

Israel and Hamas agree on 4-day truce

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and Hamas agreed to a four-day cease-fire in the war in Gaza — a breakthrough that will facilitate the release of dozens of hostages held by militants as well as Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, and bring a large influx of aid to the besieged territory, officials said Wednesday.

The truce raised hopes of eventually winding down the war, which was triggered by Hamas' Oct. 7 rampage into Israel. Now in its seventh week, the war has leveled vast swaths of Gaza, fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank, and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

Still, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel would resume the war after the truce and keep fighting "until we achieve all our goals," including the destruction of Hamas' fighting and governing abilities and the return of all hos-

tages.

The cease-fire temporarily freezes both sides in the war in place at a tenuous moment. Israeli troops hold much of northern Gaza and say they have dismantled tunnels and much of Hamas' infrastructure there.

But Israeli officials acknowledge the group's infrastructure remains intact elsewhere. In recent days before the truce, Israel underlined that it was determined to take its ground offensive into the south.

That could be potentially devastating for Gaza's uprooted population, most of which is squeezed into the south with nowhere to go to avoid the assault.

Residents in Gaza City said the fighting intensified overnight into Wednesday, with gunfire, heavy artillery and airstrikes. "Apparently they want to advance before the truce," said Nasser al-Sheikh, who is sheltering with relatives in the city.

Palestinian militants continued firing rockets at Israel throughout the day, without causing casualties.

The announcement of the truce capped weeks of indirect, stop-and-go negotiations to free some of the roughly 240 hostages taken by Hamas and other militants during their Oct. 7 raid.

The cease-fire is to take effect at 10 a.m. local time Thursday, according to Egypt's state-run Qahera TV channel. Egypt and Qatar, along with the United States, helped mediate the deal between Israel and Hamas.

Fifty hostages will be freed in stages, in exchange for the release of what Hamas said would be 150 Palestinian prisoners. Both sides will release women and children first.

Israel said the truce would be extended an extra day for every additional 10 hostages freed by Hamas. Hamas said hundreds of trucks carrying humanitarian

aid — including fuel — would be allowed to enter Gaza.

President Joe Biden welcomed the deal, saying Netanyahu committed to supporting an "extended pause." Several nations, including Britain, France, China and Russia, also welcomed the agreement.

Israel's Justice Ministry published a list of 300 prisoners eligible to be released, mainly teenagers detained over the past year for rock-throwing and other minor offenses.

The Israeli military says it has detained more than 1,850 Palestinians in the West Bank since the war began, mostly suspected Hamas members. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed there, mainly during battles triggered by army raids.

The war erupted in early October, when several thousand Hamas militants broke into southern Israel, killing at least 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking hostages.

Ford carrier group staying in Eastern Mediterranean

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy's most advanced aircraft carrier will stay in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea for the foreseeable future in a continued show of strength, as Iran-backed militants increase their attacks on American forces in the Middle East.

The Gerald R. Ford Carrier Strike Group will remain on duty in the region until Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin determines it should return to the U.S., Sabrina Singh, a Pentagon spokesperson, told reporters Tuesday.

She added that the Defense

Department would make an announcement when that decision had been made.

On Monday, USNI News reported Austin had again extended Ford's deployment. The carrier left its home port in Norfolk, Va., over six months ago on May 2.

The statement about Ford came as U.S. forces carried out retaliatory strikes Tuesday against two undisclosed facilities in Iraq. The operation was connected to a close-range ballistic missile attack Monday against American and coalition forces at al Asad Air Base in Iraq.

An AC-130 gunship airborne

at the time of the missile attack fired on a vehicle carrying militants thought to be responsible, resulting in several casualties, U.S. officials said.

In all, U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria have been attacked upward of 66 times since Oct. 17, resulting in 62 injuries to American personnel, Singh said. Those numbers did not include the most recent attack, she noted.

Ford was nearing the end of its first full deployment when Hamas militants launched an attack on Israel, killing and torturing at least 1,200 people on Oct. 7.

Days later, Austin ordered Ford and the Dwight D. Eisen-

hower Carrier Strike Group to the Eastern Mediterranean in support of Israel and to deter a broader regional conflict.

Eisenhower later was redirected to U.S. Central Command, which includes the Persian Gulf, Red Sea and Gulf of Oman.

Other Navy ships in the Eastern Mediterranean include the amphibious command ship USS Mount Whitney. In addition to the Eisenhower group, the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group, which includes USS Bataan and USS Carter Hall along with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is deployed in the Middle East.

Militia: More attacks if US strikes persist

Staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON—An Iranian-backed extremist group threatened Wednesday to expand attacks on U.S. targets after U.S. aircraft killed multiple militants in airstrikes in Iraq following the first use of short-range ballistic missiles against American forces at al Asad Air Base west of Baghdad.

U.S. fighter jets struck a Kataib Hezbollah operations center in western Anbar province and a Katib Hezbollah command and control node near Jurf al-Saqr, south of Baghdad, early Tuesday, two U.S. defense officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the operation.

Kataib Hezbollah said eight of its members were killed in the airstrikes. U.S. officials could not confirm the deaths.

The attacks followed a retaliatory strike by an AC-130 gunship after the militants fired two short-range ballistic missiles at al Asad late Monday evening, killing the attackers as they fled in a vehicle.

Deputy Pentagon press secre-

tary Sabrina Singh said the missiles caused “several non-serious injuries and some minor damage to infrastructure.”

In a statement Wednesday, Kataib Hezbollah said it was considering “expanding the scope of targets” if the U.S. military continues with its strikes. It added airstrikes “will not go unpunished.”

Attacks on U.S. installations by Iranian-backed militant groups, under the umbrella of the Islamic Resistance in Iraq and Syria, have escalated in the wake of Israeli airstrikes in Gaza. Israeli strikes began after Hamas extremists breached border defenses on Oct. 7, swarming into Israeli territory and killing 1,200 people and taking about 240 men, women and children hostage.

Since the Israel-Hamas conflict escalated, Iranian-backed militants have launched at least 66 rocket and missile attacks against U.S. facilities in Iraq and Syria, wounding at least 62 service members. The current series of attacks began on Oct. 17, the date that a blast at a hospital in Ga-

za killed hundreds of Palestinians.

Previously, U.S. counterattacks had focused on militant weapons caches and training centers in Syria, due to political sensitivities in Iraq.

The U.S. has sought to maintain good relations with the Iraqi government despite its own close ties with Iran.

The office of Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, who rose to power through the backing of an Iran-backed political coalition, called the recent escalations “a dangerous development,” reflecting the delicate balance the government must strike between Iranian factions and U.S. military presence.

Al-Sudani has, however, called for Iraqi authorities to pursue the attackers of U.S. bases in Iraq, as he tries to maintain positive ties with both Washington and Tehran.

U.S. officials speaking on background said Washington is trying to communicate that it does not seek wider conflict, but that the Iran-backed attacks against

American forces must stop and that the U.S. will take further action if needed.

The U.S. still maintains forces in Iraq and Syria as part of operations against ISIS and its allies, which U.S. officials say receive money, weapons and other support from Iran.

Washington has pledged strong support for Israel in its conflict with Hamas and has dispatched two carrier groups, multiple squadrons of warplanes and U.S. personnel to try and keep the conflict from expanding into a regional war.

Kataib Hezbollah rose to prominence during the Iraq War as one of the “special groups,” a U.S. military term for the mostly Shiite insurgent factions fighting American and Iraq troops alongside the larger al-Qaida in Iraq, a largely Sunni organization.

In 2009 Kataib Hezbollah was added to the State Department’s list of foreign terrorist organizations because of multiple rocket, mortar and sniper attacks against American, Iraqi and other international forces.

Navy families in Bahrain adapt to ‘new normal’ in tense Mideast

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY BAHRAIN—A security sign at the gates of this key American naval base in the Middle East reflects how heightened regional tensions are affecting the 7,600 troops and 1,200 family members stationed here.

The sign designates “Force Protection Condition Charlie,” a status that means increased measures due to fears of terrorist action or targeting.

The security posture was changed after the Israel-Hamas war began Oct. 7 and isn’t due to a specific threat, multiple U.S. naval officials said.

The base in densely populated

Bahrain hasn’t been targeted by the various Iran-backed militant groups who have attacked U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria. But the Navy’s security measures in Bahrain do come with restrictions on where troops and their families can eat, gather and enjoy themselves. As routines change and outlets for relaxation diminish, base officials say they’ve seen a rise in demand for counseling and services that help people cope with added stress and fears of growing conflict.

Religious services are now better attended, said Chaplain Leroy Young, a Navy captain.

“We are adapting to the new normal that is here,” Young said.

There haven’t been any pro-

tests near the base in Bahrain, which is strictly controlled by its ruling family. But Americans are aware of the anger many in the Arab world feel over U.S. policy following Oct. 7, when Hamas tortured and killed 1,200 people in Israel. Washington has stood by Israel in the midst of strikes that have left thousands dead in Gaza.

Troops and families are advised to “make smart decisions” and avoid unnecessary travel, said Lt. j.g. Bryan Blair, a base spokesman.

Families said they have adjusted to the restrictions by keeping their kids occupied on base.

Garrettson and Nancy Taylor took their two children, O’Lynnrae, 9, and Grant, 7, to a cookout

organized by Morale, Welfare and Recreation last week. The family also now goes to movies in the Navy theater, instead of in Manama.

Garrettson Taylor, a government civilian involved in ship maintenance, said he’s not fazed by current tensions due to his experience living in Bahrain in 2020, when America and Iran clashed after the U.S. assassination of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

O’Lynnrae Taylor said she was well aware of the Israel-Hamas war. Nevertheless, her father said he tries to shield his kids from the tensions.

“The news stays off at home,” he said.

S. Korea partially halts military deal with North

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CHEONAN, South Korea — Seoul is restarting aerial reconnaissance operations at the North Korean border, suspended since 2018, after Pyongyang launched a rocket carrying a spy satellite late Tuesday.

The move is related to a partial suspension of the Comprehensive Military Agreement that took effect at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Ministry of National Defense spokesman Heo Tae-keun said during a news conference that afternoon.

“North Korea’s behavior shows again that it has no will to comply with the agreement,” he said after a Cabinet meeting that included Prime Minister Han Duck-soo.

A few hours after Seoul’s announcement, South Korean officials said that the North had fired a missile, but the launch was believed to have ended in failure, The Associated Press reported.

The accord was signed in 2018 by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then-South Korean President Moon Jae-in after summits in Pyongyang and the Demilitarized Zone. It established no-fly zones and prohibits armed troops at the border.

Senior South Korean military officials met early Wednesday to discuss preparations for partially suspending the agreement after the North fired a Chollima-1 rocket carrying a spy satellite at 10:43 p.m. Tuesday, according to the South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Defense Minister Shin Won-sik, who presided over the meeting, emphasized that military readiness should be paramount if the deconfliction agreement is suspended, according to a news release from the ministry.

“Military action should be

carefully prepared,” he said, adding that Seoul’s surveillance and response capabilities should be ready for further provocative acts by North Korea, according to the release.

“North Korea’s satellite launch is a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions and a serious provocation against [South Korea] and the international community,” Shin added.

With the suspension, fixed-wing aircraft are no longer prohibited from flying within 25-mile and 12-mile buffer zones on the Korean Peninsula’s eastern and western borders, respectively.

The revision also scraps a ban on unmanned aerial vehicles flying within nine- and six-mile buffers on those borders.

The change does not affect a prohibition on armed troops at guard posts along the border.

No further details about late Tuesday’s launch, including whether it was successful, were released by the Joint Chiefs.

North Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency reported Wednesday that the satellite was in orbit. Kim observed the launch and the country plans to launch additional satellites, according to KCNA.

The U.S. “strongly condemns” the launch, National Security Council spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said.

Watson reiterated Washington and Seoul’s position that the North’s space launch vehicle used ballistic missile technology and was “directly related to [North Korea’s] intercontinental ballistic missile program.”

Pyongyang has been banned by the U.N. Security Council from conducting ballistic missile tests since 2006. The regime has fired 21 ballistic missiles in 14 days of testing so far this year.

US, Philippines hold joint patrols in South China Sea

Associated Press

BANGKOK — The United States and the Philippines are conducting joint air and maritime patrols in the South China Sea, which come as the two countries step up cooperation in the face of growingly aggressive Chinese activity in the area.

The Philippine air force said Wednesday its aircraft had taken part in joint patrols the day before in the vicinity of Batanes, the northernmost province of the Philippines, which is only about 125 miles from Taiwan, a self-governed island that China claims as its own.

The patrols run through Thursday and also include both the U.S. and Philippine navies. They come only days after Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. called the situation in the South China Sea increasingly “dire” as China seeks to assert its presence in an area where multiple nations have

competing territorial claims.

Asked about the patrols, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing’s position had been made clear to both the Philippines and the U.S.

“The Philippines-U.S. joint patrol drill must not undermine China’s territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests,” she said.

The U.S. 7th Fleet said the patrols were part of routine American interaction with its allies and partners in “preserving a free and open Indo-Pacific region.”

China claims virtually the entire South China Sea as its own waters, which has led to disputes not only with the Philippines but also with Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei. These claims have long been regarded as potential flashpoints in the region, and have fueled U.S.-China rivalry.

Environmental damage feared from Navy plane in Hawaii bay

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A large U.S. Navy plane remained in a Hawaii bay Tuesday, the day after it overshot a runway and landed in the water, raising concern about environmental damage and questions over how the military would remove the aircraft.

All nine people aboard the P-8A were uninjured when the plane, flying in rainy weather, overshot the runway Monday at a Marine Corps base in Kaneohe Bay outside Honolulu.

Crews set up a temporary floating barrier to protect the environment, and an investigation is underway, Navy spokesperson Lt. Mohammad N. Issa said in an email Tuesday.

The P-8A is often used to hunt for submarines and for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering. It is manufactured

by Boeing and shares many parts with the 737 commercial jet.

Residents near the bay were eager to hear plans for the massive plane’s removal and were worried about possible damage to the coral reef in the area, along with harms from fuel and other chemicals.

The plane landed about 1.5 miles from an ancient Hawaiian fishpond, said Hi’ilei Kawelo, executive director of Paepae o He’eia, the organization that cares for the pond.

“The plane in the water is concerning,” she said.

“It’s directly upwind from our fishpond.”

Kawelo said she understands removing the plane is a big undertaking but is hopeful the military will at least defuel it “in a timely fashion — like today.”

Snow could slow holiday travel rush

Associated Press

The late crush of holiday travelers is picking up steam, with about 2.7 million people expected to board flights on Wednesday and millions more planning to drive to Thanksgiving celebrations.

Airline officials say they are confident they can avoid the kind of massive disruptions that have marred past holiday seasons, such as the meltdown at Southwest Airlines over last Christmas.

But heavy rain and snow showers along the East Coast could cause delays. The National Weather Service was predicting accumulating snow in northern New England on Wednesday, including up to 8 inches of snowfall in northern Maine. Snow was also expected to hit the northern Rocky Moun-

tains on Thanksgiving Day, bringing up to 1 foot of snow to parts of Wyoming by Friday.

Still, as of Wednesday morning, U.S. airports were reporting only five flight cancellations and 364 delays, according to FlightAware.

Airlines have added tens of thousands of employees in the last couple years, and Southwest says it has bought more winter equipment to keep planes moving even during sub-freezing temperatures.

Security lines at airports could be long because of the crowds. Delta Air Lines is telling passengers to arrive at the airport at least two hours before their flight if they are traveling within the United States, three hours early if they're flying overseas — and maybe earlier on Sunday and Monday.

The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 2.7 million passengers Wednesday. On Sunday, it expects to screen 2.9 million, which would surpass a previous record set on June 30.

The holiday will also test the Federal Aviation Administration, which faces shortages of air traffic controllers at key facilities that caused reductions in flights to the New York City area this summer and fall.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said during a news conference Monday that the government has prepared for holiday travel by hiring more air traffic controllers, opening new air routes along the East Coast and providing grants to airports for snowplows and deicing equipment.

Meanwhile, AAA predicts

that 55.4 million people will travel at least 50 miles from home between Wednesday and Sunday, the third-highest forecast ever by the auto club. AAA says most of them — 49.1 million — will drive.

Drivers will get a break from last year on gasoline prices. AAA says the nationwide average for gas was down to \$3.28 a gallon on Wednesday, compared with \$3.63 a year ago.

Air travelers will enjoy lower prices too. Airfares in October were down 13% from last year, according to government figures, and fares around Thanksgiving have been about 14% lower than a year ago, according to the travel site Hopper.

Even so, the high cost of rent, food, health care and other expenses were weighing on people's travel plans.

Judge gives stricter bond conditions in Trump case

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Georgia judge overseeing the election subversion case against former President Donald Trump and others declined a request to revoke the bond of one of the defendants but did impose stricter bond conditions after prosecutors complained about his social media posts that mentioned witnesses and co-defendants.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis made a rare appearance in the courtroom to argue for the revocation of the bond of Harrison Floyd, who was a leader in the organization Black Voices for Trump.

Floyd was one of 18 people accused along with the former president of participating in a wide-ranging scheme to illegally try to overturn the 2020 election.

Willis filed a motion last week asking Superior Court Judge

Scott McAfee to revoke Floyd's bond. In her first in-person appearance in this case since the indictment, she argued in court that Floyd has been attempting to intimidate and contact likely witnesses and his co-defendants in violation of the terms of his release.

Floyd's lawyers argued that his social media posts are constitutionally protected speech and that he was in no way trying to communicate with or intimidate any witness or co-defendant.

McAfee said there is no constitutional right to bail and that bond orders can contain conditions that curtail a defendant's rights, but he also noted that people are generally allowed to publicly criticize the merits of the case but cannot cross a line. He said Floyd appears "very boldly willing to explore where that line is" in this case.

Unemployment claims drop in sign of resiliency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell sharply last week, a sign that U.S. job market remains resilient despite higher interest rates.

The Labor Department reported Wednesday that jobless claims dropped by 24,000 to 209,000. The previous week's total — 233,000 — had been the highest since August. The four-week moving average of claims, which smooths out week-to-week volatility, fell by 750 to 220,000.

The applications are viewed as a proxy for layoffs. They remain extraordinarily low by historical standards, signalling that most Americans enjoy unusual job security.

Overall, 1.84 million Americans were receiving unemployment benefits the week that

ended Nov. 11, down by 22,000 from the week before.

The Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times since March 2022 to slow the economy and rein in inflation that hit a four-decade high last year. The job market and economic growth remained surprisingly resilient, defying predictions that the economy would slip into a recession this year.

But hiring has slowed from the breakneck pace of 2021 and 2022 when the economy roared back unexpectedly from the COVID-19 recession. Employers added a record 606,000 jobs a month in 2021 and nearly 400,000 last year. So far in 2023, monthly hiring has averaged a still-solid 239,000, but it's come in below 200,000 in three of the last five months.

Employers are also posting fewer job openings.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Attorney accused of smuggling drug papers

TX HOUSTON — A Texas attorney has been accused of using work-related visits to a county jail to smuggle in legal paperwork laced with ecstasy and synthetic marijuana to inmates over the past several months, authorities announced Monday.

Ronald Lewis, 77, was arrested on Friday after arriving at the Harris County Jail in Houston to visit an inmate, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez said at a news conference.

During his arrest, Lewis had 11 sheets of paper believed to be laced with narcotics, according to authorities.

Lewis has been charged with two counts of bringing a prohibited substance into a correctional facility. He is free after posting bonds totaling \$15,000. Records with the State Bar of Texas show that Lewis has been a licensed attorney since 1982.

Lawmaker accused of 2004 rape in lawsuit

NY ALBANY — A state lawmaker from Brooklyn has been accused in a lawsuit of raping a woman early in his legislative career when he went to her home to discuss disaster relief efforts for Haiti.

The lawsuit, filed Friday, accuses Sen. Kevin Parker of assaulting the woman in 2004, during his first term. The woman said she had been working with Parker to coordinate the delivery of items and donations to Haiti after a devastating flood that affected the country and other neighboring Caribbean Islands.

The suit was filed under the Adult Survivors Act, a special state law that created a year-long suspension of the usual time limit for accusers to sue. The law is set to expire after Thanksgiving.

A spokesperson for Parker, a Democrat, did not immediately comment when asked about the lawsuit. A spokesperson for the Senate's top Democrat, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, said the allegations were "extremely disturbing and we take them very seriously."

Man killed by police SUV in March receives funeral

MS JACKSON — Dexter Wade received a dignified funeral and burial Monday in Mississippi's capital city, months after he was hit and killed by a police SUV and officials first buried his body in a pauper's grave without notifying his family that he was dead.

His mother, Bettersten Wade, tossed a handful of dirt onto the vault that held his shiny red casket after it was slowly lowered into the ground in a south Jackson cemetery.

Dexter Wade, a 37-year-old Black man, died March 5 after an off-duty Jackson Police Department officer struck him with a department SUV while Wade was walking across Interstate 55. Police have not released identifying information on the officer.

Wade's mother said she last saw her son that day, and she filed a missing person's report a few days later. It was late August before she learned he had been killed and buried in a paupers' cemetery.

Wade's body was exhumed Nov. 13, and an independent au-

topsy was conducted. A wallet found in the pocket of the jeans in which Wade originally was buried contained information, including his home address.

Judge bars recording devices in slayings case

ID MOSCOW — The judge overseeing the case of a man accused of stabbing four University of Idaho students to death late last year is banning members of the media and the public from using cameras and audio recording devices in the courtroom, saying they jeopardize the defendant's right to a fair trial.

Second District Judge John Judge in Moscow, Idaho, said the court would, however, operate a livestream, available on its YouTube channel, that would ensure members of the public can observe the proceedings.

Bryan Kohberger is charged with four counts of murder in connection with the deaths at a rental house near the university campus in Moscow last November.

Latah County Prosecutor Bill Thompson has said he intends to seek the death penalty, and the case is scheduled for trial this fall.

The judge had been allowing news cameras in the courtroom during hearings under strict conditions, but on Friday, he granted a request by Kohberger's attorneys to ban them.

Union hotel workers ratify Caesars contract

NV LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas hotel union workers voted overwhelmingly Monday to approve their contract agreement with casino giant Caesars Entertainment, sig-

naling an end to lengthy labor disputes that had brought the threat of a historic strike to the Strip.

The Culinary Workers Union announced on X, formerly Twitter, that 99% of the vote favored the new five-year deal.

The union is expected to also approve its proposed contracts with Wynn Resorts and MGM Resorts International, the Strip's largest employer, later this week.

The breakthrough deals were tentatively reached earlier this month, just hours before the union had threatened a massive walkout at 18 hotel-casinos on the Strip, including Bellagio, Paris Las Vegas, MGM Grand and Caesars Palace.

Gun store theft follows attack on manager

MI BENTON HARBOR — More than 100 handguns were stolen from a store in southwestern Michigan after the manager was held at gunpoint outside his home and forced to reveal how to turn off the alarm, authorities said.

The guns were recovered and two men were arrested last Friday, a day after the brazen heist at Dunham's Sports near Benton Harbor, a federal agent said in a court filing.

A Dunham's manager told investigators he was confronted Thursday night, blindfolded and placed in the rear seat of a car, said Mallorie Campbell of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Store video shows a man later disabling the alarm system and filling two coolers with 123 handguns, Campbell said.

— From wire reports



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49ers QB nearly flawless last 2 games

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Any doubts raised about Brock Purdy during the first little slump of his brief NFL career have been emphatically answered by his record-setting performance the past two games.

The five interceptions that contributed to a three-game losing streak for the San Francisco 49ers turned into near flawless play the past two weeks capped by his perfect passer rating in Sunday's 27-14 win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

Purdy is 40-for-51 for 629 yards, six TDs, no interceptions and a 157.3 passer rating the past two weeks against the Bucs and Jaguars for the highest passer rating ever in a two-game stretch.

Purdy said he credited getting the "chip" back on his shoulder after the shaky stretch for the recent turnaround.

"Getting back to that and then proving myself every

drive, every play that I can be the guy for this team and I have to earn it every single week at practice, in meetings, whatever it may be," he said.

"So, that's the mindset of what I was talking about and definitely more in tune to being detailed and stuff the last couple weeks and finding that chip again."

Purdy is the seventh player to have a passer rating of at least 145 in two straight games with at least 20 attempts and the first to do it since Drew Brees in 2018.

Purdy leads the NFL in passer rating (115.1), completion rate (70.2%), yards per attempt (9.7) and percentage of passes for touchdowns (6.5%).

"System quarterback, right?" tight end George Kittle said derisively about the criticism Purdy receives. "Brock's fantastic in the way he shows up every single day. Someone asked him about his mindset, like how he can be so aggressive and pro-

tect the football. He talked about being a surgeon. He talked about having zero fear and just that quote from him shows his maturity level, how he understands the game and what it means to play quarterback at a high level while being aggressive at taking care of the football."

Few quarterbacks have been put into a better situation than Purdy on a 49ers offense that features playmakers such as Kittle, Christian McCaffrey, Brandon Aiyuk and Deebo Samuel; an All-Pro left tackle in Trent Williams; and one of the game's best play-callers in coach Kyle Shanahan.

But the Niners bristle at the suggestion that Purdy is just along for the ride and is being carried by his teammates.

"Yeah, that's a horrendous statement," McCaffrey said. "That's never been the case. You could make that argument with any quarterback. I can show you the tape. If we really

sit down and watch all the amazing throws, amazing plays, off-schedule plays, and the checks that he's getting to. It starts with him."

Purdy has helped take the Niners to another level since taking over as quarterback last December, being far more productive than any of his predecessors under Shanahan, including Jimmy Garoppolo, who helped San Francisco reach the Super Bowl following the 2019 season.

Purdy has added new elements with his willingness to throw deep.

Purdy's 20 completions on throws at least 20 yards downfield this season are the most for any 49ers quarterback in Shanahan's seven seasons. He has completed 60.5% of his deep throws with four TDs, no interceptions and a 144.3 rating that would be the highest for any qualifying QB since Sportradar began tracking air yards in 2006.

Washington jumps past Florida State in CFP rankings

Associated Press

Washington moved ahead of Florida State and into College Football Playoff position, coming in fourth in the rankings on Tuesday night.

The selection committee's top three remained the same with Georgia first followed by Big Ten rivals Ohio State and Michigan.

The Buckeyes and Wolverines face off Saturday in Ann Arbor, Mich., with the winner advancing to the Big Ten championship game.

Washington had been stuck in fifth for the first three weeks of the rankings behind Florida State, but the Huskies added another victory against a ranked team last week when they won at Oregon State.

Now fifth-ranked Florida

State stayed unbeaten, too, though the Seminoles lost quarterback Jordan Travis to a season-ending left leg injury.

"It really was about Washington and what Washington did this weekend," selection committee chairman Boo Corrigan said on ESPN.

Oregon was sixth, Texas seventh and Alabama eight for the fourth straight week.

Missouri was ninth and Louisville 10th for the second straight week.

There are only two more rankings left. The final comes Dec. 3 when the field for the four-team playoff is set.

Travis' injury could create a conundrum for the committee, which is instructed to consider how losing a key player impacts a team. Travis is a Heisman

Trophy contender and one of the most important players in the country.

He was seriously injured in the first quarter against North Alabama, an FCS team, but Florida State went on to win easily with backup Tate Rodemaker stepping in.

Rodemaker, a fourth-year player, completed 13 of 23 passes for 217 yards and two touchdowns. He has five touchdown passes and no interceptions in 31 passes this season.

"Didn't shock anybody that was on our team because we've seen him do that before," Florida State coach Mike Norvell said earlier this week about Rodemaker. "It's the same message that I've had for them for however many, three years now. You get your opportunity,

just go be you. I've got the utmost confidence in what he'll do."

Corrigan said Travis' injury had no impact on FSU's ranking this week.

"That's what the next couple of weeks are going to be about," said Corrigan, who is the athletic director at North Carolina State. "The key is not projecting what it will be the following week."

Any projection of what Florida State will be without Travis would come after all of its games have been played and it's time to determine which four teams play for the national title.

"After the (conference) championship games we can look at who's going to be available and who's not going to be available," Corrigan said.

No. 4 Marquette knocks off No. 1 Kansas

Associated Press

HONOLULU — Steaming mad about some Kansas trash talk, Marquette coach Shaka Smart stormed up the sideline looking ready for a fight.

His calm and collected players, however, were in complete control all night against the No. 1 team in the country.

Oso Ighodaro had 21 points and nine rebounds as No. 4 Marquette routed the top-ranked Jayhawks 73-59 on Tuesday in the Maui Invitational semifinals.

The early-season clash of national title contenders ended up being one-sided. The Golden Eagles (5-0) led for all but 22 seconds and were up by 17 with about seven minutes to play.

Tempers flared late in the first half after Kansas swingman Kevin McCullar Jr. drained a 3-pointer in front of Marquette's bench. McCullar jawed with Smart as he headed back downcourt, and members

of both teams had to be pulled away from the heated dustup that followed.

Both teams were given technical fouls. An angry Smart and Jayhawks coach Bill Self appeared to exchange unpleasantries along the sideline at the end of the ensuing discussion with officials.

Ighodaro shot 9-for-15 from the field and scored 14 points in the second half. Chase Ross added 12 points and six rebounds off the bench, and Kam Jones scored 10.

McCullar had 24 points and eight rebounds to pace the Jayhawks (4-1). Preseason All-America center Hunter Dickinson was held to 13 points and eight boards. He entered averaging 24.3 points and 12 rebounds per game.

No. 2 Purdue 71, No. 7 Tennessee 67: Fletcher Loyer scored 27 points, Zach Edey had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and the Boilermakers edged

the Volunteers in the Maui Invitational.

Purdue (5-0) closed with a 10-6 run to hand Tennessee (4-1) its first loss.

No. 9 Duke 95, La Salle 66: Sophomore guard Tyrese Proctor scored a career-high 22 points and the host Blue Devils used several big runs in the second half to beat the Explorers.

Kyle Filipowski added 17 points, reserve Sean Stewart scored 16 and Mark Mitchell had 12 for Duke (4-1), which won for the third time in eight nights.

No. 11 Gonzaga 76, Syracuse 57: Nolan Hickman scored 12 of his team-high 19 points after halftime, and Graham Ike and Anton Watson posted double-doubles to lead the Bulldogs over the Orange in a losers bracket game at the Maui Invitational.

Gonzaga (3-1) got 16 points and 14 rebounds from Ike, and

12 points and 13 rebounds from Watson. Ike, a 6-foot-9 redshirt junior, also came up with four steals.

Florida State 77, No. 18 Colorado 71 (OT): Jalen Warley scored 19 points, Jamir Watkins had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and the Seminoles beat the Buffaloes in the championship game of the Sunshine Slam.

Florida State (4-1) extended its NCAA record to 14 consecutive overtime victories. The Seminoles also won the championship game of a tournament for the second time since 2019, when they claimed the Emerald Coast Classic in Destin, Fla.

No. 22 James Madison 82, Southern Illinois 76: Terrence Edwards scored 24 points, T.J. Bickerstaff added 19 and the Dukes beat the Salukis to reach the final at the Cancun Challenge.

Julien Wooden and Noah Freidel each had 10 points for JMU (5-0).

39,000 points for James as Lakers sweeps group

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James scored his 39,000th point on the way to 17 points, nine assists and seven rebounds, and the Los Angeles Lakers completed an unbeaten run through group play in the NBA In-Season Tournament with a 131-99 victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night.

Anthony Davis had 26 points and 16 rebounds for the Lakers, who are likely to host a quarterfinal game early next month to begin the knockout stages of the league's first in-season tournament. Los Angeles beat Phoenix, Memphis, Portland and Utah by a combined 74 points, capped by this blowout of the Jazz for the Lakers' sixth victory in seven games overall.

Already the top scorer in NBA history after passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (38,387

points) last season, the 38-year-old James became the first player in league history to top 39,000 points early in the first quarter.

The milestone was another stop in James' steamrolling of the world's previous standards for basketball longevity: He began the night averaging 26.4 points per game, by far the most production from any player in NBA history who made it to a 21st season.

D'Angelo Russell added 20 points and eight assists for the Lakers, who went up by 30 in the third quarter and got their two superstars out of the game for good before the fourth began. James played only 24 minutes, while Davis dominated his 29 minutes, going 11-for-14 and even adding four assists.

Cavaliers 122, 76ers 119 (OT): Darius Garland scored 32

points and Jarrett Allen added 26 as short-handed Cleveland beat host Philadelphia.

The Cavaliers remained alive for the Eastern Conference's wild-card berth despite playing without three rotation pieces in Donovan Mitchell, Caris LeVert and Isaac Okoro due to injury. Cleveland had six players in double figures.

Pacers 157, Hawks 152: Tyrese Haliburton scored 37 points, Buddy Hield hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer in the final minute and visiting Indiana beat Atlanta in the highest-scoring NBA game this season to clinch a spot in the NBA In-Season Tournament quarterfinals.

Hield's jumper from the left wing broke a 152-all tie with 52 seconds left. Dejounte Murray was called for an offensive foul on a 3-point attempt on the

Hawks' next possession, then missed a difficult layup following an Indiana turnover with eight seconds remaining. Hield made a layup at the buzzer.

Magic 126, Raptors 107: Paolo Banchero scored 25 points, Jalen Suggs added 18 and host Orlando won its fourth straight, beating Toronto.

Cole Anthony came off the bench with 15 points and 10 assists in the Magic's second win in three tournament games.

Suns 120, Trail Blazers 107: Kevin Durant scored 31 points, passing Elvin Hayes for 11th place all time, and host Phoenix defeated Portland.

Durant, playing in his 1,000th NBA game, needed 14 points to pass Hayes, who had 27,313 in his career. He achieved that in the first quarter on 6-for-6 shooting, including a 3-pointer and a free throw.

After slow start, Capitals heating up

Associated Press

The vibes around the Washington Capitals are immaculate right now, with the wins finally flowing after a rough start. They're just not coming the way anyone expected.

Alex Ovechkin has scored just five times, the team's once-feared power play is last in the NHL and only the lowly San Jose Sharks have fewer goals. Yet the Capitals have won four in a row and eight of their past 10 games.

"We're going into each game expecting to win," top center and leading goal scorer Dylan Strome said. "This group is just finding ways to win, and we're kind of believing in ourselves more and more."

That belief and a surprising run to second place in the Metropolitan Division comes from a combination of strong goaltending, timely scoring and young players producing. But the biggest factor in this run has been Washington's penalty kill that's a perfect 23-for-23 over this span.

The Capitals haven't allowed an opponent to score a power-play goal since Oct. 24.

"It's just repetition," penalty-killing forward Beck Malenstyn said. "The penalty kill is huge for that: being able to put yourself in similar scenarios over and over again and understanding what works and what doesn't work. ... The more you see, the more you can make those adjustments and read and react."

When first-year coach Spencer Carbery watches his PK from the bench, he sees each player reacting the same way every time when the puck moves around the ice.

"That tells you that they're just so dialed in with being on the same page with their reads and where the next person needs to pressure, where they go, I move here, he moves there — and it's moving seamlessly," Carbery said. "It just looks like everybody's on the same page from a structure standpoint."

Carbery and goalie Charlie Lindgren credit assistant coach

Scott Allen's preparation, in particular pre-scouting opponents and noticing tendencies. Having an idea what opposing power plays are going to do has allowed forwards to be aggressive in passing lanes to break up opportunities.

"A power play, it's the five best players on the ice for the opposing team, and I think our guys have been doing a really good job at just disrupting them, making it hard for them, not giving them much time and space," Lindgren said.

Not taxing penalty killers has helped: The Capitals are the third-least penalized team in hockey.

It also doesn't hurt that the goaltending has been dependable and at times outstanding. Lindgren ranks third in the league in goals saved above expected, according to MoneyPuck.com.

Keeping the puck out of their own net has been essential, given the Capitals have scored just 2.47 goals a game. The biggest area of concern offensively has

been the power play, which is 3-for-43 this season — a 7% conversion rate and 0 for its past 23.

"We're just searching right now for something that clicks for us," winger T.J. Oshie said. "I think work ethic and simplicity is going to be the key factor to us getting out of this little rut that we're in."

Oshie, who has just one point in 15 games, said the absence of longtime power-play mainstay Nicklas Backstrom is playing a role. Backstrom stepped away from the team because of a lingering hip injury that hampered him, and Washington is struggling to adjust without his calming presence.

Still, a power play with Ovechkin parked in his trademark spot in the faceoff circle should be responsible for a bigger output.

"If we can get that extra goal support, obviously that would be important," Strome said. "I feel like power play's kind of the last piece of the puzzle that really hasn't got going since the start of the year."

Argentina tops Brazil in qualifier delayed by fans' brawl

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Lionel Messi's Argentina squad celebrated like they'd won the World Cup again after a dramatic 1-0 win over archrival Brazil on Tuesday.

It was Brazil's first home defeat ever in World Cup qualifying, a game that was delayed because of a brawl between fans in the stands.

Many fans went to the Maracana to watch Messi in likely his last match in Brazil, a superclasico against the hosts. Instead, they saw Nicolás Otamendi score the only goal of the match.

It was Brazil's third consecutive loss in the round-robin tournament — another blow for new coach Fernando Diniz.

It was also the first time since 2009 that the five-time World Cup winners failed to score in a home game.

Messi left the pitch in the 78th minute amid a mixture of jeers and applause from

Brazil fans. Dozens of children arrived at the Maracana wearing the shirts of Barcelona, the star's previous club, and Inter Miami.

The Argentine star was unable to end one of his last barriers in the sport, though, failing to score against the Brazilians in a World Cup qualifier at the Maracana.

The Argentina squad celebrated on the pitch for 10 minutes after the win, knowing they're leading the South American qualifying standings. They also gave fans one more chance to celebrate a victory at the historic stadium in Rio de Janeiro.

"I am so happy. We made history again and gave this joy to our people," said midfielder Rodrigo de Paul, who kneeled and opened his arms in celebration after the final whistle. "The derbies are like this. If we need to keep the ball, we do it. If we have to defend and suffer, we do, too. That's why we are the best team in the world."

The violent pre-match incident, starting

shortly after the national anthems, stalled the start for 27 minutes. Messi led his team off the field and into the locker rooms for 22 minutes. At least one fan left the stadium bleeding from his head. Rio police said they had arrested eight people due to the brawl.

The crowd aggression was reflected on the field in the first 20 minutes of the encounter, leading to the referee awarding a succession of fouls against Brazil during that time. The tension eventually eased, allowing Argentina to avoid direct confrontation.

Brazil wasted opportunities, with Raphinha's free kick in the 38th minute and Cristian Romero saving Argentina near the goal line six minutes later after a crossed shot by Gabriel Martinelli.

But Argentina's goal in the 63rd with a header by Otamendi, who jumped above the Brazilian defenders to meet a corner kick, was one of the few chances the team created.