

Judge: Guard use in LA protests illegal

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — President Donald Trump’s administration violated federal law in the use of National Guard troops during Southern California immigration enforcement operations and accompanying protests, a federal judge ruled Tuesday.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer in San Francisco did not require the several hundred remaining troops to be withdrawn and set his order to go into effect Sept. 12.

The order comes after California sued, saying the troops sent to Los Angeles over the summer were violating a law that prohibits military enforcement of domestic laws.

Lawyers for Trump’s Republican administration have argued the Posse Comitatus Act doesn’t apply because the troops were protecting federal officers, not enforcing laws. They say the troops were mobi-

lized under an authority that allows the president to deploy them.

The judge’s decision comes as Trump has discussed National Guard deployments in Democratic-led cities like Chicago, Baltimore and New York. He has already deployed the guard as part of his unprecedented law enforcement takeover in Washington, D.C., where he has direct legal control.

Trump federalized members of the California National Guard and sent them to the Los Angeles over the objections of Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom and city leaders. Trump did so under a law that allows the president to call the Guard into federal service when the country “is invaded,” when “there is a rebellion or danger of a rebellion against the authority of the Government,” or when the president is otherwise unable “to execute the laws of the United States.”

Trump has pushed the bounds of typical military activity on domestic soil, including through the creation of militarized zones along the U.S.-Mexico border.

Newsom posted on X, in an all-caps reflection of the president’s own social media style, “DONALD TRUMP LOSES AGAIN. The courts agree — his militarization of our streets and use of the military against US citizens is ILLEGAL.”

The White House and the Defense Department did not immediately comment.

Breyer’s scathing ruling accused the Trump administration of “willfully” violating the law, saying it used troops for functions that were barred by their own training materials, refused to “meaningfully coordinate with state and local officials” and “coached” federal law enforcement agencies on the language to use when requesting assistance.

“These actions demonstrate that Defendants knew that they were ordering troops to execute domestic law beyond their usual authority,” he wrote. “The evidence at trial established that Defendants systematically used armed soldiers (whose identity was often obscured by protective armor) and military vehicles to set up protective perimeters and traffic blockades, engage in crowd control, and otherwise demonstrate a military presence in and around Los Angeles.”

Breyer also noted the Trump administration’s possible plans to call National Guard troops into other U.S. cities.

Sherman, who initially commanded the troops deployed to L.A., testified that he raised concerns the deployment could violate the Posse Comitatus Act.

He said soldiers were trained on the law and given materials that included a list of activities prohibited by the act.

Space Command expected to move from Colo. to Ala.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s administration planned to announce on Tuesday that U.S. Space Command will be located in Alabama, reversing a Biden-era decision to keep it at its temporary headquarters in Colorado, according to two people familiar with the announcement.

Trump was to announce the new location Tuesday afternoon, according to the people, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to confirm the plans ahead of the official announcement. A Pentagon website set

up to livestream describes the event as a “U.S. Space Command HQ Announcement.”

Space Command’s functions include conducting operations like enabling satellite-based navigation and troop communication and providing missile launch warning.

Alabama and Colorado have long battled to claim Space Command because it has significant implications for the local economy. The site also has been a political prize, with elected officials from both Alabama and Colorado asserting their state is the better location.

Huntsville, Ala., nicknamed Rocket City, has long been home to the Army’s Redstone Arsenal and NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center. The Army’s Space and Missile Defense Command is also located in Huntsville, which drew its nickname because of its role in building the first rockets for the U.S. space program.

The announcement caps a four-year back-and-forth on the location of Space Command.

The Air Force in 2021 identified Army Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville as the preferred location for the new U.S. Space

Command. The city was picked after site visits to six states that compared factors such as infrastructure capacity, community support and costs.

Then-President Joe Biden in 2023 announced Space Command would be permanently located in Colorado Springs, Colo., which had been serving as its temporary headquarters. Biden’s administration said that keeping the command in Colorado Springs would avoid a disruption in readiness.

A review by the Defense Department inspector general was inconclusive.

NATO ally spending up to record \$1.6T

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Defense spending among NATO allies will increase by more than 15% in 2025, the second largest annual jump in more than a decade as collective expenditures rise to \$1.6 trillion, according to new alliance figures.

NATO, in an update released last week, said 31 of 32 member states will hit the required benchmark that calls for dedicating 2% of gross domestic product to military matters. Iceland, which was admitted into NATO in 1949 because of its strategic location, doesn't maintain armed forces and was excluded from the report.

For NATO, the surge pushes spending to historic levels and comes as allies move toward an

even higher spending target. In June, member states agreed that the minimum level must rise to 5% of GDP by 2035, in line with President Donald Trump's priorities.

The plan calls for 3.5% of GDP to be directed to traditional priorities such as weapons and troops, while 1.5% of GDP would go to related infrastructure.

NATO has not detailed what precisely would qualify as viable military public works projects, but some analysts have raised concerns that the metric could be used to inflate defense budgets by directing money to initiatives without a clear military purpose.

Some members are already looking at the infrastructure improvements as a means for boosting defense spending lev-

els.

For example, Italy plans to construct a bridge that connects Italy's southern mainland to the island of Sicily.

The move would ease civilian travel but also enhance military maneuvering in a country with thousands of U.S. and allied troops, project advocates say.

The United States remains by far the biggest spender, accounting for well over half of overall military investments in the alliance in 2025, according to NATO.

However, on a per-capita basis, the U.S. came in sixth place behind Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Norway.

Twenty-four member states still spend under 3% of GDP, which means they'll have to sharply increase spending to

reach the 5% mark in the next decade.

Current spending signifies a major turnaround from where NATO was in 2014, when it first agreed to the 2% level. That year, collective spending decreased across the alliance by roughly 1%, NATO data shows.

Russia's 2014 armed intervention in Ukraine brought on new urgency inside NATO, but it was Russia's full-scale attack on Ukraine in 2022 that delivered a major jolt.

NATO defense spending rose 9.3% in 2023 and 18.6% in 2024 amid concerns about further Russian aggression in Europe. The annual overall spending increase for 2025 was 15.9%, down slightly from the previous year's boost but still larger than at any time in recent NATO history.

Maduro: Venezuela ready to respond to US military presence

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday said his country was at "maximum preparedness" and ready to respond if attacked by forces that the United States government has deployed to the Caribbean.

His comments during a news conference come as the U.S. government this week is set to boost its maritime force in the waters off Venezuela to combat threats from Latin American drug cartels. The U.S. has not signaled any planned land incursion by the thousands of personnel being deployed. Still, Maduro's government has responded by deploying troops along its coast and border

with neighboring Colombia, as well as by urging Venezuelans to enlist in a civilian militia.

Maduro said he would constitutionally declare a "republic in arms" if the U.S. attacked Venezuela. He did not elaborate.

The U.S. Navy now has two Aegis guided-missile destroyers — the USS Gravelly and the USS Jason Dunham — in the Caribbean, as well as the destroyer USS Sampson and the cruiser USS Lake Erie in the waters off Latin America. That military presence is set to expand.

Three amphibious assault ships would be entering the region this week, a defense official told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Army football player, dad save man after car crash

Associated Press

FORT MONTGOMERY, N.Y. — An Army football player and his father pulled a man from a crashed car just before it burst into flames near the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, earning praise from the institution for "heroic" and "selfless" actions.

Video of the daring rescue early Sunday showed sophomore safety Larry Pickett Jr. and his father, Larry Pickett Sr., grabbing the man out of the driver's seat and carrying him away from the vehicle.

The car, a white sedan, had smashed into a utility pole on Route 9W in Fort Montgomery, N.Y., about 4 miles from West Point, authorities said. Video of the rescue, recorded by Pickett Jr.'s sister, Lauren, showed

sparkling wires surrounding the vehicle.

The Picketts, in town for Pickett Jr.'s first football game of the season, came upon the crash just after midnight while driving back to campus after a family dinner in New York City's Times Square.

The family stayed with the man until police and firefighters arrived.

"We knew that car was about to catch on fire and whoever was in there was going to burn up, and we couldn't just watch and let that happen," Pickett Jr. told the sports news website The Athletic. "We got out, ran over, jumped over the power line, opened the door. He still had his seatbelt on."

"What if we got there just a minute later?" Pickett Jr. said.

Trump's policies spark Labor Day protests

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Protesters took to the streets in multiple U.S. cities on Labor Day to criticize President Donald Trump and demand a living wage for workers.

Demonstrations in Chicago and New York were organized by One Fair Wage to draw attention to the struggles laborers face in the U.S., where the federal minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Chants of “Trump must go now!” echoed outside the president’s former home in New York, while protesters gathered outside a different Trump Tower in Chicago, yelling “No National Guard” and “Lock him up!” Large crowds also gathered in Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

In New York, people gathered outside Trump Tower, which has become a magnet for protests and remains a prominent symbol of the president’s wealth, even though the president hasn’t lived in the Manhattan skyscraper for

years. Demonstrators waved signs and banners calling for an end to what they said is a fascist regime.

In Washington, a large crowd gathered with signs saying “Stop the ICE invasion” and an umbrella painted with “Free D.C. No masked thugs.” Hundreds more gathered at protests along the West Coast to fight for the rights of immigrants and workers.

Multiple groups joined together at the protests in Chicago to listen to speeches and lend their voices to the chants.

“We’re here because we’re under attack. We’re here because our core values and our democracy is under attack. We are here because they are threatening to send the military into our streets,” Daniel Biss, the mayor of Evanston, Ill., told the crowd in Chicago as he urged them to stand up for workers.

At one point, a woman got out of a vehicle with Iowa plates in

Chicago to shout “Long live Donald Trump” over and over again, resulting in a brief confrontation as the protesters responded with shouts of their own until the woman left a few minutes later.

In the crowd, Ziri Marquez said she came out because she’s concerned about overlapping issues in the U.S. and around the world, decrying anti-migrant attitudes in the U.S. and the deaths of Palestinians in Gaza.

“I think especially, you know, when we’re dealing with low wages and we’re dealing with a stagnant economy, immigrants are largely used as a scapegoat,” said Marquez, 25.

Along the West Coast from San Diego up to Seattle, hundreds gathered at rallies to call for a stop to the “billionaire takeover.”

Groups supporting federal workers and unions marched in Los Angeles; San Francisco; and Portland, Ore., in support of

workers rights. Rally organizer May Day Strong said on its website that “billionaires are stealing from working families, destroying our democracy and building private armies to attack our towns and cities.”

They called on people to take collective action to stop the takeover.

Portland protester Lynda Oakley, of Beaverton, told OregonLive.com that her frustrations with health care, immigration and Social Security inspired her to join the march.

“I am done with what’s happening in our country,” she said.

King County Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda, who took part in a demonstration at Seattle’s Cascade Playground, told KOMO News that they wanted to send a message of workers above billionaires.

“Workers should be more powerful than the small billionaire class,” she said.

Trump plans to award Giuliani Presidential Medal of Freedom

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Monday he will award former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, two days after his longtime political ally was seriously injured in a car crash.

The decision places the award on a man once lauded for leading New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and later sanctioned by courts and disbarred for amplifying false claims about the 2020 election. Giuliani was also criminally charged in two states; he has denied wrongdoing.

Trump in a statement on social media called Giuliani the “greatest Mayor in the history of New York City, and an equally great American Patriot.”

For much of the past two decades, Giuliani’s public life has

been defined by a striking rise and fall. After leading New York through the aftermath of Sept. 11, he mounted a brief campaign for the Republican presidential nomination and became one of the most recognizable political figures in the country. But as Trump’s personal lawyer, he became a central figure in efforts to overturn the 2020 election. Courts repeatedly rejected the fraud claims he advanced, and two former Georgia election workers won a \$148 million defamation judgment against him.

Giuliani, 81, was hospitalized after the vehicle in which he was a passenger was rear-ended on Saturday night in New Hampshire. He suffered a fractured thoracic vertebra along with multiple lacerations, contusions and injuries to his left arm and leg, according to his security chief, Michael Ragusa.

Epstein panel withdraws subpoena to ex-FBI chief

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A House committee investigating the Justice Department’s handling of the Jeffrey Epstein sex trafficking case has withdrawn a subpoena to former FBI Director Robert Mueller, citing the state of his health.

The House Oversight Committee last month scheduled Mueller to appear Tuesday for a deposition, but the subpoena was withdrawn after the panel learned of unspecified health issues that precluded him from being able to testify, according to a committee statement.

The New York Times, citing a statement from Mueller’s family and people close to him, reported Sunday night that Mueller had been diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease in the summer of 2021 and has had difficulty speaking.

Mueller was appointed FBI director in 2001 by then-President George W. Bush and shepherded the bureau’s evolution into a national security and intelligence-gathering agency. He resigned in 2013. In 2017, he was tapped by the Justice Department to serve as special counsel in charge of the investigation into potential coordination between Donald Trump’s successful 2016 presidential campaign and Russia.

Last month, Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, issued subpoenas to Mueller and more than a half dozen other former law enforcement and government officials for testimony about the years-long investigation into Epstein, whose August 2019 death following his arrest on sex trafficking charges was determined to have been a suicide.

14K migrants returned south under Trump

Associated Press

More than 14,000 mainly Venezuelan migrants who hoped to reach the United States have reversed course and turned south since President Donald Trump's immigration crack-down began, according to a report published Friday by the governments of Colombia, Panama and Costa Rica.

The phenomenon, known as "reverse flow" migration, is largely made up of Venezuelan migrants who fled their country's long-running economic, social and political crises only to encounter U.S. immigration policy no longer open to asylum-seekers.

Migration through the treacherous Darien Gap on the border of Colombia and Panama peaked in 2023 when more than half a million migrants crossed.

That flow slowed somewhat in 2024 but dried up almost completely early this year.

Friday's report, published with support of the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, said that northward migration had dropped 97% this year.

Migrants traveling south interviewed in Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia by those countries' ombudsmen offices were almost all Venezuelans,

97%, and about half of them said they planned to return to Venezuela, according to the report.

Nearly all said they were returning because they could no longer legally reach the U.S.

Since 2017, around 8 million people have fled the crisis in Venezuela. For years, those migrants flocked to other South American nations, including Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Chile and more.

That changed in 2021, when hundreds of thousands of people set out for the U.S., braving the Darien Gap along the way.

A U.S. government smartphone app became the main

way for asylum-seekers to enter the U.S. under the Biden administration. Then thousands of migrants became stranded in Mexico when Trump ended the use of the app on his first day in office.

Now, those migrants who were still trying to reach the U.S. when Trump entered and changed border policies have reversed course, traveling back to South America.

Around a quarter of those interviewed planned to go to neighboring Colombia, previously the epicenter of the mass migration from Venezuela.

Today, Venezuela's political and economic turmoil rages on.

Xi and Putin reaffirm their 'old friend' ties

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese leader Xi Jinping welcomed Russian President Vladimir Putin as an "old friend" as the two held a series of meetings Tuesday at a time when their countries face both overlapping and differing challenges from the United States.

Relations between China and Russia have deepened in recent years, particularly following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022. President Donald Trump's unorthodox approach to the war has added a twist to the relationship but doesn't appear to have fundamentally changed it.

Putin addressed Xi as "dear friend" and said that Moscow's ties with Beijing are "at an unprecedentedly high level."

In a sign of the importance China places on the relationship, their formal meeting was followed by tea with top aides at Zhongnanhai, the walled complex that is the center of power in China with residences and offices for its top leaders.

China announced after the talks that it would begin offering 30-day visa-free access to Russian travelers starting later this month.

The talks come the day after both attended a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in the nearby Chinese city of Tianjin, and the day before a grand Chinese military parade in Beijing to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

The Soviet Union was neutral for much of the war in Asia, but provided assistance to China in earlier fighting against invading Japanese forces in the 1930s. It also declared war on Japan in the waning days of World War II and sent troops over the border into Japanese-occupied north-eastern China.

"We were always together then, we remain together now," Putin said.

China says it is neutral in the Ukraine war but has provided an economic lifeline to Russia by continuing trade despite Western sanctions.

Putin says US listening to war justifications

Associated Press

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that President Donald Trump's administration is listening to the Kremlin's justifications for its invasion of neighboring Ukraine and claimed that Moscow and Washington have come to a "mutual understanding" about the conflict.

Putin said during a visit to China that "the (Trump) administration is listening to us," as he complained that former President Joe Biden paid Moscow's arguments no heed.

"Now we see this mutual understanding, it's noticeable," Putin said at a bilateral meeting with Slovakian President Robert Fico after talks with Chinese leader Xi Jinping in Beijing. "We are very happy about this and hope this constructive dialogue will continue."

But Russia faces possible punitive actions by Trump, who has expressed frustration at Putin's lack of engagement in U.S.-led peace efforts and threatened unspecified "severe consequences." The American presi-

dent has made ending the three-year war one of his diplomatic priorities and hosted Putin at a summit in Alaska last month.

Putin attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in the Chinese city of Tianjin with Xi and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who are also facing pressure from Trump. The SCO started out as a foil to U.S. influence in Central Asia but has grown in influence over the years.

After the summit, the Russian leader held talks with Xi in Beijing, and on Wednesday he was to attend a massive military parade there commemorating the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

In Beijing, Putin struck an apparently amenable tone about possible progress in some aspects of the discussions to stop the fighting, although his comments reflected no substantial change in Russia's position.

Western leaders have accused Putin of marking time in peace efforts while Russia's bigger army seeks to overwhelm Ukrainian defenses.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man found dead at Burning Man festival

NV RENO — A man found dead in a pool of blood is being investigated as a homicide at the annual Burning Man art and music festival in the northwestern Nevada desert, authorities say.

Authorities were alerted about the man Saturday at the gathering in the Black Rock Desert about 110 miles north of Reno.

The Pershing County Sheriff's Office said it appears to be a singular crime but urged everyone at the festival to be vigilant of their surroundings and acquaintances. The festival ended Monday.

The annual gathering in the Black Rock Desert attracts tens of thousands of artists, musicians and activists each year for a mix of wilderness camping and avant-garde performances, highlighted by the burning of a large wooden effigy of a man.

Kemp endorses football coach for Senate seat

GA ATHENS — Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Saturday endorsed Republican Derek Dooley in Georgia's 2026 U.S. Senate race, arguing an outsider without congressional experience can best critique Democratic Sen. Jon Ossoff's record.

Kemp's choice of Dooley is hardly a surprise — he told other Republican candidates that he would back Dooley before the former University of Tennessee football coach even entered the race.

Dooley has focused on attack-

ing Ossoff and backing President Donald Trump. But Dooley has a scant history in politics — he didn't vote in the 2016 and 2020 elections when Trump was a candidate. Still coaching at the time, Dooley has said he was too busy and distracted to vote.

Boy fatally shot after 'ding dong ditch' prank

TX HOUSTON — An 11-year-old boy was fatally shot in Houston after a prank in which he rang the doorbell of a home and ran away, police said Sunday.

The boy, who has not yet been identified, died of his wounds Sunday, police said.

Police spokesperson Shay Awosiyani said that officers were still investigating and had not arrested anybody in connection with the boy's death as of Sunday evening.

Lost boy wandering on tracks saved by parkgoer

PA HERSHEY — A lost boy wandering a monorail line high above the crowd at Hersheypark was rescued by a park visitor who climbed onto a building and jumped onto the rails.

The child was reported missing at about 5:05 p.m. Saturday after he became separated from his parents, according to a news release from the chocolate-themed amusement park in Pennsylvania.

While park employees were searching for him, the boy entered a secured area leading to the monorail ride. The boy was in the closed station for about 20 minutes before he wandered onto the tracks.

A video posted to social media shows the boy walking along the tracks as people in the crowd below start waving their arms and yelling directions at him. One man climbs onto a nearby building and pulls himself onto the tracks, scooping up the boy.

Legionnaires' outbreak linked to city buildings

NY NEW YORK — A New York City hospital and another city-run building were sources for a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in Harlem that killed seven people and sickened dozens of others, health officials announced Friday.

The New York City Health Department said bacteria from cooling towers atop Harlem Hospital and a nearby construction site where the city's public health lab is located matched samples from some of the ill patients.

The agency said they consider the bacterial cluster official since the last day anyone reported symptoms of Legionnaires' disease was Aug. 9.

Since the outbreak, seven people have died and 114 people have been diagnosed with Legionnaires' disease.

More shrimp pulled for potential radiation

WA SEATTLE — More companies are recalling tens of thousands of packages of imported shrimp sold at Walmart, Kroger and other U.S. stores because they may contain radioactive contamination, according to federal notices.

AquaStar USA Corp. of Seattle is recalling 26,000 packages of refrigerated cocktail shrimp

sold at Walmart in 27 states between July 31 and Aug. 16.

The company is also recalling about 18,000 bags of Kroger-branded cooked, medium peeled, tail-off shrimp sold at stores in 17 states between July 24 and Aug. 11.

At the same time, H&N Group Inc., a wholesale seafood distributor in Vernon, Calif., is recalling more than 17,000 cases of frozen shrimp sold to grocery stores on the East Coast.

The products have been pulled because they may be contaminated with Cesium-137, a radioactive isotope that is a byproduct of nuclear reactions.

State Supreme Court justice won't run again

WI MADISON — A conservative justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court said Friday that she will not seek reelection, creating an open race for a seat on the court that's controlled 4-3 by liberals.

Justice Rebecca Bradley's decision not to run for a second full term comes after conservative candidates for the highest court in the battleground state have lost each of the past two elections by double-digit margins.

Both of those races broke national spending records and the liberal won in April despite heavy spending by billionaire Elon Musk.

The open race comes as several high-profile issues could make their way to the Wisconsin Supreme Court in the coming months, including abortion, collective bargaining rights, congressional redistricting and election rules.

— From wire reports

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Osaka rolls past Gauff into quarterfinals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Naomi Osaka smiled before her U.S. Open showdown against Coco Gauff began Monday — and after it ended. Between points, Osaka patted her left thigh and quietly told herself, almost in a whisper: “Come on. Come on.”

Once the ball was in play, Osaka’s strokes were loud and on-target, producing the sort of confident, consistent and power-swinging tennis that carried her to four Grand Slam titles and the No. 1 ranking.

In the biggest statement yet that she is back at the height of her game, and again a serious contender for the sport’s highest honors, Osaka eliminated Gauff 6-3, 6-2 in Arthur Ashe Stadium to reach her first major quarterfinal in more than 4½ years.

“This is kind of uncharted territory at this point of my career,” said Osaka.

“I’m just enjoying it. I’m having fun. I’m being able to play against the best players in the world.”

The No. 23-seeded Osaka was

better throughout than No. 3 Gauff, whose repeated mistakes during a tournament that’s been a near-constant struggle for her really made the difference.

And Gauff’s body language was quite a contrast to Osaka’s.

Gauff repeatedly would put her palms up or cover her face with a hand or gesture toward her team in the stands, looking confused or upset.

On Wednesday, Osaka will face No. 11 Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic for a berth in the semifinals. Muchova, the 2023 French Open runner-up and a semifinalist in New York the past two years, advanced with a 6-3, 6-7 (0), 6-3 victory No. 27 Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine.

It was Muchova who got past 45-year-old Venus Williams in three sets in the first round of this U.S. Open.

Muchova also beat Osaka in the second round at Flushing Meadows in 2024.

Against Gauff, Osaka displayed the demeanor that carried her to hard-court Slam championships at the U.S. Open in 2018

and 2020, and at the Australian Open in 2019 and 2021.

It was at the French Open later in 2021 that Osaka helped spark a global conversation about mental health by revealing she felt anxiety and depression. She then took a series of breaks from the tour.

That most recent trophy at Melbourne Park was the last time Osaka had even made it as far as the fourth round at any major until this match against Gauff, a 21-year-old from Florida who owns two major trophies.

Osaka returned to the tour last season after a 17-month maternity leave.

“I’m a little sensitive, and I don’t want to cry, but, honestly, I just had so much fun out here,” said Osaka, who first played Gauff back at the 2019 U.S. Open, also in Ashe, and won that one, too.

“I was in the stands like two months after I gave birth to my daughter, watching Coco. I just really wanted an opportunity to come out here and play,” Osaka told the crowd.

“This is my favorite court in the world, and it means so much for me to be back here.”

Gauff came out jittery at the start. Her problematic serve was fine; other strokes were the problem. She finished with 33 unforced errors — way more than Osaka’s 12.

Plus, Osaka’s serving and returning were terrific. She won 32 of the 38 points she served and never faced a single break point. She also converted all four break chances she earned.

“She forced me to earn every point out there today,” Gauff acknowledged.

A key: Osaka used her forehand, her best stroke, to go after Gauff’s forehand, her worst.

By the end of the first set, Gauff had made 16 unforced errors and Osaka only five. By the end of the match, 20 of Gauff’s unforced errors were off the forehand side.

“After the match, I was really disappointed. Kind of broke down to my team,” Gauff said.

“Then, hearing their perspectives and everything, it definitely is a lot of positive things.”

Venus into doubles quarters, tells Serena to come cheer

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Venus Williams is into the U.S. Open women’s doubles quarterfinals with Leylah Fernandez and now wants her old partner to come back. She says it’s time for Serena Williams to come see a match.

Williams made the plea for her younger sister to show up after she and Fernandez beat the 12th-seeded duo of Ekaterina Alexandrova and Zhang Shuai 6-3, 6-4 in their third-round match Monday in front of a capacity crowd at Louis Armstrong Stadium.

“She’s so happy for Leylah and I, and she’s given us advice,” Williams said. “We just need her in the box. So, my message is, ‘Serena, you need to

show up.”

Williams and Fernandez will play Tuesday against the top-seeded team of Taylor Townsend and Katerina Siniakova.

The Williams sisters won 14 major championships together. Even if Serena chooses not to attend, she’s definitely watching.

“She gave me a pep talk and made sure to call me today. I was, like, ‘You’re right. I got it. I got it,’” Venus said.

“She’s definitely coaching from afar. She’s so excited. She gets so nervous watching, and she’s got the kids watching. They’re all at home, just really on our side.”

Venus said she was sent a video of her two nieces watching the match and yelling her name.

Williams and Fernandez had

not played together until last week, when they received a wild-card entry into the field at the Grand Slam tournament. They are now 3-0 and have not lost a set in the process.

“We’re on the same wavelength, and hopefully we can keep it going,” Williams said.

With the stands packed at Armstrong and a wait to get in to see Williams and Fernandez, the 45-year-old American and 22-year-old Canadian needed just an hour and 14 minutes to move on.

“I have full confidence in Venus, and I hope she has full confidence in me during our match,” Fernandez said. “We’re just going out there, playing our game: Be offensive, aggressive and ready for the ball.”

Venus has called Fernandez her best partner other than Serena. She joked that Serena didn’t have any advice for Fernandez, the 2021 U.S. Open runner-up in singles.

“So I guess you’re playing perfect,” Williams said to her partner during their press conference.

Serena hasn’t played since the 2022 U.S. Open. If she does return to Flushing Meadows, it sounds as if Venus would expect her to bring a racket.

“If she came, it would be a dream for both of us and we’d have her on the court coaching,” Venus said. “We’d force her to hit, even though she doesn’t hit often. It’s probably best she doesn’t come because we’d probably bully her.”

Heels blown out in Belichick's debut

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina's high-point moment in its first game under coach Bill Belichick came early.

A festive pregame atmosphere led to a roar from the crowd at kickoff. And a season-opening drive moved at a crisp pace to the end zone.

After that, well, Monday night's hyped-up debut turned into a romp by TCU — along with a reminder that even an NFL icon with six Super Bowl titles as a head coach can't just magically turn the Tar Heels into winners after decades of also-ran status.

"We played competitively but then just couldn't sustain it," Belichick said in a familiar low tone from his NFL news conferences after the 48-14 loss. "Obviously, we have a lot of work to do. We need to do a better job all the way around — coaching, playing, all three phases of the game."

The blowout put a major damper on a night buzzing with optimism for the 73-year-old Belichick's college debut, only to see the Horned Frogs dominate so thoroughly they drove UNC fans to the Kenan Stadium exits by midway through the third quarter.

"It was a great environment tonight," Belichick said. "I mean, the fans were awesome.

There was great energy in the stadium. We just didn't do enough to keep it going. We've got to play better for the energy to be sustainable."

By the end of the game, Kenan was a ghost town and the Tar Heels had given up more points than in any previous opener in their history, according to Sportradar.

It was a jarring result, even amid uncertainty as to exactly what to expect from UNC with roughly 70 new players between transfers and incoming recruits. There were few highlights after that opening drive beyond Kaleb Cost's athletic reeling in of a deflected ball for an interception, and quarterback Max Johnson returning in relief from a serious leg injury sustained in last year's opener at Minnesota.

"We're just moving forward, just moving forward," said Cost, offering an unintentional callback to Belichick's famous "We're on to Cincinnati" response to reporters' questions after a blowout loss to the Kansas City Chiefs in 2014.

UNC was picked to finish eighth in the 17-team ACC, though that seemed almost entirely predicated on Belichick's presence. This is a man, after all, who teamed with legendary quarterback Tom Brady to win six world titles in his 24-year run

with the New England Patriots. Someone who won more regular-season and playoff games in the NFL (333) than anyone other than Don Shula.

So there was spectacle to Belichick's debut as he took the field sporting a familiar look from the pro sideline with a gray hoodie — only this one bearing the name "Carolina Football" in that distinctive shade of light blue.

An estimated 5,000 fans packed onto a main campus quad for a pregame concert and throngs lined the team's walk to Kenan, where UNC has sold out all its season tickets — at an elevated price with Belichick's arrival — and single-game seats for the season. The game attracted ESPN to hold a pregame studio show from the sideline with a crew that included former Alabama coach Nick Saban, with Belichick popping over briefly to say hello.

Belichick roamed the field during pregame warmups for the better part of a half-hour. At one point, he stood on the UNC end of the field with general manager Michael Lombardi, then shared a quick handshake with ACC commissioner Jim Phillips as he made his way toward midfield.

Once there, Belichick shook hands with members of the officiating crew and watched the

Horned Frogs warm up.

The Tar Heels got off to a sprint of a start with an 83-yard drive that ended with Caleb Hood scoring through the right side from 8 yards out, followed by forcing a quick punt. But things soon started getting away.

TCU — which lost in a similar scenario as the "other" team in Deion Sanders' debut at Colorado two years ago — never looked rattled or thrown. Bud Clark provided a highlight by jumping Gio Lopez's sideline throw for an easy 25-yard pick-six as TCU took a 20-7 lead into the break.

It quickly got worse after halftime. Kevorian Barnes sprinted through the right side and down the sideline for a 75-yard touchdown on the first snap. Trent Battle added his own big run, slipping through the left side untouched and going 28 yards for a TD.

And finally, Devean Deal had a 37-yard scoop-and-score on Lopez's fumble to make it 41-7 and start the Kenan exodus.

By the end, UNC had just 222 total yards, 320 fewer than TCU, and a short week to fix problems before visiting Charlotte on Saturday.

"They were clearly the better team tonight," Belichick said. "They deserved to win and they did it decisively."

Penske confirms Power will not return for 18th season

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Will Power, the consummate company man who won two IndyCar titles and the Indianapolis 500 for Roger Penske, will not return to Team Penske for an 18th season.

The long-expected announcement was finally made Tuesday, two days after the season finale, and nearly a year after speculation began that Power would not be renewed when his contract expired as the team eyed a younger driver. Power turns 45 at the start of next season.

"As we sat down to talk about our future

together, Will felt that it was time for him to make a change beginning with next season," Penske said in a statement. "He has been an outstanding driver and teammate for our organization. His results speak for themselves, and we wish him the very best in the next phase of his career."

As the season dragged on without any movement from Penske, Power's departure became obvious. He showed up at the season-opener in March facing questions about the possibility of 23-year-old David Malukas replacing him at the end of the year.

After Sunday's season finale at Nashville Superspeedway, Power was both reflective and grateful for the time he'd had at Penske, where he won 42 races, two championships, the Indy 500 and became IndyCar's all-time pole-winner with 71.

"It's been the honor of my life to drive for Roger and the Penske organization," Power said. "We have accomplished so much together, and I will always be grateful for my time with the team and my teammates who have supported me along the way. After much consideration, I felt like a change for me was the right move at this time."

Marsh singles Stubbs, lifting Phillies

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Brandon Marsh went 4-for-5 and singled home the go-ahead run in the ninth inning as the Philadelphia Phillies erased an early four-run deficit to beat the Milwaukee Brewers 10-8 on Monday.

Marsh singled home pinch-runner Garrett Stubbs after Abner Uribe (2-2) sandwiched a strikeout of Bryce Harper with walks to Kyle Schwarber and J.T. Realmuto. Harrison Bader singled home Realmuto with an insurance run.

Harper homered and Bader went 3-for-5 with two doubles and three RBIs as the Phillies won the opener of a three-game series between the top two teams in the majors. Brice Turang and Caleb Durbin homered for Milwaukee.

David Robertson (2-0) picked up the win despite allowing two runs in his lone inning. Jhoan Duran retired the side in order in the ninth.

Milwaukee took an early 4-0 lead against Taijuan Walker as Turang and Durbin went deep to start each of the first two innings. Philadelphia's comeback began when Harper drove a 101 mph fastball from rookie Jacob Misiorowski over the center-field wall.

The Phillies pulled ahead 6-5 by scoring three runs off Nick Mears in the sixth. Milwaukee tied it in the bottom half when second baseman Bryson Stott mishandled a two-out grounder from Jackson Chourio, enabling Durbin to score from third.

Philadelphia took an 8-6 lead in the eighth by scoring two runs off Shelby Miller. Milwaukee tied it again in the bottom of the inning on pinch-hitter Isaac Collins' two-run single.

Nationals 2, Marlins 0: Andrew Alvarez allowed one hit over five innings to become only the second Nationals starter in 15 years to win his major league debut, and host Washington beat Miami to stop an eight-game losing streak.

Alvarez allowed his only hit when Victor Mesa Jr. singled to left with one out in the fifth. He struck out four and walked two, throwing 44 of 81 pitches for strikes.

Reds 5, Blue Jays 4: Noelvi Marte hit a game-ending, two-run single after the Reds lost the tying run on a rare lodged ball call, and host Cincinnati rallied to beat Toronto following a ninth-inning bullpen meltdown.

Toronto's AL East lead was cut to 2½ games over the idle New York Yankees. Cincinnati remained four games back of the New York Mets for the last NL wild card.

Mets 10, Tigers 8: Juan Soto tied his career high with six RBIs, hitting a grand slam and a tiebreaking, two-run triple to lead visiting New York over Detroit.

Soto's fourth-inning homer off Charlie Morton put the Mets ahead 6-3. After Detroit tied the score, Soto gave the Mets an 8-6 lead when he tripled off Drew Sommers (0-1).

Red Sox 6, Guardians 4: Carlos Narváez had his first career pinch hit, a tiebreaking single in the fifth inning. Trevor Story had a strange homer that ticked the right fielder's glove and then the foul pole as host Boston beats Cleveland.

The victory pulled the Red Sox (77-62) within a percentage point of the Yankees (76-61) for the AL's top wild-card spot.

The Guardians have dropped 13 of 20.

White Sox 6, Twins 5: Colson Montgomery and Chase Meidroth homered and Brooks Baldwin and Mike Tauchman hit consecutive run-scoring doubles as visiting Chicago rallies to beat Minnesota.

The White Sox trailed 5-4 in the eighth inning before Baldwin and Tauchman hit back-to-back RBI doubles off Justin Topa (1-4).

Kyle Alexander (5-13), the sixth of seven pitchers for the

White Sox, earned the win.

Athletics 11, Cardinals 3: JJ Bleday homered twice and Zack Gelof had a home run among his three hits as the Athletics snapped a three-game skid with a road win over St. Louis.

Luis Morales (3-0) allowed two runs on five hits and struck out a career-best eight batters in 5½ innings.

Bleday hit his second homer of the game and 12th of the season in the sixth inning to extend the Athletics' lead to 5-1.

Astros 8, Angels 3: Jose Altuve hit a two-run homer and an RBI single and Ramón Urias also went deep to back up a strong start from Luis Garcia, leading Houston to a home win over Los Angeles.

Garcia (1-0) got the win in his return after sitting out more than two years while recovering from Tommy John surgery. He allowed three hits and three runs with six strikeouts in six innings.

The game was tied with one out in the fifth when Yordan Alvarez singled before moving to second on a groundout by Altuve.

Alvarez added an RBI single in the eighth before Altuve's homer made it 8-3.

Giants 8, Rockies 2: Drew Gilbert had a career-high four hits, including one of the Giants' three home runs, and visiting San Francisco beat Colorado.

Rafael Devers and Willy Adames also went deep for San Francisco (69-69), which has won eight of nine to pull within five games of the New York Mets for the last National League playoff berth.

Kai-Wei Teng (2-3) allowed two runs and struck out eight in 5½ innings.

Cubs 7 Braves 6 (10): Carson Kelly hit a tying two-run homer in the eighth inning and a game-ending single in the 10th, sending Chicago to a wild home victory over Atlanta.

Ian Happ had three hits for Chicago. Dansby Swanson drove

in two runs, and Matt Shaw had a run-scoring double.

Seiya Suzuki began the Cubs' 10th on second as the automatic runner. Suzuki advanced on Nico Hoerner's one-out grounder to second before Kelly hit a liner into the corner in left off John Brebbia (1-1).

Andrew Kittredge (4-3) worked a perfect 10th for the win.

Orioles 4, Padres 3: Dylan Beavers singled home the go-ahead run with two outs in the seventh inning and visiting Baltimore beat San Diego.

San Diego lost its second straight and dropped 2½ games behind the first-place Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL West.

Rays 10, Mariners 2: Shane Baz pitched six shutout innings to end his eight-game losing streak and host Tampa Bay beat Seattle for its fourth consecutive victory.

Nick Fortes hit an early three-run homer and scored three times. Tristan Gray also went deep and Yandy Diaz had a two-run double for the Rays (68-69), who moved within 4½ games of the Mariners for the last American League playoff spot.

Seattle holds a two-game lead over Texas for the third and final wild card.

Rangers 7, Diamondbacks 5 (10): Alejandro Osuna hit a two-run single in the 10th inning, Jake Burger had a crucial RBI triple in his return from the injured list and visiting Texas rallied past Arizona for its sixth straight victory.

The Rangers had runners on second and third with two outs in the 10th when Osuna ripped a line drive that caromed off reliever Juan Burgos (1-1) into foul territory. Michael Helman crossed the plate easily and then Ezequiel Duran scored all the way from second, sliding under Gabriel Moreno's tag.

Texas is 1½ games behind Seattle for the final American League wild card.