

Israeli forces raid hospital in Gaza

Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip — Israeli forces on Wednesday raided Gaza's largest hospital, a beleaguered facility filled with hundreds of patients that is at the heart of clashing narratives around the war and a potent symbol of Palestinian suffering.

Israel viewed Shifa Hospital as a key target in a conflict that has killed thousands of Palestinians and unleashed widespread destruction in Gaza. The war between Israel and Hamas erupted after the militant group killed some 1,200 people and seized around 240 captives in a surprise Oct. 7 attack.

Israel says Shifa is a Hamas command post nestled under civilians, without providing visual evidence — part of its broader accusation that the militants use Palestinians as human shields. Hamas and Gaza health officials deny militants operate in Shifa, and Palestinians and rights groups say Israel has recklessly endangered civilians as it seeks to eradicate Hamas.

A worsening fuel shortage, meanwhile, threatened to paralyze the delivery of humanitarian services across Gaza and shut down the mobile phone and internet network.

Munir al-Boursh, a senior official with Gaza's Health Ministry, said Israeli forces had ransacked the basement and other buildings at Shifa, including those housing the emergency and surgery departments.

"They are still here," he said by phone from inside the hospital, hours after the raid began. "Patients, women and children are terrified."

The Israeli military said it was carrying out a "precise and targeted operation against Hamas in a specified area in the hospital," adding that it was separate from where patients and medical staff are located.

It was not possible to independently assess the situation inside.

The military said the soldiers were accompanied by medical teams and bringing in incubators.

It added that forces are search-

ing for hostages. The plight of the captives, who include men, women and children, has galvanized Israeli support for the war, and families and supporters of the hostages are holding a protest march from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The raid drew condemnation from Jordan and the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, which called it a violation of international law. U.N. aid chief Martin Griffiths said he was "appalled" by the raid, saying the protection of civilians "must override all other concerns."

At one point, tens of thousands of Palestinians seeking safety from Israeli bombardment were sheltering at the hospital, but most left in recent days as the fighting drew closer. A few thousand remain behind, along with patients, including premature babies, whose fate has drawn particular concern.

The Health Ministry said 40 patients, including three babies, have died since Shifa's emergency generator ran out of fuel Satur-

day. Another 36 babies are at risk of dying because there is no power for incubators, according to the ministry.

Hours before Israel's raid, the United States said its own intelligence indicated militants have used Shifa and other hospitals — and tunnels beneath them — to support military operations and hold hostages.

With its troops inside Shifa, the burden will shift to Israel to prove its claim that the facility was being used by militants and that it was a big enough military target to justify the battle that isolated its patients for days and a fuel embargo that eventually shut down incubators and other life-saving equipment.

The deteriorating conditions at Shifa reflect the broader deprivations across the besieged territory.

Hardly any aid has been delivered to the north, which has been without power or running water for weeks. About two thirds of the territory's 2.3 million people have fled their homes.

Sailors on ships in dry dock gain rights on punishment

By ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

Sailors and Marines assigned to vessels undergoing maintenance or upgrades now can refuse nonjudicial punishments meted out by their commanders, just as they can when serving ashore.

Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro ordered the change to service policy last week regarding the "vessel exception" rule, a controversial, decades-old clause in a section of the Uniform Code of Military Justice covering nonjudicial punishment of

service members.

Under military law, service members have the option to reject nonjudicial punishment and face charges for UCMJ violations during a court-martial or other proceeding.

But service members either aboard or assigned to ships, submarines and other vessels are stripped of that right.

A court-martial typically has a higher burden of proof.

Del Toro's directive clarifies that a vessel must be operational for a commanding officer to apply the exception. The order, is-

sued Nov. 8, also specifies the conditions under which a vessel is considered inoperative.

Commanders also must fully inform service members of their rights prior to a nonjudicial proceeding, or captain's mast, whether at sea or ashore and allow them access to a lawyer when feasible, according to the memorandum.

Service members have long challenged nonjudicial punishments given under the exception, arguing that they're unfair when a vessel is in dry dock or otherwise not at sea, or when

they were no longer assigned to a vessel.

The exception is part of Article 15 of the UCMJ, enacted in 1950, according to a February 1997 opinion by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

In 1962, Congress overhauled Article 15 to include the right of service members to demand trial by court-martial, "except in the case of a member attached to or embarked on a vessel."

The justices also wrote in the 1997 opinion that it was clear that Congress intended the exception to apply only to vessels at sea.

Navy to take over closure of Red Hill

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Pentagon announced Tuesday that a newly created task force will take the lead this spring in closing the defunct underground fuel storage facility in Hawaii responsible for widespread water contamination two years ago.

Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, commander of Navy Region Hawaii, will head Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill while continuing in his current position.

“Dual hatting the Commander enables operational and reputational synergy for the execution of closure and remediation actions, while also leveraging the Commander’s position in the community to continue rebuilding trust with the State of Hawaii and the local community of Oahu,”

Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, said in a statement Tuesday.

Joint Task Force-Red Hill, the Department of Defense entity overseeing the emptying of 104 million gallons of fuel from the World War II-era Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, is expected to complete its work in the first few months of 2024.

The Navy task force is slated to take charge of the closure operations April 1, according to a supplemental defueling plan issued by the DOD on Tuesday.

Putting the Navy in charge of closure brings the service full circle in the Red Hill saga.

For decades, the Navy operated the Red Hill facility, which lies only a few miles outside Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, maintaining all the while that the massive underground tanks were crucial to national

security and posed no risk to the environment. The tanks and piping, however, sprung numerous leaks throughout those years, and jet fuel from a leak in November 2021 made its way into one of three wells used by the Navy for a water distribution system that served thousands of people living in military communities on and near the joint base.

A Navy investigation into the spill released in July 2022 described a litany of Navy shortcomings that led to the disaster. Among them was a culture of ignoring proper procedures, poor training and supervision, ineffective command and control and a lack of timely, accurate reporting of problems and defects.

In March 2022, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the facility permanently closed.

Marines on Okinawa launch new seaborne force

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa — The Marine Corps on Wednesday launched a new seaborne quick-reaction force on Okinawa as friction between U.S. regional allies and China is on the rise.

The 12th Marine Regiment became the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment during a sunlit morning ceremony on Camp Hansen’s football field. The littoral regiment — typically about 2,000 Marines — will specialize in stand-in force operations, a key tenet of the

Marines’ revamped island-fighting doctrine, Force Design 2030.

A stand-in force is a small, mobile unit inserted within enemy missile range to seize and hold key islands and deny enemy vessels access to surrounding seas.

“Today marks a significant milestone in the storied history of 12th Marine Regiment as a transition to the 12th Marine Littoral Regiment,” Maj. Gen. Christian Wortman, commander of the 3rd Marine Division, said.

This transformation is “a direct response to the dynamic defense landscape that we

face in the 21st century,” he said.

The new littoral regiment is not focused on any particular nation, but is prepared to face evolving regional threats, Wortman said after the ceremony.

The redesignation came less than a day before President Joe Biden was scheduled to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping in San Francisco during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. The leaders were expected to discuss topics ranging from the resumption of military-to-military contacts to the wars in Gaza and Ukraine.

North Korea says it tested new solid-fuel missile engines

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea said Wednesday that it successfully tested new solid-fuel engines designed for intermediate-range ballistic missiles as it works on enhancing its nuclear-capable arsenal with more powerful, harder-to-detect weapons that can potentially target U.S. military bases in Guam and Japan.

North Korea’s official Korean Central News Agency said the country’s military scientists tested the first-stage and second-

stage missile engines on Saturday and Tuesday.

The report did not say when the new missile system was expected to be completed.

The tests extend a torrid run in North Korea’s weapons development efforts, which some analysts have said could be boosted by an alleged arms cooperation with Russia as they align in the face of separate, intensifying confrontations with the United States.

Tuesday’s test came as Russia’s natural resources minister, Alexander Kozlov, arrived in North Korea for talks over unspecified trade and technology exchanges, as the countries continued to build on a rare summit in September between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and Russian Vladimir Putin.

Kim’s trip to the Russian Far East, where he also visited major rocket and military sites, sparked concerns about a potential arms alignment between the countries.

Bill to avoid shutdown now with Senate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House voted overwhelmingly Tuesday to prevent a government shutdown after new Republican Speaker Mike Johnson was forced to reach across the aisle to Democrats when hard-right conservatives revolted against his plan.

Johnson's proposal to temporarily fund the government into the new year passed on a bipartisan 336-95 tally, but 93 Republicans voted against it. It was the first time the new speaker had to force vital legislation through the House, and he showed a willingness to leave his right-flank Republicans behind — the same political move that cost the last House speaker, Kevin McCarthy, his job just weeks ago.

For now, Johnson, of Louisiana, appeared on track for a better out-

come. His approach, which the Senate is expected to approve by week's end, effectively pushes a final showdown over government funding to the new year.

"Making sure that government stays in operation is a matter of conscience for all of us. We owe that to the American people," Johnson said earlier Tuesday at a news conference at the Capitol.

The new Republican leader faced the same political problem that led to McCarthy's ouster — angry, frustrated, hard-right GOP lawmakers rejected his approach, demanded budget cuts and voted against the plan. Rather than the applause and handshakes that usually follow passage of a bill, several hardline conservatives animatedly confronted the speaker as they exited the chamber.

Without enough support from

his Republican majority, Johnson had little choice but to rely on Democrats to ensure passage to keep the federal government running.

Johnson's proposal puts forward a unique two-part process that temporarily funds some federal agencies to Jan. 19 and others to Feb. 2. It's a continuing resolution that comes without any of the deep cuts conservatives have demanded all year. It also fails to include President Joe Biden's request for nearly \$106 billion for Ukraine, Israel, border security and other supplemental funds.

"We're not surrendering," Johnson assured after a closed-door meeting of House Republicans on Tuesday morning, vowing he would not support another stopgap. "But you have to choose fights you can win."

Johnson, who announced his

endorsement Tuesday of Donald Trump as the Republican nominee for president, hit the airwaves to sell his approach and met privately Monday night with the conservative Freedom Caucus.

Rep. Chip Roy, a Texas Republican who is part of the House Freedom Caucus, did not hold back on his opinion of the stopgap bill: "It's crap."

The opposition from hardline conservatives left Johnson with few other options than to skip what's typically a party-only procedural vote, and rely on another process that requires a two-thirds tally with Democrats for passage.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said Democrats were willing to find common ground with Republicans "while pushing back against Republican extremism whenever necessary."

Senate panel acts to blunt military promotion blockade

By **DOUG G. WARE**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A Senate committee on Tuesday voted for a temporary rule change that would allow the upper chamber to start confirming large groups of military promotions, even if Alabama Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville keeps trying to block them.

The Senate Rules Committee voted 9-7 along party lines in favor of the standing order resolution. It will move next to the full Senate for a vote, which Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., has said will happen as soon as possible.

"If every one of us had the temerity, the recklessness to do what Sen. Tuberville has done, we'd have no military," Schumer said at the hearing. "We need to get these military nominees confirmed ASAP for the sake of our national security. ... The idea of blocking the confirmations of mil-

itary officers to make a political statement has long been considered unthinkable."

If passed in the Senate, the resolution would change the military nominee confirmation rules for the remainder of the 118th Congress, which will run until January 2025. It would allow the upper chamber to confirm almost 400 nominations that Tuberville has been blocking since February.

Tuberville, a freshman senator who was a college football coach before he was elected in 2020, has been blocking all military promotions to protest a new Pentagon policy that reimburses service members who travel to another state to receive reproductive care, including abortions.

That policy is a response to several Republican-controlled states restricting or outlawing abortions after the Supreme Court in 2022 struck down a decades-old decision that made the procedure legal nationwide.

Judge: Trump can stay on primary ballot in Michigan

Associated Press

DETROIT — A Michigan judge ruled Tuesday that former President Donald Trump will remain on the state's primary ballot, dealing a blow to the effort to stop Trump's candidacy with a Civil War-era constitutional clause.

It marks the second time in a week that a state court declined to remove Trump from a primary ballot under the insurrection provision of the 14th Amendment.

In Michigan, Court of Claims Judge James Redford rejected arguments that Trump's role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol meant the court had to declare him ineligible for the presidency. Redford wrote that, because Trump followed state law in qualifying for the primary ballot, he cannot remove the former president. Additionally, he said it should be up to Congress to decide whether Trump is disqualified under the section of the U.S. Constitution that bars from office

a person who "engaged in insurrection."

Redford said deciding whether an event constituted "a rebellion or insurrection and whether or not someone participated in it" are questions best left to Congress and not "one single judicial officer." A judge, he wrote, "cannot in any manner or form possibly embody the represented qualities of every citizen of the nation — as does the House of Representatives and the Senate."

In a statement, Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung rattled off other losses in the effort to bar Trump from the ballot.

"Each and every one of these ridiculous cases have LOST because they are all un-constitutional left-wing fantasies orchestrated by monied allies of the Biden campaign seeking to turn the election over to the courts and deny the American people the right to choose their next president," Cheung said.

Retail sales slip as shoppers pull back after summer season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans cut back on retail spending in October, ending six straight months of gains, though the decline was partly driven by falling prices for both gasoline and cars.

Retail sales fell 0.1% last month after jumping a strong 0.9% in September, according to a report released Wednesday by the Commerce Department. September's figure was revised higher from an initial 0.7% gain. Excluding sales of gas and autos, retail sales ticked up 0.1%.

The figures reflect a slowdown in consumers' willingness to spend after a blowout summer.

Consumer spending jumped in the July-September quarter, but economists forecast it will slow in the final three months of the year, as credit card debt —

and delinquencies — rise and average savings fall.

Still, the decline was smaller than analysts expected.

And excluding sales of autos, gas, building materials, and restaurant meals, the so-called "control group" of sales — which is used to calculate economic growth — rose 0.2%, after a 0.7% leap in September. The increase in control sales suggests consumers still have some spending power left.

"The October retail sales report was stronger than expectations, but confirmed a slowdown in consumption," Ellen Zentner, chief U.S. economist at Morgan Stanley, wrote in a note to clients.

Most retail categories reported a drop in sales, including gas stations and auto dealers, which partly reflected price declines last month in both categories.

Sales at furniture stores fell 2%, and general merchandise sales — a category that includes large retailers such as Walmart and Target — dropped 0.2%. Sales at clothing stores were unchanged.

Online spending, however, climbed 0.2% last month, according to the report. Sales at electronics and appliance stores rose 0.6% and grocery store sales moved up 0.7%. Restaurants and bars reported a 0.3% sales increase, though that was much lower than September's 1.6% gain.

The figures aren't adjusted for inflation, but the price of manufactured goods ticked down last month and overall inflation was flat.

Sales at general merchandise stores fell 0.2% and sales at home furnishings and furniture stores plunged 2%.

Holiday travel set to be busiest since 2019

Bloomberg News

The U.S. Thanksgiving travel period is shaping up to be the busiest since 2019 with 55.4 million Americans expected to travel 50 miles or more from home, according to a forecast from the American Automobile Association.

That makes for the third-highest Thanksgiving travel in records going back to 2000.

As many as 49.1 million Americans are expected to drive, an increase of 1.7% compared with 2022. Pump prices fell to an average of \$3.37 a gallon on Nov. 12, more than 40 cents below the same time in 2022, AAA data show.

The uptick in holiday travel may not be enough to propel the country's gasoline demand above seasonal norms thanks to steady improvements in fuel efficiency. The average vehicle is estimated to have covered 33.27 miles on a gallon of gasoline in 2022, 1.42 miles more than 2021 and 6.7 miles more than a decade earlier, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency.

That's a lot of fuel saved, and not counting the rising share of electric and hybrid vehicles. U.S. gasoline consumption was more than 3% below the five-year average in late October.

As many as 4.7 million people are expected to fly during the Thanksgiving holiday, up 6.6% from 2022, AAA said. Air passengers will also pay 5% more for domestic flights, while rental cars are down a sharp 20% from last year. The Transportation Security Administration is expecting this year's holiday travel season to be busier than ever, with daily screened passengers at airport checkpoints seen surpassing the 2.9 million record this Thanksgiving.

US spy tool may lapse at year's end

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With just seven weeks until the end of the year, the Biden administration is running out of time to win the reauthorization of a spy program it says is vital to preventing terrorism, catching spies and disrupting cyberattacks.

The tool, Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, will expire at the end of December unless the White House and Congress can cut a deal and resolve an unusually vexing debate that has yielded unlikely alliances at the intersection of privacy and national security.

Without the program, administration officials warn, the government won't be able to collect crucial intelligence overseas. But civil liberties advocates from across the political spec-

trum say the law as it stands now infringes on the privacy of ordinary Americans and insist that changes are needed before the program is reauthorized.

"Renewing this law before it expires is among the most consequential national security decisions we face as a country," Assistant Attorney General Matthew Olsen, the Justice Department's top national security official, said at an event last month.

The law, enacted in 2008, permits the U.S. intelligence community to collect without a warrant the communications of foreigners overseas suspected of posing a national security threat.

Importantly, the government also captures the communications of Americans citizens and others in the U.S. when they're

in contact with those targeted foreigners.

In making the case for the law's renewal, the Biden administration over the last year has cited numerous instances in which intelligence derived from Section 702 has helped thwart an attack, including an assassination plot on U.S. soil, or contributed to a successful operation, such as the strike last year that killed al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri.

National security officials have said that 59% of articles in the president's daily brief contain Section 702 information.

But while both sides of the debate agree the program is valuable, they differ in key ways on how it should be structured, creating a stalemate as the deadline approaches.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Amtrak disrupted by issues with stability of garage

NY NEW YORK — Amtrak service north of New York City was disrupted Monday because of structural issues with a parking garage that's over the tracks on Manhattan's west side, officials said.

Service between the city and the Croton-Harmon station in Westchester County was halted Sunday after structural problems were discovered at the parking garage on West 51st Street.

Amtrak said passengers traveling between New York City and Croton-Harmon could take Metro-North, which is honoring Amtrak tickets.

Amtrak spokesperson Jason Abrams said railroad officials don't know when full service will be restored.

Firefighter dies after falling through light shaft

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago firefighter died Monday from injuries he suffered when he fell through a light shaft at a burning building, officials said.

Andrew "Drew" Price, 39, was helping battle a fire at a four-story building in the Lincoln Park neighborhood that began at about 6 a.m., Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt said.

Price was on the roof opening up holes for ventilation when he fell through a light shaft while putting out hot spots, Nance-Holt said, according to the Chicago Sun-Times.

She said a "mayday" was called and Price was located right away, but fellow firefighters needed to breach a wall to reach him. He was taken to the

Illinois Masonic Medical Center, where he died of his injuries, the commissioner said.

Plane crashes into car after missing runway

TX MCKINNEY — A small plane overshot the runway while landing at a Texas airport over the weekend and struck a car driving along a nearby road, injuring one person, authorities said.

Video shows the propeller plane smash through a fence during an emergency landing in the Dallas suburb of McKinney on Saturday. It then bounced and skidded onto the road, losing a wheel and colliding with a silver sedan that was driving perpendicular to the single-engine plane's path.

Following the afternoon crash, medics evaluated both people in the plane and took the car's driver to the hospital with minor injuries, according to a statement from the McKinney Fire Department.

2 accused of running brothel appear in court

MA WORCESTER — A man and woman accused of operating a commercial sex ring with wealthy and prominent clients in Massachusetts and the Washington, D.C., suburbs appeared in court Monday. But a hearing on whether they should remain behind bars while they await trial was delayed until next week.

Junmyung Lee, of Dedham, Mass., and Han Lee, of Cambridge, Mass., were handcuffed as they walked into the courtroom in Worcester, Mass.

They answered yes and no questions from the judge about

whether they understood that they were waiving their right to a preliminary hearing but otherwise did not speak.

U.S. Magistrate Judge David Hennessy scheduled a detention hearing for Nov. 22.

They were arrested last week when investigators busted the network of brothels in Massachusetts and northern Virginia that authorities say brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars for the operators. Acting Massachusetts U.S. Attorney Josh Levy said those who bought sex services include politicians, military officers and government contractors with security clearances.

None of the clients have been charged, and authorities have not publicly named any of them.

No prosecution for helping women get abortions

AL MONTGOMERY — The U.S. Department of Justice on Thursday said Alabama cannot use conspiracy laws to prosecute people and groups who help women leave the state to obtain abortions.

The Justice Department filed a statement of its position in consolidated lawsuits against Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall, arguing that such prosecutions would be unconstitutional. The lawsuits, filed by an abortion fund and former providers, seek a court ruling clarifying the state can't use conspiracy statutes to prosecute people who help Alabama women travel elsewhere to obtain an abortion. Marshall has not prosecuted anyone for providing such assistance, but he has made statements saying that his office would "look at" groups that provide abortion help.

The Justice Department argued in the filing that the U.S. Constitution protects the right to travel. The department said that just as Marshall cannot stop women from crossing state lines to obtain a legal abortion, "neither can he seek to achieve the same result by threatening to prosecute anyone who assists that individual in their travel."

Alabama is one of several states where abortion is almost entirely illegal after the U.S. Supreme Court, in a decision known as *Dobbs*, handed authority on abortion law to the states.

Exxon Mobil is drilling for lithium in Arkansas

AR LITTLE ROCK — Exxon Mobil on Monday announced it's drilling for lithium in southern Arkansas, with the oil giant expected to begin production of the critical material for electric vehicles by 2027.

Exxon in early 2023 acquired the rights to 120,000 gross acres of the Smackover formation in southern Arkansas, considered one of the most prolific lithium resources of its type in North America. Exxon said that by 2030 it aims to produce enough lithium to supply the manufacturing needs of more than 1 million electric vehicles.

Exxon didn't disclose how much it's spending on the project, which is expected to be a boost for a part of Arkansas that has history as an oil and gas producer.

Columbia County Judge Doug Fields said the county has already been working with Exxon to ensure roads to the well are prepared.

— From wire reports

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Watson out for season with shoulder injury

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Deshaun Watson's season is over, once again leaving the Cleveland Browns without a franchise quarterback.

Watson will miss the rest of his second year with Cleveland after sustaining a fracture in his throwing shoulder, an injury that came during his best performance since joining the team following a controversial trade in 2022.

"I'm still in disbelief," Watson said Wednesday.

Watson will undergo surgery to repair the fracture in his right shoulder, which happened during Sunday's 33-31 win in Baltimore on an unspecified hit in the second quarter. The team said an MRI revealed a displaced fracture to the glenoid.

The Browns (6-3) must go forward without Watson and coach Kevin Stefanski said rookie Dorian Thompson-Robinson will start Sunday against the Pittsburgh Steelers (6-3).

It will be the second start for

Thompson-Robinson, a fifth-round pick from UCLA who made an emergency start on Oct. 1 against Baltimore when Watson was ruled out just before kickoff with a shoulder strain.

Thompson-Robinson had a rough pro debut, throwing three interceptions in a 28-3 loss. But now he'll have more time to get ready, and Stefanski is confident Thompson-Robinson will fare better.

"I want to give him a week where he knows he's a starter," Stefanski. "He gets a full week of preparation."

Stefanski's other option was P.J. Walker, who started two games and came off the bench in another for Watson. Walker had six turnovers in three games, throwing a late interception that led to a loss in Seattle.

Watson said he has "no idea" when the fracture happened, but knew by the end of the first quarter there was a problem.

"I kind of recognized something was wrong, but during the midst of the game, I was just

pushing through whatever I was feeling," said Watson, who was also in a walking boot. "And then after the game, and Monday and Tuesday we got testing done and that's when I found out from the doctors that it was something worse than what we thought it was."

Watson paused for several seconds when asked about his emotions at his season being over.

"It's very tough," he said. "But I'm going to make sure I keep my head above water and make sure I stay in touch with all the guys and support them as much as I possibly can and attack this rehab process after surgery and make sure that I'm doing whatever I can to be beneficial for the team while not actually being on the field with them and also prepping for the next year."

Browns general manager Andrew Berry said the fracture is not related to the strained rotator cuff that Watson sustained earlier this season.

"We are very disappointed and devastated for Deshaun, especially given all that he has battled and gone through medically this season," Berry said. "We look at this as an incredible challenge and opportunity for our organization."

Berry credited Watson for staying on the field against the Ravens and leading the Browns to the last-second win despite his shoulder injury and a high left ankle sprain.

"He really didn't start even really feeling it to the second half of the game and that he didn't even really raise it until well after the game," Berry said. "It's an incredible display of physical toughness for him to play with that and not even notice it given the severity of the injury."

Watson will go on season-ending injured reserve, a devastating blow to the Browns, who are in the playoff race and invested \$230 million into the 28-year-old whose arrival seemed to end their long search for an elite QB.

Hyde, Schumaker win top MLB manager awards

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Brandon Hyde's journey from the depths of a Baltimore rebuild to AL Manager of the Year required quite a bit of fortitude.

When asked what quality was most important to that rise, he was candid.

"I want to say patience, but I think I was guilty a lot of nights of not being patient," Hyde said. "I think consistent around the players. I think I hid a lot of things from them — in a good way."

Hyde was voted American League Manager of the Year on Tuesday night after guiding the Orioles to an AL-best 101 victories just two years after a 110-loss season. Miami's Skip Schumaker won the National League award in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America.

Hyde led Baltimore through some very lean years before the Orioles improved to 83-79 in 2022 and he finished second in voting to Cleveland manager Terry Francona.

"I had confidence that we were going to turn this thing around, but you struggle to see when," Hyde said. "Last year, there came a point where you saw the light at the end of the tunnel."

Baltimore was more than ready to take the next step this season thanks to a sparkling core of young talent. Orioles infielder Gunnar Henderson was a unanimous AL Rookie of the Year on Monday night.

"Watching Gunnar win that last night, that was an amazing feeling. So happy for him and his family," Hyde said.

Hyde received 27 of 30 first-place votes, with Bruce Bochy of Texas getting the other three. Two-time winner Kevin Cash of Tampa Bay finished third. Bochy and the wild-card Rangers swept AL East champion Baltimore in the Division Series on their way to winning the World Series.

Schumaker led Miami to an 84-78 record — including 33-14 in one-run games — in his first season at the helm.

"A lot of this season just didn't make

sense, and I think that's why our staff would kind of look at each other and go, 'Here we go again. You know it's going to happen — down three in the eighth and you know what's going to happen. It's bound to happen,'" Schumaker said. "I would rather win by 10 than one, than to come from behind. There's no doubt about that. But I think it wouldn't have made it as special as it was this year."

Voting by the BBWAA occurred before the start of the postseason. Schumaker defeated Milwaukee's Craig Counsell — who left to manage the Chicago Cubs last week — and Atlanta's Brian Snitker in a tight race.

Schumaker received eight first-place votes, three more than runner-up Counsell. Snitker also got eight but had far fewer second- and third-place votes.

The Brewers remain the only current franchise that has never had a Manager of the Year. Counsell finished second for the fourth time in six years.

Dickinson stars as Kansas edges Kentucky

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kansas coach Bill Self delivered a relatively simple pitch to Hunter Dickinson. He told the big man he would get the ball a lot. He told him he would get to play with some great players, and have a chance to win a national championship.

“I think he’s been truthful so far,” Dickinson said.

So far, so good.

Dickinson had 27 points and 21 rebounds, and the top-ranked Jayhawks outlasted No. 17 Kentucky for an 89-84 victory in the Champions Classic on Tuesday night.

The 7-foot-2 Dickinson, who announced in May that he was transferring from Michigan to Kansas, went 8-for-12 from the field and 10-for-11 at the line.

The young Wildcats, playing without a pair of injured centers, fought hard inside, but Dickinson was just too much to handle.

“What he does is he takes pressure off everybody else by having everybody else focused on him,” Self said. “So that’s a big bonus.”

Dajuan Harris Jr. scored 23 points for the Jayhawks, who trailed by as many as 14 in the second half. Kevin McCullar Jr. had 12 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in the third triple-dou-

ble in the history of the program.

No. 9 Duke 74, No. 18 Michigan State 65: Caleb Foster scored 18 points, Kyle Filipowski added 15 and Duke beat Michigan State in the Champions Classic in Chicago.

The Blue Devils (2-1) withstood several pushes by the Spartans (1-2) after grabbing an 11-point halftime lead at the United Center.

No. 4 Marquette 71, No. 23 Illinois 64: Tyler Kolek shook off an ankle injury to score 24 points and the visiting Golden Eagles beat the Fighting Illini.

The reigning Big East player of the year, Kolek added six rebounds and four assists. Kam Jones scored 15 for Marquette (3-0), and Oso Ighodaro had 13 points and eight rebounds.

No. 5 UConn 87, Mississippi Valley State 53: Cam Spencer scored 19 of his 25 points in the first half and the host Huskies beat the Delta Devils.

Donovan Clingan added 17 points for UConn (3-0), which has won 20 straight nonconference games, all by double digits. Alex Karaban scored 14 points while spending most of the game in foul trouble.

No. 7 Tennessee 82, Wofford 61: Dalton Knecht scored 18 points to lead the host Volunteers past the Terriers.

The Northern Colorado transfer scored all but four of his points in the second half, helping Tennessee (3-0) pull away after leading by just five at halftime. Jordan Gainey scored 16 points and Santiago Vescovi added 11 for the Volunteers.

No. 8 Creighton 92, Iowa 84: Trey Alexander narrowly missed a triple-double with 23 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists, and the host Bluejays beat the Hawkeyes.

Creighton (3-0) made 15 of its first 17 shots to start the second half as the Bluejays turned a tie into a 17-point lead with nine minutes left.

No. 10 Florida Atlantic 100, Eastern Michigan 57: Vladislav Goldin scored 19 points, Brandon Weatherspoon added 16 while not missing a shot, and the host Owls eased past the Eagles.

Giancarlo Rosado and Brennen Lorient each scored 13 points for Florida Atlantic (2-0), which was playing for the first time with last season’s Final Four banner swaying over the court. The Owls extended the nation’s second-longest home winning streak to 19 games, and shot 63% on the way to finishing with six players in double figures.

No. 11 Gonzaga 123, Eastern Oregon 57: Graham Ike had 25 points and 11 rebounds in just 18

minutes, and the host Bulldogs beat the Mountaineers in a tune-up for the Maui Invitational.

No. 13 Texas A&M 79, SMU 66: Tyrece Radford scored 16 of his 21 points in the first half, Henry Coleman III had 13 points and 15 rebounds, and the visiting Aggies beat the Mustangs in a meeting of old Southwest Conference foes.

No. 15 Baylor 99, Kansas City 61: Jayden Nunn scored 25 points and freshman Ja’Kobe Walter had 23, with both making four 3-pointers, as the host Bears overwhelmed the Kangaroos.

UC Irvine 70, No. 16 USC 60: Devin Tillis scored five points in the final three minutes, including a 3-pointer with 37.4 seconds remaining, and the visiting Anteaters upset the Trojans.

No. 22 Alabama 102, South Alabama 46: Mark Sears scored 17 points and Sam Walters added 16 to help the host Crimson Tide beat the Jaguars.

No. 25 Colorado 106, Milwaukee 79: KJ Simpson scored 23 points, Eddie Lampkin Jr. had 14 points and 12 rebounds, and the host Buffaloes rode a torrid long-range shooting performance to a rout of the Panthers in the opening-round campus game of the Sunshine Slam Tournament.

Georgia jumps to No. 1 in College Football Playoff rankings

Associated Press

Georgia moved up to No. 1 in the College Football Playoff rankings Tuesday night, nudging past Ohio State, with third-place Michigan and fourth-place Florida State holding their spots in the top four.

Georgia, the two-time defending national champion, had maybe its most impressive performance of the season Saturday in beating Mississippi 52-17. It was the second straight week the Bulldogs defeated a ranked opponent, after downing Missouri the game before.

Selection committee chairman Boo Corrigan, the athletic director at North Carolina State, said Missouri’s big win last week against

Tennessee helped bolster Georgia’s case for No. 1.

“Active, strong debate in the room,” Corrigan said of choosing between Georgia and Ohio State.

Michigan is also coming off its first victory against a ranked team. The Wolverines won 24-15 at Penn State, but couldn’t pass Big Ten rival Ohio State. They will play the Buckeyes at home on Nov. 25.

The top eight teams in the rankings won last week, and the selection committee’s only changes among that group were at the very top.

Washington (10-0) was fifth again, followed

by Oregon (9-1), Texas (9-1) and Alabama (9-1).

Missouri (8-2) at nine and Louisville (9-1) were new to the top 10 this week.

No team with two losses has ever made the College Football Playoff, and only one team from the Group of Five has made the final top four — Cincinnati in 2021.

Using that as a measuring stick, there appear to be nine teams in playoff contention: The top eight plus Louisville.

There are three rankings left, including the last one Dec. 3 that will set the field for the final four-team playoff before the event expands to 12 teams next year.

Nuggets keep Clippers winless with Harden

Associated Press

DENVER — Nikola Jokic had 32 points, 16 rebounds and nine assists and the Denver Nuggets beat the Los Angeles Clippers 111-108 on Tuesday night.

The Clippers remained winless since acquiring James Harden last month.

Jokic was perfect on 14 free throw attempts, including two with 13 seconds left that helped the Nuggets hold off a comeback try.

Los Angeles has lost five straight with Harden, who was acquired on Oct. 30, and six in a row overall despite the 34-year-old guard's best game with his new team since arriving from Philadelphia.

Harden scored 21 points and Paul George tied a season high with 35 points as Los Angeles fell to 0-2 in West Group B of the In-Season Tournament.

Thunder 123, Spurs 87: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points and a career-high seven steals, and host Oklahoma City rolled past San Antonio for their first tournament win. The Spurs

fell to 0-2 in the tournament.

The game featured two of the league's top rookies — San Antonio's 7-foot-3 Victor Wembanyama and Oklahoma City's 7-1 Chet Holmgren. Wembanyama finished with eight points on 4-for-15 shooting. He grabbed 14 rebounds and blocked two shots. Holmgren had nine points on 3-for-10 shooting with seven rebounds and three assists.

Pacers 132, 76ers 126: Tyrese Haliburton had 33 points and 15 assists, and Obi Toppin chipped in 27 points as Indiana won an In-Season Tournament game and snapped host Philadelphia's eight-game winning streak.

The Pacers took the upper hand in the tourney's East Group A standings, improving to 2-0 in pool play. The Sixers slipped to 1-1.

Timberwolves 104, Warriors 101: Karl-Anthony Towns scored 33 points, sending Minnesota to its seventh straight victory in a win over host Golden State that featured three

early ejections.

With the game scoreless and not yet two minutes old, Golden State's Draymond Green was ejected after putting Minnesota's Rudy Gobert in a headlock. Warriors guard Klay Thompson and Timberwolves forward Jaden McDaniels, who got into a shoving match that resulted in Thompson's jersey being ripped, were also tossed from the game.

Heat 111, Hornets 105: Jimmy Butler scored a season-high 32 points, Bam Adebayo had 21 points and 11 rebounds and visiting Miami remained unbeaten in the In-Season Tournament with a victory over short-handed Charlotte. Miami is 2-0 in group play; the Hornets are 1-1.

Lakers 134, Grizzlies 107: D'Angelo Russell scored 24 points and Anthony Davis had 19 points, 11 rebounds and six blocked shots in host Los Angeles' third straight victory. The Lakers improved to 5-0 at home and 2-0 in In-Season Tournament play.

Pelicans 131, Mavericks

110: Brandon Ingram and rookie Jordan Hawkins each scored 25 points, and host New Orleans snapped a five-game skid with a win over Dallas, which committed 20 turnovers. New Orleans improved to 1-1 in West Conference Group B.

Hawks 126, Pistons 120: Dejounte Murray had 32 points and nine assists as visiting Atlanta extended Detroit's losing streak to nine games. The Hawks won their Eastern Conference Group A tourney opener, while the Pistons fell to 0-2.

Nets 124, Magic 104: Spencer Dinwiddie had 29 points, eight assists and five rebounds, leading host Brooklyn over Orlando. The Nets won their second straight overall and improved to 2-1 in the tournament.

Jazz 115, Trail Blazers 99: Jordan Clarkson scored 30 points and Lauri Markkanen added 21 points and nine rebounds as Utah dealt Portland its fourth straight loss. Utah won its second straight tournament game, while Portland slipped to 1-1 in West Group A play.

Crosby scores two in third for hat trick in Pens win

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Sidney Crosby recorded his 16th career hat trick, scoring twice in the third period, rallying the Pittsburgh Penguins over the Columbus Blue Jackets 5-3 on Tuesday night for their league-leading fifth straight win.

Crosby extended his point streak to nine games with the 558th, 559th and 560th goals of his career, also adding an assist. Jake Guentzel and Erik Karlsson each contributed a goal and an assist, and Tristan Jarry stopped 28 shots in his fourth consecutive win.

"We're trying to play the game the right way, and we're trying to work collectively as a group," Penguins coach Mike Sullivan said. "I thought our

penalty kill was terrific tonight. It was a good team effort. We stayed with it."

Bruins 5, Sabres 2: David Pastrnak had a goal and two assists to lead visiting Boston to the victory over Buffalo.

Danton Heinen, Brandon Carlo, Oskar Steen, and Hampus Lindholm all scored their first goals of the season for the Bruins.

Capitals 3, Golden Knights 0: Dylan Strome scored his team-leading seventh goal, Charlie Lindgren stopped all 35 shots he faced and host Washington beat defending Stanley Cup champion Vegas.

Connor McMichael scored an empty-netter in the final minute, and Beck Malenstyn added the exclamation point with Lo-

gan Thompson back in goal seconds later.

Stars 4, Coyotes 3 (OT): Matt Duchene scored on a feed from Tyler Seguin 42 seconds into overtime to lead host Dallas to the win over Arizona.

Duchene and Seguin each had a goal and an assist and Esa Lindell and Roope Hintz also scored for the Stars, who won their fourth in a row.

Flames 2, Canadiens 1: Nazem Kadri and Connor Zary scored goals, Jacob Markstrom made 34 saves and visiting Calgary defeated Montreal.

Gustav Lindstrom scored the lone goal for Montreal.

Ducks 3, Predators 2: Adam Henrique scored with 3:51 remaining to lead Anaheim to the victory over Nashville.

Radko Gudas had a Gordie Howe hat trick with a goal, assist and a fighting major for Anaheim.

Jets 6, Devils 3: Kyle Connor scored twice and added an assist to propel host Winnipeg to the victory over New Jersey.

Connor now has 13 goals this season, tying him with Toronto's Auston Matthews for the league lead.

Blues 5, Lightning 0: Jordan Kyrou and Jakub Vrana scored 19 seconds apart in the second period, and Jordan Binnington made 30 saves to help host St. Louis shut out Tampa Bay.

Panthers 5, Sharks 3: Carter Verhaeghe and Kevin Stenlund scored 1:03 apart in the third period and visiting Florida rallied for its fifth straight win.