

US faces stark choice on Election Day

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A presidential campaign marked by upheaval and rancor was finally headed for an Election Day finale, as Americans decided whether to send Donald Trump back to the White House or elevate Kamala Harris to the Oval Office.

Voters faced a stark choice between two candidates who have offered drastically different temperaments and visions for the world's largest economy and dominant military power. More than 82 million people voted early. Those casting ballots Tuesday mostly encountered a smooth process around the country, with isolated reports of

some hiccups that regularly happen, including long lines, technical issues and ballot printing errors.

Harris, the Democratic vice president, stands to be the first female president if elected. She has promised to work across the aisle to tackle economic worries and other issues without radically departing from the course set by President Joe Biden.

Trump, the Republican former president, has vowed to replace thousands of federal workers with loyalists, impose sweeping tariffs on allies and foes alike, and stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history.

The two candidates spent the waning hours of the campaign

overlapping in Pennsylvania, the biggest battleground state. They were trying to energize their bases as well as Americans still on the fence or debating whether to vote at all.

In Scranton, Pa., Liza Fortt arrived at her polling location in a wheelchair and not feeling well. But she ventured out anyway to vote for Harris.

"It means a lot to me and my grandkids, my granddaughters, my nieces. ... I was just waiting for this day to come," said Fortt, who is 74 and Black. She said she never thought she'd have such an opportunity to cast a ballot for a Black woman in a presidential race.

Harris and Trump entered

Election Day focused on seven battleground states, five of them carried by Trump in 2016 before flipping to Biden: the "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Arizona and Georgia. Nevada and North Carolina, which Democrats and Republicans respectively carried in the last two elections, were also closely contested.

Tommy Ray Brewer, a 72-year-old auto mechanic, voted for Trump in Black Mountain, N.C., which was hard-hit by Hurricane Helene.

"People are really divided right now. They're mad. They're angry because of the situation that the United States is in," Brewer said.

20 years on, memories of Fallujah still linger for vets

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Even the dead insurgents lining the streets and alleys of Fallujah were a threat to the U.S. Marines pushing into the Iraqi city two decades ago.

Troops shot up the often booby-trapped corpses lying ahead of them as a precaution. Enemy snipers hid in the buildings. Others sprung from spider holes and fired from a high-powered Western arsenal that included .50-caliber machine guns, much of it seized from earlier fights.

The initial push on Nov. 7, 2004, marked the start of what would turn out to be the bloodiest battle of the Iraq War, confronting U.S. forces with fighting not seen since Vietnam.

Twenty years later, memories from the battle, which killed nearly 100 U.S. service

members, remain raw for many who fought there. And some continue to grapple with the legacy of what it all meant.

"I kind of came to grasp that, you know, the world's probably a worse place for what we did," said Marine veteran Alex Nicoll. "People died, limbs were lost and I don't know if any outcome came of it."

Nicoll and a group of Fallujah veterans reflected on their experiences and the battle's legacy as part of a special commemoration sponsored by the organization Disabled American Veterans.

"It's pretty impressive when rules of engagement are thrown out the window, the wall of lead that comes with Marines," Nicoll said in his video testimonial. "I'm glad I got to see that. For a just reason or not? That's debatable. But it's irrelevant, too. We

got to be a part of Marines being unleashed."

Like the Iraq War itself, the battle has left conflicted feelings. The bravery of U.S. forces in Fallujah and the hardships they endured are now part of military lore.

Then-Staff Sgt. David G. Bellavia, an Army squad leader, on the third day of the battle charged into a house infested with insurgents, doing battle from room to room in close-quarter combat.

Bellavia was credited with singlehandedly saving an entire squad, and in 2019 he received the Medal of Honor, becoming the first living Iraq War veteran to receive the honor.

"Men go into battle because it is our love of nation, our way of life and our love of those we serve with side by side," Bellavia said during a ceremony at

the time. "We defend, we avenge, we sacrifice, we bleed and we are willing to die for this unique creation, the United States of America."

Scores of valor medals were awarded in the aftermath of the fighting, including at least 10 Navy Crosses for Marines.

Then-Sgt. Aubrey McDade, a machine gun squad leader, was one of the recipients of the Navy Cross, the military's second-highest combat medal.

But McDade said he struggled for years to come to terms with the carnage he had witnessed and the screams in battle he heard from injured Marines.

"I struggled so bad," he said during his testimonial shared with Disabled American Veterans. McDade compared his recollections to being in a trance and being "forced to watch a movie I didn't want to watch."

N. Korea fires several ballistic missiles

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SUWON, South Korea — North Korea fired several short-range ballistic missiles off its eastern coast Tuesday, the South's military said, just hours before Americans headed to the polls.

At least seven missiles were launched between 7:30 a.m. and 7:39 a.m. from about 35 miles south of Pyongyang, according to the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff and Japan's Ministry of Defense. They flew approximately 250 miles before splashing down.

Japan assessed the missiles reached a peak altitude of 62 miles before falling outside the country's exclusive economic zone, according to its news re-

lease posted on its website.

The weapons did "not pose an immediate threat" to the U.S. or its allies, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said in its own news release.

North Korea has fired more than 45 ballistic missiles in 12 separate days of testing so far this year.

Tuesday's launch came five days after the North launched an intercontinental ballistic missile that flew 620 miles to a peak altitude of 4,776 miles, a record for the communist regime, according to the state-run Korean Central News Agency.

Air forces from the U.S., South Korea and Japan conducted a bomber escort drill over the air identification zones between Se-

oul and Tokyo on Sunday in direct response to the ICBM test, according to the South's military that day.

One B-1B Lancer out of Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., was escorted by two U.S. F-16 Fighting Falcons, four South Korean F-15K Slam Eagles and four Japanese F-2s, according to aircraft tail markings in photos from the South's Ministry of National Defense.

Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, described the allies' show of force as a "frantically staged" demonstration in a statement through KCNA on Tuesday.

The U.S., South Korea and Japan's military drills pose a "serious threat to not only our state,

but also regional peace and security," she said in the report.

Tuesday's launch occurred a day before the presidential election takes place in the United States.

The next U.S. president will be facing new challenges from Pyongyang, North Korean Ambassador to the U.N. Song Kim said in a Sept. 30 speech at the organization's headquarters in New York.

"Whoever takes office in the United States, we will only deal with the state entity called the U.S., not the mere administration," he said at the time. "Likewise, any U.S. administration will have to face [North Korea], which is different from what the U.S. used to think."

Navy contractors had key roles in Red Hill lead-up

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The Defense Department's complex management of the defunct Red Hill underground fuel storage facility in Honolulu relied on contractors for essential services in the years preceding disastrous fuel leaks in 2021, according to a government watchdog.

"DOD used a decentralized structure that, in part, relied on a complex and interconnected set of roles and responsibilities to manage the operations, maintenance, and repair activities at Red Hill," the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report Monday.

The GAO report offers no conclusions about the degree to which contractors might have contributed to the fuel leaks.

The review, however, was sparked in part by the role a contractor played in a November 2022 spill of a concentrated form

of a hazardous fire-fighting foam at the facility. About 1,300 gallons of foam escaped into the environment because a contractor improperly installed a valve on the system that allowed the release, a DOD investigation concluded.

"Both the fuel leaks and the [foam] concentrate release have raised questions about what role, if any, that contractors had in the operations, maintenance, and repair of Red Hill and the Navy's oversight of its contractors," the GAO report states.

Jet fuel leaks in May and November 2021 contaminated the Navy's water distribution system that supplied military communities on and near Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin announced in March 2022 that the facility would be permanently closed. The Navy is amid a multi-year effort to clean the 20 massive tanks and clean up contamination in the area surrounding them.

B-52 bombers in Mideast, The Sullivans on the way

By CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of B-52 bombers have arrived in the Middle East and the destroyer USS The Sullivans deployed days after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered more U.S. armed forces to the region.

The bombers arrived in the region during the weekend, Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the top Pentagon spokesman, confirmed Monday. Additionally, The Sullivans departed Saturday from Naval Station Mayport, Fla., for an independent deployment to the U.S. 5th Fleet area of operations, which includes the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea and parts of the Indian Ocean, the Navy said.

The military assets are moving to the Middle East after Austin on Friday ordered several B-52s, a squadron of fighter jets, tanker aircraft and Navy destroyers to deploy to the region. The other

ships and planes will arrive in the coming months as the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln ends its deployment there and transitions back to the U.S.

"These appointments are in keeping with our commitment to the protection of U.S. citizens and forces in the Middle East, the defense of Israel and deescalation through deterrence and diplomacy," Ryder said.

The military moves come as Israel's wars against Hamas militants in Gaza and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon rage, including a retaliatory strike on Iran a week ago that likely damaged a base that builds ballistic missiles and launches rockets as part of the country's space program.

The U.S. is pressing for cease-fires while repeatedly saying it will defend Israel and continue to protect Americans and allies in the region, including from Yemen-based Houthi attacks against ships in the Red Sea.

Lawmaker seeks more spouse hires at Landstuhl

BY ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A U.S. lawmaker wants to know whether the Pentagon's largest overseas medical facility is denying employment to qualified military spouses in favor of local applicants in Germany.

In a letter last month, Rep. August Pfluger, R-Texas, questioned the Defense Health Agency's hiring practices at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

The letter is addressed to DHA director Lt. Gen. Telita Crosland and seeks information specific to the Defense Department's hospital near Kaiserslautern, Germany.

Instead of being hired, military spouses are often referred to volunteer for the American

Red Cross and "essentially perform the duties and responsibilities of a medical practitioner ... without financial compensation," Pfluger wrote in the Oct. 8 letter, which asked for LRMC's hiring data for the past five years.

Pfluger also requested information about how the agency is prioritizing military spouses for hiring as well as compensation data for spouses who work in full-or part-time positions at military medical facilities worldwide, among other information.

"If they're actually prioritizing (people) other than fully qualified spouses, then we want to know what those practices are, what the priority list looks like and how they're making their decisions," said Pfluger, a second-

term representative who served 20 years in the Air Force as a pilot and is now a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

A DHA spokesperson confirmed receipt of the letter, but said the agency couldn't address the questions without first formally responding to Pfluger.

The letter echoes decades of frustration by military spouses who have said they are forced to quit their well-paying jobs when their family is posted overseas. Due to a multinational pact, most have few employment opportunities when living in Europe.

As a result, many military families must live on one income, dig into savings and sometimes rely on a Defense Department supplemental food program to make ends meet.

There have been some improvements. For example, recent agreements reached in Italy and Spain now allow U.S. military spouses living in those countries to work remotely for their American employers.

That change followed years of policy that forbade the practice unless a military spouse gave up rights and protections afforded them through the NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

When the DHA responds, Pfluger's office will review the data and evaluate its compliance with federal mandates, he said.

"One hundred percent we will be pursuing any sort of change to the law if we find that that's not the case and that the hiring practices favor others (over) spouses," he said.

Boeing factory strike ends as workers accept contract

Associated Press

SEATTLE—Factory workers at Boeing voted to accept a contract offer and end their strike after more than seven weeks, clearing the way for the aerospace giant to resume production of its bestselling airliner and generate much-needed cash.

Leaders of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers district in Seattle said 59% of members who cast ballots agreed to approve the company's fourth formal offer and the third put to a vote.

The deal includes a 38% wage increase over four years, and ratification and productivity bonuses.

Boeing, however, refused to meet strikers' demand to restore a company pension plan that was frozen nearly a decade ago.

The contract's ratification on the eve of Election Day cleared the way for a major U.S. manufacturer and government contractor to restart Pacific North-

west assembly lines that the walkout idled for 53 days.

Bank of America analysts estimated last month that Boeing was losing about \$50 million a day during the now-ended strike, which did not affect a non-union plant in South Carolina where the company makes 787s.

Boeing CEO Kelly Ortberg said in a message to employees that he was pleased to have reached an agreement.

"While the past few months have been difficult for all of us, we are all part of the same team," Ortberg said. "We will only move forward by listening and working together. There is much work ahead to return to the excellence that made Boeing an iconic company."

According to the union, the 33,000 workers it represents can return to work as soon as Wednesday or as late as Nov. 12. Ortberg has said it might take "a couple of weeks" to resume production in part because some workers might need retraining.

Man arrested, accused of plot on Tenn. power site

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Department of Justice said Monday that federal agents arrested a Tennessee man with ties to white nationalist groups who they said attempted to use what he believed to be an explosive-laden drone to destroy a Nashville energy facility.

According to court documents, Skyler Philippi, 24, is accused of planning to attach several pounds of C-4 explosives to an aerial drone with the intent of destroying an electric substation in Nashville.

The newly unsealed court records reveal that Philippi in July allegedly told a confidential source who was working with the FBI that he wanted to attack several substations to "shock the system." That confidential source later introduced Philippi to an undercover FBI employee, who began to collect information about Philippi's plan with other un-

dercover agents.

"Philippi researched previous attacks on electric substations and concluded that attacking with firearms would not be sufficient," wrote Angelo DeFeo, an FBI special agent, in the court records released Monday. "Philippi, therefore, planned to use a drone with explosives attached to it and to fly the drone into the substation."

Philippi allegedly told undercover law enforcement officials that he was affiliated with several white nationalist and extremist groups, including the National Alliance, which calls for eradicating the Jewish people and other races. Such extremist groups increasingly have viewed attacking the United States' power grid as a means of disrupting the country.

The U.S. grid includes more than 6,400 power plants and 450,000 miles of high-voltage transmission lines that span the country.

Ukrainian troops fire at North Koreans

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian troops have for the first time engaged with North Korean units that were recently deployed to help Russia in the war with its neighbor, Ukraine's defense minister said Tuesday.

Another Kyiv official said Ukraine's army fired artillery at North Korean soldiers in Russia's Kursk border region.

The comments were the first official reports that Ukrainian and North Korean forces have engaged in combat, following a deployment that has given the war a new complexion as it approaches its 1,000-day milestone.

Neither claim could be independently confirmed.

The Ukrainian and North Korean troops engaged in "small-scale" fighting that amounted to the start of Pyongyang's direct involvement in Europe's biggest conflict since World War II, Ukraine's Defense Minister Rustem Umerov told South Korea's public broadcaster KBS in an interview.

North Korean soldiers are mixed with Russian troops and are misidentified on their uniforms, Umerov was quoted as saying by KBS. That makes it hard to say whether there were any North Korean casualties, he said.

Umerov reportedly said he expects that five North Korean units, each consisting of about 3,000 soldiers, will be deployed

to the Kursk area.

Meanwhile, Andrii Kovalenko, the head of the counter-disinformation branch of Ukraine's Security Council, said "the first North Korean troops have already been shelled, in the Kursk region."

He provided no further details.

Western governments had expected that the North Korean soldiers would be sent to Russia's Kursk border region, where a 3-month-old incursion by the Ukrainian army is the first occupation of Russian territory since World War II and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

U.S., South Korean and Ukrainian intelligence assessments say up to 12,000 North

Korean combat troops are being sent by Pyongyang to the war under a pact with Moscow.

The Pentagon said Monday that at least 10,000 North Korean soldiers were in Russia near Ukraine's border.

More troops from North Korea's 1.3-million-strong army may be slated for deployment in Russia, according to an analysis published Tuesday by the European Council on Foreign Relations, an international think tank.

The ramifications extend far beyond Europe, it said.

The North Korean troops, whose fighting quality and battle experience is unknown, are adding to Ukraine's worsening situation on the battlefield.

Israeli strike kills 20 in Gaza; Cabinet member fired

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — An Israeli airstrike in northern Gaza has killed at least 20 people, mostly women and children, Palestinian officials said Tuesday, as Israel wages a nearly monthlong air and ground operation in what was already the most isolated and heavily destroyed part of the territory.

The strike late Monday hit a home where several displaced families were sheltering in the town of Beit Lahiya, near the border with Israel, according to Hosam Abu Safiya, the director of

the recently raided and barely functioning Kamal Adwan Hospital, which received the casualties.

The Israeli military said it targeted a weapons storage facility from which a militant had operated, and that "numerous steps were taken to mitigate the risk of harming civilians."

The dead included eight women and six children, according to a list provided by the Gaza Health Ministry's emergency service. Separate strikes elsewhere in Gaza early Tuesday killed another 10 people, according to health officials.

cials.

Also on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed his popular defense minister, Yoav Gallant.

Netanyahu and Gallant have repeatedly been at odds over the war in Gaza. But Netanyahu had avoided firing his rival. Netanyahu cited "significant gaps" and a "crisis of trust" between the men in his Tuesday evening announcement.

Israel launched the offensive in the north after saying Hamas militants had regrouped there. The army has returned to several ar-

reas of Gaza multiple times after previous operations, as Hamas continues to carry out hit-and-run attacks on troops and fire occasional rockets into Israel.

The military has ordered the complete evacuation of Beit Lahiya, the nearby town of Beit Hanoun and the urban Jabaliya refugee camp, and has allowed almost no humanitarian aid into the area for over a month. That has drawn rebukes from the Biden administration, which has warned that U.S. laws might force it to curb military aid to Israel if more humanitarian aid is not allowed in.

Mexican military kills 2 Colombians near US border

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's National Guard fatally shot two Colombians and wounded four others in what the Defense Department claimed was a confrontation near the U.S. border.

Colombia's foreign ministry said in a statement Sunday that all of the victims were migrants who had been "caught in the

crossfire." It identified the dead as a 20-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman, and gave the number of Colombians wounded as five, not four. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

Mexico's Defense Department, which controls the National Guard, did not respond to requests for comment Monday

on whether the victims were migrants, but it said one Colombian who was not injured in the shootings was turned over to immigration officials, suggesting they were.

If they were migrants, it would mark the second time in just over a month that military forces in Mexico have opened fire on and killed migrants.

On Oct. 1, the day President Claudia Sheinbaum took office, soldiers opened fire on a truck, killing six migrants in the southern state of Chiapas. An 11-year-old girl from Egypt, her 18-year-old sister and a 17-year-old boy from El Salvador died in that shooting, along with people from Peru and Honduras.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lyft pays \$2.1M, settling suit saying drivers lied to

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Lyft is paying \$2.1 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the ride-hailing service of exaggerating how much money drivers could make while the company was trying to recover from a steep downturn in demand during the pandemic.

The agreement resolves a case filed by the U.S. Justice Department in San Francisco federal court Oct. 25—the same day that Lyft disclosed it had negotiated the terms of the settlement revolving around the same issues with the Federal Trade Commission.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Peter Kang signed an order formalizing the settlement Thursday before it was made publicly available Friday. Besides having to pay \$2.1 million, Lyft has also been prohibited from engaging in the misleading practices flagged in the case.

Both the Justice Department and Federal Trade Commission have been investigating Lyft since uncovering evidence that it was advertising inflated compensation rates while trying to recruit more drivers as the pandemic began to ease and ride-hailing demand perked up.

US sued for lithium mine putting rare plant at risk

NV RENO — Conservationists and a Native American tribe are suing the United States to try to block a Nevada lithium mine they have said will drive an endangered desert wildflower to extinction, disrupt groundwater flows and threaten cultural resources.

The Center for Biological Diversity promised the court battle a week ago when the U.S. Interior Department approved Ioneer Ltd.'s Rhyolite Ridge lithium-boron mine at the only place Tiehm's buckwheat is known to exist in the world, near the California line halfway between Reno and Las Vegas.

It is the latest in a series of legal fights over projects President Joe Biden's administration is pushing under his clean energy agenda intended to cut reliance on fossil fuels, in part by increasing the production of lithium to make electric vehicle batteries and solar panels.

Court affirms takeover of jail, limits budget power

MS JACKSON — An appeals court says a federal receiver can proceed with a takeover of a Mississippi jail where a judge found unconstitutional conditions and “a stunning array of assaults, as well as deaths.”

A panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that U.S. District Judge Carlton Reeves acted properly in 2022 when he appointed a public safety consultant to act as a receiver for the Raymond Detention Center in Hinds County.

The takeover has been blocked pending the appeal by Hinds County, which argued that a federally appointed consultant would be “utterly unaccountable” to voters and taxpayers.

The appellate judges told Reeves, however, to reevaluate the scope of the consultant's work and remove his budgeting power, ruling that the judge had given him “overly broad” authority to determine the annual

budget for the jail, including for staff salaries and benefits, medical and mental health services and facility improvements.

State first to sign into US health care program

MD ANNAPOLIS — Maryland became the first state Friday to join a federal program designed to improve health care quality and equity while lowering costs for all health care payers, including Medicare, Medicaid and private insurers.

It builds on Maryland's Total Cost of Care Model, which sets a per capita limit on Medicare's total cost of care in Maryland and encompasses the state's unique all-payer hospital payment system, which reduces per capita hospital expenditures and supports improved health outcomes, as encouraged by the Affordable Care Act.

This new federal framework, known as the AHEAD model, has been designed to deliver high-quality health care through greater coordination, with a focus on health equity and social needs to support underserved patients.

Brutal campsite killing leads to murder charge

MT BOZEMAN — A 41-year-old Montana man was charged with murder Friday in a brutal slaying at a remote campsite that had been initially reported as a possible bear mauling by people who found the victim's body.

The suspect allegedly told authorities that he arrived at the campsite northeast of Big Sky, Mont., on Oct. 10 intending to

stay the night but found it occupied by 35-year-old Dustin Kjersem.

Kjersem, who didn't know the suspect, welcomed him to the campsite and offered him a beer, according to Gallatin County Sheriff Dan Springer. But sometime later, the suspect, driven by an unknown motive, hit Kjersem with a piece of wood, stabbed him in the neck with a screwdriver and hit him with an ax, Springer said.

After DNA found on a beer can from the camp site was matched with the suspect's DNA, he was tracked down and arrested in Butte, Mont., Springer said.

Police sergeant charged with assault in shooting

VT RUTLAND — A Vermont police sergeant was charged Friday with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and reckless endangerment in connection with a shooting last year that injured two men during a vehicle investigation.

Rutland City Police Sgt. Andrew Plemmons fired into a vehicle as the occupants tried to get away. A state police investigation found that Plemmons was not in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or death when he used deadly force against one of the men.

Plemmons pleaded not guilty and was released.

The driver, Randy Perez-Coiscou, pleaded not guilty to two charges of felony aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer and Andy Perez-Coiscou was cited on a charge of possession of fentanyl. The brothers have since recovered from the injuries, police said.

—From wire reports

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Flagg, No. 7 Duke whip Maine in opener

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Star freshman Cooper Flagg had 18 points, seven rebounds and five assists in his college debut, and No. 7 Duke beat Maine 96-62 on Monday night in the season opener for both teams.

The 6-foot-9, 205-pound Flagg — the nation's top-ranked recruit and a preseason Associated Press All-American — made 6 of 15 shots and all six of his free throws. Fellow rookie Kon Knueppel powered the offense with 22 points and three 3-pointers for the Blue Devils (1-0), who shot 55.6% for the game.

Quion Burns scored 15 points for the Black Bears (0-1), who shot just 6-for-24 (25%) after halftime as Duke pulled away.

No. 1 Kansas 87, Howard 57: Zeke Mayo, a grad transfer from South Dakota State, had 19 points in his debut with his new team and the top-ranked Jayhawks beat the visiting Bison.

Kansas (1-0) led 46-19 at halftime and its biggest lead was 38 points.

The Jayhawks used the game as a tune-up before a top-10 showdown with North Carolina on Friday night. Kansas had 10 players score, with three in double-figures.

Blake Harper had 16 points to lead Howard.

No. 2 Alabama 110, UNC Asheville 54: Mark Sears scored 20 points, and the Crimson Tide beat the visiting Bulldogs.

Sears led Alabama in scoring on 6-for-8 shooting and was 3-for-4 from 3-point range. Clifford Omoruyi did not miss a shot in his Crimson Tide debut, and the Rutgers transfer scored 16 points on six shots to go along with eight rebounds and two blocks.

Five other players scored in double figures for Alabama: Latrell Wrightsell Jr. (13), Mouhamed Dioubate (11), Aden Holloway (11), Jarin Stevenson (10) and Labaron Philon (10).

Jordan Marsh led UNC Asheville with 13 points.

No. 4 Houston 97, Jackson State 40: L.J. Cryer scored 16 points, Mylik Wilson added 15 points off the bench, and the Cougars opened their season with a win over the visiting Tigers.

J'Wan Roberts had 14 points and six rebounds, Ramon Walker Jr. chipped in 10 points and Milos Uzan, a transfer from Oklahoma, had eight points, seven rebounds and 10 assists for Houston. The Cougars shot 58%, including 12-for-20 on 3-pointers.

Jalen Tatum scored 14 points to lead Jackson State, which shot 28%.

No. 5 Iowa State 83, Mississippi Valley State 44: Keshon Gilbert scored 17 points and Tamin Lipsey added 16 as the Cyclones routed the visiting Delta Devils for their 28th straight home win.

Saint Mary's transfer Joshua Jefferson added 10 points, six rebounds and four steals in his first game with Iowa State.

Donovan Sanders had 12 points and Greg Moore added 10 for Mississippi Valley State, which won just one game last season and is picked to finish last in the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

No. 6 Gonzaga 101, No. 8 Baylor 63: Nolan Hickman scored 17 points, Graham Ike had 15 points and eight rebounds, and the Bulldogs beat the visiting Bears.

Norchad Omier had 15 points and nine rebounds to lead Baylor. Robert Wright added 12 points and Josh Ojianwuna had 10.

Gonzaga went on a 24-4 run in the second half to run away with a top-10 win, while also handing the Bears their only 30-point loss in the last 10 years.

No. 9 North Carolina 90, Elon 76: RJ Davis scored 24 points and keyed the host Tar Heels' 11-0 run after falling behind in the second half in a victory over

the Phoenix.

TJ Simpkins scored 18 points and Nick Dorn had 17 to lead Elon. Sam Sherry added 15 points and TK Simpkins had 14.

No. 10 Arizona 93, Canisius 64: Caleb Love had 17 points and six assists, Jaden Bradley added 15 points and the host Wildcats opened coach Tommy Lloyd's fourth season with a win over the Golden Griffins.

Paul McMillan IV led the Golden Griffins with 20 points.

No. 12 Tennessee 80, Gardner-Webb 64: Chaz Lanier scored 18 points and Jordan Gainey had 16 as the host Volunteers beat the Runnin' Bulldogs.

Darryl Simmons scored 22 points to lead Gardner-Webb, and Anthony Selden and Ja-maine Mann each had 13. The Runnin' Bulldogs outrebounded Tennessee 32-29, with Isaiah Richards leading the way with eight.

UCF 64, No. 13 Texas A&M 61: Darius Johnson scored 24 points and assisted on a go-ahead slam dunk with less than a minute remaining to lead the host Knights to a win over the Aggies.

Pharrel Payne led the Aggies with 15 points and had six rebounds. Wade Taylor IV had 13 points and seven assists, but made only 4 of his 15 shots.

No. 14 Purdue 90, Texas A&M Corpus-Christi 73: Fletcher Loyer scored 21 points to lead five players in double figures as the host Boilermakers beat the Islanders.

Owen Dease scored 20 for Texas A&M Corpus-Christi. Garry Clark added 14 points.

No. 18 Marquette 102, Stony Brook 62: Kam Jones scored 32 points while shooting 14-for-16 from the floor as the host Golden Eagles breezed to a victory over the Seawolves.

Joe Octave scored 12 points and Ben Wight had 10 points and eight rebounds for Stony Brook.

Ohio State 80, No. 19 Texas 72: At Las Vegas, Bruce Thorn-

ton scored 20 points, and the Buckeyes defeated the Longhorns.

Freshman Tre Johnson led all scorers with 29 points and five rebounds for Texas, and Arthur Kaluma and Kadin Shedrick each had 10. The rest of the Longhorns shot a combined 7-for-29 (24.1%) from the floor.

No. 20 Cincinnati 109, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 54: Simas Lukosius scored 20 points, Dan Skillings Jr. added 17 and the host Bearcats beat the Golden Lions.

Dante Sawyer led Arkansas-Pine Bluff with 11 points.

No. 21 Florida 98, South Florida 83: At Jacksonville, Fla., Walter Clayton Jr. scored 29 points, Will Richard added 25 and the Gators overcame a 13-point deficit to beat the Bulls.

Jamille Reynolds led South Florida with 17 points and six boards.

No. 22 UCLA 85, Rider 50: Tyler Bilodeau scored 18 points in his debut after transferring from Oregon State, and the host Bruins routed the Broncs.

T.J. Weeks Jr. led Rider with 15 points, hitting a game-high four 3-pointers.

UCLA got six 3-pointers from five different players in the second half. Andrews' 3 pushed the lead to 78-46.

No. 23 Kentucky 103, Wright State 62: Otega Oweh scored 21 points, Koby Brea added 18 off the bench and the host Wildcats shot 60% to blow out the Raiders in Mark Pope's debut.

Brandon Noel had 20 points, Alex Huijbregtse scored 16 and Solomon Callaghan added 15 for Wright State, which shot just 35% from the field.

No. 24 Mississippi 90, Long Island 60: Jaylen Murray scored 18 of his 24 points in the first half, and the host Rebels beat the Sharks.

Brent Davis and Malachi Davis each scored 19 points to lead Long Island.

Chiefs top Buccaneers in OT, move to 8-0

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs coach Andy Reid watched as the Buccaneers drove down the field in the final minute of regulation, and Baker Mayfield threw a touchdown pass that put Tampa Bay within a 2-point conversion of ending Kansas City's perfect start to the season.

Bucs coach Todd Bowles admitted to giving "very minor" thought to going for 2 before kicking the extra point that sent the game to overtime.

"I'm glad he didn't," Reid said with a smile.

That's because the Chiefs won the ensuing coin toss, and Patrick Mahomes capped a big day — 291 yards passing and three touchdowns on a gimpy ankle — by going 5-for-5 on the only drive of overtime. Kareem Hunt finished it off, along with his 106-yard rushing performance, by plunging into the end zone from 2 yards out to give Kansas City a 30-24 victory on Monday night.

"Everybody had a piece of

this," Reid said.

DeAndre Hopkins had eight catches for 86 yards and two TDs. Travis Kelce had 14 catches for 100 yards with Taylor Swift watching from a suite. And a defense missing a couple of key players to injuries held Mayfield to 200 yards passing and two touchdowns, and shut down a Tampa Bay running game that managed just 95 yards.

The result was familiar: The Chiefs won their 14th straight dating to last season, the longest streak since Carolina started 14-0 in 2014, and they became just the sixth Super Bowl champ to start 8-0 the following season. They have also won their last eight games when trailing in the second half, including the postseason.

The Buccaneers had their chance when Mayfield hit Ryan Miller in the end zone with 27 seconds to go. But rather than go for the win, Bowles decided to kick the extra point — and the

Bucs ended up losing for the fourth time in five games.

"We've got guys who are not going to quit fighting to the end," Tampa Bay wide receiver Sterling Shepard said. "I'm really proud of the group and the way everybody fought. We've just got to clean up some little stuff. And that's what this league is all about."

It was a memorable first half for two players who'd been waiting to play in Arrowhead Stadium.

The Bucs' Rachaad White grew up about 10 minutes away in a tough part of Kansas City, but his family could never afford a ticket for him to see a game. He wound up taking a circuitous path through Division II Nebraska-Kearney and a California junior college to Arizona State, where he eventually became a third-round pick of Tampa Bay in the 2022 draft.

Two years later, White finally got into Arrowhead — and the end zone. He punctuated his 7-

yard scoring run in the second quarter, which gave the Bucs a 7-3 lead, by nearly tossing the football all the way into the second deck.

"I can't even count right now," White said, when asked how many friends and family were watching from those stands.

Then it was Hopkins' turn in his first home game since arriving in Kansas City from a trade with the Titans.

The three-time All-Pro, who already had caught four passes at that point, reeled in a third-down heave from Mahomes amid triple coverage for a 35-yard gain that put the Chiefs inside the Tampa Bay 5. Three plays later, Mahomes found him in the back of the end zone, and Hopkins celebrated his first TD with the Chiefs with a dance from "Remember the Titans."

"That's one of my favorite movies," he said. "I knew if I got in the end zone I was going to remember the Titans."

Commanders, Lions make deals to bolster defense

Associated Press

The NFC East-leading Washington Commanders made a move to help them stay in first place. The Detroit Lions got their edge rusher. The injury-plagued Dallas Cowboys added a receiver.

Hours before the NFL's trade deadline at 4 p.m. EST on Tuesday, the Commanders (7-2) got four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Marshon Lattimore from the struggling New Orleans Saints (2-7), three people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press. They spoke on the condition of anonymity because the teams have not announced the deal.

Lattimore bolsters a defense that's already No. 5 against the pass. The Saints are getting a third-round pick, a fourth-rounder and their own sixth that they previously sent to Washington. The Commanders also receive a fifth along with Lattimore.

The NFC North-leading Lions (7-1) kicked off deadline day by acquiring defensive end Za'Darius Smith from the Cle-

veland Browns. The three-time Pro Bowl edge rusher helps fill the void created by the loss of star Aidan Hutchinson, who suffered a leg injury.

The 2-7 Browns, already looking to rebuild in a disappointing season, are sending Smith and a seventh-round pick in 2026 to Detroit for a fifth-round pick in 2025 and a sixth-round pick in 2026, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams have not announced the deal.

The Cowboys (3-5) agreed on a deal with the Carolina Panthers (2-7) to acquire wide receiver Jonathan Mingo and a seventh-round pick in 2025 for a fourth-round pick next year, two people with knowledge of the trade told the AP. Both people spoke on condition of anonymity because the teams haven't announced the deal.

Mingo, a second-round pick last year, only has 12 receptions for 121 yards in nine games. He won't be catching passes from Dak Prescott for a while, as Prescott expected to miss several games with a

hamstring injury.

The Cincinnati Bengals (4-5) added depth at running back, getting Khalil Herbert from the Chicago Bears (4-4) for a 2025 seventh-round draft pick. Herbert had just eight carries for 16 yards and one touchdown for the Bears.

The Kansas City Chiefs (8-0), Buffalo Bills (7-2), Baltimore Ravens (6-3) and New York Jets (3-6) have already added playmakers, acquiring wide receivers over the past month. The Minnesota Vikings (6-2) filled a big need on the offensive line last week and the Arizona Cardinals (5-4) got defensive help on Monday.

Several teams who could use an edge rusher include the Atlanta Falcons (6-3), Denver Broncos (5-4) and Vikings. The Houston Texans (6-3), Green Bay Packers (6-3), Los Angeles Rams (4-4) and Seattle Seahawks (4-5) have to be looking for offensive line depth.

A whopping nine teams have just two wins through Week 9, increasing their chances of being sellers.

Cavs edge Bucks to remain unbeaten

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The win total is growing quickly, and so is the Cavaliers' confidence.

At 8-0 so far, they're the only unbeaten team left in the Eastern Conference and at this point they might as well win them all.

"That's the plan," center Jarrett Allen said with a wide smile.

The Cavs kept their unblemished record intact on Monday night with a 116-114 win over the Milwaukee Bucks, who pushed Cleveland to the absolute limit despite playing without injured two-time MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Darius Garland scored 39 points to pace the Cavs, outdueling Bucks star Damian Lillard in the final minutes as the point guards put on a dazzling display of shot-making to the delight of another rocking crowd inside Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse.

"It was amazing," said Garland, who made 7 of 11 3-pointers, including a go-ahead one with 45 seconds left that put the Cavs up 113-111. "I grew up watching Dame. It was super cool playing some 1-on-1 basketball."

Nuggets 121, Raptors 119: Russell Westbrook scored 21 points and played smothering defense on the final play of the game, and host Denver beat Toronto.

Nikola Jokic had 28 points, 14 rebounds and 14 assists for his third triple-double in four games

for Denver.

Celtics 123, Hawks 93: Jayson Tatum scored 26 of his 28 points in the first half as visiting Boston routed Atlanta for its third straight win.

Hawks guard Trae Young left the game in the third quarter with a right rib strain. He was 1-for-10 from the floor and finished with two points and six assists.

Warriors 125, Wizards 112: Stephen Curry scored 16 of his 24 points in the second half in his return from an ankle injury and visiting Golden State won its fourth straight game by beating Washington.

Buddy Hield scored 20 points, part of another strong contribution from the Golden State bench. The Warriors' reserves outscored Washington's 60-33.

Pistons 115, Lakers 103: Cade Cunningham had 17 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his third career triple-double and host Detroit beat Los Angeles.

Anthony Davis scored 37 points for Los Angeles, and LeBron James had 20 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds.

Kings 111, Heat 110: Domantas Sabonis scored off an offensive rebound with 0.7 seconds left, and visiting Sacramento rallied from 15 points down to beat Miami.

DeAaron Fox scored 28 for Sacramento, while DeMar DeRozan finished with 26.

Nets 106, Grizzlies 104:

Dennis Schroder and Cam Johnson each scored 20 points, and host Brooklyn beat Memphis.

Ja Morant scored 25 points and rookie Zach Edey had season highs of 25 points and 11 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who had won their last two games.

Rockets 109, Knicks 97: Alperen Sengun had 25 points and 14 rebounds, and host Houston held on for a win over New York.

Jalen Brunson led the Knicks with 29 points. Karl-Anthony Towns had 17 points and a season-high 19 rebounds.

Jazz 135, Bulls 126: Keyonte George had 33 points and nine assists, John Collins added 28 points and 13 rebounds and visiting Utah won for the first time this season.

The injury-depleted Jazz (1-6) shot 53.9% from the floor and were 45.7% from 3-point range at 16-for-35.

Timberwolves 114, Hornets 93: Naz Reid had 25 points and nine rebounds, and host Minnesota beat Charlotte.

Anthony Edwards scored 21 points for Minnesota, which hit 18 of 38 3-pointers (47.4%).

LaMelo Ball scored 19 points for Charlotte.

Trail Blazers 118, Pelicans 100: Alfernee Simons scored 24 points, Deandre Ayton had 19 points and 13 rebounds and visiting Portland beat injury-depleted New Orleans.

Brandon Ingram was the Pelicans' only usual starter in uni-

form for a second straight game and scored 27 points.

Thunder 102, Magic 86: Jalen Williams scored 23 points, Shai Gilgeous-Alexander added 21 points and nine assists and host Oklahoma City defeated Orlando to remain the only unbeaten team in the Western Conference.

Chet Holmgren added 14 points and nine rebounds for the Thunder, who have won all seven of their games by at least 12 points.

Pacers 134, Mavericks 127: Myles Turner had season highs with 30 points and 11 rebounds while going over 8,000 career points, Tyrese Haliburton had a season-best 25 points and 12 assists and visiting Indiana beat Dallas.

Luka Doncic had 34 points and 15 assists for the Mavericks.

Suns 118, 76ers 116: Kevin Durant broke a tie on a driving layup with 24 seconds left and host Phoenix beat Philadelphia, spoiling Paul George's debut.

George had 15 points, five rebounds and four assists in 32 minutes.

Durant scored 35 points to lead Phoenix to its fifth straight win.

Clippers 113, Spurs 104: Norman Powell scored 23 points, Amir Coffey added 21 and host Los Angeles rallied from an early 26-point deficit to beat San Antonio for its first win at Intuit Dome.

Kuemper shuts out Predators; Allen blanks Oilers

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Darcy Kuemper made 16 saves for his first shutout of the season and 32nd overall, helping the Los Angeles Kings beat the Nashville Predators 3-0 on Monday night.

Adrian Kempe had a goal and an assist and Anze Kopitar and Kevin Fiala also scored. The

Kings have won two of their last three.

Juuse Saros made 24 saves for the Predators. They are 1-2-1 in their last four.

Kopitar opened the scoring with 6:36 remaining in the opening period. Saros denied the Kings captain's first shot, but Kopitar collected the rebound below the goal line and banked

it off the netminder's skate.

Just 1:11 into the second period, Kuemper denied Colton Sissons' backhand shot from the low slot to preserve a one-goal lead.

Fiala, a former Predator, made it 2-0 35 seconds into the third.

Devils 3, Oilers 0: Jake Allen made 31 saves for his second

shutout of the season and 26th of his NHL career, helping New Jersey close its Western Canadian trip with a victory over Edmonton.

Jesper Bratt had a goal and an assist and Stefan Noesen and Timo Meier also scored. The Devils improved to 8-5-2. They have won three of their last four after a four-game skid.