

Chicago launches resistance to troops

The Washington Post

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker, a Democrat, on Sunday said he is making every effort to stop President Donald Trump “from using the military to invade states,” as the administration threatens to deploy the National Guard to Chicago like it has done in D.C. and Los Angeles.

The comments came after Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson, also a Democrat, signed an executive order instructing police not to cooperate with troops or federal agents in the event of such a deployment. Johnson, surrounded by other city leaders, signed the order that also directs police not to wear masks and to use body cameras, while also launching a program to educate residents on how to prepare in the event they are detained by federal agents.

“We send a resounding message to the federal government: we do not need nor want an unconstitutional and illegal military occupation of our city,” Johnson said in a Saturday

statement. “We do not want military checkpoints or armored vehicles on our streets and we do not want to see families ripped apart.”

Trump has suggested expanding the use of troops in cities across the United States to stop what he sees as rampant crime and to bolster a crackdown on undocumented immigrants, while also ordering the National Guard to prepare for deeper involvement in policing civil unrest.

The Washington Post first reported last month that the Pentagon has been planning a military deployment in Chicago for weeks, in a model that could later be used for other cities.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement has requested to use a Navy base north of Chicago as its launchpad for a crackdown on undocumented immigrants.

State and local leaders have criticized the plan as unlawful and unnecessary.

“I’ve been standing up to Do-

nald Trump, and I’m going to do everything I can to stop him from taking away people’s rights and from using the military to invade states,” Pritzker said on CBS’s “Face the Nation” on Sunday after Trump blasted him on Truth Social the previous day.

“JB Pritzker, the weak and pathetic Governor of Illinois, just said that he doesn’t need help in preventing CRIME. He is CRAZY!!! He better straighten it out, FAST, or we’re coming!” the president said in a post.

Chicago is among the many large cities across the country where crime has fallen in recent years. By mid-August, the city saw a 23% decline in violent crime compared with the same period last year, according to Chicago Police Department figures.

Chicago’s reaction contrasts with the more conciliatory approach of Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, in D.C., where the National Guard was de-

ployed last month. U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro said on “Fox News Sunday” that there have been more than 1,500 arrests related to the deployment.

Republicans have backed Trump’s move in D.C.

“Look at what the citizens are saying. They feel safer, they are pleased that there is enforcement and a presence,” said Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn.

“President Donald Trump has been right on this from day one, and I think people are grateful to see this. Everyone wants their community safe.”

But as a federal district, D.C. is subject to greater oversight by the president and Congress than a city like Chicago or Los Angeles. Trump deployed the National Guard to LA in June amid broad protests of his administration’s aggressive effort to arrest and deport undocumented immigrants.

The administration has since argued that the deployment was a success and should be duplicated elsewhere.

Federal shutdown looms as Congress returns to DC

Associated Press

Congressional Republicans scored a massive victory this summer when they passed President Donald Trump’s “big beautiful bill” of tax and spending cuts without a single Democratic vote. But as they return to Washington this fall after a monthlong August recess, they will have to find a way to work with Democrats — or around them — as a government shutdown looms.

The annual spending battle will dominate the September agenda, along with a possible effort by Senate Republicans to

change their chamber’s rules to thwart Democratic stalling tactics on nominations. The Senate is also debating whether to move forward on legislation that would slap steep tariffs on some of Russia’s trading partners as the U.S. pressures Russian President Vladimir Putin on Ukraine.

In the House, Republicans will continue their investigations of former President Joe Biden while Speaker Mike Johnson navigates a split in his conference over whether the Trump administration should release more files in the Jeffrey Epstein investigation.

The most urgent task for Congress is to avoid a government shutdown on Sept. 30, when federal funding runs out. And it’s so far unclear if Republicans and Democrats will be able to agree on how to do that.

Congress will have to pass a short-term spending measure to keep the government funded for a few weeks or months while they try to finish the full-year package. But Republicans will need Democratic votes to pass an extension, and Democrats will want significant concessions. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer’s vote with

Republicans to avoid a shutdown in March prompted furious backlash within his party.

The Trump administration’s efforts to claw back previously approved spending could also complicate the negotiations. Republicans passed legislation this summer that rescinded about \$9 billion in foreign aid and public broadcasting funds and Trump notified Congress again on Friday that he will block \$4.9 billion in congressionally approved foreign aid.

Democrats have warned that such efforts could tank the broader negotiations.

Prosecutors: DOD civilian, Navy official rigged bids

syracuse.com

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — A civilian Department of Defense employee based in central New York state was involved in a multi-year bid-rigging scheme to steer military contracts to a Utah company in exchange for kickbacks, according to federal prosecutors.

The employee, a senior computer scientist at the U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory in Rome, N.Y., got more than \$150,000 in items for personal use, including home renovation tools, tool bags and various Apple products, prosecutors said in court papers filed Wednesday in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York.

The Utah company signed on a company owned by a family member of the defense employee as a subcontractor, prosecutors said. It additionally hired the em-

ployee's spouse as a consultant and paid them \$60,400.

The defense employee's role in the scheme was revealed last week when a U.S. Navy official admitted to his part in the bid rigging.

The Navy official, Cho Y. Chang, pleaded guilty on Wednesday in federal court in Syracuse to a single count of conspiracy to commit bribery and honest services wire fraud.

Chang, a section head at the U.S. Naval Laboratory in Washington, faces a maximum of five years in prison.

Prosecutors did not name the defense employee in court papers. The employee — listed as a co-conspirator in court papers — appears to not be facing any charges at this time.

The scheme is described in detail in a plea and cooperation

agreement reached between Chang and federal prosecutors.

Chang received hundreds of thousands of dollars in travel reimbursements, as well as thousands more in personal items such as Apple iPhones and airline club memberships, prosecutors said.

Chang began working in 2022 to award contracts to the Utah company, which prosecutors did not name in court papers. The company received an \$8.4 million contract in August 2022 and another the following year worth \$39.5 million. It was set to receive a \$98 million contract last year before the bid was suspended.

Prosecutors did not describe what services the Utah company was contracted to provide.

Chang's jet-setting began months after the first contract was awarded. Chang sent a reim-

bursement request in February 2023 for a one-week trip he and a government employee apparently took from Washington, D.C., to California and Hawaii.

The \$21,060 trip in first class was actually with his spouse.

Another trip to Hawaii with his spouse, this time for \$8,782, followed three months later.

On nearly two dozen trips, Chang "double-dipped" by also requesting reimbursement through an official government travel system.

Chang was allegedly working with two co-conspirators — an official at the Utah company and the defense employee based in central New York. The official at the company apparently was well-known to Chang. They were a friend and former co-worker who was now in charge of the company's business development.

Gas blamed in deaths of 2 contractors at Navy base

BY BRIAN McELHINEY
AND KEISHI KOJA

Stars and Stripes

Two Japanese contractors died last year after inhaling hydrogen sulfide gas while servicing a U.S. Navy vessel at Sasebo Naval Base, according to a Japanese government investigation.

The men — identified by police as Takahiro Sasahara, 54, and Seitaro Hamada, 33 — were found unconscious April 9, 2024, aboard a commercial barge used to purify wastewater from the ship, the

Navy said at the time. Both were pronounced dead at hospitals, police said. An investigation report released Thursday by the Japan Transport Safety Board said the men suffered cardiac arrest after entering a tank on the barge, the SEAN No. 3, that had not been cleaned for several months.

Sulfate-reducing bacteria in sludge at the bottom of the tank produced hydrogen sulfide, which displaced oxygen and created a toxic environment, according to the investigation.

"It is believed that Hamada stepped on the sludge when entering the tank, causing a release of hydrogen sulfide and further increasing the gas concentration inside the tank," the report states.

Hamada entered the 16-foot-deep tank around 10:04 a.m. to retrieve a fallen filter bag, followed a minute later by Sasahara. Neither man measured gas levels or obtained authorization before entering, the report said, noting the operations chief was off that day.

A ship captain discovered the

men about an hour later, noticing an open hatch and shoes left nearby. U.S. firefighters recovered Sasahara at 12:43 p.m. and Hamada at 12:51 p.m., the report said. Japanese firefighters took them to hospitals; they were declared dead about 90 minutes later.

Base spokesman Aki Nichols said Friday that the Navy cooperated fully with investigators and reviewed the incident "in the interest of identifying possible measures within our power to prevent a reoccurrence."

Norway will buy fleet of British-made frigates for its navy

Associated Press

LONDON — Norway has agreed to buy at least five new British anti-submarine ships in a deal valued at \$13.5 billion as the two nations deepen their cooperation to counter Russian

operations in the seas along NATO's northern flank.

They said Sunday that Britain will supply Norway with the Type 26 frigates, creating a joint force of eight British and at least five Norwegian ships that will

operate jointly in Northern Europe. The ships are built by a group of companies led by U.K.-based BAE Systems.

"Our navies will work as one, leading the way in NATO, with this deal putting more world-

class warships in the North Atlantic to hunt Russian submarines, protect our critical infrastructure, and keep both our nations secure," British Defense Secretary John Healey said in a statement.

'Alligator Alcatraz' may cost Florida \$218M

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Florida could be on the hook for \$218 million the state spent to convert a remote training airport in the Everglades into an immigration detention center dubbed "Alligator Alcatraz."

The center may soon be completely empty as a judge upheld her decision late Wednesday ordering operations to wind down indefinitely.

Shutting down the facility for the time being would cost the state \$15 million to \$20 million immediately, and it would cost another \$15 million to \$20 million to reinstall structures if Florida is allowed to reopen it, according to court filings by the state.

The Florida Division of Emergency Management will lose most of the value of the \$218 million it has invested in making the airport suitable for a de-

tention center, a state official said in court papers.

Built in just a few days, the facility consists of chain-link cages surrounding large white tents filled with rows of bunk beds.

An Associated Press analysis of publicly available state spending data showed that Florida has signed at least \$405 million in vendor contracts to build and operate the facility, which officials had initially estimated would cost \$450 million a year to run. A previous AP review found that as of late July, the state had already allocated at least \$245 million to run the site, which opened July 1.

President Donald Trump toured the facility last month and suggested it could be a model for future lockups nationwide as his administration races to expand the infrastructure needed to increase deportations.

The center has been plagued by reports of unsanitary conditions and detainees being cut off from the legal system.

It's also facing several legal challenges, including one that U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams ruled on late Wednesday. She denied requests to pause her order to wind down operations, after agreeing last week with environmental groups and the Miccosukee Tribe that the state and federal defendants didn't follow federal law requiring an environmental review for the detention center in the middle of sensitive wetlands.

The Miami judge said the number of detainees was already dwindling and that the federal government's "immigration enforcement goals will not be thwarted by a pause in operations." That's despite Department of Homeland Security

lawyers saying the judge's order would disrupt that enforcement.

When asked, the Department of Homeland Security wouldn't say how many detainees remained and how many had been moved out since the judge's temporary injunction last week.

"DHS is complying with this order and moving detainees to other facilities," the department said Thursday in an emailed statement.

The facility was already being emptied of detainees as of last week, according to an email exchange shared with The Associated Press on Wednesday. The executive director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management, Kevin Guthrie, said on Aug. 22 "we are probably going to be down to 0 individuals within a few days," in a message to a rabbi about chaplaincy services.

Rudy Giuliani hurt in NH car accident

Associated Press

Rudy Giuliani is recovering from a fractured vertebra and other injuries following a car crash in New Hampshire in which he was a passenger, a spokesperson for the former mayor said Sunday.

Giuliani was being driven in a rented Ford Bronco by his spokesperson Ted Goodman when their vehicle was struck from behind by a Honda HR-V driven by a 19-year-old woman late Saturday evening, New Hampshire State Police said.

Troopers witnessed the crash, which caused both vehicles to hit the highway median and left them "heavily damaged," state police said. Goodman and the 19-year-old suffered "non-life-threatening injuries" and were taken to hospi-

tals, the agency added.

State police said they are investigating the crash and no charges have been filed.

Giuliani, 81, was taken to a nearby trauma center and was being treated for a fractured thoracic vertebra, multiple lacerations and contusions, as well as injuries to his left arm and lower leg, according to a statement posted on X by Michael Ragusa, Giuliani's head of security.

Giuliani "sustained injuries but is in good spirits and recovering tremendously," Ragusa said.

Prior to the accident, Giuliani had been "flagged down by a woman who was the victim of a domestic violence incident" and contacted police assistance on her behalf, Ragusa said.

Sen. Joni Ernst likely to forgo reelection bid

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, an Iraq War combat veteran and Iowa's first woman elected to Congress, is expected to announce that she will not seek reelection, leaving another vacancy in an Iowa seat that could have ripple effects down the ballot as Democrats look to the state for pickup opportunities.

As Senate Republicans work to maintain their majority in the chamber, Ernst is joining her peers making headaches for the party. Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina turned down a reelection bid after clashing with President Donald Trump.

Ernst plans to announce this month that she will opt out of the race for a third term, according to four people familiar with her plans.

Ernst, a former Army National Guard member and a retired lieutenant colonel, was first elected to an open Senate seat in 2014. She served for several years in the No. 4 spot in the Senate GOP leadership and was considered a vice presidential contender for Trump's first White House run.

Her decision comes after Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, the state's first female governor, said she would not run for reelection.

It prompted the state's many Republican elected officials to consider the open opportunity to run for higher office, a process that may begin again with Ernst's departure.

Democrats have been looking for an opportunity to mount a political comeback in the once-competitive state, an uphill battle even in the potentially favorable midterm year.

Powerful quake hits Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Desperate Afghans clawed through rubble in the dead of the night in search of missing loved ones after a strong earthquake killed some 800 people and injured more than 2,500 in eastern Afghanistan, according to figures provided Monday by the Taliban government.

The 6.0 magnitude quake late Sunday hit towns in the province of Kunar, near the city of Jalalabad in neighboring Nangarhar province, causing extensive damage.

The quake at 11:47 p.m. was centered 17 miles east-northeast of Jalalabad, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It was just 5 miles deep. Shallower quakes tend to cause more damage. Several aftershocks followed.

Footage showed rescuers taking injured people on stretchers from collapsed buildings and into helicopters as people frantically dug through rubble with their hands.

The Taliban government's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said at a press conference Monday that the death toll had risen to at least 800 with more than 2,500 injured. He said most of the casualties were in Kunar.

Buildings in Afghanistan tend to be low-rise constructions, mostly of concrete and brick, with homes in rural and outlying areas made from mud bricks and wood. Many are poorly built.

One resident in Nurgal district, one of the worst-affected areas in Kunar, said nearly the entire village was destroyed.

"Children are under the rubble. The elderly are under the rubble. Young people are under the rubble," said the villager, who did not give his name.

"There is no one who can come and remove dead bodies from under the rubble."

Merz: Peace must not cost Ukraine its independence

Associated Press

German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Sunday that the war in Ukraine could still last for a long time and ending it quickly at the country's expense was not an option.

In an interview with German public broadcaster ZDF, Merz, when asked whether a ceasefire might be possible this year, said

he hasn't lost hope but "harbors no illusions," and emphasized that supporting the country to defend itself against Russia was an "absolute priority."

"We are trying to end it as quickly as possible. But certainly not at the price of Ukraine's capitulation. You could end the war tomorrow if Ukraine surrendered and lost its indepen-

dence," Merz said.

"Then the next country would be at risk the day after tomorrow. And the day after that, it would be us. That is not an option," the chancellor said.

Germany is a key backer of Ukraine and has delivered or pledged military support worth around \$47 billion since Russia invaded in February 2022.

China's Xi seeks expanded role for Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Associated Press

TIANJIN, China — China plans to accelerate the creation of a development bank and set up an international platform for energy cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping announced Monday at a summit that represents an emerging challenge to U.S. global leadership with the participation of Russia and India.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi were among the leaders meeting in Tianjin, in northern China, for the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. The security forum was originally seen as a foil to U.S. influence in Central Asia and has grown in size and influence over the years.

Xi is attempting to expand the scope of the SCO. He announced initial plans for a development bank run by the organization, introduced a cooperation platform for green and energy industries and pledged \$1.4 billion in loans over the next three years to the organization's members.

Xi also said he was opening the way for SCO member states to use China's BeiDou satellite system, an alternative to the

GPS system controlled by the U.S.

Putin expressed support for Xi's initiatives, saying he believes the SCO "could take on the leading role in efforts to form a more just and equal system of global governance in the world."

Laos joined the SCO as a partner, a designation short of full membership, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi told reporters. The combined group of members and partners has reached 27, representing countries in Central and Southeast Asia, along with China, India, Russia, Iran and others.

Xi stressed countries should reject Cold War thinking, rival power blocs and bullying and instead protect the U.N.-centered international system. He called for a world order with multiple power centers and a more just and balanced global governance system.

"The shadows of Cold War mentality, bullying, are not dissipating, and there are new challenges that are increasing, not diminishing," said Xi, who has consistently spoken against what he calls a Cold War mentality, which is his way of referring to the tough approach to

China by the U.S.

Alfred Wu, a professor at the National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, explained that Xi is seeking "to provide an alternate world order, because the U.S.-led world order is very much in decline."

Putin echoed those themes in his own address and expressed support for Xi's proposal "to create a new, more effective and functional system of global governance."

Founded in 2001, the SCO now includes Russia, Belarus, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Afghanistan and Mongolia are observer states, and 14 other countries, including several from the Middle East, serve as "dialogue partners."

The summit comes days ahead of a military parade in Beijing marking the 80th anniversary of Japan's World War II surrender.

On Sunday, Xi met with Modi and the two leaders vowed to resolve differences surrounding a border dispute, which led to a freeze in relations in 2020.

Putin and Xi plan to hold bilateral talks Tuesday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Prosecutors drop bribery case against attorney

NY NEW YORK — Prosecutors have agreed to drop criminal charges against a prominent Miami defense attorney accused of orchestrating a bribery conspiracy involving two former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration supervisors who leaked confidential information.

Charges will be dismissed against David Macey in a year as long as he does not break any laws, according to a deferred prosecution agreement announced Thursday in Manhattan federal court.

Prosecutors offered no explanation for the sudden reversal. But Judge Jennifer H. Rearden said the “extraordinary opportunity” for Macey, 54, to avoid trial was in part the result of his experienced legal team.

The rare move would appear to bring an end to a multiyear investigation into corruption inside the DEA that has resulted in the conviction of two former agents. The probe recently widened to focus on Miami’s “white powder bar,” high-priced defense lawyers who negotiate surrender deals for Latin American drug traffickers by converting them into government cooperators. One of the most successful of those attorneys was Macey, a former state prosecutor.

Court blocks execution of prisoner with dementia

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The impending execution of a man by firing squad in Utah was blocked by the state’s Supreme Court on

Friday after his attorneys argued he should be spared because he has dementia.

Ralph Leroy Menzies, 67, was set to be executed Friday for abducting and killing Utah mother of three Maurine Hunsaker in 1986. When given a choice decades ago, Menzies selected a firing squad as his method of execution.

Lawyers for Menzies had launched a new push beginning in early 2024 to free him of his death sentence, arguing that the dementia their client had developed during his 37 years on death row is so severe that he uses a wheelchair, is dependent on oxygen and can’t understand why he is facing execution.

The Utah Supreme Court said Menzies adequately alleged a substantial change of circumstances and raised a significant question on his fitness to be executed, concluding a lower court must reevaluate Menzies’ competency.

Fed who claims DOGE mishandled data resigns

DC WASHINGTON — A Social Security Administration whistleblower whose complaint alleged that Department of Government Efficiency officials mishandled Americans’ sensitive information says he’s resigning because of actions taken against him since making the claim.

Charles Borges, the agency’s chief data officer, alleged that more than 300 million Americans’ Social Security data was put at risk by DOGE officials who uploaded sensitive information to a cloud account not subject to oversight. His disclosure was submitted to the special counsel’s office on Aug.

26.

In a letter to SSA Commissioner Frank Bisignano, Borges claimed that since filing the complaint, the agency’s actions make his duties “impossible to perform legally and ethically” and have caused him “physical, mental and emotional distress.”

The Government Accountability Project, which is representing him in his whistleblower case, posted Borges’ resignation letter on its website Friday evening. Borges declined to comment.

Cruise group sues to challenge tourism tax

HI HONOLULU — A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Hawaii imposing a tourist tax to deal with consequences of climate change seeks to stop officials from enforcing the new law on cruise ship passengers.

In the nation’s first such levy to help cope with a warming planet, Hawaii Gov. Josh Green signed legislation in May that raises tax revenue to deal with eroding shorelines, wildfires and other climate problems. Officials estimate the tax will generate nearly \$100 million annually.

The levy increases rates on hotel room and vacation rental stays but also imposes a new 11% tax on the gross fares paid by a cruise ship’s passengers, starting next year, prorated for the number of days the vessels are in Hawaii ports. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. court in Honolulu last week, notes the law authorizes counties to collect an additional 3% surcharge, bringing the total to 14% of prorated fares.

“No other State imposes com-

parable fees — and for good reason: It has been a fundamental principle since the Founding that the navigable waters of the United States are a common resource, not one to be commandeered by individual States for their own parochial revenue-raising interests,” attorneys representing the Cruise Lines International Association wrote in a motion asking a judge to prevent the state and counties from collecting the tax on cruise ships while the lawsuit is pending.

Regulators pause penalty on oil firms for profits

CA SACRAMENTO — California energy regulators Friday put the brakes on plans requiring oil companies to pay a penalty if their profits climb too high, a temporary win for the fossil fuel industry two years after the governor declared the state had “finally beat big oil.”

The postponement by the California Energy Commission until 2030 comes after two oil refineries accounting for roughly 18% of the state’s refining capacity announced plans to close in the coming months. The commission has the power to implement a penalty but has not done so since it was given that authority in 2023.

The penalty was considered a landmark piece of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom’s government and the state’s ambitious goals to curb climate change.

The commission still plans to set rules that would require oil refineries to keep a minimum level of fuel on hand to avoid shortages when refineries go offline for maintenance.

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Miami tops Notre Dame in final minute

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Miami hadn't beaten a top-10 team in nearly eight years. The opponent that night was Notre Dame.

It happened again Sunday night — and once again, at the Fighting Irish's expense.

Carter Davis made a 47-yard field goal with 1:04 left for the go-ahead score, Carson Beck threw for 205 yards and two touchdowns in his Hurricanes debut, and 10th-ranked Miami beat sixth-ranked Notre Dame 27-24 in the opener for both teams.

"It's just an unbelievable night," Hurricanes coach Mario Cristobal said after Miami snapped an eight-game slide against top-10 opponents. "Unbelievable night for so many people that poured so much into this."

CJ Daniels made a spectacular one-handed touchdown grab and Rueben Bain had an interception on a thrice-deflected pass in the fourth quarter for the Hurricanes, who out-gained the Irish 324 yards to 314. Malachi Toney had a touchdown catch and Marty Brown added a TD run for Miami.

CJ Carr, in his first start for Notre Dame, finished 19 of 30 for 221 yards with two touchdown passes and an interception — plus a rushing score with 3:21 left that tied the game, capping a rally from 14 points

down. Micah Gilbert and Jordan Faison had the scoring grabs for the Fighting Irish.

"The effort was there," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said.

The Hurricanes went 46 yards on 10 plays on the ensuing drive, with Davis — a transfer from FAU — delivering for the lead. The Irish got the ball at their own 25, out of timeouts, and went nowhere before time expired.

"Gosh, I was nervous," Beck said. "But we got it done."

Miami won the coin toss and deferred, which proved relevant — since the Hurricanes essentially ran out the clock on the first half with a 75-yard TD drive, then started the second half with another 75-yard TD march.

Carr's first collegiate touchdown pass came on a play where he dropped back, zigging and zagging to avoid pressure, then ran back toward the line before finding Gilbert for what became a rather easy score that tied the game at 7-7. Nearly an hour passed in real time before Carr threw another ball, as Miami essentially had back-to-back possessions separated only by a Notre Dame kneel-down to end the half.

Daniels' 20-yard grab came with 12 sec-

onds left before halftime to give the Hurricanes a 14-7 lead, and Miami chewed up half of the third-quarter clock on another 75-yard drive capped by Brown's 5-yard run.

The 14-point lead didn't last, but Davis delivered and then Bain and Akheem Mesidor combined for sacks on the final two snaps as the Hurricanes' defense closed it out.

"It was a top-10 fight," Freeman said. "It came down to a three-point game against a hell of a football team."

Beck is the seventh consecutive quarterback to win his Miami starting debut, following D'Eriq King, Tyler Van Dyke, Jake Garcia, Jacurri Brown, Emory Williams and Cam Ward. Expect the Hurricanes to gain a few spots in the AP Top 25.

The Fighting Irish became the fourth team that was ranked in the top eight of the preseason AP Top 25 to lose this weekend, after No. 1 Texas (to No. 3 Ohio State), No. 4 Clemson (to No. 9 LSU) and No. 8 Alabama (to Florida State). They've now lost seven consecutive road games against Miami since 1977.

Notre Dame's next game will be its home opener against Texas A&M on Sept. 13. The Hurricanes host Bethune-Cookman on Saturday.

South Carolina plays 'Beamerball' to beat Virginia Tech

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Vicari Swain returned a punt 80 yards for a touchdown to break open a close game, LaNorris Sellers threw a 64-yard touchdown pass to Nyck Harbor and No. 13 South Carolina beat Virginia Tech 24-11 on Sunday in the opener for both teams.

Gamecocks coach Shane Beamer used his brand of "Beamerball" to pull away from the school where his dad, Frank Beamer, originated the style of play that emphasizes turnovers and big plays on special teams. The elder Beamer was in attendance at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, wearing South Carolina black.

"Thought you'd like a special teams touchdown," Shane Beamer told his dad as they shared a postgame hug.

The Gamecocks intercepted two passes by the Hokies' Kyron

Drones. Fred Johnson made a pick in the red zone to halt a first-quarter drive, and Peyton Williams' interception in the fourth quarter helped seal the win.

South Carolina led 10-8 early in the fourth when Swain fielded a punt by Nick Veltsistas, turned upfield and made several would-be tacklers miss on the way to the end zone. After a Virginia Tech field goal, Sellers found Harbor wide open on a deep post route to restore the Gamecocks' two-score advantage.

Swain muffed a punt earlier in the game and narrowly avoided disaster by recovering the ball. Beamer comforted the sophomore on the sideline after that play.

"Coach Beamer was like, 'This is going to happen,'" Swain said. "It's your first time being out there, just make sure on the next one, just take it to the house." So I

took it to the house, and my thought process was like, I messed up the first time, can't mess up again. This is my only shot."

Beamer's faith in Swain, a defensive back and part-time return man, was rewarded.

"So proud of Vicari Swain," Beamer said. "He's a weapon, and it was really neat for him to do that and how fitting that is playing Virginia Tech with their history, my dad's history at special teams."

Sellers scored South Carolina's first touchdown on a 15-yard rush and was 12 of 19 passing for 209 yards and the TD to Harbor, who had three catches for 99 yards. Harbor had another potential touchdown taken away by a replay review.

The Hokies' offense was held without a touchdown. John Love kicked three field goals, including

a 56-yarder, and Virginia Tech's defense contributed a safety in the first quarter when Kelvin Gilliam Jr. and Kody Huisman took down Sellers in the end zone.

Drones went 15 of 35 for 221 yards and two interceptions.

"Just self-inflicted wounds," Drones said. "You can't shoot yourselves in the foot against a good opponent like that. We got to be better next week. We will be."

The sacks taken by Sellers showed a weakness in South Carolina's offensive line and, at times, his lack of awareness in the pocket.

In addition to the safety, Virginia Tech's defense had four sacks and five tackles for loss.

Both teams will have their proper home opener Saturday after playing in Atlanta. The Gamecocks will host South Carolina State, while the Hokies host Vanderbilt.

Pegula back in Grand Slam quarterfinals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jessica Pegula is back in the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam tournament, which used to be her roadblock.

The way Pegula is playing at this U.S. Open, it may be just another stop on the way back to the final.

The No. 4 seed rolled into the last eight by routing fellow American Ann Li 6-1, 6-2 in just 54 minutes on Sunday. She will face Barbora Krejčíková on Tuesday after the two-time Grand Slam champion fought off eight match points in a second set that ended with a 25-minute tiebreaker and beat Taylor Townsend 1-6, 7-6 (13), 6-3.

Townsend was trying to reach her first quarterfinal in her 31st Grand Slam appearance.

Pegula hasn't dropped a set this year at Flushing Meadows, and only once was she even kept on court for more than 1 hour, 15 minutes.

"Probably the best match, honestly, I've played since, like, before Wimbledon I feel like from the start to finish. So that was en-

couraging," Pegula said of Sunday's victory. "I was just hitting the ball, doing everything well, executing my strategy very well and got through it pretty quick."

Pegula had been 0-6 in Grand Slam quarterfinals before upsetting Iga Świątek in that round last year. She went on to reach the final, where she was defeated by Aryna Sabalenka. But she wasn't sure her tennis was ready for a follow-up when she returned to New York.

She had lost four of her previous six singles matches coming into the U.S. Open, and said she played so poorly while practicing with Sabalenka a few days before the tournament that she stopped early, opting instead for an escape room with some friends and a couple of drinks.

Things have certainly gotten better since.

"Like I said, I haven't been feeling my best on court, so to be able to come back and make another quarterfinal here is something I'm definitely proud of," Pegula said. "Of course, I want to go further and do more and win the

tournament, but I feel like just on a personal kind of goal level, I'm happy with the way I've been able to kind of turn some of my tennis around the last few weeks."

The 58th-ranked Li was the highest-ranked player Pegula has faced in the tournament, but the 25-year-old was overpowered in her first appearance in the round of 16 in a major. Pegula broke her all four times she served in the 25-minute first set, and she had just five winners against 19 unforced errors in the match.

Pegula will certainly be the fresher player Tuesday. Krejčíková, who missed nearly five months to begin the season with a back injury, rallied late to knock off 10th-seeded American Emma Navarro in 2½ hours in the third round, then went 3 hours, 4 minutes Sunday — 98 minutes alone for the second set.

"I don't worry. I'm not really thinking about it right now," Krejčíková said. "I'm just really happy that I won today, because, I mean, also, if one point didn't go my way, I would have been

searching for flights."

Elsewhere, Carlos Alcaraz hit a behind-the-back shot to win a point in a 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-4 victory over Arthur Rinderknech that made the Spaniard the youngest man in the Open era to reach 13 Grand Slam quarterfinals.

Sabalenka returned to the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Cristina Bucsa. Sabalenka's next opponent will be 2023 Wimbledon champion Marketa Vondroušová, who defeated 2022 Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina 6-4, 5-7, 6-2 at night with the help of 13 aces, including three in the last game.

On Monday, Coco Gauff and Naomi Osaka met in a fourth-round matchup, six years after Osaka beat a then-15-year-old Gauff in the same round. Wimbledon champions Jannik Sinner and Iga Świątek were also in action as the remaining quarterfinal matchups were set. Venus Williams and Leylah Fernandez played their third-round women's doubles match against the No. 12-seeded team of Ekaterina Alexandrova and Zhang Shuai.

Briscoe holds off Reddick, reaches 2nd round playoffs

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Chase Briscoe shared some history with his second straight Southern 500 victory at Darlington Raceway on Sunday. He hopes to make a bit more this season as he goes after his first NASCAR Cup Series title.

Briscoe held off Tyler Reddick on the final lap to become just the eighth driver in stock racing history with consecutive wins at the track "Too Tough To Tame." The list includes Hall of Famers and greats like Dale Earnhardt, Cale Yarborough, Jeff Gordon and Bobby Allison.

"The expectation was to go and contend for wins," Briscoe said about his first season with Joe Gibbs Racing.

"It definitely took more time

than I expected, but tonight I feel like we showed what we're capable of."

Briscoe took the lead early, won both stages and led 309 of 367 laps. Not only did he advance into the round of 12, he became the first driver with consecutive wins in NASCAR's crown jewel race since Greg Biffle in 2005 and 2006.

"It's so cool to win two Southern 500s in a row," the 30-year-old Indiana driver said.

"This is my favorite race of the year."

A year ago, when the race was the last of the regular season, Briscoe used a late, four-wide pass to move in front and win his way into the playoffs. This time, he had the baddest machine on the block through-

out.

"I definitely like I'm holding up my end of the bargain," Briscoe said.

Briscoe moved in front early and cruised through most of the event on NASCAR's oldest superspeedway.

After Reddick swept past him on the restart for the final segment, Briscoe got back in front a lap later and easily moved into the lead after each of his final three pit stops.

Reddick went low and got to Briscoe's door on the final lap, but could not finish the pass. Briscoe held on to win for the second time this season and fourth time in his career.

"That was way harder than it needed to be," said Briscoe, also the winner at Pocono in June.

Briscoe's owner, Joe Gibbs, recalled greeting the driver in victory lane here last year when he was finishing up racing for now defunct Stewart-Haas Racing. Soon enough, Briscoe was picked to succeed retiring JGR champion Martin Truex Jr.

Gibbs was amazed how quickly Briscoe crew chief James Smalls had the car challenging for wins as it had in the past.

"Certainly, this wasn't something we expected," Gibbs said.

Two-time Southern 500 winner Erik Jones was third, followed by John Hunter Nemechek and AJ Allmendinger. Playoff racers Bubba Wallace and Denny Hamlin, Briscoe's JGR teammate, were next.

Giants' Verlander beats O's with 121 pitches

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Rafael Devers homered, doubled and drove in two runs to help Justin Verlander earn career win No. 265 as the San Francisco Giants beat the Baltimore Orioles 13-2 on Sunday to take two of three games in their series.

Verlander (3-10) struck out a season-high 10 in five shutout innings. He threw 121 pitches — his most since June 2018. He allowed three hits and walked four.

"In a day you feel like you're penalizing someone if they throw 100 pitches, to throw 120 in five innings, he didn't want to hear anything about coming out of the game," manager Bob Melvin told the San Francisco Chronicle. "There's a lot to learn from him."

The 42-year-old Verlander reached 10 strikeouts for the 73rd time and first since he had 10 against Philadelphia on Oct. 4, 2022. He tied Jim McCormick for 39th place in wins and pulled within four strikeouts of Gaylord Perry (3,534) for eighth on the career list.

"It's hard for me because, especially the old school in me is it's only five innings," Verlander said. "I'm not sure I go home and say that was a great start. End of day, I think they did a great job battling off good pitches and fouling off stuff."

Devers homered off Tomoyuki Sugano (10-7) for a 1-0 lead in the first. It was his 28th of the season and 13th for San Francisco.

Dominic Smith had an RBI single off Corbin Martin in a three-run sixth. Devers, Heliot Ramos and Drew Gilbert each had three of the Giants' 16 hits.

Blue Jays 8, Brewers 4: Myles Straw and Nathan Lukes each drove in two runs, George Springer reached base three times and scored twice and host Toronto beat Milwaukee to avoid a three-game sweep.

Tommy Nance (2-0) pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the

fifth as the Blue Jays improved to 59-4 when scoring at least five runs.

William Contreras hit a two-run home run, his 17th, and Brice Turang added a solo shot, his 16th, but the Brewers failed to set a club record with a 22nd win in August. Milwaukee went 21-9 this month and still owns the best record in baseball at 85-53.

Marlins 5, Mets 1: Sandy Alcantara pitched seven strong innings, Agustín Ramírez hit a two-run homer and visiting Miami defeated New York in a game that got testy.

Alcantara (7-11) allowed four hits and struck out six. He carried a shutout into the seventh, when he gave up a leadoff single to Jeff McNeil and plunked Mark Vientos with a pitch. Alcantara and Vientos stared each other down before the benches and bullpens emptied, though no punches were thrown.

The Mets finished 11-17 in August despite scoring 177 runs and hitting 53 homers — both franchise records for a calendar month. New York leads Cincinnati by four games in the race for the last National League wild card.

Braves 3, Phillies 1: Drake Baldwin broke a ninth-inning tie with a two-run homer and visiting Atlanta avoided a four-game sweep by beating Philadelphia.

Braves rookie Hurston Waldrep pitched 5⅓ strong innings. Jake Fraley came off the bench in the seventh and went 2-for-2. Michael Harris II also had two hits.

Brandon Marsh homered for the Phillies, who lead the NL East by six games over the New York Mets heading into September.

Rangers 9, Athletics 6: Joc Pederson homered, doubled and drove in three runs, Jacob deGrom struck out six in five scoreless innings, and visiting Texas beat the Athletics to sweep the three-game series.

DeGrom (10-6) allowed two hits and walked one to help the Rangers win their fifth straight game and pull within 2½ games of a wild-card spot.

Twins 7, Padres 2: Byron Buxton set a career best with his 29th home run and Joe Ryan pitched seven scoreless innings as host Minnesota beat San Diego.

Buxton and Royce Lewis each had two hits for the Twins, who took two of three games in the series. The Padres fell two games behind the first-place Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

Red Sox 5, Pirates 2: Jarren Duran hit an inside-the-park homer, Lucas Giolito (10-2) pitched six innings of one-run ball and host Boston beat Pittsburgh to avert a three-game sweep.

In a tight race for one of three American League wild cards, the Red Sox won for the eighth time in 11 games. They went into Monday a half-game back of the New York Yankees for the top spot.

Mariners 4, Guardians 2: Julio Rodríguez drove in two runs with an infield hit and Seattle snapped a seven-game road losing streak with a victory over Cleveland to salvage the three-game series finale.

With a combined two-hitter, the Mariners extended their lead to four games over the Guardians for the third AL wild-card spot. Seattle ended the day 2½ games up on Texas.

Tigers 5, Royals 0: Tarik Skubal pitched seven innings of four-hit ball, Detroit scored four times off Michael Wacha in the fifth inning, and the visiting Tigers went on to beat Kansas City in the rubber game of their three-game set.

It was a crucial game between AL Central rivals. Detroit maintained a half-game lead over AL East-leading Toronto for the best record in the American League, while the Royals had climbed within

three games of the Mariners in the wild-card race.

White Sox 3, Yankees 2: Le-nyn Sosa hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth inning and host Chicago cooled off New York with a victory.

The Yankees fell three games back of the AL East-leading Blue Jays, but maintained the top AL wild-card spot.

Rockies 6, Cubs 5: Pinch-hitter Mickey Moniak hit a walk-off RBI triple, Tanner Gordon struck out a career-high nine and host Colorado beat Chicago to avoid a series sweep.

The major league-worst Rockies snapped a four-game losing streak. They finished August with 11 wins, their most in any month this season.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 4: Pinch-hitter Will Smith homered leading off the bottom of the ninth inning to give host Los Angeles a victory over Arizona that prevented a three-game sweep.

Yoshinobu Yamamoto allowed one run in seven innings and matched his career high with 10 strikeouts for the Dodgers. He retired his first 10 batters before Ketel Marte bunted for a single.

Reds 7, Cardinals 4: Austin Hays hit a tiebreaking two-run homer and Matt McLain went deep for the second consecutive game to back a solid start by Brady Singer as host Cincinnati beat St. Louis to snap a five-game skid and avoid a series sweep.

Rays 7, Nationals 4: Brandon Lowe hit a grand slam in visiting Tampa Bay's six-run second inning, Everson Pereira drove in two runs and the Rays beat Washington to sweep the three-game series.

Angels 3, Astros 0: José Soriano (10-9) and two relievers combined for a two-hitter and Oswald Peraza hit his first home run since a trade from the Yankees to lead visiting Los Angeles to a win over Houston.