

Queen Elizabeth II dies at age 96

Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest-reigning monarch and a symbol of stability across much of a turbulent century, died Thursday. She was 96.

Buckingham Palace said she died at Balmoral Castle, her summer residence in Scotland, where members of the royal family had rushed to be by her side. The BBC played the national anthem over a portrait of the queen in full regalia.

With the death of the queen, her 73-year-old son Charles automatically becomes monarch, even though the coronation might not take place for months. It is not known whether he will choose to call himself King Charles III or some other name.

The queen enjoyed robust health well into her 90s, although she was seen using a cane in one appearance after the death of Philip, her husband of 73 years, in April 2021. In October of that year, she was hospitalized for a night in London for tests, and thereaf-

ter her public appearances grew scarcer.

In 1947, almost five years before she ascended the throne, the 21-year-old Elizabeth promised the people of Britain and the Commonwealth that "my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service."

It was a promise she kept across more than seven decades.

The only monarch most Britons have ever known, Elizabeth reigned for 70 years over a country that rebuilt from war and lost its empire; joined the European Union and then left it; transformed from industrial powerhouse to uncertain 21st century society.

She endured through 15 prime ministers, from Winston Churchill to Liz Truss, becoming an institution and an icon — a fixed point and a reassuring presence even for those who ignored or loathed the monarchy.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born in London on April 21, 1926, the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York. She

was not born to be queen — her father's elder brother, Prince Edward, was destined to take the crown, to be followed by any children he had.

But in 1936, when she was 10, Edward VI-II abdicated to marry twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson, and Elizabeth's father became King George VI.

She remained at the center of public life to the end, not least during the coronavirus pandemic. As Britons endured loss, isolation and uncertainty, she made a rare video address in April 2020 that urged people to stick together.

She summoned the spirit of World War II, that vital time in her life, and the nation's, and echoed Vera Lynn's wartime anthem, "We'll Meet Again."

"We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again," she said.

Austin says Ukraine aid will continue in long term

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — President Joe Biden has approved new military aid to Ukraine worth up to \$675 million, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Thursday at a meeting of the Ukraine Defense Contact group comprising senior officials from 50 nations.

The arms package comes on top of \$2.2 billion in new long-term Foreign Military Financing that the White House says will be supplied to Ukraine and other European countries threatened by Russia.

"We're here to renew our commitment and intensify our momentum to support the brave defenders of Ukraine for the long term," Austin said.

It's the group's fifth meeting

since it first gathered at Ramstein in late April, about two months after Russia launched its full-fledged invasion of Ukraine. Austin chairs the group, which was established to discuss ways allies and partner nations could help Ukraine defend itself against Russia.

Austin said the latest U.S. aid package includes 105mm howitzers, artillery munitions, Humvees, armored ambulances, anti-tank systems, Multiple Launch Rocket Systems, small arms and more.

The added weaponry brings total U.S. aid to Ukraine to \$15.2 billion since Biden took office.

It's the 20th time the Biden administration has earmarked equipment from U.S. military stocks to aid Ukraine since August last year, Austin said.

"Now we're seeing the demonstrable success of our common efforts on the battlefield," Austin said.

But "the war is at another key moment," he said, with Ukrainian forces launching a counteroffensive in the south of the country while Russian forces continue to bombard Ukrainian cities and civilians with missiles and artillery fire.

"The face of the war is changing and so is the mission of this contact group," he said. "We must evolve as the fight evolves" and commit to "renewing and deepening our resolve to stand by Ukraine — with support and strength that doesn't hinge on any one battle."

That includes pushing "all of our defense industrial bases to provide Ukraine with the tools

that it will need for the hard road ahead," Austin said, while speaking at the Ramstein Officers' Club. He was joined by chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Mark Milley and NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, among other leaders.

Austin in closing remarks said Ukraine still needs more artillery systems and ammunition, as well as air and coastal defenses, underlining the need for the international community "to continue to dig deep" to help Ukraine.

Austin also announced that in the next few weeks, the U.S., in coordination with NATO, will host a meeting of nations' senior armament directors to discuss ways to best equip Ukraine's forces.

DOD halts F-35 deliveries over Chinese alloy

Bloomberg

The Pentagon has halted deliveries of Lockheed Martin's F-35 after finding an alloy used in magnets for pumps on the fighter jet were made in China.

The F-35 program office "temporarily paused the acceptance of new F-35 aircraft to ensure the F-35 program's compliance" with defense regulations "pertaining to specialty metals," Defense Department spokesman Russell Goemaere said in an email.

He said the pause won't interfere with operations of F-35s already delivered to the U.S. mili-

tary and partners abroad because "the magnet does not transmit information or harm the integrity of the aircraft and there are no performance, quality, safety or security risks associated with this issue."

"Once the issue was discovered," the F-35 program office "found an alternative source for the alloy that will be used in future turbomachines," Goemaere said, and deliveries of F-35s were halted as a precaution.

Lockheed said in a statement that "we are working with our partners and DoD to ensure contractual compliance within the

supply chain."

The contractor said the F-35 remains safe for flight, "and we are working with the DoD to resolve the issue as quickly as possible to resume deliveries."

The turbomachine integrates the aircraft's auxiliary power unit and an air cycle machine into a single piece of equipment that provides electrical power for ground maintenance, starting of the main engine and emergency power.

Honeywell International, an F-35 subcontractor, notified Lockheed in late August that "alloy sourced from the People's

Republic of China" and provided by a "fifth-tier" subcontractor was used in a magnet, Laura Siebert, a spokeswoman for Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, said in a statement.

Honeywell spokesman Adam Kress said in a statement that his company "remains committed to supplying high-quality products that meet or exceed all customer contract requirements" and is "working closely with DoD and Lockheed Martin to ensure that we continue to achieve those commitments on products Honeywell supplies for use on the F-35."

USS Ross coming back to US after 8 years in Europe

BY ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The destroyer USS Ross is coming back to America after an eight-year presence in Europe that included a missile launch following a purported Syrian chemical weapons attack and a Mediterranean Sea mission at the onset of Russia's February invasion of Ukraine.

USS Ross, one of four destroyers based at Naval Station Rota in Spain, left the U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa/U.S. 6th Fleet area of responsibility on Tuesday for its new home in Norfolk, Va., the Navy said Wednesday in a statement.

The homeport shift is part of the service's plan to gradually rotate its four destroyers at Rota, forming a key element of NATO ballistic missile defense in Europe.

Capt. Ed Sundberg, commander of Destroyer Squadron 60 and Task Force 65, said the Ross team played a critical role in building relationships with allies and partners, ultimately helping to bolster NATO capabilities.

In April 2017, Ross and Porter

launched 59 Tomahawk missiles while positioned in the Mediterranean into a Syrian airfield thought to be the origin of chemical attacks by President Bashar Assad's regime against a rebel-held village in the country's western region, Stars and Stripes reported at the time.

In February, Ross joined France's Charles de Gaulle carrier strike group during its deployment to the eastern Mediterranean as Russia prepared to launch its attack on Ukraine.

In June 2014, Ross arrived in Spain, joining USS Donald Cook as the first two Rota-based destroyers assigned to Task Force 65, the Navy said. Later that same year, three Ross sailors on liberty in Istanbul were attacked by members of a Turkish protest group, yelling "Yankee go home." The sailors, one who briefly had a bag put over his head, were able to get away from the group without injury and return to the Ross, the Navy said at the time.

USS Paul Ignatius, which arrived in theater in June, replaces Ross.

Air Force Ospreys resume flights; clutch slips probed

BY JOSEPH DITZLER

AND KEISHI KOJA

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A CV-22 Osprey from the 21st Special Operations Squadron clattered above western Tokyo again Wednesday night, signaling the tilt-rotor aircraft are back in service after 2½ weeks on the ground.

Air Force Special Operations Command lifted the stay on Osprey flights Friday without identifying a fix for the problem that grounded the fleet for a safety pause. Lt. Gen. Jim Slife authorized Osprey crews to resume flights "with risk control mitigations in place," according to a statement Saturday from a spokeswoman for Air Force Special Operations Command, Lt. Col. Rebecca Heyse.

The problem affecting the Osprey — a "hard clutch engagement" — is responsible for six in-flight incidents since 2017, including two in the past nine weeks. None resulted in injuries, thanks to aircrews' airmanship, according to Heyse in August.

The command is still in search of the "root cause" of hard clutch engagement but took steps during the safety stand-down to analyze and address the problem, according to Heyse's recent email.

During the stand-down ordered by Slife on Aug. 16, Air Force maintenance crews inspected the drivetrains on the fleet of 52 Ospreys and compared the actual components against data in the Air Force information system, Heyse wrote.

The clutch inside a gearbox that connects one of the CV-22's two Rolls-Royce Liberty AE1107C engines to the propeller rotor is slipping for an unknown reason, Heyse said in August. A clutch slip causes the aircraft to lurch as it re-engages. Although the Osprey design allows it to instantaneously compensate for the power disparity if one engine fails, the aircrew was required to land the tilt-rotor immediately.

Heyse told Defense News on Saturday that pilots are instructed to pause for two seconds after lifting off to keep the clutch from slipping.

2nd suspect in Canadian rampage dies

Associated Press

ROSTHERN, Saskatchewan — The last suspect in a horrific stabbing rampage that killed 10 and wounded 18 in western Canada is dead following his capture, but how he died after being taken into custody has prompted fresh investigations.

One official said Myles Sanderson, 32, died from self-inflicted injuries Wednesday after police forced the stolen car he was driving off a highway in Saskatchewan. Other officials declined to discuss how he died.

“I can’t speak to the specific manner of death. That’s going to be part of the autopsy that will be conducted,” Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore, commander of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Saskatchewan, said at a news conference Wednesday night.

The other suspect, Sanderson’s 30-year-old brother, Damien Sanderson, was found dead Monday near the scene of the bloody knife attacks inside and around the James Smith Cree First Nation reserve early Sunday.

Both men were residents of the Indigenous reserve.

Blackmore said Myles Sanderson was cornered as police units responded to a report of a stolen vehicle driven by a man armed with a knife. She said officers forced Sanderson’s vehicle off the road and into a ditch.

He was detained and a knife was found inside the vehicle, she said.

Sanderson went into medical distress while in custody, Blackmore said. She said CPR was attempted on him before an ambu-

lance arrived and he was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

“All life-saving measures that we are capable of were taken at that time,” she said.

Blackmore gave no details on the cause of death. But an official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said earlier that Sanderson died of self-inflicted injuries, without elaborating.

Video and photos from the scene showed a white SUV alongside the road with police cars all around. Air bags had deployed in the SUV. Some photos and video taken from a distance appeared to show Sanderson being frisked.

Members of Saskatchewan’s Serious Incident Response Team went to the arrest site and will review Sanderson’s death and police conduct.

EPA leader: Jackson needs ‘fair share’ of money

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that he wants Mississippi’s capital city to receive “its fair share” of federal money to repair a troubled water system that left homes and businesses without running water for several days.

Even with water flowing from taps and people again able to flush toilets this week, Jackson lacks safe drinking water.

The city of 150,000 is in the sixth week of a boil-water advisory from the state health department because of concerns that low pressure could allow contaminants into the water.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan was in Jackson to meet with residents and state and local elected officials Wednesday. He touted the \$1 trillion federal infrastructure law President Joe Biden signed in November.

Mississippi is set to receive more than \$4 billion from the law, with most of the money designated for highways and bridges, the White House said. The state’s allocation includes \$429 million over five years to improve water systems.

“It’s our desire that the city of Jackson gets its fair share,” Regan said during a meeting with community leaders. “It’s our desire that the city of Jackson doesn’t have

to live with what you all have lived with for far too long.”

Jackson’s main water-treatment plant malfunctioned in late August after torrential rain caused flooding along the Pearl River. The influx altered the quality of the raw water entering the plant from a reservoir. That slowed the treatment process, depleted supplies in water tanks and caused a dangerous drop in pressure.

But even before the rainfall, officials said some water pumps had failed and a treatment plant was using backup pumps.

A rental pump was installed last week, and the system’s water pressure is back to normal.

Taliban acknowledge struggle for official recognition

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban-appointed foreign minister acknowledged Wednesday that the former insurgents’ year-old government in Afghanistan remains isolated.

But he claimed it is able to conduct business and trade internationally as if it were officially recognized on the global stage.

The remarks by Amir Khan Muttaqi underscored the struggles faced by the Taliban since they seized power and overthrew a Western-backed government in August 2021. They have since been trying to transition from insurgency and warfare to go-

vernment amid an economic downturn that has driven millions more Afghans into poverty and hunger.

The international community, wary of the Taliban’s harsh rule when they were last in power more than 20 years ago, has withheld official recognition and Afghanistan’s assets abroad have been frozen. Most foreign delegations visiting Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover have been bringing in humanitarian assistance, but the flow of foreign aid has slowed to a trickle.

“This is true that no country has made an announcement of official recognition of the

new government of Afghanistan,” Muttaqi told reporters in the capital, Kabul.

He insisted, however, that “whatever interaction” is taking place between the Taliban and other countries is “official.”

“Maybe they have some issues,” he added, referring to the Taliban treatment of women, minorities and other issues.

The international community has demanded the Taliban uphold women’s rights, allow girls to go to school beyond sixth grade and revoke their ban on women’s full access to society and the right to work in all fields.

Man arrested in Tenn. livestreamed shootings

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A gunman who livestreamed himself driving around Memphis shooting at people, killing four and wounding three others in seemingly random attacks, was finally arrested after crashing a stolen car, police said early Thursday.

The hourslong rampage had police warning people across the city to shelter in place, locking down a baseball stadium and university campuses and suspending public bus services as frightened residents wondered where the man might strike next.

Memphis Police Director Cerelyn “CJ” Davis said four people were killed and three others were wounded in seven shootings and at least two carjackings before Ezekiel Kelly was arrested without incident at around 9 p.m.

Kelly, 19, was released early from a prison sentence for aggravated assault, court records show, raising a sore point between the city’s mayor and the county’s top prosecutor that played out before the cameras at an early Thursday news conference.

“This is no way for us to live and it is not acceptable,” said

Memphis Mayor Jim Strickland, who later pounded the podium as he demanded accountability. “If Mr. Kelly served his full three-year sentence, he would still be in prison today and four of our fellow citizens would still be alive,” he said.

Police did not discuss a motive or release the identities of those who were killed or wounded. It was too early in the investigation to discuss how the suspect got the gun or guns used in the shootings, said Ali Roberts, acting assistant special agent in charge for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Memphis.

In February 2020, Kelly, then 17, was charged as an adult with attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault, using a firearm to commit a dangerous felony and reckless endangerment with a deadly weapon, court records show.

Records show he pleaded guilty to aggravated assault and was sentenced in April 2021 to three years. Kelly was released from prison in March, 11 months after he was sentenced, the mayor said. Given the time he spent awaiting a resolution of his charges, he likely got credit for time served and spent more than two years behind bars.

Fewer Americans applied for jobless aid last week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans filing for unemployment benefits last week fell to its lowest level since May despite repeated attempts by the Federal Reserve to cool the economy and bring inflation under control.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending Sept. 3 fell by 6,000 to 222,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. First-time applications generally reflect layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which smooths out some of the weekly ups and downs, declined by 7,500 to 233,000.

The number of Americans collecting traditional unemployment benefits rose by 36,000 the week that ended Aug. 27, to 1.47 million.

Hiring in the United States in 2022 has been remarkably strong even as the country faces rising interest rates and weak economic growth. The Federal Reserve has aggressively raised interest rates in an effort to bring down inflation, which generally also slows job growth.

On Friday, the Labor Depart-

ment reported that employers added 315,000 jobs in August, roughly what economists had expected, down from an average of 487,000 a month over the past year. The unemployment rate reached 3.7%, its highest level since February. But it rose for a healthy reason: Hundreds of thousands of people returned to the job market, and some didn’t find work right away, which boosted the government’s count of unemployed people.

The U.S. economy has been puzzling so far this year. Economic growth fell in the first half of 2022, which, by some informal definitions, signals a recession.

But businesses remain desperate to find workers, posting more than 11 million job openings in July, meaning there are nearly two job vacancies, on average, for every unemployed American.

Inflation continues to threaten both the global and U.S. economies. The rise in consumer prices slowed modestly from June to July, but remains historically high enough that the Federal Reserve has indicated it will keep raising interest rates until prices retreat.

Apple maintains its prices on new iPhones despite inflation

Associated Press

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple’s latest lineup of iPhones will boast better cameras, faster processors and a longer lasting battery — all at the same prices as last year’s models, despite inflationary pressure that has driven up the cost of many other everyday items.

That pricing decision, revealed Wednesday during Apple’s first in-person product event in three years, came as a mild surprise. Many analysts predicted Apple would ask its devout fans to pay as much as 15% more to help offset rising costs for many components.

The hoopla surrounding Apple’s new iPhone 14 models is part of a post-Labor Day ritual the company has staged annually for more than a decade. Wednesday’s event was held on the company’s Cupertino, Calif., campus at a theater named after company co-founder Steve Jobs. After Apple CEO Tim Cook strolled out on stage, most of the event consisted of pre-recorded video presentations that the company honed during previous

events staged during the pandemic.

For several years, Apple’s new iPhones have mostly featured incremental upgrades to cameras and battery life, and this year’s models were no exception. Pricing for the standard iPhone 14 will start at \$799; the deluxe iPhone 14 Pro Max will start at \$1,099.

Among the latest improvements is a 48-megapixel camera in the Pro and Pro Max models that the company said will produce especially crisp pictures. The iPhone 13 versions of the Pro and Pro Max have 12-megapixel cameras. This year’s high-end models will also have always-on displays that stay lit even when the device is locked, a feature that has long been available on many smartphones powered by Google’s Android software.

By keeping iPhones prices the same, Apple faces the potential risk of undermining its profits if inflation drives up its own costs. It’s a hit the company could easily afford, given that it has reaped \$44 billion in profits through the first half of this year.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

World's second-tallest roller coaster is closing

OH SANDUSKY — An amusement park in Ohio announced Tuesday it would be permanently closing the world's second-tallest roller coaster.

The decision by Cedar Point comes a year after a small metal object flew off the 420-foot tall Top Thrill Dragster coaster and struck a woman in the head at the park in Sandusky.

A state investigation found no evidence that the park acted illegally or had reason to believe the ride was unsafe.

The ride has remained closed since the Aug. 15, 2021, accident. Park officials did not say if the accident influenced their decision to permanently close the coaster, which has operated for 19 years and drawn 18 million riders.

In a statement announcing the closure, the park noted its "legacy of ride innovation continues. Our team is hard at work, creating a new and reimagined ride experience."

Security guard kills man who attacked him with ax

IL CHICAGO — A security guard at a Chicago cannabis dispensary fatally shot a man who attacked him with an ax outside the business, police said.

The man approached the guard Monday at a Zen Leaf dispensary in Chicago's Greektown neighborhood and swung an ax at him, striking him in the leg, police said.

A struggle ensued and the guard fired shots, hitting the man, who died at a hospital, police said.

The 37-year-old guard was hospitalized and was reported to be in good condition after his left leg was wounded in the attack.

Woman arrested outside coach Calipari's home

KY LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky police arrested a woman Tuesday for trying to enter the property of men's basketball coach John Calipari.

University spokeswoman Blair Conner said Lexington Police were called to assist university police outside of Calipari's residence Tuesday morning.

The woman, who was arrested outside the gate, was charged with trespassing and six counts of theft of credit cards from around the country.

Officials said the woman was looking for someone who wasn't at Calipari's house and that the theft charges are not related to the Hall of Fame coach.

E. coli bacteria found in drinking water samples

MD BALTIMORE — Baltimore officials are encouraging residents to boil water used for drinking or cooking after E. coli bacteria was detected in some samples of the water supply in parts of West Baltimore.

The city Department of Public Works issued a series of tweets Monday informing residents that the bacteria, which is often spread during contact with feces, had been found in portions of the city's ninth council district.

The Baltimore Sun reported that crews from the public works department planned to distribute water in the area.

E. coli contamination can cause intestinal distress, with symptoms that include stomach cramps, diarrhea and vomiting. Illness caused by the bacteria usually is mild and clears up on its own, but in rare cases, a potentially life-threatening complication can result about a week following the initial infection, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Pilot dies in crash of a paraglider in open field

NM ALBUQUERQUE — A man died after the crash of a paraglider west of Albuquerque, New Mexico State Police said Tuesday.

Police were called Saturday about a downed aircraft in an open field north of the Route 66 Casino on Interstate 40.

They said 67-year-old Carl Apodaca, of Albuquerque, was piloting his paraglider when it crashed for unknown reasons.

Police said Apodaca was pronounced dead at the scene from his injuries.

3 workers recovering from oil rig explosion

ND STANLEY — Federal, state and local investigators in northwest North Dakota are looking into the cause of an oil rig explosion and fire that sent three workers to the hospital.

The crew members were taken to a burn center in St. Paul, Minn. The well site in Mountrail County is owned by Chord Energy, which said the three contract workers are in stable condition.

"The primary focus of the parties at this stage is caring for

the welfare of the injured, working with the relevant entities to investigate the incident and ongoing assessment of damages at the facility," the company said in a statement.

The blast and fire happened Friday night near Stanley.

According to authorities, the fire was contained to the site location.

The injured workers are employed by Black Hawk Energy Services, a subsidiary of Steel Energy.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration, state regulators and local officials are investigating.

Police investigate death of baby left in hot car

ID NEW PLYMOUTH — Police in southwestern Idaho say they are investigating the death of a baby girl who was left in a car as temperatures in the region neared 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

A family in New Plymouth, about 50 miles northwest of Boise, called police around 5 p.m. Saturday to report that their child had been left in the car and wasn't breathing, the Payette County Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

The child, under 1 year old, was transported to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death hasn't been confirmed, according to the sheriff's office, which is investigating the death along with Idaho State Police.

Payette County Sheriff Andrew Creech told the Idaho Statesman that law enforcement has not yet determined how long the girl was left in the car.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Carr, Adams reunited in Las Vegas

Associated Press

The offseason trade heard 'round the league is ready to come full circle.

Las Vegas Raiders quarterback Derek Carr and wide receiver Davante Adams were reunited in March and will be the centerpieces of the team's offense in Sunday's season opener at the Los Angeles Chargers.

For the former college teammates at Fresno State, this is nothing new.

"It's gonna be the first time people see us do it together in the NFL," Carr said Wednesday. "But for us, we've been doing this for the last 13 years. Whether it was in college, or (training) together in the Bay Area, (and) doing it for months here at the facility. To us, it's back to normal. But I think for everyone else, the excitement. ... I'm sure I'll throw him the ball and he'll get a catch or whatever and everyone will be like, 'Oh my gosh, here we go.'"

"To us, it'll just be the next

play."

To the Raiders, it's more like the next era.

While Carr still has his top targets from the past three seasons — slot receiver Hunter Renfrow and tight end Darren Waller — the offense could be completely different with the addition of arguably the best receiver in the game.

Adams, who led the NFL with 432 catches, 5,310 yards and 47 TDs the past four seasons, is the No. 1 wideout Carr has been missing.

"We've been working for a while, we've been working longer than anybody at this point, started almost the beginning of April, so it's definitely going to be fun to see all the work we put in kind of get put together as a masterpiece," Adams said. "Obviously we've got a lot of great personnel but nothing's promised. We haven't been together, all the ones out there together yet, so it'll be fun. We've been doing a lot of good in practice

now so it's just time to put it all together."

Adams has impressed his new teammates.

"Tae definitely sets the standard as far as playmaking," Waller said. "I've never seen anything like him. He raises our level of play. And if they want to do absurd things to take him out of the game, then a lot of us are gonna do our job as we always do."

For Adams, nothing has changed about his college quarterback, who finished fifth in the NFL last season with 4,804 yards passing and a 64.8% completion rate.

"Derek is one of the most consistent, disciplined people that I've been around," Adams said. "A lot of what I see now, or basically all of what I see now, is what I saw just at a lower level at Fresno, obviously. He's been the same way with the same things — if we don't hit on a route in practice, as soon as we have a down period or during

special teams, he wants to try to re-hit the same thing."

Adams added that transitioning from Aaron Rodgers in Green Bay to Carr in Las Vegas has been smooth because they both have the same ability to make him play to their standards.

"I've obviously had some opportunities to show the coaches and the rest of my teammates what I can do. I'm just a piece of this offense. I'm definitely excited to see the way I'll be used," Adams said.

Carr stressed the importance of his role in bringing the offensive scheme together and giving ample targets to his talented pass-catchers.

"I'm just excited to start the season," Carr said. "Whatever we do in the first game, we're gonna go watch film, make corrections, and try and get better as the year goes. There's no certain expectation. We just expect to play good football, sound football."

Shanahan expects 49ers to have QB Lance's back

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kyle Shanahan knows what the talk will be around the San Francisco 49ers if quarterback Trey Lance struggles in his first season as the starter with Jimmy Garoppolo waiting on the bench.

There will be calls from some fans for a change back to the QB who helped the Niners reach the NFC title game and Super Bowl in his two healthy seasons as a starter, and questions from the media about whether Lance is ready for the job.

"We all know how it'll go," Shanahan said Wednesday. "I also know if Jimmy wasn't here and Trey did bad, how it would go. So we understand that. The fact that he has this successful quarterback behind him, that's obvious how that narrative will

be and understandably so."

That outside pressure had no impact on the Niners' decision last week to bring Garoppolo back on a reduced contract as the backup.

But the coach still felt it was important enough before the news became public to gather a group of about 15 team leaders to explain the club's thinking in making the move. His message to the players was to make sure they support Lance through any rough patches.

"I think our players also know Jimmy went through some tough times, too, and they had his back," Shanahan said. "Regardless of if they thought there was a better option, they had his back and people have to realize that. Players, I think, need to realize that just like their position,

it happens at the quarterback position, too. You're not going to be perfect. ... You have to realize when you do struggle, those guys know it's a lot harder to play well when no one has your back. You have to help guys through that. I think we got the guys who can do that."

The Niners are going full speed ahead with Lance as the starter beginning with Sunday's opener at Chicago. This is the first time since 2019 that Lance will begin a season as a starter; his 2020 season at North Dakota State was wiped out by the pandemic and then his rookie year in the NFL was spent backing up Garoppolo.

Lance started two games last season when Garoppolo was hurt but has spent the entire lead-up to this season as the

starter and is looking forward to a real game instead of practices and exhibitions.

"Kind of a breath of fresh air, for sure," he said. "I'm excited to game plan for somebody, not just kind of running our training camp scripts and going against our defense. Get to kind of put plays in for certain situations and different things like that. So, it's been an awesome experience."

Lance was not picked as one of the 49ers' six captains for the season, with the players voting for Trent Williams, George Kittle, Nick Bosa, Arik Armstead, Fred Warner and Jimmie Ward.

Shanahan said Lance was seventh and Deebo Samuel was eighth in the voting but he wanted to limit the number of captains to six.

Tiafoe 1st US man in semis since '06

Associated Press

NEW YORK — About 20 minutes after Frances Tiafoe earned the first trip to the U.S. Open semifinals by an American man since 2006, he met up in an Arthur Ashe Stadium foyer with a host of friends, Washington Wizards All-Star guard Bradley Beal among them.

Everyone traded hearty hugs and huge smiles. Tiafoe shouted, "Let's pose for a dope photo!" and they obliged. As the nine-person line stood together, someone yelled, "Throw up a 'Dub!'" so Tiafoe and others formed a "W" — as in "Win" —

by joining thumbs and index fingers on both hands.

Most assuredly a showman, and someone striving for years for this sort of success on big stages, Tiafoe sure is enjoying the ride, as are his pals, his parents and the partisan fans, who last celebrated a Grand Slam trophy for a man from the United States two decades ago.

Tiafoe managed the tricky task of following up the biggest win of his career, against 22-time Grand Slam champion Rafael Nadal in the fourth round, with another milestone victory, beating No. 9 seed Andrey Rublev 7-6 (3), 7-6 (0), 6-4 behind

the backing of a boisterous crowd on Wednesday.

Andy Roddick, who was in the Ashe stands Wednesday, was the last U.S. man to get to the semifinals in New York, losing to Roger Federer in the title match 16 years ago.

None of the men left in the bracket this time has ever won a major trophy. Tiafoe's first career Slam semifinal will come Friday against another first-timer, No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz, who saved a match point and came through to edge No. 11 Jannik Sinner 6-3, 6-7 (7), 6-7 (0), 7-5, 6-3 at 2:50 a.m. on Thursday. It was the latest fin-

ish in tournament history as they played for 5 hours, 15 minutes.

In the women's quarterfinals Wednesday, No. 1 Iga Swiatek won her eighth consecutive match against an opponent ranked in the top 10, all in straight sets, by defeating No. 8 Jessica Pegula of the U.S. 6-3, 7-6 (4) at night. Swiatek next meets No. 6 Aryna Sabalenka, who collected a 6-1, 7-6 (4) victory over Karolina Pliskova.

The other women's semifinal Thursday will be No. 5 Ons Jabeur vs. No. 17 Caroline Garcia, who beat 18-year-old American Coco Gauff on Tuesday.

Yanks get sweep on Judge's 55th, Kiner-Falefa slam

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Aaron Judge started the first-game comeback with his major league-leading 55th home run, Isiah Kiner-Falefa hit a go-ahead grand slam in the nightcap and the New York Yankees swept a doubleheader from the Minnesota Twins 5-4 and 7-1 on Wednesday.

Kiner-Falefa sparked a two-run 12th inning in the opener with a tying leadoff RBI single. He erased a 1-0 deficit in the fourth inning of the second game when he sent a belt-high slider from Joe Ryan (10-8) into the left-field seats. It was Kiner-Falefa's first slam among 19 career home runs.

Oswaldo Cabrera stopped an 0-for-25 slide with a game-ending single in the opener.

Gerrit Cole (11-7) struck out a season-high 14 in the night game, allowing five hits and two walks in 6⅓ innings.

Carlos Correa hit a third-inning homer for the Twins.

New York (83-54) opened a five-game AL East lead over second-place Tampa Bay and clinched its 30th straight winning season despite an injury-depleted lineup. Giancarlo Stanton, Anthony Rizzo, DJ LeMahieu, Josh Donaldson, Andrew Benintendi and Matt Carpenter were among those hurt or unavailable.

In the opener, Judge homered for the fourth straight game, driving a changeup to left in the fourth inning, the only blemish of Louie Varland's otherwise outstand-

ing major league debut.

Mets 5-10, Pirates 1-0: Jacob deGrom threw seven dominant innings in the nightcap and visiting New York completed a doubleheader sweep of Pittsburgh to move back into sole possession of first place in the NL East.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 1: Alek Manoah retired 22 of his final 23 hitters in an impressive eight-inning performance, and Toronto wrapped up a successful series in Baltimore.

Cardinals 6, Nationals 5: Tommy Edman hit a two-run, two-out double to cap host St. Louis' five-run ninth inning in a victory over Washington.

Rockies 8, Brewers 4: Eric Lauer exited in the third inning with left elbow tightness, and visiting Milwaukee hurt its fading playoff hopes.

Braves 7, Athletics 3: Rookie Spencer Strider (10-4) overcame a rough start to strike out nine and win his third straight start, Vaughn Grissom and Dansby Swanson homered and visiting Atlanta won its seventh in a row.

Dodgers 7, Giants 3: Trea Turner doubled in the go-ahead run, Max Muncy added a three-run homer in the eighth inning and host Los Angeles reduced its magic number in the NL West to six games.

White Sox 9, Mariners 6: Eloy Jiménez drove in three runs with a homer and double, and visiting Chicago took advantage of three errors in the come-from-behind win

over Seattle.

Rays 1, Red Sox 0: Yonny Chirinos pitched three spotless innings in relief to win his first major league outing in two years, leading host Tampa Bay past Boston.

Phillies 4, Marlins 3: Edmundo Sosa homered for the second straight game and finished with three hits and three RBIs, and Bailey Falter earned his fourth straight win as a starter, lifting host Philadelphia over Miami.

Tigers 5, Angels 4: Shohei Ohtani and Mike Trout homered in the same game for the eighth time this season, but rookies Kerry Carpenter and Ryan Kreydler hit back-to-back homers in the ninth inning to lift visiting Detroit over Los Angeles.

Reds 7, Cubs 1: Aristides Aquino hit two more home runs and Jake Fraley added a solo shot, helping visiting Cincinnati pull away from Chicago.

Astros 4, Rangers 3 (10): José Altuve scored the winning run on a wild pitch with two outs in the 10th inning as host Houston rallied past Texas.

Padres 6, Diamondbacks 3: Yu Darvish pitched six solid innings for his 13th victory, Jurickson Profar hit a two-run home run and host San Diego beat Arizona in a game that featured three homers by each team.

Royals 2, Guardians 1: Salvador Perez's sacrifice fly in the ninth gave host Kansas City a win over Cleveland.

FBS starting QBs get new opportunities

Associated Press

Spencer Rattler, Chandler Morris and Tanner Mordecai were all once in the same quarterbacks room at Oklahoma.

A couple of years ago, JT Daniels and Kedon Slovis were studying the Southern California playbook together.

All are now starting for different programs. And they are only a few examples of the increased mobility of quarterbacks because of the transfer portal and the extra season of eligibility for players who were part of the pandemic-altered 2020 season.

There are more opportunities, and more time, for quarterbacks to seek different situations. Sometimes that means being QB1 elsewhere for coaches looking to fill gaps, make changes — or both.

“You guys are smart enough to know we changed a lot of things offensively,” Kansas State coach Chris Klieman said after four-year Nebraska starter Adrian Martinez made his debut with the Wildcats. “I mean, we were not what you

saw last year or even some in the bowl, and we were tempo most of the time.”

About half of the starting quarterbacks for the 131 Football Bowl Subdivision teams in this season’s openers didn’t initially attend their current schools. That includes 32 of the 65 Power Five teams — with 19 of those first-year transfers like Martinez and Emory Jones at Arizona State.

“My mindset when I came here was, ‘I’m going to be the starter.’ That’s how I conducted myself every day,” said Jones, a 12-game starter for Florida last season who didn’t get to Tempe until the summer.

Jones went through only two spring practices with new Gators coach Billy Napier before going into the transfer portal. Arizona State coach Herm Edwards needed a new quarterback after three-year Sun Devils starter Jayden Daniels suddenly left for LSU, where he now starts.

Now circle back to Oklahoma, which has seen four quarter-

backs leave and start for other schools.

That exodus left room for Dillon Gabriel to transfer from UCF in time for spring practice with the Sooners and new coach Brent Venables.

Gabriel made the move up from a Group of Five school, though UCF joins the Big 12 next season. But most of the 68 FBS transfer quarterbacks who started 2022 openers were from Power Five programs — with 27 from other P5 schools, and 19 others now with G5 teams. Nine of those transfers switched G5 schools.

Caleb Williams, who as a true freshman replaced Rattler as the Oklahoma starter midway through last season, followed coach Lincoln Riley to Southern Cal. Rattler went to South Carolina. Those departures from Norman came about a year after Mordecai (now the second-year starter at SMU) and Morris, who started TCU’s opener last weekend.

The revolving door has been just as fast at Southern Cal and

Georgia.

Three former Trojans quarterbacks now start for other teams. The same goes for the reigning national champion Bulldogs — though Daniels, now at West Virginia, counts on both of those lists. Daniels, who started 11 games for the Trojans as a true freshman in 2018, was the season-opening starter for Georgia last year before injuries sidelined him in the title season.

Slovis is now QB1 at Pittsburgh after 26 starts for USC the past three seasons. Jaxson Dart, who started three games as a freshman for the Trojans last year, transferred to Ole Miss.

D’Wan Mathis has started Temple’s last two season openers after taking Georgia’s first snap in 2020. Matthew Downing appeared in four games as a Bulldogs freshman in 2018 and transferred to TCU, where he started the 2020 opener, before going to Louisiana Tech with new coach Sonny Cumbie, his QB coach with the Horned Frogs.

ACC trying to use September to boost its reputation

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Duke coach Mike Elko has been around college football long enough to know how the season’s opening month can shape the perception of a league’s strength.

That’s important in the weeks ahead for the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The league won — or survived, in some cases — its highest-profile nonconference matchups in Week 1, including Florida State’s wild win against LSU. That gives the ACC a shot in the month of September to strengthen its reputation, in hopes of returning to this year’s College Football Playoff while facing uncertainty about its long-term future in a football-driven landscape.

“We have to win football games,” said Elko, who left Texas A&M’s staff to take over at Duke this fall. “I mean, nobody’s shying away from that. It’s a competitive market, it’s a competitive landscape in college football.

“But we also are very quick to pull the panic button on things like this and overreact. We weren’t gone coming into the season. We certainly haven’t re-arrived after Week 1.”

This week’s schedule includes No. 17 Pittsburgh hosting No. 24 Tennessee and No. 23 Wake Forest visiting Vanderbilt — now with star quarterback Sam Hartman back in the fold — in games against the Southeastern Conference, while Virginia visits Illinois and Duke visits Northwestern in Big Ten matchups.

Next week, first-year Miami coach Mario Cristobal takes his 15th-ranked Hurricanes to No. 6 Texas A&M in another ACC-SEC pairing.

The ACC had a solid start last week. Reigning league champion Pitt beat West Virginia in a renewal of the “Backyard Brawl.” No. 18 North Carolina State and North Carolina posted road wins against in-state teams that were bowl eligible last sea-

son from Group of Five leagues.

And then there was FSU, which blocked LSU’s tying extra point on the final play.

Well, those wins — and opportunities ahead — certainly come at a critical time for ACC Commissioner Jim Phillips.

Locked in a TV contract with ESPN through 2036, Phillips is working to find ways to generate more revenue as the ACC falls further behind the Big Ten and SEC. The league’s most recent tax filing listed a record \$578.3 million in total revenue while distributing an average of \$36.1 million per school for the 2020-21 season, which included Notre Dame as a one-year full football member for scheduling purposes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet the ACC’s totals are heavily outpaced by numbers coming out of the SEC (\$833.4 million revenue, \$54.6 million average payout) and the Big Ten (\$679.8 million, \$47.9 million). The gaps are increasing annually, too.