

Strikes at Gaza hospitals trigger exodus

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Thousands of Palestinians sheltering from the Israel-Hamas war at Gaza City's main hospital fled south Friday after several reported strikes in and around the compound overnight. They joined a growing exodus of people escaping intense urban fighting in the north — including near other hospitals — as Gaza officials said the territory's death toll surpassed 11,000.

The search for safety across the besieged Gaza Strip has grown desperate as Israel intensified its assault on the territory's largest city. The Israel army says Hamas' military infrastructure is nestled amid Gaza City's hospitals and neighborhoods. Israel has vowed to destroy Hamas after its deadly Oct. 7 surprise incursion.

The tens of thousands of Palestinians who fled south in the past few days face the prospect

of ongoing bombardment and dire conditions. Reported overnight strikes on or near at least four hospitals in northern Gaza underscored the danger for tens of thousands more who have crowded into the facilities, believing they will be safe.

Early Friday, strikes hit the courtyard and the obstetrics department of Shifa Hospital, Gaza's largest, where tens of thousands of people are sheltering, according to Ashraf al-Qidra, spokesperson at the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza.

A video of the courtyard recorded the sound of incoming fire waking people in makeshift shelters, followed by shouts for an ambulance. In the blood-splattered courtyard, one man writhed screaming on the ground, his leg apparently severed.

Al-Qidra blamed the attack on Israel, a claim that could not be independently verified.

The Israeli army says Hamas hides in and under hospitals and that it has set up its main command center in and under Shifa — claims the militant group and hospital staff deny.

For weeks, tens of thousands of displaced Palestinians — reaching as many 60,000 this week, according to the health ministry — have been sheltering in the Shifa hospital complex, hoping it would be safe.

But the overnight strikes triggered a mass exodus of the displaced. At around 10 a.m., large numbers packed up their belongings and began streaming out, walking toward the south, five people who were among those who left told the AP.

It was not clear how many remained at Shifa, but they said the vast majority had left. Wafaa abu Hajaj, a journalist who had been sheltering at Shifa hospital and arrived Friday in the south, said mainly those who

could not walk or did not know where to go remained.

“The strikes were hoping to scare people and it worked. It was too intense and it became too much,” said 32-year-old Haneen Abu Awda, who had been at Shifa being treated for wounds from an earlier strike on their house.

At the same time, Shifa has been overwhelmed by thousands of wounded, even as it operates with minimal power and medical supplies.

Tens of thousands of new evacuees from the north, some coming from Shifa, flowed down Salah al-Din road — the central spine running the length of the Gaza Strip — and reached the central city of Deir al-Balah on Friday. With no fuel for vehicles, the crowds had walked for hours as explosions echoed a short distance away. Among them were wounded and older people.

More US troops injured at bases in Iraq, Syria

BY DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — More American troops have been injured at U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria as rocket and drone attacks by militant groups continue, the Pentagon said Thursday.

Militant groups aligned with Iran have targeted U.S. bases in the two countries dozens of times since mid-October after Hamas attacked Israel, Pentagon officials said. The strikes have caused no serious injuries to American personnel, though the number of troops hurt has increased in recent days.

Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said there have

been 46 separate attacks to date — 24 in Iraq and 22 in Syria, where troops have been stationed as part of the campaign to defeat the Islamic State group. That is up from the 38 attacks reported earlier this week. The attacks have injured at least 56 U.S. personnel at the bases, Singh said, an increase from the 46 reported Monday. The injuries range from head injuries to more minor ailments such as twisted ankles and perforated ear drums, officials said.

Pentagon officials have said the casualty figures often fluctuate because not all injuries are immediately apparent and sometimes it takes days for ser-

vice members to notice symptoms. Three of the injuries occurred in the previous 24 hours, Singh said.

Since the attacks began a few weeks ago, the United States has retaliated with two airstrikes in Syria. The first occurred Oct. 26 and the second happened Wednesday.

The increase in attacks is happening against a backdrop of rising tensions in the Middle East. The United States is providing military aid to Israel in its fight against Hamas, but the Pentagon has been reluctant to say the attacks on U.S. bases or the U.S. counterstrikes are related to the Israeli conflict.

“These are defensive strikes. They are not connected to what Israel is doing in its efforts against Hamas,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday. “If the attacks against our forces don't decrease or stop, we will take additional measures.”

Before the airstrike in Syria on Wednesday, the Pentagon said Houthi rebels in Yemen had shot down a U.S. drone that was flying a mission over the area. The MQ-9 Reaper drone crashed in the Red Sea off the Yemeni coast, but Singh said it's doubtful the rebels would be able to glean “anything of significance” from the weapon.

DOD trims Ukraine aid as fund push stalls

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Funding delays have forced the U.S. to begin restricting the flow of military assistance to Ukraine, and the Pentagon has only \$1 billion left to replenish stocks of weapons that were sent to the country, according to a spokeswoman.

“We have had to meter out our support for Ukraine,” Deputy Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh told reporters. “We’re going to continue to roll

out packages, but they are getting smaller.”

Singh urged Congress to break a deadlock and approve the Biden administration’s \$61.4 billion request for emergency funds for Ukraine’s fight against Russia, part of a \$106 billion package that would include aid for Israel and the U.S.-Mexico border.

Republicans in the House of Representatives have sought to separate the aid for Ukraine and Israel, an idea the White House

opposes.

The Biden administration also has the option of sending weapons to Ukraine valued at up to \$4.9 billion granted under other congressional authorities, Singh said.

Singh also said that the U.S. had burned through about 95% of previous funding for Ukraine, which she said also totaled more than \$60 billion.

She said the remaining \$1 billion is part of a program that allows President Joe Biden to

send existing U.S. military hardware to Ukraine and replace it with new orders.

Singh’s warning was only the latest from the administration, which has said repeatedly it’s struggling to keep military aid flowing for President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s forces. Last month, the Pentagon’s comptroller said a possible government shutdown later this month would slow the pace of replacing weapons stockpiles sent to Ukraine.

Biden secrecy on arming Israel unnerves some Dems

The Washington Post

President Biden faces growing pressure from allies in Congress to publicly disclose the scope of U.S. arms being funneled to Israel, as the enormous civilian death toll in Gaza draws international condemnation and increasingly unsettles Democrats.

Contrary to its military aid program for Ukraine, which saw the Pentagon release recurring fact sheets about the volume of U.S. arms transfers, the administration has not made public the quantities of weapons it is sending to Israel. The administration is also pushing for the authority to bypass notification requirements to Congress that apply to every other country receiving military financing.

“I do not support the administration’s request to write into law waivers of congressional notification of foreign military financing, including for Israel,” Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, N.Y., the House Foreign Affairs Committee’s top Democrat, told *The Washington Post*. “There is no reason we cannot both ensure needed U.S. assistance is provided to Israel in an expeditious manner and ensure

Congress is able to fulfill its constitutional oversight duty.”

A White House official defended the effort, saying it would enable the State Department to “immediately provide emergency assistance to Israel in lieu of having to wait more than two weeks for congressional approval.”

Meeks, a strong supporter of aiding Israel, rejected the notion that Congress can’t review the U.S. assistance fast enough. He is also not alone among Democrats in questioning the administration’s attempt to forgo the same transparency it provides for the expansive support supplied to Ukraine.

In just one month of fighting, the death toll in Gaza has surpassed 10,000, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. On Wednesday, the top U.S. diplomat for the Middle East, Barbara Leaf, said the number of lives lost is probably “higher than is being cited.” Hamas and other militants killed an estimated 1,400 people in Israel and took more than 240 people hostage in their stunning cross-border attack Oct. 7.

“At a time when thousands of civilians are being killed by weapons provided by the U.S.

government, the American people deserve to be fully informed about what is being provided to other countries, including Israel, with their tax dollars,” Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., said. “The Biden administration should provide the same transparency around arms transfers to Israel that it has for Ukraine and other countries.”

Much of Israel’s arsenal derives from the United States, which provides the country \$3.8 billion every year, making Israel the world’s largest cumulative recipient of U.S. aid. The Biden administration has asked Congress for an additional \$14 billion in assistance for Israel as a part of the White House’s \$106 billion foreign aid request, which also includes proposed funding for Ukraine and Taiwan. The massive package has yet to pass amid differing views between Republican leadership in the House and Senate.

Members of Congress are allowed to slow foreign weapons sales and military financing as they assess justifications for their transfer. In the text of the pending request to Congress, the Biden administration says it can “waive” notification re-

quirements to lawmakers “due to Israel’s urgent need.”

Josh Paul, who recently resigned from the State Department’s Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, called the move unprecedented. He also questioned why the administration would need such authority for Israel but not Ukraine, which has received tens of billions of dollars in U.S. military assistance since Russia’s full-scale invasion began in February 2022.

“It has never requested such an authority for Ukraine despite the urgency of that situation,” he said.

Paul, who worked in the bureau for 11 years, resigned last month, citing frustration over the lack of tolerance for debate on issues related to Israel.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said scrapping notifications for Congress would break with longstanding precedent. “We should not make exceptions to this practice — it’s our duty to review these funds and ensure their use is in the best interests of the American people and in alignment with U.S. policy,” he said in a statement.

US government is once again prepping for possible shutdown

The Washington Post

For the second time this year, the U.S. government on Thursday began making formal preparations for a possible federal shutdown, as hard-line House conservatives once again threatened to leave Congress unable to meet a fast-approaching fiscal deadline.

With only eight days remaining before current funding expires, the White House's top budget office told federal agencies to ready their plans for a major interruption, which could see millions of civilian workers and military personnel sent home or forced to work without pay after Nov. 17.

The scramble underscored the increasingly dire political situation on Capitol Hill, where lawmakers have made little progress since staving off the last potential shutdown less than two months ago. Even as the House prepared on Thursday to conclude its legislative work for the week, the chamber still did not have a fully developed plan in hand to extend federal funding, days after House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) urged the public to "trust us."

Complicating matters, a small but powerful bloc of hard-right House Republicans has refused to consider any short-term funding deal unless it in-

cludes steep budget cuts, an approach that President Joe Biden and fellow Democrats see as unpalatable. The bloc has been especially emboldened after ousting Johnson's predecessor in the aftermath of the last debate over government spending.

With no resolution in sight—and time rapidly dwindling—the impasse raised the odds that a wide array of federal programs could grind to a halt next week. It prompted the Office of Management and Budget to hold initial conversations with agencies about the shutdown process, as it usually does one week before funding expires, according to a person familiar with the matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe the private communication.

Speaking to reporters before boarding Air Force One earlier Thursday, Biden implored the House to "just get to work," adding: "The idea we're playing games with a shutdown at this moment is just bizarre."

In a shutdown, only the most vital government services would function. Seniors could continue to receive Social Security checks and use Medicare benefits, and the U.S. mail would still be delivered. But most federal health care, education, science, research and la-

bor programs would sputter or cease, unleashing real hardship on American families—and the broader economy—that intensifies with each passing day.

Without funding, the government would pause some federal inspections meant to ensure food and water safety. It could not continue research into cancer cures and other innovative therapies. Some museums, parks and passport offices could close. Seniors could not obtain new Medicare benefit cards. And a slew of federal programs that aid the poor—including those that provide child care, nutrition assistance, college financial aid and housing support—would start to exhaust their reserves in ways that could leave low-income families facing new financial strains.

Approximately 2 million federal workers, meanwhile, could see substantial interruptions in their pay, with some forced to report to the job anyway. That includes bag inspection agents at airports, who protested previous shutdowns by refusing to work, at times snarling air travel. The nation's 1.3 million active-duty troops similarly must continue to helm their stations without pay—though all of these workers would receive back pay once the shutdown ends.

Philippines, China report new run-in in S. China Sea

Associated Press

MANILA — Chinese and Philippine vessels engaged in a new confrontation in the South China Sea on Friday, with Manila charging that a Chinese coast guard ship and accompanying vessels conducted dangerous maneuvers and blasted a Philippine supply ship with a water cannon in disputed waters.

China responded that it acted appropriately under maritime law to defend what it says is its territory.

The incident was the latest in a series of maritime confrontations between the two nations over territorial disputes that risk turning into more serious armed engagements.

Tensions have risen recently as China has blockaded an isolated Philippine marine outpost on Second Thomas Shoal, also known as Ayungin Shoal.

The marines are based on a rusted old warship that the Philippine navy grounded deliberately in 1999 to bolster its territorial claim.

A Philippine government task force dealing with the South China Sea said Friday that vessels belonging to China's coast guard and its paramilitary Maritime Militia "recklessly harassed, blocked and executed dangerous maneuvers in another attempt to illegally impede or obstruct a routine resupply and rotation mission."

It said a Chinese coast guard ship used a water cannon to blast the Philippine supply vessel M/L Kalayaan, which was en route to deliver supplies to the outpost.

The resupply mission was carried out successfully despite the harassment, it said in a statement.

Ex-senator reports assault while in Iowa

Associated Press

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa — A former U.S. senator from Arizona has said she was molested while jogging along the Missouri River in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Martha McSally described the Wednesday morning attack in a video she posted online.

"A man came up behind me and he engulfed me in a bear

hug and he molested and fondled me until I fought him off," she said. "I then chased him down. I said a lot of swear words in this moment. I was in a fight, flight or freeze. And I chose to fight."

After McSally chased the man into the brush at Tom Hanafan River's Edge Park, she called police.

Council Bluffs Police said in a statement that McSally lost sight of the man before officers arrived around 11 a.m., and he escaped. Police are still looking for him.

The former senator was in the area to deliver a speech about courage just across the Missouri River in Omaha Wednesday night.

Biden, Xi to meet to talk trade, Taiwan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping will meet Wednesday in California for talks on trade, Taiwan and managing fraught U.S.-Chinese relations in the first engagement between the leaders of the world's two biggest economies in nearly a year.

The White House has said for weeks that it anticipated Biden and Xi would meet on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco, but negotiations went down to the eve of the gathering, which kicks off Saturday.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement the leaders would discuss the "continued importance of maintaining open lines

of communication" and how they "can continue to responsibly manage competition and work together where our interests align, particularly on transnational challenges that affect the international community."

China's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Friday that Xi would attend APEC from Tuesday to Nov. 17 at Biden's invitation and would take part in the U.S.-China summit.

Two senior Biden administration officials, who earlier briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House, said that the leaders would meet in the San Francisco Bay area but declined to offer further details because of security concerns. Thousands of protesters are expected to descend on San Francisco during the summit.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng met on Thursday in the San Francisco, the latest in a string of senior level engagements between the nations in recent months aimed at easing tensions. Yellen and He were set to continue talks on Friday.

The Biden-Xi meeting is not expected to lead to many, if any, major announcements, and differences between the two powers certainly won't be resolved. Instead, one official said, Biden is looking toward "managing the competition, preventing the downside risk of conflict and ensuring channels of communication are open." The officials said they believed it would be Xi's first visit to San Francisco since he was a young Communist Party leader.

The agenda includes no shortage of difficult issues.

Differences in the already complicated U.S.-Chinese relationship have only sharpened in the last year, with Beijing bristling over new U.S. export controls on advanced technology; Biden ordering the shooting down of a Chinese spy balloon after it traversed the continental United States; and Chinese anger over a stopover in the U.S. by Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen earlier this year, among other issues. China claims the island as its territory.

Biden will also likely press Xi on using China's influence on North Korea, during heightened anxiety over an increased pace of ballistic missile tests by North Korea as well as Pyongyang providing munitions to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

Manchin decision hurts Democrats' Senate hopes

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Joe Manchin's decision not to seek reelection virtually ensures that the Democratic Party will lose his Senate seat next year in deep-red West Virginia, making the party's steep path to retaining its razor-thin Senate majority even more difficult.

Some Democratic officials are also concerned that Manchin's announcement frees him to pursue a third-party presidential bid that could ultimately undermine President Joe Biden's reelection.

The 76-year-old Manchin has raised the possibility of a presidential bid in the past, and he made direct reference to national ambitions in the retirement video he posted on social media Thursday.

Manchin's sudden announcement injects a new layer of uncertainty for Democratic leaders already anxious about the

party's prospects in 2024. Biden is seeking a second term despite persistent concerns about his age and economic leadership from voters in both major parties. At the same time, Democrats are clinging to a 51-49 Senate majority having narrowly lost their House majority last fall.

Just an hour after Manchin's announcement, a Boston-based group filed paperwork with the Federal Election Commission to form a draft committee designed to encourage Manchin and Utah Sen. Mitt Romney to launch a third-party presidential bid.

A person with direct knowledge of the group's activities said the committee, which is calling itself "America Back on Track," would launch publicly next week with an initial budget of \$1 million. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal planning.

Top US, Indian officials discuss security issues

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — The top diplomats and defense chiefs from India and the United States met Friday to discuss security issues in the Indo-Pacific, China and the Israel-Hamas war.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the U.S. and India are continuing to "deepen our partnership, deepen our collaboration on everything from emerging technologies to defense to people-to-people ties, as well as our shared diplomacy to try to advance an Indo-Pacific region that's free, that's open, that's prosperous, that's resilient."

He said the two sides discussed the crisis in the Middle East and "we appreciate the fact that from day one India has strongly condemned the attacks of Oct. 7. And as our joint statement makes clear, India and the United States stand with Israel against terrorists."

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and his Indian counterpart, Rajnath Singh, discussed a roadmap for defense industrial cooperation that will fast-track technology cooperation and co-production of defense systems, India's defense ministry said.

"We're integrating our industrial bases, strengthening our inter-operability, and sharing cutting-edge technology," Austin said in his opening remarks.

Washington expects India to be a leading security provider in the Indo-Pacific region.

Singh said the two countries' partnership is critical for ensuring a free and open Indo-Pacific.

During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the United States in June, the two sides adopted a policy guide for defense industries to enable them to produce advanced defense systems together.

Foreman runs for TD, Bears beat Panthers

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Bears weren't too concerned about appearances. All that mattered was that they came out on top.

D'Onta Foreman ran for a touchdown and the Bears boosted their shot at the top pick in the draft, beating the Carolina Panthers 16-13 on Thursday.

"At the end of the day, man, all the hard work we put in, even with it not being pretty, it still feels amazing," Foreman said. "You know what I mean?"

The matchup between teams among the bottom five in the NFL delivered about as much drama as expected. But Chicago (3-7) made enough plays to come away with the victory.

The Bears also boosted their chances at the No. 1 pick because they have Carolina's first-rounder in 2024. They acquired the pick along with Moore last March for the top selection this year. The Panthers (1-8) are tied

with Arizona — which plays Atlanta on Sunday — for the worst record in the NFL.

Foreman gave the Bears a 16-10 lead in the third quarter with a 4-yard run. Chicago was up by three with 1:40 remaining in the game when Carolina's Eddy Pineiro missed a 59-yard field goal, the ball landing well short of the goal post. The Bears sealed the win when Darnell Mooney caught an 8-yard pass on third-and-seven at the 48.

Moore caught five passes for 58 yards against his former team.

Tyson Bagent completed 20 of 33 passes for 162 yards in his fourth straight start with Justin Fields sidelined because of a dislocated right thumb. The Bears are 2-2 with the undrafted rookie from Division II Shepherd University in West Virginia in the lineup.

Cairo Santos kicked three field goals. The Bears got their pass rush going, sacking Bryce

Young three times. It was a big improvement for a team with a league-low 10 through the first nine games.

"They got swagger," said defensive end Montez Sweat, who had three quarterback hits in his second game since a trade-deadline deal from Washington. "All these guys, I really love kind of like the plug and play. I'm really going along with them trying to figure out the energy that they're bringing."

Panthers fall

Carolina's Ihmir Smith-Marsette returned a punt 79 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter. But Young, coming off his worst game as a pro, had another rough outing. The No. 1 draft pick this year, he was 21 of 38 for 185 yards with a 68.4 rating, after throwing three interceptions and having two returned for scores in a loss to Indianapolis.

Adam Thielen caught six pas-

ses for 42 yards, and the Panthers fell to 0-5 on the road.

"We have to be better," Young said. "Our defense, great game, start to finish. We have to be better. I have to be better first and foremost. I have to be a lot better."

Jumping ahead

The Bears grabbed a 16-10 lead midway through the third on a 4-yard run by Foreman — who spent last season with Carolina — to cap a 38-yard drive after pinning the Panthers deep in their own territory. Chicago opted not to try a 2-point conversion to go by seven.

Carolina got a big opportunity late in the third, taking over at the Chicago 40 after Trenton Gill shanked a punt. The Panthers got pushed back 20 yards to start the drive because of back-to-back penalties, then got to the 20 before Pineiro kicked a field goal to make it a three-point game early in the fourth.

Belichick hopes trip to Frankfurt can spur Patriots

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Despite the Patriots' 2-7 slump, coach Bill Belichick was in an unusually upbeat mood Friday as he hoped his New England team could enjoy the experience of playing against the Indianapolis Colts in Germany.

Belichick and the Patriots have a 3-0 all-time record in regular-season international games — the last in 2017 — but haven't played in Germany. The team is coming off a 20-17 loss to the Washington Commanders last week.

"We play a lot of NFL games and this is one that will be a little bit different, just like Mexico City and London were," Belichick said. "It's a good opportunity for our team. We'll just make the most of it and enjoy it, obviously focus on playing well, regaining our focus and preparation here, the next couple of days. Go out there and hopefully play our best game of the year on Sunday. That's our goal."

The Patriots are looking for the first win outside their division this season as they play the 4-5 Colts. New England's dismal

start this year is the franchise's worst since Belichick's first season with the team in 2000.

Belichick said he's loved visiting Germany before, though he questioned the catering choice for media at practice — "pretzels for lunch?" — and predicted the tight travel schedule after arriving Friday morning meant he wouldn't see much of Frankfurt. "We'll see how it goes. I'm kind of running on fumes here," he said.

Belichick confirmed offensive tackle Trent Brown had not made the trip to Germany with

the team. Asked if it was related to personal reasons or his ankle injury — both mentioned in Thursday's injury report — Belichick said "both."

Cornerback J.C. Jackson, who was traded from the Los Angeles Chargers last month, also didn't travel with the team. Belichick indicated he expected Jackson would be available following the trip to Germany. Jackson was listed Thursday as not practicing for personal reasons. The Patriots have a bye week before playing the New York Giants on Nov. 26.

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A's fans prod MLB owners to keep team in Oakland

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Boston Red Sox owner John Henry will soon receive a special “Stay In Oakland” box from Bay Area fans packed with a green Athletics cap, a baseball card featuring his likeness and a note telling him all the reasons he should vote no on the team’s planned relocation to Las Vegas.

They will try to sway Hal Steinbrenner of the New York Yankees, too — another owner identified as someone who could be convinced to vote against Vegas.

They hope Los Angeles Angels owner Arte Moreno might be an ally. Or perhaps Ray Davis of the World Series champion Texas Rangers. Maybe the Seattle Mariners’ John Stanton.

The devoted fan group chose 15 owners to receive the box, selected because maybe — just maybe — there’s one more chance to keep the A’s in Oakland.

This last-ditch effort includes a big assist by clothing company Last Dive Bar, a loyal A’s supporter. It made the boxes and a snazzy, colorful “Keep the Athletics in ... OAKLAND” postcard.

“This project has been a cul-

mination of our collective works and we hope it shows the owners what we all know to be true,” Paul Bailey, one of the three owners of Last Dive Bar, said in a message to The AP. “The fans are not the problem.”

Oakland clothing company Oaklandish provided the hats, while the box also features a DVD created by “The Summer of Sell” group, a USB flash drive and a personal letter from Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao along with a photo of her in an A’s jersey. The boxes will arrive from her office address.

“The box is everything that’s been done before in Oakland and why they should vote no,” explained lifelong A’s fan Stephen Lucero, an artist and firefighter in nearby Alameda who made the custom cards for each owner.

Some 200 people crammed the Oakland City Council chambers for a standing-room-only meeting Tuesday and chanted “Stay in Oakland!” in yet another unified effort to keep the team from moving. The City Council unanimously passed a resolution that reaffirmed its support of the A’s staying in Oakland.

MLB owners are expected to vote on the proposed relocation next Wednesday or Thursday

during their annual meetings, to be held this year in Arlington, Texas.

The A’s reached a tentative agreement for a new stadium in Las Vegas in May, spurring outrage and frustration during what may have been a lame-duck season in Oakland.

On June 13, furious fans showed up at the Coliseum and implored owner John Fisher to sell the team with what they called a reverse boycott. Thousands wore green “SELL” T-shirts and chanted “Sell the team!” throughout a 2-1 victory against Tampa Bay. A season-best crowd of 27,759 was the largest for an A’s game on a Tuesday since they drew 33,654 against the Dodgers on Aug. 7, 2018.

After the season, A’s pitcher Trevor May ripped Fisher during a video message announcing his retirement. May implored Fisher to “Sell the team, dude. ... Sell it, man.”

“Let someone who actually, like, takes pride in the things they own, own something,” he added.

Lucero and wife Chrissy, also his business partner at Steevow Custom Cards, spent hours at City Hall on Tuesday as A’s fans rallied once more to try to save their team.

Ex-players charged with sex crimes in hazing case

Associated Press

Three former New Mexico State basketball players were charged with multiple sex crimes Thursday related to a series of alleged assaults of teammates that led to the disbandment of the team in the middle of last season.

A New Mexico grand jury indicted former Aggies Deshawndre Washington, Kim Aiken Jr. and Doctor Bradley with multiple counts of criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual conduct and false imprisonment. Washington and Bradley could face 27 years in prison if convicted on 13 charges apiece. Aiken could face 24 years on 11 charges.

In announcing the indictments, the state attorney general did not release the names of the victims. Earlier this week, two former players and a student manager filed a civil lawsuit against the school, athletic director Mario Moccia and former coaches, along with Washington, Aiken and Bradley, contending they were sexually assaulted and threatened with guns in the New Mexico State locker room.

Those allegations were similar to others lodged by former players Deuce Benjamin and Shak Odunewu in a lawsuit the school settled for \$8 million earlier this year.

The lawsuits described a “humbling” ritual in which the defendants would pull down the victims’ pants and sometimes grab their genitals. The descriptions were in line with findings in the school’s recently completed Title IX investigation into the same players.

Thursday marked the first criminal charges stemming from what the school initially called a hazing incident.

Virginia RB regains movement after hard hit

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Virginia running back Perris Jones regained movement in all of his extremities, school officials said, hours after being immobilized on a flat board and carted off the field after being injured on a play late in the third quarter against No. 11 Louisville on Thursday night.

Football spokesman Jim

Daves said in a text early Friday that Jones will remain at UofL Hospital overnight.

Jones caught a 7-yard pass from Anthony Colandrea and was starting to run upfield when he fumbled after a hard hit on his helmet by Cam’Ron Kelly with several other Cardinals nearby. Malik Washington scooped up the ball near the right sideline and dashed down

the field for the go-ahead touchdown to make it 21-14.

Kelly said the play opened up for him to make the tackle and indicated that Jones tried to go low and he went low, too.

“I’m just praying for him,” Kelly said. “I said my piece to him when he was on the stretcher. I’ve got nothing but love for him. I hope he has a speedy recovery.”

Antetokounmpo scores 54 in loss to Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Giannis Antetokounmpo scored an NBA season-high 54 points, but committed two turnovers after Tyrese Haliburton's go-ahead 3-pointer with 1:29 left, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 126-124 on Thursday night.

Haliburton had 29 points and 10 assists and Benne- dict Mathurin added 26 points and 11 re-

bounds for the Pacers, who blew an 18-point lead and then had to rally from 10 down in the fourth quarter.

Antetokounmpo finished one point shy of his career high, but threw away a pass with 1:03 left, then was stripped by Mathurin with 30 seconds to go, both with the Bucks trailing 122-121.

He was 19 for 25 from the field, 16 of 18 on free throws

and grabbed 12 rebounds, but also had eight turnovers.

Myles Turner added 21 points for the Pacers, who shot 48% from the field, including a 20-of-48 performance from 3-point range.

Hawks 120, Magic 119: Trae Young scored 41 points, then fed Dejounte Murray for a go-ahead 3-pointer with 31 seconds left to give Atlanta a victory over Orlando in a regular-

season game in Mexico City.

Young had 33 points in the first half for Atlanta (4-3), which played for the first time south of the border.

Jalen Johnson had 19 points, Murray added 16 and Bogdan Bogdanovic finished with 15.

Jalen Suggs scored 21 points and Paolo Banchero had 17, but missed a 3-pointer with 7.9 seconds remaining on Orlando's final possession.

No. 4 Michigan State bounces back with easy win

Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Tyson Walker scored 14 points and No. 4 Michigan State bounced back from a surprising loss in its season opener to beat Southern Indiana 74-51 on Thursday night.

Maddy Sissoko had 11 points and 10 rebounds for the Spartans (1-1), who began the season with a loss to James Madison in overtime before getting a lopsided win over an overmatched team in its second season of Division I basketball.

The Screaming Eagles (0-2) missed 17 of their first 18 shots and trailed 37-14 at halftime. They were much more competitive early in the second half, going on a 12-0 run to cut the deficit to 15 points.

Michigan State responded by making five of six shots to take a

22-point lead and coasted to a much-needed victory, less than a week before facing No. 2 Duke.

No. 20 Baylor 96, John Brown 70: Langston Love matched his career high with 20 points, RayJ Dennis scored 16 points with eight assists and Baylor won its home opener against an NAIA opponent.

Jayden Nunn added 15 points for the Bears (2-0), who played the midday game before mostly elementary school students only about 37 hours after finishing their season-opening win over Auburn in South Dakota. They got back to Waco at about 3 a.m. Wednesday.

Drew Miller had 19 points with five 3-pointers to lead John Brown. Malachi Reeves added 17 points while making all seven of his field goal attempts.

No. 21 Southern California 86, Cal State Bakersfield 59: Isaiah Collier scored 19 points, Oziyah Sellers added a career-high 16 and Southern California routed Cal State Bakersfield in the Trojans' home opener.

Coming off a 13-point win over Kansas State in Las Vegas earlier in the week, the Trojans had no trouble with the Roadrunners of the Big West.

USC (2-0) set the tone in the first half, shooting 59% from the floor, scoring 19 points off Bakersfield's turnovers and leading 47-23 at the break.

DJ Rodman added 15 points and Joshua Morgan had 12 for the Trojans, who counted Chris Rock and Rodman's soccer pro sister Trinity, among the crowd.

Kaleb Higgins led the Roadrunners (1-1) with 19 points and

Cameron Wilbon had 10.

No. 23 Saint Mary's 72, New Mexico 58: Aidan Mahaney matched his career high of 25 points and made five 3-pointers, and Saint Mary's avenged last season's home loss to New Mexico.

The Gaels (2-0) dominated at both ends of the court and led by 22 before coasting over the final eight minutes to win.

Harry Wessels added 12 points, the only other Saint Mary's player to score in double figures.

The win took a little sting out of the Gaels' 69-65 loss to the Lobos a year ago, a victory that snapped Saint Mary's school-record, 23-game winning streak at home.

Donovan Dent had 15 points and five assists for New Mexico.

Clark scores 44 as No. 3 Iowa tops Virginia Tech

Associated Press

The Associated Press 2023 player of the year showed off her full arsenal, hurting the Hokies with step-back 3-pointers, driving one-handed scoop layups, turnaround jumpers and nifty passes to escape double teams. She repeatedly found her way to the free throw line, where she went 13 of 17.

Clark finished just shy of her

career best of 46 points against Michigan in 2022.

Hannah Stuelke added 12 points and Sydney Affolter had 14 rebounds for the Hawkeyes (2-0).

The Hawkeyes overcame a big game from Georgia Amore, who had 31 points on seven 3-pointers for the Hokies (1-1). Two-time ACC player of the year Elizabeth Kitley had 16

points and 16 rebounds.

No. 1 LSU 112, Queens 55: Angel Reese had 28 points and 14 rebounds, Sa'Myah Smith added 21 points and LSU defeated Queens in the Tigers' first home game since winning the 2023 national title.

Coming off a surprising season-opening loss to No. 20 Colorado in Las Vegas on Monday, LSU (1-1) looked determined to

win convincingly as they took the court following pre-game ceremonies celebrating the program's first national championship last spring.

Reese was aggressive from the start, hitting a layup along with seven free throws in the first quarter alone to help stake LSU to a 33-20 lead. She had 21 points and nine rebounds by halftime, when LSU led 56-30.

Sharks win 2nd after 11 straight losses

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Tomas Hertl scored a goal and set up another to help the San Jose Sharks win their second straight game following 11 consecutive losses to open the season, 3-2 over the slumping Edmonton Oilers on Thursday night.

In a matchup of the NHL's two worst teams so far this season, it was Connor McDavid and the Oilers who ended up on the losing end.

Hertl assisted on Fabian Zetterlund's goal that opened the scoring in the first period and then took advantage of a fortunate bounce to score midway through the second period.

Filip Zadina also scored for San Jose, which ended an eight-game losing streak against the Oilers.

Mackenzie Blackwood made 39 saves, coming up big on an Edmonton power-play late in the game after Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored with the goalie pulled with 2:26 to play. Darnell Nurse also scored for the Oilers.

McDavid, who led the NHL with 64 goals last season, has no goals in his last seven games. The Oilers have lost four straight and have one win in their last nine contests. Their five points are tied with the 1993-94 team for the fewest through 12 games in franchise history.

Stuart Skinner made 15 saves for Edmonton in the first game since the Oilers sent high-priced goalie Jack Campbell to the AHL in what coach Jay Woodcroft described as a "message" to his struggling team.

Woodcroft said after the move that he expected the Oilers to play their best game of the season, but that didn't materialize. Woodcroft said he wasn't worried about his job security.

"I worry about taking care of my daily business and my daily process and making sure that I give my players something to

focus on and concentrate on," he said. "No one's happy with where we're at. We all own it. We can be better, and that's where my focus is."

Bruins 5, Islanders 2: Charlie Coyle had his first career hat trick — thanks to an empty-netter spoon-fed to him by David Pastrnak — and Linus Ullmark made 27 saves in Boston's victory over New York.

"He was screaming, 'Shoot!'" Coyle recalled after registering his first career hat trick. "He was tired. I backhanded that over and he was kind of like, 'What are you doing that (for)?' But I'm glad it worked out."

Coyle also assisted on a goal in the first period for four points on the night to help the defending Presidents Trophy winners win for the 11th time in their first 13 games. They are tied with Stanley Cup champion Vegas for the NHL points lead.

Pastrnak and Trent Frederic also scored for Boston. Brock Nelson and Simon Holmstrom scored for New York.

Kraken 4, Avalanche 3: Oliver Bjorkstrand scored his second goal of the game with 32 seconds remaining and Seattle beat Colorado.

Jaden Schwartz and Matty Beniers also scored to help the Kraken hand the Avalanche their first home loss in five games this season.

Philipp Grubauer had 23 saves against his former team. He also helped knock off Colorado last season in the first round of the playoffs.

Bowen Byram, Nathan MacKinnon and Valeri Nichushkin scored for Colorado.

There was a scary moment midway through the second period when Colorado forward Artturi Lehkonen took a bump from defenseman Jamie Oleksiak and slid head-first into the boards. Lehkonen was taken to the hospital.

Canucks 5, Senators 2: Elias Pettersson had a goal and two

assists to take the NHL points lead and Vancouver beat Ottawa for its fifth straight victory.

Pettersson has 24 points on seven goals and 17 assists. He has five goals and nine assists during a seven-game points streak.

Ilya Mikheyev scored twice, Brock Boeser and J.T. Miller added goals and Casey DeSmith made 28 saves to help Vancouver improve to 10-2-1.

Drake Batherson and Artem Zub scored for Ottawa.

Penguins 4, Kings 3, OT: Bryan Rust scored on a wrap-around at 3:45 of overtime and Pittsburgh beat Los Angeles to sweep a California trip for the first time since 1996-97.

Rust appeared to put in his own rebound 17 seconds earlier, but the goal was waved off when he was ruled offside.

Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist, and Lars Eller and Jake Guentzel also scored for the Penguins. Magnus Hellberg stopped 34 shots. Adrian Kempe, Carl Grundstrum and Kevin Fiala scored for Los Angeles.

Blackhawks 5, Lightning 3: Top draft pick Connor Bedard had his first multi-point game with two goals and two assists and Chicago beat Tampa Bay to snap an eight-game losing streak against the Lightning.

Rookie defenseman Kevin Korchiński and ex-Lightning forwards Tyler Johnson and Corey Perry also scored for Chicago, and Petr Mrazek made 31 saves.

Anthony Cirelli, Nikita Kucherov and Steven Stamkos scored for the Lightning.

Jets 6, Predators 3: Kyle Connor had a hat trick and added an assist to help Winnipeg beat Nashville.

Connor has 11 goals this season, five in the last two games.

Cole Perfetti, Mason Appleton and Brenden Dillon also scored, Mark Scheifele had three assists and Laurent Bros-

soit made 20 saves. Winnipeg improved to 7-4-2.

Filip Forsberg scored twice for Nashville, and Philip Tomasino added a goal. Nashville has lost two in a row and four of five to fall to 5-8-0.

Canadiens 3, Red Wings 2: Cole Caufield scored a power-goal at 4:04 of overtime, Cayden Primeau stopped 27 shots for his first win of the season and Montreal beat Detroit to snap a four-game skid.

Mike Matheson had a goal and two assists, and Nick Suzuki had a goal and an assist for Montreal, which ended an 0-3-1 slide.

Christian Fischer and J.T. Compher scored for Detroit.

Rangers 4, Wild 1: Alexis Lafreniere scored the tiebreaking goal early in the third period and added two assists, Louis Domingue made 26 saves in his first NHL game in nearly 18 months and New York beat Minnesota.

Vincent Trocheck also had a goal and two assists, Artemi Panarin had a goal and an assist and Blake Wheeler also scored as the Rangers won for the eighth time in nine games. Brandon Duhaime scored for the Wild.

Blues 2, Coyotes 1: Robert Thomas broke a tie in the second period and St. Louis held off Arizona.

Oskar Sundqvist also scored, and Joel Hofer had 19 saves to help the Blues win for the third time in their last four games. Lawson Crouse scored for Arizona, and Karel Vejmelka stopped 31 shots.

Stars 5, Blue Jackets 2: Matt Duchene scored the go-ahead goal in the second period and Dallas beat Columbus to snap a two-game losing streak.

Mason Marchment, Craig Smith and Jason Robertson also scored, and Jake Oettinger stopped 28 shots for Dallas. Boone Jenner and Kirill Marchenko scored for Columbus.