

US Navy shifts firepower to Caribbean

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Ford Carrier Strike Group's departure this week from the Mediterranean Sea will leave Europe and the Middle East without an aircraft carrier presence while concentrating naval firepower in Latin America.

Although it's unclear when the strike group will arrive in the U.S. Southern Command area of responsibility, the surge of naval forces there would put nearly 20% of the service's deployed warships in the region, according to Stars and Stripes' analysis of data from the USNI News fleet tracker.

Photographs posted to X by ship-spotters based in Gibraltar show the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford and the destroyer USS Bainbridge transiting the Strait of Gibraltar into the Atlantic Ocean on Tuesday. The ships presumably will join remaining strike group members, the destroyers USS Winston S. Chur-

chill and USS Mahan in the Atlantic.

A U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet spokesperson said the command couldn't discuss current operations out of concern for operational security.

Last month, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth ordered the carrier strike group to SOUTHCOM to bolster U.S. efforts there to disrupt drug trafficking and degrade and dismantle transnational criminal organizations.

The command's area of responsibility includes waters adjacent to Central and South America, and the land mass of Latin America south of Mexico.

It appears that besides stopping drug trafficking, the U.S. also aims to get Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro to step down, said James Holmes, chair of the maritime strategy program at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

"The first we can do at sea, in theory at least, without a carrier group," Holmes said "But I have a hard time seeing sea power ac-

complish the second, carrier group or not."

Ford would bring at least 4,500 more sailors and nine aircraft squadrons to the U.S. presence in the area.

That level of firepower seems like overkill for the current mission in the Caribbean, said Bryan Clark, a retired Navy officer and director of the Hudson Institute's Center for Defense Concepts and Technology. But the addition would be an efficient way to sustain strikes against targets ashore, Clark said, noting that the U.S. doesn't have any land bases in Central or South America. And fighter jets flying out of Puerto Rico would require air tankers to conduct missions over South America, he said.

In addition to the three ships that make up the Iwo Jima Amphibious Ready Group, the destroyers USS Gravelly, USS Stockdale and USS Jason Dunham, the cruiser Lake Erie and the littoral combat ship USS Wichita, the U.S. presence in Latin America in-

cludes Navy P-8 maritime patrol aircraft, MQ-9 Reaper drones, an F-35 fighter squadron and more than 6,000 sailors and Marines.

Meanwhile, the reduced Navy presence in Europe and the Middle East isn't of great concern in the current threat environment, said Bradley Martin, a retired Navy surface warfare officer and director of the Rand Corp. National Security Supply Chain Institute.

Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 and Hamas' attack on Israel in October 2023, the Navy has kept a nearly constant carrier or amphibious ready group presence in Europe and the Middle East. Last month, the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz left the Middle East after three months in the region. There are five destroyers assigned to Naval Station Rota in Spain. One of them, USS Roosevelt, is stationed in the Mediterranean Sea, while two others, USS Forest Sherman and USS Mitscher, are in the Red Sea, according to the USNI News fleet tracker.

Deferred payments on Military Star cards extended

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Defense Department employees with commissary access who are feeling the strain of missed paychecks still have the option of deferring payment for groceries penalty-free when shopping there.

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service extended an offer it rolled out last month to Military Star cardholders to provide relief during the government shutdown, which began on Oct. 1 and was on the verge Tuesday of becoming the longest in U.S. history.

Through November, no payment is required on Military Star card commissary purchases for three months, and interest won't accrue for 90 days, AAFES announced last week.

The program was supposed to end Oct. 31, but AAFES extended it when it was clear the shutdown would continue into a second month, an AAFES spokeswoman said last week.

Military Star card usage at commissaries climbed immediately after the relief offer went into effect, according to AAFES.

Commissary sales with the card were up more than 20% be-

tween Oct. 6 and Oct. 28, compared with the same period last year, AAFES spokesman Chris Ward said in a statement Monday.

The number of new accounts increased more than 35% during the same time frame, and the average commissary purchase using the card also spiked more than 8% immediately after Oct. 6, Ward said.

With the special offer, customers will pay interest only on any remaining balances going forward after the 90 days are up. The Federal Reserve's interest rate adjustment last week lo-

wered the Star card's interest rate to 13.99%.

The current average credit card interest rate is about 25.32%, Forbes reported Monday.

While more commissary patrons are using the Military Star card for purchases, overall store sales declined slightly during the first few weeks of October, a Defense Commissary Agency statement last week said.

"After consecutive months of growth, sales for the month are down 1.5%," agency spokesman Kevin Robinson said.

Court halts tougher overseas voting order

By LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A federal court halted part of a presidential executive order that imposed new requirements on military service members, their families and other overseas citizens trying to vote in U.S. elections while living far away from home.

In a ruling Friday, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia invalidated part of a March 25 executive order by President Donald Trump titled “Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections” that required documented proof of citizenship to register in federal elections.

Military members serving overseas represent about 40% of

Americans living abroad, according to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

Secure Families Initiative, a nonprofit that advocates for military families, is a plaintiff in the case. The organization argued the order created undue hardship for Americans living overseas, including service members and their families.

Rebecca Nowatchik, an Air Force spouse and a director at Secure Families Initiative, said military families already face challenges when trying to vote in federal elections while living abroad.

Trump’s executive order meant they would have to find a secure way to send passports and other citizenship documents annually to election offi-

cials before being allowed to cast ballots, Nowatchik said.

“Voters potentially would have to send their passport through the mail,” she said.

The stated goal of the executive order was to enhance voter registry accuracy and reduce the risk of fraud.

There are several legal challenges to the president’s March 25 order that directs sweeping reforms to federal elections, including by the Democratic National Committee. Trump has continued to claim his 2020 loss to Democratic President Joe Biden was the result of fraud in the electoral system.

But U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, D.C., wrote that the president and his administration

cannot unilaterally direct changes to federal election procedures. The judge ruled the order is an unconstitutional violation of the separation of powers.

“Because our Constitution assigns responsibility for election regulation to the states and to Congress, this court holds that the president lacks the authority to direct such changes,” according to an Oct. 31 court memorandum opinion.

The White House defended the executive order after Friday’s ruling.

“President Trump has exercised his lawful authority to ensure only American citizens are casting ballots in American elections,” said Abigail Jackson, a White House spokeswoman.

US sub arrives at Australia base for maintenance work

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. Navy fast-attack submarine is undergoing maintenance at an Australian base where a multinational force of nuclear-powered boats may be in position in just over a year, according to the Australian Defence Department.

The Virginia-class USS Vermont docked Oct. 29 at HMAS Stirling, Western Australia, marking a significant advance toward the country’s goal of operating and maintaining nuclear-powered submarines, according to a department news release.

Australia is responsible for significant maintenance on the Vermont, according to the Defence Department.

The work required on the Vermont will be more complex than what Stirling provided the USS Hawaii last year and re-

flects the type of work needed to support the submarine rotational force, the release states.

The Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard in Hawaii is collaborating on a maintenance period in Australia for the first time, according to the release.

The work will provide training and test infrastructure and systems at Stirling, Vice Adm. Jonathan Mead, director general of the Australian Submarine Agency, said in the release.

Australia is developing the capability to service the boats under the AUKUS defense pact, a defense partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The Pentagon is reviewing the 2021 agreement amid concerns about whether U.S. industry can supply Australia with submarines beginning in the early 2030s while meeting Navy needs.

Amid shutdown, service families lack for food

By GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

SEATTLE — One hundred and seven families living in the Naval Base Kitsap area lined up last Wednesday during Bremerton Foodline’s dedicated two-hour window for military and government families to receive boxes of food essentials.

“There is a fear of scarcity,” said Cori Kauk, executive director of the food bank. “Worries about being on the edge financially.”

Though the Bremerton Foodline serves all of the community, Kauk said the biggest surge in numbers is an increase of visits from military families and federal employees since the government shutdown began.

“We’re adding 14 hours to our weekly schedule to meet the demand of the community, including service families,” Kauk said.

Across the country, military

households are feeling the pressure. Some of the most acute pain is in and around bases on the West Coast, where the cost of living is especially high.

Food bank providers welcomed the news Monday that some of the \$5.5 billion in emergency food funds in SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) would be released in coming days.

Following federal court orders, President Donald Trump announced Monday that SNAP funding would be extended through mid-November, offering temporary relief to 42 million Americans, including military-connected families and veterans.

But the uncertainty of the shutdown has many military families coming to food banks as a preemptive measure against future shortages while the shutdown continues.

Half-month's SNAP benefits to be paid out

The Washington Post

The Trump administration said Monday that it will release enough funds to pay for a half-month's worth of food assistance benefits in November, days after two courts ordered the U.S. Department of Agriculture to release the money to avoid forcing almost 42 million Americans into food insecurity.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) lost funding after the Trump administration said it would not tap into a \$5.5 billion contingency fund to pay for the benefit. On Friday, a federal judge in Rhode Island ordered the administration to release backup funds moments after another federal judge in Massachusetts directed the government to decide by Monday whether it would use the contingency funds for food aid.

USDA said Monday it will

comply with the Rhode Island judge's order. The department's lawyers wrote that the agency "will fulfill its obligation to expend the full amount of SNAP contingency funds today."

The White House deferred comment to the Office of Management and Budget, which along with USDA did not respond to a request for comment.

SNAP regularly costs the federal government about \$9 billion a month. But the federal shutdown has affected the program because Congress has not appropriated new funds for it. The available money in the contingency funding will pay for only about half of November's benefits.

In the Monday brief, Patrick Penn, the deputy undersecretary for food, nutrition and consumer services at USDA, said that the Food and Nutrition Ser-

vice, which administers SNAP, will spend about \$450 million of the contingency funds paying for states to administer the program this month. An additional \$150 million will be used for food assistance programs in Puerto Rico and American Samoa, and the remaining \$4.65 billion in the fund will be used to pay for SNAP benefits. That money, Penn said, will cover 50% of each eligible household's current allotment.

The Trump administration had argued earlier that it would not tap the SNAP contingency fund because it did not want to spend money that could be used in an emergency such as a natural disaster.

USDA said it will generate a table required by states to calculate which benefits will be made available for each eligible household. States will be able to

make the SNAP payments once the table is released to them, according to the brief.

In the brief, USDA said it would not tap a \$23 billion fund for school lunch and child nutrition programs, known as Section 32 funding. Democrats in Congress and anti-hunger advocates have called for the Trump administration to tap those funds to fill in the SNAP shortfall and let lawmakers patch the hole in child nutrition funding later. In the brief, USDA said that program was separate from SNAP in terms of legal authority, appropriations accounts and operations.

Democratic leaders and anti-hunger groups celebrated the agency's decision Monday to release partial payments, but many argued that the administration should still find ways to pay out full SNAP benefits.

Dick Cheney, powerful former vice president, dies at 84

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dick Cheney, the hard-charging conservative who became one of the most powerful and polarizing vice presidents in U.S. history and a leading advocate for the invasion of Iraq, has died at age 84.

Cheney died Monday night due to complications of pneumonia and cardiac and vascular disease, his family said in a statement.

"For decades, Dick Cheney served our nation, including as White House Chief of Staff, Wyoming's Congressman, Secretary of Defense, and Vice President of the United States," the statement said. "Dick Cheney was a great and good man who taught his children and grandchildren to love our country, and to live lives of courage, honor, love, kindness, and fly fishing. We are grateful beyond measure for all Dick Cheney did for our country. And we are

blessed beyond measure to have loved and been loved by this noble giant of a man."

The quietly forceful Cheney served father and son presidents, leading the armed forces as defense chief during the Persian Gulf War under President George H.W. Bush before returning to public life as vice president under Bush's son George W. Bush.

Cheney was, in effect, the chief operating officer of the younger Bush's presidency. He had a hand, often a commanding one, in implementing decisions most important to the president and some of surpassing interest to himself. Cheney consistently defended the extraordinary tools of surveillance, detention and inquisition employed in response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Years after leaving office, he became a target of President Donald Trump, especially after his daughter Liz Cheney be-

came the leading Republican critic and examiner of Trump's desperate attempts to stay in power after his election defeat and his actions in the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol.

In a twist the Democrats of his era could never have imagined, Dick Cheney said last year he was voting for their candidate, Kamala Harris, for president against Trump.

His vice presidency defined by the age of terrorism, Cheney disclosed that he had had the wireless function of his defibrillator turned off years earlier out of fear terrorists would remotely send his heart a fatal shock.

In his time in office, no longer was the vice presidency merely a ceremonial afterthought. Instead, Cheney made it a network of back channels from which to influence policy on Iraq, terrorism, presidential powers, energy and other cornerstones of a conservative agenda.

A hard-liner on Iraq who was increasingly isolated as other hawks left government, Cheney was proved wrong on point after point in the Iraq War, without ever losing the conviction that he was essentially right.

He alleged links between the 2001 attacks against the United States and prewar Iraq that didn't exist. He said U.S. troops would be welcomed as liberators; they weren't. He declared the Iraqi insurgency in its last throes in May 2005, back when 1,661 U.S. service members had been killed, not even half the toll by war's end.

For admirers, he kept the faith in a shaky time, resolute even as the nation turned against the war and the leaders waging it.

Cheney was born in Lincoln, Neb., son of a longtime Agriculture Department worker.

He is survived by his wife, by Liz and by a second daughter, Mary.

Typhoon Kalmaegi barrels across Philippines

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Typhoon Kalmaegi has left at least 26 people dead in the Philippines, mostly in flooding set off by the storm, which barreled across the central part of the country on Tuesday, disaster response officials said. Floodwaters trapped scores of people on their roofs and submerged cars.

A Philippine air force helicopter with five personnel on board crashed in a separate incident in southern Agusan del Sur province while flying to help provide humanitarian assistance to provinces battered by Kalmaegi.

The Super Huey chopper crashed near Loreto town and efforts were underway to locate the air force personnel aboard, the military's Eastern

Mindanao Command said in a statement.

Military officials didn't immediately provide other details about the crash, including the condition of the five air force personnel aboard and what could have caused the crash.

Kalmaegi was last spotted over the coastal waters of Jordan town in the central province of Guimaras with sustained winds of 81 mph and gusts of up to 112 mph. It was forecast to blow away into the South China Sea late Tuesday or early Wednesday after hitting the western province of Palawan.

Bernardo Rafaelito Alejandro IV, deputy administrator of the Office of Civil Defense, said that at least 26 people were reported killed — many in flooding in Cebu province and other

central island provinces pummeled by Kalmaegi, the 20th tropical cyclone to batter the Philippine archipelago this year. Details of those typhoon deaths were still being verified, he said.

Among the dead was an older villager, who drowned in floodwaters in Southern Leyte, where a province-wide power outage was reported after the typhoon made landfall around midnight in one of its eastern towns. A resident died after being hit by a fallen tree in central Bohol province, provincial officials said.

Gwendolyn Pang, secretary-general of the Philippine Red Cross, said that an unspecified number of residents were trapped on their roofs by floodwaters in the coastal town of Liloan in Cebu, and added that

cars either were submerged in floods or floated in another Cebu community.

"We have received so many calls from people asking us to rescue them from roofs and from their houses, but it's impossible," Pang told The Associated Press on Tuesday morning. "There are so many debris, you see cars floating so we have to wait for the flood to subside."

Cebu province was still recovering from a 6.9 magnitude earthquake on Sept. 30 that left at least 79 people dead and displaced thousands when houses collapsed or were severely damaged.

Before the typhoon's landfall, officials said that more than 387,000 people had evacuated to safer ground in eastern and central Philippine provinces.

Ukrainian drones hit plant 800 miles inside Russia

Associated Press

Ukrainian long-range drones attacked an industrial plant around 800 miles inside Russia, local officials said Tuesday, while Ukraine's army remained locked in an intense battle to hold back a Russian push on the key city of Pokrovsk in the eastern Donetsk region.

Two drones targeted an industrial facility in Sterlitamak, a city in Russia's Bashkortostan region, regional Gov. Rady Habirov said in an online statement. He didn't specify what facility was targeted but he said that both drones were shot down. There were no casualties, and the facility was operating normally, he said.

Meanwhile, the city administration reported an explosion at the Sterlitamak Petrochemical Plant caused the plant's water treatment facility to partially collapse, adding that the cause of the explosion was not known. The plant, which makes rubber and

aviation fuel, is not known to have been attacked before.

Ukraine's daring strikes deep inside Russia using domestically produced drones have embarrassed Moscow, with officials being unforthcoming about any damage, and unnerved Russians. Ukraine has taken aim at manufacturing plants, oil refineries and military logistics hubs in a bid to disrupt Russia's war effort almost four years after Moscow launched an all-out invasion.

Explosions were also heard at an industrial area of the Nizhny Novgorod region, some 500 miles from Ukraine, site of an oil refinery and a petrochemical plant, Russian media reported. Officials did not confirm the reports.

Ukrainian officials said Russia bombarded the southeastern Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine with drones, missiles and artillery overnight, killing one person and injuring 11 others, including two children.

Pfizer COVID vaccine sales tumble after new guidance

Associated Press

The fall COVID-19 vaccine season is starting slowly for Pfizer, with U.S. sales of its Comirnaty shots sinking 25% after federal regulators narrowed recommendations on who should get them.

Approval of updated shots also came several weeks later than usual, and Pfizer said Tuesday that hurt sales as well.

Many Americans get vaccinations in the fall, to get protection from any disease surges in the coming winter. Experts say interest in COVID-19 shots has been declining, and that trend could pick up this fall due to anti-vaccine sentiment and confusion about whether the shots are necessary.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention last month stopped recommending COVID-19 shots for anyone, instead leaving the choice up to patients. The government agency said it was adopting recommendations

made by advisers picked by U.S. Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Before this year, U.S. health officials — following the advice of infectious disease experts — recommended annual COVID-19 boosters for all Americans ages 6 months and older. The idea was to update protection as the coronavirus evolves.

But that sentiment started to shift earlier this year when Kennedy, who has questioned the safety of COVID-19 vaccines, said they were no longer recommended for healthy children and pregnant women.

Dr. Amesh Adaja said vaccine rates have been "suboptimal" in recent years even for people considered a high risk for catching a bad case of COVID-19.

"That's only going to fall off more this season," the senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security said recently.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

November's supermoon can be seen in clear skies

NY NEW YORK — The moon will look slightly bigger and brighter Wednesday night during the closest supermoon of the year.

The moon's orbit around the Earth isn't a perfect circle, so it gets nearer and farther as it swings around. A so-called supermoon happens when a full moon is closer to Earth in its orbit. That makes the moon look up to 14% bigger and 30% brighter than the faintest moon of the year, according to NASA.

November's supermoon is the second of three supermoons this year and also the closest: The moon will come within just under 222,000 miles of Earth.

No special equipment is needed to view the supermoon if clear skies permit. But the change in the moon's size can be tough to discern with the naked eye.

Judge rejects plea deal for funeral home owner

CO DENVER — A Colorado judge on Monday rejected the plea agreement of a funeral home owner accused of stashing nearly 190 decaying bodies in a bug-infested building after family members of the deceased argued that the agreement's 15- to 20-year sentence was too lenient.

"The sentence negotiated by the parties does not adequately account for the harms that these crimes have caused," said State District Judge Eric Bentley, describing his rare decision to forgo an agreement reached by the prosecution and defense for funeral home owner Carie Hallford.

Carie Hallford and her husband, Jon Hallford, owned Return to Nature Funeral Home and are accused of dumping the bodies between 2019 and 2023 in a building in Penrose, Colo., about a two-hour drive south of Denver, and giving families fake ashes.

In court on Monday, several family members objected to the plea agreement by describing the pain of discovering their relatives' remains weren't in the urn or the ashes they spread, but instead were languishing with nearly 190 other bodies, some for four years.

FDA restricts use of kids' fluoride supplements

DC WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration on Friday moved to limit the use of fluoride supplements used to strengthen children's teeth, the latest action by Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his deputies against a chemical that is a mainstay of dental care.

The FDA said that the products are no longer recommended for children younger than 3 and those who are older but don't face serious risks of tooth decay. Previously, the products have been prescribed for children as young as six months.

The FDA released a new scientific analysis Friday, concluding that fluoride supplements have limited benefits for children's teeth and may be linked to emerging safety concerns, including gut issues, weight gain and cognition. Those claims have been disputed by the American Dental Association, which has said there are no significant health problems associated with fluoride when used at

the levels prescribed by dentists.

Dentists have warned that restricting fluoride supplements may result in more cavities and dental problems in rural communities, which are less likely to have fluoridated water. Kennedy is also seeking to end the practice of adding fluoride to drinking water throughout the U.S.

'Diddy' transferred to serve 4-year sentence

NY NEW YORK — Sean "Diddy" Combs has been transferred to a prison in New Jersey to serve out the remainder of his four-year prison sentence on prostitution-related charges.

The hip-hop mogul is currently incarcerated at the Fort Dix Federal Correctional Institute, located about 34 miles east of Philadelphia on the grounds of the joint military base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, according to his listing in the federal Bureau of Prisons inmate database as of Friday.

Combs has already served about 14 months of his 50-month sentence and is set to be released from prison on May 8, 2028, though he can earn reductions in his time behind bars through his participation in substance abuse treatment and other prison programs.

2 prison officers hospitalized after attack

CA FOLSOM — Two California prison officers were hospitalized after an alleged attack by an incarcerated man, and authorities are investigating it as an attempted homicide, officials said Sunday.

The incident happened Satur-

day at California State Prison, Sacramento, as the suspect was being escorted from his cell to allow staff to conduct a search, according to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The officers were transported in fair condition, the statement said.

The 48-year-old male suspect was placed in restricted housing during the investigation, officials said. He arrived at the facility in 2011 to serve a 17-year sentence for charges including corporal injury to a spouse. In 2022, he received an additional four years for possession/manufacture of a deadly weapon.

Lawmaker accused of sex crimes resigns

NC RALEIGH — A North Carolina state lawmaker accused by authorities of sex-related crimes involving a 15-year-old resigned his legislative seat on Friday. His departure came just after the House speaker announced a committee to investigate his alleged misconduct.

The House clerk's office received a letter signed by Democratic Rep. Cecil Brockman of High Point to resign effective immediately.

House leaders from both parties, as well as Democratic Gov. Josh Stein, had called on Brockman to resign since his arrest three weeks ago on two counts each of statutory sexual offense with a child and taking indecent liberties with a child.

Brockman, who had served in the House since 2015, wrote that he needed to focus on his defense given the serious allegations against him.

— From wire reports

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Jets trade All-Pro CB Gardner to Colts

Associated Press

The New York Jets agreed to trade star cornerback Sauce Gardner to the Indianapolis Colts on Tuesday for two first-round draft picks, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

The Jets will receive the Colts' first-round selection in 2026 and in 2027, the person told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the teams hadn't announced the trade. NFL Network and ESPN also reported Indianapolis is sending wide receiver Adonai Mitchell to New York.

The stunning deal, which

came less than three hours before the NFL's trade deadline, sends one of New York's most popular and accomplished players to the Colts.

Gardner, an All-Pro selection in his first two seasons, signed a four-year, \$120.4 million contract extension with the Jets in July.

Gardner was the No. 4 overall pick in the 2022 NFL Draft out of Cincinnati and quickly established himself as one of the league's top cornerbacks during his first two seasons with New York. He was selected the AP Defensive Rookie of the Year and made the All-Pro team

in consecutive years for then-coach Robert Saleh.

"New York it's been real," Gardner posted with a green heart emoji on X.

Cowboys trade for Bengals LB Logan

The Dallas Cowboys acquired linebacker Logan Wilson from the Cincinnati Bengals for a seventh-round pick Tuesday. Hours before Dallas lost to the Arizona Cardinals on Monday night to fall to 3-5-1, owner Jerry Jones said the team had a deal in place to add a player who could improve the defense, the NFL's second-worst unit.

Wilson had requested a trade after his playing time decreased for Cincinnati, which has the league's worst defense. The Cowboys traded two-time All-Pro pass rusher Micah Parsons to Green Bay before the season.

"Some guys have the ability to see a certain key and, at the same time, take a step up in the hole," Jones said on his radio show on 105.3 The Fan. "He knows how to get in the gaps right now. ... For what we need right now, he can come in immediately and help us at linebacker."

NFL teams had until 4 p.m. ET on Tuesday to make a trade.

Brissett helps Cards top Cowboys, end 5-game skid

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Jacoby Brissett had a stock answer ready for the question of whether the Arizona quarterback has done enough to be the replacement, not just the fill-in, for Kyler Murray.

Coach Jonathan Gannon barely had an answer at all.

The Cardinals will worry about what appears to be a full-blown controversy later. For now, they'll enjoy ending a five-game losing streak.

Brissett threw for two touchdowns and ran for a score in another game with Murray sidelined by a foot injury, and Arizona beat Dallas 27-17 on Monday night.

Brissett made his third consecutive start after the week began with expectations of Murray returning coming off the team's open week.

Instead, the Cardinals pivoted to Brissett, with Gannon saying Murray wasn't quite ready. Arizona (3-5) won for just the second time in the past 18 games when Murray didn't take at least five snaps or sat out entirely.

"Nothing's changed," Gannon said both times he was

asked if Brissett had done enough to become the starter.

The Cowboys (3-5-1) couldn't build on the momentum of Sam Williams' blocked punt that was recovered in the end zone by Marshawn Kneeland, giving up long touchdown drives on the Cardinals' next two possessions on either side of halftime to fall behind 24-7.

Marvin Harrison had a career-high seven catches for 96 yards, including a 4-yarder for the game's first touchdown. Tight end Trey McBride had a 12-yard TD grab.

After its punt block and recovery for a score, Dallas gave up an average of 10.8 yards on the next 15 Arizona plays, including consecutive 16-yard passes right after the Cowboys TD and Michael Wilson's 50-yard catch and run on the second play after halftime.

Dallas easily reached the Cardinals 7 with a first down on the game's first possession, but came away with nothing when Dak Prescott was sacked on fourth down by Josh Sweat, who had two of the five sacks on the Cowboys quarterback. Calais Campbell also had two in his 250th career regular-season

game.

Dallas, which lost consecutive games for the first time under first-year coach Brian Schottenheimer, totaled just three points on its first three drives inside the Arizona 25, leading to the 17-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys could have closed to within 14 with a field goal on the first play of the fourth quarter, but Prescott threw incomplete to CeeDee Lamb on fourth-and-3. Dallas was 0 for 3 on fourth down.

"We were going to be aggressive all game," Schottenheimer said. "That was part of the deal. If I like the call, I'm going to go. I trust our offense. But we didn't make the plays tonight."

The Cardinals lost Brissett's first two starts, but not because the 32-year-old veteran was ineffective. He was solid again, going 21 of 31 for 261 yards without an interception, giving him 860 yards, six touchdowns and one pick in three games without Murray.

Murray — the No. 1 overall pick in 2019 — is 9-0 at AT&T Stadium, with state championships as a high school quarterback, two Big 12 titles with Okla-

homa and a pair of victories over the Cowboys.

Now Brissett is 1-0 as a starter against Dallas.

"I don't get into that stuff, man," Brissett said when asked if he had done enough to replace Murray. "I'm just trying to go out here and win games and be a good teammate. And do the best I can when I get my opportunities. That's all I can ask for."

The last hope for the Cowboys ended with their second lost fumble. Javonte Williams had the ball ripped out as he was going down on a short catch with less than five minutes to go.

Prescott had just one touchdown pass a week after having none as one of the league's best offenses was sluggish again. The scoring toss was a 5-yarder in the fourth quarter for Ryan Flournoy's first career TD.

"We've got to figure out how we need to improve in all phases of the game," said Prescott, who was 24 of 39 for 250 yards with a late interception on a desperation fourth-and-28 throw. "Special teams did a hell of a job getting us a touchdown, and that was the only spark I think in the game, especially in the first half."

Dybantsa, BYU spoil Villanova coach's debut

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Freshman AJ Dybantsa had 21 points and six rebounds and eighth-ranked BYU defeated Villanova 71-66 Monday night in the Hall of Fame Series and season-opener for both teams.

Dybantsa, one of the nation's top freshmen, shot 9-for-18 from the floor in his collegiate debut. Richie Saunders added 15 points and seven rebounds and Robert Wright III scored 14 points for the Cougars, who spoiled the regular-season debut of new Wildcats coach Kevin Willard.

"He's one of the best high school players I've seen come out in a long time," Willard said of Dybantsa. "He's the real deal."

Saunders extended his streak of made free throws to 29. That run dates to last season and is tied for second-longest in program history.

No. 2 Houston 75, Lehigh 57: Emanuel Sharp scored 24 points to lead the host Cougars to a win over the Mountain Hawks for coach Kelvin Sampson's 800th career win.

Sampson improved to 800-354 in his 37-year career, including 300-84 since taking over at Houston in 2014. He became the 17th NCAA Division I coach to reach 800 wins and fourth active coach to achieve the milestone, joining Rick Barnes, John Calipari and Bill Self.

No. 13 Arizona 93, No. 3 Florida 87: Freshman Koa Peat scored 30 points to lead the Wildcats over the defending national champion Gators in the Hall of Fame Series.

Peat was impressive in his college debut, shooting 11 of 18 from the floor and adding seven rebounds and five assists. He was fouled making a defensive rebound with 14.2 seconds left and hit his two ensuing free throws to seal the victory in both teams' season opener.

No. 4 UConn 79, New Haven 55: Alex Karaban had 19 points

and 10 rebounds and Solo Ball scored 12 of his 18 points in the second half as the host Huskies beat the Chargers to win their season opener for the ninth season in a row.

Andre Pasha scored 17 points for New Haven in its first game at the Division I level.

No. 5 St. John's 108, Quinnipiac 74: Dillon Mitchell scored 18 points, Zuby Ejiofor added 17 and the host Red Storm opened their third season under Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino by overwhelming the Bobcats.

Ian Jackson had 15 points and Joson Sanon, another touted transfer, added 14 off the bench as new-look St. John's racked up its most points since beating Mississippi Valley State 119-61 on Nov. 9, 2021.

No. 7 Michigan 121, Oakland 78: Morez Johnson Jr. scored 20 of his career-high 24 points in a record-breaking first half and preseason All-America forward Yaxel Lendeborg finished with 12 points to help the host Wolverines rout the Golden Grizzlies.

Michigan had 69 points at halftime, breaking the first-half scoring record of 66 set in 1987 against Eastern Michigan. It showed some mercy in the second half, allowing the school's single-game scoring record to stand at 128 points from 1966 against Purdue.

No. 11 Louisville 104, South Carolina State 45: Khani Rooths scored 20 points to lead the host Cardinals to a rout of the Bulldogs.

Rooths, a sophomore and one of the few returning players for Louisville in coach Pat Kelsey's second season, posted a career-high in points on 8-of-12 shooting and tied his personal best with seven rebounds.

No. 12 UCLA 80, Eastern Washington 74: Senior guard Donovan Dent had 21 points and nine assists in his Bruins debut to lead host UCLA to a victory over the Eagles.

Tyler Bilodeau scored 19 points for the Bruins, who

opened a 15-point lead midway through the second half before Eastern Washington made it close in the final minutes.

No. 14 Arkansas 109, Southern 77: Trevon Brazile scored a career-high 25 points to help the host Razorbacks beat the Jaguars.

Darius Acuff Jr. had 22 points for Arkansas, and fellow freshman Meleek Thomas finished with 21. Isaiah Sealy added 12 points.

No. 15 Alabama 91, North Dakota 62: Labaron Philon Jr. had 22 points and eight assists, Houston Mallette added 15 points and the host Crimson Tide opened the season with a victory against the Fighting Hawks.

Philon scored or assisted on 32 of Alabama's 48 first-half points, more than making up for its short-handed bench. The Tide played without guards Aden Holloway (wrist) and Latrell Wrightsell (Achilles) and transfer forward Keitenn Bristow (ankle). Transfer guard Jallil Bethea, who injured his foot during practice in September, remained sidelined.

No. 16 Iowa State 88, Fairleigh Dickinson 50: Milan Momcilovic made seven 3-pointers and finished with a career-high 29 points as the host Cyclones beat the Knights.

Iowa State, which has won 35 consecutive nonconference games at Hilton Coliseum, led 45-19 at half and extended its advantage to as many as 44 points late in the game.

No. 17 Illinois 113, Jackson State 55: David Mirkovic scored 19 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the host Fighting Illini opened the season with a win over the Tigers.

Ben Humrichous and Tomislav Ivisic each had 21 points, Keaton Wagler had 18, and Jake Davis had 13 for Illinois, which was the highest scoring team in the Big Ten last year. Zvonimir Ivisic had nine rebounds.

No. 18 Tennessee 76, Mer-

cer 61: Nate Ament scored 18 points and had nine rebounds to lead the host Volunteers to a victory over the Bears.

J.P. Estrella chipped in 12 with points and Jaylen Carey had 10 rebounds. Mercer was led by Baraka Okojie with 15 points, Armani Mighty with 14 and Zaire Williams with 10.

No. 19 Kansas 94, Green Bay 51: Freshman Darryn Peterson scored 21 points in 22 minutes in his debut to lead the host Jayhawks past the Phoenix.

Peterson shot 7 of 11 from the field, including 3 for 7 from 3-point range, before sitting most of the second half.

No. 20 Auburn 95, Bethune-Cookman 90 (OT): Keyshawn Hall scored seven of his 28 points in overtime to lead the host Tigers to a victory against the Wildcats in Steven Pearl's coaching debut.

Auburn led 81-78 in regulation when Elyjah Freeman fouled Arterio Morris on a half-court heave just before the buzzer. Morris knocked down all three free throws to send the game into overtime. Hall took over from there.

No. 21 Gonzaga 98, Texas Southern 43: Tyon Grant-Foster scored 15 points and Graham Ike added 13 points and 11 rebounds, as the host Bulldogs opened the season with a victory over the Tigers.

No. 22 Michigan State 80, Colgate 69: Jaxon Kohler scored 16 points and grabbed 15 rebounds and Jeremy Fears Jr. added 14 points and 10 assists to lead the host Spartans to a victory over the Raiders.

No. 24 Wisconsin 96, Campbell 64: John Blackwell scored 31 points and the host Badgers pulled away for a victory over the Fighting Camels.

No. 25 North Carolina 94, Central Arkansas 54: Caleb Wilson scored 22 points and Luka Bogavac added 10 points and five assists in their Tar Heels debuts as host North Carolina beat the Bears.

Giannis bucket at buzzer lifts Bucks over Pacers

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Giannis Antetokounmpo made a 17-foot buzzer-beating jumper to give the Milwaukee Bucks a 117-115 victory over the short-handed Indiana Pacers on Monday night.

Antetokounmpo had 33 points, 13 rebounds and five assists on a night he went 14-for-21 from the field. Kyle Kuzma added 15 points to help the Bucks win for the third time in four games, taking the first of four scheduled regular season matchups against a Central Division rival it has faced 22 times since the start of the 2023-24 season.

This time, though, longtime Pacers center Myles Turner was dressed in a Bucks jersey after signing a free-agent deal in July. Fans serenaded him with boos all night, starting with a pre-game video tribute that played even before player introductions.

"It was disheartening. Man, it was frustrating," Turner said. "You give 10 years of your life, your blood, sweat and tears. You take pay cuts, you survive trade rumors, you try to do everything the right way and then some-

times that stuff shakes out. It's cool, you know, I'll take it on the chin."

Turner had nine points, seven rebounds and five blocks while connecting on 3 of 7 shots and scoring only two points in the second half, a short, tiebreaking basket with 2:22 left.

Pascal Siakam led the Pacers with 32 points and eight assists.

Timberwolves 125, Nets 109: Julius Randle had 19 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in his 15th career triple-double, and visiting Minnesota beat winless Brooklyn.

Donte DiVincenzo scored 25 points, Jaden McDaniels finished with 22 and Rudy Gobert added 15 points and 12 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who won their second straight.

Knicks 119, Wizards 102: Karl-Anthony Towns scored a season-high 33 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, leading New York to a home victory over Washington.

The Knicks are 4-0 at home this season and 0-3 on the road.

Jazz 105, Celtics 103: Jusuf Nurkic dropped in a putback with 0.6 seconds remaining and visiting Utah overcame a double-digit, second-half deficit to

beat Boston.

Keyonte George scored a season-high 31 points, and Lauri Markkanen added 20 points and nine rebounds to help the Jazz end a three-game losing streak.

The Celtics had a chance to tie, but Jaylen Brown was called for a foul on the inbounds play. Boston's challenge was unsuccessful, allowing the Jazz to inbound the ball and run out the clock.

Pistons 114, Grizzlies 106: Cade Cunningham scored 19 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Detroit held off Memphis.

As the Grizzlies cut into Detroit's lead in the fourth quarter, Cunningham scored nine straight points for the Pistons to thwart the rally. Isaiah Stewart added 26 points and 14 rebounds, and Jalen Duren and Ron Holland II had 14 points each.

Rockets 110, Mavericks 102: Amen Thompson scored a season-high 27 points, Alperen Sengun added 26 points and 11 rebounds and Houston outlasted Dallas for a home victory.

Houston has won four straight after dropping its first two games of the season.

Nuggets 130, Kings 124: Ni-

kola Jokic scored a season-high 34 points and had 14 assists, Aaron Gordon added 20 points and Denver never trailed in a home victory over Sacramento.

Jokic, who opened the season with four straight triple-doubles, grabbed a season-low four rebounds but has recorded at least a double-double in the first six games.

Lakers 123, Trail Blazers 115: Deandre Ayton had 29 points, 10 rebounds and three blocked shots against his former team, leading Los Angeles to a road victory over Portland.

Rui Hachimura added 28 points for the Lakers, who were missing both Luka Doncic and Austin Reaves after both played the night before in a 130-120 victory over Miami.

Heat 120, Clippers 119: Bam Adebayo had 25 points and 10 rebounds, Norman Powell added 21 points in his return to Southern California and visiting Miami held off Los Angeles.

Andrew Wiggins scored 17 points and Kel'el Ware added 16 to help the Heat end a two-game losing streak and win on the road for the second time in five games. Miami is 1-2 to open a four-game trip.

Nylander, Matthews rally Leafs past Pens in wild victory

Associated Press

TORONTO — William Nylander had two goals and an assist in the third period, helping the Toronto Maple Leafs rally for a wild 4-3 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Monday night.

Auston Matthews had a goal and an assist for Toronto, which trailed 3-0 going into the third. Bobby McMann snapped a tie with 6:17 left, and Anthony Stolarz stopped 34 shots.

The Maple Leafs won for the fourth time in five games.

Ben Kindel had two goals for Pittsburgh, and Erik Karlsson also scored. Tristan Jarry made

16 saves.

Kindel became the fifth 18-year-old in franchise history with a multigoal game, joining Sidney Crosby, Jaromir Jagr, Jordan Staal and Craig Simpson.

Kindel's power-play goal made it 3-0 at 11:50 of the second. It was his fifth of the season.

Matthews started Toronto's rally when he converted a breakaway 3:31 into the third. Nylander, who missed three of the Leafs' last four games, added two more, including a tying one-timer at 6:55.

McMann then gave Toronto its first lead after Nick Robert-

son took the puck hard to the net.

Blues 3, Oilers 2: Dalibor Dvorsky scored his first NHL goal to start a St. Louis rally, and Pius Suter provided the game-winner with 1:23 to play as the host Blues snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating Edmonton.

Suter stuffed home a rebound of Colton Parayko's shot, capping St. Louis' comeback from an early 2-0 deficit.

Canucks 5, Predators 4 (OT): Brock Boeser scored twice, including the winner 4:58 into overtime, to lead visiting Vancouver to a victory over Nashville.

Evander Kane scored twice, and Jake DeBrusk also scored. Thatcher Demko made 25 saves for the Canucks, winners of two of three.

With time winding down in overtime, Boeser came off the right wall and beat Saros in front with a backhand up high.

Kraken 3, Blackhawks 1: Matty Beniers and Jordan Eberle each had a goal and an assist as host Seattle beat Chicago.

Jamie Oleksiak also scored for the Kraken, and Joey Daccord finished with 29 saves.

Andre Burakovsky scored for the Blackhawks and Arvid Soderblom stopped 21 shots.