its Emmy-winning sci-fi drama.

The series’ cancellation came less than three months after its fourth season concluded in August. The cast included Evan Rachel Wood, Ed Harris, Jeffrey Wright, Aaron Paul and Thandiwe Newton.

The series received more than 50 Emmy nominations and won nine awards from the TV academy, but viewership fell in the third season and again in the fourth.

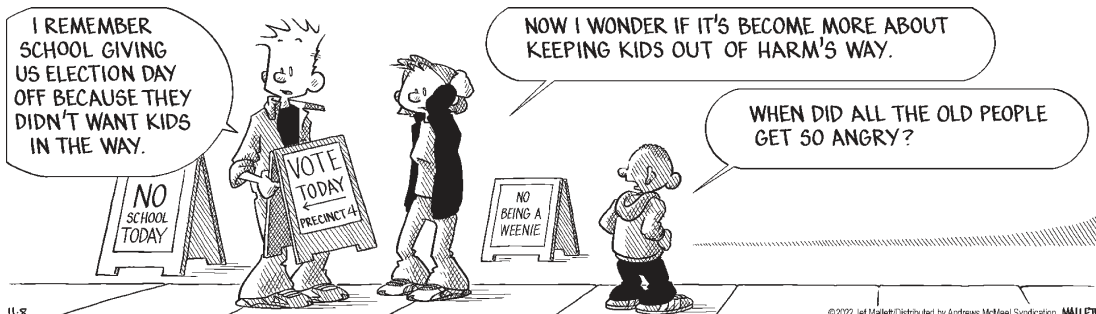
Like the 1973 film that inspired it, also titled “Westworld,” the series was initially set in a Western-style amusement park that allowed guests to realize their fantasies with the help of androids. The show later broadened into an artificial intelligence vs. human global conflict.

Other news

■ The People’s Choice Awards plan to recognize actor **Ryan Reynolds’** versatile career with its annual “The People’s Icon” honor, organizers announced Nov. 4. The Canadian-born Reynolds is known for starring in the R-rated “Deadpool” superhero movies, the classic romantic-comedy “The Proposal” and family films such as “Pokémon: Detective Pikachu” and “Free Guy.” The 2022 edition of the People’s Choice Awards takes place Dec. 6, with fans voting for winners in categories including music, movies and TV.

From wire reports

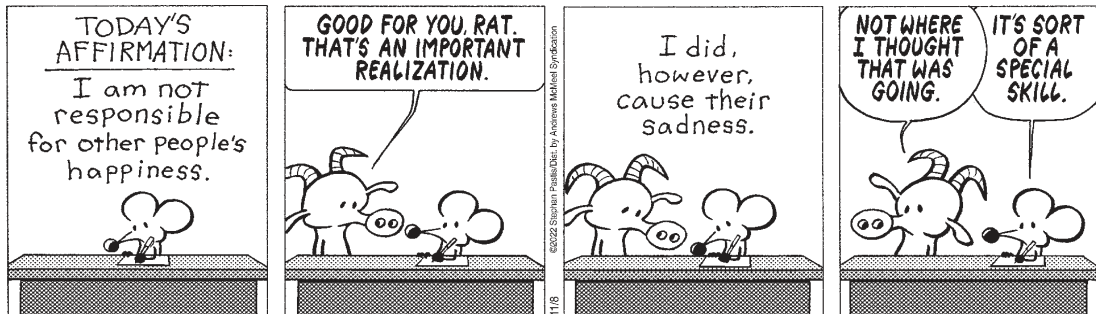
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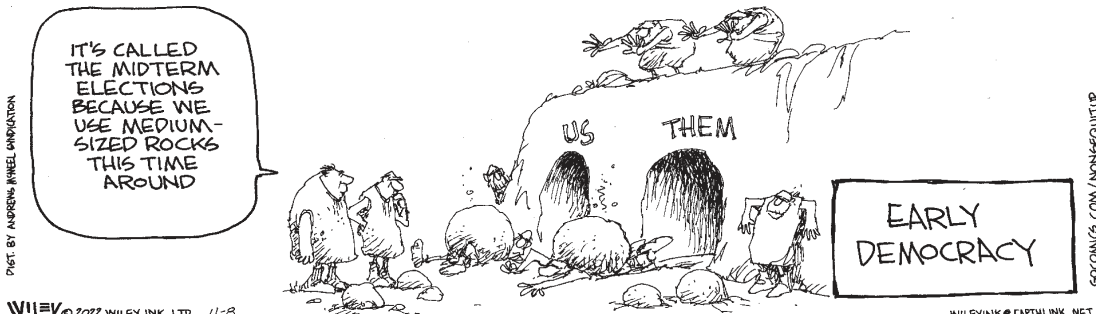
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Pearls Before Swine



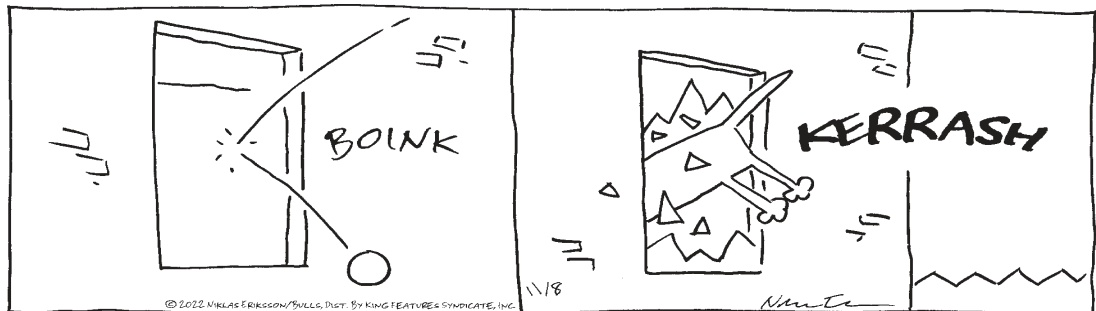
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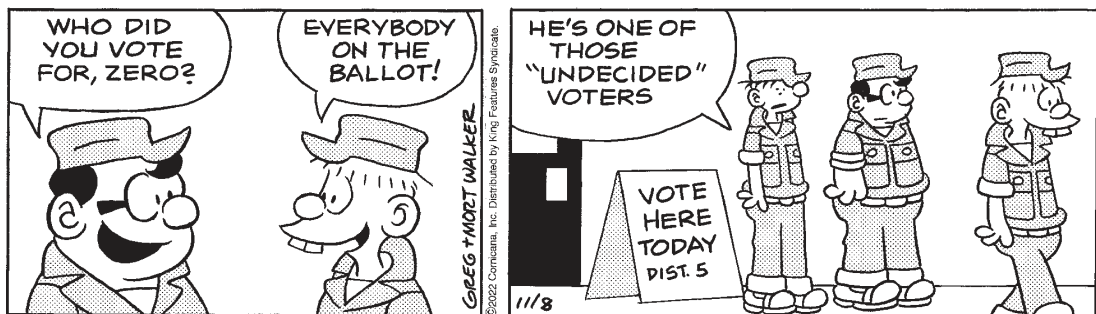
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

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- 12 Actress Turner
- 13 Optimum
- 14 A gazillion years
- 15 Chicken stew
- 17 East ender?
- 18 Strike callers
- 19 Sill
- 21 Clubs (Abbr.)
- 24 Fish feature
- 25 Actress Perlman
- 26 Glue
- 30 Skier Tommy
- 31 Church leader
- 32 Just out
- 33 California national park
- 35 Monster
- 36 During
- 37 Travel papers
- 38 Namely
- 40 Earth
- 42 Bird (Pref.)
- 43 The Volunteer State
- 48 Buddhist sect
- 49 Writer Wiesel
- 50 Desire
- 51 URL ending
- 52 Specks

DOWN

- 1 Sprite pesticide
- 2 Pitch
- 3 Blackbird
- 4 Gap
- 5 Recipe meas.
- 6 Name on a toy truck
- 7 Jargon suffix
- 8 Monet's studio
- 9 Young plants
- 10 McEnroe's rival
- 11 Novelist Rice
- 16 Mornings, briefly
- 20 Golfer Ernie
- 21 Multitude
- 22 "Scram!"
- 23 Vacillating
- 24 Clarified butter
- 26 "Put — on it!"
- 27 Banned
- 28 Actress Farmiga
- 29 Flock females
- 31 Sent forth
- 34 Brit. record label
- 35 Preps for a bodybuilding competition
- 37 Compete
- 38 Brand of tea
- 39 Done with
- 40 Tizzy
- 41 Singles
- 44 "Xanadu" band
- 45 "No seats" sign
- 46 Swelled head
- 47 Sushi fish

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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CRYPTOQUIP

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH PART OF EACH WEEK SHOULD FOLKS SET ASIDE TO SUBMIT PAYMENTS ON THEIR BILLS? DUES-DAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals G

STARS AND STRIPES

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John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff

Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander

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Time to ditch the hub-and-spoke model on alliances

BY CHRISTOPHER MCCALLION

Special to Stars and Stripes

Japan and Australia signed an updated security pact in October, agreeing to engage in greater cooperation on a range of security and economic issues. Despite being a landmark bilateral agreement between two U.S. allies to counter China's growing military power in the West Pacific, it received little attention in the American press.

Throughout the post-World War II era, the U.S. has preferred to build its alliances on a hub-and-spoke model, with the U.S. at the center. This is particularly true of the U.S.' bilateral security treaties in Asia, but the U.S.' European allies have also been content to simply lean on a U.S. security guarantee, despite NATO's lip service toward multilateralism.

These alliance structures were all but guaranteed immediately after WWII, when the U.S. accounted for half of gross world output and industrial Europe and Asia had been decimated. But over the subsequent decades, as Japan and Germany rebuilt themselves into economic juggernauts, as Western European and East Asian economies flourished, and as the common threat from the Soviet Union vanished, America's unbalanced alliances remained. Shorn of their central purpose after the Cold War, many experts believed that the U.S.-led alliances would either close up shop or be dramatically circumscribed. Instead, the U.S. expanded its security commitments all the way to Russia's doorstep, a decision whose consequences are now manifesting themselves in Ukraine.

States enter into alliances to counter an emerging common threat, and yet often do so hesitantly, generally seeking to have as few strings attached as possible for fear of entanglement or to keep their options open for a future strategic realignment. But the U.S.' peculiarly long-lasting and asymmetric alliances have had a dual function in the postwar period: to deter adversaries, and also to suppress the independent capabilities of the U.S.' allies. Lord Ismay, the first secretary-general of NATO, once famously

said that the alliance's purpose was to "keep the Soviet Union out, the Americans in, and the Germans down." Zbigniew Brzezinski made a similar point with outstanding candor in his book "The Grand Chessboard": "To put it in a terminology that harkens back to the more brutal age of ancient empires, the three grand imperatives of imperial geostrategy are to prevent collusion and maintain security dependence among the vassals, to keep tributaries pliant and protected, and to keep the barbarians from coming together."

Only slightly more subtly, a leaked draft of the 1992 Defense Planning Guidance stated that in the aftermath of the Cold War the U.S. "must sufficiently account for the interests of the advanced industrial nations to discourage them from challenging our leadership or seeking to overturn the established political and economic order."

As long as America maintained its primacy on the flanks of Eurasia and the Middle East, the alliances continued to grant the U.S. unparalleled access to far-flung regions. Outsourcing their security also yielded domestic benefits for the U.S.' allies, keeping defense spending low and avoiding charged historical and political tensions that might be exacerbated by rearmament. Under the umbrella of the "American pacifier," these countries have enjoyed the benefits of greater economic integration and regional stability, without fearing that a faraway hegemon will unduly interfere in their domestic affairs.

But the rise of China now reveals the U.S.' resources and capabilities to be severely overstretched. The security architecture that the U.S. constructed after WWII has become alarmingly fragile, and the U.S. can no longer avoid the trade-off between deterring potential threats and suppressing its own allies.

The U.S. foreign policy establishment has recognized this reality at some level. But since their main goal is still to maintain American primacy, they have tried to have it both ways by imploring allies to spend more on defense while also doubling down on their commitments in or-

der to keep the allies firmly under Washington's strategic direction. This is a self-defeating endeavor that for years has produced predictably underwhelming results.

However, some allies have in fact recently started to increase defense spending, notably Japan and Germany. This has not been due to American entreaties, but to emerging threats from China and Russia. This affirms a point long made by realists and restrainers, that states tend to balance out of their own security interests when presented with the incentive of a proximate threat. The American foreign policy establishment has long insisted that in order for the allies to do more, the U.S. must do more; in fact, in order for the allies to do more, the U.S. should be prepared to do less.

Just as important as defense spending is the question of strategic autonomy. European members of NATO already spend many times more than Russia on defense, but lack the strategic integration needed not only for independent warfighting preparedness, but also for their defense purchases to be coordinated effectively. By making itself the indispensable manager of NATO, the U.S. discourages the European allies from independent security cooperation.

This is why the recent Japanese-Australian agreement is noteworthy. Encouraging independent security ties between allies in East Asia is far more important in the long run than augmenting the capabilities that the U.S. can drag to the region across thousands of miles of ocean. The U.S. should increasingly let its capable regional allies take the lead in their own backyard, and instead play the supportive role of a broker and a backstop, using its geographic depth and economic weight to the fullest advantage. The result will be both a more durable security architecture in the region, and an arrangement entailing fewer costs and risks for the United States. The recent agreement between Tokyo and Canberra is a welcome step in that direction.

Christopher McCallion is a fellow at Defense Priorities.

Cultural thievery is happening right now in Ukraine

BY KAREN ATTIAH

The Washington Post

When I was a kid, one of my favorite characters was Carmen Sandiego, the mysterious, globe-trotting woman with a fondness for stealing important cultural artifacts. My siblings and I would play "Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?" on our Sega Genesis, using our geographic and historical knowledge to try to track her and her henchmen. (Remember the pun names? Nosmo King, Lee & Bill Ding.) She didn't even let time get in her way; "Where in Time Is Carmen Sandiego?" had us gumshoes tracking her across centuries or even millennia.

Hell, Carmen Sandiego might be the reason I was drawn to journalism in the first place.

So, it's perhaps no surprise that one of the topics that fascinates and stirs me most is the plundering of culture and heritage—in par-

ticular, the plundering of objects that hold meaning for a people or a nation.

I've written about the pressure on Western museums to return to Africa artifacts stolen during the colonial era—including, most recently, a column on the Smithsonian Institution's agreement to return a significant portion of its Benin Bronzes (purchased by the British) to Nigeria. But cultural thievery during war and subjugation is not a thing of the past. It's happening now.

Ukraine's minister of culture and information policy, Oleksandr Tkachenko, told The Associated Press last month that invading Russian forces have stolen thousands of cultural artifacts from almost 40 Ukrainian museums. Tkachenko said that losses from the destruction of cultural sites were estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of euros.

One of the most valuable objects taken, seized from the Museum of Local History in Melitopol, dates to the rule of Atilla the Hun:

the 1,500-year-old Hun diadem, a tiara of gold, inlaid with semiprecious stones, of the kind buried in the graves of Hun women.

Museum officials tried to hide the diadem and other objects in a secret basement. But Russian forces found the room and lifted the diadem along with 1,700 other artifacts.

When we speak of war and conquest, the headlines often focus on territory gains, death tolls and refugees. We don't often speak of cultural desecration, which is its own crime against humanity. To plunder a nation's valuables is intellectual and spiritual violence. It erases the markers of a people's history, and robs and humiliates for generations after the fact. Just ask any person from a formerly colonized country how they feel when they see their cultural objects in a place like the British Museum.

Karen Attiah is a columnist for The Washington Post. She writes on international affairs, culture and social issues. Previously, she reported from Curacao, Ghana and Nigeria.

SCOREBOARD/WORLD CUP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 Poll

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 5, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Georgia (62)	9-0	1574	1
2. Ohio St. (1)	9-0	1500	2
3. Michigan	9-0	1455	4
4. TCU	9-0	1361	7
5. Tennessee	8-1	1339	2
6. Oregon	8-1	1258	8
7. LSU	7-2	1132	15
8. Southern Cal	8-1	1061	9
9. UCLA	8-1	1040	10
10. Alabama	7-2	1009	6
11. Mississippi	8-1	962	11
12. Clemson	8-1	938	5
13. Utah	7-2	881	12
14. Penn St.	7-2	735	16
15. North Carolina	8-1	676	17
16. Tulane	8-1	607	19
17. NC State	7-2	547	21
18. Texas	6-3	399	-
19. Liberty	8-1	358	23
20. Notre Dame	6-3	316	-
21. Illinois	7-2	262	14
22. UCF	7-2	257	25
23. Kansas St.	6-3	247	13
24. Washington	7-2	187	-
25. Florida St.	6-3	78	-

Others receiving votes: Cincinnati 74, Kentucky 61, Coastal Carolina 46, Wake Forest 34, Oklahoma St. 21, Baylor 19, Kansas 10, Mississippi St. 8, South Carolina 6, Troy 5, UTSA 5, Louisville 3, Oregon St. 3, San Jose St. 1.

USA Today AFCA Coaches Poll

The USA TODAY Sports AFCA Coaches Poll Top 25 with team's records THROUGH SATURDAY in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last week's poll and first-place votes received.

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Georgia (61)	(9-0)	1572	1
2. Ohio State	(9-0)	1505	2
3. Michigan (2)	(9-0)	1447	4
4. TCU	(9-0)	1355	7
5. Tennessee	(8-1)	1284	3
6. Oregon	(8-1)	1272	8
7. Southern California	(8-1)	1140	9
8. LSU	(7-2)	1082	17
9. Mississippi	(8-1)	1056	10
10. UCLA	(8-1)	988	11
11. Alabama	(7-2)	973	6
12. Clemson	(8-1)	896	5
13. Utah	(7-2)	888	12
14. North Carolina	(8-1)	737	15
15. Penn State	(7-2)	717	16
16. North Carolina State	(7-2)	568	20
17. Tulane	(8-1)	555	21
18. Texas	(6-3)	368	NR
19. Liberty	(8-1)	366	23
20. Illinois	(7-2)	302	13
21. Central Florida	(7-2)	273	25
22. Kansas State	(6-3)	243	14
23. Washington	(7-2)	176	NR
24. Kentucky	(6-3)	172	24
25. Notre Dame	(6-3)	133	NR

Dropped Out: No. 18 Oklahoma State (6-3); No. 19 Wake Forest (6-3); No. 22 Syracuse (6-3).

Others receiving votes: Coastal Carolina (8-1) 77; Cincinnati (7-2) 70; Wake Forest (6-3) 53; Oklahoma State (6-3) 53; Baylor (6-3) 46; Florida State (6-3) 22; Syracuse (6-3) 20; Kansas (6-3) 12; Mississippi State (6-3) 11; Troy (7-2) 10; Louisville (6-3) 9; Texas-San Antonio (7-2) 6; Minnesota (6-3) 4; Pittsburgh (5-4) 4; Maryland (6-3) 3; Oregon State (6-3) 3; South Carolina (6-3) 3; Boise State (6-3) 1.

Top 25 schedule

Friday
No. 8 Southern Cal vs. Colorado

Saturday
No. 1 Georgia at Mississippi St.
No. 2 Ohio St. vs. Indiana
No. 3 Michigan vs. Nebraska
No. 4 TCU at No. 18 Texas
No. 5 Tennessee vs. Missouri
No. 6 Oregon vs. No. 24 Washington
No. 7 LSU at Arkansas
No. 9 UCLA vs. Arizona
No. 10 Alabama at No. 11 Mississippi
No. 12 Clemson vs. Louisville
No. 13 Utah vs. Stanford
No. 14 Penn St. vs. Maryland
No. 15 North Carolina at Wake Forest
No. 16 Tulane vs. No. 22 UCF
No. 17 NC State vs. Boston College
No. 19 Liberty at UConn
No. 20 Notre Dame vs. Navy at Baltimore
No. 21 Illinois vs. Purdue
No. 23 Kansas St. at Baylor
No. 25 Florida St. at Syracuse

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's Top 25 schedule

Tuesday
No games scheduled.

Wednesday
No games scheduled.

Thursday
No. 5 Kansas vs. N. Dakota St.
No. 9 Creighton vs. North Dakota
No. 12 Texas vs. Houston Christian
No. 13 Indiana vs. Bethune-Cookman
No. 25 Texas Tech vs. Texas Southern

Friday
No. 1 North Carolina vs. Coll. of Charleston
No. 2 Gonzaga vs. Michigan St. at San Diego
No. 3 Houston vs. Saint Joseph's at Annapolis, Md.
No. 4 Kentucky vs. Duquesne
No. 5 Baylor vs. Norfolk St.
No. 7 Duke vs. SC-Upstate
No. 8 UCLA vs. Long Beach St.
No. 10 Arkansas vs. Fordham
No. 14 TCU vs. Lamar
No. 15 Auburn vs. South Florida
No. 16 Villanova at Temple
No. 17 Arizona vs. Southern U.
No. 18 Virginia vs. Monmouth (NJ)
No. 19 San Diego St. vs. BYU
No. 20 Alabama vs. Liberty
No. 21 Oregon vs. UC Irvine
No. 22 Michigan vs. E. Michigan at Detroit
No. 23 Illinois vs. UMKC
No. 24 Dayton vs. SMU

Women's Top 25 schedule

Tuesday
No. 5 Tennessee at No. 14 Ohio St.
No. 11 Indiana vs. Vermont

Wednesday
No. 12 North Carolina vs. Jackson St.
No. 25 Michigan vs. Delaware St.

Thursday
No. 4 Iowa vs. Evansville
No. 5 Tennessee vs. UMass
No. 6 UConn vs. Northeastern
No. 7 Louisville vs. IUPUI
No. 8 Iowa St. vs. Southern U.
No. 10 NC State vs. Elon
No. 18 Baylor vs. Incarnate Word
No. 19 Arizona vs. N. Arizona
No. 21 Creighton at South Dakota

Friday

No. 1 South Carolina at No. 17 Maryland
No. 2 Stanford at Pacific
No. 3 Texas vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
No. 11 Indiana vs. Mass.-Lowell
No. 13 Virginia Tech vs. Bucknell
No. 15 Oklahoma vs. SMU
No. 16 LSU vs. MVSU
No. 22 Nebraska vs. Houston Christian
No. 23 S. Dakota St. vs. Lehigh
No. 24 Princeton vs. Villanova
No. 25 Michigan vs. St. Francis (Pa.)

GOLF

World Wide Technology Championship at Mayakoba

PGA Tour Sunday
At El Camaleon Golf Club
Playa del Carmen, Mexico
Purse: \$8.2 million
Yardage: 7,034; Par: 71
Final Round

Russell Henley, \$1,476,000	63-63-65-70—261	-23
Brian Harman, \$893,800	66-66-67-66—265	-19
Joel Dahmen, \$375,560	68-67-66-65—266	-18
Will Gordon, \$375,560	62-67-68-69—266	-18
Troy Merritt, \$375,560	65-69-65-67—266	-18
Seamus Power, \$375,560	67-68-63-68—266	-18
Scottie Scheffler, \$375,560	65-71-68-62—266	-18

TOTO Japan Classic

LPGA Tour Sunday
At Seta Golf Club
Otsu, Japan
Purse: \$2 million
Yardage: 6,616; Par: 72
Final Round

Gemma Dryburgh, \$300,000	71-67-65-65—268	-20
Kana Nagai, \$182,538	68-70-69-65—272	-16
Linn Grant, \$132,418	69-70-67-67—273	-15
Yuna Nishimura, \$102,436	70-69-67-69—275	-13
Ayaka Furue, \$68,791	66-71-70-69—276	-12
Momoko Ueda, \$68,791	65-69-68-74—276	-12
Miyuu Yamashita, \$68,791	67-68-69-72—276	-12

TimberTech Championship

Champions Tour Sunday
At Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club
Boca Raton, Fla.
Purse: \$2.2 million
Yardage: 7,015; Par: 72
Final Round

Bernhard Langer, \$350,000	70-63-66—199	-17
Paul Goydos, \$187,500	68-66-71—205	-11
Thongchai Jaidee, \$187,500	70-68-67—205	-11
P. Harrington, \$150,000	72-67-67—206	-10
Kevin Sutherland, \$110,000	74-66-68—208	-8
Steven Alker, \$84,010	70-68-71—209	-7
Robert Karlsson, \$84,010	69-73-67—209	-7

AUTO RACING

NASCAR Cup Series Championship

Sunday
At Phoenix Raceway
Avondale, Ariz.
Lap length: 1.00 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

- (1) Joey Logano, Ford, 312 laps, 40 points.
- (2) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 312, 54.
- (25) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 312, 34.
- (3) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 312, 48.
- (7) Kevin Harvick, Ford, 312, 41.
- (8) William Byron, Chevrolet, 312, 39.
- (22) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 312, 30.
- (21) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 312, 29.
- (4) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 312, 38.
- (17) Christopher Bell, Toyota, 312, 27.
- (14) Austin Cindric, Ford, 312, 28.
- (16) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 312, 0.
- (15) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 312, 24.
- (30) Erik Jones, Chevrolet, 312, 23.
- (12) Martin Truex Jr., Toyota, 312, 36.
- (9) Cole Custer, Ford, 312, 21.
- (10) Daniel Hemric, Toyota, 312, 0.
- (27) Corey Lajoie, Chevrolet, 312, 19.
- (6) Harrison Burton, Ford, 312, 18.
- (13) Aric Almirola, Ford, 312, 17.
- (19) Chris Buescher, Ford, 312, 16.
- (23) Bubba Wallace, Toyota, 311, 15.
- (11) Tyler Reddick, Chevrolet, 311, 18.
- (28) Daniel Suárez, Chevrolet, 311, 13.
- (20) Michael McDowell, Ford, 311, 12.
- (32) Ty Dillon, Chevrolet, 311, 11.
- (26) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 311, 10.
- (5) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 310, 9.
- (31) Todd Gilliland, Ford, 309, 8.
- (34) Cody Ware, Ford, 308, 7.
- (33) BJ McLeod, Ford, 307, 0.
- (29) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Chevrolet, 307, 5.
- (35) Garrett Smithley, Ford, 304, 0.
- (24) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 304, 3.
- (18) Brad Keselowski, Ford, electrical, 270, 2.
- (36) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, accident, 84, 0.

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 104.758 mph.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 58 minutes, 42 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 0.301 seconds.
Caution Flags: 6 for 39 laps.
Lead Changes: 11 among 6 drivers.
Lap Leaders: J.Logano 0-87; C.Custer 88-90; J.Logano 91-158; R.Blaney 159-187; J.Logano 188; R.Blaney 189-251; A.Allmendinger 252; A.Bowman 253; R.Blaney 254-270; J.Logano 271; C.Briscoe 272-282; J.Logano 283-312.
Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): J.Logano, 5 times for 187 laps; R.Blaney, 3 times for 109 laps; C.Briscoe, 1 time for 11 laps; C.Custer, 1 time for 3 laps; A.Allmendinger, 1 time for 1 lap; A.Bowman, 1 time for 1 lap.
Wins: C.Elliott, 5; J.Logano, 4; C.Bell, 3; K.Larson, 3; T.Reddick, 3; R.Chastain, 2; D.Hamlin, 2; W.Byron, 2; K.Harvick, 2; C.Briscoe, 1; D.Suárez, 1; A.Dillon, 1; A.Cindric, 1; Ky.Busch, 1; A.Bowman, 1; E.Jones, 1; B.Wallace, 1; C.Buescher, 1; Ku.Busch, 1.
Top 16 in Points: 1. J.Logano, 5040; 2. R.Chastain, 5034; 3. C.Bell, 5027; 4. C.Elliott, 5009; 5. D.Hamlin, 2379; 6. W.Byron, 2378; 7. K.Larson, 2354; 8. R.Blaney, 2354; 9. C.Briscoe, 2292; 10. D.Suárez, 2272; 11. A.Dillon, 2228; 12. A.Cindric, 2226; 13. Ky.Busch, 2224; 14. T.Reddick, 2215; 15. K.Harvick, 2126; 16. A.Bowman, 2107.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula

A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.
The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball National League
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Placed C Yadier Molina and DH/1B Albert Pujols on the voluntarily retired list. Named Matt Holliday bench coach, Dusty Blake pitching coach and Turner Ward hitting coach.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with Sean Doolittle on a minor league contract with an invitation to 2023 major league spring training.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Nov. 8

1959 — Elgin Baylor of the Minneapolis Lakers scores 64 points against the Boston Celtics.
1970 — Tom Dempsey of New Orleans kicks an NFL-record 63-yard field goal on the final play of the game to give the Saints a 19-17 victory over the Detroit Lions.
1980 — Dave Wilson of Illinois sets an NCAA record with 621 yards passing in a 49-42 victory over Ohio State.
1981 — Don Shula records his 200th NFL victory when the Miami Dolphins edge the New England Patriots 30-27 in overtime.
1997 — Phil Housley becomes the second U.S.-born player in NHL history to score 1,000 points, tallying an assist as the Washington Capitals beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1.



ANTONIO CALANNI/AP

PSG's Lionel Messi warms up prior to a Champions League match against Juventus on Nov. 2. Messi wasn't risked by his club over the weekend with the World Cup starting Nov. 20.

Some get head start on club season pause to avoid risking injury

BY STEVE DOUGLAS

Associated Press

One more week.

That's the time coaches of World Cup teams need to wait before they finally get their hands on their players ahead of a truncated build-up to the tournament in Qatar.

Some players might have checked out from club play already.

Like Argentina forward Lionel Messi, who missed Paris Saint-Germain's trip to Lorient in the French league on Sunday as a precaution because of what the team cited as inflammation on his Achilles tendon. It remains to be seen if he plays again for PSG before the World Cup, which starts on Nov. 20.

Likewise for prolific Serbia striker Aleksandar Mitrovic, who didn't play for Fulham against Manchester City in the Premier League on Saturday because of what his manager, Marco Silva, said was "a little bit" of ankle pain. Will he want to play against Manchester United on Sunday?

Then there's Germany veteran Thomas Müller, who wasn't risked — again — for Bayern Munich's 3-2 win over Hertha Berlin in the German league on Saturday following various injuries and illnesses and will be rested, according to coach Julian Nagelsmann, for games against Werder Bremen on Tuesday and Schalke on Saturday to avoid risking a further injury setback.

Indeed, with league and cup games being played during midweek and over the weekend, expect to see a slew of World Cup-bound players absent from lineups for precautionary reasons.

Many World Cup squad announcements take place this week, before a final round of domestic

league games from Friday to Sunday. National team coaches will have their fingers crossed that no injuries crop up over the weekend, with clubs obliged to release their players for World Cup duty from Monday.

For some, it's too late. Germany striker Timo Werner tore an ankle ligament playing for Leipzig last week in the Champions League and was ruled out of the World Cup.

France midfielder Paul Pogba's long-time quest to recover full fitness for the World Cup was dashed last week, too, when, he was ruled out of the tournament.

As for Son Heung-min, arguably the biggest soccer star in Asia, he sustained a broken eye socket on Champions League duty for Tottenham and is a doubt for the World Cup. South Korea fans are waiting with hope, maybe trepidation, for fitness bulletins on their top player.

With so many club games in different competitions squeezed into the calendar to accommodate a mid-season World Cup, there's a strong likelihood of more players picking up an eve-of-tournament injury.

One player whose club commitments are over for now is Gareth Bale, who will head to Qatar as a league champion in the United States but with some nagging fitness concerns.

Bale's first competitive minutes in more than a month came for Los Angeles FC in the MLS Cup final on Saturday — and he marked them with a tying goal late in extra time to take the game.

After the game, Bale said he was "not 100% at the moment" because of a "slight issue" and hadn't trained much over the past three to four weeks.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Ripple effect of transfer portal

Big programs filling out rosters with vets, leaving more top prospects for mid-majors

By JOHN MARSHALL
Associated Press

Eric Musselman has been one of the nation's best at dipping into the transfer portal at Arkansas and at his previous stop in Nevada. Musselman is still adept at landing elite high school recruits — his 2022 class was second nationally — but adding quality transfers was a big part of the Razorbacks' consecutive Elite Eight runs.

"Veteran players through the transfer portal can have an immediate impact both as starters and as role players," he said. "Much like NBA free agency, with college transfers there is a body of work and less projection on how a player's impact can be. Transfers have been through the rigors of college basketball and can add some experience both from a game playing standpoint and a culture standpoint."

Musselman isn't alone in his thinking; most of the top-tier programs have used the transfer portal to their advantage.

The thought process has created a ripple effect in the recruiting world.

The transfer portal was created in 2018 to ease transfers from one school to another. A college version of free agency has spawned, enhanced even more by name, image and likeness compensation opportunities.

With more programs opting to add experienced players from the portal, the opportunities for the non-five-star recruits to play at high-major programs have dwindled. Players further down the recruiting rankings — usually past the top 75 — are not getting the same interest as before.

Before the transfer portal, players that were maybe fringe high-major prospects could wait until the spring recruiting period and see their stock rise. Top programs desperate to fill out their rosters would often take a chance on a recruit, but now there's no need when they can add a transfer who's already proven himself.

In 2017, the year before the portal opened, three players ranked between No. 75 and 125 in the

247Sports composite committed to mid-major programs. In 2022, seven players in the same range ended up at mid-majors.

As those players drop down to mid-major programs, the players behind them drop farther down the line in the college hoops hierarchy.

"You see a lot of kids go under-recruited," said Travis Branham, national basketball analyst for 247Sports. "A kid used to wait until the spring and, oh, the high-majors are going to come calling — that's not the case anymore."

The ease of the portal has also pushed coaches toward transfers.

With high school recruits, coaches have to devote months of keeping in contact and traveling to watch recruits who ultimately end up choosing to go somewhere else.

The portal expedites the process. The players are more mature,

they usually know what they want and a decision typically comes quickly.

"Coaches actually seem to enjoy recruiting in the portal more than they enjoy recruiting high school kids," Branham said. "You're dealing with a lot less (hassles), the recruitments are quick and you can figure out things quickly."

The ripples from near the top of rankings spread downward through college basketball.

Mid-majors that were losing players to high-majors needing to fill out rosters now are getting players not available to them in the past. The shift continues down to the smaller Division I schools, who suddenly find themselves in the conversation for recruits who never would have even looked their direction in the past.

"We're trying to get a couple of high school kids that before the transfer portal, we wouldn't even be talking to because they would be signed by those mid-majors receiving (poll) votes," Northern Arizona coach Shane Burcar said. "The top 75 and down, Dukes, North Carolinas and Michigan States are holding off on those guys. Absolutely it's impacting high school kids."

"Veteran players through the transfer portal can have an immediate impact both as starters and as role players."

Eric Musselman
Arkansas coach



REED HOFFMANN/AP

Kansas State guard Nijel Pack, left, drives around West Virginia forward Isaiah Cottrell last season. Pack earned first-team all-Big 12 honors last season but will be playing in the ACC for Miami this year.

Transfers: Scheierman tops list

By STEVE MEGARGE
Associated Press

Creighton has its best preseason ranking ever thanks in part to the big victory it earned in the transfer portal.

Baylor Scheierman's decision to return to his home state and play for Creighton after three stellar seasons at South Dakota State gave Creighton one of the nation's more versatile players.

Scheierman, a first-team all-Summit League selection each of the past two years, was the only Division I player last season to lead his conference in both rebounds (7.8) and assists (4.5). He was a finalist for the Lou Henson Award given annually to the nation's top mid-major player.

South Dakota State went 68-22 in Scheierman's three seasons, including a 30-5 mark last season that included an NCAA Tournament appearance.

Now he's taking his game to the Big East.

"It was definitely a tough decision," Scheierman told reporters. "Obviously, being there for three years and winning as much as we did, the relationships were pretty strong. This was a move for me individually, hoping to reach my dreams of playing in the NBA."

Scheierman, who is from Aurora, Neb., showed his ability to deal with Big East competition in his final game at South Dakota State. The 6-foot-7 guard collected 18 points and 10 rebounds in an NCAA Tournament loss to Providence.

His addition has helped Creighton earn a No. 9 ranking in the preseason AP Top 25. The Bluejays also return three players who averaged at least 10 points last season in Ryan Kalkbrenner, Arthur Kaluma and Ryan Nembhard.

"He can score the basketball, but he's an elite, elite passer," Creighton coach Greg McDermott said. "Adding that to what we already had returning is quite a skill to add to this group."

Scheierman is one of the more notable players switching teams this season (former schools are included in parentheses):

Memphis G Kendrick Davis (SMU): Davis will try to defend his American Athletic Conference player of the year title at a different school. The 6-footer led the AAC with 19.4 points per game at SMU and also ranked third in the league in assists (4.4) at SMU last season.

Kansas State F Keyontae Johnson (Florida): Johnson was the Southeastern Conference's preseason player of the year in 2020-21 but collapsed during a game in December 2020 and hasn't played since. This season marks his comeback with a new team. Johnson was an Associated Press second-team all-SEC selection in 2019-20. He had 14 points and 7.1 rebounds per game that season.



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Baylor Scheierman's decision to return to his home state and play for Creighton after three stellar seasons at South Dakota State gave the Bluejays one of the nation's more versatile players.

North Carolina F Pete Nance (Northwestern): Nance never got to play in an NCAA Tournament for Northwestern, but the 6-foot-11 graduate student now gets a chance to play for the top-ranked Tar Heels, who reached the national championship game last season. Nance, the son of former NBA player Larry Nance, had 14.6 points and 6.5 rebounds per game last season while shooting 45.2% from three-point range.

Miami G Nijel Pack (Kansas State): This 6-footer earned first-team all-Big 12 honors last season and was named the conference's most improved player. He averaged 17.4 points, 3.8 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.3 steals. He also made 95 three-pointers and shot 43.6% from beyond the arc. Pack was one of seven Division I players to score at least 17 points per game while shooting at least 43% from three-point range.

Gonzaga G Malachi Smith (Chattanooga): Smith was the Southern Conference player of the year and won the Lou Henson Award as the nation's top mid-major performer last season. He had 19.9 points, 6.7 rebounds, 3 assists and 1.7 steals per game while helping Chattanooga reach the NCAA Tournament.

LSU F KJ Williams (Murray State): This 6-10 forward followed coach Matt McMahon from Murray State to LSU after leading the Ohio Valley Conference in scoring (18.0 ppg) and ranked second in the league in rebounding (8.4) last season. He had 18 points and seven rebounds as Murray State defeated San Francisco in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament. Williams averaged 13.7 points for Murray State in 2019-20 and 15.6 points in 2020-21.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

March Madness a bedrock amid chaos

By **EDDIE PELL**
Associated Press

If the latest spasm of conference realignment in college sports was supposed to spell doom for the Big 12 or Pac-12 — or for any other conference, for that matter — somebody forgot to tell the basketball coaches.

In college hoops, where virtually all success is measured by how a team, or conference, fares in March Madness, the 2022-23 campaign about to tip off looks a lot like business as usual.

With football-driven realignment joining the rapidly expanding transfer portal and the players' newfound and meagerly regulated ability to make money off their celebrity, the postseason NCAA tournaments, men's and women's, are, more than ever, the glue that holds the increasingly fractured fabric of college sports together.

"At the end of the day, you play for the tournament," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said recently in summing up the bottom line of any college basketball season. "If you can't play in the tournament, then you're not good."

In football, even after the announcement that the postseason will expand to 12 teams by 2026, a conference title has and will always be the most direct route to one of the few coveted spots in the playoff.

In basketball, whether a team wins a conference regular-season title, a conference tournament title or no conference title at all has little bearing on what the final verdict will be. Of the past 10 national champions, only three won their conference tournament. Hardly anybody, for instance, thinks of St. Peter's as the MAAC champion but anyone following the sport knows the Peacocks made it to the Elite Eight last year.

The same is true whether a team hails from the West Coast Conference (where Gonzaga is a major power every year) or the Big 12 or Pac-12, which appeared to be among the so-called "losers" in the most recent shuffling of teams to new conferences.

Last summer, Texas and Oklahoma announced they would be leaving the Big 12 to join the SEC. This summer, UCLA and Southern California said they were leaving the Pac-12 for the Big Ten.

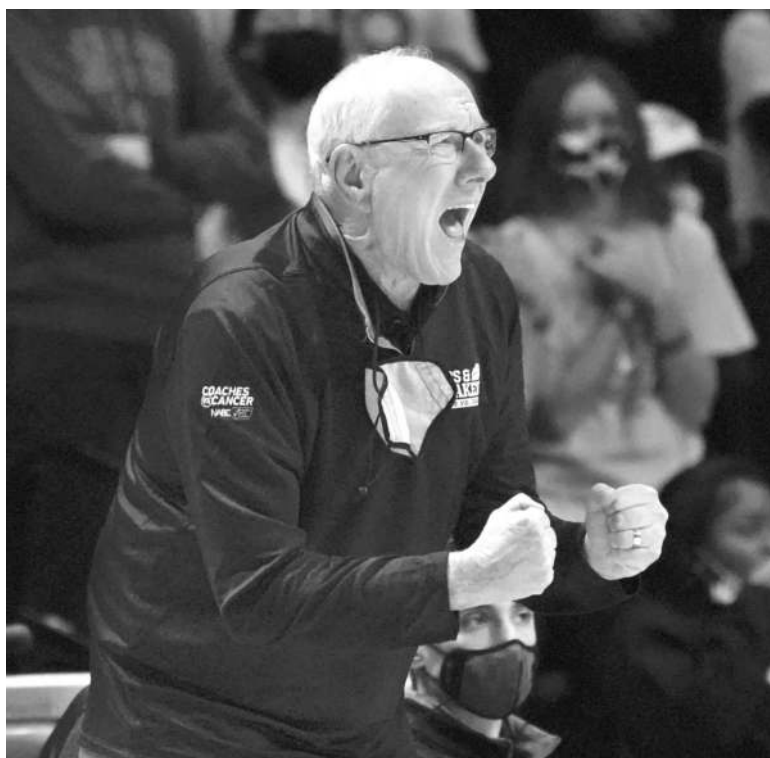
Shortly after the Big Ten expansion was announced, the conference cut a seven-year media rights deal worth more than \$7 billion. The SEC will make about \$7 billion over the next 10 years. More recently, the Big 12 agreed to a six-year contract extension for its media rights worth more than \$2 billion through 2030-31.

Though there will only be room for one or two teams from each



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Gonzaga guard Jalen Suggs, center, celebrates making the winning basket against UCLA in a Final Four game on April 3, 2021. A few years ago, with the football-playing Mountain West perennially knocking on the door, Gonzaga cut a deal with the WCC: It would stay in the hoops-only league if, instead of splitting things evenly, the conference would give the Zags a bigger share of its NCAA tournament proceeds.



KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim reacts during a game last season. "At the end of the day, you play for the tournament," Boeheim said recently in summing up what college basketball season boils down to. "If you can't play in the tournament, then you're not good."

conference, the expanded football playoff could be worth more than \$2 billion in media rights for 11 games. That would be about double what the basketball rights are worth in annual terms (and not distributed to as many conferences or programs).

It explains the reason for the moves, but does not necessarily portend the end of the Big 12 or Pac-12.

A lot of that is thanks to March

Madness. Letting small guys go against the behemoths in a 68-team bracket each season remains an ingeniously simple idea — one that has left the bottom line in basketball, at least on the court, largely the same despite steady changes to the business model.

"You don't need football to have a good basketball program," Baylor coach Scott Drew said. "It does help financially. It does help in recruiting, because people want to

"You don't need football to have a good basketball program."

Scott Drew
Baylor coach

have a good football program to go watch and support. But you can do it without, as well. That's been proven."

In fact, the Big 12 heads into the 2022-23 season as the top-ranked basketball conference in the nation, on the strength of the last two national champions (Kansas and Baylor), a stacked team at Texas (still in the league for now), a strong TCU team and perennial contenders such as Kansas State and West Virginia. As of last week, for what it's worth, the conference had three football teams ranked in the AP Top 25.

And coming soon to the Big 12, after the latest round of realignment is complete, are Cincinnati and Houston — a pair of brand names in basketball; the Cougars were in the Final Four two seasons ago.

The Pac-12 does not have the same depth, but even after it loses the two SoCal teams, it will still have a perennial powerhouse in Arizona, a 21st century Goliath in Oregon and at least one program enjoying a mini-renaissance in

Colorado; neither Arizona nor Colorado have been powerhouses in football for decades.

"I don't lose any sleep over what conference we're going to be in, or what could happen," Colorado coach Tad Boyle said. "Because the University of Colorado is a great academic institution. We've got a great brand name."

It's a brand name that has shown up in the bracket in five of the last 10 tournaments — hardly the stuff of North Carolina or Duke, but enough to keep it relevant, even in an era in which the football program has struggled to 13 victories over the past 3½ seasons. Which is still 13 more victories than Gonzaga has because Gonzaga does not play football.

The Zags open yet another season as a favorite to make the Final Four. A few years ago, with the football-playing Mountain West Conference perennially knocking on the door, Gonzaga cut a deal with the WCC: It would stay in the hoops-only league if, instead of splitting things evenly, the conference would give the Zags a bigger share of its NCAA tournament proceeds based on how they performed in March.

"We just felt that the more you advance, the bigger the amount should become," then-athletic director Mike Roth said, "because at that point, it's not about the conference, it's the school that's earning it."

Unlike football, where Alabama, Georgia and LSU are intrinsically linked to the SEC and all the advantages that conference offers on the gridiron, when people think "Duke," or "Kansas" or "Gonzaga" they don't think as much about a conference.

Unlike football, where wins in the Auburn-Alabama, Ohio State-Michigan, Texas-Oklahoma or UCLA-USC games can define a season for a program, regardless of the postseason, there is hardly ever such meaning attached to a regular-season meeting in basketball outside of Tobacco Road.

Nobody articulates it better than Boeheim, a 47-year coaching veteran whose program moved from the Big East to the ACC in 2013. Since then, the Orange have been to five tournaments, three Sweet 16s and one Final Four. Not once did they get a piece of either the regular-season or conference-tournament titles.

So, while Boeheim, like every college coach, was busy getting ready for his team's opener in November, it's not where the real focus of his season will be.

"I'll take the Sweet 16 if we finish" sixth in the ACC, he said. "Would I like to do better in the regular season? Sure. But I'll take that every year. We've been very good in the tournament."

NBA/NHL



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Donovan Mitchell shoots over Lakers guard Max Christie on Sunday in Los Angeles. Mitchell scored 33 points.

NBA ROUNDUP

Cavs top Lakers for 8th straight

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Donovan Mitchell scored 33 points and Darius Garland added 24 in the dynamic Cleveland backcourt's return from injury absences, and the Cavaliers rolled past LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers 114-100 Sunday for their eighth consecutive victory.

Jarrett Allen added 16 points to back the Cleveland guards' latest two-man show while the Cavs improved to 8-1, extending their longest winning streak since a 13-game run in late 2017 during James' final season with the team.

James scored 27 points, but lost to his hometown Cavaliers for only the second time in 19 meetings during his 20-year NBA career. He took his only other loss in March 2011 while with Miami.

"You've always got to have respect for greatness," said Mitchell, who grew up a fan of James and the Cavs. "When the greatest are on the floor, you just go out there and try to find a way to compete and get a win. We came out there and were just trying to do what we've been doing, and fortunately it was against Bron, but that wasn't a talking point or anything."

Mitchell remained in a groove with his new team, topping 30 points for the sixth time in eight games.

Cleveland hasn't made the playoffs without James on its roster since 1998, but this group appears primed to make its own history. The Cavs trailed by 12 in the first half during a slow start that coach J.B. Bickerstaff dryly attributed to "LA," but they smoothly

surged away in the second half.

"LeBron does a lot for the city, did a lot for the city," Garland said. "So just having a whole different generation of guys with a whole bunch of talent, and just a great team overall that everybody loves, it would mean a lot for us and the city of Cleveland (to make the playoffs again). That's what we're pushing for."

Anthony Davis had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Lakers, who dropped to 2-7 with their second straight home defeat. Russell Westbrook had 19 points and 10 assists with seven turnovers in another lively performance as a reserve, but the Lakers had no answers for Mitchell or Garland.

Raptors 113, Bulls 104: Fred VanVleet returned from injury with season highs of 30 points and 11 assists, Scottie Barnes had 19 points and 10 rebounds, and host Toronto overcame the absence of leading scorer Pascal Siakam to beat Chicago.

VanVleet returned after missing three games because of a sore lower back.

Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Bulls, who lost their second straight.

Grizzlies 103, Wizards 97: Desmond Bane scored 28 points, Ja Morant added 23 points, nine rebounds and six assists, and host Memphis held on to beat Washington.

After Washington rallied in the third quarter, the teams exchanged leads early in the fourth. Memphis went on a 9-0 run, with Morant scoring six, and the Grizzlies held on for their third straight victory.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	6	3	.667	—
Toronto	6	4	.600	½
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	6	.400	2½
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	8	1	.889	1
Chicago	5	6	.455	5
Indiana	4	5	.444	5
Detroit	2	8	.200	7½

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	7	3	.700	—
Dallas	5	3	.625	1
New Orleans	5	4	.556	1½
San Antonio	5	5	.500	2
Houston	1	9	.100	6
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	8	3	.727	—
Portland	6	3	.667	1
Denver	6	3	.667	1
Minnesota	5	5	.500	2½
Oklahoma City	4	5	.444	3

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	7	2	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	5	5	.500	2½
Sacramento	3	5	.375	3½
Golden State	3	7	.300	4½
L.A. Lakers	2	7	.222	5

Sunday's games
 Cleveland 114, L.A. Lakers 100
 Toronto 113, Chicago 104
 Memphis 103, Washington 97
 Utah 110, L.A. Clippers 102

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

The Wizards were without leading scorer Bradley Beal, who was in the league's health and safety protocols, eliminating averages of 21.6 points and 5.7 assists from the Washington lineup.

Jazz 110, Clippers 102: Jordan Clarkson scored 23 points, reserve Collin Sexton added 22 and visiting Utah beat Los Angeles.

Paul George scored 34 points, the third time in four games that he topped 30, but Los Angeles had its three-game winning streak snapped.

NHL ROUNDUP

Kubalik's goal lifts Wings over Rangers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Dominik Kubalik scored a power-play goal 2:43 into overtime and the Detroit Red Wings rallied to beat the New York Rangers 3-2 on Sunday.

Matt Luff and Pius Suter scored in the second period as Detroit came back after trailing 2-0 in the first period. Moritz Seider had two assists and Alex Nedeljkovic stopped 27 shots in the Red Wings' third straight victory.

"I feel good about where my game is at," Nedeljkovic said. "When you beat good teams, it's huge."

Kaapo Kakko and Mika Zibanejad scored in the first to give the Rangers the lead. Jaroslav Halak made 33 saves while falling to 0-3-1 in four starts this season.

"I like that we didn't get away from our game despite being down 2-0 after the first," Red Wings coach Derek Lalonde said. "We showed some maturity in not forcing it, not chasing it ... Guys are getting rewarded."

In the extra period, the Red Wings went on the power play when Rangers defenseman K'Andre Miller was called for holding the stick at 1:44. Kubalik took advantage nearly a minute later, scoring his sixth goal of the season. He's tied with Dylan Larkin for the team lead with 15 points.

"We deserved this. We earned it," said Kubalik, who joined the Red Wings as a free agent after three seasons with Chicago. "We're happy to get the win ... Every day at practice I feel more and more comfortable. I'm just happy."

Halak smashed and broke his stick against the post to his left in frustration after the winning goal.

"It's tough to get a PK overtime. It's 4-on-3 and they have their best players out there," Halak said. "They have skill and can make plays. That's what happened."

Maple Leafs 3, Hurricanes 1: John Tavares scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period as Toronto got its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Calle Jarnkrok and William Nylander also scored to help the Maple Leafs win for the second time in seven road games. Erik Kallgren had 29 saves to get his first victory.

Stefan Noesen scored and Frederik Andersen had 18 saves for Carolina, which snapped a four-game winning streak.

Panthers 5, Ducks 3: Sam Reinhart had two goals in the third period and Carter Verhaeghe scored for the third consecutive game to lead visiting Florida.

Brandon Montour had a goal and three assists and Sam Bennett also scored for the Panthers, who finished 2-2 on their four-game trip. Anton Lundell had two assists and Spencer Knight stopped 32 shots to improve to 4-1.

Ryan Strome had a goal and an assist, and Adam Henrique and Isac Lundestrom also scored for Anaheim, which had won three of four coming in. John Gibson made 41 saves.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference										
Atlantic Division										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Boston	12	10	2	0	20	51	30			
Detroit	12	7	3	2	16	37	35			
Toronto	13	7	4	2	16	37	34			
Tampa Bay	12	7	4	1	15	40	38			
Florida	13	7	5	1	15	43	42			
Buffalo	12	7	5	0	14	49	38			
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	12	8	3	1	17	39	34			
N.Y. Rangers	13	6	4	3	15	36	39			
Philadelphia	11	6	3	2	14	28	28			
N.Y. Islanders	12	7	5	0	14	41	30			
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	13	4	8	1	9	39	61			
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.

Sunday's games
 Toronto 3, Carolina 1
 Detroit 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
 Florida 5, Anaheim 3

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

AUTO RACING/NFL



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Joey Logano celebrates after winning a NASCAR Cup Series race and championship on Sunday in Avondale, Ariz.

Logano wins 2nd championship

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Penske Perfect. From the first NASCAR race with the new Next Gen car, the Daytona 500, the IndyCar championship and now the NASCAR Cup title, it's been about as close to a perfect season as possible for Roger Penske.

Joey Logano won his second NASCAR championship on Sunday with a victory in the winner-take-all finale at Phoenix Raceway — a win that gave Penske the Cup title and IndyCar title in the same season for the first time in 31 attempts.

"It's about time," Penske said.

"Joey did a great job, and for us to have two championships in the same year, that's what we're here for. That's the goal we have every year. I think we've been close, but we got it this year."

It was the fourth victory of the season for Logano, who opened the year with a January win in an exhibition race at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in the debut of the Next Gen car. Less than a month later, rookie teammate Austin Cindric won the Daytona 500 on Penske's 85th birthday.

Will Power added the IndyCar championship to the Team Penske trophy case in September and Logano's dominating run Sunday closed out the banner year for the organization.

"I knew going into this thing that we're going to win the championship. I told the guys we were the favorite from Daytona, and we truly believed it, and that's the difference," Logano said. "I had a good team with a bunch of confidence, and we had all the reason in the world to be confident. I've never been truly this ready for a championship race, and yeah, we did it, man. I can't believe it."

Logano was met after the win by his wife and 4-year-old son, Hudson, the oldest of his

three children and only one to make the trip to Phoenix. Logano took Hudson by the hand and ran up the banking to collect the checkered flag.

His son skipped back down the track, waving the flag and holding his champion father's hand. Logano had promised Hudson he'd win the championship.

"We've had so many conversations over the last couple weeks before bedtime. First was 'Daddy is going to get a pole, and he's going to meet me out here and we're going to win the race,' and I couldn't be a liar to my son," Logano said.

"I knew going into this thing that we're going to win the championship. I told the guys we were the favorite from Daytona, and we truly believed it, and that's the difference."

Joey Logano
Team Penske driver

Logano then drove Hudson inside the No. 22 Ford to the championship stage.

"I always wanted to do that with Hudson. He's such a little car guy," Logano said.

Logano at 32 was the oldest driver in the championship four, as well as the only one who is married with children. The Next Gen equaled the competition this season and the Cup Series celebrated 19 different winners, including five first-timers and two drivers making their first appearance in the cham-

pionship race.

It is the third Cup championship for Penske, who won with Brad Keselowski in 2012 and Logano's first title in 2018. Logano joined Kyle Busch as the only active drivers with multiple Cup titles.

Logano won the pole and was never really challenged on Sunday as his Ford led 186 of the 312 laps, and he was not the highest running title contender for only one lap. He's the first Ford driver to win two Cup titles since David Pearson in 1968 and 1969.

It is the second Cup championship for crew chief Paul Wolfe, who won with Keselowski in 2012 and admitted to texting rival Ford crew chief Rodney Childers for strategy advice during the race.

"I was texting him throughout the race, 'What are you guys thinking? What would you do?'" Wolfe said. "I have thoughts, but all the other crew chiefs might think something different. It's good to have another perspective. There's guys in the garage you can trust and there's guys you can't. I think Rodney and I have a great relationship, and I appreciate that."

Ross Chastain finished third in his championship race debut, and Christopher Bell was 10th in his debut. Bell raced hours after Joe Gibbs Racing learned vice chairman Coy Gibbs, son of the Hall of Fame team owner, died in his sleep at 49.

"You wake up this morning and you're racing for a championship, you're happy, you're elated, and then your world comes crashing down," Bell said. "Whenever you get news like that, it definitely puts it in perspective that there's much more to this outside of racing."

Chase Elliott was spun by Chastain early in the final stage, his Chevrolet hit the wall and he was immediately out of contention. It snapped Hendrick Motorsports streak of two consecutive Cup titles.

Vikings rally for 6th straight win

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Kirk Cousins got the game ball after leading the Minnesota Vikings to a comeback victory against the team he started his NFL career with, and the first thought that came to his mind was starting a chant with the most famous words from his time with Washington.

"You like that?! You like that?" he and his teammates shouted in the visiting locker room.

Cousins and the Vikings are off to their best start since 2009 after rallying to beat the Commanders 20-17 on Sunday. They really like that.



Cousins

"We're finding ways to win," Cousins said. "We grind on and keep trying to pull them out in the end here."

Minnesota pulled out this victory thanks to two touchdown passes by Cousins, Harrison Smith's interception of Taylor Heinicke and a go-ahead 28-yard field goal by Greg Joseph with 12 seconds left.

Playing his first game at Washington as a visitor, Cousins rebounded from an interception at the end of the first half and popped back up after one of several big hits to finish 20 of 40 for 265 yards with TD passes to Justin Jefferson and Dalvin Cook. He led three fourth-quarter scoring drives to cap an emotional return that started with pulling into a familiar stadium in an unfamiliar role and ended with smiles.

"It feels great to win in this league," Cousins said. "I had so many warm memories coming in, and so on the way out, to be able to remember those as well with a win is so much better than after a loss."

Besides catching Cousins' first TD pass in the first quarter, Jefferson came down with a 47-yard completion in the fourth. Jefferson finished with seven catches for 115 yards as the Vikings (7-1) extended their lead atop the NFC North and avoided what would have been their first loss since Sept. 19 at Philadelphia.

Heinicke's magic ran out on the interception after he threw two touchdown passes, including an inexplicable heave into triple coverage that Curtis Samuel came down with after a Minnesota defender ran into an official, and had the crowd chanting his name. He was 14 of 27 for 139 yards but could not lead another game-winning scoring drive, and the Commanders (4-5) had their winning streak snapped at three.

"We got some opportunities," coach Ron Rivera said. "We didn't take advantage of the opportunities. Enough mistakes to go around for everybody."

One of those mistakes was a penalty on defensive lineman John Ridgeway on Joseph's initial field goal attempt with under two minutes remaining, which allowed the Vikings to run the clock down and effectively ice the game.

"We teach the guy to go across the guy's face to get across," Rivera said. "What we were told is that he ran through the guy's head and neck area. I can't tell you whether he did or didn't."

NFL

ROUNDUP

Dolphins overcome Fields' record day

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tua Tagovailoa threw for three touchdowns, Tyreek Hill had 143 yards receiving and Miami overcame a record-setting rushing effort by Justin Fields to beat Chicago 35-32 on Sunday.

In a game where neither team did much to stop the other, the Dolphins (6-3) had no trouble moving the ball against a gutted defense and made enough plays to come away with their third straight win.

Fields ran for 178 yards, the most by an NFL quarterback in a regular-season game. He had a 61-yard touchdown run and threw for three scores. He also became the first player since at least 1950 with at least 150 yards rushing and three TD passes in a game.

His performance ensured the Bears (3-6) had a chance late, but Fields threw incomplete on fourth down to seal Chicago's fifth loss in six games.

Seahawks 31, Cardinals 21: Geno Smith threw for 275 yards and two touchdowns, rookie Kenneth Walker III ran for 109 yards and two scores and visiting Seattle won its fourth straight.

The NFC West-leading Seahawks (6-3) continued their unexpected rise, while Arizona (3-6) has lost four of five.

Chargers 20, Falcons 17: Cameron Dicker kicked a game-ending 37-yard field goal three days after being signed as a free agent, lifting Los Angeles (5-3) over host

Colts fire Reich after 4½ seasons

INDIANAPOLIS — Frank Reich kept trying to fix the Indianapolis Colts' sputtering offense.

When nothing worked, it cost him his job.

Less than one day after one of the worst offensive performances in franchise history, the Colts announced Monday they fired Reich after 4½ seasons. Team officials were expected to address the decision later Monday.

It's the third consecutive week that Indy (3-5-1) has made a major move.

Two weeks ago, Reich benched NFL veteran and 2016 league MVP Matt Ryan in favor of second-year quarterback Sam Ehlinger.

Last week, Reich fired offen-

sive coordinator Marcus Brady and general manager Chris Ballard dealt running back Nyheim Hines to Buffalo.

Still, Reich continued calling the plays and team owner Jim Irsay decided to pull the plug following an ugly 26-3 loss at New England on Sunday. The Colts finished with 121 total yards and 43 net passing yards, the lowest totals by any Colts team since 1997 against Seattle.

The longtime backup quarterback with the Buffalo Bills finished his first head coaching job with a 40-33-1 record. Reich is the second coach to be fired this season, joining Matt Ruhle of Carolina.



Reich

From The Associated Press

Atlanta (4-5).

Dicker, playing his second NFL game, also made a 31-yard field goal with 5:27 left, tying the game at 17. The rookie from Texas was signed to the practice squad Thursday and activated Sunday in place of the injured Dustin Hopkins.

Bengals 42, Panthers 21: Joe Mixon rushed for 153 yards and scored five touchdowns as Cincinnati (5-4) built a 35-0 halftime lead

and cruised past visiting Carolina (2-7).

Mixon, who came into the game with three TDs all year, scored four times in the first half alone, the first three on short rushes and the fourth on a 12-yard pass from Joe Burrow, who finished 22-for-28 for 206 yards before taking a seat in favor of backup Brandon Allen late in the third quarter.

Jaguars 27, Raiders 20: Travis Etienne ran for two touchdowns

and host Jacksonville (3-6) finally won a close game, rallying from a 17-point deficit to beat Las Vegas (2-6).

It was the second-biggest comeback in franchise history for the Jaguars.

Patriots 26, Colts 3: Mac Jones threw a touchdown pass, Nick Folk kicked four field goals and New England (5-4) had nine sacks in a dominant win over visiting Indianapolis (3-5-1).

The Patriots moved above .500 for the first time this season as they head into their bye week.

Buccaneers 16, Rams 13: Tom Brady finished 36-for-58 for 280 yards, becoming the first player in NFL history to throw for more than 100,000 yards in a career, as host Tampa Bay (4-5) rallied past Los Angeles (3-5). He set a couple more records late: He passed Peyton Manning for the most game-winning drives and matched Manning with his 43rd career fourth-quarter comeback.

Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford finished 13-for-27 without an interception. Cooper Kupp had eight catches for 127 yards.

Lions 15, Packers 9: Aaron Rodgers threw an incomplete pass on fourth down from the Detroit 17 in the final minute of visiting Green Bay's loss. The Lions (2-6) ended a five-game skid. The Packers (3-6) have lost five straight.

Lions quarterback Jared Goff was 14-for-26 for 137 yards with two touchdown passes.

Reversal: Bucs could still be dangerous in January

FROM PAGE 24

grets about big decisions like that. So, I was all in, and this is a lot of life lessons for sure this year. But luckily, it's not over. There are still a lot of games left. We'll be counted out probably by many. We'll see how we respond."

The Packers have eight games left to turn things around, but it won't be easy. Their next three opponents — Dallas, Tennessee and Philadelphia — are 19-5 combined.

Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers seemed headed toward a fourth consecutive loss before the seven-time Super Bowl champion engineered a vintage game-winning drive in the final minute against the Rams (3-5). Brady drove the Buccaneers 60 yards on six plays in 35 seconds with no timeouts, tossing a 1-yard TD pass to rookie Cade Otton for a 16-13 victory over the defending Super Bowl champs.

"We needed it," Brady said. "We needed it, and we got it, we

fought until the end."

Despite a 4-5 record, the Bucs are still favorites in the weak NFC South. They already beat Atlanta (4-5) and New Orleans (3-5), which plays against Baltimore on Monday.

The Bucs could win the division with a losing record and still make some noise with Brady in January.

"We certainly haven't played perfect by any stretch, but hopefully this gives us some confidence and we can win again next week and get to 5-5, which would be pretty good for us going into the bye week and then we can re-evaluate everything," Brady said.

The Rams have lost four of five, and their once-dynamic offense has scored more than 20 points just one time this season. The latest lackluster performance left coach Sean McVay considering changes.

"I don't necessarily think that it's the panic button, but changes have to be made, adjustments have to be made, we can't continue

to go on like this and what that looks like, I don't necessarily have the exact answers right now," McVay said. "What I don't want to have anything to be misunderstood that I'm not in this with those guys, I'm a big part of this, I have to do better.

"We're going to stay connected throughout this, but we do have to be able to look inward and figure out what are some of the solutions, changes, adjustments, different things that we have to do to be able to get different results and different production from our offense."

The Arizona Cardinals (3-6) fell to last place in the NFC West with a 31-21 loss to the Seattle Seahawks. The Cardinals are 4-11, including a wild-card loss, since a 10-2 start last season.

"We are just playing bad football," quarterback Kyler Murray said. "It is not winning football."

Meanwhile, the NFC North-leading Minnesota Vikings (7-1) and the NFC West-leading Seahawks (6-3) are already one win

away from matching their total number of victories from 2021.

The AFC isn't upside down like the NFC, with five of the seven playoffs teams from 2021 owning winning records at the halfway mark. The Pittsburgh Steelers (2-6) and Las Vegas Raiders (2-6) are the only two 2021 AFC playoff teams with losing records.

The biggest surprise in the conference is the upstart New York Jets. They're 6-3 following a 20-17 upset over Buffalo. The six wins equal New York's combined total over the previous two seasons.

The rest of the conference is playing out as expected.

The Bills (6-2) and Kansas City Chiefs (6-2) are leading the way followed by the Ravens (5-3) and Tennessee Titans (5-3). The defending AFC champion Cincinnati Bengals (5-4) have bounced back from an 0-2 start and the New England Patriots (5-4) have done the same after opening 1-3. Both teams need to make up ground to get into the postseason.

Scoreboard

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	6	2	0	.750	220	118
Miami	6	3	0	.667	213	224
N.Y. Jets	6	3	0	.667	196	176
New England	5	4	0	.556	203	166

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	5	3	0	.625	149	158
Indianapolis	3	5	1	.389	132	183
Jacksonville	3	6	0	.333	199	178
Houston	1	6	1	.188	133	183

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	5	3	0	.625	208	183
Cincinnati	5	4	0	.556	228	185
Cleveland	3	5	0	.375	200	199
Pittsburgh	2	6	0	.250	120	197

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	6	2	0	.750	243	189
L.A. Chargers	5	3	0	.625	184	206
Denver	3	5	0	.375	121	132
Las Vegas	2	6	0	.250	183	201

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	5	0	.444	159	192

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	4	5	0	.444	217	225
Tampa Bay	4	5	0	.444	162	164
New Orleans	3	5	0	.375	199	200
Carolina	2	7	0	.222	179	228

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	7	1	0	.875	193	161
Chicago	3	6	0	.333	187	216
Green Bay	3	6	0	.333	154	188
Detroit	2	6	0	.250	188	234

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	6	3	0	.667	241	220
San Francisco	4	4	0	.500	176	147
L.A. Rams	3	5	0	.375	131	173
Arizona	3	6	0	.333	203	241

Thursday's game
Philadelphia 29, Houston 17

Sunday's games
Cincinnati 42, Carolina 21
Detroit 15, Green Bay 9
Jacksonville 27, Las Vegas 20
L.A. Chargers 20, Atlanta 17
Miami 35, Chicago 32
Minnesota 20, Washington 17
N.Y. Jets 20, Buffalo 17
New England 26, Indianapolis 3
Seattle 31, Arizona 21
Tampa Bay 16, L.A. Rams 13
Kansas City 20, Tennessee 17, OT
Open: Cleveland, Denver, Pittsburgh, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, San Francisco

Monday's game
Baltimore at New Orleans

Thursday, Nov. 10
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

Monday, Nov. 14
Washington at Philadelphia

Thursday, Nov. 17
Tennessee at Green Bay

Sunday, Nov. 20
Chicago at Atlanta
Carolina at Baltimore
Cleveland at Buffalo
L.A. Rams at New Orleans
Detroit at New York Giants
New York Jets at New England
Philadelphia at Indianapolis
Washington at Houston
Las Vegas at Denver
Dallas at Minnesota
Kansas City at L.A. chargers
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Open: Jacksonville, Miami, Seattle, Tampa Bay

NFL

Wilson, Jets' defense stun Allen, Bills

BY DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The sky was falling for the New York Jets against the Buffalo Bills.

They were losing a close game to their AFC East rivals in the second half — and an overhead video camera malfunctioned, disrupting a promising drive and appearing to be a poorly timed omen.

Then, the Jets pulled off a picture-perfect comeback.

“We’re too young to flinch,” coach Robert Saleh said after New York’s stunning 20-17 victory Sunday.

The defense shut down Josh Allen, Zach Wilson threw a touchdown pass and Greg Zuerlein kicked a go-ahead 28-yard field goal with 1:43 remaining to send the Jets (6-3) into their bye week a half-game behind the division-leading Bills (6-2).

“I know a lot of people are going to be surprised, right?” Saleh said. “I don’t think there’s a person surprised in the locker room.”

With the game tied at 17, the Jets got the ball at their own 4-yard line and 7:53 left — and they hit the ground running.

After marching downfield to the Bills 18 on eight straight running plays while draining the clock against a weary Buffalo defense, Wilson connected with Denzel Mims for 12 yards on third-and-5. But the drive stalled when Wilson was sacked by Damar Hamlin on third down and the Jets settled for Zuerlein’s field goal.

Allen got the ball back, but couldn’t manage much.

A holding call on Dion Dawkins wiped out a long pass to Stefon Diggs. Two plays later, Bryce Huff had a strip-sack of Allen that Buffalo recovered at its 14.



New York Jets cornerback Sauce Gardner (1) celebrates with Micheal Clemons after intercepting a pass thrown by Buffalo Bills quarterback Josh Allen on Sunday in East Rutherford, N.J. The Jets won 20-17.



Jets QB Zach Wilson finished 18 of 25 for 154 yards and a TD.

After an incompleto to Diggs, Allen launched a deep desperation pass to Gabe Davis — but rookie Sauce Gardner knocked the ball away and sealed the unlikely victory for the Jets.

It also ended the Bills’ four-game winning streak.

“We expected to win this game,” Wilson said.

Wilson finished 18-for-25 for 154 yards and a TD pass to James Robinson, who scored for the first time since being acquired last week from the Jacksonville Jag-

uars. Michael Carter had a 6-yard touchdown run.

But the defense did its job against Allen, intercepting him twice and sacking him five times. Allen was 18-for-34 for 205 yards — held without a TD pass for the first time since Week 17 of last season — and the INTs by Gardner and Jordan Whitehead.

Allen ran for 86 yards and two touchdowns, but the Bills fell to 0-2 against division opponents.

“It’s tough to win in this league when you’re playing a good team

and your quarterback plays like (crap),” Allen said. “Made some bad decisions tonight. Really cost our team.”

Allen was seen flexing his right hand after the strip-sack.

“There’s some slight pain,” he said. “I’ll get through it.”

Things took a strange turn when Wilson and the Jets’ offense were marching downfield on their opening drive of the second half. A SkyCam camera whirled out of control and delayed the play on the field for 12 minutes until a camera operator was able to corral it.

“It only happens to the Jets,” a smiling Saleh said.

Added Wilson: “I’ve never seen that before.”

The teams resumed play, but the Jets were immediately called for a false-start penalty. Three plays later, Wilson was sacked by Von Miller and his fumble recovered by A.J. Epenesa to give Buffalo the ball.

The sack gave Miller 122½ for his career, surpassing Simeon Rice (122) for 20th place on the NFL’s list.

Then New York’s defense stiffened, with Quinnen Williams sacking Allen and Gardner coming up with an interception to give the Jets the ball at the Bills 19. Wilson’s 7-yard pass to Robinson put the Jets ahead 17-14 with 4:03 left in the third quarter.

Tyler Bass’ 51-yard field goal tied it for Buffalo with 13:33 remaining.

“We had opportunities overall and we shot ourselves in the foot,” Bills coach Sean McDermott said. “Give credit where credit is due. They made more plays than we did. In some ways, we beat ourselves.”

Mahomes helps Chiefs rally past Titans in OT

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Patrick Mahomes was probably having flashbacks Sunday night to his days at Texas Tech, when he would scramble around like a kid playing sandlot football while routinely throwing the ball 60-plus times in a game.

The Chiefs needed all of it — every run, every throw and every yard — to rally past the Tennessee Titans.

Mahomes finished 43-for-68 for 446 yards and a touchdown, and he ran for the tying score and two-point conversion late in the fourth quarter, before Harrison Butker atoned for two earlier misses by drilling the go-ahead field goal in overtime and lifting the Chiefs to the 20-17 victory.

“I did not know I threw that



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) is grabbed by teammate Chris Jones during a TV interview after their 20-17 victory over the Tennessee Titans on Sunday in Kansas City, Mo.

many,” Mahomes said with a smile, “but yeah, Texas Tech, I threw a couple (of passes), so I’m able to do it.”

Chiefs coach Andy Reid im-

proved to 21-3 coming off a bye by beating a franchise that has long been his nemesis. He was just 2-9 against the Titans — heck, Reid has three wins against the Chiefs

— including a 27-3 loss in Nashville last year.

It was only the second win for Kansas City (6-2) in its past seven games against the Titans.

“You have to be able to win a game like that,” Reid said, “where everything isn’t just perfect, and your emotions are up and down and you have to fight through. We were so close on so many plays. Step up and let’s go.”

Things were spiraling toward another disappointment the way Derrick Henry was chewing up yardage against the Kansas City defense, and the way the Titans (5-3) were shutting down Mahomes and Co. into the fourth quarter.

Henry finished with 115 yards rushing and two touchdowns for the Titans. But he didn’t get a whole lot of help from rookie quar-

terback Malik Willis, who got his second start in place of the injured Ryan Tannehill, and was just 5-for-16 for 80 yards.

“I’m very disappointed. I feel terrible for the players,” Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. “They compete, and put so much into this, and play through pain and discomfort and any situation. I’m lucky to coach them. They fight.”

The Chiefs figured the best way to shut down Henry, who ran for 219 yards and two TDs last week against Houston, was to keep him off the field. They opened the game with a 15-play march that took up 8½ minutes and ended in a field goal, then forced a punt and went 79 yards with Mahomes finding Hardman for the touchdown.

The Chiefs held the ball nearly 13 of the 15 minutes in the first quarter.

SPORTS



Perfect ending for Penske

Logano wins title in Phoenix, gives owner an Indy-Cup double » Auto racing, Page 21

NFL

Reversal of fortunes

NFC is upside down midway through season

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

Aaron Rodgers used an expletive to describe three interceptions. Tom Brady used a different expletive to express his relief and excitement after a comeback victory. The Rams and Cardinals played like slop again.

The NFC's best teams in 2021 have sure had a tough first half in 2022.

Midway through the season, the Philadelphia Eagles (8-0) and Dallas Cowboys (6-2) are the only NFC playoff teams from last season with a winning record.

The Green Bay Packers (3-6) have lost five straight games for the first time since Rodgers was a first-year starter in 2008. Rodgers tied a career-high with three picks, including two in the end zone on the first two possessions, in a 15-9 loss at Detroit.

Rodgers isn't playing like a two-time reigning NFL MVP, but he doesn't regret returning to play after contemplating retirement.

"I think that's an exaggeration," Rodgers said. "Frustration and (misery) are two different emotions. When I decided to come back, it was all in. I don't make decisions and then in hindsight, 20-20, have re-

SEE REVERSAL ON PAGE 22

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers walks to the sideline during the second half Sunday in Detroit.

PAUL SANCYA/AP

INSIDE

Jets take down Allen, Bills; Mahomes rallies Chiefs
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Colts fire coach Reich
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Transfer portal has trickle-down effect » College basketball, Page 18

