

Confusion, tension building in Gaza

The Washington Post

CAIRO — Foreigners and dual nationals packed into Gaza's border crossing with Egypt on Monday as hopes of a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas were dashed for the second time in three days, leaving the exit sealed as Israeli airstrikes pounded the enclave.

Despite efforts by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to reopen the crossing and reports by media outlets citing Israeli and Egyptian officials about a 9 a.m. cease-fire to allow out dual nationals and allow in aid, both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office and Hamas denied any such agreement existed, and the violence has persisted.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry blamed Israel, saying that it had not "taken a stance that enables opening the crossing from Gaza's side to let aid in, or to let third-country nationals out." Israeli media, meanwhile, reported that "American demands on the humanitarian issue" were delaying a deal.

The standoff over the Egyptian border has deepened frustration and panic among aid groups, who warn that time is running out for wounded and displaced Gazans to receive critical — and in many cases, lifesaving — supplies, as the humanitarian sit-

uation rapidly deteriorates.

The crisis in Gaza was sparked by a surprise Hamas incursion into Israel on Oct. 7, killing more than 1,400 people across towns and military bases, and taking more than 200 Israeli and foreign nationals back to Gaza as hostages.

In response, Israel's army has launched its own searing assault on Gaza, a territory that has lived under Hamas rule for 17 years and an Israeli blockade for 16, killing at least 2,750 people and wounding almost 10,000 as body bags run out and the dead are now buried in mass graves.

More than 2 million people live in the cramped enclave less than half the size of New York City, with closed border crossings and no safe space as the bombs rain down. Israeli officials have declared the area under "full siege," meaning that no fuel, food or lifesaving medical supplies are allowed to enter.

The Associated Press reported Monday that the Pentagon has sent "prepare to deploy" orders to about 2,000 U.S. troops to be ready to go to countries in the Mideast, though not to Israel. Two U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a decision that has not been announced yet, said the U.S. troops would cover a variety of support roles, such as additional med-

ical support or explosive ordnance support, such as providing additional security at gate crossings, one of the officials said.

To keep the lights on in Gaza City's largest hospital, Wissam AbuJarad, an anesthesiologist, said, staff were collecting gas from dwindling stocks in the area to maintain a steady supply to their generators.

"If we run out of fuel, then we will lose all of the patients in the ICU, the babies in the incubators and the patients who need surgery," AbuJarad said.

Israel says that its military campaign is aimed at ending Hamas rule in Gaza forever, and in daily statements, it has listed leadership figures targeted, as well as alleged military facilities that its warplanes have struck.

The army also said Monday that 1,400 missiles have been launched from Gaza toward the city of Ashkelon, most of them intercepted by the Iron Dome air defense system. One person has been killed.

Blinken arrived back in Israel on Monday to pledge support to Netanyahu's government as it prepares to intensify its military offensive. Israeli troops were massed along its border ahead of a possible ground incursion, and have warned more than 1 million Gazans to retreat to the enclave's south, to escape the worst of the coming storm.

US B-52 to make rare landing on Korean Peninsula

By DAVID CHOI

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — A B-52H Stratofortress will make a rare landing on the Korean Peninsula this week to showcase an "ironclad commitment" to the U.S.-South Korea alliance, the U.S. military announced Monday.

The Air Force bomber will also conduct a pair of flyovers during the Seoul International Aerospace and Defense Exhibition, between Tuesday and Sunday, according to a state-

ment from U.S. Forces Korea.

"These flyovers, air demonstrations and static displays, including the landing for the B-52 on the peninsula, is part of our continued pledge to promote peace, stability and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula," Maj. Rachel Buitrago, spokeswoman for 7th Air Force at Osan Air Base south of Seoul, said in the release.

The landing will mark the first time a B-52 has touched down in South Korea in at least 30 years, Buitrago told Stars

and Stripes by phone Monday. A B-1B Lancer out of Andersen Air Base, Guam, landed at Osan on Sept. 21, 2016.

USFK's release did not specify where in South Korea the B-52H will touch down; however, multiple South Korean news outlets, citing unnamed military sources, reported Monday that it's scheduled to land at an unidentified South Korean air base later this week.

The bomber announcement comes four days after the air-

craft carrier USS Ronald Reagan steamed into Busan, South Korea, following joint drills with South Korea and Japan. North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency responded to the port call by calling it an "undisguised military provocation" in a report Friday.

U.S. bombers, including B-52s, have flown over South Korean airspace several times this year as shows of force following North Korean missile tests.

Polish election seen as win for Ukraine

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

A coalition on the cusp of winning Poland's national elections is expected to maintain the country's support for Ukraine while prioritizing close military ties with the U.S. and NATO, according to analysts.

The stakes were high for Ukraine in Sunday's election in Poland, where officials say voters took to the polls in numbers surpassing the 63% turnout in 1989 that ended communism in the country.

If Ipsos exit polling holds, three opposition parties appear to have enough votes to oust the conservative Law and Justice party, which has been in power since 2015.

While Law and Justice has been a strong backer of Ukraine, a dispute with Kyiv over grain exports has strained relations and prompted calls from within the party to scale back its support for the country.

One election scenario had the

Law and Justice party forming a government with Confederation, a grab bag of right-wing and far-right parties whose common issue was ending Polish support for Ukraine.

But on Sunday, former Prime Minister Donald Tusk's Civic Coalition along with two other opposition parties appeared to have secured enough votes to form a coalition that wants to hold the line when it comes to backing Ukraine. Exit polling has the opposition controlling 248 seats in the 460-seat lower house of parliament.

"The opposition broadly supports the government's support for Ukraine, and resistance to Russian aggression, plans to increase defense spending, and continue to rely on NATO and the United States for the defense of Poland," the Washington, D.C.-based Atlantic Council think tank wrote in an analysis of party platform positions ahead of the election.

In recent years, Law and Jus-

tice ramped up defense spending, with tens of billions of dollars invested in advanced American hardware like Abrams tanks, Patriot missiles and F-35 fighters.

Party leaders indicated Monday before the final tally that they may continue to try to govern in a new coalition.

Polish President Andrzej Duda, a Law and Justice ally, must call the first session of the new parliament within 30 days of the election and designate a prime minister to form a government.

Should the ruling party unexpectedly prevail, "Warsaw will still perceive the United States as its sole security guarantor, and will maintain its practice of favoring American defense companies over European ones," the German Marshall Fund of the United States said in a pre-election analysis of party positions.

Duda also has emphasized Poland's ties with the U.S. military, which has made Poland a

center of gravity for operations along NATO's eastern flank. Along with expanded U.S. troop rotations in the country, the U.S. Army last year established its first permanent garrison in Poland, in the city of Poznan.

There are no indications that a new government coalition would change course on hosting U.S. forces in the country. Still, the U.S. weapons industry could be in for more competition.

A new Polish government will stress improving a damaged relationship with the European Union. The Law and Justice era featured numerous disputes between Brussels and Warsaw, especially over migration issues.

The German Marshall Fund said relations with the United States and NATO would remain strong, but when it comes to weapons purchases, the new coalition would "would seek to balance these (U.S. acquisitions) by closer cooperation with the European defense sector."

Kyiv: Russia's assault on key Ukraine city weakening

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A dayslong attempt by Russian forces to storm a strategically important city in eastern Ukraine appears to be running out of steam, Kyiv officials claimed Monday, as the Kremlin's war entered its 600th day.

Ukrainian forces repelled 15 Russian attacks from four directions on Avdiivka over the previous 24 hours, the Ukrainian General Staff said.

That compared with up to 60 attacks a day in the middle of last week, according to Vitalii Barabash, head of the city administration.

The slackening suggests the Russian effort to capture Avdiivka has "deflated," Barabash

said.

A Washington-based think tank broadly concurred with that assessment. "Russian forces continued offensive operations aimed at encircling Avdiivka ... but have yet to make further gains amid a likely decreasing tempo of Russian operations in the area," the Institute for the Study of War said in analysis published late Sunday.

Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vassily Nebenzia, told a U.N. Security Council meeting last Friday that the ramped-up attacks in the east amounted to a new stage in Moscow's campaign in Ukraine.

With the looming onset of wintry conditions that will limit

military operations, both sides have been seeking battlefield breakthroughs that could invigorate their efforts and raise morale.

Ukraine launched its own counteroffensive about four months ago.

It has made some headway but the limited success has underlined the daunting challenge of taking on the Kremlin's more numerous forces.

Kyiv's Western allies insist that their military and financial support for Ukraine will continue, even as the Israeli-Hamas war rages and competes for resources.

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Sunday the Biden administration will ask

Congress for a combined aid package for Ukraine and Israel worth more than \$2 billion.

Ukrainian officials have said their troops are holding out against fierce Russian efforts to wrest control of Avdiivka, a heavily fortified city.

Avdiivka lies in the northern suburbs of the city of Donetsk, in a region of the same name that Russian forces partially occupy. Avdiivka's location grants Ukrainian forces artillery advantages over the city and could serve as a springboard for them to liberate Donetsk.

It is not possible to verify battlefield claims by either side. Misinformation and disinformation have played a central role in the war.

Jordan's rise cheered by Trump, far right

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Jim Jordan has such a reputation as a political brawler that former House Speaker John Boehner once said he had never met someone “who spent more time tearing things apart.”

Now, nearly a decade after Boehner stepped down in the face of a conservative revolt, it is Jordan who is trying to bring the Republican Party together to win the speaker's gavel.

He is a favorite of former President Donald Trump and a darling of the party's rabble-rousing base. But his path to the U.S. government's third-highest office is by no means certain in a House Republican conference riven by conflict following the ouster two weeks ago of former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

To win, Jordan, R-Ohio, will need support from nearly every House Republican. There are few votes to spare in a chamber they only narrowly control.

Should Jordan succeed, it would help cement the far right's takeover of the Republican Party and trigger fresh conflict with Democrats over the size and scope of government. But a Jordan speakership would also come with baggage that could present a challenge to Re-

publicans as they labor to hold their House majority in next year's election.

Some members of Congress, including some in his own party, label Jordan an extremist unworthy of the speakership. They point to his active role in Trump's bid to stop the certification of the 2020 presidential election, as well as his refusal to honor a congressional subpoena about the Jan. 6 attack at the Capitol.

Further in his past, Jordan continues to be questioned over his alleged knowledge of sexual abuse in the wrestling program at Ohio State University — accusations he adamantly denies.

Jordan has defended his bare-knuckled approach as rooted in principle, a message that resonates with conservatives who have long accused GOP leaders of capitulation.

“One person says disruption,” Jordan told The Associated Press in 2017. “We like to say we're doing what we told the voters we were going to do.”

Jordan, a 59-year-old father of four, was born near Dayton in western Ohio. He was a four-time state wrestling champion in high school and a two-time NCAA champion at the University of Wisconsin in the 1980s. That helped him land a coaching

job at Ohio State before his election to the Ohio legislature in the mid-1990s.

When he decided to pursue a state Senate seat in 1999, he faced opposition from the GOP establishment and from Boehner, then a four-term congressman from Ohio, who supported a rival. Jordan easily won. He was elected to Congress in 2006.

After the tea party wave swept Republicans to power in 2011, Jordan was among the conservatives who were frequently Boehner's tormentors.

Jordan was the founding chairman in 2015 of the House Freedom Caucus, a group of conservative hard-liners who eventually pressured Boehner to step aside. This year, members of the group were instrumental in McCarthy's removal.

But it is Jordan's past as a wrestling coach that has posed one of his biggest political liabilities.

In 2018, several former athletes he coached at Ohio State came forward to describe a lurid atmosphere surrounding the school's wrestling program when Jordan was an assistant coach. The allegations centered around sexual misconduct by Richard Strauss, a doctor who was on the faculty and medical staff.

A subsequent investigation found Strauss, who died by suicide in 2005, groped or sexually assaulted nearly 200 students, many of them wrestlers seeking medical care. Since then, even more former wrestlers Jordan coached have come forward to say that Jordan was aware of the doctor's conduct but did nothing to stop it — an allegation that Jordan vehemently denied.

“It's false. I never saw, never, heard of, never was told about any kind of abuse,” Jordan told Fox News in 2018, suggesting that the allegations against him were politically motivated. “What bothers me the most is the guys that are saying these things, I know they know the truth.”

Adam DiSabato, a former Ohio State wrestling captain and brother to one of the early whistleblowers, offered an unsparing assessment during a 2020 legislative hearing in Columbus. DiSabato testified that he repeatedly urged Jordan and others on the coaching staff to intervene.

“Jim Jordan called me crying ... begging me to go against my brother,” DiSabato said, referring to a call he said he received after the abuse allegations first became public. “He's throwing us under the bus — all of us. He's a coward.”

Trump sees narrow gag order imposed in election case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal judge overseeing the 2020 election subversion case against Donald Trump in Washington imposed a narrow gag order on him on Monday, barring the Republican former president from making statements targeting prosecutors, possible witnesses and the judge's staff.

The order from U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan is a milestone moment in the federal case that accuses Trump of illegally conspiring to overturn his 2020

election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Special counsel Jack Smith's team had raised alarm about a barrage of statements disparaging prosecutors, the judge and prospective witnesses. Those comments, prosecutors said, risked undermining public confidence in the court system and causing witnesses or people who might be picked as jurors for trial to feel harassed and intimidated.

Chutkan said there would be no restrictions on statements criticizing the Justice Department

generally or statements about Trump's belief that the case is politically motivated. But the judge said Trump can't mount a “smear campaign” against prosecutors and court personnel. “No other criminal defendant would be allowed to do so, and I'm not going to allow it in this case,” she said.

Trump's lawyers fiercely opposed any gag order, saying it unconstitutional hinders his political speech. A Trump spokesman did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the judge's ruling.

In seeking a gag order, Smith's team accused the 2024 GOP presidential front-runner of using online attacks to try to taint the jury pool.

Trump's lawyer John Lauro accused prosecutors of “seeking to censor a political candidate in the middle of a campaign.” But the judge shot back that Trump “does not have a right to say and do exactly as he pleases.”

Chutkan also read aloud statements Trump has made about her, deriding her as a “radical Obama hack.”

Wis. group looks to restore faith in elections

Associated Press

SUAMICO, Wis. — Kim Pytleski could barely sleep the night before. She replayed the PowerPoint slides in her head, packed her notebook and took a deep breath.

The clerk from a rural Wisconsin county north of Green Bay was preparing for a public meeting to explain the election process to residents. She didn't know who she would encounter. Would some deny the results of the last presidential election? Would the conversation get combative? Most importantly, would she get through to anyone?

They were questions Pytleski never expected to ask herself when she started the job in Oconto County more than 14 years ago. But since then, election conspiracy theories have taken root in the rural, heavily Republican county in northeastern Wisconsin.

It's among large swaths of the country where distrust of voting and ballot-counting, fanned by former President Donald Trump's false claims of a stolen election, maintains a stubborn grasp.

Pytleski, who was born and raised in the county, hears conspiracy theories nearly everywhere she goes: Democrats are paying people to stuff ballot boxes with illegal votes, absentee voting allows rampant fraud, voting machines are hacked by foreign powers. She receives skeptical letters and emails. When she's defended the election process, Pytleski, a lifelong Republican, has been called a RINO — a Republican in Name Only.

"You know pretty much everyone," she said of the towns that make up Oconto County, which has consistently leaned Republican in presidential elections over the

past two decades, except when former President Barack Obama won here in 2008. "The joke is that if someone moves here, you have to live here 30 years before you're considered a local. It's a warm feeling, being in a place like this."

But, she added, "election denialism has gotten its hold on it."

For elections officials and grassroots democracy groups in the presidential swing state, it has been an uphill fight to combat the doubts and the people who continue to spread them.

They describe grappling with an almost faith-like pull of conspiracy theories perpetuated by online misinformation and far-right figures.

Still, they press on, taking on the issue one community event and one conversation at a time, hoping for a half-step forward.

"This state is vital, and it's ground zero in this fight to save our republic," said Reid Ribble, a Republican who represented the area in Congress until 2017 and is an adviser to the nonprofit Keep Our Republic.

The group's efforts come as distrust in elections has gained a persistent foothold across the country, especially in rural areas. That has led to attempts to ditch voting machines in favor of less accurate and efficient hand counts, threats of violence against election workers and the violent Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Polling from last summer by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that only 22% of Republicans have high confidence that votes in the 2024 presidential election will be counted accurately, compared to 71% of Democrats, while a solid majority of Republicans con-

tinued to believe President Joe Biden's election win was illegitimate.

The deep partisan divide comes amid a relentless campaign of lies from Trump that the 2020 election was stolen as he seeks a second term in the White House.

Wisconsin has been an epicenter of the efforts to undermine faith in elections. The state supreme court, then with a conservative majority, came within one vote in 2020 of overturning the presidential results, and Republicans in the Legislature later launched a partisan investigation seeking evidence of widespread fraud. That probe eventually landed before a judge who declared that it had uncovered "absolutely no evidence of election fraud."

Instead, multiple audits and recounts have affirmed Biden's 21,000-vote win in the state. Yet the doubt remains.

With Coke cans and paper plates stacked with pepperoni pizza slices, about 50 community members filled a fire station on a recent evening in Suamico, a town of 13,000 that borders Oconto County on the shores of Lake Michigan, just outside Green Bay.

Flanked on either side by U.S. and Wisconsin flags, a panel of local officials brought together by Keep Our Republic walked attendees through the election process, from how voting equipment is tested to the process of certifying the results.

"We're arming people with facts," said Kathy Bernier, state director of the nonprofit group, which emphasizes that it is nonpartisan. "The best way to help people understand is to bring the experts to them and connect with them like this. Then they can spread that information to their own friends, family and neighbors."

Drug in diabetes treatment helps users shed weight

Associated Press

The medicine in the diabetes drug Mounjaro helped people with obesity or who are overweight lose at least a quarter of their body weight, or about 60 pounds on average, when combined with intensive diet and exercise, a new study shows.

By comparison, a group of people who also dieted and exercised, but then received dummy shots, lost weight initially but then regained some, re-

searchers reported Sunday in the journal *Nature Medicine*.

The results, which were also presented Sunday at a medical conference, confirm that the drug made by Eli Lilly & Co. has the potential to be one of the most powerful medical treatments for obesity to date, outside experts said.

The injected drug, tirzepatide, was approved in the United States in May 2022 to treat diabetes. Sold as Mounjaro, it has

been used "off-label" to treat obesity, joining a frenzy of demand for diabetes and weight-loss medications including Ozempic and Wegovy, made by Novo Nordisk.

All the drugs, which carry retail price tags of \$900 a month or more, have been in shortage for months.

Tirzepatide targets two hormones that kick in after people eat to regulate appetite and the feeling of fullness communicat-

ed between the gut and the brain. Semaglutide, the drug used in Ozempic and Wegovy, targets one of those hormones.

The new study, which was funded by Eli Lilly, enrolled about 800 people who had obesity or were overweight with a weight-related health complication — but not diabetes. On average, study participants weighed about 241 pounds to start and had a body-mass index of about 38.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Executive pleads guilty to \$250M lending fraud

FL MIAMI — A Florida executive whose family business once owned Playgirl magazine has pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit securities fraud for misleading investors in another of his companies — one that made high-interest loans to small businesses.

Carl R. Ruderman, 82, was chairman and chief executive officer of 1 Global Capital LLC, a commercial lending company that filed for bankruptcy in July 2018. Federal authorities said he took part in a \$250 million scheme that affected more than 3,400 investors in 42 states.

Ruderman pleaded guilty Thursday in federal court in Miami. He faces up to five years in prison and forfeiture of more than \$250 million.

Ruderman admitted spending 1 Global investors' money on credit card payments, vacation travel, drivers, nannies, housekeepers, tuition, mortgage payments, luxury car payments and insurance payments for his art collection and jewelry, the Justice Department said in a news release Friday. He also admitted diverting investors' money to businesses benefiting him and his family, the department said.

Over 3K illegally dumped tires discovered in river

PA PHILADELPHIA — The discovery of thousands of illegally dumped tires is threatening to further delay the dredging of a Philadelphia-area river used by rowing clubs as a regatta race course, according to federal authorities.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said more than 3,000 tires have been hauled out of the Schuylkill River during the second phase of the project aimed at clearing the river of muck for rowers, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported.

The Army Corps' Texas-based contractor, Dredgit, completed the first phase in front of the river's iconic boathouses a year ago, removing 28,000 cubic yards of sediment. But in July's second phase to dredge the 2,000-meter National Race Course upriver, workers almost immediately began pulling tires out of the river, including large tractor and truck tires.

Fleeing driver nearly hits official on moose call

ME LINCOLN — A driver led police on a 55-mile chase in Maine after nearly hitting a game warden who was investigating a moose complaint, police said.

Police said the chase began late Thursday morning after multiple agencies were informed the vehicle almost hit the warden in Lincoln. The warden had witnessed the vehicle leaving the scene of a suspected trespassing and theft at a pulp and tissue mill and the high-speed pursuit began, police said.

The pursuit ended more than 90 minutes later in Haynesville after police deployed tire deflation mats and other techniques to slow the vehicle. Police said two passengers in the car were taken into custody and charged with crimes including theft and criminal trespassing. Police said the driver fled but was quickly located and charged with numerous offenses.

State considers hunting season for black bears

LA BATON ROUGE — A resurgence in Louisiana's black bear population has sparked discussion among state officials about a hunting season for the animal, which was taken off the endangered species list in 2015.

"We can certainly have a conservative harvest in limited areas," John Hanks, manager of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries large carnivore program, said at a public hearing Thursday. The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission will likely hold a vote in November to create a bear hunting season, The Shreveport Times reported.

Black bears had all but disappeared from the state by the 1950s and 1960s, but wildlife experts have said they've counted at least 1,212 bears in just the Mississippi Delta and the Atchafalaya Basin.

Hanks said the current estimate is probably 80% to 90% of the bear population, however, and the animals can be found across the state with the largest population in the Tensas National Wildlife Refuge.

Ex-cop suspected of burglaries in 3 states

CT GLASTONBURY — A former Connecticut police officer is suspected of being a serial burglar and committing 30 or more thefts in three states, including the community he had patrolled until recently.

A newly unsealed warrant says former Glastonbury Police Officer Patrick Hemingway is believed to have targeted safes

and cash registers at restaurants and businesses in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. The warrant, cited in multiple news reports and released Thursday, says surveillance videos show a suspect possibly resembling the former officer.

Hemingway, 37, was charged last month with computer crimes and making a false statement. A judge at his arraignment said more charges were expected.

In one surveillance video, a tall male wearing a mask, gloves and a hooded sweatshirt is seen holding a flashlight "in a tactical manner." The suspect is also holding "a coiled, corded object to his left ear" that resembles the portable police radios used by the Glastonbury Police Department, the warrant said.

\$1.4M speeding ticket issued as placeholder

GA SAVANNAH — A Georgia man was left reeling after receiving a \$1.4 million speeding ticket, but city officials said the figure was just a placeholder, not the actual fine.

Connor Cato told WSAV-TV in Savannah that he received the citation after getting pulled over in September for driving 90 mph in a 55 mph zone.

He called the court thinking the figure was a typo but said he was told he either had to pay it or appear in court in December.

Savannah officials said the figure Cato received reflected an automatically generated placeholder. The actual fine cannot exceed \$1,000 in addition to state mandated costs.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Browns stun 49ers in Purdy's 1st loss as starter

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — From dominant to defeated — in less than a week. The San Francisco 49ers were reminded there are no perfect teams or givens in the NFL.

Brock Purdy suffered his first loss as a starter and the Niners had their regular-season winning streak stopped at 15 when rookie kicker Jake Moody missed a 41-yard field goal with six seconds remaining, giving the Cleveland Browns an unexpected 19-17 win on Sunday.

"I don't think we deserved to

win," said 49ers star defensive end Nick Bosa. "We didn't underestimate them, but they did play better than us. We haven't lost in a long time in the regular season, so it hurts a lot more."

Dustin Hopkins kicked four field goals for the Browns (3-2) — the last with 1:40 left, capping a drive helped by a disputed unnecessary roughness call against San Francisco. Cleveland pulled off the upset without quarterback Deshaun Watson, who missed his second straight game with a bruised right shoulder.

The 49ers (5-1) came in looking nearly unbeatable after destroying Dallas 42-10 at home last week and scoring at least 30 points in each of their first five games.

But Cleveland's top-ranked defense was more than up to the task, and the 49ers were short-handed in the second half without playmakers Christian McCaffrey and Deebo Samuel, who both went out with injuries.

P.J. Walker came off Cleveland's practice squad and outplayed Purdy, who threw his

first interception this season, finished with just 125 yards and nearly pulled off a stirring comeback in the final moments before Moody's failed kick.

The 23-year-old Purdy had been perfect in his pro career, winning his first 10 regular-season starts and coming in with the highest passer rating (121.1) in league history for any quarterback through 10 games. But the Browns kept him off balance and he completed just 12 of 27 passes (44%) — well below his league-leading average (72.1%) coming in.

Jets rally to beat Eagles for 1st time in franchise history

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Robert Saleh stepped from the podium at his postgame news conference and let loose a little.

"They ain't 12-0 no more!" the excited New York Jets coach declared.

No, the Philadelphia Eagles are no longer unbeaten against the Jets. And they're no longer undefeated this season.

Breece Hall ran for an 8-yard touchdown with 1:46 remaining, one play after Tony Adams intercepted Jalen Hurts, and the Jets erased an 11-point deficit and held on to shock the Eagles 20-14 on Sunday.

"There's no quit in this team," quarterback Zach Wilson said.

The Jets (3-3) appeared on their way to falling to 0-13 in their history against the Eagles, but Hurts' third interception of the game — and the fourth turnover by Philadelphia — was returned by Adams 45 yards to put New York into immediate scoring position.

"I mean, that was huge," Wilson said. "You know, we needed that one. And he came through for us."

The Eagles (5-1) got one more chance, but the Jets' defense stiffened — as it had all game,

shutting out Philadelphia in the second half. Hurts' deep throw to DeVonta Smith on fourth down was knocked away by Jordan Whitehead, and Wilson and the offense took two kneel downs to seal an unlikely victory.

Bills 14, Giants 9: Josh Allen patiently oversaw two lengthy second-half scoring drives, capped by a 15-yard touchdown pass to Quinton Morris with 3:58 remaining, and host Buffalo sent undermanned but gritty New York to its fourth straight loss.

Giants quarterback Tyrod Taylor's pass into the end zone glanced off Darren Waller's finger tips facing first-and-goal from the 1. New York got an extra chance after linebacker Terrel Bernard was flagged for defensive interference on a pass intended for Waller as time expired on third-and-5 from Buffalo's 10.

Lions 20, Buccaneers 6: Jared Goff threw for 353 yards and two touchdowns and NFC North-leading Detroit beat sputtering Tampa Bay.

Goff tossed TD passes of 27 yards to Amon-Ra St. Brown and 45 yards to Jameson Williams as Detroit won for the seventh time in eight road games

dating to last season.

Dolphins 42, Panthers 21: Tua Tagovailoa threw three touchdown passes to three different receivers as host Miami rallied for the win and sent winless Carolina to its sixth straight loss.

Tagovailoa was 21 of 31 for 262 yards and has an NFL-leading 1,876 yards passing this season.

Jaguars 37, Colts 20: Trevor Lawrence threw two touchdown passes, Travis Etienne ran for two scores and Jacksonville won its third straight to send Indianapolis to its ninth straight road loss in the series.

The Jaguars (4-2) had their most lopsided victory of the season and this one was essentially over in the third quarter when Lawrence connected threw a 10-yard strike to rookie tight end Brenton Strange and put Jacksonville ahead 31-6. Lawrence also found Christian Kirk for a 29-yard TD in the second. Etienne scored on runs of 2 and 22 yards, also in the second.

Texans 20, Saints 13: Rookie C.J. Stroud threw for 199 yards and two touchdowns and host Houston got two defensive stops late seal the victory over New Orleans and match the team's win total of last season.

Vikings 19, Bears 13: Kirk Cousins threw for a touchdown, Jordan Hicks returned a fumble 42 yards for a score and visiting Minnesota knocked Justin Fields out of the game in beating Chicago (1-5).

Commanders 24, Falcons 16: Sam Howell threw for three TDs and visiting Washington intercepted Desmond Ridder three times in a victory over Atlanta that ended a three-game skid.

Bengals 17, Seahawks 13: Joe Burrow threw two early touchdown passes and host Cincinnati intercepted Geno Smith twice in the second half, holding off Seattle for its second straight victory.

Rams 26, Cardinals 9: Cooper Kupp made seven receptions for 148 yards and his first touchdown of the season, and Kyren Williams rushed for a career-high 158 yards and a TD as Los Angeles beat Arizona for its first home victory of the season.

Raiders 21, Patriots 17: Brian Hoyer relieved an injured Jimmy Garoppolo and threw for 102 yards in the second half, and Daniel Carlson made four field goals, helping host Las Vegas send struggling New England to its third straight loss.

Rangers win ALCS opener over Astros

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jordan Montgomery outdueled Justin Verlander and the Texas Rangers got a big boost from their youngest player to open the AL Championship Series with a 2-0 victory over the Houston Astros on Sunday night.

Montgomery pitched five-hit ball for 6½ innings, Leody Taveras provided a two-run lead with his solo homer in the fifth and the Rangers remained perfect in the postseason at 6-0.

Evan Carter, a rookie who turned 21 on Aug. 29, doubled and scored in the second and made two nifty defensive plays in left field. He's shined this postseason after not making his major league debut until Sept. 8.

"He just has so much confidence," Rangers manager Bruce Bochy said. "He's got the youthful enthusiasm and he's just excited to be here. He's not in awe of anything, just no fear in this kid since he's come up."

In the ALCS for the first time since back-to-back appearances in 2010-11, the Rangers swept the Rays in the Wild Card Series and the Orioles in the Division Series. The winning streak follows losses in their previous six playoff

games against Toronto in the ALDS in 2015 and 2016.

"We just found a way to get a couple of runs across the board," Bochy said. "That was the difference in the game, obviously. But our guy was really good, Monty, terrific job he did. And he got in a couple of jams there and found a way to get out of it."

Game 2 of the best-of-seven series is Monday in Houston.

The defending champion Astros, in the ALCS for a seventh consecutive year, had a tough time getting anything going against Montgomery. The top four batters in Houston's lineup were 2 for 12 with five strikeouts against the left-hander. Slugger Yordan Alvarez struck out against him three times.

"Overall, just didn't do enough tonight, offensively," Houston third baseman Alex Bregman said. "I thought J.V. threw the ball tremendously, but we need to string together some better at-bats."

Houston's offensive woes came after it hit 16 homers and outscored the Rangers 39-10 in a three-game sweep in September. Things were much different in the first postseason meeting between these in-state rivals as they

managed just five singles.

"Sometimes you've got to say: 'Hey, the guy threw a great game tonight against us, excellent game,'" Astros manager Dusty Baker said. "And they say good pitching beats good hitting, but when you don't hit, everybody wants to know what's wrong. There's not a whole bunch to say. He threw a real good game against us."

Montgomery has been great in the past month, allowing just two earned runs over 27 innings in his last four starts of the regular season, and posting a 2.08 ERA in three postseason starts.

Verlander allowed two runs and six hits in 6½ innings to mark the first time this postseason where both starters pitched into the seventh. It was the 36th postseason start for Verlander and the MLB-record 14th time he's started a playoff series opener.

The three-time Cy Young Award winner threw 47 fastballs, getting 27 swings without a single swing and miss.

Verlander said the defending champs aren't concerned after falling into an early hole in the series.

"We lost Game 1 in the World Series last year," he said. "We've

lost Game 1 of some playoff series before. And that's the great thing about this team. Obviously nobody is sitting in the locker room right now happy. But it's very matter of fact, OK. We just got punched, how do you answer?"

Josh Sborz walked Jose Altuve starting the eighth and was replaced by Aroldis Chapman. The Rangers turned a double play when Carter made a great grab on the track on a ball hit by Bregman and Altuve was called out for not retouching second base when he retreated to first after Carter's catch.

Altuve was initially called safe, but the Rangers challenged the ruling and it was overturned in a video review. Alvarez followed with an inning-ending groundout.

Carter had also robbed Bregman of a hit with one out in the first. He sprinted before leaping to make the catch and crashing into the scoreboard wall in left field and knocking out one of squares.

"Oh, my gosh. This is so much fun," Carter said. "That's just all I think about. Where else would I want to be? This is awesome. I'm just trying to keep my feet grounded and just keep rolling with this team. It's been a lot of fun."

Liberty top Aces to avoid sweep in Game 3 of WNBA Finals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jonquel Jones and the New York Liberty wouldn't let the season end just yet.

Jones scored 27 points and Breanna Stewart added 20 to help the New York Liberty beat the Las Vegas Aces 87-73 on Sunday in the WNBA Finals and force a Game 4.

"I was doing whatever I can to make sure this team gets the win," Jones said.

New York struggled in the first two games against the Aces in Las Vegas, but the Liberty found their shooting touch in Game 3 behind Jones, who hit four of the team's 13 three-pointers.

"She was huge for us," Liberty coach Sandy Brondello said of Jones, who came to the Liberty in a trade in the offseason. "Those threes changed the moment of the game a bit.

The ball went in. Other games the ball wasn't going in for us. We got back to our identity. Proud of the effort and commitment and connection we had. Now we've got to do it again."

This was the Liberty's first win in the WNBA Finals since Teresa Weatherspoon's half-court shot in Game 2 against Houston in 1999. The Aces are up 2-1 in the best-of-five series and Game 4 is Wednesday night in New York.

The Liberty led by three at halftime before scoring the first eight points of the third quarter to take a double-digit lead, bringing the crowd of 17,143 to its feet. They led 61-50 after three quarters.

Behind A'ja Wilson, the Aces got to within six before Stewart hit a turnaround jumper and Betnijah Laney stole the ball from Jackie Young at half court and made a layup to ex-

tend the lead back to 10.

Las Vegas didn't challenge the rest of the way and star guard Chelsea Gray went back to the locker room midway through the fourth quarter after injuring her foot.

"I can't give you an update. I'll let you know when we know," Las Vegas coach Becky Hammon said.

Kelsey Plum scored 29 points and Wilson added 16 points and 11 rebounds for the Aces, who are looking to become the first team to win consecutive titles since the 2001-02 Los Angeles Sparks. That came on the heels of the Houston Comets winning the WNBA's first four championships.

"This is a good team we're talking about, obviously a different feeling in their place," Wilson said of the Liberty. "We still have a chance to take care of business."

Larson secures spot in NASCAR title race

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Kyle Larson used a spectacular mid-race save, got a lightning-fast final pit stop from his Hendrick Motorsports crew, then held off Christopher Bell at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway finish line to become the first driver locked into NASCAR's championship finale.

The 2021 Cup champion earned the first of four spots in the Nov. 5 title-deciding finale with his win in Sunday's opening race of the round of eight of NASCAR's playoffs.

"Glad we don't need to stress in the last two races," said Larson.

Larson's fourth win of the season was the most important: Hendrick Motorsports could theoretically coast through the next two weeks and focus mostly on preparing for the finale at Phoenix Raceway. Joey Logano won Las Vegas last year and parlayed the two weeks of prep time into a championship-clinching victory at Phoenix.

There won't be any rest for the No. 5 team, though.

"If we just say, 'Hey, we're going to cruise for the next two

weeks,' then you are not operating with the edge that I think you're going to need to win it in Phoenix," crew chief Cliff Daniels said. "There's two more races to win, and the way I see this now is that we're in the position, we get to play those races to win."

Larson led 133 laps and beat Bell by 0.082 seconds.

He needed a pretty remarkable save in the second stage when his Chevy wiggled and Larson somehow escaped with only denting the rear corner of the car into the wall. It was a save that Daniels believes only Larson could pull off.

"I just tried to take a deep breath and really forget about that as quickly as possible and get refocused," Larson said.

It kept him in contention and Larson claimed the lead on pit road when his crew had the fastest stop following a caution with 57 laps remaining. Bell had control of the race at that point but Larson was first off pit road.

Bell, who started on the pole in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing, was third after the pit stop. Passing seemed particularly difficult Sunday at Las Vegas,

and Bell was sort of stuck following Larson for the rest of the race.

But he made a run at Larson over the final handful of laps, closing the gap each time by the flagstand. As they closed in on the checkered flag, Bell gave it one furious push inside of Larson but couldn't beat him to the line.

Kyle Busch, a Las Vegas native, finished third in a Chevrolet. He was followed by Brad Keselowski in a Ford and Ross Chastain in a Chevrolet. All three were eliminated from the playoffs last Sunday at Charlotte.

The next five spots went to playoff drivers as Ryan Blaney was sixth for Team Penske but was disqualified after the race because the left front shock on his Ford did not meet the overall specified length.

Larson's busy week

The win capped a week for Larson in which he won a sprint car championship and began his preparations for next year's Indianapolis 500. Larson plans to run both the Indy 500 and NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600 next May and on Thursday

completed the rookie orientation program at Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

He's entering the Indy 500 in a joint entry between Hendrick Motorsports and McLaren and with boss Rick Hendrick looking on, Larson turned 72 laps with a fast lap of 217.898 mph.

Before he got to Indy, Larson on Tuesday night won the inaugural High Limit Sprint Car Series championship at Lincoln Park Speedway in Greencastle, Ind. Larson founded the series with his brother-in-law Brad Sweet, the four-time World of Outlaws Series champion.

Truex still struggling

Martin Truex Jr. won the regular-season title but has had a terrible playoffs and is barely hanging on to a shot to win a second Cup title.

His ninth-place finish Sunday was his best through seven playoff races. Prior to Las Vegas, he didn't finish higher than 17th in the first six playoff races.

He started the day slumping with seven consecutive finishes outside the top 15, his worst streak since 2009.

Vatrano scores hat trick as Ducks beat Hurricanes

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Frank Vatrano scored three goals for his fourth career hat trick, Pavel Mintyukov got his first NHL goal and the Anaheim Ducks defeated the Carolina Hurricanes 6-3 Sunday for their eighth straight victory in a home opener.

Anaheim is tied with Boston and Toronto for the longest active winning streaks in home openers. The Ducks have also earned points in each of their last 11 Honda Center debuts since 2013 (10-0-1).

"It was awesome. Obviously it's great to get a hat trick, but it

doesn't mean anything if you don't win the game," said Vatrano, who had a career-high 41 points last season. "From top to bottom tonight, goaltending, defense, a lot of milestones tonight as well."

Cam Fowler had a goal and an assist, and Sam Carrick also scored as Anaheim took a 3-0 lead less than 13 minutes into the game. The Ducks were clinging to a one-goal lead late in the third before putting it away with a pair of empty-net goals, including Vatrano's at 18:41.

Ryan Strome and Mason McTavish each had two assists,

and Lukas Dostal made 32 saves for Anaheim.

It was the first victory for Anaheim coach Greg Cronin, hired during the offseason after five seasons behind the bench for the Colorado Avalanche's AHL affiliate.

Cronin said he was concerned how the Ducks might come out after a 4-1 loss in their season opener at Vegas on Saturday night, but he was impressed with the energy they had, especially early in the game.

"I thought the crowd played a big role in getting us on our toes early. We could have scored a few more goals in the second pe-

riod, but we got a little bit behind the eight ball with penalties," he said. "They threw everything at us in the third period, but we did a good job of weathering the storm."

Teuvo Teravainen had two goals — giving him four in Carolina's first three games — and Martin Necas also scored. Antti Raanta stopped 19 shots.

"We just dug ourselves too much of a hole," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "I credit the guys for figuring out a way to get back into it."

Mintyukov, the 10th overall pick in the 2022 draft, made it 3-0 with 7:54 left in the first.