

Ukraine combs mass burial site

Associated Press

IZIUM, Ukraine — Ukrainian authorities unearthed bodies, some they said bore hallmarks of torture, from a mass burial site Friday in an area recently recaptured from Russian forces. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy cited the site as an example of “what the Russian occupation has led to.”

Digging in the rain, workers hauled body after body out of the sandy soil in a pine forest near Izium that police said contained 445 graves. Protected by full body suits and rubber gloves, they gently felt through the decomposing remains of their clothing, seemingly looking for things that might identify them.

Ukrainian forces got access to the site after recapturing the northeastern city and much of the wider Kharkiv region in a counteroffensive that suddenly shifted the momentum in the nearly seven-month war.

Some of the bodies had their hands tied behind their backs and ropes around their necks, said the region’s chief prosecutor,

Oleksandr Filchakov. Ukrainian officials said they also found evidence of torture elsewhere in the region.

Associated Press journalists who visited the site saw graves amid the pine trees, marked with simple wooden crosses. Most were numbered — and the count went into the 400s.

It was not clear who was buried under many of the dirt mounds or how all of them died. Witnesses and a Ukrainian investigator said some were shot and others were killed by artillery fire, mines or airstrikes. The U.N. human rights office said it would investigate the deaths.

The majority of the people buried were believed to be civilians, according to Ukrainian officials. But there was at least one mass grave, with a marker saying it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers.

In his nightly televised address on Thursday, Zelenskyy spoke about the site, invoking the names of other Ukrainian cities where authorities said retreating Russian

troops left behind mass graves of civilians.

“Bucha, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Izium,” he said. “Russia leaves death everywhere. And it must be held accountable for it.”

“We want the world to know what is really happening and what the Russian occupation has led to,” he said.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, the war continued to claim lives and wreak destruction.

■ Ukraine’s presidential office said Russian shelling killed five civilians and wounded 18 others in a 24-hour span. Missile strikes were also reported, with Zelenskyy’s hometown of Kryvyi Rih among the targets for a third consecutive day Friday. Air raid sirens also howled in the capital, Kyiv.

■ Ukraine’s counteroffensive gained more ground, and Ukrainian authorities claimed nearly all of the Kharkiv region is now in their control.

■ To bolster the Ukrainian offensive, the Biden administration announced another \$600 million package of military aid.

Commandant touts vision for future of Marine Corps

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

Commander trust in junior troops will be tested in new ways on future battlefields, where Marines will need to do everything from rewriting software code on the fly to making bigger decisions with little direction from above, the service’s top general said this week.

“But the question is, are senior leaders comfortable with that?” Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger said during a discussion Wednesday.

Berger, who has been leading one of the most significant reforms of the Corps in decades, said the war in Ukraine has reaffirmed priorities such as the need to free troops from micromanaging bosses.

“This is a great learning point for the Marine Corps,” Berger said in reference to the unprovoked, full-scale invasion that Russia launched Feb. 24.

The war also has highlighted areas in

need of more attention, such as reconnaissance operations to stay ahead of a well-armed enemy that wants an artillery slugfest, Berger said at a virtual event hosted by Defense One.

The Russia-Ukraine war has surprised many military analysts, who feared that Kremlin forces would quickly overrun Kyiv’s. But Ukraine’s smaller, more adaptive army has put Russia on the back foot with counteroffensives that have pushed the enemy back from previous strongholds.

Some of the lessons from Ukraine are in accord with Berger’s plans to transform how Marines fight.

His Force Design 2030 concept hinges on the concept of “stand-in forces,” or smaller, more nimble units arranged to help in areas such as reconnaissance and counter-reconnaissance.

The concept intends to provide the Pentagon with a hard-to-detect force that could help find and sink enemy vessels at

sea while maneuvering with greater range on land.

Berger said he sees a future in which Marine units use various unmanned platforms for reconnaissance and logistics to give forward-operating units an advantage.

But the Corps’ war fighting plans will always have Marines as the central focus, Berger said. Given technological advances that could limit real-time communication if networks are attacked, commanders could be pushed out of comfort zones, he added.

“I think we’re going to run into a challenge where an adversary is trying to break down our command and control systems,” Berger said.

That means tactical command posts with big screens giving up-to-date pictures of the battlefield, commonplace in recent wars, could be rendered useless.

“We’re going to have to get comfortable without any of that,” he said.

Declassified report reveals ISIS threat

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. intelligence officials predicted two years ago that the Islamic State would likely regain much of its former strength and global influence, particularly if American and other Western forces reduced their role in countering the extremist movement, according to a newly declassified report.

Analysts said many of the judgments in the 2020 report appear prescient today, particularly as the group is resurgent in Afghanistan following President Joe Biden's withdrawal of American forces last year.

The Islamic State is no longer controlling huge swaths of territory or staging attacks in the United States as it did several years ago before a major U.S.-led offensive. But it is now slowly rebuilding some core capabilities in Iraq and Syria and increasingly fighting local governments in places including Afghanistan, where an affiliate of the group, also known by the acronym ISIS, is fighting the ruling Taliban following the U.S. withdrawal.

"If the United States and our partners pull back or withdraw further from areas where ISIS is active, the group's trajectory will increasingly depend on local govern-

ments' will and capability to fill the resulting security voids," says the report, originally published in classified form in May 2020, months after then-President Donald Trump's administration reached an agreement with the Taliban to pull out American troops.

The May 2020 report was declassified this August and published online last week by the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence. A spokesperson for the ODNI's National Counterterrorism Center declined to answer questions about the assessment or address the intelligence community's current view on ISIS.

Floating sites eyed for wind towers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Thursday announced plans to develop floating platforms in the deep ocean for wind towers that could power millions of homes and vastly expand offshore energy production in the United States.

The plan would target sites in the Pacific Ocean off the California and Oregon coasts, as well as in the Atlantic in the Gulf of Maine.

President Joe Biden hopes to generate up to 15 gigawatts of electricity through floating sites by 2035, enough to power 5 million homes.

The administration had previously set a

goal of 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030 using traditional technology that secures wind turbines to the ocean floor.

There are only a handful of floating offshore platforms in the world — all in Europe — but officials said the technology is developing and could soon establish the United States as a global leader in offshore wind.

"Today we're launching efforts to seize a new opportunity — floating offshore wind — which will let us build in deep water areas where turbines can't be secured directly to the sea floor, but where there are strong winds that we can now harness," White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy said at a news conference Thursday.

Deepwater areas in the Pacific especially have potential to vastly expand offshore wind energy in the U.S., McCarthy and other officials said.

McCarthy acknowledged that the floating technology is at an early stage. But she said "coordinated actions" by federal and state officials, working with the private sector, can position the U.S. "to lead the world on floating offshore wind and bring offshore wind jobs to more parts of our country, including the West Coast."

Two pilot projects are planned off the north and central California coast, and a third is planned in southern Oregon, officials said.

Weekend weather worries Calif. firefighters

Associated Press

FORESTHILL, Calif. — A weekend weather system could hamper firefighters' efforts in Northern California to battle the week-old blaze that's become the largest in the state so far this year.

The system is forecasted to bring colder temperatures and precipitation — from 1/4 inch to more than 1 inch of rainfall over several days — to the Mosquito Fire about 110 miles northeast of San Francisco.

But stronger winds were also expected to arrive in the area beginning Saturday and the winds could throw burning embers and

create spot fires despite the rain.

"That's a bit of a mixed blessing here," Fire Behavior Analyst Jonathan Pangburn said Thursday.

The forecast came as firefighters again prevented flames from entering a mountain town and reported major progress Thursday, just two days after the fire roared back to life and burned structures near Foresthill. Crews on the ground built up containment lines while water-dropping helicopters knocked down hot spots.

Conditions on the ground Thursday were "looking a whole heck of a lot better," ac-

ording to fire spokesman Scott McLean.

"It's looking really good on the west end where we had that dramatic increase of fire earlier this week," McLean said Thursday.

Evacuation orders remained for some 11,000 residents because of the unpredictable nature of the winds, McLean said, which typically blow in the direction of several canyons and could rapidly spread flames if gusts pick up.

The Mosquito Fire was 20% contained after destroying at least 70 homes and other buildings. Total containment of the fire is expected to occur around Oct. 15.

Democrats delay marriage vote until after election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats are punting a vote to protect same-sex and interracial marriages until after the November midterm elections, pulling back just days after Majority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed to put the Senate on the record on the issue “in the coming weeks.”

The delay was requested by key senators who have been negotiating changes to the legislation and comes at a time when many Republicans have been signaling opposition.

Wisconsin Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the lead champion of the bill, had predicted they would be able to secure the 10 Republican votes needed to break a filibuster and push it to passage. But hopes dimmed in recent days as some Republicans raised concerns about whether the bill would protect the rights of religious institutions, business owners or others who oppose same-sex marriage.

The decision adds to the uncertainty facing the legislation, as it gives interest

groups and other lawmakers opposing the bill more time to rally Republicans against it.

But supporters hope that by pushing the vote back, they will relieve election-year pressure from some conservative voters and persuade more Republicans to support the legislation.

“We’ve asked Leader Schumer for additional time and we appreciate he has agreed,” Baldwin said in a statement, along with other members of the bipartisan group that is negotiating the bill. “We are confident that when our legislation comes to the Senate floor for a vote, we will have the bipartisan support to pass the bill.”

The statement from Baldwin, Democratic Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Rob Portman of Ohio and Thom Tillis of North Carolina came after a meeting with Schumer, who had been considering a vote as soon as next week.

A spokesman for Schumer said he is “100 percent committed” to holding a vote.

Montana defies order to let trans people alter birth certificates

Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — Just hours after a Montana judge blocked health officials from enforcing a state rule that would prevent transgender people from changing the gender on their birth certificate, the Republican-run state on Thursday said it would defy the order.

District Court Judge Michael Moses chided attorneys for the state during a hearing for circumventing his order that temporarily blocked a 2021 Montana law that made it harder to change birth certificates.

Moses said there was no question that state officials violated his earlier order by creating the new rule.

Moses said his order reinstates a 2017 Department of Public Health and Human Services rule that allowed people to update the gender on their birth certificate by filing an affidavit with the department.

However, the state said it would disregard the ruling.

“The Department thoroughly evaluated

the judge’s vague April 2022 decision and crafted our final rule to be consistent with the decision. It’s unfortunate that the judge’s ruling today does not square with his vague April decision,” said Charlie Brereton, director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Brereton said the agency was keeping the rule it issued last week in place and an agency spokesperson said the department is waiting to see the judge’s written order before considering its next steps.

Such open defiance of a judge’s order is very unusual from a government agency, said Carl Tobias, a former University of Montana Law School professor now at the University of Richmond. When officials disagree with a ruling, the typical response is to appeal to a higher court, he said.

“Appeal is what you contemplate — not that you can nullify a judge’s orders. Otherwise, people just wouldn’t obey the law,” Tobias said. “The system can’t work that way.”

Migrants flown to Martha’s Vineyard moving to base

Associated Press

EDGARTOWN, Mass. — Migrants flown to Martha’s Vineyard on the orders of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis will be moved Friday to housing on a military base on Cape Cod, Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker said.

The Republican governor said the move to the mainland would be voluntary. Baker praised residents and officials on Martha’s Vineyard for taking care of the nearly 50 migrants after their unexpected arrival on Wednesday but said the island lacks the resources to house the migrants for the long-term.

At Joint Base Cape Cod, the migrants will be given dormitory-style housing, food and services, Baker said. Families will be given separate housing.

Authorities have not said what will happen to any migrants who choose not to make the move to Cape Cod.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency will coordinate efforts to help the migrants. Baker said the state will also activate up to 125 members of the National Guard to assist in the relief effort.

Joint Base Cape Cod houses a Coast Guard base as well as facilities for other branches of the armed services.

Upon arrival in Martha’s Vineyard, where former President Barack Obama has a home, the migrants were provided with meals, shelter, health care and information about where to find work.

The vacation island south of Boston, whose year-round residents include many blue-collar workers, appeared to absorb the dozens of arrivals, who are mostly from Venezuela, without a major hitch.

“We are grateful to the providers, volunteers and local officials that stepped up on Martha’s Vineyard over the past few days to provide immediate services to these individuals,” Baker said in a statement emailed to reporters Friday.

Joint Base Cape Cod has provided emergency housing in the past, as it did for Louisiana residents fleeing the devastation of Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said the flights to Martha’s Vineyard were part of an effort to “transport illegal immigrants to sanctuary destinations.”

The Republican’s office didn’t answer questions about where migrants boarded planes and what they were told about the trip.

Veteran judge named Mar-a-Lago arbiter

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Thursday appointed a veteran New York jurist to serve as an independent arbiter in the criminal investigation into the presence of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's Florida home, and refused to permit the Justice Department to resume its use of the highly sensitive records seized in an FBI search last month.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon empowered the newly named special master, Raymond Dearie, to review the entire tranche of records taken in the Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago and set a November deadline for his work. In the meantime, she continued to block the department from using for its investigation roughly 100 documents marked as classified that were seized.

The sharply worded order from Cannon,

a Trump appointee, will almost certainly slow the pace of the investigation and set the stage for a challenge to a federal appeals court. The department had given Cannon until Thursday to put on hold her order pausing investigators' review of classified records while the special master completes his work. The department said it would ask the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to intervene if she did not do so by then.

The Justice Department did not immediately comment on Thursday's ruling.

Cannon, who last week granted the Trump team's request for a special master over the objections of the Justice Department, made clear in her Thursday order that she was not prepared to blindly accept the government's characterizations of the documents, saying "evenhanded procedure does not demand unquestioning trust in the

determinations of the Department of Justice."

The selection of Dearie, a former federal prosecutor who for years served as the chief judge of the federal court based in Brooklyn, came after both the Justice Department and Trump's lawyers made clear they would be satisfied with his appointment as a so-called special master.

As special master, Dearie will be responsible for reviewing the entire inventory of documents taken during the search of Mar-a-Lago — the FBI says it recovered about 11,000 documents from the home during its search, including roughly 100 with classification markings — and segregating out any that may be covered by claims of executive privilege or attorney-client privilege. He is also tasked with identifying any personal materials of Trump's that should possibly be returned to him.

Governor says Mississippi capital's water is now safe

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — After nearly seven weeks of being forced to boil their water before drinking it or using it to brush teeth, people in Mississippi's largest city were told Thursday that water from the tap is safe to consume — but Jackson's water system still needs big repairs that the mayor says the cash-strapped city cannot afford on its own.

Gov. Tate Reeves and Jackson officials said in separate announcements that the state health department lifted a boil-water notice that had been in place since July 29 in the city of 150,000.

"We have restored clean water to the city of Jackson," Reeves said during a news conference.

However, a state health department official, Jim Craig, said households with pregnant women or young children should take precautions because of lead levels previously found in some homes on the Jackson water system. Craig

said although recent testing showed "no lead or lead below the action levels" set by the EPA, people should continue to avoid using city water to prepare baby formula.

Emergency repairs are still underway after problems at Jackson's main water treatment plant caused most customers to lose service for several days in late August and early September.

Reeves said the water system remains "imperfect."

"It is possible, although I pray not inevitable, that there will be further interruptions," Reeves said. "We cannot perfectly predict what may go wrong with such a broken system in the future."

Problems started days after torrential rain fell in central Mississippi, altering the quality of the raw water entering Jackson's treatment plants.

The National Guard and volunteer groups have distributed millions of bottles of drinking water in Jackson since late August.

Wait time to see Queen's coffin surpasses 24 hours

Associated Press

LONDON — A surging tide of people — ranging from London retirees to former England soccer captain David Beckham — have lined up to file past Queen Elizabeth II's coffin as it lies in state at Parliament, so many that authorities on Friday had to call a temporary halt to more people joining the miles-long queue.

By late afternoon, a live tracker of the queue to get into historic Westminster Hall said it had reopened, but the British government warned that the waiting time to cover the 5 miles from the start of the line in Southwark Park to Parliament had climbed to more than 24 hours. The government also warned that "overnight temperatures will be cold."

King Charles III and his siblings will be standing vigil around the flag-draped coffin on Friday evening.

Beckham was spotted in the line of mourners near Britain's Houses of Parliament at lunch-

time Friday.

He's believed to have joined the queue at 2 a.m. and to have lined up for more than 10 hours with thousands of others.

Wearing a white shirt and black tie, he bowed briefly to the coffin before moving out of Westminster Hall.

"We have been lucky as a nation to have had someone who has led us the way her majesty has led us, for the amount of time, with kindness, with caring and always reassuring," Beckham said. "I think that's the one thing that we all felt safe and we will continue that with the royal family. But I think (her) majesty was someone special and will be missed, not just by everyone in our country but everyone around the world."

Helena Larsen, 76, arrived just too late at the park.

"We have literally got here and they have shut it in front of us," she said, adding that she would likely hang around the area until the gates were reopened.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mom must pay \$9K to victim her daughter hit

CA LOS ANGELES — A California mother must pay more than \$9,000 in restitution and apologize to a teenage basketball player she told her daughter to hit during a youth basketball game in 2021, a judge ruled Wednesday.

The woman's daughter punched the opponent in the neck and she collapsed on the court, suffering a concussion. The punch was recorded on cellphone video.

The mother, Latira Shonty Hunt, was criminally charged last year with one misdemeanor count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor and one misdemeanor count of battery. She faced up to a year in jail.

An Orange County judge allowed Hunt, 44, to participate in a diversion program that includes a written apology letter, restitution and anger management classes before she can attend basketball games. She must also stay away from the victim.

Sheriff: Deputy charged in off-duty DUI crash

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — A South Florida deputy has been charged with crashing his unmarked patrol vehicle while off duty and under the influence of alcohol, officials said.

The Broward County deputy was arrested Tuesday at the county's public safety building and charged with two counts of driving under the influence and two counts of reckless driving, according to a sheriff's office news release.

He was also suspended without pay.

"It is never ok to drive under the influence or in a reckless manner that puts lives at risk," Broward Sheriff Gregory Tony said in a statement. "Too many lives and too many families have been destroyed by such actions. We will make sure that those who break the law, including our own employees, are held to account when they commit crimes."

Moose goes, tramples archery hunter

CO FORT COLLINS — Colorado authorities said an archery hunter sustained life-threatening injuries when he was gored and trampled by a moose in a remote area west of Fort Collins.

The rare moose attack happened Tuesday as the adult male hunter prepared to shoot the animal with an arrow, the Larimer County Sheriff's Office tells The Coloradoan.

Sheriff's spokesperson Jenevieve Kramer said the injured hunter activated an emergency signal from a GPS device. Other hunters located the man as he hiked out of the area south of Cameron Peak, about 70 miles west of Fort Collins.

A sheriff's deputy performed "life-saving" first aid and applied a tourniquet, Kramer said. The man was flown by helicopter to an area hospital. His condition wasn't immediately known.

Only 1 island parcel on lake sold at auction

ID EAGLE — Idaho officials on Wednesday

sold only one of five parcels at an auction involving a 14-acre island in Payette Lake near the vacation and second-home town of McCall in west-central Idaho.

The Idaho Department of Lands sold one lot on Cougar Island for its appraised value of just over \$2 million to Jim Laski of Bellevue, Idaho.

Laski has been leasing the lot from the state and built a cabin on it.

The agency also offered for sale the other four lots or the island as a whole, but they went unsold.

The Lands Department in a news release said it "will evaluate the next step for the other parcels on the island. The goal remains maximizing the return on behalf of the endowment beneficiary."

Suburb planning to build sports arena

IN FISHERS — The Indianapolis suburb of Fishers is luring the Indy Fuel minor league hockey team to the city with a planned 8,500-seat arena, officials announced Wednesday.

The new arena would be a key part of a \$550 million project planned by Indianapolis-based Thompson Thrift Development for hotel, apartments, retail and office space along Interstate 69, a few miles north of Interstate 465.

The Indy Fuel, an affiliate of the NHL's Chicago Blackhawks, has been playing its home games at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis since it began play in 2014. Plans call for the team to move to the new arena for the 2024-25 season.

"The new facility will allow us to host more fans, create unique experiences for families and groups, and offer additional dining and entertainment options for an enhanced gameday experience," Indy Fuel owner Jim Hallett said.

Fishers Mayor Scott Fadness said the building would be used to host other events such as concerts, theatrical performances, high school sports events and graduation ceremonies.

Woman and man found dead in burning house

WA SEATTLE — Two people were found dead Wednesday in a burning Seattle home from which a 911 disturbance call had been made, according to Seattle police.

Around 8:30 a.m., operators taking a 911 call from a home in the Montlake neighborhood heard a man yelling and a woman apparently in distress, The Seattle Times reported.

When officers arrived and tried to contact the man, he told them he was armed and refused to exit the residence, police said. The man said a woman inside was injured, and when police entered, the man barricaded himself inside a room and showed police a knife, according to police.

Inside, police said officers noticed a fire was spreading throughout the home.

The Seattle Police Department's SWAT team entered later wearing oxygen masks because of the fire and found the man dead, police said. Firefighters later located a woman dead inside the home.

— From Associated Press

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Watson, Chiefs rally past Chargers

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — In a showdown between the Chiefs and Chargers, two of the league's best teams led by two of the game's bright young quarterbacks, an unheralded seventh-round draft pick who a few years ago was working alongside his mother in a Wendy's restaurant stole the show.

The Chiefs' Jaylen Watson picked off Justin Herbert at the goal line early in the fourth quarter Thursday night, headed the other way and was never touched on a 99-yard go-ahead touchdown that propelled Kansas City to a 27-24 victory.

"I don't even remember what happened at that moment," Watson said later. "It's all so surreal."

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw for 235 yards with TD passes to Jerick McKinnon and Justin Watson, and fill-in kicker Matt Ammendola was perfect in place of injured Harrison Butker. But it

was the Chiefs' defense, and Watson's highlight-reel interception, that allowed Kansas City (2-0) to overcome its early problems in an early divisional test.

"The thing that I'm most proud of," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "is that we stuck together. Nobody pointed any fingers."

Two series after Watson's go-ahead touchdown, things got even worse for the Chargers (1-1) when Herbert was drilled by defensive end Mike Danna while delivering a throw. He left the field clutching his side, returned one play later, then threw an incompleteness that forced the Chargers to punt while trailing 24-17.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire promptly split the defense on a 52-yard run to set up a field goal for Kansas City.

Herbert, who finished with 334 yards and three touchdown passes, gamely tried to keep the Chargers alive. He threw a 36-

yard dart on fourth down to extend their ensuing possession, then hit Joshua Palmer in the back of the end zone on fourth-and-goal to pull Los Angeles within 27-24 with just over a minute to go.

Kansas City recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock to end the game.

"You're not going to see a quarterback in any level of football play tougher and do more for his team and will his team and give them a chance than him," Chargers coach Brandon Staley said of Herbert, who was getting X-rays and wasn't available after the game. "There's nobody who can do what he can do. Nobody. He showed a lot of guts. He showed what he shows us every day, that we're never out of the fight. He brought us back and gave us a chance."

The highly anticipated showdown between two of the league's most prolific quarterbacks, each surrounded by premier playmakers, turned out

early on to be a defensive slugfest.

The Chargers held the Chiefs to 13 yards in the first quarter, thanks to relentless pressure from Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack and the fact that Derwin James Jr. was just about everywhere, and kept a team that scored 44 points last week in Arizona off the scoreboard until Mahomes slung a sidearm pass to McKinnon early in the second quarter.

Prime time

The game was the first in the \$13 billion, 11-year deal between the NFL and Amazon Prime to exclusively stream Thursday night games. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos joined NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on the sideline before kickoff.

Up next

The Chargers return home to face Jacksonville on Sept. 25. The Chiefs visit Indianapolis the same day.

San Diego quarterback Herbert bruised, battered

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert was left to walk gingerly into the trainer's room inside Arrowhead Stadium, his left arm held tightly to his battered ribs, after Los Angeles blew a 10-point halftime lead and lost 27-24 to the AFC West-rival Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday night.

Herbert was expected to get X-rays after getting crushed by Chiefs defensive end Mike Danna midway through the fourth quarter, but Chargers coach Brandon Staley was quick to say he thought his Pro Bowl quarterback would be OK.

Herbert only missed one play after the hit before gamely trying to rally his team to victory.

"It was just a tough NFL game and he took some big hits. None

of those big hits had any impact on him bringing his team back the way he always does," Staley said. "I think that we're going to learn a lot more tomorrow, but I think in that area of losing his wind and (an injury) in that area of his body."

Asked whether he was concerned about Herbert going forward, Staley replied: "No, because he's Justin Herbert."

Herbert and the Chargers got off to a good start, building an early 10-0 lead, and the game was still tied when Herbert was intercepted by Jaylen Watson near the Kansas City goal line early in the fourth quarter. Watson took the pick 99 yards the other direction for a touchdown that gave Kansas City a 24-17 lead — its first of the night.

After the teams swapped

punts, Herbert was trying to unload a pass to tight end Gerald Everett when Danna came free up the middle and landed on his ribs. Herbert remained on the ground for about a minute while trainers tended to him, then he left the game for a play before telling Staley on the sideline that he was OK to continue.

"I just turned around and saw him on the ground," Chargers wide receiver Mike Williams said.

Herbert walked out and was promptly crushed between Chiefs pass rushers Frank Clark and George Karlaftis as he threw an incompleteness, forcing Los Angeles to punt while still trailing by a touchdown in the waning minutes.

"Our defense hit the quarterback — who is a mobile guy, a

great player — to the point that he's probably pretty sore after the game," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said later.

The Chiefs added a field goal to stretch the lead, but Herbert kept the Chargers alive when he marched them 73 yards in just over 2 minutes for a touchdown. He took a couple more hits on the drive, but he delivered a pretty throw to DeAndre Carter to convert one fourth down and to Joshua Palmer on another fourth down for the score.

Los Angeles tried an onside kick but the Chiefs recovered and were able to run out the clock.

Herbert, who had won his first two games at Arrowhead Stadium, finished with 334 yards passing and three touchdowns.

Counting ways tennis will miss Federer

Associated Press

Roger Federer never let 'em see him sweat.

He played tennis with a style that only rarely betrayed the effort behind the masterful serving, the rare-in-its-day attacking and the flawless footwork. He was not one to grunt loudly on shots or celebrate wildly after them.

The way he wielded a racket helped him to win, yes, and win a lot, to the tune of 20 Grand Slam championships — a half-dozen more than any man before him — across a 15-year stretch, and 103 tournament titles in all, plus a Davis Cup trophy and Olympic medals for Switzerland, and spend week after week at No. 1 in the rankings. It also helped him manage to avoid serious injuries for so long and achieve the consistent excellence over decades he prized.

“Every time people write me off, or try to write me off, I’m able to bounce back,” Federer once said in an interview with The Associated Press. On Thursday, at a little more than a month past his 41st birthday and after a series of knee operations, he announced that there would be no more comebacks.

It is a loss for tennis, to be sure, and a loss for the sports world. The news arrives less than two weeks after Serena Wil-

liams, who owns 23 Grand Slam singles titles, played what she indicated would be the last match of her own illustrious career shortly before she turns 41.

“Some depart, others come and the world keeps going,” one of Federer’s great rivals, Rafael Nadal, said recently. “It’s a natural cycle.”

OK, the world will keep going. But tennis will not be the same.

Not without Williams, who was feted at the just-concluded U.S. Open. And not without Federer, whose last tournament came last year at Wimbledon, and whose final appearance on court will be next week in London at the Laver Cup, a team event his management group founded.

Tennis will miss Federer, the player. And Federer, the statesman and ambassador who spoke several languages. And Federer, the instantly recognizable global pitchman who brought his sport to places all over the world that didn’t even have tournaments through exhibitions to raise money for his charitable foundation.

Once a tantrum-throwing kid — on the court and off, where he would overturn a chess table when losing to his father — who grew up admiring basketball stars such as Michael Jordan and soccer players more than tennis players, Federer became a symbol of his sport and some-

one known as much for the way he carried himself as the hardware he accumulated.

“He was the epitome of a champion; class, grace, humility, beloved by everyone,” Hall of Famer Chris Evert wrote on Twitter.

He became friends with Vogue editor Anna Wintour and showed up at the Met Gala. He had a special jacket with a gold “15” on it to don right there on Centre Court after winning Wimbledon in 2009 to break Pete Sampras’ men’s mark of 14 career major trophies. He kept playing, and winning, well past an age that is customary for that sort of thing in tennis, to the point that his two sets of twins — now ages 13 and 8 — eventually were able to be present in courtside guest boxes. He returned after left knee surgery in 2016, the first significant absence of his career, and used a larger racket head and a rebuilt backhand to collect his last three Slams.

“There won’t be anybody like him,” said Tony Godsick, Federer’s agent since 2005. “There will be people who will win more tournaments or will have more Grand Slams. There will always be a new No. 1. There will always be someone holding a trophy up. But no one has had such a big impact and will continue to have such a big impact.”

Tennis appears to have been placed in good hands

Associated Press

The timing of it all hardly could be more symbolic: Within a span of two weeks, Serena Williams plays what is believed to be her last match at age 40, Roger Federer announces he’ll be retiring at 41, Iga Swiatek wins her third Grand Slam title at 21, and Carlos Alcaraz gets his first at 19.

After so much handwringing in recent years about what would become of tennis once transcendent superstars such as Williams and Federer leave the game — he told the world Thursday he will exit after the Laver Cup next week; she made her plans public last month, then lost in the third round of the U.S. Open on

Sept. 2 — the sport does seem to be in good hands.

“They helped mold tennis into what it is today. We will miss them,” Nick Bollettieri, a Hall of Fame coach, said about Federer and Williams.

“Having these youngsters being No. 1,” said Bollettieri, who worked with the Williams sisters, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Monica Seles and Maria Sharapova, among others, “is going to make a big difference for the tours.”

First of all, let’s not forget: Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic are still around — even if injuries, in Nadal’s case, and vaccination status, in Djokovic’s case, have limited their ability to compete at their best or always. They combined to

win three of the year’s four Grand Slam titles, boosting Nadal’s total to 22, the most for a man, and Djokovic’s to 21.

Williams has 23, and Federer 20, and both have dozens of other trophies, Olympic medals, hundreds of weeks at No. 1 in the rankings, and so on.

They are standard-bearers not merely because of such statistics.

Williams became a celebrity as much as a record-breaking athlete and someone who helped expand the sport’s audience while inspiring plenty of kids to take up tennis.

Federer became a widely respected ambassador of the game, attracting fans and new players from around the globe, too.

Now some of those fresh faces are prepared to step into the space that will open for new champions, new prime-time slots on TV, new sponsorship deals, new interest.

One never knows how things will go in sports, of course, or what might happen in terms of injuries, say, or other potential roadblocks to a long and distinguished career, but Swiatek and Alcaraz sure do appear to be set up for success.

Swiatek, No. 1 since Ash Barty’s retirement six months ago, is the first woman to win two Grand Slam titles in a season since 2016.

Alcaraz, No. 1 since Monday, is the youngest man to occupy that spot since the computerized rankings began in 1973.

Mets extend narrow lead in NL East

Associated Press

NEW YORK — On a Roberto Clemente Day particularly meaningful to both of them, Francisco Lindor and Carlos Carrasco propelled the New York Mets past the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-1 on Thursday night to extend their slim lead in the NL East.

Lindor launched his 24th home run to set a Mets season record for shortstops, and Carrasco (15-6) struck out 11 in six splendid innings as New York moved a game ahead of idle Atlanta.

Slumping designated hitter Daniel Vogelbach drove in three runs against his former team, and pinch-hitter Mark Vientos had an RBI single for his first major league hit.

Breaking out early at the plate in the opener of a four-game series, the Mets halted a five-game home losing streak and rebounded from a three-game sweep by the Chicago Cubs at Citi Field.

Michael Chavis had an RBI double in the second for the

last-place Pirates. JT Brubaker (3-12) was tagged for five runs and seven hits over three innings before leaving with discomfort in his right lat muscle. He is day-to-day.

Rays 11, Blue Jays 0: Yandy Díaz hit a three-run home run and Tampa Bay — starting an unprecedented nine Latin American players on Roberto Clemente Day — pulled within a half-game of host Toronto in the wild-card chase.

Clemente, the late Hall of Fame outfielder from Puerto Rico, was a two-time World Series winner and NL MVP who played 18 seasons with Pittsburgh.

Astros 5, Athletics 2: Aledmys Díaz hit a two-run homer, Lance McCullers Jr. had a solid start and host Houston beat Oakland for its fifth straight victory.

At 94-50, American League-leading Houston's magic number to clinch a postseason spot is one. The Astros are 13-3 in their last 16 games.

White Sox 8, Guardians 2:

Elvis Andrus hit one of visiting Chicago's five home runs off rookie Hunter Gaddis — and backed up a pregame swipe at his opponents — to help cut Cleveland's lead in the AL Central to three games.

Andrus connected in the fifth inning off Gaddis (0-2) — the first Cleveland pitcher to allow five homers in a game since Luis Tiant in 1969.

Marlins 5, Phillies 3: Kyle Schwarber hit his NL-leading 38th homer in playoff-contending Philadelphia's loss to host Miami.

Schwarber connected off Pablo López in the sixth with a solo shot to right-center.

Reds 3, Cardinals 2: Nick Senzel and Aristides Aquino hit solo home runs and visiting Cincinnati beat NL Central-leading St. Louis to snap a six-game losing streak in the opener of a five-game series.

St. Louis made it interesting in the ninth against rookie reliever Alexis Diaz, loading the bases with one out on two sin-

gles and a walk before pulling within a run on a sacrifice fly by Albert Pujols. Diaz then got pinch-hitter Cory Dickerson to ground out to end the game and earn his seventh save.

Diamondbacks 4, Padres 0: Drey Jameson pitched seven shutout innings in his major league debut and host Arizona hit three home runs to beat San Diego.

Jameson, called up Thursday from Triple-A Reno, gave up two hits — both by Brandon Drury — and walked one. He struck out five — including Juan Soto twice — and got 10 ground outs. He threw 90 pitches, 62 for strikes.

Twins 3, Royals 2: Carlos Correa's solo home run in the first inning and Nick Gordon's two-run shot in the second were enough for host Minnesota to beat Kansas City for a three-game sweep.

The Twins (72-70) pulled within four games of first-place Cleveland in the AL Central.

Sun beat Aces in Game 3, stay alive in WNBA Finals

Associated Press

UNCASVILLE, Conn. — A historic effort from Alyssa Thomas helped the Connecticut Sun stave off elimination again.

Thomas had the first triple-double in WNBA Finals history, and the Sun beat the Las Vegas Aces 105-76 in Game 3 on Thursday night.

She finished with 16 points, 15 rebounds and 11 assists for the Sun, who have now won all four of their elimination games in these playoffs, topping Dallas on the road in the first round and beating Chicago in Games 4 and 5 to close out that series.

"We've been struggling offensively and we finally got a game back at home and my teammates were hitting shots," Thomas said. "None of this would have been possible without them."

Las Vegas leads the best-of-five series 2-1 with Game 4 on Sunday in Connecticut.

The Aces got off to a fast start, scoring nine of the first 11 points and forcing Connecticut to

call a timeout. That settled the Sun down and they took over, outscoring the Aces 32-10 the rest of the quarter, including 25 of the final 29 points. Connecticut made 14 of its 17 shots in the period and DeWanna Bonner was a big reason why.

Bonner struggled in the first two games of the series, scoring five points total while missing 16 of her 18 shots. She had seven points in the opening 8 minutes on Thursday night and finished with 18.

"She was huge. She's been here before. She's won it. So, we lean on her," Thomas said. "And she's been struggling offensively, but we had nothing but faith in her and she came out and did her thing tonight."

Jonquel Jones led the Sun with 20 points.

Jones, Bonner and Thomas helped Connecticut dominate inside as the Sun set a Finals record with 64 points in the paint while holding Las Vegas to 26.

"That's been the M.O. of the playoffs," Jones said. "Even the Chicago series, the team

that won the paint, won the game. That's where it's done. A long time ago, I talked to Lisa Leslie and she said to win a championship you have to win the paint. I see it now and feel it now. I can go back to that and see she was right."

Connecticut used that advantage to lead 53-34 with 1:44 left in the second quarter before the Aces closed the period by scoring the final nine points, including a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Kelsey Plum from just inside half-court.

The Sun seized momentum back to start the third quarter, scoring the first five points. Las Vegas couldn't get closer than six the rest of the game.

"That's a team that is very resilient. If you could encapsulate Connecticut, it's physical and very resilient," Aces coach Becky Hammon said. "They are physical and resilient and we didn't match that tonight in any category."

Jackie Young scored 22 points and A'ja Wilson added 19 for the Aces.