

Florida begins recovery from Milton

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Florida residents repaired damage from Hurricane Milton and cleaned up debris Friday after the storm smashed through coastal communities and tore homes to pieces, flooded streets and spawned a barrage of deadly tornadoes.

At least eight people were dead, but many expressed relief that Milton wasn't worse. The hurricane spared densely populated Tampa a direct hit, and the lethal storm surge that scientists feared never materialized.

Arriving two weeks after the devastating Hurricane Helene, the system flooded barrier islands, tore the roof off the Tampa Bay Rays' baseball stadium and toppled a construction crane.

As residents assessed damage to their property, over 2.5 million customers in Florida remained without power Friday, according to poweroutage.us. But the state's vital tourism industry started to return to nor-

mal, with several theme parks preparing to reopen.

A flood of vehicles headed south Thursday evening on Interstate 75, the main highway that runs through the middle of the state, as relief workers and evacuated residents returned to assess the aftermath. Bucket trucks and fuel tankers streamed by, along with portable bathroom trailers and a convoy of emergency vehicles.

As residents raced back to find out whether their homes were destroyed or spared, finding gas was still a challenge. Fuel stations were still closed as far away as Ocala, more than a two and a half hour drive north of where the storm made landfall as a Category 3 near Siesta Key in Sarasota County on Wednesday night.

Natasha Ducre and her husband, Terry, were just feeling lucky to be alive. Milton peeled the tin roof off of their cinder-block home in their neighborhood a few blocks north of the Manatee River, about a 45-min-

ute drive south of Tampa. She pushed to leave as the storm barreled toward them Wednesday night after he resisted evacuating their three-bedroom house where he grew up and where the couple lived with their three kids and two grandchildren. She believes the decision saved their lives.

They returned to find the roof of their home scattered in sheets across the street, the wooden beams of what was their ceiling exposed to the sky. Inside, fiberglass insulation hung down in shreds, their belongings soaked by the rain and littered with chunks of shattered drywall.

"It ain't much, but it was ours. What little bit we did have is gone," she said. "It's gone."

With shelters no longer available and the cost of a hotel room out of reach, they plan to cram into Terry Ducre's mother's house for now. After that, they're not sure.

"I don't have no answers," Natasha Ducre said. "What is

my next move? What am I going to do?"

Meanwhile, Florida theme parks including Walt Disney World, Universal Orlando and SeaWorld planned to reopen Friday after an assessment of the effects of the storm.

Orlando International Airport, the state's busiest, said departures for domestic and international flights would resume Friday, after resuming domestic arrivals Thursday evening. The airport had minor damage.

Milton prevented Simon Forster, his wife and their two children from returning to Scotland as planned Wednesday evening, so they enjoyed an extra two days of their two-week vacation on a bustling International Drive in Orlando's tourism district on Thursday. Hurricanes seem to follow them since 2022's Hurricane Ian kept them from returning to Scotland after another Orlando vacation.

"Two extra days here, there are worse places we could be," he said.

Japanese organization awarded Nobel Peace Prize

Associated Press

The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded Friday to Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization of survivors of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, for its activism against nuclear weapons.

Jørgen Watne Frydnes, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, said the award was made as the "taboo against the use of nuclear weapons is under pressure."

Last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a shift in his country's nuclear

doctrine, in a move aimed at discouraging the West from allowing Ukraine to strike Russia with longer-range weapons. It appeared to significantly lower the threshold for the possible use of Russia's nuclear arsenal.

Watne Frydnes said the Nobel committee "wishes to honor all survivors who, despite physical suffering and painful memories, have chosen to use their costly experience to cultivate hope and engagement for peace."

The chairperson of Hidankyo's Hiroshima branch, To-

moyuki Mimaki, standing by at the city hall for the announcement, cheered and teared up when he received the news.

"Is it really true? Unbelievable!" Mimaki screamed.

Efforts to eradicate nuclear weapons have been honored before by the Nobel committee. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) won the peace prize in 2017, and in 1995 Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs won for "their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear

arms in international politics and, in the longer run, to eliminate such arms."

Beatrice Fihn, who was the executive director of ICAN when it won the Nobel, said honoring Nihon Hidankyo was "quite emotional."

"We are partners in this fight," she told The Associated Press. The survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki "know nuclear weapons the best. ... They know how it feels like, how it looks like, how it smells when your city is burning from nuclear weapons use," she said.

Training failures cited in SEAL drownings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two U.S. Navy SEALs drowned as they tried to climb aboard a ship carrying illicit Iranian-made weapons to Yemen because of glaring training failures and a lack of understanding about what to do after falling into deep, turbulent waters, according to a military investigation into the January deaths.

The review concluded that the drownings of Chief Special Warfare Operator Christopher J. Chambers and Navy Special Warfare Operator 1st Class Nathan Gage Ingram could have been prevented. But both sank quickly in the high seas off the coast of Somalia, weighed down by heavy equipment they

were carrying and not knowing or disregarding concerns that their flotation devices could not compensate for the additional weight. Both were lost at sea.

The highly critical and heavily redacted report — written by a Navy officer from outside Naval Special Warfare Command, which oversees the SEALs — concluded there were “deficiencies, gaps and inconsistencies” in training, policies, tactics and procedures as well as “conflicting guidance” on when and how to use emergency flotation devices and extra buoyancy material that could have kept them alive.

The Associated Press obtained the report upon request before its public release.

The mission’s goal was to intercept weapons headed to the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen, who have been launching missile and drone attacks against commercial and U.S. Navy ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza began a year ago. U.S. retaliatory strikes have so far not deterred their assaults.

Chambers and Ingram, members of SEAL Team 3, died during a nighttime mission to board an unflagged ship in the Arabian Sea. Their names were redacted in the report, but officials have confirmed that Chambers slipped and fell as he was climbing onto the ship’s deck and that Ingram jumped

in to try to save him.

“Encumbered by the weight of each individual’s gear, neither their physical capability nor emergency supplemental flotation devices, if activated, were sufficient to keep them at the surface,” Rear Adm. Michael DeVore wrote in the report.

The report said Chambers was “intermittently” at the surface for 26 seconds after his fall and Ingram was at the surface for about 32 seconds.

“The entire tragic event elapsed in just 47 seconds and two NSW warriors were lost to the sea,” DeVore wrote, referring to Naval Special Warfare Command.

Defense minister decries blaming gender for reason a New Zealand ship sank

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand’s defense minister issued stinging rebukes of what she said were “vile” and “misogynistic” online remarks by “armchair admirals” about the woman captain of a navy ship that ran aground, caught fire and sank off the coast of Samoa.

“Seriously, it’s 2024,” Judith Collins told reporters Thursday. “What the hell’s going on here?”

After days of comments on social media directed at the gender of Commander Yvonne Gray, Collins urged the public to “be better.” Women members of the military had also faced verbal abuse in the street in New Zealand since the ship — one of nine in the country’s navy — was lost Sunday, Collins said.

All 75 people on board evacuated to safety with only minor injuries after the vessel ran

aground on the reef it was surveying about a mile off the coast of Upolu, Samoa’s most populous island. The cause of the disaster is not known.

“The one thing that we already know did not cause it is the gender of the ship’s captain, a woman with 30 years’ naval experience who on the night made the call to get her people to safety,” Collins said.

One of the posters was a truck driver from Melbourne, Australia, she added.

“I think that he should keep his comments to people who drive trucks rather than people who drive ships,” Collins said. “These are the sorts of people I’m calling out and I’m happy to keep calling them out for as long as it takes to stop this behavior.”

About 20% of New Zealand’s uniformed military members are women.

N. Korea accuses South of flying drones to capital

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has accused rival South Korea of flying drones to its capital to drop anti-North Korean propaganda leaflets and threatened to respond with force if such flights occur again. South Korea issued a vague denial of the allegation.

North Korea’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement Friday that South Korean drones were detected in the night skies of Pyongyang on Oct. 3 and Wednesday and Thursday this week.

The ministry accused the South of violating North Korea’s “sacred” sovereignty and threatening its security, and described the alleged flights as a “dangerous provocation” that could escalate to an armed conflict and even war.

It said North Korean forces will prepare “all means of attack” capable of destroying the southern side of the border and

the South Korean military, and respond without warning if South Korean drones are detected in its territory again.

“The safety lock on our trigger has now been released,” the ministry said. “We will be prepared for everything and will be watching. The criminals should no longer gamble with the lives of their citizens.”

Asked about the North Korean claims during a parliamentary hearing, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Yong-hyun told lawmakers, “We have not done that.” He said he was still trying to assess the situation and didn’t elaborate further.

It wasn’t immediately clear whether Kim was referring to South Korean military drones, or also drones possibly operated by South Korean civilians.

The South’s Joint Chiefs of Staff later said in a statement that it couldn’t confirm whether the North’s claims were true.

Trump: CBS should lose broadcasting rights

The Washington Post

Former president Donald Trump said Thursday that CBS News should lose a broadcasting license over how it edited a “60 Minutes” interview with Vice President Kamala Harris, even though the federal government does not issue licenses for such television networks.

It was the latest example of Trump calling for media outlets that have angered him to lose their rights to broadcast — a push that evokes government control of media, which is a hallmark of authoritarianism.

Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel denounced Trump’s call targeting CBS, flatly rejecting an idea the agency has ruled out under the Biden and Trump administrations.

“While repeated attacks against broadcast stations by the former President may now be familiar, these threats against free speech are serious and should not be ignored,” Ro-

senworcel said in a statement. “As I’ve said before, the First Amendment is a cornerstone of our democracy. The FCC does not and will not revoke licenses for broadcast stations simply because a political candidate disagrees with or dislikes content or coverage.”

CBS declined to comment.

Trump has been fixated for days on Harris’s interview with “60 Minutes,” which came after he backed out of sitting for his own interview with the show, according to the network. Since Harris’ interview aired Monday night, Trump has focused on how it featured a shorter version of Harris’ answer to a question about Israel than was shown in a clip previewing the interview.

It is standard for networks to edit interviews for broadcast, especially to fit time restraints.

“Her REAL ANSWER WAS CRAZY, OR DUMB, so they actually REPLACED it with another answer in order to save

her or, at least, make her look better,” Trump claimed in a post on his social media platform Thursday morning. “A FAKE NEWS SCAM, which is totally illegal. TAKE AWAY THE CBS LICENSE.”

Trump went on to baselessly accuse Democrats of making CBS “do this,” calling it “Election Interference” and saying the party should be forced to concede the election.

Trump raised the issue again during an afternoon speech in Detroit, claiming the edited Harris interview “will go down as the single biggest scandal in broadcast history.”

The FCC says on its website that its “role in overseeing program content is very limited.” The agency licenses individual broadcast stations, not networks in their entirety.

“We do not license TV or radio networks (such as CBS, NBC, ABC or Fox) or other organizations that stations have relationships with, such as PBS

or NPR, except if those entities are also station licensees,” the FCC website says.

It is not the first time Trump has called for a network to lose its broadcasting license because he was not happy with what aired or with how he was portrayed. Trump last month suggested ABC should lose its license over its moderating of the debate between him and Harris. Rosenworcel rejected that suggestion at the time.

Even the FCC head during Trump’s presidency, Ajit Pai, had dismissed Trump’s talk of targeting broadcast licenses.

“I believe in the First Amendment,” Pai said in 2017 after Trump suggested NBC should face consequences for critical coverage of his administration. “The FCC, under my leadership, will stand for the First Amendment. Under the law, the FCC does not have the authority to revoke a license of a broadcast station based on the content of a particular newscast.”

Harris rips Trump over criticism of storm response

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Vice President Kamala Harris and the White House criticized Donald Trump for his attacks on the federal response to Hurricanes Helene and Milton and suggested he was wrongly trying to turn the deadly storms to his political advantage.

Attending a town hall sponsored by Univision in Las Vegas, Harris was asked about complaints that federal officials have bungled disaster recovery efforts. She responded, “In this crisis — like in so many issues that affect the people of our country — I think it so important that leadership recognizes the dignity” to which people are entitled.

“I have to stress that this is not a time for people to play politics,” Harris added.

Those comments came after the former president spoke at the Detroit Economic Club, offering sympathy to people affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, the latter of which came ashore in Florida Wednesday night. Trump also suggested that the Biden administration’s response had been lacking, particularly in North Carolina after Helene.

“They’ve let those people suffer unjustly,” said Trump, who has for several days promoted falsehoods about the federal response.

Harris virtually attended a briefing, held in the White House Situation Room with President Joe Biden, on emergency efforts in Milton’s wake. In subsequent comments to reporters, Biden slammed Trump and his supporters for spread-

ing misinformation about federal assistance available to victims.

“They’re being so damn un-American with the way they’re talking about this stuff,” Biden said, then adding directly to Trump: “Get a life, man. Help these people.”

Despite the storm, Trump and Harris are both visiting key swing states strategically, trying to increase support with key voting blocs who could decide an election expected to be exceedingly close.

In Michigan, where he’s looking to appeal primarily to blue-collar voters, Trump took a swipe at the city he happened to be campaigning in, suggesting that Detroit was “a mess.”

“Our whole country will end up being like Detroit if she’s your president,” he said of Har-

ris. “You’re going to have a mess on your hands.”

Harris responded that Trump “yet again has trashed another great American city when he was in Detroit, which is just a further piece of evidence on a very long list of why he is unfit to be president of the United States.”

Harris held a rally near Phoenix after participating in the town hall for the Spanish-language network Univision. She’s looking to increase support among Hispanic voters, especially men.

Her campaign began a group this week known as “Hombres con Harris” — Spanish for “Men for Harris” — that is planning to hold events at Latino-owned small businesses, union halls, barbecues and community events until Election Day.

Zelenskyy appeals for aid as Germany pledges weapons

Associated Press

BERLIN — President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Friday it's important that allies' aid to Ukraine doesn't decrease next year as he received a pledge of a new weapons package from German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on a European tour meant to win backing for his "victory plan" aimed at ending the war with Russia.

Zelenskyy arrived in Berlin after stops Thursday in London, Paris and Rome on a tour arranged after a planned summit Saturday with President Joe Biden and other allied leaders was derailed by Hurricane Milton.

Scholz noted that Germany is Ukraine's biggest military supporter in Europe and the second-biggest behind the United States, and said "it will stay that way."

Scholz emphasized Berlin's continued focus on helping Kyiv with air defense.

And he said that, by the end of the year, it will deliver another package of military support worth about 1.4 billion euros — or \$1.5 billion — with support

from Belgium, Denmark and Norway — including further air defense systems, self-propelled Gepard anti-aircraft guns, tanks, armored vehicles, combat drones, artillery ammunition and radars.

"For us, it is very important that aid does not decrease next year," Zelenskyy said, thanking Scholz for the planned aid. "It must be sufficient to protect people and lives."

This year's German budget foresees nearly 7.5 billion euros in military aid for Ukraine, while next year's plan is for 4 billion euros.

Berlin hopes a \$50 billion international loan package funded by interest on profits from frozen Russian assets will play a growing role in financing aid starting next year, with Kyiv procuring weapons directly. The aim is for that system to be set up by the end of the year.

Scholz told Zelenskyy that "you can rely" on that package. He said Russian President Vladimir Putin should realize that "playing for time won't work; we won't let up in our support

for Ukraine."

The Ukrainian leader has yet to publicly detail his proposals for "victory." But the timing of his efforts to lock in European support appear to have the looming U.S. election in mind. Former President Donald Trump has long been critical of U.S. aid to Kyiv.

Ukraine's stretched and short-handed army is currently under heavy pressure in the country's eastern Donetsk region.

Russian forces recently pushed it out of the Donetsk town of Vuhledar and are now in control of about half of nearby Toretsk. To stop the losses, Zelenskyy needs to secure more help.

In Berlin, he said that Ukraine "would want to end the war no later than in 2025."

"This plan is a bridge to hold a productive peace summit that will truly put an end to the war," he said, adding that Ukraine can only strengthen its position against Russia through cooperation with Western partners.

Israeli strikes hit Lebanese troops, UN peacekeepers

Associated Press

BEIRUT — An Israeli airstrike killed two Lebanese soldiers and wounded three other troops on Friday, Lebanon's military said, an incident that entangles the country's official army in the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon.

The Lebanese army said the Israeli airstrike hit a building near a military checkpoint in Kafra, Bint Jbeil province in southern Lebanon. There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military.

The attack on the Lebanese army comes just hours after Israeli troops fired on the headquarters of United Nations peacekeepers in southern Lebanon, injuring two peacekeepers for the second time in as many days.

Lebanon's army has largely stayed on the sidelines of the fighting between Israel and Hezbollah in hopes of preventing it from spiraling out of control. After Israel troops launched their ground invasion in southern Lebanon, Lebanese troops withdrew about 3 miles from their observation posts along the border.

But as Israel escalates its campaign against Hezbollah with waves of heavy airstrikes across Lebanon and a ground invasion at the border, Lebanese troops have increasingly found themselves in the cross-fire.

The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon has also been caught in the middle of fighting. The international force said explosions struck near an observation tower at its headquarters in Naqoura. One of the injured peacekeepers was hospitalized in the nearby city of Tyre while the other received medical care on site, it said.

Russia launches aerial attack against Ukraine's grain-exporting Odesa region

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A nighttime Russian missile strike on Odesa killed at least four people including a 16-year-old girl, regional authorities said Friday, in the latest in a series of attacks this week on the southern Ukrainian region that are likely intended to disrupt the country's grain exports.

Four Russian missile and drone attacks on the Odesa region this week have killed 14 people and wounded around 20,

according to local officials. The strikes have hit merchant ships and damaged port infrastructure in the region, which is a vital hub for Ukraine's agricultural exports.

An attack on Odesa late Wednesday killed nine people and hit a container ship sailing under the Panamanian flag — the third attack on a merchant vessel in four days, according to regional Gov. Oleh Kiper.

Russia last year tore up an agreement that allowed Uk-

raine — one of the world's biggest suppliers of grain and other food staples, especially to developing nations — to export produce safely through the Black Sea.

Months later, and amid successful Ukrainian attacks on Russia's Black Sea fleet which forced its navy to back away from the coast, Ukraine established a shipping corridor that hugs the coast down to Turkey and opens a way to the Mediterranean Sea.

Cole's gem sends Yankees back to ALCS

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Gerrit Cole pitched like a postseason ace Thursday night, holding the Kansas City Royals to a single run over seven innings and sending the New York Yankees to a 3-1 victory that put them back in the American League Championship Series.

The six-time All-Star scattered six hits and struck out four before handing the ball to the New York bullpen, which dominated a tense AL Division Series. Clay Holmes tossed a perfect eighth inning and Luke Weaver breezed through the ninth, extending the scoreless streak by Yankees relievers to 15½ innings this postseason.

New York will play Cleveland or Detroit of the ALCS starting Monday at Yankee Stadium.

"Proud of these guys," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "We get to go play for it now and we're excited about that."

Juan Soto, Gleyber Torres and Game 3 star Giancarlo Stanton drove in runs for the Yankees, who fittingly clinched a spot in their fourth ALCS in eight years on the road. They won 50 games away from home in the regular season, their most in 21 years.

Michael Wacha failed to get through five innings for Kansas City, allowing two runs, six hits and a walk. He didn't get much help from a long-scuttling offense that managed just five runs total over the final three games of the series.

"In 2023, our season ended here, you know? We didn't get in the postseason," said Aaron Judge, who secured the final out for New York. "I remember a lot of these guys were looking out on the field, and you know, we all kind of came together and said, 'It's not going to happen again.'"

Kansas City did not win a home game after Sept. 8, losing

nine in a row including the playoffs.

Still, it was a remarkable turnaround for a club that went from 106-loss laughingstock a year ago to making its first postseason appearance since winning the 2015 World Series. And with young stars such as Bobby Witt Jr. signed to long-term deals, there is hope in Kansas City that this was a beginning rather than an ending.

"Feel really badly for those guys in the room," Royals manager Matt Quatraro said, "because as you know, this is seven, eight months of the year that they just pour it all into it, and give every ounce of effort and energy they have."

New York set the tone from the start, pouncing on Wacha like it did in the series opener. Torres hit the veteran right-hander's first pitch of the game for a double, and Soto followed with an RBI single on just the third pitch of the night.

Anthony Volpe kept the pressure on with his single in the fifth. And after Alex Verdugo grounded into a forceout and Jon Berti singled to put runners on the corners, Torres lined a two-out single to make it 2-0 and put an end to Wacha's night.

Meanwhile, Cole only seemed to get stronger as he clicked off innings. The reigning Cy Young Award winner retired his first six batters, worked around a leadoff single in the third and retired eight more before Tommy Pham's single in the fifth. Cole promptly struck out Kyle Isbel on three pitches to end that inning.

"It was a great battle," Cole said. "Just a great battle."

Cole's night ended after he got Isbel to fly out to the warning track with a runner aboard to end the seventh, a deep shot to right field that would have been a tying homer had it been hit to that part of Yankee Stadium.

Guardians beat Tigers 5-4 and force ALDS Game 5

Associated Press

DETROIT — Pinch-hitter David Fry had a go-ahead, two-run homer in the seventh inning, then bunted home an insurance run in the ninth to help the Cleveland Guardians force a decisive Game 5 against the Detroit Tigers in their AL Division Series with a 5-4 victory on Thursday night.

"David Fry is one of the best baseball players in this league," Guardians manager Stephen Vogt said.

Cleveland ended a streak of 11 losses in postseason elimination games dating to Game 6 of 1997

World Series after Emmanuel Clase got five outs for his third multi-inning save of the year.

"It's win or go home," Vogt said. "You want your best pitchers out there as long as possible."

AL Cy Young Award favorite Tarik Skubal will start Game 5 for the Tigers on Saturday night in Cleveland.

"It's always comforting to have Tarik Skubal on the mound," Detroit manager A.J. Hinch said.

"We're still one win away," Detroit first baseman Spencer Torkelson said. "That's the

mindset. We don't want it easy. We knew it wasn't going to be easy."

Fry said the Guardians' resilience was no surprise.

"We've shown that all year long, that's who these guys are," he said. "We have a bunch of tough dudes. We get down 2-1 and we're in the locker room like it's just another day. We show up ready to play to try and get a win. And let's go win Game 5."

On the verge of reaching the ALCS for the first time since 2013, the Tigers overcame a 2-1 deficit when Zach McKinstry

homered in the fifth off Tanner Bibee and Wenceel Pérez hit a run-scoring single in the sixth.

Steven Kwan singled off Sean Guenther with two outs in the seventh.

Beau Brieske had pitched scoreless ball for 5½ innings over four postseason appearances before Fry, batting for Kyle Manzardo, drove a fastball off an advertising sign between the two bullpens in left for the second pinch-homer in Cleveland postseason history after Hank Majeski did the deed in Game 4 of the 1954 World Series.

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Purdy, 49ers top the Seahawks 36-24

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Deebo Samuel didn't hesitate when he was asked what was working for the San Francisco 49ers.

"Brock Purdy," Samuel said.

Purdy threw for 255 yards and three touchdowns, and the Niners never trailed in a 36-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks on Thursday night.

Samuel had a 76-yard catch-and-run touchdown and finished with three catches for 102 yards for the defending NFC champions (3-3), who moved into a tie with Seattle (3-3) for first place in the NFC West.

George Kittle added five receptions for 58 yards and two scores for the 49ers, who beat the Seahawks for a sixth straight time. Kyle Juszczyk had a late TD run, and he and Kittle both celebrated their scores by leaping into the stands to embrace their wives, who were sitting together in the first row.

Matthew Wright, who joined San Francisco earlier this week to replace injured kicker Jake Moody, had a trio of first-half field goals from 25, 41 and 35 yards.

"When everyone's on point

and we're doing our thing, we're a hard team to beat," Purdy said.

Geno Smith passed for 312 yards and a touchdown but was intercepted twice, and the Seahawks lost their third straight after a 3-0 start under first-year coach Mike Macdonald.

"We're just not doing the things that good football teams do to win football games, and so we're going to attack it. We're going to take a breather here and really go back and dissect the heck out of this thing," Macdonald said.

Four days after blowing a 23-10 halftime lead and losing to division rival Arizona, San Francisco fended off a second-half challenge by Seattle, which got a boost from Laviska Shenault Jr.'s 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown in the third quarter.

After the 49ers punted, Smith led a 94-yard drive and Kenneth Walker III scored from 1 yard out for Seattle to get it to 23-17.

But Smith's second interception, this one by Renardo Green, set up Kittle's second TD of the game and a 29-17 49ers lead.

Smith found Tyler Lockett for a 9-yard scoring pass with 1:44 left to narrow the score to 29-24.

San Francisco responded with Isaac Guerendo's 76-yard dash downfield that led to Juszczyk's 6-yard TD run — a welcome conclusion for a team that has struggled to finish games.

"We talk about it all the time, and it's something we've had to get better at this season," Purdy said. "Coach always says, no matter what the score is, our offense should be able to put up points when our team needs it."

Seattle's struggles with the run game continued, with the team finishing with 20 carries for 52 yards — 32 by Walker.

Smith was intercepted on Seattle's opening drive. The Seahawks were on the San Francisco 25 when rookie safety Malik Mustapha pulled down a pass meant for Lockett.

Jordan Mason broke away for a 38-yard run on San Francisco's first series, but the drive ended with Wright's 25-yard field goal.

Samuel caught an early second-quarter pass from Purdy and shook off a defender for the 76-yard TD that put the 49ers up 10-0. Samuel became the first receiver in NFL history with 20 or more rushing touchdowns and 20-plus receiving scores.

Darrell Luter Jr. forced a fumble on the Seahawks' kick-off return and Tatum Bethune recovered on the Seattle 29. Wright capped that drive with a 41-yard field goal. Wright's third field goal gave the Niners a 16-0 lead late in the second quarter.

Aided by a pass interference call that put the ball on the 2-yard line, Smith threw three incomplete passes before the Seahawks settled for Jason Myers' 20-yard field goal as the first half expired.

Purdy found Kittle for a 10-yard touchdown to start the second half that made it 23-3.

Mason, who left the game in the second quarter with a shoulder injury, later returned and finished with 73 yards on nine carries for the 49ers as he continues to fill in for the injured Christian McCaffrey.

Seahawks safety Rayshawn Jenkins said he's not frustrated — yet.

"We have the right guys in the room to get the job done. We just really have to be real and accountable. And as long as we do that, we should be OK," Jenkins said. "But it has to happen sooner than later."

Jets interim coach Ulbrich shakes up offensive staff

Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Jeff Ulbrich shook up the New York Jets' struggling offense in his first major move as interim head coach.

Ulbrich announced Thursday he replaced Nathaniel Hackett with Todd Downing as the offensive play caller. Downing, the Jets' passing game coordinator and quarterbacks coach, takes over as New York prepares for a showdown with the AFC East-rival Buffalo Bills on Monday night.

"After a lot of time to think about it, and I did not make this

decision easily, by any means, I'm going to make Todd Downing the play caller for the New York Jets moving forward," Ulbrich said. "This is more a by-product of a different take on things. Not saying it's a better or worse take on things, by any means.

"But it's just a different take on things. A fresh approach."

Hackett — who is close to quarterback Aaron Rodgers — will retain the offensive coordinator title, but is taking a back seat to Downing in what is now an undefined role.

Ulbrich took over as head

coach Tuesday after owner Woody Johnson stunningly fired Robert Saleh with the team off to a 2-3 start.

"I knew there'd be changes after they let Robert go," Rodgers said. "I had conversations with Brick over last the two days. I knew that he was thinking about it, leaning toward it, and I told him I'd back him up whatever he decided."

New York can move into a tie with Buffalo for first place in the division with a win, but things need to get a lot better on offense first for that to happen.

The Jets with Rodgers at

quarterback have been inconsistent this season and appeared conservative and predictable in the team's past two games, in particular.

Rodgers said he takes a lot of the blame for the struggles and feels some responsibility for the changes that have been made this week because he hasn't played up to his standard.

"I take that very personally," Rodgers said. "You know, that's what I can control. I have the ball in my hands every play. So, obviously, it's been on my mind with a heavy heart for the last few days, for sure."

Bruins come back to beat Canadiens 6-4

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jeremy Swayman stopped 21 shots in his first game since signing a new contract, and Mark Kastelic had two goals on Thursday night as the Boston Bruins scored four times in a row to overcome an early deficit and beat the Montreal Canadiens 6-4.

Elias Lindholm and Cole Koepke each had a goal and two assists for Boston, which lost 6-4 to the Florida Panthers in its season opener on Tuesday night. Charlie McAvoy and David Pastrnak also scored to help the Bruins open a 5-2 lead.

Brendan Gallagher scored twice for Montreal, the second with four minutes left to make it a one-goal game. Kaiden Guhle had a goal and an assist and Cayden Primeau made 23 saves for the Canadiens, who beat Toronto 1-0 on Wednesday night in Montreal.

Maple Leafs 4, Devils 2: Steven Lorentz had a goal and an assist, goalie Dennis Hildeby won his first NHL game and visiting Toronto beat New Jersey.

Hildeby, Toronto's fourth-round pick in the 2022 draft, stopped 22 shots in his NHL debut.

Max Pacioretty, Bobby McMann and John Tavares also scored for the Maple Leafs.

Jesper Bratt and Timo Meier scored goals for New Jersey.

The loss spoiled the home debut of Devils coach Sheldon Keefe, who was fired in May after guiding the Maple Leafs for five seasons. He replaced Lindy Ruff, who was let go by New Jersey near the end of the last regular season.

Jacob Markstrom had 18 saves for the Devils.

Kings 3, Sabres 1: Anze Kopitar scored a natural hat trick in the third period to rally visiting Los Angeles to a season-opening win over Buffalo.

Darcy Kuemper stopped 33 shots in an outing where the Kings overcame a 1-0 deficit. Kopitar tied the game at 1-1 by

scoring 13 seconds into the third period. He scored the go-ahead goal on a power play with 1:38 left and then capped the scoring with an empty-netter.

Alex Tuch converted his own rebound on a shorthanded breakaway with 3:05 left in the second period, and Buffalo dropped to 0-3 after opening the season with two losses to New Jersey in Prague last weekend.

Senators 3, Panthers 1: Linus Ullmark made 30 saves in his first game for Ottawa, helping the hosts open the season with a victory over Stanley Cup champion Florida.

The Panthers lost captain Aleksander Barkov to an injury late in the third period when he crashed into the end boards.

Tim Stutzle opened the scoring on a first-period power play and put it away in the third with an empty-netter. Shane Pinto also scored for Ottawa in the first period.

With the Senators holding a 2-1 lead late in the third, Ullmark made saves on Anton Lundell, Mackie Samoskevich and Carter Verhaeghe.

Gustav Forsling scored for Florida with 4:12 left, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 29 saves. The Panthers opened the season Tuesday night with a 6-4 home victory over Boston.

Utah 5, Islanders 4 (OT): Josh Doan tied it with 1:54 left and Dylan Guenther scored his second goal of the game in overtime to give visiting Utah a victory over New York.

Doan tied it 13 seconds after Islanders newcomer Max Tsyplov scored his first career goal to give New York a 4-3 lead.

Lawson Crouse and Barrett Hayton also scored and Connor Ingram stopped 21 shots to help Utah improve to 2-0 in its first season in Salt Lake City after moving from Arizona. Utah beat Chicago 5-2 at home on Tuesday night.

Anthony Duclair, Bo Horvat and Jean-Gabriel Pageau also

scored for New York in its opener. Semyon Varlamov made 21 saves.

Wild 3, Blue Jackets 2: Matt Boldy and Joel Eriksson Ek scored on a strong night for the second line, Mats Zuccarello added a power-play goal and host Minnesota opened the season by beating former coach Dean Evason and Columbus.

Filip Gustavsson had 30 saves for the Wild, who improved to 10-1-1 in season openers on their home ice at Xcel Energy Center. Gustavsson gave up a power-play goal by Zach Werenski with 2:54 left.

Kent Johnson had a goal and an assist for the Blue Jackets, who played their first game under Evason. He was fired by the Wild about 10½ months ago after a 5-10-4 start last season. Evason went 147-77-27 over three-plus years with Minnesota.

Boldy scored in the first period on a no-look shot.

Eriksson Ek gave the Wild the lead back in the second period on a one-timer. He centered the second line between Boldy and Marcus Johansson, each of whom had two assists. Elvis Merzlikins stopped 23 shots.

Penguins 6, Red Wings 3: Anthony Beauvillier scored twice, Joel Blomqvist made 29 saves in his NHL debut and visiting Pittsburgh beat Detroit.

Sidney Crosby and Evgeni Malkin, each with two assists, figured in four of the six goals as the Penguins rebounded from season-opening 6-0 home loss to the New York Rangers on Wednesday night.

Marcus Pettersson, Erik Karlsson, Kevin Hayes and Drew O'Connor also scored for Pittsburgh.

Alex DeBrincat scored twice for the Red Wings in their opener. Vladimir Tarasenko added a goal.

Stars 4, Predators 3: Dallas scored three goals on consecutive shots in the second period to

hold off host Nashville in the season opener for both teams.

Mason Marchment scored two goals in the win, while Roope Hintz and Jason Robertson each had a goal apiece for Dallas. Logan Stankoven had three assists.

Filip Forsberg scored the first goal for Nashville in the second period and had an assist. Tommy Novak scored in the third. Ryan O'Reilly gave the Predators a fighting chance with 1:35 remaining by scoring a goal with six Nashville skaters on the ice.

It wasn't enough as O'Reilly and Steven Stamkos both hit a post in the final 50 seconds.

The Predators were big spenders to kick off free agency with general manager Barry Trotz looking to boost the power play and add scoring depth with Stamkos, Jonathan Marchessault and defenseman Brady Skjei. That didn't come to fruition in the season opener, with Nashville finishing 1-of-6 with the man advantage.

Blues 5, Sharks 4 (OT): Brayden Schenn scored 45 seconds into overtime and visiting St. Louis spoiled an impressive debut from No. 1 overall pick Macklin Celebrini to beat San Jose.

Justin Faulk tied it with 47 seconds left in regulation, and Schenn added the winner to give the Blues their second straight victory to open the season.

The Blues overcame a 4-1 deficit in the third to force overtime after getting goals from Radek Faksa, Ryan Suter and Faulk. Pavel Buchenivich also scored.

Joel Hofer made 25 saves for St. Louis.

Celebrini scored the first goal of the game and set up Tyler Toffoli for a goal later in the opening period. Fabian Zetterlund and Barclay Goodrow also scored for San Jose.

Mackenzie Blackwood made 35 saves.

Lynx stun Liberty in overtime to take WNBA Finals Game 1

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Minnesota coach Cheryl Reeve has seen a lot in her incredible career, which has included four WNBA championships.

The historic rally by the Lynx to beat New York 95-93 in a wild Game 1 of the WNBA Finals ranks as one of the best.

"We're the first team in WNBA playoff history to be down 15 (in the final 5 minutes) and come back and win the game," Reeve said. "So that ranks really high. I think it defines our team. Getting through difficult times. That's what we've been talking about. You have to be mentally tough, resilient. ... Thrilled that we could hang in there."

Minnesota rallied from 18 points down in the first half and Napheesa Collier's turnaround jumper with 8.8 seconds left in overtime lifted the team to the win over the New York Liberty on Thursday night.

With the game tied, Collier faked in the lane and scored. New York had a chance to tie it, but Breanna Stewart's layup at the buzzer was off.

"The basketball gods were on our side tonight," said Courtney Williams, who had 23 points, including a four-point play with 5.5 seconds left in regulation, to lead Minnesota.

Collier finished with 21 points, eight rebounds, six blocks and three steals.

Game 2 of the best-of-five series is Sunday in New York. Before the game, WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced that the league is expanding the Finals to best-of-seven as of next year.

The OT got off to a slow start before Minnesota built an 88-84 advantage as New York missed its first six shots. Jonquel Jones finally got the Liberty on the board with a corner 3-pointer with 1:38 left. Williams answered with her own 3-pointer and the teams traded baskets over the next minute. Sabrina Ionescu's steal in the backcourt and layup for New York cut it to 93-91 with 32.9 seconds left.

Jones then stole the ball at midcourt and scored to tie it four seconds later. Minnesota worked the clock down before Collier's basket broke the tie.

The Liberty blew an 11-point lead in the final 3:23 of regulation when Minnesota scored 12 straight points, capped by Williams' four-point play.

The Liberty made the most of the last few seconds. After Stewart's first shot was blocked with a second left and went out of bounds, Ionescu inbounded the ball to her under the basket and she was fouled. The officials reviewed the play to see if the foul occurred before the buzzer sounded and deemed that it did, awarding Stewart two free throws with 0.8 seconds left.

She hit the first of two free throws with the second one rolling off the rim. Williams' shot on the other end was off and the game headed to OT.

"We just take it on the chin, you know. We were up a lot and then we had a wild kind of sequence to end the fourth," Stewart said. "Didn't start overtime great. I had a great look at the end and I didn't make it. But I think that this is a series. We wanted to really win, obviously, for home court. But the beauty is, we have another game on Sunday and we'll be ready."

Rays work to assess damage at ballpark

Associated Press

The Tampa Bay Rays said it may take weeks to fully assess how much damage was done to Tropicana Field, which saw its roof ripped to shreds by the force of Hurricane Milton as the deadly storm barreled across much of Florida.

The team said no one was injured when the St. Petersburg ballpark was struck by the storm on Wednesday. A handful of "essential personnel" were inside Tropicana Field as the roof panels were blown apart, much of the debris falling on the field and seats below.

"Over the coming days and weeks, we expect to be able to assess the true condition of Tropicana Field," the Rays said Thursday. "In the meantime, we are working with law enforcement to secure the building. We ask for your patience at this time, and we encourage those who can to donate to organizations in our community that are assisting those directly impacted by these storms."

Milton was the second hurricane to hit Florida's Gulf Coast in the span of two weeks, preceded by Hurricane Helene, which flooded streets and homes on that same side of the state and left at least 230 people dead across the South.

The Rays aren't scheduled to play in the ballpark again until March 27.

The situation at Tropicana Field could have been even worse. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis had said earlier in the week that there were plans for the ballpark to serve as a "temporary base camp" to support debris cleanup operations and temporarily house some first responders. Those plans were changed as the storm neared.

Toyota returns to Formula 1 after 15 years

Associated Press

TOKYO — Toyota is returning to Formula 1 after 15 years as the Japanese automaker becomes a "technical partner" of American racing team Haas.

There will be Toyota branding on the Haas cars starting from next week's United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, and the auto giant's racing division will provide "design, technical and manufacturing services" to the North Carolina-based team.

This doesn't mean a return of

the Toyota works team that raced in F1 for eight seasons until 2009, however.

Toyota Chairman Akio Toyoda, speaking Friday, suggested he had second thoughts about pulling out of F1. But not for obvious reasons.

"I think that, somewhere deep in his heart, that ordinary older car-loving guy Akio Toyoda had always regretted having blocked — by pulling out of F1 — Japanese youths' path toward driving the world's fastest cars," he said.

And then he added: "That said, with the media watching my every step, I dare to add that I still believe my decision as the president of Toyota to withdraw from F1 was not wrong."

Haas will still race under its own name and Toyota isn't going to be supplying engines like it did for other teams in the 2000s.

Haas already has an agreement to use Ferrari engines through 2028 as part of an existing partnership which dates to Haas' first F1 season in 2016.