

MILITARY

Army Reserves go on first mission to Angola in decades
Page 5



FACES

Crowe wild about 'Almost Famous' Broadway album
Page 14



WORLD CUP

US reaches end of road, loses to the Netherlands 3-1
Page 24

Defense secretary: Keep COVID-19 military vaccine mandate >> **Page 6**

STARS AND STRIPES

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Army to use old slogan to bring in new recruits

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The Army will launch a new advertising campaign next year that uses an old slogan to attract young audiences to the service — “Be all you can be.”

While that sounds familiar to anyone who watched television in the 1980s and 1990s, the slogan best relays the “possibilities” that await a new Army recruit, said Maj. Gen. Alex Fink, chief of Army enterprise marketing.

“We’re not returning to ‘Be all you can be’ for nostalgia or old times’ sake or because we think retro is trendy and cool. We’re really reinventing it to reposition the Army and to inspire the next generation soldiers,” Fink said.

The last “Be all you can be” ad ran on TV in January 2001, and most of the audience the Army is trying to reach now weren’t born then. The ads of the original campaign focused on pride and often included a voiceover of the soldier’s creed.

Fink declined to discuss exactly what new television ads could be coming through the campaign, but he said the concept is meant to showcase possibility and opportunity that’s available to those who choose to enlist, regardless of whether they want a full career in the Army or just enough time to leverage themselves into a college education or a specific civilian career field.

Fink said his own life story speaks to the possibilities available in the Army. A self-described farm kid from Missouri with just 19 kids in his graduating high school class, he went on to become a two-star general officer in the Army Reserve. He took over the Army’s top marketing job in Au-

SEE SLOGAN ON PAGE 6



JOSHUA CARROLL/U.S. Air Force

A B-21 Raider is unveiled at Northrop Grumman’s manufacturing facility on Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif., on Friday.

‘Isn’t just another airplane’

Pentagon debuts its new stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider

By TARA COPP
Associated Press

PALMDALE, Calif. — America’s newest nuclear stealth bomber made its debut Friday after years of secret development and as part of the Pentagon’s answer to rising concerns over a future conflict with China.

The B-21 Raider is the first new American bomber aircraft in more than 30 years. Almost every aspect of the program is classified.

As evening fell over the Air Force’s Plant 42 in Palmdale, the public got its first glimpse of the Raider in a tightly controlled ceremony. It started with a flyover of the three bombers still

in service: the B-52 Stratofortress, the B-1 Lancer and the B-2 Spirit. Then the hangar doors slowly opened and the B-21 was towed partially out of the building.

“This isn’t just another airplane,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said. “It’s the embodiment of America’s determination to defend the republic that we all love.”

The B-21 is part of the Pentagon’s efforts to modernize all three legs of its nuclear triad, which includes silo-launched nuclear ballistic missiles and submarine-launched warheads, as it shifts from the counterterrorism campaigns of recent decades to meet China’s rapid

MILITARY

Air Force begins phased withdrawal of F-15 Eagles from Kadena Air Base
Page 3

military modernization.

China is on track to have 1,500 nuclear weapons by 2035, and its gains in hypersonics, cyber

SEE BOMBER ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

OPEC declines target change for shipping oil

Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The Saudi-led OPEC oil cartel and allied producers including Russia did not change targets for shipping oil to the global economy amid uncertainty about the impact of new Western sanctions against Russia that could take significant amounts of oil off the market. The decision at a meeting of oil ministers Sunday comes a day ahead of the planned start of two measures aimed at hitting Russia's oil earnings in response to its

invasion of Ukraine. Those are: a European Union boycott of most Russian oil and a price cap of \$60 per barrel on Russian exports imposed by the EU and the Group of Seven democracies.

It is not yet clear how much Russian oil the two measures could take off the global market, which would tighten supply and drive up prices.

The world's No. 2 oil producer has been able to reroute much, but not all, of its former Europe shipments to customers in India, Chi-

na and Turkey.

The impact of the price cap is also up in the air because Russia has said it could simply halt deliveries to countries that observe the limit. But analysts say the country would likely also find ways to evade the cap for some shipments.

On the other side, oil has been trading at lower prices on fears that coronavirus outbreaks and China's strict zero-COVID restrictions would reduce demand for fuel in one of the world's major economies.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Dec. 5)	\$1.03	Switzerland (Franc)	1302.93
Dollar buys (Dec. 5)	0.9272	Thailand (Baht)	34.69
British pound (Dec. 5)	\$1.20	Turkey (NewLira)	18.6352
Japanese yen (Dec. 5)	133.00		
South Korean won (Dec. 5)	1,267.00		
Commercial rates		(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3770	INTEREST RATES	
Britain (Pound)	1.2288	Prime rate	7.00
Canada (Dollar)	1.3462	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
China (Yuan)	7.0246	Federal funds market rate	3.83
Denmark (Krone)	7.0590	3-month bill	4.32
Egypt (Pound)	24.5655	30-year bond	3.55
Euro	1.0535		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7812		
Hungary (Forint)	388.95		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4072		
Japan (Yen)	134.44		
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3066		
Norway (Krone)	9.7796		
Philippines (Peso)	55.80		
Poland (Zloty)	4.44		
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7588		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3502		

WEATHER OUTLOOK



TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 11
- Classified 13
- Comics 15
- Crossword 15
- Faces 14
- Opinion 16
- Sports 17-24



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EUROPE

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

+81 (42) 552.2511
DSN: 315.227.7310

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PACIFIC

F-15 Eagles start phase-out from Okinawa

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

The first contingent of F-15C/D fighters to permanently depart Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, lifted off Thursday, bound for service with the National Guard or storage in the Air Force boneyard.

The Air Force on Oct. 27 announced plans to replace the two units of F-15 Eagles positioned on Okinawa — the 44th and 67th Fighter Squadrons — with rotating units of more advanced, fifth-generation F-22 Raptor stealth fighters for the foreseeable future.

About a dozen Raptors from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, touched down at Kadena on Nov. 3.

The phase-out of the 48 Eagle fighters positioned 43 years on Okinawa is supposed to take place over two years with no gaps in fighter coverage, according to the Air Force.

A spokesman at Kadena, Staff Sgt. Kyle Johnson, on Friday declined to say how many F-15s departed Thursday or how many F-22s are expected inbound. But the official Facebook page for Kadena showed eight F-15s ready to

taxi for take-off Thursday.

“Unfortunately, we don’t discuss details of inbound and outbound deployments due [to] operational security concerns,” an email from Johnson states.

The 18th Wing commander, Brig. Gen. David Eaglin, and wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie Woods posed on an F-15 for a farewell photo posted Thursday on Facebook.

“Me and the boss took a picture with his favorite F-15C Eagle before it leaves Kadena for good,” Woods wrote in the post. “Bittersweet.”

The Air Force plans to pull the F-15s from Kadena in phases and replace them with F-22s on six-month rotations.

The Eagles were bound initially for Kingsley Field Air National Guard Base, Klamath Falls, Ore., according to a prepared statement by wing spokeswoman Staff Sgt. Savannah Waters.

Some fighters will remain in service with Guard units across the U.S. while others are stored at the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson,



JESSI ROTH/U.S. Air Force

Air Force F-15C Eagles assigned to the 44th and 67th Fighter Squadrons await clearance for their last take-off from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Thursday.

Ariz., Waters wrote.

The 18th Wing, originally the 18th Tactical Fighter Wing, received its first F-15C on Sept. 29, 1979, according to Waters. The 67th Fighter Squadron, “The Fighting Cocks,” was the first fully operational Eagle squadron within the Pacific Air Forces, she wrote.

The Eagles are being retired due to “challenges” related to becoming obsolete, “sustainment costs, and technical airworthiness,” the wing said in a previous statement.

The Raptor by Lockheed-Martin and Boeing is a multirole fighter designed for air dominance, according to the Air Force. It had 183 of the \$143 million aircraft as of August.

Stars and Stripes reporter Frank Andrews contributed to this report.
ditzler.joseph@stripes.com
Twitter: @JosephDitzler



U.S. AIR FORCE

Brig. Gen. David Eaglin, left, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Ronnie J. Woods pose for a final shot on an F-15C Eagle before it departs.

Japan speeds up review of possible defensive arms purchase

By ALEX WILSON
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan’s Ministry of Defense said last week it’s interested in spending more on defensive weaponry but declined to confirm reports that it may buy 500 Tomahawk cruise missiles from the United States.

Two Japanese media outlets, Mainichi Shimbun and Kyodo News, citing unnamed government sources, reported last week that Japan is considering buying the Tomahawks.

The missiles would be purchased over time until the 2027 fiscal year to enhance the country’s defensive and deterrence capabilities, according to the reports.

A Defense Ministry spokesman on Thursday told Stars and Stripes that the Japanese government is making progress evaluating various options to strengthen its defense capabilities, but he declined to say what options, including equipment, were being evaluated.

“To fundamentally enhance defense capabilities, the Ministry of

Defense is speeding up the realistic examination process without excluding all options and is collecting various information,” the spokesman said by phone.

Some government officials in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a condition of their employment.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said Wednesday he is aware of reports that Japan is considering buying Tomahawks as part of its efforts to acquire “counterstrike capability,” but also said no decisions have been made. He said Japan is still considering whether to acquire the ability to strike at its adversaries in case of a conflict.

“No details have been decided as the so-called ‘counterstrike capability’ is currently under consideration,” Matsuno said during a news conference Wednesday.

A policy document outlining Japan’s hopes to acquire the “counterstrike capability” to take out enemy missiles if attacked was presented Nov. 25 during a meet-

ing between Japan’s ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner, Komeito, Japanese media reported last week.

The ministry on Tuesday confirmed that discussion but declined to provide further details.

“It is being considered within the limits of the constitution and international laws based on the recognition of whether we are equipped enough to protect the lives of Japanese citizens,” the ministry’s spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. “Therefore, we will continue to maintain an exclusive defense-oriented security posture.”

Discussions around new military capabilities have become a hot topic in Japan’s government since Prime Minister Kishida took office in October 2021. He has called for Japan to double its defense spending up to \$70 billion and bring it closer in line with NATO’s standard of 2% of GDP.

A government-commissioned panel in a Nov. 22 report to Kishida said a rapid defense buildup and preemptive strike capability

are “indispensable” to counter growing threats in the region, The Associated Press reported that day.

Japanese defense officials are also concerned about North Korean ballistic missile launches.

A Nov. 17 missile launched by Pyongyang fell within Japan’s exclusive economic zone in the Sea of Japan, known in Korea as the East Sea. A North Korean missile overflew northern Japan on Oct. 3 and fell into the Pacific Ocean east of the Japanese coast.

The missile tests prompted subsequent evacuation drills in some parts of Japan led by the Japanese government.

On Wednesday, about 20 people on Yonaguni island, about 400 miles southwest of Okinawa, took part in a drill that simulated a missile attack, a Yonaguni official told Stars and Stripes by phone Thursday.

Yonaguni was the seventh location in Japan to conduct such a drill this year, according to a news release about the drill posted on the town website.

Japan is also concerned about China’s “greater power and growing assertiveness,” according to James Brown, an international affairs expert at Temple University’s Japan campus.

“While once it was judged that the alliance with the United States was sufficient on its own, there is now the judgment in Tokyo that Japan needs to do more for itself to supplement the alliance,” he told Stars and Stripes by email Thursday.

Greater defense spending by Japan isn’t without its critics, including those who point out that Article 9 of the country’s constitution prohibits “the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes,” Brown said.

“It is for this reason that the Japanese government prefers to talk about ‘counter-strike capabilities,’” he said. “Actually conducting a ‘preemptive strike’ would be extremely difficult to square with Article 9 of Japan’s constitution.”

wilson.alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexMNWilson

MILITARY

US aims to blunt China's rise, set 'global norms'

By **TARA COPP**
Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — The U.S. is at a pivotal point with China and will need military strength to ensure that American values, not Beijing's, set global norms in the 21st century, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Saturday.

Austin's speech at the Reagan National Defense Forum capped a week in which the Pentagon was squarely focused on China's rise and what that might mean for America's position in the world.

On Monday it released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035,

with no clarity on how China would seek to use them.



Austin

In a rollout Friday, Austin was on hand as the public got its first glimpse of the military's newest, highly classified nuclear stealth bomber, the B-21 Raider, which is being designed to best the quickly growing cyber, space and nuclear capabilities of Beijing.

China "is the only country with both the will and, increasingly, the power to reshape its region and

the international order to suit its authoritarian preferences," Austin said Saturday. "So let me be clear: We will not let that happen."

The Pentagon is also concerned about Russia and remains committed to arming Ukraine while avoiding escalating that conflict into a U.S. war with Moscow, he said at the forum, held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library.

"We will not be dragged into Putin's war," Austin said.

"These next few years will set the terms of our competition with the People's Republic of China. They will shape the future of security in Europe," Austin said. "And they will determine whether

our children and grandchildren inherit an open world of rules and rights — or whether they face emboldened autocrats who seek to dominate by force and fear."

Still, between the two nuclear power threats, China remains the greater risk, Austin said.

To meet that rise, "we're aligning our budget as never before to the China challenge," Austin said. "In our imperfect world, deterrence does come through strength."

The bomber is part of a major nuclear triad overhaul underway that the Congressional Budget Office has estimated will cost \$1.2 trillion through 2046.

It includes the Raider serving as the backbone of the future air leg of the triad, but it also requires modernizing the nation's silo-launched nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles and its nuclear submarine fleet.

The Defense Department has the largest discretionary budget of all the federal agencies, and it may receive up to \$847 billion in the 2023 budget if Congress passes the current funding bill before this legislative session ends.

However, defense advocates argue it is still not enough to modernize and keep up with China because much of that spending goes to military personnel.

Former diplomat says China's Taiwan bullying could trigger firm US response

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Chinese aggression toward Taiwan could spur the United States to be less ambiguous about American support for the island, a former deputy secretary of state told an audience here Thursday.

President Joe Biden, who in September said U.S. troops would defend Taiwan if China invaded, "has his heart in the right place," Richard Armitage, 77, who served under President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2005, said at the Japan National Press Club.

The White House later walked back Biden's comments. It did the same after the president made a similar statement while visiting Japan in May.

"His team is a little frightened and that is why they keep walking back our president's statements," Armitage, a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War, told an audience of journalists, veterans and local dignitaries.

Tensions in the region spiked Aug. 3 when U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan on a broader Asian tour. The visit prompted China, which sees the self-governing island as a break-away province that must be reunited with the mainland, possibly by force, to stage live-fire drills that encircled Taiwan.

U.S. officials might state some "clear U.S. red lines" if China continues bullying Taiwan, said Armitage, who arrived in a wheelchair but stood to acknowledge the audience.

Under the "One China" policy, the U.S. acknowledges Beijing's view that it has sovereignty over Taiwan, which split from the mainland in 1949, but considers the island's status as unsettled.

Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979. The U.S., however, has



AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Former Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage takes a question at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on Thursday.

continued to supply arms to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act.

The U.S. has maintained "strategic ambiguity" about what military actions it would take in the event China moved to take the island by force.

China cannot easily invade Taiwan, Armitage said.

Taiwan's military is being modernized for asymmetrical warfare with drones, sea mines and capabilities to cut off Chinese communication and sensors in the event of conflict, he said.

Armitage was sending a strong message to Beijing to back off Taiwan, according to Ralph Cossa, president emeritus of the Pacific Forum think tank in Hawaii.

"The Chinese don't seem to understand that the more they threaten or harass Taiwan, the more the international community feels compelled to come to its assistance and declare its support," he said in an email Thursday.

An all-out attack on Taiwan would clearly be a red line, Cossa wrote.

"It's important that Beijing un-

derstands that seizing one of the outer islands or attempting a blockage or embargo would NOT be a so-called 'gray zone' operation but an act of war which would likely force the U.S. to respond, at least politically and economically but, in all likelihood, militarily as well," he said.

No Chinese planner contemplating an attack on Taiwan can factor the U.S. out, according to Cossa.

The problem with identifying specific red lines is that you invite an adversary to walk up to that point without crossing it, according to Brad Glosserman, deputy director and visiting professor at the Center for Rule-Making Strategies at Tama University in Tokyo.

"That's why they are ambiguous now, the U.S. doesn't want to tell the Chinese what it can get away with," he said by email Thursday.

In Tokyo, Armitage noted the limited number of warships that the U.S. Navy could deploy to defend Taiwan, with up to a third of the fleet down for maintenance at any time and vessels needed in other part of the world. That's why the U.S. needs allies, he said.

The vast distances across the Pacific mean military planners need to preposition weapons and equipment in Japan so that it can be quickly brought into the fight in a Taiwan or Korean contingency, Armitage said.

Akie Abe, the widow of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was shot dead while political campaigning July 8, was among those listening to Armitage. He was invited to speak by U.S.-Japan Link, a nonprofit that promotes ties between U.S. service members and Japanese people.

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1



CHEYENNE LEWIS/U.S. Air Force

The Air Force rolled out the myEval system in February.

Air Force says reporting system broken, halts use

By **JONATHAN SNYDER**
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force admitted recently that its new system for collecting airmen and guardians' performance reports is broken and directed a return to the old system a week before reports for 44,857 technical sergeants were due.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force JoAnne Bass announced Nov. 21 on her official Facebook page that use of the myEval system is temporarily paused, nearly 10 months after it was unveiled by the Air Force.

"We get it, folks. We have seen the memes and the jokes ... more importantly, we have seen the legitimate concerns and feedback about myEval," she said. "As it stands now, the system is not able to seamlessly process reports into a member's official records. Effective immediately, we'll begin using PDFs from e-Pubs to complete enlisted and officer evaluations."

The myEval issues included various evaluation errors, evaluations routed to the incorrect rating officials and training challenges, Air Force spokeswoman Deana Heitzman told Stars and Stripes by email Thursday.

The Air Force rolled out the myEval system in February, replacing the Virtual Personnel Center the service used to process performance reports.

"The most important consider-

ation is that we ensure there are no negative impacts to any of our airmen, while we review the way forward with myEval," Bass said.

The Air Force halted use of myEval for enlisted and officer performance evaluations based on feedback from the field, Heitzman said.

"MyEval conducted a beta test, which was completed in December 2021, prior to the initial myEval launch in February 2022," Heitzman said. "The future myEval will launch when additional testing is complete."

Bass' Nov. 21 announcement received more than 340 comments, many echoing the same concerns she mentioned.

"I will never get back the countless hours that I lost trying to navigate through that system instead of doing my actual job," Master Sgt. Kari Torres at Edwards Air Force Base replied on Nov. 22. "We shouldn't have to stress out about this kind of stuff. Please, please make sure the system works in all aspects before making the whole Air Force suffer."

Bass promised a better version of myEval on the next rollout.

"We owe you a better system, and more transparency...and we will deliver," she wrote on Facebook.

snyder.jonathan@stripes.com
Twitter: @Jon_E_Snyder

MILITARY

Army medical trip to Angola bears fruit

By NANCY MONTGOMERY

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Capt. Claudia McDermott didn't know what to expect when she took leave from her job as an emergency room nurse in the Chicago area to head up a team of Army Reserves doctors and nurses for a mission in Angola.

"We weren't really sure what that was going to look like," said McDermott, commander of the 357th Forward Resuscitative Surgical Detachment. "It sounded exciting, something different."

Officials with the Southern European Task Force, Africa who organize and fund several military medical readiness exercises, or MEDREXs, throughout Africa each year, weren't exactly sure, either.

The 10-day exercise in November was the first to Angola in a decade.

The exercises are designed, according to SETAF-AF, to train U.S. soldiers to deploy and practice medicine without the technology and tools they're accustomed to, share best practices with African health care providers and build relationships.

The command has sought to partner with Angola for several years, a spokesman said.

"Due to logistical and timing considerations, it took about two years of planning and coordination to get to the point where the event was of appropriate size and scope for both the U.S. Army and the Angolans," Maj. Christopher Bradley said.

The U.S. isn't alone in wooing the petroleum- and mineral-rich



U.S. Army photos

Gen. Michael Langley, commander of U.S. Africa Command, discusses military medicine with Angolan Brig. Gen. Armando Pinto and Francisca dos Reis, of the U.S. Embassy, during a visit to a hospital in Luanda, Angola, on Nov. 10.

southern African country, which was aligned with the Soviet Union until the end of the Cold War.

The country's recently re-elected president, Joao Lourenco, who succeeded his 38-year predecessor, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, in 2017, has been criticized for increasing authoritarianism, a long recession and a high poverty rate.

For Russia, with its strategy of propping up isolated leaders for leverage, "Lourenco makes an attractive target," according to a Brookings Institution report earlier this year.

"His military academy training in the USSR, Russia's extensive Cold War era ties to Angola, and

Angola's vast diamond, oil, gold, and mineral resources will all factor into increased Russian attention on Lourenco," the report said.

Lourenco's government abstained from the U.N. resolution condemning Russia's late-February invasion of Ukraine.

At the same time, the country also has close ties to China, which has invested in infrastructure, manufacturing and industry in southern Africa.

Colonized by the Portuguese for nearly five centuries, Angola was wracked by civil war from 1975 until 2002. More than a million people died and up to 100,000 were maimed by landmines, according to the Council on Foreign Rela-

tions.

The U.S. backed the losing side in the war, providing more covert aid than any group other than Afghanistan's mujahedeen, according to Alex Vines, director of the Africa program at Chatham House, a London-based think tank.

Afterward, no Western donors offered to help the country, so the Chinese stepped in, Vines said.

The U.S. established diplomatic relations with Angola in 1993. Vines said that U.S. relations with Angola have "greatly improved" since the 2017 election of Lourenco.

"Angola has multiple relationships and of course the U.S. is an important one," Vines said. "I



Members of the Angolan armed forces and U.S. Army medical teams perform surgery on an Angolan citizen.

think this should be seen as a kind of warming relationship."

It was exactly that for McDermott during the MEDREX. She and her fellow reservists spent their time at a hospital in the country's capital, Luanda, and saw about 100 patients.

"One of their biggest hurdles, we noticed, is that they're always looking for supplies," McDermott said.

They fashioned medical gloves into catheters, rubber bands and tourniquets, she said. American soldiers gave a presentation on how U.S. nurses practice with more autonomy than those in Angola.

"They were fascinated," McDermott said, adding that the Angolans were warmly accepting and seemed open to learning.

"What my team got out of this was long-lasting friendships," McDermott said. "We were all exchanging phone numbers. That was the biggest thing for me."

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com
Twitter: @montgomerynancy

Rota boosts security after letter bomb mailings in Spain

By ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

Naval Station Rota is stepping up security in response to a recent spate of letter bombs sent to government officials and buildings in Spain, including the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, officials said Friday.

No specific threat to the base has been identified, but the command and Spanish security forces are taking additional precautions, said base spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Charena Camacho.

She added that no similar packages had been received at NS Rota.

Citing security concerns, Camacho declined to specify the measures taken. But a Thursday post on the base's official Facebook page said the actions would help "deter any potential threats."

NS Rota is the homeport for four

U.S. Navy destroyers that are a significant part of NATO's ballistic missile defense. U.S. officials are in talks with Spain to increase the number of destroyers there from four to six.

The base's announcement follows an incident Thursday in which a letter bomb sent to the U.S. Embassy was defused, Reuters reported the same day.

The bomb was the sixth such device sent to government agencies since Nov. 24. On Wednesday, a bomb sent to the Ukrainian ambassador to Spain detonated, causing minor injuries to the hands of an embassy employee investigating it, according to Reuters, which reported that the employee also had a concussion.

Similar packages or letters also have been sent to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, Spain's

defense ministry, an air force base and a weapons manufacturer, according to Reuters.

In an interview posted to the Twitter account of Spanish TV news agency RTVE Noticias, Serhii Pohoreltsev, Ukraine's ambassador to Spain, appeared to suggest that Russia was behind the campaign.

"We know the terrorist methods of the aggressor country and we are ready for any type of emergency that may arise," Pohoreltsev was quoted as saying in the post.

The Russian Embassy in Spain condemned the letter bombs on its Twitter, saying that "any terrorist threat or act, even more directed against a diplomatic mission, is totally reprehensible."

bath.alison@stripes.com
Twitter: @alisonbath_

Navy seizes 50 tons of ammo, rocket fuses from Iran boat

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

Iran is being accused of continuing "unlawful transfer of lethal aid" after the U.S. 5th Fleet says it seized more than 50 tons of ammunition rounds, fuses and propellants for rockets from a fishing trawler in the Gulf of Oman.

Sailors from the sea mobile base USS Lewis B. Puller intercepted the stateless vessel in the Gulf of Oman on Thursday along a maritime route from Iran to Yemen, the Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement Saturday. The Navy says sailors found more than 1 million rounds of 7.62 mm ammunition; 25,000 rounds of 12.7 mm ammunition; nearly 7,000 proximity fuses for rockets; and over 2,100 kilograms of propellant used to launch rocket propelled grenades.

"This significant interdiction

clearly shows that Iran's unlawful transfer of lethal aid and destabilizing behavior continues," Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT and 5th Fleet, said in the statement. Saturday marked the second declared weapons seizure by the U.S. within a month. The Navy destroyer USS The Sullivans and the Coast Guard cutter John Scheuerman boarded a fishing vessel Nov. 8 that the 5th Fleet said had more than 170 tons of potentially explosive chemicals.

In both cases, the Navy said the boats found a route historically used to traffic weapons to the Houthi militant group in Yemen.

Iran has been accused of transferring rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and missiles to Houthi rebels in Yemen.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com

MILITARY

Defense chief says keep COVID vaccine mandate

By TARA COPP
Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said he wants to keep the military's COVID-19 vaccine mandate in place to protect the health of the troops, as Republican governors and lawmakers press to rescind it. This past week more than 20 Republican governors sent a letter to President Joe Biden asking that the administration remove the mandate, saying it has hurt the U.S. National Guard's

ability to recruit troops.

Those troops are activated by governors to respond to natural disasters or unrest.

Congress may consider legislation this week to end the mandate as a requirement to gather enough support to pass this year's defense budget, which is already two months late.

"We lost a million people to this virus," Austin said Saturday. "A million people died in the United States of America ... "This mandate has kept people healthy."

Slogan: New motto aims to focus on what people don't know

FROM PAGE 1

August 2019, just as the service established the separate Chicago-based office to manage its national campaigns.

Young people today find the ideas of community, connection, purpose and passion to be important to them, Fink said, and the Army offers all of that. However, the Army's messaging really hasn't shown it. Instead, it has focused on what people already know about the Army, which is that it takes courage and toughness.

A television ad for the current Army recruiting campaign — "What's your warrior?" — features a wordless montage of pilots in combat, scientists splitting cells, snipers in ghillie suits, air defense systems, and parachutists, all set to a bass-heavy remix of the band Chicago's "25 or 6 to 4." Most soldiers are shown isolated or working alone.

"We already get credit for all that stuff through the media through movie franchises," Fink said. "Let's lean into things that they don't know."

After doing audience testing and research on about 200 different taglines, "Be all you can be" was a clear winner with each demographic, Fink said. It appealed to young people, as well as those likely to influence a person's decision to join the Army, and veterans of the service.

When the first "Be all you can be" ads aired in 1981 during college football bowl games, it was the first time the all-volunteer Army had been sold to the public in the same way that advertising agencies sold toothpaste or soda.

Veterans had a difficult time adjusting, according to the Army Historical Foundation.

In one ad, a soldier takes a call from his parents who have recently purchased a home computer and offers advice from his Army training on how to link it to a printer. In another ad, a woman credits her high school coach and her parents for building her confidence to push herself in the Army.

All the early ads end with a jingle written by songwriter Jake Holmes, "Be all that you can be, find your future, in the Army." While the jingle disappeared from later commercials, the tagline remained until it was replaced with "Army of One." Later, the Army moved to "Army strong."

The magazine Advertising Age, which ranked "Be all you can be" as No. 18 in the top 100 campaigns of the 20th century, described the ads as hitting a bull's-eye for appealing to high school dropouts and graduates.

At that time in the Army's history, similar to now, the service was in a recruiting slump. The service failed to meet its recruiting goal by about 15,000 soldiers in fiscal 2022, which ended Sept. 30. Fink said he and his team began conceptualizing this new campaign back in March 2020 before recruiting became a problem.

He also said the shift away from warrior-centric ads has nothing to do with the end of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, he said he believes that could have influenced people's opinions during market research.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Schlittler, right, receives a certificate of appreciation from Nirai Fire Chief Keiichi Teruya at the firehouse in Kadena, Okinawa, on Thursday.

Air Force pararescuemen recognized for saving fisherman

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

KADENA, Okinawa — A pair of Air Force pararescuemen were recognized by a local fire chief Thursday for saving a fisherman who had fallen into the sea at Cape Zanza, an Okinawa tourist attraction known for its lighthouse, towering jagged cliffs and heaving swells.

Lt. Col. Matthew Schlittler, 38, and Senior Airman Shane Pentkowski, 27, of the 31st Rescue Squadron at Kadena Air Base, received a certificate of appreciation from Nirai Fire Chief Keiichi Teruya during a morning ceremony at the Kadena city firehouse.

Schlittler, the squadron commander, and Pentkowski said they were training in one of the unit's 30-foot boats around noon Sept. 24 when they spotted the man, who was in his 30s, about 700 feet from the lighthouse. The fisherman was wearing a life vest and was uninjured in the incident.

"The man you rescued has family and this rescue means a lot for the family for the rest of their lives," Teruya said during his remarks. "It is truly a wonderful thing."

A friend of the fisherman had called the Yomitan firehouse at 11:20 a.m. and reported the fisherman had lost his balance and fallen into the water from a 10-foot cliff, a Nirai department spokesman said after Thursday's ceremony. Some government officials in Japan speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their employment.

The department dispatched a boat, two Jet Skis, ambulances



Air Force Lt. Col. Matthew Schlittler, 38, and Senior Airman Shane Pentkowski, 27, of the 31st Rescue Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, were recognized by a local fire chief Thursday for saving a fisherman who had fallen into the sea at Cape Zanza.

and a command vehicle to search for the man, the spokesman said. The Japan Coast Guard and Okinawa police also responded.

About 30 minutes after the man had gone into the water, the pararescuemen, also known as PJs, spotted him from their boat, Pentkowski, a native of Burbank, Calif., recalled during a post-ceremony press conference.

"From far away, we saw someone in the water," he said.

The pararescuemen raced to intercept the man, who was headed out to sea, Pentkowski said. The waves were "pretty high," so it was "crucial" to keep an eye on him, Yomitan firehouse chief Hiroto Arashiro added.

As they got closer, the pararescuemen could see the fisherman waving, Pentkowski said. They pulled up alongside and pulled him out of the water. They found him in good shape and gave him a blanket, the airman said.

Schlittler, of Colorado Springs, Colo., said he was proud that he and Pentkowski saved a life that day.

"It's why we do what we do," he said. "Our mission is to save lives and as the commander of the squadron it makes me happy to see that the team is ready to do the job at any time."

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

MILITARY



Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin introduces the B-21 Raider stealth at Northrop Grumman on Friday in Palmdale, Calif.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Bomber: B-21 revealed with new cutting-edge operation technology

FROM PAGE 1

warfare and space capabilities present “the most consequential and systemic challenge to U.S. national security and the free and open international system,” the Pentagon said last week in its annual China report.

“We needed a new bomber for the 21st century that would allow us to take on much more complicated threats, like the threats that we fear we would one day face from China, Russia,” said Deborah Lee James, the Air Force secretary when the Raider contract was announced in 2015.

While the Raider may resemble the B-2, once you get inside, the similarities stop, said Kathy Warden, chief executive of Northrop Grumman Corp., which is building the bomber.

“The way it operates internally is extremely advanced compared to the B-2, because the technology has evolved so much in terms of the computing capability that we can now embed in the software of the B-21,” Warden said.

Other changes include advanced materials used in coatings to make the bomber harder to detect, Austin said.

“Fifty years of advances in low-observable technology have gone into this aircraft,” Austin said.

“Even the most sophisticated air defense systems will struggle to detect a B-21 in the sky.”

Other advances likely include new controls for electronic emissions, so the bomber could spoof adversary radars and disguise itself as another object, and use of new propulsion technologies, several defense analysts said.

“It is incredibly low observability,” Warden said. “You’ll hear it, but you really won’t see it.”

Six Raiders are in production. The Air Force plans to build 100 that can deploy either nuclear weapons or conventional bombs and can be used with or without a human crew. Both the Air Force and Northrop also point to the Raider’s relatively quick development: The bomber went from contract award to debut in seven years. Other new fighter and ship programs have taken decades.

The cost of the bombers is unknown. The Air Force previously put the price at an average cost of \$550 million each in 2010 dollars — roughly \$753 million today — but it’s unclear how much is actually being spent. The total will depend on how many bombers the Pentagon buys.

“We will soon fly this aircraft, test it and then move it into production. And we will build the

bomber force in numbers suited to the strategic environment ahead,” Austin said.

The undisclosed cost troubles government watchdogs.

“It might be a big challenge for us to do our normal analysis of a major program like this,” said Dan Grazier, a senior defense policy fellow at the Project on Government Oversight. “It’s easy to say that the B-21 is still on schedule before it actually flies. Because it’s only when one of these programs goes into the actual testing phase when real problems are discovered.” That, he said, is when schedules start to slip and costs rise.

The B-21 Raider, which takes its name from the 1942 Doolittle Raid over Tokyo, will be slightly smaller than the B-2 to increase its range, Warden said. It won’t make its first flight until 2023. Warden said, however, that Northrop Grumman has used advanced computing to test the bomber’s performance using a digital twin, a virtual replica of the one unveiled Friday.

Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota will house the bomber’s first training program and squadron, though the bombers are also expected to be stationed at bases in Texas and Missouri.

Senate approves 1st DOD inspector general in 7 years

BY DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — There will be a full-time independent watchdog at the Defense Department for the first time in years to oversee audits and investigate potential fiscal abuses.

The office of the Pentagon’s inspector general has been vacant for seven years, during which time its duties have been handled by the Environmental Protection Agency’s IG, Sean O’Donnell.

The Senate confirmed Robert P. Storch almost unanimously on Wednesday as the Pentagon’s new inspector general. The vote was 92-3, with five abstentions. The three votes against Storch’s confirmation were cast by Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Mike Braun, R-Ind.

“This is excellent news for the department and a critically important mission, and we appreciate the Senate’s efforts,” Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon’s top spokesman, told reporters on Thursday.

It’s the job of the Pentagon IG to investigate abuses, look into wasteful spending and crack down on fraud within the Defense Department. As the department always spends and receives more funding than any other federal department, some have been vocal about letting the office stay vacant for so long.

President Joe Biden nominated the 61-year-old Storch as the Pentagon watchdog more than a year ago and the Senate held a confirmation hearing in February. He’s been the inspector general of the National Security Agency since 2018.

The Defense Department has hundreds of billions to spend every year. Biden asked Congress this year to give more than \$800 billion to the Pentagon for fiscal 2023. Last year, the department received more than \$700 billion.

Two weeks ago, the department

“This is excellent news for the department and a critically important mission, and we appreciate the Senate’s efforts.”

Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder

Top Pentagon spokesman

failed an independent yearly audit for the fifth straight time. The Pentagon has never passed that audit, in which auditors ruled the department didn’t provide enough accounting data about how it spends money. The audit itself cost \$218 million.

In addition to filling a long-vacant post, Storch’s confirmation also settles recently discovered legal trouble.

O’Donnell has been the Pentagon’s acting inspector general since 2020. His dual role, however, ultimately drew attention from the Government Accountability Office, which decided that a person cannot be a watchdog for two departments or agencies simultaneously. Doing so violates the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, which lays out rules and time limits for “acting” government officials.

Before becoming the NSA’s watchdog, Storch was deputy inspector general at the Justice Department and a federal prosecutor in California, New York and Florida.

Since the Pentagon inspector general’s office was created in 1982, there have been as many acting IGs — nine — as there have been permanent IGs. Jon Rymer was the last permanent defense IG, in office between 2013 and 2016.

ware.doug@stripes.com

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MILITARY

Texas Guard using armored cars to ward off migrants

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — The Texas Military Department has sent 10 armored personnel carriers — without weapons mounted on them — to sit parked along the state's border with Mexico as part of the governor's effort to deter illegal activity in the region.

Gov. Greg Abbott first deployed National Guard troops to the border on a state-sponsored mission dubbed Operation Lone Star in March 2021. About 5,100 troops are now assigned to the border to stop criminal activity between the legal ports of entry. The service members have the authority to arrest and work closely with the state Department of Public Safety.

In May, troops also began using inflatable boats to conduct patrols on the Rio Grande, which helped the Guard reduce the size of its

border force from its peak of roughly 10,000 troops, said Maj. Gen. Thomas Suelzer, commander of the Texas National Guard.

The mission cost the state more than \$1.2 billion in fiscal 2022, Suelzer said during a Nov. 15 hearing of the Texas Senate Border Security Committee.

Officials on Thursday declined to provide the cost of trucking the vehicles to the border and parking them at security points along the Rio Grande, but said the "primary use of these vehicles will be to enhance protection for our forces."

The M113 armored personnel carriers, which were designed with an aluminum hull to make it lighter for transport, while still protecting troops against small-arms fire, came into use by the Army during the Vietnam War. In 2020, the Army began receiving the first deliveries of the Armored Multipurpose Vehicle, which will



Texas National Guard soldiers conduct routine inspections on M113 armored personnel carriers prior to sending them to the state's border with Mexico to protect troops assigned to Operation Lone Star.

replace the M113.

The state military department has said the increased security at the border is necessary because the lifting of a coronavirus pandemic-driven public health policy known as Title 42 "could lead to a massive influx of illegal immigrants, allowing criminals to further exploit gaps where federal authorities are inundated with migrant processing."

The policy allowed U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents to send migrants back across the border quickly because of concerns they would spread the virus, and it is projected to end Dec. 21. CBP officials have said it has also resulted in more repeat offender crossings between the legal ports of entry.

Between October 2021 and Nov. 8, Texas National Guard troops

have experienced 267 suspicious or violent events, according to the military department. These events include gunfire across the border, physical assaults, drone activity, surveillance, suspicious activity, threats of violence to the task force and threats of violence to individuals.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

US must make new plan for Afghan, Iraqi interpreters in legal limbo

By J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. request to cancel a plan to speed up visa applications for interpreters who assisted U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq has been rejected by a federal judge, who instead ordered the government to revise it.

The government's 2020 plan aimed to fix delays in the Special Immigrant Visa program, which allows interpreters from those two countries to resettle in the United States.

"Applications are still pending beyond the statutory deadline and the government has not provided any concrete timetable for adjudicating them," U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan wrote Wednesday.

The White House argued that the U.S. was no longer unreasonably delaying applications because the fall of the previous government in Afghanistan had increased the number of SIV applicants and decreased the State Department's ability to handle their cases.

Although Chutkan noted that the government has reported improvements in processing times, she was not swayed by the arguments for ending the plan altogether.

She accepted the government's request to come up with a new plan, however, as long as it still fol-



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

An Afghan interpreter for U.S. forces hides his face as a result of threats against his life before he left Afghanistan in 2020 on a Special Immigrant Visa.

lows the basic elements of the previous one.

The new plan will include input from lawyers representing Afghan and Iraqi SIV applicants, Chutkan ruled.

It must also include means for SIV applicants who are stuck in the backlog after the original 2020

plan to speed up processing of their cases.

The legal proceedings stemmed from a 2018 class-action lawsuit by the New York-based International Refugee Assistance Project, which argued on behalf of five anonymous applicants from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The refugee advocacy group contended that almost no SIV applicants get their results within the congressionally mandated nine-month response time.

Advocates have argued that delays in securing visas for interpreters affiliated with the U.S. military put them at risk for violent reprisals from the Taliban and other militant groups.

While the U.S. had argued that the nine-month response time was merely a guideline, courts determined that the delays were unlawful.

The U.S. said the total average processing time had been cut to 24 months for the Afghan SIV program and 15 months for the Iraqi SIV program, but Chutkan noted that those times are still longer than the congressionally mandated nine-month window.

In 2020, the government agreed to a plan stipulating that SIV application decisions must be made within 120 days and that it would report its progress in clearing the applications backlog every 90 days.

In a May court filing, the government argued that circumstances in Afghanistan have changed since it agreed to the plan. The Taliban's seizure of power ended U.S. Embassy services in the country, making SIV interviews impossible, the U.S. contended.

The fall of the U.S.-backed government in Afghanistan led to a messy withdrawal of people affiliated with the U.S., leading the monthly volume of SIV case inquiries to surge by 816%, and the number of new cases to grow by 443%, the filing stated.

Afghan applicants make up the vast majority of cases in the program, with the State Department's National Visa Center receiving more than 530,000 SIV inquiries in the five months after the fall of Kabul in August 2021.

The U.S. welcomed some 74,000 Afghans after the Taliban takeover last summer. About half of them are eligible for SIVs or have applied, a senior administration official said in 2022.

The SIV program has seen case delays lasting years because of understaffing and a reliance on outdated technology, a State Department inspector general report in 2020 said.

The memo comes amid debate within Congress for another bill, the Afghan Adjustment Act, which provides permanent legal status to Afghans outside the SIV program or the asylum system.

The bill faces opposition by some Republicans, who have said the security procedures in it are not stringent enough.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3

NATION

Supreme Court to hear new election case

By MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is about to confront a new elections case, a Republican-led challenge asking the justices for a novel ruling that could significantly increase the power of state lawmakers over elections for Congress and the presidency.

The court is set to hear arguments Wednesday in a case from North Carolina, where Republican efforts to draw congressional districts heavily in their favor were blocked by a Democratic majority on the state Supreme Court because the GOP map violated the state constitution.

A court-drawn map produced seven seats for each party in last month's midterm elections in highly competitive North Carolina.

The question for the justices is whether the U.S. Constitution's provision giving state legislatures the power to make the rules about the "times, places and manner" of congressional elections cuts state courts out of the process.

"This is the single most important case on American democracy — and for American democracy — in the nation's history," said former federal judge Michael Luttig, a prominent conservative who has joined the legal team defending the



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Members of the Supreme Court sit for a new group portrait following the addition of Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, at the Supreme Court building in Washington on Friday, Oct. 7.

North Carolina court decision.

The Republican leaders of North Carolina's legislature told the Supreme Court that the Constitution's "carefully drawn lines place the regulation of federal elections in the hands of state legislatures, Congress and no one else."

Three conservative justices already have voiced some support for the idea that the state court had improperly taken powers given by

the Constitution when it comes to federal elections. A fourth has written approvingly about limiting the power of state courts in this area.

But the Supreme Court has never invoked what is known as the independent state legislature theory. It was, though, mentioned in a separate opinion by three conservatives in the *Bush v. Gore* case that settled the 2000 presidential election.

If the court were to recognize it now, opponents of the concept have argued, the effects could be much broader than just redistricting.

The most robust ruling for North Carolina Republicans could undermine more than 170 state constitutional provisions, over 650 state laws delegating authority to make election policies to state and local officials, and thousands of regulations down to the location of polling

places, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law.

Luttig, who advised former Vice President Mike Pence that he had no authority to reject electoral votes following the 2020 election, is among several prominent conservatives and Republicans who have lined up against the broad assertion that legislatures can't be challenged in state courts when they make decisions about federal elections, including congressional redistricting.

That group includes former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, law professor Steven Calabresi, a founder of the conservative Federalist Society, and Benjamin Ginsberg, a longtime lawyer for Republican candidates and the party.

"Unfortunately, because of ongoing and widespread efforts to sow distrust and spread disinformation, confidence in our elections is at a low ebb," Ginsberg wrote in a Supreme Court filing. "The version of the independent state legislature theory advanced by Petitioners in this case threatens to make a bad situation much worse, exacerbating the current moment of political polarization and further undermining confidence in our elections."

Turkish strikes on US Kurd allies resonate in Ukraine war

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — Biden administration officials are toughening their language toward NATO ally Turkey as they try to talk Turkish President Recep Erdogan out of launching a bloody and destabilizing ground offensive against American-allied Kurdish forces in neighboring Syria.

Since Nov. 20, after six people died in an Istanbul bombing a week before that Turkey blamed, without evidence, on the United States and

its Kurdish allies in Syria, Turkey has launched cross-border airstrikes, rockets and shells into U.S.- and Kurdish-patrolled areas of Syria, leaving Kurdish funeral corteges burying scores of dead.

Some criticized the initial muted U.S. response to the near-daily Turkish bombardment — a broad call for "de-escalation" — as a U.S. green light for more. With Erdogan not backing down on his threat to escalate, the U.S. began speaking more forcefully.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called his Turkish counterpart on Wednesday to express "strong opposition" to Turkey launching a new military operation in northern Syria.

And National Security Council spokesman John Kirby on Friday made one of the administration's first specific mentions of the impact of the Turkish strikes on the Kurdish militia, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, that works with the U.S. against Islamic State militants

bottled up in northern Syria.

How successfully the U.S. manages Erdogan's threat to send troops in against America's Kurdish partners over coming weeks will affect global security concerns far from that isolated corner of Syria.

That's especially true for the Ukraine conflict. The Biden administration is eager for Erdogan's cooperation with other NATO partners in countering Russia, particularly when it comes to persuading Turkey to drop its objections to Finland and

Sweden joining NATO.

But giving Turkey free rein in attacks on the Syrian Kurds in hopes of securing Erdogan's cooperation within NATO would have big security implications of its own.

U.S. forces on Friday stopped joint military patrols with the Kurdish forces in northern Syria to counter Islamic State extremists, as the Kurds concentrate on defending themselves from the Turkish air and artillery attacks and a possible ground invasion.

Landmark Oath Keepers verdict hobbles group, but movement lives on

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — For a decade, firebrand Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes preached violent revolution against the federal government with a remarkable impunity that ended last week with a landmark seditious conspiracy conviction for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

The verdict and lengthy prison sentence facing Rhodes might amount to a knockout blow for one of the most visible leaders of the anti-government militia movement, extremism monitors said, but not necessarily for the interstate network he founded in 2009

to recruit military veterans and law enforcement officers to battle federal "tyranny." The seditious conspiracy conviction Tuesday in a federal court in Washington made Rhodes the first militant not associated with Islamist extremism to be found guilty of the charge in more than 30 years.

While Rhodes has long proclaimed the inevitability and necessity of violence against U.S. authority, that message found new resonance amid public anger stoked by then-President Donald Trump against the government in 2020 over pandemic restrictions, social justice protests over police killings and his false and incendi-

ary claims of a "stolen" election.

"The biggest difference with [Rhodes'] comments in the past is that, this time, someone actually acted on that implicit message that Rhodes has been repeating," said Sam Jackson, a scholar on extremism. Jackson's book "Oath Keepers" traces the group's transformation from the far-right fringe to a national movement, grounded in the extremist belief in an absolute constitutional right not only to bear arms but to decide which federal laws to obey.

Analysts who study armed groups have said it's too early to be certain about the verdict's effect on the wider militia move-

ment. They said the Oath Keepers prosecution came from a unique set of circumstances — a singular attack that revealed security failures and prompted public demands for a more stringent government response to the violent right.

Rhodes' core followers "are not going to stop being extremists. They'll go to other groups" or rebrand the Oath Keepers under new leadership, said Mark Pitcavage, an Anti-Defamation League extremism researcher who has tracked far-right militant groups for decades.

There might be a more dissuading effect for people who are curi-

ous about getting involved in the anti-government movement but are not far-right ideologues, extremism researchers said. The verdict, they said, makes clear that paramilitary movements will face legal consequences — accountability that such groups sometimes dodged in unsuccessful Justice Department prosecutions.

"Beyond those who already are convinced that the 2020 election was stolen and that the American government is increasingly tyrannical and that there is a global conspiracy to destroy the 'real' America, it could be a signal that this group is not, in fact, made up of 'patriots,'" Jackson said.

NATION

Prince William ends US trip focusing on environment issues

By MICHAEL CASEY
Associated Press

BOSTON — Prince William capped a three-day visit to Boston by meeting with President Joe Biden to share his vision for safeguarding the environment before attending a gala event Friday evening where he sounded an optimistic tone about solving the world's environmental problems through "hope, optimism and urgency."

The Prince of Wales paid homage to the late President John F. Kennedy, saying his Earthshot Prize was inspired by Kennedy's audacious moonshot speech in 1962 that mobilized the nation to put astronauts on the moon. That same sense of urgency and scale is needed now to protect the environment, William said.

"In the same way the space effort six decades ago created jobs, boosted economies and provided hope, so too can the solutions borne of tonight's Earthshot Prize winners," William said.

The second annual Earthshot Prize offered \$1.2 million in prize money to each of the winners in five separate categories: nature protection, clean air, ocean revival, waste elimination and climate change. The winners and all 15 finalists will receive help in expanding their projects to meet global demand.

The winners, announced at Boston's MGM Music Hall, were:

- A female-founded startup that's providing cleaner-burning biomass stoves in Africa

- A United Kingdom company making biodegradable packaging from seaweed

- A "greenhouse-in-a-box" concept created to increase yields on small farms in India

- A technique for transforming atmospheric carbon into rock in Oman in the Middle East

- A woman-led effort to create a new generation of indigenous rangers in Australia

Providing the star power for the glitzy show were Annie Lennox, Ellie Goulding and Chloe x Halle live in Boston, and Billie Eilish performing remotely. The event also featured videos narrated by naturalist David Attenborough and actor Cate Blanchett. Prizes were presented by actor Rami Malek, comedian Catherine O'Hara, and actor and activist Shailene Woodley.

The entertainers were eager to help.

"It's the greatest crisis of our lifetime, and I appreciate what Prince William is doing," Malek said before heading into the venue. "And in the next 10 years, I think the impact will be staggering. And we can really effect change in the greatest way with these innovators who are being awarded this evening."

Before the event, William met privately for 30 minutes with Biden after the two shook hands and spoke briefly in the cold near the water outside of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library and Museum.

William also met Caroline Kennedy, the ambassador to Australia and the late president's daughter. William toured the museum with Kennedy and told her that her father was "the man who inspired our mission."

William and his wife, Kate, earlier attended a welcome Wednesday at City Hall and then a Boston Celtics game before the royal couple spent much of Thursday hearing about the threats of climate change and solutions in the works.



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

A pedestrian walks past a sign for the Iowa Caucuses on a downtown skywalk, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Iowa caucuses, built on myth, lose place at head of the line

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — The Hy-Vee Hall ballroom in Des Moines erupted in cheers in 2008 when the youthful Illinois senator hinted at the improbable possibility of the feat ahead: "Our time for change has come!"

That Iowa, an overwhelmingly white state, would propel Barack Obama's rise to become America's first Black president seemed to ratify its first-in-the-nation position in the presidential nominating process.

But in the half-century arc of the state's quirky caucuses, Obama's victory proved to be an outlier.

All other Democratic winners turned out to be also-rans.

The caucuses and their outsize importance were largely an exercise in myth-making, that candidates could earn a path to the White House by meeting voters in

person where they live, and earnest, civic-minded Midwesterners would brave the winter cold to stand sometimes for hours to discuss issues and literally stand for their candidate.

As the caucuses have played out, the flaws have become glaring.

First among them: The state's Democrats botched the count in 2020, leaving an embarrassing muddle.

But there were more. Since 2008, the state's political makeup has changed dramatically, from a reliable swing state to solidly Republican.

And with the Democratic Party increasingly becoming a party of diversity, Iowa's lack of it left the state without much of a rationale for leading the way.

"We've been headed this way for a while," said Joe Trippi, who managed Missouri Rep. Dick

Gephardt's winning Iowa campaign in 1988, adding "2020 broke the camel's back."

The Democratic National Committee's rulemaking arm voted Friday to remove Iowa as the leadoff state in the presidential nominating order and replace it with South Carolina starting in 2024, a dramatic shakeup championed by President Joe Biden to better reflect the party's deeply diverse electorate.

The caucuses were once a novel effort to expand local participation in national party decision-making, but this vestige of 19th century Midwestern civic engagement has simply been unable to keep pace with the demands of 21st century national politics.

"The times have changed and maybe it's time for this nominating process to change," said Emily Parcell, Obama's 2008 Iowa political director.

Molten lava on Hawaii's Big Island could block main highway

Associated Press

HILO, Hawaii — Many people on the Big Island of Hawaii are bracing for major upheaval if lava from Mauna Loa volcano slides across a key highway and blocks the quickest route connecting two sides of the island.

The molten rock could make the road impassable and force drivers to find alternate coastal routes in the north and south. That could add hours to commute times, doctor's visits and freight truck deliveries.

"I am very nervous about it be-

ing cut off," said Frank Manley, a licensed practical nurse whose commute is already an hour and 45 minutes each way from his home in Hilo to a Kaiser Permanente clinic in Kailua-Kona.

If the highway closes, he anticipates driving two-and-a-half to three hours in each direction. Manley fears he might lose pay if an accident or other traffic disruption along an alternate route delays his arrival.

The lava is oozing slowly at a rate that might reach the road next

week. But its path is unpredictable and could change course, or the flow could stop completely and spare the highway.

The slow-moving flow was coursing about 2.7 miles from the road Friday, U.S. Geological Survey scientists reported.

There are more affordable housing options on the island's east side, home to the county seat, Hilo. But many jobs at beach resorts, in construction and other industries are readily available on the west side, where Kailua-Kona is locat-

ed. Saddle Road, also known as Route 200 or Daniel K. Inouye Highway, connects the two communities.

The state Department of Transportation took steps Thursday to remove potential traffic obstacles on the northern coastal route by reopening a lane across Nanue Bridge that was closed for repairs.

Hilo is also one of the island's major harbors, where a wide variety of goods arrive by ship before proceeding across the island by truck.

Geologists with the Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said if Mauna Loa follows historical patterns, they expect the eruption, which began Sunday night, to continue for one to two weeks.

Since then, traffic has clogged the road as people try to glimpse the lava. A handful of resulting accidents included a two-vehicle crash that sent two people to the hospital with "not serious injuries," Hawaii Police Department spokesperson Denise Laitinen said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Charges: Boy, 10, killed mom over VR headset

WI MILWAUKEE — A 10-year-old Milwaukee boy intentionally aimed a gun at his mother, then shot and killed her, because she would not buy him a virtual reality headset, prosecutors said.

The boy initially told police that the Nov. 21 shooting was an accident, according to criminal charges obtained by the Journal Sentinel. But later he said he intentionally aimed at his mom before shooting her. The boy was charged as an adult last month with first-degree reckless homicide.

The shooting occurred shortly before 7 a.m. on Nov. 21. According to the complaint, the boy initially told officers he got the gun from his mother's bedroom and went to the basement where she was doing laundry. He said he was twirling the gun around his finger when it went off. The boy was allowed to stay with family, and an initial release from police says the shooting was caused by a child "playing" with a gun.

A day later, concerned relatives called police after the boy exhibited unusual behavior. Milwaukee police interviewed the boy again. This time, he told detectives he aimed the gun at his mom with two hands while in a shooting stance. He said he tried shooting a wall to "scare her" when she walked in front of him and he shot her, the complaint says.

SUV crashes at fireworks store, sparking huge fire

FL MELBOURNE — A Florida man drove his SUV into a fireworks store, sparking a huge fire in a crash that destroyed the building, authorities said. The driver was killed.

The 53-year-old driver had rear-ended another vehicle on Monday before plowing into the Phantom Fireworks shop in West Melbourne, igniting rockets and touching off a series of explosions, Florida Today reported.

"It was wild. I could not believe how close people were to it as the fireworks were still blowing up," Palm Bay resident Richard Griffin said. "The mortars and stuff like that, those things can go 100 yards or more when you shoot them straight in the air."

The 5,573-square-foot store was destroyed. Police didn't release the name of the driver. They said they are continuing to investigate the crash.

FDA approves 1st fecal transplant treatment

DC WASHINGTON — U.S. officials have approved the first pharmaceutical-grade version of the fecal transplant procedures that doctors have increasingly used against hard-to-treat intestinal infections.

The Food and Drug Administration approved Rebyota for adults who have trouble fighting off in-



KSAT-TV/AP

Truck stop turmoil

Flames rise from a truck stop in San Antonio. The massive fire broke out in the kitchen early Thursday, engulfing the convenience store in flames and sending a large plume of smoke into the air. No one was hurt by the flames, which were fueled by kitchen grease and windy conditions outside, said San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood.

fections with *Clostridium difficile*, commonly referred to as C. diff, a bacteria that causes nausea, cramping and diarrhea. The infection is dangerous when it reoccurs and is linked to about 15,000 to 30,000 deaths a year.

For more than a decade, some U.S. doctors have used stool samples from healthy donors to treat the condition. The healthy bacteria from donors' gut has been shown to help recipients fight off C. diff bacteria. The procedure has grown more common as many patients no longer respond to traditional antibiotics.

The therapy from Ferring Pharmaceuticals Inc. is made from stool donations that are screened for dozens of infections and viruses. The therapy is delivered via the rectum by health professionals as a one-time procedure.

Terrell Owens says man he hit had threatened him

CA INGLEWOOD — Retired NFL star Terrell Owens said a fight caught on camera in which he punched a man in a CVS parking lot was the result of an "aggressor" threatening him and a fan at the store.

Owens, 48, said he acted in self-defense Saturday when the man "made offensive gestures and threatening statements" to him and a fan who approached Owens.

The Pro Football Hall of Fame wide receiver said the man approached him and the fan in the store, and in an attempt to de-escalate the situation, he walked outside, where the man followed.

Owens said the man "swung at me first" before he "felt obligated to prevent the aggressor from becoming more violent."

Man accused of biting off someone's nose

MS BAY ST. LOUIS — A Mississippi man is out on bond after being accused of biting a person's nose off.

The incident occurred in the parking lot of the Hollywood Casino in Bay St. Louis. Police officers responded to a complaint of an assault and arrived to find a victim with a disfiguring facial injury.

"The investigation determined that suspect, Mark Curtis Wells, bit the nose off of the victim," Bay St. Louis Police Chief Toby Schwartz said in a news release.

According to the release, officers learned an argument had ensued prior to the incident between Wells and the victim over a golf game played at a neighboring golf course. The argument continued throughout the day until it culminated in the casino parking lot.

Wells initially fled the scene in a dark-colored Tesla, but later turned himself in. He was charged with felony Mayhem.

Ex-con gets 18 years in severed head case

NV LAS VEGAS — An ex-convict who led police on a chase before officers found the severed head and dismembered body of his friend in a truck he was driving was sentenced to at least 18 years in prison.

Eric John Holland said he was "truly remorseful" for killing Richard P. Miller, whose remains were found in coolers in the bed of a pickup last December. Authorities found that Miller had been shot several times, including at least once in the head, before his body was carved up.

Holland pleaded guilty in July to a reduced charge and avoided trial on an open murder charge that could have resulted in a life sentence behind bars.

Holland, 58, has an extensive criminal history, mostly for forgery and embezzlement, but also including an attempted prison escape in Texas.

Holland was friends with Miller, 65, who lived on a houseboat at Lake Mead, the Colorado River reservoir about a 30-minute drive from Las Vegas. Miller was reported missing in November 2021, and investigators later determined he was killed during an argument with Holland.

Tesla delivers electric semis to PepsiCo

MI DETROIT — Tesla delivered its first electric semis to PepsiCo on Thursday, three years after Elon Musk said his company would start production.

The Austin, Texas, company formally delivered the trucks at a factory near Reno, Nev.

Musk drove one of three Tesla Semis in front of a crowd inside the factory. One was white, one was painted with a Pepsi logo, and

another with Frito-Lay colors.

PepsiCo is taking part in a zero-emissions freight project at a Frito-Lay facility in Modesto, Calif. That project is being funded by a \$15.4 million clean-freight technology grant from the California Air Resources Board that includes 15 Tesla battery-electric tractors and other electric- and natural-gas powered trucks.

Report finds racial disparity in prison discipline

NY ALBANY — Black and Hispanic people incarcerated in state prisons are more likely than white people to face further punishment once they wind up behind bars, according to a state inspector general report released Thursday.

A Black person behind bars in New York from 2015 to 2020 was more than 22% more likely to get cited for misbehavior than a white person, said the report, which looked at misbehavior reports that were ultimately dismissed. A Hispanic person behind bars was over 12% more likely.

Inspector General Lucy Lang said the state's corrections department has failed to come up with strategies to eliminate the racial disparities for years.

Her report was sparked by a 2016 investigation by The New York Times that found rampant racial epithets and disparate disciplinary treatment against the largely Black and Hispanic prisoner population.

EUROPE

Head of US intel upbeat for Ukraine

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The head of U.S. intelligence says fighting in Russia’s war in Ukraine is running at a “reduced tempo” and suggests Ukrainian forces could have brighter prospects in coming months.

Avril Haines alluded to past allegations by some that Russian President Vladimir Putin’s advisers could be shielding him from bad news—for Russia—about war developments, and said he “is becoming more informed of the challenges that the military faces in Russia.”

“But it’s still not clear to us that he has a full picture at this stage of just how challenged they are,” the U.S. director of national intelligence said Saturday at the Reagan National Defense Forum in Simi Valley, Calif.

Looking ahead, Haines said, “honestly we’re seeing a kind of a reduced tempo already of the conflict” and her team expects that both sides will look to refit, resupply, and reconstitute for a possible Ukrainian counteroffensive in the spring.

“But we actually have a fair amount of skepticism as to wheth-

er or not the Russians will be in fact prepared to do that,” she said. “And I think more optimistically for the Ukrainians in that time-frame.”

On Sunday, the British Ministry of Defense, in its latest intelligence estimate, pointed to new signs from an independent Russian media outlet that public support in Russia for the military campaign was “falling significantly.”

Meduza said it obtained a recent confidential opinion survey conducted by the Federal Protection Service, which is in charge of guarding the Kremlin and providing security to top government officials.

The survey, commissioned by the Kremlin, found that 55% of respondents backed peace talks with Ukraine while 25% wanted the war to go on. The report didn’t mention the margin of error.

Levada Center, Russia’s top independent pollster, found in a similar poll carried out in November that 53% of respondents supported peace talks, 41% spoke in favor of continuing the fight, and 6% were undecided. That poll of 1,600 people had a margin of error of no more than 3.4%.



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

A house burns after a Russian attack in Kherson, Ukraine, on Saturday.

The British Defense Ministry noted that “despite the Russian authorities’ efforts to enforce pervasive control of the information environment, the conflict has become increasingly tangible for many Russians since the September 2022 ‘partial mobilization.’”

“With Russia unlikely to achieve major battlefield successes in the next several months, maintaining even tacit approval of the war amongst the population is likely to be increasingly difficult for the Kremlin,” it said.

In recent weeks, Russia’s military focus has been on striking Ukrainian infrastructure and pressing an offensive in the east, near the town of Bakhmut, while shelling sites in the city of Kherson, which Ukrainian forces liberated last month after an 8-month Russian occupation.

In his nightly address on Satur-

day, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy lashed out at Western efforts to crimp Russia’s crucial oil industry, a key source of funds for Putin’s war machine, saying their \$60-per-barrel price cap on imports of Russian oil was insufficient.

“It is not a serious decision to set such a limit for Russian prices, which is quite comfortable for the budget of the terrorist state,” Zelenskyy said, referring to Russia. He said the \$60-per-barrel level would still allow Russia to bring in \$100 billion in revenues per year.

“This money will go not only to the war and not only to further sponsorship by Russia of other terrorist regimes and organisations. This money will be used for further destabilisation of those countries that are now trying to avoid serious decisions,” Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine says animals’ eyes sent to some embassies

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian embassies and consulates in six European countries have received packages containing animals’ eyes in recent days, a Ukrainian official said Friday.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Nikolenko wrote on Facebook that the “bloody parcels” were received by the Ukrainian embassies in Hungary, the Netherlands, Poland, Croatia and Italy, as well as by consulates in Naples, Italy; Krakow, Poland and the Czech city of Brno.

He said that “we are studying the meaning of this message.”

“It’s a very strong signal,” said the Ukrainian consul in Naples, Maksym Kovalenko, who confirmed his office received two letters containing fish eyes at around 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Nikolenko said the parcels arrived after a package containing an explosive device sent to the Ukrainian Embassy in Madrid ignited upon opening on Wednesday and injured an employee.

That was one of multiple explosive parcels found in Spain last week.

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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Indonesia's Semeru unleashes lava river

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia's highest volcano on its most densely populated island released searing gas clouds and rivers of lava Sunday in its latest eruption.

Monsoon rains eroded and collapsed the lava dome atop 12,060-foot Mount Semeru, causing the eruption, according to National Disaster Management Agency spokesperson Abdul Muhari.

Several villages were blanketed with falling ash, blocking out the sun, but no casualties have been reported. Several hundred residents, their faces smeared with volcanic dust and rain, fled to temporary shelters or left for other safe areas.

Thick columns of ash were blasted about 5,000 feet into the sky while searing gas and lava flowed down Semeru's slopes toward a nearby river.

Increased activities of the volcano on Sunday afternoon prompted authorities to widen the danger zone to 5 miles from the crater, said Hendra Gunawan, who heads the Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center.

He said scientists raised the volcano's alert level to the highest and people were advised to keep off the southeastern sector along the Besuk Kobokan River,

which is in the path of the lava flow.

Semeru's last major eruption was in December last year, when it blew up with fury that left 51 people dead in villages that were buried in layers of mud. Several hundred others suffered serious burns and the eruption forced the evacuation of more than 10,000 people. The government moved about 2,970 houses out of the danger zone.

China reports 2 new COVID deaths as some limits relaxed

Associated Press

HONG KONG — China on Sunday reported two additional deaths from COVID-19 as some cities move cautiously to ease anti-pandemic restrictions following increasingly vocal public frustrations.

The National Health Commission said one death was reported each in the provinces of Shandong and Sichuan. No information was given on the ages of the victims or whether they had been fully vaccinated.

China, where the virus first was detected in late 2019 in the central city of Wuhan, is the last major country trying to stop transmission completely through quarantines, lockdowns and mass testing. Concerns over vaccination rates are believed to figure prominently in the ruling Communist Party's determination to stick to its hard-line strategy.

While nine in 10 Chinese have been vaccinated, only 66% of people over 80 have gotten one shot while 40% have received a booster, according to the commission.

Thousands protest in S. Korea in support of truckers

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Thousands of demonstrators representing organized labor marched in South Korea's capital on Saturday denouncing government attempts to force thousands of striking truckers back to work after they walked out in a dispute over the price of freight.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or major clashes from the protests near the National Assembly in Seoul. The marchers, mostly

members of the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions, accused President Yoon Suk Yeol's conservative government of labor oppression and ignoring what they described as the truckers' harsh work conditions and financial struggles, worsened further by rising fuel costs.

The government on Tuesday issued an order for some 2,500 drivers of cement trucks to return to work, saying that their walkout is rattling the national economy. It wasn't immediately clear how

many truckers returned to their jobs following the order as their union vowed to continue the strike.

Thousands of members of the Cargo Truckers Solidarity union have been striking since last week, calling for the government to make permanent a minimum freight rate system that is to expire at the end of 2022.

While the minimum fares are currently applied to shipping containers and cement, the strikers have also called for the benefits to

be expanded to other cargo. That would include oil and chemical tankers, steel and automobile carriers and package delivery trucks under the broader agreement.

Container traffic at ports recovered to 81% of normal levels as of Saturday morning after dropping to around just 20% last week, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. It said more than 5,000 truckers were actively participating in the strike on Saturday.



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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market




Transportation
944

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FACES

Creating a lasting spirit

Cameron Crowe adores recording his 'Almost Famous' cast album

BY JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

Cameron Crowe believes the spirit of a place lingers long after the moment has passed. That's what makes recording the Broadway "Almost Famous" cast album at New York's iconic Power Station studio so special for him.

"It's like going back to the roots of why I love music and what I love about records," Crowe told The Associated Press during a break in the recording session.

Working in the control room alongside fellow producers Tom Kitt and Scott M. Riesett, Crowe called the process "utterly authentic" as they directed the cast, chorus and band in different studios across multiple levels.

"I have this thing where I believe that the spirits of a place, the spirit of what's happened in a room stay. The house you lived in, you can go visit. You can feel what happened to you when you lived there," Crowe said.

Some of the most prominent rock and pop albums were recorded at the legendary studio, including Bruce Springsteen's "The River," David Bowie's "Scary Monsters" and "Tattoo You" by The Rolling Stones.

Standing against the soundboard, Crowe wears that pride on his brow as he tells the latest version of his story through the music. More than another project, "Almost Famous" was a deeply personal coming-of-age story for Crowe when he wrote and directed the 2000 film, loosely based on his experiences as a teenage music journalist.

"It was the movie we got to make because 'Jerry Maguire' did really well. And so, the fact that that becomes what we get to take to Broadway just means the power of music."

That power increased with the addition of original songs, allowing Crowe — with a huge heaping of help from composer Kitt — to transform the stage version into something more than his cinematic love letter to rock 'n' roll. Those songs allowed Crowe to tell a more personal story.

"I thought, if we are going to do something for the theater, for the stage, maybe it's this personal story that's filled with music that could make people feel that kind of elixir of the movie. And that was always our goal," Crowe said.

Before the interview, Crowe sat beside Kitt for one more pass at "Something Real," one of the



NINA WESTERVELT/AP

Cameron Crowe, left, and Tom Kitt appear during the cast recording of the musical "Almost Famous" at Power Station studio in New York on Nov. 14.

songs written for the stage version that includes homage to Deep Purple's "Highway Star."

Next on the agenda was a cover of Led Zeppelin's "Ramble On." Interestingly enough, the time-honored track blended well with the new songs in a morphing of classic rock and show tunes. Crowe credits Kitt with finding that "sweet spot" between the two genres.

"Tom understands what the songs of the day felt like," he said. "He'll write a song that feels like it could have been on 'Madman Across the Water,'" the Elton John album.

But the admiration goes both ways. During another recording break, Kitt attributes Crowe with familiarizing him with music of the era.

"Cameron is someone who is just a walking encyclopedia when it comes to music," Kitt said. "So, I was looking forward just learning from him and hearing new songs and new tonalities that were going to inform the work," Kitt said.

Released by Sony Masterworks Broadway, the cast recording of "Almost Famous" will be available for digital purchase and streaming along with physical releases on CD and vinyl March 17.

Elton John to headline Glastonbury on final tour

Elton John is scheduled to perform at the Glastonbury Festival in June, in what organizers say will be his farewell show in Britain.

The festival announced Dec. 2 that the star will play the 2023 festival's final night on June 25.

The festival tweeted: "We are incredibly excited to announce that the one and only @EltonOfficial will headline the Pyramid Stage on Sunday night at Glastonbury 2023, for what will be the final U.K. show of his last ever tour."

The final leg of the tour is set to conclude in Stockholm, Sweden, in July.

Musk: Ye suspended from Twitter for violating rules

Twitter has suspended rapper Ye after he tweeted a picture of a swastika merged with the Star of David.

It is the second time this year that Ye has been suspended from the platform over antisemitic posts.

Twitter CEO Elon Musk confirmed the suspension by replying to Ye's post of an unflattering photo of Musk. Ye called it his "final tweet."

"I tried my best. Despite that, he again violated our rule against incitement to violence. Account will be suspended," Musk tweeted.

Ye, formerly known as Kanye West, has made a series of antisemitic comments in recent weeks. On Thursday, Ye praised Hitler in an interview with conspiracy theorist Alex Jones.

Man arrested in death of Migos rapper Takeoff

A 33-year-old man was arrested on a murder charge in the shooting of rapper Takeoff, who police on Friday said was an "innocent bystander" when he was struck by gunfire outside a Houston bowling alley.

Patrick Xavier Clark was taken into custody peacefully Thursday night, Houston Police Chief Troy Finner said. Clark's arrest came one day after another man was charged in connection with the Nov. 1 shooting, which authorities said followed a dispute over a dice game and wounded two others.

Clark was being held in jail Friday awaiting a bond hearing.

Other news

■ **Brad William Henke**, an NFL player who later earned a Screen Actors Guild Award nomination for playing a gay corrections officer in the Netflix series "Orange Is the New Black," died Nov. 29. He was 56. The former defensive lineman "died peacefully in his sleep," his agent, Sheree Cohen, said. No cause of death was provided.

From wire reports

Netflix's 'Harry & Meghan' promises royal drama

BY NARDINE SAAD
Los Angeles Times

There are only about three lines of dialogue in the first teaser for "Harry & Meghan" — Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's long-gestating and speculated-about Netflix project — but there's plenty of tension to kick off the new docuseries.

The streaming giant shared a peek Dec. 1 at the former senior British royals' project, promising intimate details directly from the source across six documentary-style episodes.

"Why did you want to make this documentary?" a person asks off-camera as happy, black-and-white images of the young couple flash on the screen. Shown are private moments, including selfies and photo booth shots, never-before-seen photos from their 2018 royal wedding, the Duchess of Sussex's pregnancies and moments showing the off-duty royals relaxed at home in Montecito, Calif. (Last week, Meghan shut down the mere mention that she would take part in a "Real Housewives of Montecito" spinoff.)

But the answer to the loaded question doesn't come right away. Instead, tension and



NETFLIX/AP

Prince Harry, right, and Meghan, Duke and Duchess of Sussex, in a scene from the upcoming documentary "Harry & Meghan," directed by Liz Garbus.

weariness grow in the visuals on screen as the embattled couple navigates the fraught reception of their marriage and viewers see Harry's growing ambivalence toward the crown, which

ultimately led to them stepping back as working royals in January 2020.

"No one sees what's happening behind closed doors," Harry says, adding, "I had to do everything I could to protect my family."

The teaser, building on the drama the couple has simultaneously dodged and embraced, also includes glimpses of Harry's brother, Prince William — now first in line to the British throne — and his wife, Catherine, at formal events, a look at newspapers being printed as a nod to the tabloid war centered on the Sussexes in Harry's homeland and abroad, and a clip showing the former "Suits" actor at his side wiping away tears.

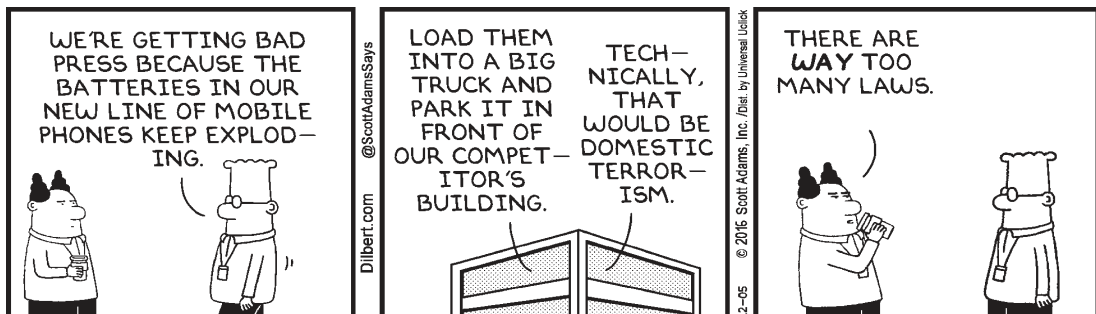
"When the stakes are this high, doesn't it make more sense to hear our story from us?" adds the L.A.-raised Markle.

The streaming giant, which signed a massive deal with the couple in 2020, did not announce a release date for the show, simply describing it Thursday as "a Netflix global event" that is "coming soon." The documentary series has previously been regarded as a possible reality series, though the Sussexes have danced around that rumor.

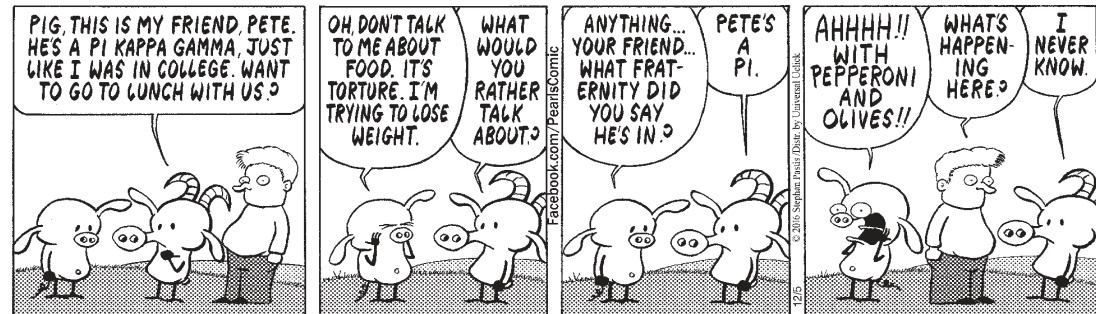
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



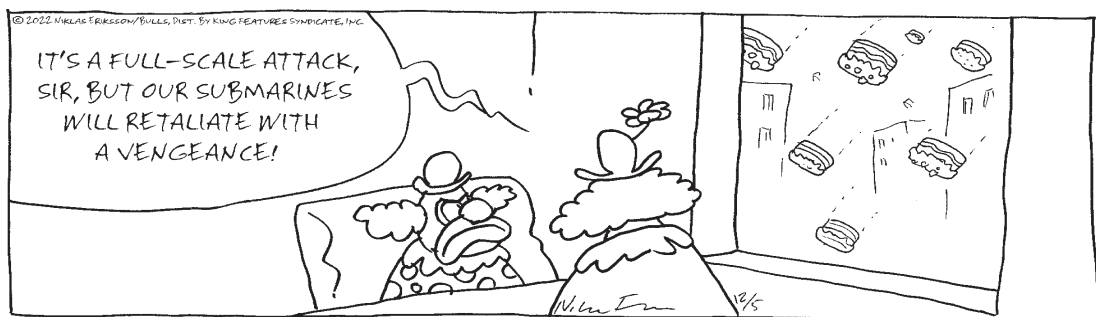
Non Sequitur



Candorville



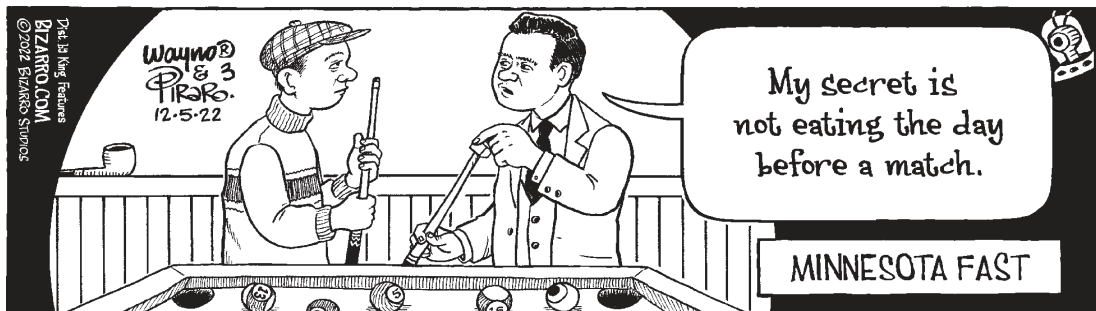
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Chowder bit
- 5 Sheepish remark
- 8 "Mamma Mia" group
- 12 Tubular pasta
- 14 Avocado dip, for short
- 15 Broadcasting
- 16 Deco artist
- 17 Long. crosser
- 18 Door hardware enthusiast
- 23 Travel
- 24 Always
- 25 Semitic language
- 28 Badly lit
- 29 Part of LED
- 30 Knee protector
- 32 Leaves
- 34 Ripped
- 35 Jekyll's bad side
- 36 Tea container
- 37 Len of "Blue Bloods"
- 40 Dijon denial
- 41 Baseball's Hershiser
- 42 Ecologist's concern
- 47 Prosperity
- 48 Grooming process
- 49 — Godiva

- 50 Cain, to Eve
- 51 Artist Bonheur

- 22 Viral phenomenon
- 23 Panned
- 25 Ventilation system parts
- 26 Apple product
- 27 One in a deck
- 29 Belafonte song
- 31 Susan of "L.A. Law"
- 33 Liberty Bell city, informally
- 34 Leather worker
- 36 Furnace fuel
- 37 Batman's hood
- 38 Region
- 39 Peruse
- 40 Bonn denial
- 43 Privy
- 44 From — Z
- 45 The "I" of TGIF
- 46 Actor Stephen

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	A	R	D		O	S	H	A		B	B	S
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B	O	N	A		I	R	V		J	A	Z	Z
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12-5

CRYPTOQUIP

TC ZGDVD RDVD N CVNZDVQTZO
 TQ N ALBZG FNITCTI TAUNQK
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 N ZLQMN FNVZO?

Saturday's Cryptoquip: FINAL OUTCOME OF THE CHESS MATCH BETWEEN THE TWO HORSES IN THE BARN: A STABLEMATE STALEMATE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals Y

STARS AND STRIPES

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 Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
 John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
 Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com

Ann Pinson, Digital Managing Editor
 pinson.ann@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 slavin.erik@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com
 +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
 cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
 (+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

Kevin R. Miller, Circulation Manager
 miller.kevin@stripes.com
 xsscirculation@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583-9136

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
 lewis.karen@stripes.com
 memberservices@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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The Macron-Biden lovefest masked bigger frictions

BY HENRY OLSEN

Special to The Washington Post

President Joe Biden's state dinner on Thursday with French President Emmanuel Macron was a mutual lovefest. But no amount of bonhomie can mask the inevitable incompatibility between the two men's visions for Europe's future.

Biden is an Atlanticist at heart. He is fully committed to the U.S.-European relationship, supports NATO wholeheartedly and has courted European leaders since his inauguration. His international and cosmopolitan liberalism also aligns him closely with the values of most Western European leaders, especially on matters such as combating climate change. He is as friendly an American president as European elites could hope for.

Yet he is an American president, and as such, he acts primarily in America's interests. The U.S. foreign policy consensus places the United States at the center of a global network of alliances that ultimately serve U.S. interests. The United States wants powerful allies, but it does not want genuinely independent allies that have the power and will to compete with it in setting the global agenda. Deviations from the American line have always been tolerated, but not at the expense of putting U.S. primacy within the alliance structure at risk.

Macron, by contrast, is both French and European. Like many European elites, he has chafed at this unbalanced partnership. At times, he has suggested Europe should have its own integrated defense forces that theoretically could act independently of the U.S.-dominated NATO alliance. Such "strategic autonomy" would extend to other matters as well, especially Europe's relationship with China. Macron recently met with Chinese

President Xi Jinping, for example, and continued his call for European engagement with the Communist dictatorship, eschewing U.S. efforts to align Europe's policies with those of the United States.

All the happy talk about shared values and democracy cannot square this diplomatic circle. Either Biden and the United States will prevail, or Macron will. Either Europe, however sullenly or inconsistently, rearms to become the eastern flank of the U.S. alliance structure and falls into line with U.S. efforts to contain China, or it doesn't. Given the latter course, the only sensible pathway for Europe is to move toward Macron's long-term goal of making the continent a fourth force in global geopolitics.

Macron's vision faces resistance within Europe. Eastern European nations fear Russia more than their Western friends do. They also trust Paris and Berlin less than they do Washington on combating the threat. National populist parties in Western European nations envision the European Union more as a collection of nation states than a federalist union. These facts mean that right-wing leaders that the Washington establishment often disdains, such as Poland's Andrzej Duda or Italy's Giorgia Meloni, could be Biden's best allies in steering Europe on a course consistent with long-term U.S. interests.

Biden will need to offer carrots and deploy sticks as he tries to cajole Macron and other European leaders to play their parts in his vision. Europeans are angry, for example, at the electric vehicle subsidy provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act. These provide substantial subsidies to purchasers of electric cars and trucks, but only if the components are sourced and manufactured in the United States or in countries with which it has a free-

trade agreement. This excludes most European products, as they both source their materials from places such as China and export their vehicles from European factories. This gives Biden significant leverage he can use to draw European concessions on China: Give the United States something, and we will remove our leverage on EVs in exchange.

This is precisely the type of uneven bargaining power that Macron's vision of Europe seeks to unravel. A genuinely united Europe, with its own capable military, would be able to meet U.S. pressure on equal terms. The EU has 447 million people in its member nations, more than 100 million more than the United States has. Its GDP measured in purchasing power parity is nearly equal to the American behemoth. The United States has not had to deal with a Western democratic power equal to its own since before World War II.

The short term likely favors the U.S. vision, but the long term might favor Macron's. Republican administrations may not want to make the cultural and economic deals necessary to entice Europeans into the renewed global U.S. alliance. Even Democratic administrations might not want to provide European firms with the sort of privileged access to North American markets that they would likely need to be willing to significantly reduce trade with China. If future presidents decide the price for European cooperation is too high, the lure within Europe of a stronger union might become irresistible.

For now, the U.S.-European relation is all *joie de vivre*. Soon, however, both sides will have to decide: Will we have a renaissance or a *fin de siècle*?

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Midterms busted the conservative 'minority rule' myth

BY JASON WILLOCK

The Washington Post

The 2022 midterms dealt a political blow to Republicans who claimed the previous election was rigged. But they also struck a blow against a subtler self-serving theory undermining faith in democracy from the left—that the electoral system itself suffers from a crisis-level "structural" bias against Democrats.

It's hard to overstate the influence this idea has exerted on intellectuals over the past decade. Historian Kenneth Owen wrote in the Atlantic in 2020 that "minority rule is fast becoming the defining feature of the American republic." In a 2021 law review article, the scholar Pamela S. Karlan (a former Biden Justice Department official) argued that gerrymandering in the House and equal representation of states in the Senate are contributing to a "countermajoritarian drift in our politics."

She wrote: "The way our nation is constituted may be interacting with the way our Constitution was written to produce one of those periods of retrenchment in which we move once again towards government by minority"—that is, a Republican minority in rural states and regions.

This dire view of democracy propelled failed Democratic efforts to eliminate the Senate filibuster and radically rewrite U.S. voting laws. Even before the Trump era, the idea that Republican congresses were not truly representative of the American people after the 2010 redistricting cycle helped justify the aggressive use of executive power in President

Barack Obama's second term.

But the 2022 midterm results expose the growing gap between progressive theory and political reality. Start with the results in the House of Representatives, where there's no evidence of an entrenched GOP majority.

The Cook Political Report tracks overall votes won by each party for the House. With more than 107 million votes counted but some still outstanding, Republican candidates are ahead 50.7% to 47.8%. That nearly three percentage point margin tracks the GOP lead in the pre-election RealClearPolitics polling average. Yet Republicans still fell short of expectations in the House: Instead of a commanding majority, they are on track to control 222 seats to Democrats' 213. The "structural advantage" that was supposed to amplify the representation of GOP voters failed to materialize.

The House popular vote is an imperfect gauge of a party's overall support because some districts are uncontested, but it's still telling. After the elections of 2012, 2014 and 2016, the GOP held comfortable House majorities in excess of its popular-vote share. That was the result of efficient GOP redistricting after its 2010 electoral landslide and Democrats' reliance on voters concentrated near cities.

The pattern changed with the Democratic wave in 2018. The past three congressional elections have seen a rough alignment between the parties' national vote and their proportion of House seats. Instead of a "countermajoritarian drift," American politics might be witnessing a majoritarian drift.

Of course, Congress aims to represent

something deeper than a national popular vote. The United States inherited its system of electoral districts from the British Parliament, which evolved to spread political power across geographic regions. The Democratic coalition accomplished that fairly well in 2022, blunting GOP gains.

That brings us to the Senate. Prophecies of inexorable Democratic doom in the upper chamber because of states' ostensibly increasing GOP lean went unfulfilled as Democrats picked up a seat in Pennsylvania and might even expand their majority if they win Georgia's runoff election. The Democratic Senate will kill much of the Republican House's legislation. The argument that the Senate's equal representation of small and large states is a grotesque distortion of democracy will become an awkward fit with progressive priorities. As a result, the delegitimization of "countermajoritarian" American institutions that arose in the past decade is likely to be submerging over the next two years.

Attacks on the legitimacy of the U.S. electoral system tend to come from the most disreputable and ill-informed voices in conservatism—and from the most highly esteemed and knowledgeable authorities in liberalism. They will continue. But for now, voters' 2022 verdict should highlight the suppleness and integrity of American political institutions, and the advantages of playing by their rules instead of undermining their foundations.

Jason Willock writes a regular Washington Post column on legal issues, political ideas and foreign affairs.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Saturday's scores

EAST
Shepherd 48, Indiana (Pa.) 13

SOUTH
Clemson 39, North Carolina 10
Georgia 50, LSU 30
Jackson St. 43, Southern U. 24
Troy 45, Coastal Carolina 26
Tulane 45, UCF 28
West Florida 45, Wingate 14

MIDWEST
Ferris St. 24, Grand Valley St. 21
Michigan 43, Purdue 22
Mount Union 22, Delaware Valley 6
North Central 48, Ithaca 7
Toledo 17, Ohio 7
Wartburg 45, Aurora 17

SOUTHWEST
Colorado Mines 42, Angelo St. 24
Kansas St. 31, TCU 28, OT
Mary Hardin-Baylor 41, Bethel (Minn.) 28

FAR WEST
Fresno St. 28, Boise St. 16
New Mexico St. 65, Valparaiso 3

FCS playoffs

First Round
Saturday, Nov. 26
Delaware 56, Saint Francis (Pa.) 17
New Hampshire 52, Fordham 42
Gardner-Webb 52, Eastern Ky. 41
Weber St. 38, North Dakota 31
Montana 34, Southeast Mo. St. 24
Southeastern La. 45, Idaho 42
Furman 31, Elon 6
Richmond 41, Davidson 0

Second Round
Saturday, Dec. 3
South Dakota St. 42, Delaware 6
Holy Cross 35, New Hampshire 19
William & Mary 54, Gardner-Webb 14
Montana St. 33, Weber St. 25
North Dakota St. 49, Montana 26
Samford 48, Southeastern La. 42, OT
UIW 41, Furman 38
Sacramento St. (11-0) vs. Richmond (9-3)

Quarterfinals
South Dakota St. vs. Holy Cross
William & Mary vs. Montana St.
North Dakota St. vs. Samford
UIW vs. Sacramento St.-Richmond-winner

GOLF

Hero World Challenge

PGA Tour
Saturday
At Albany
Nassau, Bahamas
Purse: \$3.5 million
Yardage: 7,449; Par: 72
Third Round

Viktor Hovland	69-70-64—203	-13
Scottie Scheffler	72-68-66—206	-10
Justin Thomas	72-70-66—208	-8
Cameron Young	71-69-68—208	-8
Collin Morikawa	71-69-69—209	-7
Xander Schauffele	72-68-69—209	-7
Jon Rahm	73-71-68—212	-4
Sepp Straka	69-74-70—213	-3
Sam Burns	70-75-69—214	-2
Tony Finau	72-72-70—214	-2
Billy Horschel	73-70-72—215	-1
Sungjae Im	74-71-70—215	-1
Tom Kim	69-72-74—215	-1
Tommy Fleetwood	71-76-72—219	+3
Matt Fitzpatrick	74-70-76—220	+4
Max Homa	71-78-71—220	+4
Jordan Spieth	76-72-72—220	+4
Shane Lowry	74-77-71—222	+6
Corey Connors	75-76-72—223	+7
Kevin Kisner	74-72-77—223	+7

TENNIS

ATP rankings

Singles
Through Nov. 29

- Carlos Alcaraz, Spain, 6820
- Rafael Nadal, Spain, 6020
- Casper Ruud, Norway, 5820
- Stefanos Tsitsipas, Greece, 5550
- Novak Djokovic, Serbia, 4820
- Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, 4195
- Daniil Medvedev, Russia, 4065
- Andrey Rublev, Russia, 3930
- Taylor Fritz, USA, 3355
- Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, 2905
- Holger Rune, Denmark, 2888
- Alexander Zverev, Germany, 2700
- Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 2495
- Cameron Norrie, Great Britain, 2445
- Jannik Sinner, Italy, 2410
- Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 2375
- Marin Cilic, Croatia, 2105
- Denis Shapovalov, Canada, 2075
- Frances Tiafoe, USA, 2000
- Karen Khachanov, Russia, 1990
- Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, 1940
- Nick Kyrgios, Australia, 1870
- Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, 1865
- Alex de Minaur, Australia, 1790
- Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, 1700
- Borna Coric, Croatia, 1685
- Daniel Evans, Great Britain, 1585
- Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, 1460
- Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 1420
- Francisco Cerundolo, Argentina, 1395
- Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 1280
- Maxime Cressy, USA, 1223
- Tommy Paul, USA, 1210
- Sebastian Korda, USA, 1175
- Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, 1160
- Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, 1134
- Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 1130
- Reilly Opelka, USA, 1095
- Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, 1075
- Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 1011

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	333	209
Miami	8	3	0	.727	282	256
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0	.636	230	196
New England	6	6	0	.500	249	226
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	7	4	0	.636	209	205
Indianapolis	4	7	1	.375	190	244
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	244	232
Houston	1	9	1	.136	174	260
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	275	227
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	285	231
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	263	286
Pittsburgh	4	7	0	.364	194	261
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	2	0	.818	326	243
L.A. Chargers	6	5	0	.545	252	282
Las Vegas	4	7	0	.364	265	276
Denver	3	8	0	.273	157	194

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	1	0	.909	303	216
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	279	187
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	225	232
Washington	7	5	0	.583	233	236
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	5	6	0	.455	200	203
Atlanta	5	7	0	.417	272	293
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	230	266
New Orleans	4	8	0	.333	249	280
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	9	2	0	.818	262	257
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	275	310
Green Bay	4	8	0	.333	235	283
Chicago	3	9	0	.250	251	305
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636	249	173
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	291	281
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	264	321
L.A. Rams	3	8	0	.273	178	253

Thursday, Dec. 1

Buffalo 24, New England 10

Sunday's games

Cleveland at Houston
Green Bay at Baltimore
Jacksonville at Detroit
N.Y. Jets at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Tennessee at Philadelphia
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Miami at San Francisco
Seattle at L.A. Rams
Kansas City at Cincinnati
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas
Indianapolis at Dallas
Open: Arizona, Carolina

Monday's game

New Orleans at Tampa Bay

Thursday's game

Las Vegas at L.A. Rams

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT: Player will not play; DOUBTFUL: Player is unlikely to play; QUESTIONABLE: Player is not certain to play; DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):

Monday
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — **NEW ORLEANS:** OUT: TE Juwan Johnson (ankle), S P.J. Williams (knee), S J.T. Gray (hamstring), DE Payton Turner (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** CB Marshon Lattimore (abdomen), LB Pete Warner (ankle), DT Malcolm Roach (illness), CB Bradley Roby (concussion), WR Kevin White (illness), DT Kentavious Street (illness). **TAMPA BAY:** OUT: OT Tristan Wirfs (ankle/knee). **DOUBTFUL:** FS Mike Edwards (hamstring), CB Sean Murphy-Bunting (quadricep), S Antoine Winfield Jr. (ankle). **QUESTIONABLE:** TE Cameron Brate (illness), WR Russell Gage (hamstring), G Luke Goedeke (foot), RB Leonard Fournette (hip), NT Vita Vea (foot), DE Akiem Hicks (foot).

Saturday's men's scores

EAST
Army 75, Wagner 64
Bucknell 79, NJIT 63
Buffalo 83, St. Bonaventure 66
Columbia 56, New Hampshire 52
Coppin St. 74, Loyola (Md.) 71
Dartmouth 79, CS Bakersfield 54
Delaware 69, Davidson 67
Duchesne 78, Ball St. 77
Fairfield 67, St. Peter's 55
Fairleigh Dickinson 97, Saint Joseph's 80
Holy Cross 63, CCSU 57
La Salle 84, Penn 81, OT
Longwood 75, Delaware St. 49
Marshall 83, Ohio 69
Mass.-Lowell 70, Sacred Heart 59
Princeton 83, Drexel 63
Providence 88, Rhode Island 74
Rider 68, Mount St. Mary's 65
Rutgers 63, Indiana 48
South Carolina 74, Georgetown 71, OT
Stonehill 69, Binghamton 66
Temple 83, VCU 73
UMBC 88, Lehigh 62
Villanova 70, Oklahoma 66
Yale 77, Stony Brook 72

SOUTH
Alabama 78, S. Dakota St. 65
Austin Peay 77, Tennessee St. 61
Chattanooga 82, Gardner-Webb 71
Coastal Carolina 86, Winthrop 81
Coll. of Charleston 79, The Citadel 57
Duke 75, Boston College 59
Fordham 95, Tulane 90
Furman 88, SC State 76
George Mason 80, Toledo 73
Grambling St. 72, Incarnate Word 39
Hampton 74, Howard 65
High Point 93, North Florida 88
Jacksonville 74, Trinity Baptist 39
Jacksonville St. 63, ETSU 61
Louisiana-Lafayette 78, New Orleans 77
Louisiana-Monroe 101, Champion Christian 46
Memphis 68, Mississippi 57
Middle Tennessee 69, Maryville (Tenn.) 46
Mississippi St. 82, MVSU 52
N. Kentucky 60, Robert Morris 56
NC Central 127, St. Andrews 40
North Alabama 81, Morehead St. 75
Old Dominion 68, Norfolk St. 62
Queens (NC) 89, Paine 60
SC-Upstate 79, W. Carolina 64
UNC-Asheville 90, UT Martin 83
UNC-Greensboro 65, Elon 61
VMI 80, Navy 72
Vanderbilt 65, Wofford 62
Virginia 62, Florida St. 57
William & Mary 58, Richmond 57

MIDWEST
Bowling Green 86, Morgan St. 76
Bradley 58, Missouri St. 40
Butler 80, Tennessee Tech 66
Cent. Michigan 89, Alma 50
Cleveland St. 92, Detroit 77
Dayton 80, SE Louisiana 74
DePaul 78, Loyola Chicago 72, OT
Drake 77, Ill.-Chicago 64
E. Illinois 93, Blackburn 43
Fort Wayne 79, Oakland 73, OT
Indiana St. 88, Miami (Ohio) 61
Kansas St. 55, Wichita St. 50
Milwaukee 74, IUPUI 61
N. Iowa 72, Evansville 55
Ohio St. 96, St. Francis (Pa.) 59
SIU-Edwardsville 78, Troy 72
Saint Louis 85, S. Illinois 72
St. Thomas (MN) 91, Crown (Minn.) 56
Syracuse 62, Notre Dame 61
W. Illinois 90, Texas Rio Grande Valley 72
Wisconsin 80, Marquette 77, OT
Xavier 84, West Virginia 74

SOUTHWEST
Abilene Christian 88, Arlington Baptist 42
Ark.-Pine Bluff 59, Arkansas Baptist 41
Arkansas 99, San Jose St. 58
Boise St. 86, Texas A&M 71
Houston 53, Saint Mary's (Cal.) 48
Jackson St. 69, SMU 68
North Texas 75, Omaha 45
Oral Roberts 77, Tulsa 66
Sam Houston St. 111, Dallas Christian 58
Tarleton St. 98, Wiley 55
UTEP 87, Northern New Mexico 50

FAR WEST
Cal Poly 64, Cal Baptist 53

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

E. Washington 78, N. Dakota St. 70
Fresno St. 80, UC Irvine 66
Grand Canyon 66, Wyoming 58
Loyola Marymount 64, Nevada 52
N. Colorado 88, Colorado St. 83
Pepperdine 88, N. Arizona 69
Portland 90, North Dakota 69
Portland St. 68, Air Force 64
S. Utah 69, Idaho St. 59
Santa Clara 72, Sacramento St. 65
South Dakota 69, BYU 68
UC Santa Barbara 82, Pacific 71
UMKC 61, Lindenwood (Mo.) 47
UNLV 95, San Diego 78
Utah Tech 77, Weber St. 65
Utah Valley St. 88, Long Beach St. 78

Saturday's women's scores

EAST
Binghamton 77, Fairfield 72
Brown 68, Hartford 52
Bucknell 64, Stony Brook 58
CCSU 58, Bryant 54
Columbia 91, Lafayette 43
Cornell 53, Albany (NY) 45
Fairleigh Dickinson 62, Mass.-Lowell 48
Fordham 65, Manhattan 55
Harvard 62, Colgate 48
Hofstra 74, LIU Brooklyn 71
Holy Cross 60, Northeastern 55
La Salle 66, Lehigh 54
Mount St. Mary's 73, Loyola (Md.) 66
Rider 59, Navy 43
Siena 75, Dartmouth 67
Stonehill 57, New Hampshire 50
Temple 68, UMB 53
West Virginia 63, Delaware St. 47

SOUTH
Alabama 61, Chattanooga 52
Auburn 86, UCF 46
George Mason 71, American 59
Jacksonville 71, Presbyterian 56
Louisiana Tech 70, Alcorn St. 59
Louisiana-Lafayette 62, Louisiana Col- lege 46
Louisiana-Monroe 85, Champion Chris- tian College 54
Murray St. 77, S. Indiana 59
Norfolk St. 71, NJIT 64
Old Dominion 57, SC-Upstate 31
Sam Houston St. 70, Florida A&M 62
Samford 71, Southern Miss. 59
South Carolina 79, Memphis 54
Tennessee St. 74, Lipscomb 64
UAB 71, W. Carolina 58
Wake Forest 68, High Point 51
Winthrop 61, SC State 38
Wofford 71, Appalachian St. 42

MIDWEST
Cent. Michigan 66, N. Dakota St. 65
Green Bay 81, IUPUI 76
Loyola Chicago 57, Bradley 54
Minnesota 98, Penn St. 96, 2OT
N. Illinois 71, E. Illinois 69
NC Central 76, Chicago St. 66
S. Dakota St. 80, N. Iowa 69
Saint Louis 75, Illinois St. 65
W. Illinois 86, Eureka 54
Wichita St. 79, New Orleans 61

SOUTHWEST
Cent. Arkansas 53, UALR 49, OT
Oklahoma St. 82, North Texas 64
Texas A&M-CC 65, Texas Rio Grande Val- ley 58
Texas St. 74, Loyola Marymount 62
Texas-Arlington 60, Lamar 56

FAR WEST
California 84, Ark.-Pine Bluff 51
Colorado St. 85, W. Michigan 65
Grand Canyon 61, UMKC 50
Idaho St. 58, St. Thomas (MN) 54, OT
Long Beach St. 67, Cal Baptist 59
Missouri 71, UMass 66
N. Arizona 76, S. Utah 65
Nevada 84, Idaho 80, OT
New Mexico St. 57, San Diego 52
Oregon 90, Portland 51
Oregon St. 63, Jackson St. 53
Pacific 75, UNLV 68
Pepperdine 65, Portland St. 59
SMU 84, Gardner-Webb 71
Sacramento St. 62, Fresno St. 61
Saint Mary's (Cal.) 58, UC Davis 53
Southern Cal 88, Merrimack 40
UCLA 68, UC Santa Barbara 57
Utah St. 65, Utah Valley St. 55
Utah Tech 82, Texas A&M Commerce 62
Weber St. 64, Seattle 51

AP SPORTLIGHT

Dec. 5

1924 — Red Green of the Hamilton Tigers scores five goals in a 10-5 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

1971 — Willie Ellison of the Los Angeles Rams sets an NFL record with 247 yards rushing in a 45-28 victory over the New Orleans Saints. Teammate Travis Williams also returns a kickoff 105 yards for a touchdown.

1972 — Johnny Rodgers of Nebraska wins the Heisman Trophy beating out Oklahoma's Gregg Pruitt and teammate Rich Glover. The all-purpose back gains 5,586 yards and scored 45 touchdowns in his collegiate career.

1974 — David Thompson scores an ACC-record 57 points to lead North Carolina State to a 144-88 rout of Buffalo State. Thompson surpasses the 56 points scored by South Carolina's John Roche against Furman on Feb. 5, 1971.

1976 — O.J. Simpson of the Buffalo Bills rushes for 203 yards and a touchdown in a 45-27 loss to the Miami Dolphins.

1981 — Southern California's Marcus Allen, who set an NCAA record for yards rushing in a season with 2,342, wins the Heisman Trophy.

1987 — Tim Brown, wide receiver and kick returner from Notre Dame, is awarded the Heisman Trophy.

1992 — Second-ranked Alabama beats No. 15 Florida 28-21 in the first SEC championship game. Alabama's Antonio Langham intercepts a Shane Matthews pass, returning it 27 yards for a touchdown with 3:16 left in the game.

1995 — Dan Marino completes 35 of 50 passes for 343 yards with two touchdowns and in leading Miami to a 21-20 comeback victory over the Atlanta Falcons. It was his 52nd 300-yard game of his career, breaking the league record he had shared with Dan Fouts.

2004 — Peyton Manning of Indianapolis is 25-of-33 for 425 yards with three touch- downs and two interceptions in a 51-24 win over Tennessee. Manning notches his 13th straight multi-TD game, breaking the NFL record held by Dan Marino, Johnny Unitas, Don Meredith and Brett Favre.

2012 — Kobe Bryant scores 29 points, making him the fifth player in NBA history to score 30,000, and the Los Angeles Lak- ers snap a two-game skid with a 103-87 victory over the New Orleans Hornets. The other players to score more than 30,000 are Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Karl Malone, Michael Jordan and Will Chamberlain.

2016 — Klay Thompson has 60 points, an NBA season high and the most by a Golden State player in more than 42 years, as the Warriors whip the Indiana Pacers 142-106. Thompson scores 40 by halftime in just 18- plus minutes. He had a career-best 60 points through three quarters and called it a night, sitting down with 1:22 left in the period.

2017 — Russia is banned from the next Winter Olympics in South Korea over state-sponsored doping.

DEALS

Saturday's transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Fined Memphis G Ja Morant \$35,000 for confronting and directing inap- propriate language toward a game official and failing to leave the court in a timely manner in a game against Minnesota on Nov. 30.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
ATLANTA FALCONS — Promoted LB Quinton Bell and OL Jonotthan Harrison to the active roster from the practice squad.
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Placed WR Tylan Wallace on injured reserve. Promoted WR DeSean Jackson to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed WR Ben Victor to the active roster.
CHICAGO BEARS — Placed QB Trevor Siem- ian on injured reserve. Signed QB Nath- an Peterman to the active roster from the practice squad. Promoted DBs Adrian Col- bert and Harrison Hand to the active ros- ter from the practice squad.
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Promoted P Drue Chrisman to the active roster from the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Promoted S Mike Brown to the active roster from the practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Promoted OL Aviante Collins to the active roster from the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Placed WR K.J. Hamler on injured reserve. Reinstated RB Mike Boone to the active roster from in- jured reserve. Promoted WR Brandon Johnson to the active roster from the prac- tice squad.
DETROIT LIONS — Reinstated WR Jame- son Williams from the non-football injury list (NFI) to the active roster. Placed OLB Julian Okwara on injured reserve. Promot- ed OL Ross Pierschbacher to the active roster from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Promoted S Mi- cah Abernathy and RB Patrick Taylor to the active roster from the practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Promoted DB Cobi Francis to the active roster from the prac- tice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Promoted LB Forrest Rhyne to the active roster from the practice squad.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Reinstated CB Nate Hobbs to the active roster from in- jured reserve. Placed G Lester Cotton on injured reserve. Promoted DT Kyle Peko to the active roster from the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Promoted OT Zack Bailey to the active roster from the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Placed QB Mat- thew Stafford on injured reserve. Rein- stated LB Daniel Hardy to the active roster from injured reserve. Promoted RB Mal- colm Brown and DE T.J. Carter to the active roster from the practice squad. Signed LB Keir Thomas and WR Austin Trammell to the active roster.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Promoted OL James Empey and T Kendall Lamm to the active roster from the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Promoted LB William Kwenkeu to the active roster from the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Promoted DT Ver- non Butler and CB Zyon Gilbert to the ac- tive roster from the practice squad. Signed TE Nick Vannett to the active ros- ter. Waived TE Tanner Hudson. Reinstated OLB Azeez Ojulari and S Tony Jefferson to the active roster from injured reserve.
NEW YORK JETS — Reinstated OL George Fant to the active roster from injured re- serve. Placed OL Cedric Ogbuehi on in- jured reserve. Promoted LB Hamsah Nasir- ildeen to the active roster from the prac- tice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Reinstated DT Jordan Davis to the active roster from in- jured reserve. Placed S C.J. Gardner-John- son on injured reserve. Promoted LB Christian Ellis to the active roster from the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Reinstated DE DeMarvin Leal to the active roster from in- jured reserve. Placed CB Ahnkello Withers- poon on injured reserve.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed RB Eli- jah Mitchell on injured reserve.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Promoted WR Laqun Treadwell and LB Vj Jones to the active roster from the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Reinstated OLB Ola Adeniyi to the active roster from in- jured reserve. Waived K Caleb Shudak. Promoted RB Julius Chestnut and DB Dav- ontae Harris to the active roster from the practice squad.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Rein- stated OL Wes Schweitzer to the active roster from injured reserve. Promoted WR Alex Erickson to the active roster from the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Assigned C Cole Bardreau to Bridgeport (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled RW Jon- ny Brodzinski and D Ben Harpur from Hart- ford (AHL). Reassigned D Zac Jones to Hartford.
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Reassigned D Colin Swoyer to Wheeling (ECHL) from Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).
ST. LOUIS BLUES — Assigned LW Jake Neighbours to Springfield (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Assigned F Cole Koepke to Syracuse (AHL). Reinstat- ed C Anthony Cirelli to the active roster from injured reserve. Re-assigned D Phi- lippe Myers to Syracuse (AHL).
VANCOUVER CANUCKS — Recalled G Collin Delia from Abbotsford (AHL) loan.
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Assigned D Peter Dillabatore to Henderson (AHL) from Savannah (ECHL).
COLLEGE
COLORADO — Named Deion Sanders head football coach.

WORLD CUP

ANALYSIS

American success remains elusive

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — American soccer success in the World Cup remains a dream.

The U.S. team looked better in this year's World Cup, but the results were the same as in 2010 and 2014. The Americans were eliminated in the round of 16 following a 3-1 defeat to the Netherlands on Saturday.

"We've shown that we can compete with top-tier teams and we just want to change the narrative because we think, obviously, over the past years we haven't gotten enough respect for U.S. soccer and for the way that we play," midfielder Weston McKennie said. "I think we accomplished a piece of that in this World Cup."

Expectations vs. results

Expectations were high for a team with a core of young, rising stars who play in some of the top European leagues.

No North and Central American and Caribbean nation has reached the semifinals since the U.S. in 1930.

Draws against Wales and England were followed by a 1-0 win over Iran that assured a spot in the knockout rounds, and the U.S. achieved the minimum to avoid being branded a failure. Going home after the group stage would have been a disappointment given the expectations for the team coach Gregg Berhalter rebuilt.

Who's out?

Berhalter was hired in December 2018 from Major League Soccer's Columbus Crew at the recommendation of Earnie Stewart, now the U.S. sporting director.

Berhalter took over 14 months after the U.S. lost at Trinidad and Tobago, failing to qualify for the World Cup in Russia and ending a streak of seven straight appear-



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

At 35, Tim Ream, left, was the oldest player on the U.S. roster and won't get an opportunity to play in another World Cup. The U.S. had the second youngest team at the World Cup.

ances in the tournament. A segment of fans repeatedly criticized him for his roster selections and tactics and some would prefer a foreign coach with more European experience.

His contract expires this month — he was paid \$1.29 million in the fiscal year ending in March 2021, according to the U.S. Soccer Federation's latest financial statement. Berhalter has led the Americans to 37 wins, 11 losses and 12 draws.

After the defeat to the Dutch, Berhalter wouldn't say whether he wanted to stay on.

"In the next couple of weeks I'll clear my head, I'll sit down and I'll think about what's next," he said.

Defender Tim Ream, 35, was the oldest player on a 26-man roster that was the tournament's second youngest. He stood motionless at

the final whistle and his voice cracked when talking about the experience.

"Just thinking about the journey, really, where I've really been, where I've come from," he said. "I've been in the program for 12 years and never guaranteed anything. Obviously, a lot of these guys are guaranteed another World Cup and for me that's not going to happen — and trying to convey to treat each and every training session as if it was their last, each and every game as if it was their last."

Who's next?

A core group is led by Christian Pulisic, Weston McKennie (both 24), Tyler Adams (23) and Yunus Musah (20), joined by Tim Weah and Brenden Aaronson (both 22) and Gio Reyna (20).

"We didn't qualify for the last

World Cup and here we are in the round of 16. We've definitely come a long way," Pulisic said. "There's, for sure, moments that we can be proud of. But we don't want to feel like this again, and we want to put ourselves in a position to win tournaments like this."

Central defender and striker remained unsettled for much of the past cycle. Defenders Miles Robinson (25) and Chris Richards (22) missed the World Cup because of injuries.

Gabriel Slonina, an 18-year-old goalkeeper joining Chelsea next month, appears to be the top American prospect. Midfielder Paxten Aaronson, Brenden's 19-year-old brother, joins Eintracht Frankfurt. Ricardo Pepi (19) was overlooked for the U.S. roster after leading the team's strikers with three goals in qualifying.

End: European teams have beaten US in 12 straight

FROM PAGE 24

After the American failure to qualify for 2018, Yedlin was the only holdover on a roster that was the tournament's second-youngest, averaging just over 25 years.

"Now they know that feeling of what it's like to lose after putting so much into it," the 29-year-old defender said, "and the feeling of defeat from the past can only fuel success in the future."

The U.S. is winless in 12 games against European opponents at the World Cup since 2002 and has won once and lost seven in knockout rounds since the championship launched in 1930.

"This tournament has really restored a lot of belief, restored a lot of respect to U.S. soccer and to soccer in our country," McKennie said. "I think we've shown that we can be giants

eventually. Maybe we may not be there yet, but I think we're definitely on our way."

Before a crowd of 44,846 at the renovated Khalifa International Stadium, Pulisic had a chance to put the U.S. ahead in the third minute. McKennie knocked a poor clearance back into the penalty area, but Noppert blocked his point-blank shot with his left thigh.

"I thought I was way offside when it happened, but I still hit it and he made a good save," Pulisic said.

The Dutch went ahead when Cody Gakpo played the ball to Dumfries on the right flank. Depay sprinted into the penalty area as Adams failed to track him, and Dumfries one-timed a cross that Depay redirected inside Matt Turner's far post for the first goal against the U.S. during the run of play in the tournament.

Blind scored in the first minute of stoppage time. Following a throw-in, Dumfries got a cross around Adams and Blind beat a late-arriving Sergiño Dest to the ball at the penalty spot for his first international goal in eight years.

Wright entered in the 67th and scored his second international goal on the unusual touch from 3 yards out, sparking U.S. hopes. But Dumfries was left unmarked by Tim Ream and Antonee Robinson and scored off Blind's cross from 6 yards for his sixth goal.

"When you play a team with so much quality like that and you give them three, four chances, they're going to put three or four away," Adams said. "We can show that we can hang with some of the best teams in the world, some of the best players in world, and that's a lot of progress for U.S. soccer."

Scoreboard

World Cup

ROUND OF 16

Saturday, Dec. 3

Netherlands 3, United States 1

Argentina 2, Australia 1

Sunday, Dec. 4

France 3, Poland 1

England vs. Senegal

Monday, Dec. 5

Japan vs. Croatia

Brazil vs. South Korea

Tuesday, Dec. 6

Morocco vs. Spain

Portugal vs. Switzerland

QUARTERFINALS

Friday, Dec. 9

Japan-Croatia winner vs. Brazil-South Korea winner

Netherlands vs. Argentina

Saturday, Dec. 10

Morocco-Spain winner vs. Portugal-Switzerland winner

England-Senegal winner vs. France

France rolls into quarters

By ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Kylian Mbappé scored two goals and set up another for Olivier Giroud, giving France a 3-1 victory over Poland and a spot in the World Cup quarterfinals on Sunday.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward now has a tournament-leading five goals and the 2018 champions are within three wins of defending their title.

Robert Lewandowski scored from the penalty spot in second-half stoppage time for Poland.

No country has repeated as World Cup champion in six decades — since Brazil achieved the feat by claiming consecutive trophies in 1958 and 1962. Italy is the only other nation to have won two straight, in 1934 and 1938.

France's quarterfinal opponent will be either England or Senegal.

Mbappé scored his first in the 74th minute when he was left unmarked to blast in a long-range shot following a counterattack. He added another in stoppage time when Poland goalkeeper Wojciech Szczęsny could only get a weak glove on it.

Having also provided two assists, Mbappé has easily been the most productive player in Qatar.

Mbappé celebrated his second goal by waving his arms for the crowd to cheer louder. Then he hoisted himself up onto the crossbar shortly after the final whistle in another celebratory gesture in front of France's fans.

The French took the lead when Mbappé threaded a pass to Giroud and the AC Milan striker quickly slotted the ball into the far corner. It was Giroud's 52nd career international goal — breaking a tie with Thierry Henry on France's all-time scoring list.



Mbappé

NHL

Scoreboard

ROUNDUP

Devils win 11th straight road game

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	23	20	3	0	40	93	49
Toronto	26	15	5	6	36	79	66
Tampa Bay	24	15	8	1	31	84	75
Florida	25	12	9	4	28	88	83
Detroit	23	11	7	5	27	73	74
Montreal	24	12	11	1	25	70	83
Ottawa	24	10	13	1	21	75	78
Buffalo	24	10	13	1	21	90	89
Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	25	20	4	1	41	93	57
Carolina	25	14	6	5	33	74	69
N.Y. Islanders	25	15	10	0	30	79	66
Pittsburgh	25	13	8	4	30	89	78
N.Y. Rangers	26	11	10	5	27	76	76
Washington	26	10	12	4	24	71	83
Philadelphia	25	8	12	5	21	59	82
Columbus	22	8	12	2	18	64	88

Western Conference							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	24	14	6	4	32	93	66
Winnipeg	22	14	7	1	29	69	57
Colorado	22	13	8	1	27	75	61
Minnesota	23	12	9	2	26	72	69
Nashville	23	12	9	2	26	63	70
St. Louis	24	11	13	0	22	69	90
Arizona	22	7	11	4	18	59	78
Chicago	23	7	12	4	18	61	85
Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	26	18	7	1	37	90	68
Seattle	24	15	6	3	33	88	75
Los Angeles	27	13	10	4	30	92	97
Edmonton	25	14	11	0	28	87	90
Calgary	24	11	10	3	25	73	74
Vancouver	25	10	12	3	23	84	95
San Jose	27	8	15	4	20	79	97
Anaheim	25	6	16	3	15	63	106

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's games
 Minnesota 5, Anaheim 4, SO
 New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 2
 Vegas 4, Detroit 1
 Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 2
 Ottawa 5, San Jose 2
 Edmonton 5, Montreal 3
 Boston 5, Colorado 1
 Tampa Bay 4, Toronto 3, OT
 Chicago 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
 Florida 5, Seattle 1
 Calgary 5, Washington 2
 Vancouver 3, Arizona 2, OT
 Carolina 4, Los Angeles 2

Sunday's games
 Anaheim at Winnipeg
 Minnesota at Dallas
 Detroit at Columbus
 San Jose at Buffalo
 Chicago at N.Y. Islanders

Monday's games
 Colorado at Philadelphia
 St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers
 Vegas at Boston
 Washington at Edmonton
 Arizona at Calgary
 Montreal at Vancouver

Tuesday's games
 Chicago at New Jersey
 Columbus at Pittsburgh
 Detroit at Tampa Bay
 Los Angeles at Ottawa
 St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders
 Florida at Winnipeg
 Toronto at Dallas
 Carolina at Anaheim
 Montreal at Seattle

Wednesday's games
 Washington at Philadelphia
 Buffalo at Columbus
 Minnesota at Calgary
 Boston at Colorado
 Arizona at Edmonton
 N.Y. Rangers at Vegas
 Vancouver at San Jose

Scoring leaders				
Through Saturday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	25	21	26	47
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	25	17	25	42
Jason Robertson, DAL	24	22	17	39
Nikita Kucherov, TB	24	11	25	36
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	23	12	22	34
David Pastrnak, BOS	23	16	18	34
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	22	8	25	33
Erik Karlsson, SJ	27	11	22	33
Sidney Crosby, PIT	25	13	20	33
Tage Thompson, BUF	24	15	17	32

3 tied with 31 pts.

Associated Press
PHILADELPHIA — Jack Hughes, Dawson Mercer and Fabian Zetterlund scored, and the New Jersey Devils set a club record with their 11th straight road victory, beating the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 on Saturday night.

Miles Wood added two assists for the Devils, who are a win away from tying the NHL record for consecutive road victories. New Jersey lost its first road game of the season, at the Flyers on Oct. 13, and hasn't dropped one away from home since. The Devils' next road game is Dec. 12 at the Rangers.

"I think that's a big accomplishment," Mercer said. "Road games are hard, and to come away with that many it's a special thing."

The Devils, who recently had a 13-game winning streak, have won four of five and 17 of 19 overall. New Jersey managed to continue its surge despite being outplayed for the first two periods.

"It really was a challenge," New Jersey coach Lindy Ruff said. "I thought as a team we were flat. We had nobody that was carrying the play and skating well. We dug a little deep and at the start of the third, and we created a little energy. We found a way to win."

Travis Konecny and Lukas Sedlak scored for the Flyers, who have lost 12 of 13.

Bruins 5, Avalanche 1: David Pastrnak and Trent Frederic scored two goals apiece, Linus Ullmark stopped 25 shots and host Boston improved to an NHL-record 14-0 at home.

Jake DeBrusk scored his 100th career NHL goal, making it 5-1 late in the third period just 10 seconds after Frederic gave the Bruins a three-goal lead.

Andrew Cogliano scored for the injury-plagued Avalanche at 6:32 of the third, spoiling Ullmark's shutout bid after two Bruins collided in front of the net and gave the puck away. Pavel Francouz made 34 saves for Colorado, which is without forwards Valeri Nichushkin, Evan Rodrigues and Darren Helm and defensemen Bowen Byram and Kurtis MacDermaid; captain Gabriel Landeskog had knee surgery in October.

Blackhawks 5, Rangers 2: Patrick Kane had a goal and two assists and Max Domi scored twice as visiting Chicago snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Reese Johnson and Taylor Radtsh also scored as the Blackhawks won for the first time since Nov. 12 at Anaheim. They had won just two of their previous 16.

Petr Mrazek stopped 21 shots over two periods and Arvid Soderblom had five saves in the third as the Blackhawks improved to 6-3-0 at Madison Square Garden since



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The New Jersey Devils' Dawson Mercer scores a goal against the Philadelphia Flyers' Tony DeAngelo and Carter Hart (79) during the third period Saturday in Philadelphia. The Devils won 3-2.

February 2012.
Lightning 4, Maple Leafs 3 (OT): Alex Killorn scored from the right circle 33 seconds into overtime and host Tampa Bay beat Toronto.

Nikita Kucherov, Ross Colton and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Lightning. Andrei Vasilevskiy stopped 36 shots.

Mitch Marner broke the Toronto points streak record at 19 games, scoring short-handed and power-play goals. Marner broke the team record set by Darryl Sittler in 1977-78 and matched by Eddie Olczyk in 1989-90. The NHL record is 51 games, set by Wayne Gretzky (1983-84).

Panthers 5, Kraken 1: Carter Verhaeghe scored twice 26 seconds apart in the first period, Matthew Tkachuk scored his 12th goal and had an assist, and visiting Florida snapped Seattle's seven-game winning streak.

The longest active winning streak in the league came to an end as Seattle couldn't solve Florida goalie Spencer Knight other than Jared McCann's goal early in the second period. Knight made 36 saves and the Panthers won consecutive games for the first time in nearly a month.

Aleksii Heponiemi and Gustav Forsling both scored in the third period, and Sam Bennett had three assists for Florida.

Penguins 6, Blues 2: Kasperii Kapanen scored his second career hat trick to lift host Pittsburgh.

Bryan Rust had a goal and three assists, Jason Zucker had a goal and two assists, Sidney Crosby also scored and Evgeni Malkin added three assists to help the Penguins win their second straight

and seventh in the last nine. Tristan Jarry stopped 26 shots for the Penguins, who are 9-2-2 in their last 13.

Pavel Buchnevich and Vladimir Tarasenko scored for the Blues, who have lost three straight and five of six after a seven-game winning streak. Jordan Binnington gave up four goals on 17 shots before being pulled in the opening minute of the second period. Thomas Greiss had 19 saves in relief.

Wild 5, Ducks 4 (SO): Kirill Kaprizov and Matt Boldy scored in the shootout, helping host Minnesota beat Anaheim.

Calen Addison and Joel Eriksson Ek each had a goal and assist during regulation as the Wild won for the fifth time in six games. Connor Dewar also scored for Minnesota, which has beaten Anaheim in 12 straight matchups, the longest streak against any opponent in team history.

Filip Gustavsson made 29 saves for the Wild.

Oilers 5, Canadiens 3: Connor McDavid had two goals and two assists, Leon Draisaitl had a goal and three assists and host Edmonton beat Montreal.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins and Darnell Nurse also scored for the Oilers, winners of four of their last five games. Stuart Skinner made 30 saves.

Nick Suzuki, Evgenii Dadonov and Arber Xhekaj scored for the Canadiens, who have lost two of their last three. Jake Allen stopped 17 shots.

Golden Knights 4, Red Wings 1: Jack Eichel scored just over a minute into the game, and visiting Vegas never relinquished the lead.

Phil Kessel had a goal and an as-

sisit, while Jonathan Marchessault and Reilly Smith also scored for the Golden Knights, who won for the second time in five games. Adin Hill made 24 saves to record his first victory in his last four starts.

Senators 5, Sharks 2: Claude Giroux had two goals and an assist to lead host Ottawa to its second straight win.

Brady Tkachuk, Tim Stutzle and Thomas Chabot also scored for the Senators. Anton Forsberg made 35 saves.

Canucks 3, Coyotes 2 (OT): Bo Horvat scored his second goal of the game at 4:09 of overtime, and struggling Vancouver beat road-weary Arizona.

Brock Boeser also scored for the Canucks. Spencer Martin stopped 21 shots in his first start since starter Thatcher Demko suffered a lower-body injury on Thursday night that is expected to sideline him for about six weeks.

Hurricanes 4, Kings 2: Martin Necas had a goal and an assist, and visiting Carolina won its fourth straight.

Brady Skjei, Sebastian Aho and Andrei Svechnikov also scored for the Hurricanes, who got at least one point for the 10th time in their past 11 games. Pyotr Kochetkov made 31 saves.

Flames 5, Capitals 2: Andrew Mangiapane scored twice, Adam Ruzicka had a goal and two assists and host Calgary beat Washington.

Blake Coleman and Elias Lindholm also scored for Calgary, and Mikael Backlund had three assists. Dan Vladar, making his fourth start in six games in place of the struggling Jacob Markstrom, had 27 saves.

NBA/MLB



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Sacramento Kings forward Domantas Sabonis, left, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers center Ivica Zubac defends during the second half Saturday in Los Angeles. The Kings won 123-96.

ROUNDUP

Sabonis scores 24, leads Kings' romp of Clippers

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Domantas Sabonis scored 24 points on 10-for-11 shooting and the Sacramento Kings handed the undermanned Los Angeles Clippers their worst loss of the season, 123-96 on Saturday.

Sabonis set the tone with 15 points in the opening quarter, and the Kings' bench kept it going in the second, building a 28-point lead. They led by 29 in the third and by 31 in the fourth.

"While everyone warms up, I'm always ready," Sabonis said. "I feel like that's where I can take advantage."

Sabonis made both of his two three-point attempts in the game and hit two of three free throws. He had six assists and five rebounds despite five fouls.

Keegan Murray added 23 points and D'Aaron Fox had 14 points for the Kings, who won their second straight.

The Clippers were again without Paul George (right hamstring tendon strain) and Kawhi Leonard (right ankle sprain), as well as Luke Kennard and Norman Powell. George and Leonard are expected to join the team on their upcoming road trip.

"We have to hold it up until they're back and then when they're back, hopefully soon, we can build some chemistry out on the court and some consistency," said Ivica Zubac, who had 13 points and 15 rebounds for his

10th double-double of the season and third in four games.

Trail Blazers 116, Jazz 111: Anfernee Simons scored a career-high 45 points and blocked a potential three-pointer with 4.6 seconds left to lead visiting Portland past Utah.

The Jazz led 111-110 after Kelly Olynyk's twisting jumper and then had a chance to tie it at 114, but Simons swiped the ball from Jordan Clarkson as he rose for a three-point attempt from the right angle.

Portland's Jerami Grant scored 13 of his 33 points in the fourth quarter as the Jazz swarmed Simons. Jusuf Nurkic had 15 points and 14 rebounds and Trenderon Watford finished with a career-high 14 rebounds, too.

Mavericks 121, Knicks 100: Luka Doncic had a game-high 30 points and Tim Hardaway Jr. chipped in 28 points against his former team to lead visiting Dallas over New York.

Spencer Dinwiddie scored 17 points for Dallas, which outscored New York 69-41 in the second half for just its second win seven games.

Bucks 105, Hornets 96: Bobby Portis scored 20 points and visiting Milwaukee eased past Charlotte, despite missing star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo.

Antetokounmpo, a two-time MVP, sat out with left knee soreness, one night after scoring 40 points in a home loss to the Los

Angeles Lakers.

Raptors 121, Magic 108: O.G. Anunoby matched his season high with 32 points, Pascal Siakam had 26 points and 10 rebounds and host Toronto handed short-handed Orlando its eighth consecutive loss.

Scottie Barnes scored 17 points and had a season-high 14 rebounds, and Fred VanVleet had 13 points as the Raptors won their third straight home game, improving to 9-2 north of the border.

Warriors 120, Rockets 101: Andrew Wiggins scored a season-best 36 points and matched his career high with eight three-pointers, leading host Golden State past Houston in the second game of back-to-backs for both teams.

Stephen Curry scored 30 points with eight threes of his own to go with 10 assists. Jordan Poole started in place of a resting Klay Thompson and added 21 points and five assists.

Thunder 135, Timberwolves 128: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points in his return to action, and visiting Oklahoma City took advantage of Rudy Gobert's early ejection to post a chipper win over Minnesota.

Gilgeous-Alexander, the NBA's third-leading scorer with a 31-point average, sat out one game earlier this week with a bruised hip. But he had no trouble getting physical against Minnesota, making 10 of 17 shots and all 12 of his free throws.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	18	5	.783	—
Brooklyn	13	11	.542	5½
Philadelphia	12	11	.522	6
Toronto	12	11	.522	6
New York	10	13	.435	8

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	13	10	.565	—
Miami	11	12	.478	2
Washington	11	12	.478	2
Charlotte	7	16	.304	6
Orlando	5	19	.208	8½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	16	6	.727	—
Cleveland	15	8	.652	1½
Indiana	12	10	.545	4
Chicago	9	13	.409	7
Detroit	6	18	.250	11

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	14	8	.636	—
Memphis	13	9	.591	1
Dallas	11	11	.500	3
Houston	6	17	.261	8½
San Antonio	6	17	.261	8½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	14	8	.636	—
Utah	14	12	.538	2
Portland	12	11	.522	2½
Minnesota	11	12	.478	3½
Oklahoma City	10	13	.435	4½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	15	7	.682	—
Sacramento	12	9	.571	2½
Golden State	13	11	.542	3
L.A. Clippers	13	11	.542	3
L.A. Lakers	9	12	.429	5½

Friday's games

Charlotte 117, Washington 116
 Atlanta 117, Denver 109
 Cleveland 107, Orlando 96
 Brooklyn 114, Toronto 105
 L.A. Lakers 133, Milwaukee 129
 Miami 120, Boston 116, OT
 New Orleans 117, San Antonio 99
 Memphis 117, Philadelphia 109
 Houston 122, Phoenix 121
 Utah 139, Indiana 119
 Golden State 119, Chicago 111

Saturday's games

Dallas 121, New York 100
 Sacramento 123, L.A. Clippers 96
 Milwaukee 105, Charlotte 96
 Toronto 121, Orlando 108
 Oklahoma City 135, Minnesota 128
 Golden State 120, Houston 101
 Portland 116, Utah 111

Sunday's games

Denver at New Orleans
 Phoenix at San Antonio
 Boston at Brooklyn
 Chicago at Sacramento
 Cleveland at New York
 L.A. Lakers at Washington
 Memphis at Detroit
 Indiana at Portland

Monday's games

L.A. Clippers at Charlotte
 Milwaukee at Orlando
 Boston at Toronto
 Oklahoma City at Atlanta
 Miami at Memphis
 Philadelphia at Houston
 Phoenix at Dallas
 Indiana at Golden State

Tuesday's games

Detroit at Miami
 L.A. Lakers at Cleveland
 Dallas at Denver

Scoring leaders

Through Saturday

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, DAL	21	242	160	701	33.4
Antetokmpo, MIL	18	211	137	572	31.8
G.-Alexander, OKC	21	225	182	654	31.1
Curry, GS	22	230	102	677	30.8
Tatum, BOS	22	221	162	678	30.8
Durant, BKN	24	252	174	716	29.8
Booker, PHO	22	233	129	650	29.5

DeGrom's deal could be \$222M for 6 years

Associated Press

Jacob deGrom's \$185 million, five-year contract with Texas includes a pair of conditional options, one that protects the Rangers against an arm injury and another that would make the deal worth \$222 million over six seasons if he is remains a top pitcher at the end of 2027.



DeGrom

The deal agreed to Friday with the two-time Cy Young Award winner includes salaries of \$30 million next year, \$40 million each in 2024 and '25, \$38 million in 2026 and \$37 million in 2027.

DeGrom's \$37 million average annual salary is second among pitchers behind \$43.3 million for former New York Mets teammate Max Scherzer, topping Gerrit Cole's \$36 million with the New York Yankees as part of \$324 million, nine-year contract.

Texas has a conditional option for 2028 that would be triggered if from 2023-26 deGrom has Tommy John surgery on his right elbow or has any right elbow or shoulder injury that causes him to be on the injured list for any period of 130 consecutive days during any season or 186 days in a row during any service period.

The conditional option would be for \$30 million if deGrom finishes among the top five in Cy Young voting during the contract or pitches at least 625 innings. The option price would increase to \$37 million if he finishes among the top five three times or more or pitches at least 725 innings. If he falls short of those specifications, the conditional option price would be \$20 million.

DeGrom's conditional option would be triggered at \$37 million if the conditional team option doesn't get met, he pitches at least 160 innings in 2027 and finishes among the top five in Cy Young voting, and an independent doctor examines him and determines he is more likely than not to be healthy for the start of the 2028 season.

He gets a full no-trade provision and would earn a \$250,000 bonus for winning a Cy Young, \$200,000 for finishing second, \$150,000 for third, \$100,000 for fourth and \$50,000 for fifth.

DeGrom would also get a \$150,000 bonus for winning the World Series MVP award and \$100,000 for All-Star election or selection, winning a Gold Glove or a League Championship Series MVP Award.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



EMIL LIPPE/AP

Houston's Marcus Sasser, left, and Reggie Chaney defend against Saint Mary's guard Aidan Mahaney during the first half on Saturday.

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Top-ranked Houston holds off Saint Mary's

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — J'wan Roberts scored 15 points, Marcus Sasser added 13 and top-ranked Houston held on to beat Saint Mary's 53-48 on Saturday night.

The Cougars (8-0) won twice in their first week as the No. 1 team since the final poll of the 1982-83 regular season, when Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon led high-flying Phi Slama Jama.

Logan Johnson scored 17 points and Aidan Mahaney had 14 for the Gaels (6-3), who lost their third in a row following a 6-0 start.

Houston was the favorite to win it all in the second of three consecutive trips to the Final Four nearly 40 years ago, but lost to Jim Valvano and North Carolina State in one of the iconic championship games.

Coach Kelvin Sampson's first top-ranked team is coming off trips to the Final Four and Elite Eight the past two seasons.

For the third straight year, the postseason path will start at Dickie's Arena, where Sampson likes to bring his team during the regular season as prep for the American Athletic Conference tourney.

No. 3 Virginia 62, Florida State 57: Kihei Clark scored 18 points and the host Cavaliers overcame poor shooting to win their 15th straight Atlantic Coast Conference opener.

Virginia (7-0) trailed 22-21 after both teams shot under 30% in the first half. The Cavaliers started the second half with a 22-9 run to build a 43-31 lead.

Florida State (1-9) scored the next six points, then didn't score again for five minutes as the Cavaliers rebuilt their advantage.

Rutgers 63, No. 10 Indiana 48: Freshman guard Derek Simpson scored 10 straight points in a game-deciding run and the host Scarlet Knights beat the Hoosiers

for the sixth time in a row.

Caleb McConnell had 16 points and 10 rebounds to lead Rutgers (6-2, 1-0 Big Ten).

Miller Kopp scored a season-high 21 points for Indiana (7-1, 0-1).

No. 11 Arkansas 99, San Jose State 58: Trevon Brazile scored 23 points and the host Razorbacks broke away in the second half.

Arkansas (7-1) led 40-35 at the break before erupting. Heralded freshman guard Nick Smith, Jr. contributed 16 points and five assists in his first career start in only his second game as a collegian.

No. 11 Alabama 78, South Dakota State 65: Freshman Noah Clowney's breakout game — 22 points, nine rebounds, four assists and a steal — helped the host Crimson Tide recover from blowing a 20-point lead and beat the Jackrabbits.

Clowney shot 8-for-17, including 5-for-12 on threes, in his highest-scoring game of the season.

No. 17 Duke 75, Boston College 59: Mark Mitchell scored 15 points and Kyle Filipowski posted 13 points and 10 rebounds for the freshman's fifth double-double as the host Blue Devils won the Atlantic Coast Conference opener for both teams.

Duke (8-2), which shot 52.8% from the field, is unbeaten in six home games under first-year coach Jon Scheyer.

No. 25 Ohio State 96, St. Francis (Pa.) 59: Brice Sensabaugh led his team with 15 points and Bruce Thornton added 13 as the host Buckeyes surged in the second half to beat the Red Flash.

St. Francis got within eight points after the break. But Ohio State (6-2) held St. Francis (2-7) scoreless for about five minutes in the second half and at one point led by 39 points.

Colorado hires Sanders to turn around program

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Deion Sanders is taking over as head coach at Colorado, bringing his charisma and larger-than-life persona to a beleaguered Pac-12 program that's plunged to the bottom of college football.

The deal was announced Saturday night by CU athletic director Rick George.

The Pro Football Hall of Famer has been at Jackson State, a historically Black college that plays in the NCAA's second tier of Division I, since 2020. Sanders led the Tigers to consecutive Southwestern Athletic Conference titles.

The Tigers beat Southern in the SWAC championship game Saturday in Jackson, Miss., and a few hours later Colorado announced he was coming to Boulder.

Sanders told his team after the game he had accepted another job, but intended to coach Jackson State (12-0) in the Celebration Bowl for historically Black colleges on Dec. 17 in Atlanta against Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference champion North Carolina Central.

"In coaching you either get elevated or you get terminated," Sanders told his team. "There ain't no graveyard for coaches where they die at the place. They either going to run you off or you going to walk off."

Sanders talked about the dearth of Black head coaches at the highest levels of college football and trying to be a catalyst for change.

The Tigers went 27-5 in the Sanders era and he was named SWAC coach of the year the past two seasons.

Known as "Prime Time" during his NFL career, the 55-year-old Sanders prefers "Coach Prime"



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Deion Sanders is taking over as head coach at Colorado, bringing his larger-than-life persona to a beleaguered Pac-12 program.

these days. Colorado will prove a challenge for the magnetic Sanders, who inherits a program coming off a 1-11 season. But he brings instant name recognition and a track record of being able to recruit top-level talent.

"There were a number of highly qualified and impressive candidates interested in becoming the next head football coach at Colorado, but none of them had the pedigree, the knowledge and the ability to connect with student-athletes like Deion Sanders," George said in a statement. "Not only will Coach Prime energize our fanbase, I'm confident that he will lead our program back to national prominence while leading a team of high quality and high character."

The Buffaloes have turned in just one full-length winning season since joining the Pac-12 in 2011. They dismissed Karl Dorrell in October and interim coach Mike Sanford finished out the sea-

son that culminated with a 63-21 blowout loss to No. 12 Utah at home.

Sanders figures to bring a few players along with him — possibly even his son, quarterback She-deur Sanders, a 6-foot-2 sophomore at Jackson State who's thrown 36 TD passes this season and just six interceptions.

Sanders has scored big on the recruiting trail, landing five-star defensive back Travis Hunter and four-star receiver Kevin Coleman for this year's squad.

"Deion Sanders' stature transcends sports, and his hiring elevates not only the football program but the university as a whole," CU Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano said. "This is an exciting new chapter in the long, storied history of Colorado football and I look forward to standing shoulder-to-shoulder with our students, supporters and fans to cheer on 'Coach Prime' and our student-athletes next fall."

Tulane tops UCF to win AAC

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — As Tulane receiver Shae Wyatt watched jubilant fans streaming onto the field, he couldn't help but reflect upon how far his team had come since finishing last season 2-10.

"It's definitely surreal," said Wyatt, whose two touchdown catches were no small part of why a celebratory scene so hard to conceive of a year ago was unfolding around him. "Seeing all the other schools with their success, and having their fans storm the field — eventually, everybody wants that."

Michael Pratt accounted for 442 total yards and five touchdowns, Tyjae Spears highlighted his 199

yards rushing with a 60-yard score and No. 18 Tulane beat No. 22 UCF 45-28 on Saturday night in the American Athletic Conference championship game.

The victory virtually assured Tulane (11-2) would play in the Cotton Bowl — its first major New Year's Day bowl since the 1939 season.

"It was an amazing feeling, man," Spears said. "That's something that will stick with us for the rest of our life."

And Wyatt suggested that Tulane's remarkable turnaround should serve as a lesson.

"They were just throwing dirt over us and for a while it was hard to bounce back," Wyatt said of last season, during which Tulane was

displaced by Hurricane Ida to a Birmingham hotel for a month, and plagued with injuries to prominent players.

"If you keep your faith and you believe in your brothers that are next to you, flowers will grow. I promise you," Wyatt said. "I hope this is a testament to anybody out there."

Pratt passed for a career-high 394 yards, including touchdowns of 73 yards to Duece Watts, 60 and 10 yards to Wyatt and 43 yards to Lawrence Keys. Pratt also ran for a pivotal 18-yard touchdown with 4:04 left.

"It was awesome to close out that game and have those fans so fired up," said Pratt, named the game's most outstanding player.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No surprises in final CFP rankings, matchups

Undefeated conference champs Georgia, Michigan remain 1-2; Horned Frogs stay at No. 3 despite first loss followed by Buckeyes

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Georgia, Michigan, TCU and Ohio State were chosen Sunday to play in the College Football Playoff, giving the Big Ten multiple teams in the four-team field for the first time.

The defending national champion and top-ranked Bulldogs and fourth-seeded Buckeyes will meet Dec. 31 at the Peach Bowl in Atlanta. The second-seeded Wolverines and third-ranked Horned Frogs, the lone first-timer in the final four, will play at the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Ariz., the same day.

The national championship game is Jan. 9 at Sofi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., and it could be a rematch of rivals Ohio State and Michigan in what will soon be Big Ten country as the conference expands.

The Buckeyes and Wolverines have never played outside of their annual regular-season game in a bitter rivalry that dates to 1902.

With some drama, but not much controversy, the CFP selection committee's top four fell into place over championship weekend. The most interesting part of the unveiling was whether the committee would pair Michigan and Ohio State in the semifinals and whether



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh holds the trophy after defeating Purdue in the Big Ten championship game.

er Alabama might be able to slip in as the first two-loss playoff team.

In the end, the committee sprung no surprises.

Committee chairman Boo Corrigan, the athletic director at North Carolina State, said Ohio State's wins against Penn State and Notre Dame helped push the Buckeyes in over Alabama.

"As we looked at the total body of work, the committee was comfortable with Ohio State at No. 4 and Alabama at 5," he said in an interview with ESPN. Corrigan also said the committee did not make any special effort to avoid

having a rematch of Ohio State and Michigan in a semifinal.

Georgia (13-0) won the Southeastern Conference championship game in a rout and Michigan (13-0) similarly took the Big Ten title.

TCU (12-1) suffered its first loss of the season in the Big 12 championship, falling in overtime to Kansas State. The loss made for an uneasy night for Heisman Trophy contender Max Duggan and the Horned Frogs, but in the end they had already built enough equity during their improbable season to stay in the top four.

Ohio State (11-1) was given a second life in the playoff race when Southern California lost the Pac-12 championship game Friday night. A week after star quarterback C.J. Stroud and the Buckeyes lost at home to coach Jim Harbaugh and Michigan, they slipped into the final playoff spot, the best of a flawed batch of contenders.

Alabama (10-2) was fifth in the committee rankings, missing the CFP for just the second time in its nine-year history. The Crimson Tide, with a little lobbying from coach Nick Saban, were hoping to become the first team to lose two games and make the playoff.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Georgia players and coach Kirby Smart hoist the trophy after defeating LSU in the SEC title game.

The committee instead simply moved Ohio State from fifth last week to fourth this week, setting up just the second matchup ever between the Bulldogs and Buckeyes. The only time Georgia and Ohio State have played was in the 1992 Citrus Bowl, a Buckeyes' victory.

"They got a lot of really great players because we recruit a lot of the same kids," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said.

For Georgia, it is the second straight CFP appearance and third overall. This time, though, Smart's Bulldogs enter as the No. 1 team and clear favorite after following up last season's national title with a perfect season. Stetson Bennett and the 'Dawgs will try to become the first team to repeat as CFP champions.

Ohio State is making its fifth playoff appearance. The last time the Buckeyes were the fourth seed

was 2014, when they won their last national title.

Michigan is in for the second time, again as the second seed after losing to Georgia in the Orange Bowl last season.

"It's a team that really works and competes, and I think they really understand if you want to have good things happen you got to work, you got to compete for it," Harbaugh told ESPN.

Last year, Michigan was the first team reach the College Football Playoff after starting the season unranked in the AP Top 25.

TCU is now the second. The Horned Frogs also are just the 13th different school to make the field in nine years. That lack of variety is one of the main reasons the CFP will be expanding to 12 teams in the 2024 season.

The Horned Frogs, whose only national title came in 1938, have never played Michigan.

K-State hands TCU first loss in OT, wins Big 12

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — TCU quarterback Max Duggan was battered and bloodied, physically exhausted and mentally drained. And still unsure if the third-ranked Horned Frogs had done enough to get into the four-team College Football Playoff.

Duggan dropped to his knees in the end zone after his 8-yard TD run ended his gutsy game-tying drive late in regulation of Saturday's Big 12 championship game, and buried his facemask into the turf after diving and coming up just inches short of another touchdown in overtime. He then stood alone in the middle of the field with both hands on his helmet when his running back Kendre Miller was stuffed for the second play in a row, on fourth down, to give No. 13 Kansas State the ball one last time.

Ty Zentner then kicked a 31-yard field goal as the Wildcats beat TCU 31-28.

"We got beat today and now it's out of our hands. That's something that we wanted to do is be in control," said Duggan, who had to gather himself after starting to talk on the podium. "All we can do is kind of watch."

Deuce Vaughn ran for 130 yards and a touchdown and Will Howard threw two



MAT OTERO / AP

TCU quarterback Max Duggan is tackled short of a touchdown by Kansas State during overtime of the Big 12 Conference championship game on Saturday.

TDs for the Wildcats (10-3, No. 10 CFP), who six weeks earlier had jumped out to a 28-10 lead early in the second quarter before TCU scored the game's last 28 points.

That was one of five games the Horned Frogs (12-1, No. 3 CFP) won when trailing after halftime. But they couldn't do it again with the chance to guarantee being the first Big 12 team other than Oklahoma to make the playoff.

TCU, the first Big 12 team to complete a

regular season undefeated since Texas in 2009, could still get into the playoff. While their case was helped when fourth-ranked Southern California (11-2) lost 47-24 to Utah in the Pac-12 championship game Friday night, the Frogs now have to wait until the final CFP rankings come out Sunday.

"I think we're certainly deserving. I think the league is one of the best leagues in the country to go through, undefeated in the league, certainly we ought to get in," first-year TCU coach Sonny Dykes said. "And I don't think we should be punished for coming to the Big 12 championship game."

Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark said before the game that TCU, with first-year coach Sonny Dykes, already deserved to be in the playoff.

"You look at their strength of schedule. You think about how they've performed all year long," Yormark said. "I think regardless, they should be in, for sure."

Kansas State coach Chris Klieman agreed after his team reached 10 wins for the first time since 2012, when the Wildcats won the Big 12 title when there was no championship game.

"TCU should be in the in the CFP, they're one of the best four teams," Klieman said.

"We went toe to toe with them. I thought we could go toe to toe with them and find a way to win. It was an exceptional football game."

Duggan, who went from losing his job as TCU's starting quarterback going into the season to now being a potential Heisman Trophy finalist, threw for 251 yards and a touchdown, and also ran for 110 yards with an 8-yard score with 1:51 remaining in regulation.

The quarterback was sacked three times, and hit numerous other times. He had to have patches on his bloody elbow replaced several times, and was so drained late in the game that the offensive linemen were basically carrying him off the field after drives.

"Obviously I was a little tired, but I think everybody else was and I wasn't going to come out," Duggan said.

"Typical Max Duggan performance," Dykes said. "Just gritty, tough, made plays when he had to. Did everything that he could do to give us a chance to win."

Vaughn's 44-yard touchdown, including an open-field move that led to a defensive back falling down, made it 28-17 and capped a drive set up after Julius Brent intercepted a pass by Duggan in the end zone on the first play of the fourth quarter.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Michigan cruises to Big Ten crown

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Donovan Edwards' quick-hitting sprints changed everything for No. 2 Michigan. Again.

Now they're hoping it propels them toward another championship.

Edwards ran for 185 yards and a touchdown, J.J. McCarthy threw for three scores and Michigan beat Purdue 43-22 on Saturday night in the Big Ten championship game for its second straight conference title and a likely No. 2 playoff seed.

College football's winningest program has the first 13-win season in school history. Two more victories would give the Wolverines (13-0, No. 2 CFP) their first national championship since 1997 — even without Heisman Trophy candidate Blake Corum because of a season-ending left knee injury.

"He's the best running back in college football and he deserves the Heisman. If he hadn't gotten hurt, he would have easily won the Heisman so this is for Blake Corum," Edwards said after being named the game MVP. "I think it's kind of self-explanatory what our goals are. I believe we've talked about them all year. I don't think much more needs to be said."

Those goals appeared to be in jeopardy just last week when Corum managed to play just one series against rival Ohio State.

But Edwards stole the show, shredding the Buckeyes for 216 yards and two scores and was every bit as good in his encore — just hours after Corum posted on Twitter he had undergone knee surgery.

Edwards broke open this game with a 60-yard run on the first play of the second half to set up one score. He added a 27-yard TD sprint on Michigan's next series to make it 28-13 and Purdue (8-5) never recovered from the seven-

play onslaught after trailing 14-13 at halftime.

"They didn't panic when the game was close in the third quarter," Boilermakers coach Jeff Brohm said. "They came out, ran the ball and imposed their will."

While Edwards was the ringleader, he had plenty of help.

McCarthy was 11-for-17 for 161 yards. Kael Mullings scored twice on short runs and Ronnie Bell caught five passes for 67 yards and one TD.

But even they knew the difference Saturday was Edwards.

"You put anyone back there, they're going to get yards," McCarthy said. "But Donovan is a special back, a special guy and I'm glad he's on our side."

Purdue quarterback Aidan O'Connell and receiver Charlie Jones helped the Boilermakers make it interesting for a while.

O'Connell was 32-for-47 with 366 yards and two interceptions after missing some practice time early this week to mourn the death of his oldest brother. Jones, who lost to Michigan in last year's game while playing for Iowa, had 13 receptions for 162 yards.

It just wasn't enough.

"We were going to have to play a near-perfect game to win," O'Connell said. "We turned the ball over and didn't score (enough) touchdowns."

Michigan showed no signs of a hangover after last week's rout of the Buckeyes, taking a 7-0 lead on its opening possession with a 25-yard TD pass from J.J. McCarthy to Colston Loveland.

Purdue answered with Devin Mockobee's 1-yard scoring run to tie the score then took the lead on Mitchell Fineran's 33-yard field goal.

Michigan retook the lead on McCarthy's 7-yard TD pass to Luke Schoonmaker and Edwards helped them put it away while holding the Boilermakers to just three second-half field goals.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Michigan running back Donovan Edwards tries to escape Purdue safety Sanoussi Kane during the Big Ten championship on Saturday.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Georgia's Malaki Starks, center, reacts as Christopher Smith returns a blocked LSU field-goal attempt for a touchdown during the first half of the SEC championship game on Saturday in Atlanta.

No. 1 Georgia romps into playoff as SEC champs

By PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Georgia swatted away the field-goal attempt, the ball spinning to a stop at its 4-yard line. The LSU players trudged off the field, thinking the play was over.

Christopher Smith knew better. He suddenly scooped it up and took off the other way, sprinting 96 yards for a touchdown that epitomized the Bulldogs program.

They were a step ahead of LSU on Saturday.

They've been a step ahead of everyone for two years now.

With all sorts of turmoil behind them in the rankings, Georgia headed to the College Football Playoff as the clear No. 1, dismantling the No. 11 Tigers 50-30 in the Southeastern Conference championship game Saturday.

Stetson Bennett threw a season-high four touchdown passes in another stellar postseason performance, while Smith's heads-up play gave the Bulldogs an early spark.

"I've got good players around me. I'm not that bad at football, either," Bennett said with a smile. "We've got a good team."

Georgia (13-0, No. 1 CFP) also caught a big break when Smith deflected a pass that bounced off an LSU receiver's helmet and wound up being picked off by the Bulldogs, setting up a score that contributed to a 35-10 lead by halftime.

LSU quarterback Jayden Daniels re-injured a sore right ankle late in the second quarter, giving

way to Garrett Nussmeier in the second half.

The backup guided the Tigers (9-4, No. 14 CFP) to three touchdowns, but it wasn't nearly enough.

Georgia accomplished something that not even last season's national championship squad could do — win its first SEC title since 2017. The Bulldogs were denied in this game a year ago by Alabama, before bouncing back to beat the Crimson Tide in the title game.

"I don't want one kid to walk out of our program without an SEC championship ring in their careers," coach Kirby Smart said. "That could've happened. They said enough is enough and got 'em one tonight."

Georgia heads into the playoff assured of a return trip to Atlanta for a de facto semifinal home game at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, just 75 miles from its Athens campus.

LSU's outside hopes of crashing the four-team playoff field were wiped out a week ago by a stunning loss at Texas A&M, one of several upsets that will give the selection committee plenty to think about before its announcement Sunday.

Tennessee and Clemson also ruined their playoff hopes with losses late in the regular season, while No. 4 Southern California is presumably out after getting blown out by Utah in the Pac-12 title game Friday night.

No matter who makes the elite field, Georgia is firmly focused on

becoming the first repeat national champion since Alabama in 2011-12, having won all but one game this season by double-digit margins.

"I've tried not to pay attention to any of it," Smart said of all the chaos. "It didn't matter to me. That's so far away."

The Bulldogs showed they are more than just a bunch of talented athletes — this is a smart, well-coached group.

When Nazir Stackhouse burst through the middle of the line to block LSU's 32-yard field-goal attempt late in the first quarter, Smith knew what to do.

"That's a scenario we go over a lot in practice," he said.

He looked toward the sideline to see if it was OK to grab it.

"You're not allowed to pick it up unless you can score with it," Smart said.

Smith took care of the rest, dashing to the end zone without a Tigers player in sight.

LSU quickly tied it up on Daniels' 53-yard touchdown pass to Kayshon Boutte, only to have Bennett take control from there.

The sixth-year senior, a former walk-on who was offensive MVP of both Georgia playoff wins a year ago, struck for four TD passes in a less than 15-minute span: 3 yards to Brock Bowers, 22 yards to Ladd McConkey, 14 yards to Darnell Washington and 3 yards to Dillon Bell.

Just like that, Georgia led 35-7. "I was in a zone," Bennett said.

It's been that way for two years now.

SPORTS



Bulldogs take care of business

Top-ranked Georgia claims SEC crown, top playoff berth » College football, Page 22

WORLD CUP



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Memphis Depay of the Netherlands celebrates Saturday after scoring the first goal in his team's round of 16 match against the United States during the World Cup in Doha, Qatar.

US reaches end of the road

Netherlands eliminates Americans in round of 16

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

AL RAYYAN, Qatar — Christian Pulisic covered his face as he walked off. Tyler Adams, Weston McKennie and Kellyn Acosta gathered for a group hug. Tim Weah, DeAndre Yedlin and Sean Johnson sat on the field in a small circle with their cleats off.

“It hurts after a tough loss like that when we feel like we could have had more,” Pulisic said, managing a voice only just above a whisper. “We don’t want to feel like this again.”

The United States’ return to the World Cup ended with a 3-1 loss to the Netherlands on Saturday in the round of 16. While the Oranje extended their unbeaten streak to

INSIDE
Mbappe’s 2 goals help power France to win over Poland
Page 18

19 games and advanced to a quarterfinal with Argentina, the Americans contemplated how far they came and how short they fell.

Defensive lapses gave the Dutch a treat as Memphis Depay scored in the 10th minute and Daley Blind in first-half stoppage time.

U.S. hope revived when Pulisic’s cross hit the trailing foot of

second-half substitute Haji Wright and popped over goalkeeper Andries Noppert and into the net in the 76th. But Denzel Dumfries, named after actor Denzel Washington, scored on a volley in the 81st after assisting on the first two goals.

“The American public should be optimistic,” said Gregg Berhalter, the first person to play for and coach the U.S. team at a World Cup. “When you look at the way we wanted to play and did play, it should be positive.”

The U.S. hasn’t reached the quarterfinals since 2002 and was eliminated in the first knockout round, just like in 2010 and 2014.

SEE END ON PAGE 18



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

Haji Wright redirects the ball past Netherlands goalkeeper Andries Noppert for the Americans’ only goal.

DeGrom deal could be worth \$222M, 6 years » MLB, Page 20

