

Some Palestinians allowed to flee Gaza

Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Hundreds of dual passport holders and dozens of seriously injured Palestinians were allowed to leave Gaza on Wednesday after more than three weeks under siege, while Israeli airstrikes destroyed apartments in a densely populated area for the second straight day.

The group were the first people to leave Gaza — other than four hostages released by Hamas and another rescued by Israeli forces — even as bombings have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes, and food, water and fuel run low. It remained unclear whether more people would be allowed to leave Gaza in coming days.

Al-Jazeera television, one of the few media outlets still reporting from northern Gaza, aired footage of leveled apartments in the densely populated Jabaliya refugee camp near Gaza City, and of several wounded people, including children, being brought to a nearby hospital. The Hamas-run government said airstrikes killed and wounded many people, but the exact toll was not yet known.

The toll from Tuesday's strikes was also unknown, though the director of a nearby hospital said hundreds were killed or

wounded. Israel said those strikes killed dozens of militants, including a senior Hamas commander who was involved in the militants' bloody Oct. 7 rampage that ignited the war, and destroyed militant tunnels beneath the buildings.

Israeli army advances

Israeli ground forces pushed to the outskirts of Gaza City, days after launching a new phase of the war that Israel's leaders have said will be long and difficult. Internet and phone service was cut for several hours Wednesday, a replay of the temporary communications blackout when Israeli ground troops first advanced in large numbers into Gaza over the weekend.

Over half of Gaza's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, and supplies of food, medicine, water and fuel are running low. A territory-wide blackout has left hospitals reliant on generators that could soon be forced to shut down.

Border opens

Six buses carrying 335 foreign passport holders left Gaza through the Rafah crossing into Egypt as of midafternoon Wednesday, according to Wael Abu Omar, a

spokesman for the Palestinian Crossings Authority.

The authority said the plan was for more than 400 foreign passport holders to leave for Egypt. Egypt has said it will not accept an influx of Palestinian refugees because of fears Israel will not allow them to return to Gaza after the war.

Dozens of people could be seen entering the Rafah crossing — the only one currently operating — and ambulances carrying wounded Palestinians exited on the Egyptian side.

Death toll rises

More than 8,700 Palestinians have been killed in the war, mostly women and minors, and more than 22,000 people have been wounded, the Palestinian Health Ministry said Wednesday, without providing a breakdown between civilians and fighters. The figure is without precedent in decades of Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Over 1,400 people have died on the Israeli side, mainly civilians killed during Hamas' initial attack, also an unprecedented figure. Palestinian militants also abducted around 240 people during their incursion and have continued firing rockets into Israel.

US sends additional 300 troops to Middle East

By DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An additional 300 troops will deploy to the Middle East as militant groups carry out more attacks against U.S. bases in the region and the conflict between Israel and Hamas worsens, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

"We have strengthened our force posture across the region to deter any state or non-state actors from escalating this crisis," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon's top spokesman.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin gave pre-deployment or-

ders last month to about 2,000 troops, informing them that they might be called for a mission to the Middle East. Last week, 900 of those troops were deployed and a second group of 300 has now been activated, Ryder said.

"These additional troops will provide capabilities in explosive ordnance disposal, communications and other support enablers for forces already in the region," he said.

Ryder said the deployments will come from bases in the United States, but did not specify where troops would deploy.

"I can confirm they are not

going to Israel," he said.

The Defense Department has previously said none of them will go into Gaza, the small Palestinian territory controlled by the militant group Hamas and home to more than 2 million civilians. Israeli forces have repeatedly bombed Gaza and sent ground forces in Friday as part of its response to a Hamas attack on Oct 7.

Tensions in the region exploded when Hamas unexpectedly crossed into Israel and killed more than 1,400 people and took more than 200 hostages. U.S. and Israeli officials are trying to free hostages as Israel

intensifies its attack on Gaza.

Ryder said there have been more attacks against American forces stationed in Iraq and Syria as part of the U.S. operation to defeat Islamic State terrorists. Since Oct. 17, U.S. bases in the two countries have been attacked at least 27 times by Iran-backed militant groups, he said.

"Sixteen in Iraq, 11 in Syria," Ryder said. "In some cases, they didn't strike anything. To my knowledge, [there were] no injuries, no damage to infrastructure [in the latest attacks]."

Some U.S. troops have suffered minor injuries in the attacks.

Senators: China trying to recruit US troops

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

Three senators warned the Pentagon on Tuesday that China is making aggressive efforts to recruit current and recent members of the U.S. military to spy against the United States.

“These actions by the [Chinese Communist Party] to gain insight on and exploit U.S. national security information and tactics present a current and ongoing threat to our national security,” Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., a member of the Senate Armed Services and Foreign Relations committees, wrote in a letter to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Air Force Gen. Charles “CQ” Brown, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., a former Army captain, and Mark Kelly, D-Ariz., a former Navy captain, also signed the letter.

The senators are requesting a briefing from the Pentagon by Dec. 15 on the issue and what steps can be taken within the Defense Department to curb attempts by Chinese intelligence

agents to meet and recruit U.S. service members, especially those who are leaving the military and looking for employment.

The letter follows a federal judge in the U.S. District of Western Washington setting a Jan. 2 trial date for a former sergeant in the military intelligence section of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., accused of stealing and then trying to offer top secret documents to China.

Joseph Daniel Schmidt, 29, was arrested Oct. 6 when he stepped off a flight from Hong Kong to San Francisco. A grand jury in Seattle had earlier charged him with felony possession of secret documents that he is accused of taking from his position with the 109th Military Intelligence Battalion at Lewis-McChord.

When Schmidt worked at Lewis-McChord, he would deal with communications from possible spies or others with knowledge of Chinese military and intelligence apparatus, according

to court documents filed in his case. Schmidt “directly supported the Indo-Pacific Command, the U.S. Department of Defense’s geographic combatant command that covers the Pacific Ocean and the Indian Ocean region,” according to a court affidavit.

In a hearing on Monday, Schmidt was ordered to remain confined in a federal security facility until the trial. He faces 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each of his two charges.

In another recent case, a sailor serving at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, Calif., pleaded guilty to providing intelligence information to the Chinese in exchange for cash, according to the Justice Department.

Petty Officer Wenheng Zhao, 26, of Monterey Park, Calif., admitted to sending plans for a military exercise in the Indo-Pacific region to a Chinese intelligence agent for more two years — from August 2021 to May 2023.

Zhao worked in the Navy as a

technician who installed and maintained electronic equipment at U.S. military bases. He would take photographs of computer display screens with “operational orders” for U.S. military units. He also sent installation blueprints and a diagram of a radar station at the U.S. military base on Okinawa.

He faces up to 20 years in prison and will be sentenced Jan. 8, federal officials said.

The three senators wrote an additional danger is service members who have key intelligence or technical skills and are contacted by the Chinese through intermediators with international job opportunities that can seem legitimate.

“The Chinese government has reportedly used companies that are both overtly and covertly backed by the Chinese Communist Party, including using deliberately innocuous and vague job descriptions and promising lucrative pay, to deceive veterans into working for the People’s Liberation Army,” they wrote.

Pentagon launches website to report UFO sightings

BY MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Service members, veterans and civilian defense workers can now report unidentified anomalous phenomena, better known as UFOs, on the Defense Department website, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

“Any current or former [defense] employees, military or civilian, or contractors, who believe that they have first-hand knowledge of ... UAP activity, please come forward using this new secure reporting mechanism. We want to hear from you,” said Sean Kirkpatrick, director of the All-domain Anomaly Resolution Office, or AARO.

Reports can be submitted at www.aaro.mil/AARO-Reporting-Information.

Amid a rise in military-related UFO sight-

ings, the AARO website was launched in August to serve as a “one-stop shop” for all things related to sightings. Air Force Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon’s top spokesman, said at the time that the website was still being built, but said the next phase would allow military service members and civilian workers to report sightings.

“This website will provide information including videos and photos on resolved [unidentified anomalous phenomena] cases as they are declassified and approved for public release,” he said.

The site is run by the AARO, which was established at the Pentagon a year ago to investigate UFOs. AARO will investigate sightings dating to 1945 reported to the site by current and former federal government employees and contractors.

The Pentagon, in collaboration with the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, released a report in October bringing the number of accounts of UFOs to 801. The AARO received 291 UFO reports during the reporting period from Aug. 31, 2022, to April 31, 2023. Between 2019 and 2022, 17 sightings occurred that had not been previously reported.

“Most reports still reflect a bias towards restricted military airspace, a result of reporting from military personnel and sensors present in such areas,” the report states. “This bias has been lessened by reporting from commercial pilots showing a more diverse geographic distribution of UAP sightings across the United States.”

Most sightings are over U.S. airspace and littoral waters, however, because of “U.S.-centric collection bias,” the report states.

China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan

Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan — Taiwan said Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no letup in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan's Defense Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6 a.m. Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognizes as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan's air defense identification zone but not into its actual airspace.

Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022.

China suspended military communication with the U.S. to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory to be brought under under its control by force if necessary.

China's military maneuvers are seen as intended to break down Taiwanese morale, exhausting its pilots and other personnel and wearing down its equipment. Despite that, the present status of de-facto independence remains popular among the island's voters and the defense budget has been increased to purchase equipment from the U.S. and to produce some items locally, including submarines.

At an international defense

forum in Beijing on Monday, China's second-ranking military official Gen. Zhang Youxia reiterated threats by the Chinese government to retaliate against moves toward establishing Taiwan's formal independence, saying that "no matter who tries to split Taiwan from China in any form, China and the Chinese military will never allow that to happen."

Zhang, who is also vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the world's largest standing military, opened the three-day event in the absence of former Defense Minister Gen. Li Shangfu, who would have normally hosted the event. Li was removed from his position last week after a two-month absence from public view. The government has not provided any reason for his removal.

The Beijing event, attended

by military representatives from dozens of countries, was an occasion for China to project regional leadership and boost military cooperation. That comes despite frictions with the U.S., with Japan over an uninhabited East China Sea island group, with its Southeast Asian neighbors over China's claim to virtually the entire South China and with India along their disputed border.

But in a sign that Washington and Beijing were considering a possible resumption of military dialogue, the U.S. was represented at the forum by a delegation led by Cynthia Carras, the Defense Department's leading official on China.

As of Wednesday, it appeared she had departed without holding any formal meetings with Chinese officials or speaking to the media.

Expert: Trump could have defended Capitol on Jan. 6

Associated Press

DENVER — Then-President Donald Trump could have mobilized the National Guard and other federal agencies to protect the U.S. Capitol once violence broke out on Jan. 6, 2021, a law professor testified Tuesday as a case to bar the former president from the 2024 ballot moved into a new phase.

William Banks, a Syracuse University law professor and expert in national security law, said that once the attack began, Trump had options he did not use.

"He should respond to his constitutional responsibilities to protect the security of the United States when there's an assault on our democratic process," Banks said of Trump.

Banks was testifying as a witness for a group of Colorado voters who want to bar Trump from

the ballot for allegedly violating his oath to uphold the Constitution in his attempt to overturn his 2020 election loss. They cite a rarely used clause in the 14th Amendment, adopted just after the Civil War, that prohibits those who "engaged in insurrection" against the Constitution from holding higher office.

The Colorado case and another before the Minnesota Supreme Court on Thursday are the two most advanced challenges to Trump. One of the cases is likely to end up at the U.S. Supreme Court, which has never ruled on the insurrection clause.

Trump's attorneys have said the lawsuits are anti-democratic efforts to deny voters the opportunity to choose who leads the country. They've also said they will show that Trump took the threat of violence seriously on Jan. 6.

Airbnb is sued over very batty vacation in Michigan

New York Daily News

A group of women has filed suit against Airbnb, claiming their Michigan vacation rental was infested with bats that attacked them.

The claimants rented "The Castle," a Victorian-style house in Alpena for their 50th high school reunion in late July, according to the lawsuit, which was filed by Detroit-based Marko Law.

"This is every renter's worst nightmare. What was supposed to be a fun vacation turned into a house of horror for my clients. No one expects to be attacked by a horde of bats," attorney Jon Marko said in the news release.

On the fourth night of their stay, two of the women staying in the house's large turret room were awakened by screeching and dark shapes crawling around the walls, according to a report in the

Detroit Free Press. The pair ran out of the room, shut the door and tried to seal the door frame with blankets, but the bats broke free.

The women "ran to the stairwell but found it consumed with bats" before trying to hide under bed covers in another bedroom.

More and more bats began entering the living quarters. The bats were coming down the old lathe walls and entering through the gaps in the baseboards.

Some of the women were bitten over the next several hours, which one of the women wrote about in the listing's review section. An exterminator then found a bat colony in the attic along with evidence they'd been present for years.

Airbnb "negligently allowed the bat infested home to be advertised on its platform," the lawsuit states.

Infant death rate increase in 2022 largest since '02

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. infant mortality rate rose 3% last year — the largest increase in two decades, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

White and Native American infants, infant boys and babies born at 37 weeks or earlier had significant death rate increases. The CDC's report, published Wednesday, also noted larger increases for two of the leading causes of infant deaths — maternal complications and bacterial meningitis.

"It's definitely concerning, given that it's going in the opposite direction from what it has been," said Marie Thoma, a University of Maryland researcher who studies maternal and infant mortality.

Dr. Eric Eichenwald, a Philadelphia-based neonatologist, called the new data "disturbing," but said experts at this

point can only speculate as to why a statistic that generally has been falling for decades rose sharply in 2022.

RSV and flu infections rebounded last fall after two years of pandemic precautions, filling pediatric emergency rooms across the country.

"That could potentially account for some of it," said Eichenwald, who chairs an American Academy of Pediatrics committee that writes guidelines for medical care of newborns.

Infant mortality is the measure of how many babies die before they reach their first birthday. Because the number of babies born in the U.S. varies from year to year, researchers instead calculate rates to better compare infant mortality over time. The U.S. infant mortality rate has been worse than other high-income countries, which experts have attributed to pov-

erty, inadequate prenatal care and other possibilities. But even so, the U.S. rate generally gradually improved because of medical advances and public health efforts.

The national rate rose to 5.6 infant deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, up from 5.44 per 1,000 the year before, the new report said.

The increase may seem small, but it's the first statistically significant jump in the rate since the increase between 2001 and 2002, said Danielle Ely, the CDC report's lead author. She also said researchers could not establish whether the 2022 rise was a one-year statistical blip — or the beginning of a more lasting trend.

Overall in the U.S., the death rate fell 5% in 2022 — a general decrease that's been attributed to the waning impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially on people 65 and older.

Wildfire displaces thousands

Associated Press

AGUANGA, Calif. — Hundreds of firefighters aided by aircraft on Tuesday battled a wind-driven wildfire that damaged or destroyed at least nine buildings in rural Southern California and prompted authorities to order 4,000 residents to evacuate.

Gusty Santa Ana winds spread the Highland Fire over about 4 square miles of brushy hills near the Riverside County hamlet of Aguanga after it broke out Monday afternoon.

Three structures were confirmed destroyed and six others were damaged, Riverside County Fire Department spokesperson Jeff LaRusso said.

By nighttime the fire was 10% contained but still threatened nearly 2,400 homes and other buildings, according to an update from fire authorities.

One firefighter was injured, but the statement didn't provide details.

Luis Quinonez was away when a house he owned burned to the ground. He was trying to keep his spirits up.

"It's not for sale anymore," Quinonez, covered in soot, joked in an interview.

He also lost 13 vehicles he had collected to sell. A second house he owns across the street was untouched. No one was hurt, he added, and his dogs, cats, chickens and roosters were also OK.

The terrain, streaked with pink from aerial retardant drops, was marked with signs of other firefighting successes. Scorched earth stopped at a white picket fence around a large horse stable. A nearby olive oil company also survived.

While the fire showed only minimal growth Tuesday, winds were forecast to remain in the area through Thursday evening.

Man who received pig heart dies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The second person to receive a transplanted heart from a pig has died, nearly six weeks after the highly experimental surgery, his Maryland doctors announced Tuesday.

Lawrence Faucette, 58, was dying from heart failure and ineligible for a traditional heart transplant when he received the genetically modified pig heart on Sept. 20.

According to the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the heart had seemed healthy for the first month but began showing signs of rejection in recent days. Faucette died Monday.

In a statement released by the

hospital, Faucette's wife, Ann, said her husband "knew his time with us was short and this was his last chance to do for others. He never imagined he would survive as long as he did."

The Maryland team last year performed the world's first transplant of a heart from a genetically altered pig into another dying man. David Bennett survived two months before that heart failed, for reasons that aren't completely clear although signs of a pig virus later were found inside the organ. Lessons from that first experiment led to changes, including better virus testing, before the second attempt.

"Mr. Faucette's last wish was

for us to make the most of what we have learned from our experience," Dr. Bartley Griffith, the surgeon who led the transplant at the University of Maryland Medical Center, said in a statement.

Attempts at animal-to-human organ transplants — called xenotransplants — have failed for decades, as people's immune systems immediately destroyed the foreign tissue.

Now scientists are trying again while using pigs genetically modified to make their organs more humanlike.

Faucette, a Navy veteran and father of two from Frederick, Md., had been turned down for a traditional heart transplant because of other health problems.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mother charged with hosting parties for teens

CA SANTA CLARA — A woman accused of hosting parties for her teenage son and his friends in Northern California where she encouraged them to drink and sexually assault intoxicated girls was charged Monday with more than five dozen felony and misdemeanor counts.

Shannon Marie O'Connor, 49, was indicted by a grand jury in Santa Clara County on 63 charges including child endangerment for furnishing alcohol to minors and aiding and abetting sexual assault, the Mercury News reported.

Seventeen alleged victims testified at the grand jury hearing, the paper said.

Prosecutors contend that O'Connor staged six alcohol-fueled parties in 2020 at her then home in Los Gatos and other places. Prosecutors allege she bought beer, vodka, whiskey and other liquor and encouraged the teens, who were mostly 14 and 15, to drink to the point of unconsciousness.

She also told them to keep the gatherings a secret and on several occasions helped teens sneak out of their homes in the middle of the night to attend them, according to court documents.

Officials to pay \$125K, settle case about meme

TN NASHVILLE — Authorities in Tennessee have settled a First Amendment lawsuit for \$125,000, the plaintiff's attorneys said Monday. The suit was filed by a man who said he was arrested over a

disparaging social media post about a law enforcement officer killed in the line of duty.

Joshua Andrew Garton was arrested in January 2021 after posting a meme depicting two people urinating on a gravestone with a photo of a Dickson County sheriff's officer who was fatally shot in 2018 pasted into the image. Garton's attorneys filed a federal lawsuit in Nashville, saying their client's First Amendment right to free speech was violated.

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation was called in at the request of District Attorney Ray Crouch. Investigators determined the photo was taken from an album cover with a copy of Deputy Daniel Baker's official work portrait "crudely" edited onto the grave, court documents show.

Garton was charged with harassment and jailed for nearly two weeks on a \$76,000 bond until a Dickson County judge dismissed the charges.

Deal ends Great Lakes shipping artery strike

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A deal was reached Sunday to end a weeklong strike that had shut down a major shipping artery in the Great Lakes, halting the flow of grain and other goods from the United States and Canada.

Around 360 workers in Ontario and Quebec with Unifor, Canada's largest private-sector union, walked out Oct. 22 in a dispute over wages with the St. Lawrence Seaway Management Corp.

The strike shut down 13 locks on the seaway between Lake Erie and Montreal, bottling up

ships in the Great Lakes and preventing more ships from coming in.

The St. Lawrence Seaway and Great Lakes are part of a system of locks, canals, rivers and lakes that stretches more than 2,300 miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the western tip of Lake Superior in Minnesota and Wisconsin. It carried over \$12 billion worth of cargo last year. Ships that travel it include oceangoing "salties" and "lakers" that stick to the lakes.

Canadian Solar to build \$800M solar factory

IN JEFFERSONVILLE — Ontario-based Canadian Solar Inc. will build an \$800 million solar panel factory in southeastern Indiana that will employ about 1,200 workers once production is fully ramped up, the company said Monday.

Canadian Solar said it will build the new photovoltaic cell factory at the River Ridge Commerce Center in Jeffersonville, an Ohio River city located just north of Louisville, Ky.

Production is expected to begin by the end of 2025, with the plant producing the equivalent of about 20,000 high-power solar panels per day, said the company, which is headquartered in Guelph, Ontario.

Void of Cherokee Nation casino license upheld

AR LITTLE ROCK — The Arkansas Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a judge's decision to void the casino license issued to the Cherokee Nation by a panel, setting up a new round of applications for the last of four casinos

voters have approved.

In a 5-2 ruling, justices agreed with a Pulaski County judge who struck down the license issued in 2021 to Cherokee Nation Businesses, and Legends Resort and Casino — the company set up by the Cherokee Nation — to build a casino in Pope County.

Pope County was one of four sites where casinos were allowed to be built under a constitutional amendment that voters approved in 2018. Casinos have already been set up in the other three locations, but the Pope County license has been tied up in ongoing legal battles.

Justices ruled that the 2018 amendment did not give the commission authority to issue a license jointly to Legends and Cherokee Nation Businesses.

The state said it was reviewing the decision and preparing for a new round of applications.

Death toll lowered to 7 in 'super fog' crashes

LA NEW ORLEANS — The death toll from last week's series of highway crashes blamed on a "super fog" of smoke from marsh fires mixed with dense fog has been lowered from eight to seven people, according to Louisiana State Police.

The Oct. 24 pileups involved about 160 vehicles on Interstate 55 near New Orleans.

The final number was lowered to seven after further forensic investigation involving the St. John the Baptist Parish Coroner's Office, the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office, and the LSU Forensic Anthropology and Computer Enhancement Services Laboratory.

— From wire reports

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Rangers one win from World Series title

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Adolis García gathered Texas Rangers hitters in a clubhouse side room Tuesday afternoon and told them his World Series was over.

Max Scherzer was finished, too, injuries costing the American League champions their top slugger and potential Game 7 starting pitcher.

“Pull together, guys. Let’s finish it!” Travis Jankowski recalled García saying.

Rangers batters not only bonded, they whipped through the Arizona Diamondbacks like a desert storm.

Marcus Semien’s two-run triple and three-run homer powered Texas to a 10-run lead by the third inning, Corey Seager hit another long home run and the Rangers won 11-7 to move ahead three games to one in the World Series.

“That took a lot of guts for him to come out there and speak,” Seager said of García. “He was vulnerable. He wants to be out

there. He told us he loved us.”

Texas improved to a record 10-0 on the road this postseason and closed within one win of the first title in the 63-season history of a franchise that started as the expansion Washington Senators in 1961.

Nathan Eovaldi tried to clinch the third all-wild card Series on Wednesday night against Zac Gallen in a rematch of Game 1 starters.

Rangers batters built a 10-0 cushion by becoming the first team in Series history with consecutive five-run innings. Seager’s third two-run homer of the Series capped the second, Semien’s drive punctuated the third and Jonah Heim added an eighth-inning shot.

Texas scored its first 10 runs with two outs, battering an Arizona staff that needed four pitchers to get its first eight outs. Miguel Castro’s wild pitch brought home the first run, and an error by Gold Glove first baseman Christian Walker — the

first by either team in the Series — led to five unearned runs in the third.

“This was nothing that we saw coming,” Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo said. “It all came unraveled on us there in a matter of two innings.”

Forty-two of 49 previous teams to take 3-1 leads have gone on to win the World Series. The most recent club to overcome a 3-1 deficit was the Chicago Cubs against Cleveland in 2016.

Seager and Semien, All-Star middle infielders signed as free agents for \$500 million combined before the 2022 season, have six RBIs each in the Series. Seager, the first shortstop with three Series homers, has four long balls in his last five games dating to the AL Championship Series. After leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to the 2020 title, he could join Sandy Koufax, Bob Gibson and Reggie Jackson as the only two-time World Series MVPs.

Jankowski, replacing García in right field, singled in the second and hit a two-run double in the third in his first Series at-bats.

“I was locked in last night waiting, preparing to start. I didn’t get the official news until 2 o’clock today,” Jankowski said. “Shoot, I’ve been ready to go 15 years ago.”

Andrew Heaney, a 32-year-old lefty with his fifth big league team, earned the win by allowing four hits in five innings. Six relievers followed, with closer José Leclerc getting the final out.

In the first World Series to open with three errorless games, Arizona’s defense cracked at an inopportune time. After singles by Jung and Nathaniel Lowe with one out in the third, Luis Frías relieved and Heim hit a sharp grounder to Walker, who had a chance for a double play but dropped the ball on the transfer as he looked to throw to second.

Michigan ranked in CFP’s top 4 despite investigation

Associated Press

The NCAA investigation hanging over Michigan as it heads into the final month of the season as a national championship contender is not affecting the College Football Playoff selection committee’s assessment of the Wolverines.

Ohio State was No. 1, followed by Georgia, Michigan and Florida State in the season’s first CFP rankings Tuesday night, with unbeaten Washington and its Pac-12 rival, Oregon, next.

The NCAA is investigating a sign-stealing scheme that allegedly involved impermissible in-person scouting by Michigan.

Selection committee chairman Boo Corrigan, who is the North Carolina State athletic director, said the allegations against Michigan were not part of the debate about where the Wolverines should be ranked. He called it an NCAA issue, not a CFP issue.

“Fact of the matter is no one knows what happened,” CFP executive director Bill Hancock said. “The NCAA is dealing right now with allegations only. The committee’s

judgments are based on what happened on the field. And clearly Michigan has been a dominant team.”

Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel is also part of the 13-member selection committee.

“No, there wasn’t any suggestion that anything change regarding Warde’s position on the committee,” Hancock said. “He was fully engaged in the meeting the last two days, as usual.”

The committee has a recusal policy that precludes Manuel from being part of discussions about Michigan’s ranking.

“Warde brought credibility when he came to the committee and he still has it,” Hancock said.

The Buckeyes (8-0) are No. 1 for the fourth time in the 10-year history of the CFP, and the first time since 2019. Victories over Penn State and Notre Dame, both ranked in the CFP’s top-15, bolstered Ohio State’s case, Corrigan said.

Two-time defending champion Georgia (8-0) and Michigan (8-0) have been Nos. 1

and 2 in The Associated Press college football poll since the preseason, but schedules light on big-time competition to this point worked against them with the 13-member selection committee.

Florida State (8-0) is in the CFP top four for the first time since the 2014 season.

Washington (8-0) beat Oregon (7-1) earlier this season and both still have ranked USC and Oregon State left on the schedule as the Pac-12 tries to snap a six-year playoff drought.

“The Pac-12 right now, from top to bottom, there’s no gimmes,” Washington coach Kalen DeBoer said in an interview with ESPN.

Texas (7-1) was seventh, ahead of Alabama (7-1). The Longhorns beat the Crimson Tide, but lost to Oklahoma (7-1), which was ranked ninth.

The final rankings will be released Dec. 3, after the conference championship games, and those set the four-team playoff field, with semifinals at the Rose Bowl and Sugar Bowl ahead of the national championship game on Jan. 8 in Houston.

Raiders fire McDaniels amid shakeup

Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. — When the Las Vegas Raiders hired Josh McDaniels in January 2022, he said he had learned from his first stint as an NFL head coach.

But McDaniels' record actually was worse the second time around than it was with the Denver Broncos in 2009 and 2010, and late Tuesday night the Raiders announced that owner Mark Davis fired McDaniels and general manager Dave Ziegler.

McDaniels became the first non-interim coach in the Super Bowl era to be fired by two franchises before the end of his second season.

"After much thought about what the Raiders need to move forward, I have decided to part ways with Josh and Dave," Davis said in a statement. "I want to thank them both for their hard work and wish them and their families nothing but the best."

The Raiders announced linebackers coach Antonio Pierce will take over as the interim

coach. His first game will be Sunday at home against the Giants. He played for New York from 2005-09.

Las Vegas also announced assistant general manager Champ Kelly will be the interim GM.

The team will conduct searches for replacements for McDaniels and Ziegler after the season.

McDaniels was the Raiders' play caller, so offensive coordinator Mick Lombardi might take over those duties.

Davis had hoped to bring New England's success westward when he hired McDaniels, the longtime Patriots offensive coordinator. Ziegler worked in New England's front office, and between the former teammates at John Carroll University, they transformed the Raiders into Patriots West by signing several players with ties to that organization.

But despite taking over a team that made the playoffs in 2021 before losing to the Cincinnati Bengals in the wild-card round, the success Davis so badly want-

ed never made its way to Las Vegas.

The Raiders under McDaniels went 6-11 in 2022 and are 3-5 so far this season for a .360 winning percentage.

Even so, Davis has stood by McDaniels, and the timing of this dismissal is surprising. McDaniels met with the media early Tuesday afternoon and was scheduled for another news conference Wednesday morning to discuss facing the Giants.

But McDaniels had some things working against him. The Raiders have failed to score at least 20 points in eight of their past nine games dating to last season, and offense is his specialty.

Perhaps just as damaging was the public displeasure some of his players have shown. Star wide receiver Davante Adams, in particular, has been vocal since the offseason about his concerns regarding the direction of the franchise.

McDaniels was hired following the 2021 season when Davis opted not to keep interim coach

Rich Bisaccia on for the full-time job even after he led the team to a surprising playoff run.

McDaniels and Ziegler were aggressive in their first offseason, trading first and second-round picks for Adams and extending the contracts of Derek Carr, Maxx Crosby, Darren Waller and Hunter Renfrow.

But those moves didn't lead to positive results on the field as McDaniels never was able to build the high-powered offense Davis expected when he hired him and struggled to win games.

McDaniels benched Carr late last season and eventually cut him in the offseason, giving the Raiders no return for a starting quarterback who ended up getting a \$150 million contract from New Orleans.

McDaniels brought in his former pupil in New England, Jimmy Garoppolo, as the new starting quarterback and the offense severely regressed, becoming the first team since 2009 to score less than 20 points on offense in each of the first eight games of the season.

49ers acquire DE Young in biggest trade at deadline

Associated Press

Derrick Henry, Davante Adams and everyone on the Denver Broncos stayed put. Chase Young, Montez Sweat and Joshua Dobbs are on the move.

Rasul Douglas, Ezra Cleveland and Donovan Peoples-Jones also were dealt Tuesday before the NFL's trade deadline.

Overall, there were six deals on the final day teams could improve their rosters by acquiring someone from another club.

The San Francisco 49ers (5-3) made the biggest move of the day, getting Young from the Washington Commanders for a third-round draft pick.

Young, the 2020 No. 2 overall pick, joins former college team-

mate Nick Bosa on San Francisco's defensive line. Young was limited to just 12 games in the past two seasons because of injuries. He has five sacks in seven games this season and should provide a major boost for the suddenly struggling 49ers, who've lost three in a row.

The Commanders traded Sweat to the Chicago Bears for a second-round pick.

Dobbs, who was Arizona's starting quarterback this season, goes to Minnesota to help replace the injured Kirk Cousins. The Vikings sent a sixth-round draft pick to the Cardinals and also receive a conditional seventh-rounder with Dobbs in return.

Dobbs threw for 1,569 yards, eight touchdowns and five in-

terceptions for the Cardinals (1-7). He also has rushed for 258 yards and three scores.

Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said the team is preparing rookie Jaren Hall to start this week against Atlanta, but wouldn't rule out using Dobbs. Minnesota (4-4) lost Cousins for the season after he tore his Achilles tendon.

The AFC South-leading Jaguars (6-2) improved their offensive line by getting Cleveland from Minnesota for a sixth-round pick. Cleveland had started 45 consecutive games at left guard before missing the past two because of a foot injury.

Douglas, a ball-hawking cornerback with 10 interceptions in his past 36 games in Green Bay, goes to Buffalo along with a

fifth-round pick for a fourth-rounder.

The Bills fill an immediate need at cornerback at a reasonable price. Douglas will count about \$600,000 against the salary cap for a team that entered the day with around \$4.1 million available. Douglas will get a chance to take Tre'Davious White's spot at left cornerback. White tore his right Achilles tendon in a 48-20 win over Miami on Oct. 1.

Kaiir Elam, Buffalo's 2022 first-round draft pick, struggled in his bid to replace White and was inactive last weekend.

The Detroit Lions (6-2) added depth at wide receiver by acquiring Peoples-Jones from Cleveland for a 2025 sixth-round pick.

Johnson's late layup lifts Spurs over Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Keldon Johnson stripped Kevin Durant and made a contested layup with 1.2 seconds left to give the Spurs their only lead of the game and a 115-114 victory over the stunned Phoenix Suns on Tuesday night.

The Spurs, who trailed by as many as 20 points, broke a nine-game losing streak against Phoenix.

Johnson had 27 points to lead San Antonio, which outscored the Suns 33-19 in the fourth quarter. The Spurs were coming off a 40-point loss to the Clippers on Sunday in Los Angeles.

After rookie Victor Wembanyama's dunk cut the lead to one, the Spurs trapped Durant in the corner.

"I went for a steal (earlier) and I saw Tre (Jones) had him in the corner and I was just like, the worst that happens is they call a foul," Johnson said. "We had to make something happen.

"We kept fighting, stay together regardless of what's going on. Try to correct our mistakes."

Suns coach Frank Vogel saw the decisive play differently.

"They fouled him, the refs didn't call it," Vogel said. "They whacked him on the arm before the ball gets ripped out of his hands. No call. In a situation like that, we try to get a quick inbound to our 90% free-throw shooter, and we did."

Playing in his fourth NBA game, top draft pick Wembanyama missed his first five shots before throwing down a sensational dunk in the final seconds of the first half. He scored 18 points and had a team-high eight rebounds in 28 minutes. Devin Vassell also had 18 for the Spurs.

"They responded great," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said, referring to the blowout in the previous game. "They kept

playing through it. We made a gazillion mistakes, but it's a game of mistakes. We kept playing and that's the best thing. I was really proud of them."

Durant led Phoenix with 26 points. Eric Gordon scored 20, Grayson Allen had 19 on 5-for-7 shooting from 3-point range for the Suns.

Knicks 109, Cavaliers 91: Julius Randle had 19 points and 10 rebounds, Jalen Brunson scored 19 points and visiting New York did not trail in the final three quarters of a victory over short-handed Cleveland.

Immanuel Quickley added 18 points off the bench and RJ Barrett had 16 in the teams' first meeting since New York eliminated Cleveland in five games in the first round of the 2023 playoffs.

Donovan Mitchell scored 26 points in 29 minutes, and Isaac Okoro and Georges Niang had 11 points apiece for the Cavaliers,

who have lost three straight.

Isaiah Hartenstein had 13 points and seven rebounds, and Mitchell Robinson added eight points and seven boards for New York. Cavaliers undrafted rookie Craig Porter scored 10 points.

Clippers 118, Magic 102: Paul George scored 27 points, Russell Westbrook added 18 and host Los Angeles beat Orlando as future teammate James Harden watched from a suite.

Harden could not be on the Clippers' bench because the trade bringing him to Los Angeles from the Philadelphia 76ers has not been finalized.

Bones Hyland and Norman Powell added 18 points apiece for the Clippers.

Paolo Banchero led Orlando with 15 points and Franz Wagner had 14 points and eight rebounds. Moritz Wagner scored 13 off the bench.

Talbot on his game in Kings' win over Maple Leafs

Associated Press

TORONTO — Cam Talbot made 30 saves as the Los Angeles Kings beat Toronto 4-1 on Tuesday night in a game in which Maple Leafs winger William Nylander extended his season-opening point streak to a franchise record nine games.

Talbot improved to 4-2-1 in his first season with the Kings after signing a one-year, \$2 million contract as a free agent after an injury-plagued season with the Ottawa Senators limited the 36-year-old to 36 games last season.

"I never take a day for granted here," Talbot said. "At this point in my career, all I wanted to do was get an opportunity to show that I can still play and still battle for starts.

"When I'm healthy, I feel like I'm gonna be at the top of my game like that."

Adrian Kempe, Phillip Da-

nault, Arthur Kaliyev and Andreas Englund scored for the Kings. Quinton Byfield added two assists.

Joining the Kings, Talbot was reunited with head coach Todd McLellan, who was behind the bench for all four of his seasons with the Edmonton Oilers from 2015-16 through 2018-19.

"Very competitive," McLellan said of his netminder. "He's a little longer in the tooth like some of us, but he takes care of himself so well that he can play — and play a lot. He's hungry."

John Tavares scored for Toronto, which was coming off a 3-1-1 road trip that finished with a 3-2 overtime loss to the Nashville Predators on Saturday. Joseph Woll stopped 23 shots.

With an assist on Tavares' goal, Nylander passed former Maple Leafs Frank Mahovlich (1961-62), Lanny McDonald (1976-77) and John Anderson

(1982-83), who had eight-game point streaks.

"Every team goes through times during the year where you have a difficult schedule," Tavares said.

Canucks 5, Predators 2: Elias Pettersson had the second hat trick of his career to lead host Vancouver to a win over Nashville.

Sam Lafferty and J.T. Miller also scored for Vancouver. Thatcher Demko made 27 saves.

Colton Sissons and Dante Fabbro scored for Nashville. Kevin Lankinen stopped 22 of the 26 shots he faced.

"You're not going to win every night, but if you can keep putting out a consistent product and everyone's kind of pulling the same rope, that's going to be what drives our ship," Fabbro said.

Pettersson's second goal of

the game came on a wrist shot at 16:38 of the second period and gave the Canucks a 3-2 lead. The 24-year-old forward from Sweden completed his hat trick with just under three minutes remaining in the game when he scored into an empty net.

Nashville had tied and taken the lead in the first period on goals from Sissons and Fabbro.

"I think we just had too many turnovers. Starts with me," said Canucks captain Quinn Hughes, who had three assists.

Pettersson tied it early in the second for Vancouver. After Hughes slid the puck across, Pettersson cut in front of the net and fired a wrist shot past Lankinen.

"We kind of boxed them into our goalie a couple of times, and don't want to do that too often," Predators coach Andrew Brunette said.