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STARS AND STRIPES

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Air Force's 1st hypersonic weapon clears a key hurdle

BY DOUG G. WARE
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force has cleared a key hurdle that will allow the military branch to test-fire its first hypersonic weapon — an air-to-ground missile that can travel more than five times the speed of sound.

The Defense Department has poured hundreds of millions of dollars into hypersonic research and development in recent years, and military officials have stressed the importance of being a world leader when it comes to hypersonic defense technologies, especially because Russia and China are also developing them.

"They are completely new to everybody," Iain Boyd, professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Colorado, said during a podcast in August about the new type of weapon. "And that's part of the problem they present. They are difficult to defend against."

Air Force officials said the first step on the road to deploying its AGM-183A hypersonic system — validating the loading and unloading process — was cleared recently at Barksdale Air Force Base in northwestern Louisiana, which is home to the service's 2nd Bomb Wing.

The weapon — called the Air-Launched Rapid Response Weapon, or ARRW — is an air-to-ground missile powered by a rocket motor that can travel as fast as Mach 8, or eight times the speed of sound. It's built to be carried by the B-52 Stratofortress.

"It demonstrates the far-reaching capabilities of the B-52 and now it projects its combat capabilities even further with the ARRW system," Master Sgt. Caleb Nolen,

SEE WEAPON ON PAGE 5



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

A Polish soldier gives shooting tips to a civilian trying out a laser rifle training course as part of a familiarization course at the Military University of Technology in Warsaw, Poland, on Nov. 5.

'We need to be strong'

Poland offers civilians a chance to train with military amid anxiety over Ukraine war

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WARSAW, Poland — Accountants, clerks and other office workers gripped unloaded assault rifles and carefully maneuvered between birch trees in a two-column formation, looking for potential danger.

Elsewhere on the soggy grounds of the Military University of Technology's shooting range, dozens of Polish civilians attempt-

ed to spark fires with flint and steel as rain fell and practiced self-defense with Polish troops.

The exercises are part of the Polish Ministry of National Defense's new "Train with the Army" project, an initiative born out of the public's anxiety over the war in neighboring Ukraine. Weekend courses for thousands of Poles began in October and, due to popular demand, will continue into January.

RELATED

Drone strikes hit inside Russia for a second day

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"People are keen to learn and to know the proper ways to react when alarm sirens sound, how to hold and load a real gun, how to

use a gas mask as well as develop basic survival skills," said Maj. Michał Tomczyk, a representative for the Polish defense ministry.

Aleksandra Maj, a 36-year-old clerk for a government office, said she hoped she would never have to use the skills she picked up during a recent training session. But the opportunity to train as soldier, even if just for a day, offered a

SEE TRAIN ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Calif. eyes penalties for oil firms' big profits

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California could become the first state to fine big oil companies for making too much money, a reaction to the industry's supersized profits following a summer of record-high gas prices in the nation's most populous state.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and his Democratic allies in the state Legislature introduced the proposal Monday as lawmakers returned to the state Capitol in Sacramento for the start of a special legislative

session focused solely on the oil industry.

But the proposal was missing key details, including how much profit is too much for oil companies and what fine they would have to pay for exceeding it. Newsom's office said those details would be sorted out later after negotiations with lawmakers. Any money from the fines would be returned to the public.

Gas prices are always higher in California because of taxes, fees and environmental regulations

that other states don't have. But in October, the average price of a gallon of gasoline in California was more than \$2.60 higher than the national average — the biggest gap ever.

Speaking to reporters, Newsom compared the actions of oil companies to price gougers charging more for hand sanitizer during the pandemic. He said the goal of the penalty is to prevent gas prices from shooting up similarly in the future, calling it "a proactive effort in order to change behavior."

EXCHANGE RATES

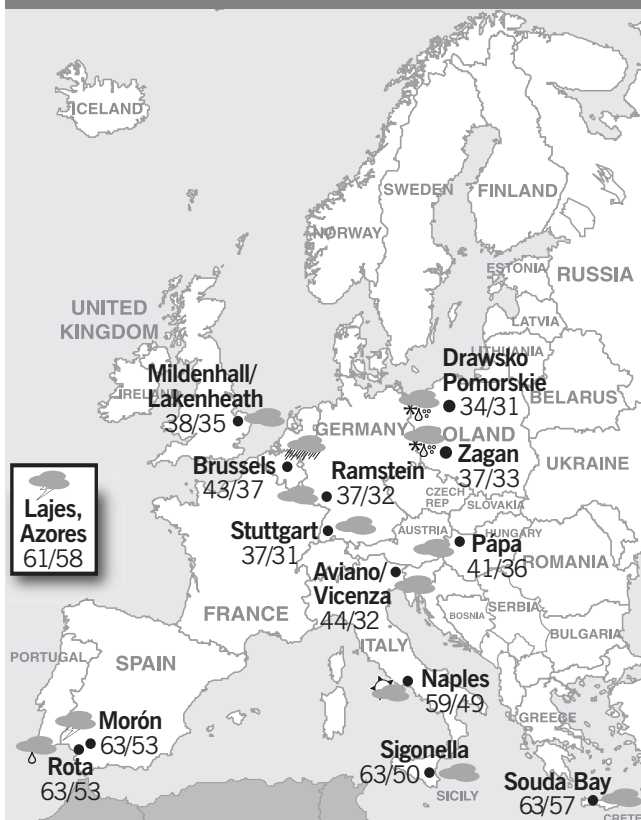
Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Dec. 7)	\$1.03	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9407
Dollar buys (Dec. 7)	0.9269	Thailand (Baht)	35.07
British pound (Dec. 7)	\$1.19	Turkey (NewLira)	18.6388
Japanese yen (Dec. 7)	132.00	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking 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.)	
South Korean won (Dec. 7)	1270.00	INTEREST RATES	
Commercial rates		Prime rate	7.00
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
Britain (Pound)	1.2185	Federal funds market rate	3.83
Canada (Dollar)	1.3646	3-month bill	4.38
China (Yuan)	6.9866	30-year bond	3.59
Denmark (Krone)	7.0822		
Egypt (Pound)	24.5987		
Euro	0.9521		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7771		
Hungary (Forint)	393.47		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4152		
Japan (Yen)	136.50		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3069		
Norway (Krone)	9.9620		
Philippines (Peso)	55.88		
Poland (Zloty)	4.47		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7592		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3581		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

NDAA expected to rescind vaccine order

By JOHN M. DONNELLY
CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON — The final version of the fiscal 2023 defense authorization bill is likely to rescind Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's August 2021 memo ordering COVID-19 vaccines for most troops, a source familiar with the matter said Monday.

Ending the requirement, under which service members who aren't fully vaccinated are subject

to discharge, has been a top priority of House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., and other senior Republicans in both chambers. McCarthy raised the issue with President Joe Biden in a meeting last week and reiterated over the weekend that the mandate should be repealed as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

Republicans argue the requirement has led to unfair discharges

for about 3,400 service members, undermining morale and impairing recruitment and retention at a time when they are under stress. But top Pentagon and White House officials viewed the requirement as an important element of ensuring military readiness and troops' health.

"After careful consultation with medical experts and military leadership, and with the support of the President, I have deter-

mined that mandatory vaccination against coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is necessary to protect the Force and defend the American people," Austin wrote in his memo last year.

Austin's directive ordered the military service secretaries to "immediately begin full vaccination of all members of the Armed Forces under DoD authority on active duty or in the Ready Reserve, including the National

Guard, who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19."

A bipartisan agreement among House and Senate negotiators will repeal that directive. But the new NDAA will not dictate what course the Pentagon must take going forward, the source said.

Congressional leaders are aiming to introduce the final compromise NDAA version as soon as Tuesday, with House floor action possible later in the week.

Attorneys picked to lead new independent prosecutors' offices

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

Each of the military services has selected an officer to lead a new branch legal office to determine which felony cases to send to a court-martial for crimes such as sexual assault, murder and child abuse — a decision previously left to a service member's commander.

The four nominees' names were sent to Congress on Nov. 14, and all but the Navy's selection have been confirmed by the Senate.

The Army selected Col. Warren Wells, who is now the chief of personnel, plans and training for the Office of the Judge Advocate General at the Pentagon. He will be promoted to brigadier general and will oversee the Office of Special Trial Counsel, which will include more than 150 civilian and military personnel who specialize in litigation, according to the Army.

"We are restructuring the way the Army prosecutes perpetrators of covered offenses such as murder, rape, and sexual assaults," Army Secretary Christine Wormuth said in a prepared statement.

The new legal offices will reduce a commander's influence on crimes that do not affect good order and discipline within units — an effort that some members of Congress have advocated to enact for more than a decade because the military has failed to reduce the number of sexual assaults within its ranks. The reform was one of 82 recommended by an independent review of sexual assault in the military and part of the military justice reforms included in the fiscal 2022 National Defense Authorization Act — annual legislation that sets priorities and spending for the Pentagon.

The Navy selected Capt. Jonathan Stephens to serve as lead special trial counsel for the Navy's Office of Special Trial Counsel, ac-

ording to the Defense Department. Stephens, who has been serving as interim lead since August, was nominated for promotion to rear admiral, and it is still pending with the Senate.

The Marine Corps confirmed it selected Col. Kevin Woodard to be first lead special trial counsel of the Marine Corps. The Senate on Wednesday confirmed his promotion to brigadier general.

Col. Christopher Brown was selected for promotion to lead the Air Force Office of the Special Trial "because he possesses strategic, operational, and tactical military experience across every facet of the military justice process," said Laurel Falls, a service spokeswoman. He is now the staff judge advocate for the Air Combat Command at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va.

Each officer will have until December 2023 to get the office operational, as mandated by Congress. The office will be the decision-maker on whether to file charges on 11 crimes: murder, manslaughter, rape, sexual assault, rape of a child, sexual assault of a child, other sexual misconduct, kidnapping, domestic violence, stalking, retaliation, child pornography and nonconsensual pornography.

Each special trial counsel office will report to the civilian service secretary of their military branch, providing them independence from the chain of command.

However, the commander will serve still as the convening authority of courts-martial, giving that person oversight on jury selection, witnesses and approval over immunity requests and hiring of consultants or expert witnesses, according to Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who fought to have these controls taken away from commanders.

Commanders also continue to hold the authority to allow service members accused of crimes the



ALAN BRUTUS/U.S. Army

Col. Josh Bookout and Command Sgt. Maj. Thinh Huynh add a flag with the words, "You Are Not Alone" to the brigade flagpole to kick off the annual Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, in 2021.

option to separate from the service in lieu of a court-martial.

The formation of the new legal offices also was recommended by the Independent Review Commission on Sexual Assault in the Military, which submitted its report in July 2021 to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. He established the commission shortly after becoming secretary and, in September 2021, he laid out the plan for implementing its 82 recommendations.

The military has certified at least a dozen attorneys in each service branch to serve as a special victim counsel to work in these offices, military officials told lawmakers in September during a hearing about implementing the review commission's recommendations.

Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Gilbert Cisneros said during the hearing held by the House Armed Services Committee subpanel on military personnel that the new prosecutor offices will "ensure inde-

pendent expertise" and restore trust in holding perpetrators accountable.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., chairwoman of the House subpanel, described at the hearing the latest report on the prevalence of sexual assault in the military as "catastrophic news."

More than 8% of women and 1.5% of men in the active-duty military indicated experiencing some form of unwanted sexual contact, Speier said of the latest statistics.

"I've spent the last 10 years battling this cancer, and with the most recent report, I know we still have a long way to go," she said.

The prosecution office is a step toward progress, Speier said.

"I feel confident that if the Department of Defense keeps their foot on the pedal, and Congress doesn't turn a blind eye, this is the beginning of the end for those who wish to harm their brothers and sisters in arms," she said.

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N. Korea fires shots again over South drills

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea on Tuesday fired a barrage of artillery rounds into waters near rival South Korea for the second consecutive day in a tit-for-tat for ongoing U.S.-South Korea live-fire drills in an inland border region.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected North Korea firing around 90 artillery rounds from the eastern coastal town of Kosong around 10 a.m. and another 10 rounds from the nearby town of Kumkang around 6 p.m.

It said the shells landed in the northern side of a maritime buffer zone the Koreans established in 2018 to reduce border tensions. The South said it communicated verbal warnings to North Korea and urged it to abide by the military agreement.

The South Korean assessments were slightly different from details announced by North Korea's military, which said it fired 82 shells from multiple rocket launchers.

An unidentified spokesperson of the North Korean People's Army's General Staff said the firings were meant as a warning against "enemy side" artillery exercises in a region near the inter-Korean land border. The spokesperson said South Korea was being hypocritical in criticizing North Korea for breaching the 2018 agreement, saying the South's unspecified past actions in violation of the agreement must be "calculated first."

"The (Korean People's Army) seriously warns the enemy side once again to stop at once the irritating military actions in the area close to the front," the spokesperson said. "Our military counteraction against the continued provocative actions of the enemies will be more offensive as the days go by."

MILITARY

Bell Textron to develop Black Hawk successor

Stars and Stripes

Bell Textron will develop a tilt-rotor replacement for the Army's venerable Black Hawk helicopter, the company announced Tuesday.

The Army awarded Bell a contract to develop its V-280 Valor under the Future Long-Range Assault Aircraft, or FLRAA, program, according to a company news release.

The release did not state the contract's value to Bell Textron, but National Defense magazine online reported a \$1.3 billion ceiling with an initial \$232 million over the next 19 months to develop a prototype. National Defense cited the Army program executive officer for aviation, Brig. Gen.

Robert Barrie, in its report.

Bell's tilt-rotor design prevailed in contract competition over a coaxial rotor blade design put forth by Sikorsky-Boeing, a model that stacked a pair of rotor blades on top of each other, according to reports in National Defense and other defense-related media Tuesday.

Bell Textron capitalized on its experience developing the V-22 Osprey, now a mainstay troop carrier for the Marines, with partner Boeing, and describes the V-280 Valor as a second-generation in its type, according to statements on its website.

The Valor is capable of speeds better than 320 knots and auto-



Bell Textron Inc.

A Bell V-280 Valor in flight. The Army awarded Bell Textron a contract to develop its design to eventually replace the Army's Black Hawk helicopters.

nomous flight, according to the company. It flew 215 flight hours and 165 flight tests through April 2021, before the flight test portion of its initial development was completed, according to Bell.

The Valor is a "transformational aircraft" that fills Black Hawk performance gaps and gets the Ar-

my into lower operational altitudes, company vice president and Valor program director Ryan Ehinger said in a video on the Bell website.

Bell flew its first Valor in 2017; an Army test pilot flew it in 2018, according to the company release. The aircraft was developed and

tested as part of the Joint Multi-Role Technology Demonstrator program that began in 2013.

The UH-60 Black Hawk is more than 35 years old, according to its maker, Lockheed Martin.

It is the Army's mainstay medium-lift assault and utility helicopter.

Marines name first female force-level sergeant major, will serve on Okinawa

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

The next chief enlisted adviser to the commander of III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa will write a page in Marine Corps history.

Sgt. Maj. Joy Kitashima will become the first female Marine to fill the senior enlisted role in a Marine expeditionary force when she takes up her new responsibilities next year at Camp Courtney, according to a spokesman for III MEF.

"She will be the first ever female force-level sergeant major in the Marine Corps," Capt. Brett Dornhege-Lazaroff told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday.

Kitashima, a native of Bloomington, Ill., is scheduled to succeed Sgt. Maj. Eric Cook at III MEF in July 2023, according to a Marine Corps message Nov. 22 from Commandant Gen. David Berger.

Lt. Gen. James Bierman Jr. has commanded III MEF since Nov. 9, 2021.

III MEF is a huge organization, a "force in readiness" in the Western Pacific, prepared for crisis response or combat operations, according to its website.

At full strength, it consists of 27,200 Marines and sailors at camps and air stations on Okinawa, on main-island Japan and on Hawaii, according to a III MEF informational booklet posted online.



KAYLA STATE/US Marine Corps

Sgt. Maj. Joy Kitashima receives a gift at Camp Foster, Okinawa, June 23.

"The Marine Expeditionary Force is the principal warfighting organization during larger crises or contingencies," the booklet says. It would be "first to fight" in a conflict in the Indo-Pacific region.

Kitashima, who joined the Corps in May 1996 and trained as a military police officer at Fort McClellan, Ala., previously served as sergeant major for Marine Corps Installations Pacific, also headquartered on Okinawa at Camp Foster, according to her Marine Corps biography. She is currently sergeant major of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing at Ma-

rine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

For her first duty station after completing school in Alabama, Kitashima worked as a military police officer at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, also on Okinawa, her biography states.

In a Marine Corps video filmed in August 2020, while Kitashima was with MCIPAC, she talked about women's equality in the Corps.

"The diversity of the Marine Corps is what makes the Marine Corps what it is," she said. "But, women's equality, it's got to mean something, something to our young fathers who have a young girl, a daughter, who want to be able to tell that daughter, 'You can do anything. You can do anything you want.'"

Kitashima earned a Legion of Merit award for her service with MCIPAC, according to the Marine Corps. The award recognizes "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievement," according to the Code of Federal Regulations.

Her record includes deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti. Her other awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

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Report: Japan Self-Defense Force set to beef up presence

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A reported plan by the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force to increase its presence on Okinawa and add weight to its leadership there is a prudent decision, according to a pair of Japanese security experts.

The Self-Defense Force plans to add another infantry regiment to the one already based at Camp Naha and put a general in charge, one step up from the current major general commanding there, according to a report Saturday by Kyodo News, which cited an unnamed government source.

A spokesman for the Ground Self-Defense Force declined to comment on the Kyodo report, except to say no concrete plans are set and the force is considering "options to strengthen the defense capabilities in the Nansei region."

The reported move would likely add about 900 personnel, the size of a typical regiment, to the 2,500 15th Brigade troops already stationed there, Toshiyuki Shikata, a former lieutenant general in the Ground Self-Defense Force, told Stars and Stripes Tuesday.

Increasing troop strength on Okinawa would prepare the Ground Self-Defense Force for a "contingency involving Taiwan" and an increasingly assertive China, according to Kyodo.

Too few troops are currently positioned in the island chain, Shikata said.

"If something happens in Taiwan, Japan has to do something," he said. "It doesn't mean that Japan will treat China as an enemy, but geographically the Taiwan Strait is very important for Japan."

Tokyo's plan would effectively upgrade the brigade to division size and put its leader on par with the commander of the III Marine Expeditionary Force, current Marine Corps Lt. Gen. James Bierman Jr., Kyodo said.

Junjiro Shida, an associate professor of international politics at Meio University on Okinawa, agreed with Shikata.

"It is necessary to strengthen the forces of Japan independently," he told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. "We are at risk of a Taiwan issue and if it happens, the most affected area will be Okinawa and the Nansei Islands."

Takashi Kishimoto, a deputy secretary-general of the Okinawa Peace Activity Center, disagreed.

"With this move, the government is assuming that Okinawa will be a battlefield again," he told Stars and Stripes by phone Tuesday. "If a U.S.-China war regarding Taiwan starts, we will be involved."

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MILITARY

Court: Panel must revisit housing benefit saga

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — More than a year after the Army's highest review board ruled that the service illegally denied a group of reservists hundreds of thousands of dollars in housing benefits, the panel has been ordered to take up the matter again.

That decision was made Friday by the Court of Federal Claims in Washington and comes in response to the Army's refusal to follow an order from its own Board of Corrections. Hundreds or even thousands of reservists were likely affected over the years, defense attorneys have said.

The order obligated the service to repay soldiers who had been wrongfully denied housing payments and subjected to erroneous criminal probes that killed careers.

"I was investigated four times in seven years. Missed [brigadier general] promotion, name ruined, damaged my career, my children, my wife," said Richard Gulley, one of the plaintiffs in the case, who previously served as a colonel at U.S. Africa Command headquarters in Stuttgart. "How many

[people's] lives were destroyed?"

Gulley is one of now 33 plaintiffs suing the Army, which in August 2021 was found to have broken the law when it denied dual housing allowances to a contingent of reservists mobilized for assignments in Europe.



Gulley

The dispute centers on a contention by Army finance officials that reservists who mobilized from the U.S. for assignments abroad aren't entitled to a basic housing allowance for their American residence and an overseas housing allowance if the Army fails to provide on-post accommodations.

For years, reservists were paid the dual allowances, since they still needed to pay rents and mortgages while deployed. But in 2016, finance officials in Wiesbaden changed their interpretation of the Joint Travel Regulation.

As a result, reservists were permitted only one allowance. The change was applied retroactively, so Army finance officials began targeting those who had received

dual payments.

But the Army review board, in its initial August 2021 decision, said the service's rationale violated federal regulations and led to "unjust actions" against reservists.

The people affected faced invasive criminal fraud probes, were denied promotions and went into debt as the service sought to recoup hundreds of thousands of dollars in allowances that had been paid.

The Army was ordered to repay seven soldiers involved in the initial lawsuit no later than October 2021 while deleting all negative findings from files and criminal databases related to the cases. But the repayments never came amid ongoing legal maneuvering by government attorneys.

With the case now ordered back to the Army board for a second time, more reservists who were treated in a similar manner can be added as plaintiffs, said attorney Patrick Hughes of the Patriots Law Group, which is handling the lawsuit.

"We are in the process of getting the word out again on that," Hughes said. "Otherwise, the Ar-

my may get to avoid paying six-plus years of dual entitlements like it should have to all these [reserve component] members in Europe, if the [Army board] agrees that was appropriate based on the judge's order."

The ongoing legal wrangling revolves around the Army's new contention that it can't pay the reservists despite being ordered to do so. Government lawyers are arguing that the Defense Finance and Accounting Service could not pay the reservists because of other regulations. They claim that it may only pay reserve members with dependents in the same fashion as active-duty members, through a family separation basic allowance for housing overseas.

That separation allowance can't be paid if a reservist's family member spends more than 90 days in the same area where the reservist has been mobilized, the Army's attorneys argued in an August court filing.

DFAS determined that plaintiffs with dependents could be eligible for relief as intended by the Army board's decision under the family separation allowance, the government's lawyers said.

But to do that, DFAS would need to know where family members were during the reservists' mobilization, which the Army board did not address.

The reservists countered that the government's argument conflated rules that apply to active-duty personnel with those for reservists.

While active-duty soldiers are sent on permanent duty station assignments with household goods, reservists are generally mobilized on temporary assignments that don't allow for the relocation of property and family members.

Judge Armando Bonilla, in his Friday ruling, appeared to concur with the plaintiff's argument, noting that a second housing allowance can be granted when dependent relocation isn't authorized at government expense and when the Army can't provide assigned government quarters.

Still, the judge said the Army Board of Corrections is the venue to resolve the matter. Bonilla gave the board 180 days to complete its review.

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Weapon: Missile can travel 5 times speed of sound

FROM PAGE 1

armament systems manager of Barksdale's Air Force Global Strike Command, said of the test.

"The ARRW is the Air Force's first air-launched hypersonic weapon that gives combatant commanders the ability to hit time-sensitive targets faster than they were ever able to before," Air Force Global Strike Command said in a statement.

Development of the ARRW began in earnest in 2018 when the Pentagon gave Lockheed Martin a contract worth almost \$500 million to produce it. A preliminary test for the weapon was done a year later.

After making the first step, the Air Force is now clear to move on to the next hurdle in the process — live-fire testing, which is expected to begin sometime before the end of 2022. The Air Force said the ARRW should be operational within a year.

The United States has yet to deploy a modern hypersonic weapon, and the Pentagon has been aggressive in taking a leadership role in the advanced warfare technology. Russia and China have also spent billions to create hypersonic weapons. In fact, Russia claims it has already used its Kinzhal hypersonic missile during the war in Ukraine. That claim has not been publicly confirmed by the U.S. military.



GIANCARLO CASEM /412th Test Wing Public Affairs

A B-52H Stratofortress assigned to the 419th Flight Test Squadron during pre-flight procedures at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., in 2020.

"A new arms race is afoot," the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank, said in a statement on its website. "A strategy for managing the race toward these weapons, which combine speed with maneuverability and long ranges, has never been more crucial."

The advantage of a hypersonic weapon is its greater range. Military officials have said the missiles can simply fly farther. The ARRW is believed to have an operational range of 1,000 miles after it's released.

Another advantage is hyperson-

ic missiles fly higher in the sky where the air's thinner and the altitude makes them more difficult to guard against. Their unique maneuverability — they can go up and down and side to side — also gives them a quality other missiles don't have.

In the Pentagon's annual China Military Power Report last week, defense officials cautioned Beijing is on track to have 1,500 nuclear weapons by 2035 and its hypersonic development poses a "consequential and systemic challenge" to U.S. national security and defense. In the Pentagon's Na-

tional Defense Strategy, it expressed concern about Russia but identified China as the top U.S. military competitor.

"I would be much more concerned about China [than Russia]," Boyle said during his podcast. "China is the international force to really be reckoned with right now. 'Basically, if somebody fired hypersonic weapons at the West today, we wouldn't know it until it's too late that these weapons were on top of us.'"

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Fort Riley soldier gets 8 years in prison

By ROSE L. THAYER

Stars and Stripes

A Fort Riley soldier was sentenced to more than eight years in prison after he pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter in connection to the killing of a fellow soldier assigned to the Kansas base, military officials said.

Spc. Jalen Thomas, 21, pleaded guilty Friday to the lesser charge of manslaughter after the Army charged him with murder, manslaughter, assault and domestic violence, according to a statement from the 1st Infantry Division and court documents.

He was arraigned in the Army's 3rd Judicial Circuit on Nov. 2.

A military judge sentenced him to 100 months in prison, a reduction in rank to E-1 and a dishonorable discharge.

He was accused of stabbing to death Sgt. Stacy Subotich, 30, on Aug. 6 in Junction City, a town about 5 miles from Fort Riley, according to local police reports. At least two other people were injured in the incident.

Junction City police initially arrested Thomas, but the case was later turned over to the Army Criminal Investigation Division.

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EUROPE

Train: Poland hopes courses aid military recruitment

FROM PAGE 1

“taste” of the kind of crisis preparation that Maj had been looking for since Russia invaded Ukraine in February.

“We don’t know how this war will end or won’t end, and I would like to be helpful to society if something happens here in Poland,” she said after learning how to handle a rifle. “I want to know how to behave and what I can do to help soldiers.”

More than 3,500 Polish citizens from 18 to 65 years old participated in courses run by 17 military units across the country in October and November, according to Tomczyk. Thousands more were unsuccessful in securing spots in the course.

Many signed up over fears the war could spill into NATO member Poland, a concern heightened last month when an errant Ukrainian air defense missile landed in a Polish border town, killed two farmers and raised the specter of a shooting war between the Western alliance and nuclear-armed Russia.

Some trainees want to brush up on skills that they learned long ago in the army. Others come to size up the military as Poland embarks on an ambitious plan to double the size of its armed forces to 300,000 troops.

“I want to see what’s happening in the Polish army and why we should build this army bigger, better and faster,” said Jacek Bachulski, a 45-year-old Warsaw city government employee. “I figure it’s not my place to join the army, but I want to see the guns and other things.”

Poland’s military buildup comes amid an influx of American service members into the country to counter Russian aggression. U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Warsaw to inspect troops shortly before Russia’s invasion, remarking that “seeing American soldiers and airmen standing alongside Polish soldiers and airmen is actually, for me, a common scene.”

In April, Austin and Polish Defense Minister Mariusz Blaszczak agreed to work together to help the Polish military become one of the most capable in Europe.

The civilian training program, which includes learning how to heat up ready-to-eat meals, is not meant to function as a recruitment drive but exposing ordinary Poles to life in the military could help the defense ministry meet its lofty enlistment goals, said Maj. Pawel Wojcik, an instructor at the university.

“Perhaps, maybe in the future, many of them will join the force,” he said.

Danuta, a 35-year-old Polish citizen who lives in England, plans to be among the recruits. She flew



PHOTOS BY J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Polish civilians kneel as they listen to a soldier at the Military University of Technology in Warsaw, Poland, explain how to survey their surroundings while marching through dangerous areas, as part of a familiarization course Nov. 5.



Danuta, a Polish woman who lives in England and who declined to provide her last name, jabs her training rifle at an instructor while learning self-defense.

to Warsaw specifically for the training session, hoping to gain some experience before applying to a Polish military academy to become an officer.

“Due to the situation next to our border, I think it would be good to be part of the army and support my country,” she said, declining to provide her last name. “We need to be strong, especially militarily.”

Russia’s war in Ukraine triggered a defense spending spree in Poland, with Warsaw pledging to raise funding for the military from 2.4% of gross domestic product this year to 3% next year. The Polish government aims to ultimately boost that figure to 5% and is heavily investing in modern weaponry from South Korea and the United States, including Apache attack helicopters, Patriot air-defense systems, High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems, F-35 fighter jets and 250 Abrams tanks to replace Soviet-era tanks sent to Ukraine.

As part of NATO, Poland is expected to dedicate at least 2% of its gross domestic product to defense. It has met that target for

years and consistently ranks as one of the top 10 contributors to the 30-member military alliance.

“Thanks to [these] investments, we will become the most powerful [NATO] land force in Europe,” Blaszczak declared in July.

The threat posed by Russia has driven public enthusiasm for the military to new highs. Poland ended an unpopular 90-year tradition of compulsory military service in 2009, shedding a relic of its communist past. But a state poll during summer showed a sharp uptick in support for bringing it back.

“We see what’s happening in Ukraine right now and we remember that 60 years ago, the same happened in Poland when the Russians came and raped and killed people and took ground and did other bad things,” said trainee Bachulski, referring to his country’s suffering as a World War II battlefield.

Some 94% of Poles see Russia as a major threat compared with 65% in 2018, according to a June survey by the Pew Research Center, a U.S. think tank.

Poland shares a 144-mile border with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad and a long history of being conquered by German and Russian forces. It also must contend with Russia’s closest ally, neighboring Belarus, which instigated a crisis last year by pushing migrants into Poland and allowed its territory to be used as a staging ground for Russia’s assault on Ukraine.

Stanisław Koziej, a retired Polish brigadier general and former leader of the Polish government’s National Security Bureau, likened the security climate now to a second Cold War.

“The development of the Polish armed forces is Poland’s response to the neo-Cold War security conditions created by Russia’s imperial and aggressive policy,” he wrote in an email.

Unlike the first Cold War, when the U.S. and its Western allies faced off against a Soviet Union-led Eastern bloc that included Poland, Koziej anticipates a deepening of relations between Poles and Americans. He described the U.S. as Poland’s “most important military partner” and said the relationship between the countries has evolved from one of “historical sympathy” to mutual interest.

The two nations’ historical ties are perhaps best represented at Camp Kosciuszko in the western Polish city of Poznan, home to the first permanent U.S. military base on NATO’s eastern flank. The garrison for the U.S. Army’s V Corps, announced in June, is named in honor of Tadeusz Kosciuszko, a Polish national hero who fought for the U.S. during the Revolutionary War.

“Today our relations are based more on the fact that the strategic interests of the U.S.A. in Europe and the strategic interests of Po-

land’s security are largely convergent,” Koziej wrote.

About 10,000 American soldiers are now stationed in Poland, an increase of 6,000 since the beginning of the year. U.S. forces in Europe surged from 80,000 to 100,000 following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Koziej said he believes the U.S. will need to send even more troops to Poland as his country beefs up its military. There will be new opportunities for training and collaboration, he said, particularly in missile and cyber defense and drone warfare.

“Expanding the cooperation of the Polish armed forces with the U.S. Army is an objective necessity,” he wrote.

American troops in Poland are offering much of the same support that they offered to Germany during the Cold War, said Mark Cancian, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel and senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank.

“We’re increasing connections, doing exercises with them and learning how to work together,” he said.

Over time, Poland’s military spending will raise its profile within NATO, Cancian said, and place the country on near equal footing with prominent alliance members such as the United Kingdom and France. Such influence has so far eluded Poland largely due to political discomfort with the country’s ruling nationalist Law and Justice Party, which has snubbed democratic norms, he said.

“I think the experience of the Ukraine war has sort of transcended those political reservations,” Cancian said. “The Polish military getting larger and better and more interoperable means that it will become a major player.”

For some Poles, however, the prospect of a mighty armed force is a small comfort. Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and even the successful routing of a Russian military convoy moving toward Ukraine’s capital Kyiv in the spring have shown that small groups of people can pick off large enemy targets, said Jarek, a 47-year-old Polish army veteran who declined to provide his last name.

“Even a very strong army can have very big troubles with simple people who can fight in the woods or in the streets, who can resist against regular soldiers,” he said at a recent training session for civilians outside Warsaw. “So I think we should all be prepared at least a bit to stay safe, to use arms — even simple ones — and to have some knowledge of survival.”

EUROPE

Ukraine coy about drone strikes in Russia

By JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Drones struck inside Russia's border with Ukraine Tuesday in the second day of attacks exposing the vulnerability of some of Moscow's most important military sites, observers said.

Ukrainian officials did not formally confirm carrying out drone strikes inside Russia, and they have maintained ambiguity over previous high-profile attacks.

But Ukrainian presidential adviser Mikhail Podolyak taunted Moscow in comments on Twitter, and Britain's Defense Ministry said Russia was likely to consider the attacks on Russian bases more than 300 miles from the border with Ukraine as "some of the most strategically significant failures of force protection since its invasion of Ukraine."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Russian authorities will "take the necessary measures" to enhance protection of key facilities.

Russian bloggers who generally maintain contacts with officials in their country's military criticized the lack of defensive measures.

"If something is launched into other countries' airspace, sooner or later unknown flying objects will return to the point of departure," Podolyak taunted Moscow in comments on Twitter. "The earth is round."

A fire broke out at an airport in Russia's southern Kursk region that borders Ukraine after a drone hit the facility, the region's governor said Tuesday.

In a second incident, an industrial plant 50 miles from the Ukrainian border was also targeted by drones, which missed



In this photo provided by the Ukrainian Presidential Press Office, a Ukrainian soldier takes a selfie with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy during his visit to Slavyansk, Donbas region, Ukraine, on Tuesday.

AP

a fuel depot at the site, Russian independent media reported.

Moscow blamed Kyiv for unprecedented attacks on two air bases deep inside Russia on Monday.

The attacks on the Engels base in the Saratov region on the Volga River and the Dyagilevo base in the Ryazan region in western Russia were some of the most brazen inside Russia during the war.

In the aftermath, Russian troops carried out another wave of missile strikes on Ukrainian territory, struck homes and buildings, and killed civilians, compounding damage done to power and other infrastructure over weeks of missile attacks.

Approximately half of the

households in the Kyiv region remain without electricity, the regional governor said Tuesday, while authorities in the southern Odesa say they have managed to restore power to hospitals and some vital services.

In a new display of defiance from Kyiv, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy traveled to an eastern city near the front line. Marking Ukraine's Armed Forces Day, Zelenskyy traveled to the eastern Donetsk region and vowed to push Russian forces out of all of Ukraine's territory.

"Everyone sees your strength and your skill. ... I'm grateful to your parents. They raised real heroes," Zelenskyy said Tuesday in a video address to Ukrainian forces

from the city of Sloviansk, a key Ukrainian stronghold in the east.

A Russian pro-war blogger posting on the Telegram channel "Milinfolive" on Monday lashed out at Russian military leadership, alleging that incompetence and lack of proper fortifications at the airbases made Ukrainian drone strikes possible.

Russia's Defense Ministry said three Russian servicemen were killed and four others wounded by debris, and that two aircraft were slightly damaged.

Pro-Kremlin political analyst Sergei Markov said the strikes "have raised questions about security of Russian military air bases."

The Engels base hosts Tu-95

and Tu-160 nuclear-capable strategic bombers that have been involved in strikes on Ukraine. Dyagilevo houses tanker aircraft used for mid-air refueling.

In a daily intelligence update on the war in Ukraine, Britain's Defense Ministry said the bombers would likely be dispersed to other airfields.

Speaking in a conference call with reporters Tuesday, Peskov said that "the Ukrainian regime's course for continuation of such terror attacks poses a threat."

Peskov reaffirmed that Russia sees no prospects for peace talks now, adding that "the Russian Federation must achieve its stated goals."

Russia, meanwhile, maintained intense attacks on Ukrainian territory, shelling towns overnight near the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant that left more than 9,000 homes without running water, local Ukrainian officials said.

The towns lie across the Dnieper River from the nuclear plant, which was seized by Russian forces in the early stages of the war. Russia and Ukraine have for months accused each other of shelling at and around the plant.

The head of Ukraine's northern Sumy region, which borders Russia, said that Moscow launched over 80 missile and heavy artillery attacks on its territory.

Governor Dmytro Zhyvytsky said the strikes damaged a monastery near the border town of Shalyhyne.

Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuriy Ihnat said the country's ability to shoot down incoming missiles is improving, noting there had been no recent reports of Iranian-made attack drones being used on Ukrainian territory.

Poland receives first shipment of heavy weapons from South Korea

Associated Press

GDYNIA, Poland — Polish President Andrzej Duda and the country's defense minister on Tuesday took delivery of a first shipment of tanks and howitzers from South Korea, hailing the swift implementation of a deal signed in the summer in the face of the war in neighboring Ukraine.

Duda and Mariusz Blaszczak were in the Polish Navy port of Gdynia, on the Baltic coast, to mark the arrival by sea of the first 10 Black Panther K2 tanks, along with 24

Thunder K9 howitzers, from a \$5.8 billion deal with Seoul.

They stressed that South Korea responded quickly to the need by Poland, a European Union nation, to urgently increase its deterrence and defense potential as Russia is fighting a war in Ukraine, just across Poland's eastern border.

"The quick pace of this delivery is of crucial importance in the face of Russian aggression and the war in Ukraine," Duda said.

South Korea's Minister of the Armaments Agency, Eom Dong-hwan, said the arrival of the Korean equipment has "great significance for the history of Korean-Polish relations."

Eom said the "world is watching with attention" the two countries' rapidly developing defense cooperation, and expressed hope that the tanks and howitzers will play a significant role in Poland's defense at a time of "rapid changes in the security situation."

Blaszczak stressed that the armaments are among the world's most advanced technologies.

"We want peace so we are preparing for war," Blaszczak said, invoking an ancient Latin saying.

More deliveries are planned through the next three years.

Poland is purchasing hundreds of K2 Black Panther tanks made by Hyundai Rotem and of K9 Thunder howitzers made by Hanhwa Defense.

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NATION

Justices spar in debate on gay, religious rights

By JESSICA GRESKO
AND MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court's conservative majority sounded sympathetic Monday to a Christian graphic artist who objects to designing wedding websites for gay couples, the latest collision of religion and gay rights to land at the high court.

The designer and her supporters say that ruling against her would force artists — from painters and photographers to writers and musicians — to do work that is against their beliefs. Her opponents, meanwhile, say that if she wins, a range of businesses will be able to discriminate, refusing to serve Black, Jewish or Muslim customers, interracial or interfaith couples or immigrants.

Over more than two hours of spirited arguments, the justices repeatedly tested out what ruling for the designer could mean, using detailed and sometimes colorful hypothetical scenarios. Those included a Black Santa asked to take a picture with a child dressed in a Ku Klux Klan outfit, a photographer asked to take pictures for the marital infidelity website Ashley

Madison, and an invented food business called “Grandma Helen’s Protestant Provisions.”

The case comes at a time when the court is dominated 6-3 by conservatives and follows a series of cases in which the justices have sided with religious plaintiffs. Across the street from the court, meanwhile, lawmakers in Congress are finalizing what would be a landmark bill protecting same-sex marriage, legislation prompted by a different high court case from earlier this year.

During arguments Monday the court's three liberal justices expressed concerns about ruling for website designer and graphic artist Lorie Smith while conservatives suggested support for her.

Justice Neil Gorsuch, one of three high court appointees of former President Donald Trump, described Smith as “an individual who says she will sell and does sell to everyone, all manner of websites, (but) that she won’t sell a website that requires her to express a view about marriage that she finds offensive.”

Smith, who is based in Colorado, doesn’t currently create wedding websites. She wants to but says



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Lorie Smith, a Christian graphic artist and website designer in Colorado, center, reacts to cheers from supporters outside the Supreme Court, on Monday, after having her case heard by the Court.

her Christian faith prevents her from creating websites celebrating same-sex marriages.

Colorado, like most other states, has what’s called a public accommodation law that says if Smith offers wedding websites to the public, she must provide them to all customers. Businesses that violate the law can be fined, among other things.

Smith says the law violates her First Amendment rights. The state disagrees.

A looming question during Monday’s arguments: At what point does an objection to serving someone cross the legal line?

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, one of the court’s three liberals,

asked whether a photography store in a shopping mall could refuse to take pictures of Black people on Santa’s lap.

“Their policy is that only white children can be photographed with Santa in this way, because that’s how they view the scenes to depict,” said Jackson, one of the court’s two Black justices.

Jackson’s fellow liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor said if the court rules for Smith, it would be the first time the justices would say that a “commercial business open to the public, serving the public, that it could refuse to serve a customer based on race, sex, religion or sexual orientation.”

Sotomayor repeatedly pressed Smith’s lawyer on what business owners could refuse to do. “How about people who don’t believe in interracial marriage? Or about people who don’t believe that disabled people should get married? Where’s the line?” Sotomayor asked.

But conservative Justice Samuel Alito, who seemed to favor Smith, asked whether it’s “fair to equate opposition to same-sex marriage to opposition to interracial marriage.” And he pointed to language in the court’s 2015 opinion declaring a nationwide right to same-sex marriage about “honorable people who object to same-sex marriage.”

Biden’s efforts to protect abortion access hit roadblocks

By AMANDA SEITZ
AND COLLEEN LONG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration is still actively searching for ways to safeguard abortion access for millions of women, even as it bumps up against a complex web of strict new state laws enacted in the months after the Supreme Court stripped the constitutional right.

Looking to seize on momentum following a midterm election where voters widely rebuked tougher abortion restrictions, there’s a renewed push at the White House to find ways to help women in states that have virtually outlawed or limited the treatment, and to keep the issue top of mind for voters.

In reality, though, the administration is shackled by a ban on federal funding for most abortions, a conservative-leaning Supreme Court inclined to rule against abortion rights and a split Congress unwilling to pass legislation on the matter.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Joe Biden speaks about abortion access during a Democratic National Committee event at the Howard Theatre, on Oct. 18, in Washington.

Meanwhile, frustration on the ground in the most abortion-restricted states is mounting.

“This is not going away anytime soon,” said Jen Klein of the Biden administration’s Gender Policy Council. “Tens of millions of Americans are living under bans of various sorts, many of

them quite extreme, and even in states where abortion is legal, we’re all seeing the impact on providers and on systems being loaded by people who are coming across state lines.”

Since the U.S. Supreme Court decision in June, roughly half the states have some type of abortion

restrictions in place, with at least 11 states essentially banning the procedure.

Administration officials are meeting Tuesday and Wednesday with state lawmakers ahead of their 2023 sessions, including in states with more extreme bans on the table, and will discuss safeguarding rights and helping women access care as top issues. The meetings follow sit-downs with roughly nine governors, attorneys general and Democratic state legislators from more than 30 states.

The administration, meanwhile, is implementing Biden’s executive orders signed in July and August that directed federal agencies to push back on abortion restrictions and protect women traveling out of their state to seek one, though some women’s rights advocates say it doesn’t go far enough.

And there are still other avenues left for the administration to explore, said Kathleen Sebelius, a former U.S. health and human

services secretary.

HHS might look to wield its power around federal protections for health care providers, life-saving abortions, abortion pills and travel for women in abortion-restricted states, she said. During her tenure, for example, the agency did some policy maneuvering to expand rights for same-sex couples, including a requirement that any hospitals receiving federal funds allow their patients to select a same-sex partner as a visitor, years before gay marriage was legalized.

“It’s amazing how broad a lot of the agency’s authorities are and how much creative thinking can go on,” Sebelius said.

But “no executive action can replace a precedent of nearly 50 years,” Klein said. “The most important thing is to fight for national legislation.”

None is upcoming in the lame-duck session before Republicans take control of the House. And Biden is limited in what else he can do.

NATION



KAITLIN MCKEOWN, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Elwyn Hoelscher, 7, stands in line at a food truck with her mother, Erika Hoelscher, at Red's Corner during the Moore County power outage on Monday in Southern Pines, N.C.

Energy crews working nonstop to restore power to NC county

AP/Report for America

RALEIGH, N.C. — Power should be restored by Thursday morning to thousands of homes in a central North Carolina county that have been without electricity for several days after an attack on the electric grid, Gov. Roy Cooper said Tuesday.

“I hope it’s earlier. I mean, people are really hurting,” Cooper told reporters in Raleigh.

Duke Energy said crews were making progress on restoring power to Moore County, where authorities said one or more people shot up two substations, but the repairs won’t be complete until later in the week. Officials have said the damage requires sophisticated repairs and delivery of equipment from outside of the area.

Nearly 36,000 customers were without power in the county Tuesday, down from a peak of about 45,000, according to poweroutage.us.

The governor called for a thorough assessment of the state’s critical infrastructure Tuesday

morning at a Council of State meeting — a collective body of elected officials comprising the executive branch. He said this will likely include discussions with federal regulators, lawmakers and utility companies about how to bolster security and prevent future attacks.

In the short term, the state has sent generators to Moore County and is helping feed residents. Law enforcement in surrounding counties has been more vigilant about monitoring nearby substations since the attack, he said.

“This seemed to be too easy,” Cooper said after the meeting. “People knew what they were doing to disable the substation, and for that much damage to be caused — causing so much problem, economic loss, safety challenges to so many people for so long — I think we have to look at what we might need to do to harden that infrastructure.”

Mike Causey, the North Carolina insurance commissioner and state fire marshal, called the

attack “a wake-up call to provide better security at our power substations.”

Echoing the governor’s remarks, Duke Energy said in a message to customers posted on its website that it is on track to restore power throughout the county by Thursday morning, in line with previous estimates.

“Our technicians continue to work in 24-hour shifts and remain on schedule to bring service back on by early Thursday,” the statement said.

Authorities have said the outages began shortly after 7 p.m. Saturday night after one or more people breached the gates of the two substations and opened fire. Police have not released a motive or said what kind of firearm was used.

Many businesses around the county that’s about 60 miles southwest of the state capital of Raleigh are closed at a normally busy time of year for tourism and holiday shopping. Schools are also closed and traffic lights are out around the area.

Officers honored for defense of Capitol on Jan. 6

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Law enforcement officers who defended the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, were honored Tuesday with Congressional Gold Medals nearly two years after they fought supporters of then-President Donald Trump in a brutal and bloody attack.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi praised the “heroes” as she opened the ceremony in the stately Capitol Rotunda, which was overrun that day when Trump supporters roamed the halls trying to stop Congress from certifying Joe Biden’s election.

In bestowing Congress’ highest honor, Pelosi praised the heroes for “courageously answering the call to defend our democracy in one of the nation’s darkest hours.”

To recognize the hundreds of officers who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6, the medals will be placed in four locations — at U.S. Capitol Police headquarters, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution. President Joe Biden said when he signed the legislation last year that a medal will be placed at the Smithsonian museum “so all visitors can understand what happened that day.”

The ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda comes as Democrats, just weeks away from losing their House majority, race to finish a nearly 18-month investigation of the insurrection. Democrats and two Republicans conducting the probe have vowed to uncover the details of the attack, which came as Trump tried to overturn his election defeat and encouraged his supporters to “fight like hell” in a rally just before the congressional certification.

Dozens of the officers who fought off the rioters sustained serious injuries. As the mob of Trump’s supporters pushed past them and into the Capitol, police were beaten with American flags and their own guns, dragged down

stairs, sprayed with chemicals and trampled and crushed by the crowd. Officers suffered physical wounds, including brain injuries and other lifelong effects, and many struggled to work afterward because they were so traumatized.

Four officers who testified at a House hearing last year spoke openly about the lasting mental and physical scars, and some detailed near-death experiences.

Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges described foaming at the mouth, bleeding and screaming as the rioters tried to gouge out his eye and crush him between two heavy doors. Metropolitan Police Officer Michael Fanone, who rushed to the scene, said he was “grabbed, beaten, tased, all while being called a traitor to my country.” Capitol Police Officer Harry Dunn said a large group of people shouted the N-word at him as he was trying to keep them from breaching the House chamber.

At least nine people who were at the Capitol that day died during and after the rioting. Two police officers died by suicide in the days that immediately followed, and a third officer, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, collapsed and later died after one of the rioters sprayed him with a chemical. A medical examiner determined he died of natural causes.

In August 2021, the Metropolitan Police announced that two more of their officers who had responded to the insurrection had died by suicide.

The June 2021 House vote to award the medals won widespread support from both parties. But 21 House Republicans voted against it — lawmakers who had downplayed the violence and stayed loyal to Trump. The Senate passed the legislation by voice vote, with no Republican objections.

The Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor Congress can bestow, has been handed out by the legislative branch since 1776.

Biden likely to announce 2024 bid after holidays, his chief of staff says

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — White House chief of staff Ron Klain said he expects that President Joe Biden will announce he’s running for reelection after the Christmas and New Year’s holidays.

“The president will make that decision. I expect it shortly after

the holiday,” Klain said Monday at The Wall Street Journal’s CEO Council summit.

“I expect the decision will be to do it.”

Biden is coming off midterm elections in which his Democratic Party fared far better than expected and has said he intends to run

again. But he’s said a formal decision will come early next year.

The president and his family were expected to discuss whether to run again during their Thanksgiving holiday on Nantucket Island in Massachusetts, according to current and former aides, who said those talks would continue

during the Christmas holidays.

Biden, who was already the oldest president in U.S. history, turned 80 last month, fueling questions over his fitness to run again and potentially serve another term. But Biden has brushed aside those worries, and cited only his family or a surprise develop-

ment, such as a health crisis, as likely to dissuade him from running.

Former President Donald Trump, 76, who Biden has said was the reason he decided to run in 2020, has already announced his third bid for the White House in 2024.

NATION

Arizona certifies election despite GOP complaints

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Arizona's top officials certified the midterm election results Monday, formalizing victories for Democrats over Republicans who falsely claimed the 2020 election was rigged.

The certification opens a five-day window for formal election challenges. Republican Kari Lake, who lost the race for governor, is expected to file a lawsuit in the coming days after she spent weeks criticizing the administration of the election.

Election results have largely been certified without issue around the country, but Arizona was an exception. Several Republican-controlled counties delayed their certification despite no evidence of problems with the vote count. Cochise County in southeastern Arizona blew past the deadline last week, forcing a judge to intervene on Thursday and order the county supervisors to certify the election by the end of the day.

"Arizona had a successful election," Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, a Democrat who beat Lake in the race for governor, said before signing the certification. "But too often throughout the process, powerful voices proliferated misinformation that threatened to disenfranchise voters."

The statewide certification, known as a canvass, was signed by Hobbs, Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich and Chief Justice Robert Brutinel, a Ducey appointee.

When the same group certified the 2020 election, Ducey silenced

a call from then-President Donald Trump, who was at the time in a frenetic push to persuade Republican allies to go along with his attempts to overturn the election he lost.

"This is a responsibility I do not take lightly," Ducey said. "It's one that recognizes the votes cast by the citizens of our great state."

Republicans have complained for weeks about Hobbs' role in certifying her own victory, though it is typical for election officials to maintain their position while running for higher office.

Lake and her allies have focused on problems with ballot printers that produced about 17,000 ballots that could not be tabulated on site and had to be counted at the elections department headquarters.

Lines backed up in some polling places, fueling Republican suspicions that some supporters were unable to cast a ballot, though there's no evidence it affected the outcome. County officials say everyone was able to vote and all legal ballots were counted.

Hobbs immediately petitioned the Maricopa County Superior Court to begin an automatic statewide recount required by law in three races decided by less than half a percentage point. The race for attorney general was one of the closest contests in state history, with Democrat Kris Mayes leading Republican Abe Hamadeh by just 510 votes out of 2.5 million cast.

The races for superintendent of public instruction and a state legislative seat in the Phoenix suburbs will also be recounted, but the margins are much larger.



AP

Hywind Scotland, the world's first commercial wind farm using floating wind turbines, is visible off the coast of Scotland in August 2017. Tuesday marked the first-ever U.S. auction for leases to develop commercial-scale floating wind farms in the deep waters off the West Coast.

First auction jumpstarts floating, offshore wind power in US waters

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Tuesday marked the first-ever U.S. auction of leases to develop commercial-scale floating wind farms, in the deep waters off the West Coast.

The live, online auction for the five leases — three off California's central coast and two off its northern coast — has attracted strong interest and 43 companies from around the world are approved to bid. The wind turbines will float roughly 25 miles offshore.

The growth of offshore wind comes as climate change intensifies and the need for clean energy grows. It is also getting cheaper. The cost of developing offshore wind has dropped 60% since 2010 according to a July report by the International Renewable Energy Agency. It declined 13% in 2021.

Offshore wind is well established in the U.K. and some other countries but it is just beginning to ramp up off America's coasts, and this is the nation's first foray into floating wind turbines. Auctions so far have been for those anchored to the seafloor.

Europe has some floating offshore wind — a project in the North Sea has been operating since 2017 — but the potential for the technology is huge in areas of strong wind off America's coasts, said Josh Kaplowitz, vice president of offshore wind at the American Clean Power Association.

"We know that this works. We know that this can provide a huge slice of our our electricity needs, and if we're going to solve the climate crisis, we need to put as many clean electrons online as we can, particularly given increases in load demand with electric vehicles," he said. "We can reach our greenhouse gas goals only with offshore wind as part of the puzzle."

Similar auctions are in the works off Oregon's coast next year and in the Gulf of Maine in 2024. President Joe Biden set a goal of deploying 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030 using traditional technology that secures wind turbines to the ocean floor, enough to power 10 million homes.

The nation's first offshore wind farm opened off the coast of Rhode

Island in late 2016, allowing residents of small Block Island to shut off five diesel generators. Wind advocates took notice, but with five turbines, it wasn't commercial scale.

Globally, as of 2021, there were only 123 megawatts of floating offshore wind operating, but that number is projected to increase to nearly 19 gigawatts — 150 times more — by 2030, according to a report last week by Offshore Wind California.

As envisioned, the turbines — possibly nearly as tall as the Eiffel Tower — will float on giant triangular platforms roughly the size of a small city block or buoyant cylinders with cables anchoring them underwater. They'll each have three blades longer than the distance from home plate to the outfield on a baseball diamond, and will need to be assembled onshore and towed, upright, to their open-ocean destination.

Modern tall turbines, whether on or offshore, can produce more than 20 times more electricity than shorter machines, say, from the early 1990s.

Investors press railroads to add sick time for workers



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Norfolk Southern locomotives are moved in the Conway Terminal in Conway, Pa., Sept. 15.

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Major freight railroads are facing pressure to add sick days for their workers from a new front: An influential investment group says some of its members are now pushing the measure that Congress declined to as part of the contracts they imposed last week to avert a potentially devastating nationwide rail strike.

The Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility said Monday that two investment managers it works with to help promote social change at companies had filed

proposals at Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern railroads to give shareholders a vote on whether rail workers should get paid sick leave. Similar proposals are likely to be filed at CSX and at BNSF's parent company of Berkshire Hathaway. The ICCR represents 300 members with over \$4 trillion in assets.

The lack of paid sick time in the industry became a major sticking point this fall in contract talks between the railroads and their 12 unions. Four of those unions rejected deals that included 24% raises and \$5,000 in bonuses be-

cause of concerns about sick leave and other quality-of-life issues.

President Joe Biden signed a bill Friday that forces railroad workers to accept those deals that were negotiated back in September and prohibits them from going on strike. A separate bill that would have required sick time failed in the Senate.

Labor groups said after Congress acted that they will keep fighting for sick time and better working conditions even though this round of negotiations that began three years ago is now over because their concerns linger.

NATION

Man who shot Lady Gaga's dog walker gets 21 years in jail

By STEFANIE DAZIO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The man who shot and wounded Lady Gaga's dog walker while stealing her French bulldogs last year took a plea deal and was sentenced to 21 years in prison on Monday, officials said.

The Lady Gaga connection was a coincidence, authorities have said. The motive was the value of the French bulldogs, a breed that can run into the thousands of dollars, and detectives do not believe the thieves knew the dogs belonged to the musician.

James Howard Jackson, one of three men and two accomplices who participated in the violent robbery and its aftermath, pleaded no contest to one count of attempted murder, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The pop star's dog walker, Ryan Fischer, was seriously wounded in the attack and addressed the court Monday to give an impact statement, which he posted on Instagram.

"It's hard to believe that it's nearing two years since I was taking Asia, Koji and Gustav out for an evening stroll when — in an instant — I suddenly found myself fighting with everything I had to protect those dogs from being stolen. But it wasn't enough: I was beaten, strangled, shot and left to die bleeding out on a sidewalk and gasping for my life. And Koji and Gustav were gone."

Jackson and two others drove

around Hollywood, the city of West Hollywood and the San Fernando Valley on Feb. 24, 2021, "looking for French bulldogs," prosecutors said previously. They found Fischer with the pop star's three pets.

Jackson shot Fischer during the robbery off the famed Sunset Boulevard, during which two of the dogs were taken. A nearby doorbell camera recorded the dog walker screaming "Oh, my God! I've been shot!" and "Help me!" and "I'm bleeding out from my chest!"

Fischer later called the violence a "very close call with death" in social media posts. In his statement Monday, he said he is still healing physically and mentally from the shooting. Part of his lung had to be removed and he is still undergoing physical therapy.

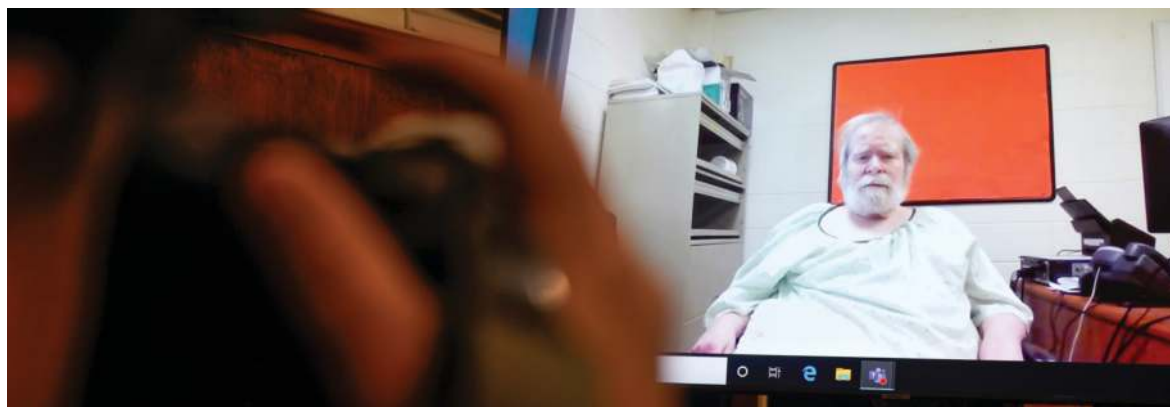
Fischer also addressed Jackson directly in the statement, and said he forgives him and the others involved in the attack. "You completely altered my life, and I know I can't fully move forward from the night you shot me until I said those words to you."

The stolen dogs were returned several days later by Jennifer McBride, who was also charged in the crime.

The pop star had offered a \$500,000 reward — "no questions asked" — to be reunited with the dogs at the time.



Jackson



SETH WENIG/AP

Richard Cottingham makes a remote appearance at a courtroom in Mineola, N.Y., Monday.

'Torso Killer' takes responsibility for 5 women's deaths in '60s, '70s

Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y. — A serial slayer known as the "Torso Killer" already convicted of 11 homicides admitted on Monday that he also killed five women on Long Island in the late '60s and early '70s.

Richard Cottingham was sentenced Monday to 25 years in life for the slaying of 23-year-old Diane Cusick, who was killed in February 1968 after buying shoes at the Green Acres Mall in Nassau County.

As part of a plea deal, Cottingham received immunity from

prosecution for the four other killings.

The 76-year-old prisoner attended the hearing via a video feed from a New Jersey prison.

"Today is one of the most emotional days we've ever had in the Nassau County district attorney's office," District Attorney Anne Donnelly said at a news conference where she was joined by several family members of Cottingham's victims.

"In the case of Diane Cusick, her family has waited nearly 55 years for someone to be held ac-

countable for her death."

Donnelly said Cottingham, believed to be one of the United States' most prolific serial killers, "has caused irreparable harm to so many people and so many families, there's almost nothing I can say to give comfort to anyone."

Cottingham has claimed he was responsible for up to 100 homicides. He has been imprisoned since 1980. He is known as the "Torso Killer" because he allegedly cut off the heads and limbs of some of his victims, authorities have said.

Trial begins in death of woman killed in Utah park

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Ludovic Michaud was driving around the scenic red rock landscapes of Utah's Arches National Park on a windy spring day in 2020 when something unthinkable happened: A metal gate whipped around, sliced through the passenger door of his car and decapitated his new wife, Esther Nakajjigo, 25.

The tragic accident is now the subject of a wrongful death law-

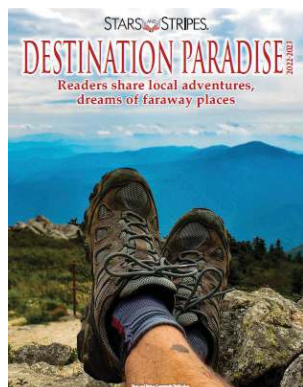
suit Michaud and Nakajjigo's family are pursuing, in which they argue that the U.S. Park Service was negligent and did not maintain the gates at the entrances and exits to the parks, leading to Nakajjigo's death.

In opening statements Monday in Salt Lake City, attorneys representing Michaud and Nakajjigo's family said they were seeking \$140 million in damages from the government.

The family's lawsuit claims

when the national parks reopened in April 2020 after being shuttered due to COVID-19, rangers at the national park in Utah didn't secure the gate in place, which in effect "turned a metal pipe into a spear."

United States attorneys do not dispute that park officials shouldered blame, but argued the amount the family should be awarded is far less and called into question the ways the damages being sought were calculated.



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STARS AND STRIPES

WORLD

Indonesia Parliament bans sex outside of marriage

Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesia's Parliament unanimously passed a long-awaited revision of the country's penal code on Tuesday that criminalizes sex outside of marriage for citizens as well as foreigners, prohibits promotion of contraception and bans defamation of the president and state institutions.

The amended code also expands an existing blasphemy law and maintains a five-year prison term for deviations from the central tenets of Indonesia's six recognized religions: Islam, Protestantism, Catholicism, Hinduism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

Citizens can face a 10-year prison term for associating with organizations that follow Marxist-Leninist ideology and a four-year sentence for spreading communism.

The code maintains the previous criminalization of abortion but adds exceptions for women with life-threatening medical conditions and for rape, provided that the fetus is less than 12 weeks old,

in line with what is already provided in a 2004 Medical Practice Law.

Rights groups criticized some of the revisions as overly broad or vague and warned that adding them to the code could penalize normal activities and threaten freedom of expression and privacy rights.

However, some advocates hailed the passage as a victory for the country's LGBTQ community. During fierce deliberation, lawmakers eventually agreed to remove an article proposed by Islamic groups that would have made gay sex illegal.

The revised code also preserves the death penalty within the criminal justice system despite calls from the National Commission on Human Rights and other groups to abolish capital punishment, as dozens of other countries have done. But under the new code, the death penalty has a probationary period. If within a period of 10 years the convict behaves well, then the death penalty will be changed to life imprisonment or



SLAMET RIYADI/AP

Activists hold up posters during a rally against Indonesia's new criminal law in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on Tuesday.

20 years imprisonment.

Under Indonesian regulations, legislation passed by Parliament becomes law after being signed by the president. But even without the president's signature, it automatically takes effect after 30 days unless the president issues a regulation to cancel it.

President Joko Widodo is widely expected to sign the revised code in light of its extended approval process in Parliament.

China reiterates nuke policy amid US report

Associated Press

BEIJING — China strictly adheres to its policy of no first use of nuclear weapons "at any time and under any circumstances," its Defense Ministry said Tuesday in a scathing response to a U.S. report alleging a major buildup in Beijing's nuclear capabilities.

The Pentagon last week released an annual China security report that warned Beijing would likely have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and that it has provided no clarity on how it plans to use them.

That report "distorts China's national defense policy and military strategy, makes groundless speculation about China's military development and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs on the issue of Taiwan," ministry spokesperson Tan Kefei said in a statement.

Tan accused the U.S. of being the "biggest troublemaker and destroyer of world peace and stabil-

ity," and repeated that Beijing has never renounced the use of force to conquer self-governing Taiwan, a U.S. ally that China considers part of its territory.

Tan did not directly address the report's allegations about a Chinese nuclear buildup, but blamed the U.S. for raising nuclear tensions, particularly with its plan to help Australia build a fleet of submarines powered by U.S. nuclear technology, which the French president has described as a "confrontation with China."

Tan also accused the U.S. of having the world's largest nuclear arsenal, although that title is actually held by Russia, a close Chinese military, economic and diplomatic partner.

As of 2022, Russia possesses a total of 5,977 nuclear warheads compared to 5,428 in the U.S. inventory, according to the Federation of American Scientists. China currently has 350 nuclear warheads, according to the federation.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation
944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

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- Import & Export
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- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman attacks 6 deputies at airport

LA NEW ORLEANS — Officials said a woman bit, kicked and spat on six sheriff's deputies while refusing to exit a plane at an airport in Louisiana early Thanksgiving Day, The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported.

Authorities said the 25-year-old woman attacked Jefferson Parish sheriff's deputies at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, according to local news reports.

Deputies were responding to Spirit airline workers' requests to remove the woman, who had reportedly grown irate and asked nearby passengers who she assumed to be Latino whether they were smuggling cocaine.

Police charged the woman with six counts of battery on a police officer, three counts of disturbing the peace, one count of resisting arrest by force and another count of remaining after forbidden, according to reports.

Jacket still hot from dryer sparks blaze at home

NC BURLINGTON — A jacket hot from a dryer sparked a fire that damaged a North Carolina home, a fire official said.

Firefighters responded to a home on Herman Blue Court in Burlington and found light smoke, the Burlington Fire Department said in a news release.

The fire was found to be accidental and caused by "excessively hot" laundry taken from the dryer to the bedroom, where clothes and furniture caught fire, officials said.

Fire department spokesperson Daniel Shoffner said the resident pulled laundry from the dryer and put it in the bedroom before leaving for work, WFMY-TV reported. The pile included a jacket made from synthetic material with tags suggesting hang drying instead of using the dryer, Shoffner said. The jacket smoldered and eventually the clothes combusted, he said.

Shoffner said he had never heard of this happening before.

Gold Rush treasures from 1857 ship up for auction

NV RENO — Since the recovery of sunken treasure began decades ago from an 1857 shipwreck off the coast of South Carolina, tens of millions of dollars worth of gold has been sold.

But scientists, historians and collectors said the real fortunes will begin to hit the auction block on Saturday. For the first time, hundreds of Gold Rush-era artifacts entombed in the wreckage of the S.S. Central America will go on public sale.

Known as the "Ship of Gold,"



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Bringing out the masses

East Los Angeles College Stadium was the site of a bilingual Mass in Los Angeles last weekend. The annual 91st Procession and Mass commemorating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe recalls the miraculous apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Saint Juan Diego at Tepeyac Hill, Mexico City, in December 1531, when she left her image on his "tilma," or cloak.

the steamship sank on Sept. 12, 1857, in a hurricane on its way from Panama to New York City.

Bob Evans, the chief scientist for every underwater recovery mission, said that the items might seem ordinary, but they offer an extraordinary glimpse into the daily life of the passengers and crew, from gold-field workers to high-society San Franciscans.

A few pieces described as priceless rarities could fetch as much as \$1 million at Saturday's public auction in Reno, like the lid from the oldest known Wells Fargo treasure shipment box or heavy duty miner's work pants from the Gold Rush-era — perhaps one of the first of their kind ever made for or by Levi Strauss.

State's prisons start guard body cam program

MA BOSTON — About 50 correctional officers at a Massachusetts prison are participating in a pilot program to evaluate the use of body cameras in improving safety and transparency in state Department of Correction facilities, officials announced.

The program is taking place at the Souza-Baranowski Correctional Center in Lancaster, a maximum security facility and the reception and diagnostic center for all newly incarcerated men, the department said in a statement.

Three different products are being evaluated during the program. The guards are wearing the cameras as they perform their normal duties and they augment the facility's network of stationary cameras.

Man charged after fake ad has candidate number

NH CONCORD — A New Hampshire man is accused of posting a fake Craigslist ad for a free trailer with a legislative candidate's number on the day of the election, later telling investigators he meant it to be a joke after a flood of unwanted calls and texts jammed up the candidate's cellphone.

Michael Drouin, 30, of Merrimack, was indicted on a felony charge of interference with election communications, the state attorney general's office said. The charge is related to an April 2021 special election in Merrimack to replace Republican New Hampshire House Speaker Dick Hinch, who died of COVID-19 in December 2020.

The candidate, Bill Boyd, a Republican who went on to win, turned off his phone after receiving more than 37 phone calls or text messages in 45 minutes on the morning of the election, prosecutors said.

"It was a joke, I meant no harm," he told investigators in

October 2021, according to a police affidavit. He said he wasn't sure why he had chosen the date of the election, saying it was bad timing.

18 people arrested as retail theft ring busted

CA LOS ANGELES — Eighteen people were arrested when Los Angeles police busted an organized crime ring that targeted clothing and shoe stores, authorities said.

The suspects ranged in age from 15 to 20 and were linked to retail thefts at chain stores where about \$23,000 worth of goods were stolen, according to the Los Angeles Police Department.

They were likely involved in at least 14 earlier incidents, with stolen goods valued at \$90,000, police said.

The stolen merchandise was recovered and returned to the retailers, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Obama historical marker now at Old State Capitol

IL SPRINGFIELD — A historical marker dedicated on the grounds of Illinois' Old State Capitol commemorates the date when then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama announced his 2008 presidential bid there.

The marker standing on the

southeast corner of the grounds in downtown Springfield notes the future president's Feb. 10, 2007, announcement and Obama's Aug. 23, 2008, introduction there of his running mate, Joe Biden, at the time a Delaware senator and now the president.

Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, the first Black legislator to hold that position, said during the indoor ceremony that Obama "inspired so many people who had never been involved in politics before to get involved."

Dog injured while saving sheep from coyote attack

GA DECATUR — A Georgia sheepdog is recovering at home after killing a pack of coyotes that attacked his owner's flock of sheep, farmer John Wierwiller said.

Casper, a 20-month old Great Pyrenees from Decatur, fought off a pack of coyotes who were threatening Wierwiller's sheep farm, he said. The fight lasted longer than half an hour, left eight coyotes dead and bloodied Casper, with skin and part of his tail torn off, Wierwiller told Atlanta's WAGA-TV.

LifeLine Animal Project has raised more than \$15,000 for the sheepdog's hospital bills.

FACES



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

Country music icon Dolly Parton, a recent Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductee, has expanded her social-media presence.

Dolly Parton joins TikTok

From wire reports

Pouring her latest steamy cup of ambition, Dolly Parton declared Sunday that it was “Better late than never!” as she joined TikTok.

Whether sensing the swift unraveling of Twitter or finally jumping on the pandemic-fueled trend, the country music legend made her debut on the video-sharing platform over the weekend and by Monday morning had already amassed a following of over 526,000 users and 1.4 million likes by posting a handful of clips introducing herself (as if she ever had to), retrospective montages and a shoutout to the #DollyTok sub-community on the app.

Parton, 76, who is active on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook, had already been embraced by the TikTok community well before her Sunday arrival, with thousands of users utilizing her hefty catalog for their creations. Hashtags #Dolly, #DollyParton and #DollyTok have 6.4 billion video views combined and counting, TikTok said. Parton’s 1980 hit “9 to 5” has more than 15,000 video creations, the 1973 hit “Jolene” has 28,000, and her 1983 duet with Kenny Rogers, “Islands in the Stream,” has more than 20,000 video creations.

Parton’s foray onto TikTok follows her induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame last month.

The 10-time Grammy Award-winning musician and beloved philanthropist is also the most recent recipient of the Bezos Family Foundation’s Courage and Civility Award, which comes with a whopping \$100 million grant that Parton can steer toward the charitable organizations of her choice.

Other news

■ **Jim Stewart**, the white Tennessee farm boy and fiddle player who co-founded the influential Stax Records with his sister in a Black, inner-city Memphis neighborhood and helped build the soulful “Memphis sound” embodied by Otis Redding, Isaac Hayes, Carla Thomas, The Staple Singers and many others, has died at age 92. A cause of death was not disclosed.



Netflix

Oscar-winning director Guillermo del Toro (“Pan’s Labyrinth”) will bring a longtime dream to fruition when his adaptation of “Pinocchio” premieres Friday on Netflix.

New this week: ‘Pinocchio,’ Will Smith, ‘George & Tammy’

Associated Press

Here’s a collection curated by The Associated Press’ entertainment journalists of what’s arriving on TV, streaming services and music and video game platforms this week.

Movies

■ “Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio” is a dream almost 15 years in the making for the Oscar-winning filmmaker, who first announced his plans to make an adaptation of Carlo Collodi’s story in 2008. After many years of false starts, Netflix (where it premieres Friday) helped del Toro realize his vision, with beautifully intricate stop-motion puppets and voice actors like David Bradley (Geppetto) and Ewan McGregor (Sebastian J. Cricket). He’s set the story in Italy between the two world wars during the rise of fascism. The “Pan’s Labyrinth” filmmaker told Vanity Fair that though the film is challenging, he hopes it will appeal to all generations.

■ Will Smith’s comeback campaign is in full swing thanks to the new Antoine Fuqua movie “Emancipation,” which begins streaming on Apple TV+ on Friday. The film follows the escape of an enslaved man, Peter (Smith), from a Louisiana plantation during the Civil War.

■ Or for a holiday-themed romantic comedy (with some earnestly blatant brand tie-ins), head over to Amazon Prime for “Something from Tiffany’s,” in which a jewelry mix-up sends two relationships into a spiral. Kendrick Sampson plays a man about to propose to his longtime girlfriend and Zoey Deutch plays a woman in a dead-end relationship who accidentally gets an engagement ring meant for someone else. This mishap is an elaborate set-up that gets Sampson and Deutch to meet. Directed by Daryl Wein and produced by Reese Witherspoon’s Hello Sunshine, “Something from Tiffany’s” starts streaming Friday.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ Broadway star Idina Menzel opens up about her career and her life in the documentary “Idina Menzel: Which Way to the Stage?” Menzel has starred in

“Rent” and “Wicked” as well as created the legendary voice of Elsa in Disney’s “Frozen.” Cameras follow Menzel on a national tour over the course of 16 shows as she juggles the challenges of being a working mom with a grueling travel schedule, all while preparing finally to realize her dream of singing at Madison Square Garden in her hometown of New York City. Join her Friday on Disney+.

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

Television

■ In the new TV series “George & Tammy,” Jessica Chastain and Michael Shannon play out the passionate but tumultuous relationship between country music stars Tammy Wynette and George Jones. The couple divorced in 1975 after six years together, but they remained a major influence in each other’s lives. Chastain and Shannon also sing the artist’s legendary songs in the series including Wynette’s “Stand By Your Man” and Jones’ “He Stopped Loving Her Today.” The show premiered Sunday on Showtime and the Paramount Network, and the remainder of the series will be available exclusively on Showtime.

■ The true crime genre is booming, but ID/discovery+ explores a case perhaps you haven’t heard of. “The Tetrakis Murders” is a three-part look at the murder of Vladimir Pokhilko, one of the creators of the video game “Tetris,” who died along with his family in their California home in 1998. Originally believed to be a murder-suicide, investigators revisit the case and find it’s much more complicated. “The Tetrakis Murders” debuts Monday on ID and discovery+.

■ Season two of the heartwarming “Little America” debuts on Apple TV+ on Friday. Created by Academy Award winner Siân Heder, actor Kumail Nanjiani, and Emmy-nominee Lee Eisenberg (“The Office,” “WeCrashed,”) the scripted anthology series tells the unique stories of immigrants in the U.S. who are trying to achieve their dreams. New episodes include stories of a Somali chef preparing for the Minnesota State Fair, a Korean medical student whose passion is hat design and a Japanese woman in Ohio trying to form a women’s baseball team.

— Alicia Rancilio

Emmy-winning ‘Cheers’ star Alley dies at 71

Associated Press

Kirstie Alley, a two-time Emmy winner whose roles on the TV megahit “Cheers” and in the “Look Who’s Talking” films made her one of the biggest stars in American comedy in the late 1980s and early 1990s, died Monday. She was 71.

Alley died of cancer that was only recently discovered, her children True and Lillie Parker said in a post on Twitter. Alley’s manager Donovan Daughtry confirmed the death in an email to The Associated Press.

She starred opposite Ted Danson as Rebecca Howe on “Cheers” from 1987 to 1993. She joined the beloved NBC sitcom about a Boston bar at the height of its popularity after the departure of original star Shelley Long.

Alley won an Emmy for best lead actress in a comedy series for the role in 1991.

She took a second Emmy for best lead actress in a miniseries or television movie in 1993 for playing the title role in the CBS movie “David’s Mother.”

She had her own sitcom, “Veronica’s Closet,” on NBC from 1997 to 2000.

In the 1989 comedy “Look Who’s Talking,” which gave her a major career boost, she played the mother of a baby whose inner thoughts were voiced by Bruce Willis. She also appeared in a 1990 sequel “Look Who’s Talking Too,” and another in 1993, “Look Who’s Talking Now.”

She played a fictionalized version of herself in the 2005 Showtime series “Fat Actress,” a show that drew comedy from her public and media treatment over her weight gain and loss.

She dealt with the same subject matter in the 2010 A&E reality series “Kirstie Alley’s Big Life.”

In recent years she appeared on other reality shows, including a second-place finish on “Dancing with the Stars” in 2011 and “The Masked Singer” this year.

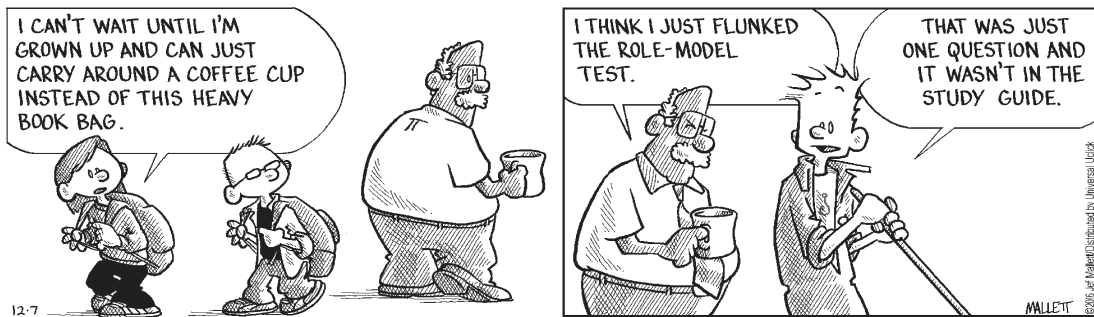
Alley was married to her high school sweetheart from 1970 to 1977, and to actor Parker Stevenson from 1983 until 1997.



AP

Kirstie Alley, a two-time Emmy winner who starred in the sitcom “Cheers” and the hit film “Look Who’s Talking,” died of cancer that was recently diagnosed.

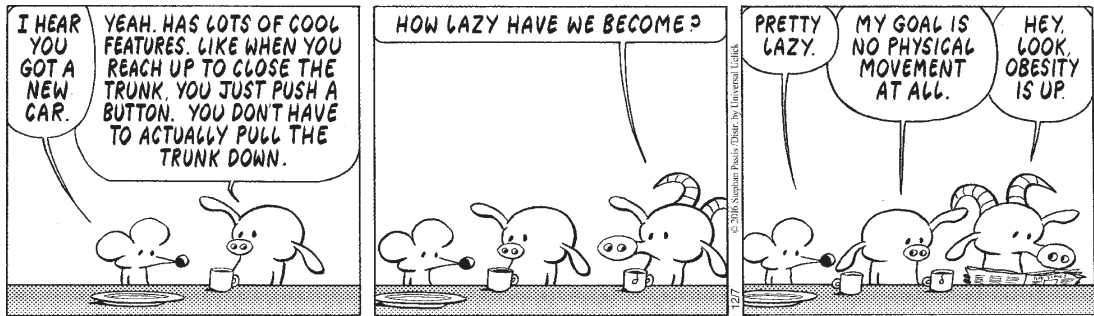
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



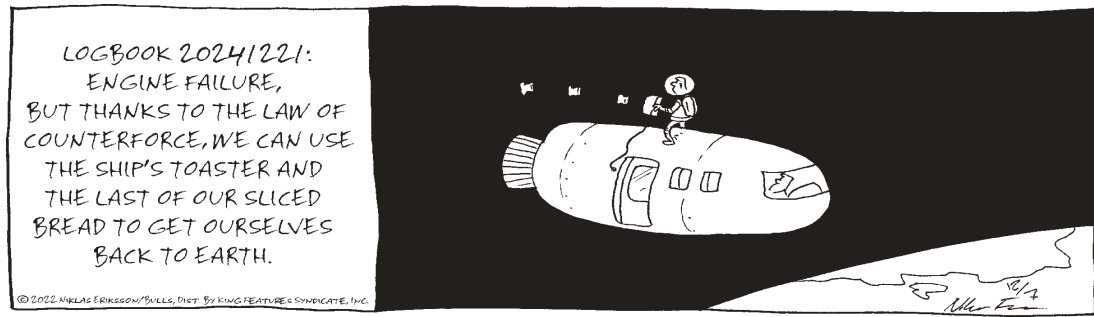
Non Sequitur



Candorville



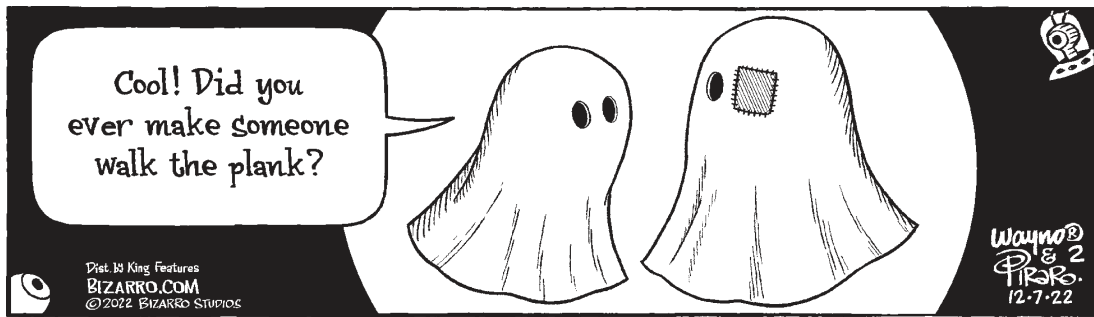
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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59					60						61	

ACROSS

- 1 Comic Caesar
- 4 Heavy mists
- 8 Gym pads
- 12 Chi follower
- 13 Redact
- 14 Luau strings
- 15 Golfer Ernie
- 16 Trial VIP
- 18 Chocolate source
- 20 Use a straw
- 21 Bikini parts
- 24 River of Rome
- 28 Conquered
- 32 Differently
- 33 Hot temper
- 34 Rescued
- 36 Salt Lake athlete
- 37 Building wings
- 39 Postponement
- 41 "I cannot — lie"
- 43 Actress Meg
- 44 Historic time
- 46 "Pride and Prejudice" suitor
- 50 Seekers of political asylum
- 55 Sound of surprise
- 56 Royal Norwegian name
- 57 Inspiration
- 58 Gift topper
- 59 Taunt
- 60 Madrid miss (Abbr.)
- 61 Scale member

DOWN

- 1 Detail, briefly
- 2 Madonna's "La — Bonita"
- 3 Platter
- 4 Felt hats
- 5 Poem of praise
- 6 Computer image, briefly
- 7 Fr. holy women
- 8 Kid's "dessert"
- 9 Alias abbr.
- 10 Sawbuck
- 11 Concorde, e.g.
- 17 Quibble
- 19 Honest politician
- 22 Slightly
- 23 Cut off
- 25 Fuzzy image
- 26 "Como — usted?"

- 27 Stagger
- 28 Regimen
- 29 Mystery writer Gardner
- 30 Toppled
- 31 Challenge
- 35 World's lowest lake
- 38 Jacket part
- 40 Genetic letters
- 42 Lob's path
- 45 \$ dispensers
- 47 Filches
- 48 Sneeze syllable
- 49 Caterwaul
- 50 Pooch
- 51 NFL's Manning
- 52 "Terrif!"
- 53 Wilder's "— Town"
- 54 Trio after Q

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	P	U	D		R	A	F	T		S	R	I		
T	A	T	E		E	P	E	E		L	A	C		
D	R	A	F	T	B	E	E	R		A	G	O		
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L	O	V	E		B	E	E	R	R	U	N	S		
U	K	E			G	E	N	E	S		N	Y	E	
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					T	I	N	Y		L	I	S	T	S
T	R	I	A	D		P	E	T	E					
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U	S	E			L	E	A	S		R	O	O	K	
D	E	R			A	X	L	E		A	L	P	O	

12-7

CRYPTOQUIP

LXDT OHSGJV VJRDISGWDN
 BXDICN PDQV IDHNNC QZIDW,
 LXHQ BGNW CGJ VHC
 XHRRDTV? QZDPV OHQZPJDV.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL PEOPLE WHO ARE REALLY INTO THE STUDY OF SPEECH SOUNDS? PHONETICS FANATICS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals Y

STARS AND STRIPES

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Iran rallies push nuke issue back

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

After more than a decade of U.S. policy focused on preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, arms negotiations have been shoved off center stage.

The long-running dispute over nuclear weapons has been displaced by a more immediate drama — the rapidly spreading uprising against the Iranian regime.

“Our focus every day, and the world’s focus, is what’s happening in the streets of Iran,” Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken said last week.

“We support what Iranians are asking for,” he added, saying they wanted “to be heard, to be able to make their views known peacefully, and not to have this terrible repression.”

U.S. negotiator Robert Malley added a blunt assessment of the prospects for a revived nuclear arms deal, one of President Joe Biden’s longtime foreign policy goals: “It’s not on the agenda.”

Instead, the U.S. confrontation with Iran has become broader and deeper — a conflict on more than one front.

Let’s start with the nuclear standoff. The United States and other big powers have been working for almost two years to revive the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran that President Donald Trump canceled in 2018. The deal put a ceiling on Iran’s uranium enrichment program, which produces the basic ingredient for nuclear weapons, in exchange for lifting economic sanctions.

By August, officials on both sides said they were close to agreement. But Iran raised new demands, stalling the deal, U.S. and European officials say.

Then, in September, an unexpected event: Iran’s streets erupted in protest after a 22-year-old woman, Mahsa Amini, died in police custody. She had been arrested by Tehran’s morality police for allegedly wearing her headscarf improperly.

Angry demonstrations against the regime began among women and girls, and spread quickly. Protesters in Tehran set fire to police stations and called for the overthrow of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country’s supreme

“There is a widespread willingness of young Iranians to go to the streets and demand a change of the system.”

Suzanne Maloney
 Brookings Institution

leader. Police arrested thousands and announced that protesters would be put on trial — some on charges that carry the death penalty.

Iran scholars said the uprising was unprecedented in the era of the Islamic Republic.

“There is a widespread willingness of young Iranians to go to the streets and demand a change of the system ... and they’re completely undeterred by the use of force,” said Suzanne Maloney of the Brookings Institution.

The Biden administration reacted almost immediately, condemning the repression and calling on the United Nations to monitor the Tehran regime’s actions.

The United States also relaxed sanctions that restricted exports of communications technology to Iran, to allow Google and other companies to provide tools for protesters to communicate securely.

And the administration announced yet more sanctions against Iranian officials directing the repression.

That may not sound like much, but some normally critical human rights advocates praised the administration for its agility.

“They’ve done quite a bit,” said Ali Vaez of the International Crisis Group.

The sobering fact is that there isn’t much the United States and other outside governments can do to help a grassroots uprising in Iran.

As we learned during the Arab Spring that began in 2010, when revolts erupted from Tunisia to Syria, U.S. power to influence events in other countries is limited.

“This is an Iranian drama, and foreigners are merely bystanders,” Vaez said.

“The West has used sanctions against Iran for so long that Iran has become numb to them,” he added. “They don’t provide much leverage.”

The uprising has one more effect on U.S. policy: It has made it politically impossible, at least for the moment, for the administration to relax nuclear sanctions.

If the Tehran regime suddenly agreed to sign the stalled nuclear deal, the U.S. would be required to lift many of its economic sanctions against Iran. Billions of dollars in frozen assets would flow into Iran’s treasury, and Iran would be free to sell oil in the world market.

“You would have to consider whether you were providing a life raft to a regime that is under fire from its own population,” Maloney said.

But that leaves Biden administration officials trapped in a dilemma.

They still want a nuclear deal with Iran; they just don’t think they can conclude one now, with a regime under siege by its own citizens.

Meanwhile, Iran announced last month that it had increased uranium enrichment at its underground Fordo plant to 60% purity — a short step from the 90% required for a nuclear bomb. That means Iran would need only a few weeks to assemble a crude nuclear device, U.S. officials say.

That’s the spiral of escalation that the nuclear negotiations were intended to prevent.

Without an agreement, Iran will be tempted to use its nuclear program for brinkmanship and barely veiled threats. Israel, under the incoming, more hawkish government of Prime Minister-designate Benjamin Netanyahu, is already renewing talk of a “military option” against Iran. U.S. officials say Biden has that option too.

The nuclear agreement may be off the agenda for now. But the problem it was intended to solve hasn’t gone away.

FTX saga is confusing, but greed is not

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Back in 2001, precious few Americans could have explained what Houston-based Enron did as a company and how it got so spectacularly wealthy. But when it filed for a record-breaking bankruptcy, Americans got schooled fast about not putting their trust and money behind swaggering, fast-talking con artists. But fools and their money regrouped over the years, and along came FTX, a \$32 billion cryptocurrency exchange that repeated many of Enron’s mistakes and yielded the same abysmal results. We suspect that a lot of investors who lost their shirts in the FTX failure would have trouble explaining exactly what FTX did, and that’s largely because the entire cryptocurrency industry is built on fantasy.

Even the person in charge of the company, Sam Bankman-Fried, didn’t understand it completely. “I didn’t know exactly what was going on,” he told The New York Times last week in a DealBook video interview. A year ago, Bankman-Fried was worth an es-

timated \$26.5 billion. Today, the 30-year-old might have around \$100,000 in assets. “I’ve had a bad month,” he told The Times.

The losses he and his investors suffered are far more complex to explain than what happened at Enron. That company actually dealt in a tangible asset — energy — but was guilty of creating fake companies and shuffling money-losing accounts among them to hide its financial losses. In the case of FTX, it was an exchange where people bought and sold imaginary cryptocurrency, whose value was based on nothing that anyone could see or touch. And yet millions of people around the world poured billions of real dollars into it.

When the imaginary world of cryptocurrency and FTX came crashing down, investors demanded their real, tangible money back. But it was gone. That prompted the equivalent of a bank run that exposed the myth behind everything Bankman-Fried was doing. He invented currency. When that wasn’t enough, he invented an exchange for other invented currencies. As

long as everyone believed in the myth, the money poured in.

Company officers apparently used FTX assets to take out real loans to make investments in real, money-based enterprises. When the run on the bank began, they apparently began using customers’ money to pay off other customers — a Ponzi scheme, in other words. Former President Bill Clinton was among the prominent personalities who got burned by associating themselves with FTX.

To his credit, though, Clinton gave a talk at the FTX headquarters in the Bahamas reportedly warning all involved to “do right by it in the regulatory space,” meaning to make sure FTX operations abided by U.S. securities and banking regulations. Because the industry took off way before U.S. regulators could catch up, it’s not clear what they can do now to hold FTX officials legally accountable.

That shouldn’t stop Congress from trying. The internet isn’t going away anytime soon, nor will its imaginary currency market.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Schedule

Saturday's game EAST

Army (5-6) vs. Navy (4-7) at Philadelphia

FCS playoffs

Quarterfinals Friday's games

Montana St. vs. William & Mary
North Dakota St. vs. Samford
Sacramento St. vs. UIW

Saturday's game

South Dakota St. vs. Holy Cross

Bowl schedule

Friday, Dec. 16

Bahamas Bowl

Nassau, Bahamas

Miami (Ohio) vs. UAB

Cure Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

No. 22 UTSA vs. No. 23 Troy

Saturday, Dec. 17

Fenway Bowl

Boston

Louisville vs. Cincinnati

Celebration Bowl

Atlanta

Jackson St. vs. NC Central

New Mexico Bowl

Albuquerque, N.M.

BYU vs. SMU

LA Bowl

Inglewood, Calif.

Fresno St. vs. Washington St.

Lending Tree Bowl

Mobile, Ala.

Rice vs. Southern Miss.

Las Vegas Bowl

Las Vegas

No. 17 Oregon St. vs. Florida

Frisco Bowl

Frisco, Texas

North Texas vs. Boise St.

Monday, Dec. 19

Myrtle Beach Bowl

Conway, S.C.

Marshall vs. UConn

Tuesday, Dec. 20

Famous Idaho Potato Bowl

Boise, Idaho

San Jose St. vs. E. Michigan

Boca Raton Bowl

Boca Raton, Fla.

Liberty vs. Toledo

Wednesday, Dec. 21

New Orleans Bowl

New Orleans

South Alabama vs. W. Kentucky

Thursday, Dec. 22

Armed Forces Bowl

Fort Worth, Texas

Baylor vs. Air Force

Friday, Dec. 23

Gasparilla Bowl

Tampa, Fla.

Missouri vs. Wake Forest

Independence Bowl

Shreveport, La.

Houston vs. Louisiana

Saturday, Dec. 24

Hawaii Bowl

Honolulu

Middle Tennessee vs. San Diego State

Monday, Dec. 26

Quick Lane Bowl

Detroit

New Mexico St. vs. Bowling Green

Tuesday, Dec. 27

First Responder Bowl

Dallas

Memphis vs. Utah St.

Birmingham Bowl

Birmingham, Ala.

Coastal Carolina vs. East Carolina

Camellia Bowl

Montgomery, Ala.

Georgia Southern vs. Buffalo

Guaranteed Rate Bowl

Phoenix

Wisconsin vs. Oklahoma St.

Wednesday, Dec. 28

Military Bowl

Annapolis, Md.

UCF vs. Duke

Liberty Bowl

Memphis, Tenn.

Arkansas vs. Kansas

Holiday Bowl

San Diego

No. 15 Oregon vs. North Carolina

Texas Bowl

Houston

Texas Tech vs. Mississippi

Thursday, Dec. 29

Pinstripe Bowl

New York

Syracuse vs. Minnesota

Cheez-It Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

No. 13 Florida St. vs. Oklahoma

Alamo Bowl

San Antonio

No. 12 Washington vs. No. 21 Texas

Friday, Dec. 30

Orange Bowl

Miami Gardens, Fla.

No. 6 Tennessee vs. No. 10 Clemson

Duke's Mayo Bowl

Charlotte, N.C.

No. 25 NC State vs. Maryland

Sun Bowl

El Paso, Texas

No. 18 UCLA vs. Pittsburgh

Gator Bowl

Jacksonville, Fla.

No. 19 Notre Dame vs. No. 20 South Carolina

Arizona Bowl

Tucson, Ariz.

Wyoming vs. Ohio

Saturday, Dec. 31

Peach Bowl

Atlanta

College Football Playoff Semifinal

No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 4 Ohio St.

Fiesta Bowl

Glendale, Ariz.

College Football Playoff Semifinal

No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 TCU

Music City Bowl

Nashville

Kentucky vs. Iowa

Sugar Bowl

New Orleans

No. 5 Alabama vs. No. 11 Kansas St.

Monday, Jan. 2

ReliaQuest Bowl

Tampa, Fla.

No. 24 Mississippi St. vs. Illinois

Citrus Bowl

Orlando, Fla.

No. 16 LSU vs. Purdue

Cotton Bowl Classic

Arlington, Texas

No. 8 Southern Cal vs. No. 14 Tulane

Rose Bowl

Pasadena, Calif.

No. 7 Utah vs. No. 9 Penn St.

Monday, Jan. 9

College Football National Championship

Inglewood, Calif.

Semifinal winners

PRO BASEBALL

Remaining free agents

NEW YORK — The 151 remaining free agents (q-did not accept qualifying offer):

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE (4) — Jesús Aguilar, 1b; Robinson Chirinos, c; Jordan Lyles, rhp; Rougned Odor, 2b.

BOSTON (7) — q-Xander Bogaerts, ss; q-Nathan Eovaldi, rhp; Rich Hill, lhp; JD Martinez, dh; Tommy Pham, of; Matt Strahm, lhp; Michael Wacha, rhp.

CHICAGO (5) — Elvis Andrus, ss; Johnny Cueto, rhp; Josh Harrison, 2b; AJ Pollock, of; Vince Velazquez, rhp.

CLEVELAND (1) — Austin Hedges, c.

DETROIT (3) — Tucker Barnhart, c; Andrew Chafin, lhp; Daniel Norris, lhp.

HOUSTON (8) — Michael Brantley, of; Jason Castro, c; Aledmys Díaz, inf-of; Yuli Gurriel, 1b; Trey Mancini, dh-1b-of; Will Smith, lhp; Christian Vázquez, c; Justin Verlander, rhp.

KANSAS CITY (1) — Zack Greinke, rhp.

LOS ANGELES (4) — Archie Bradley, rhp; Matt Duffy, 3b; Michael Lorenzen, rhp; Kurt Suzuki, c.

MINNESOTA (9) — Chris Archer, rhp; Dylan Bundy, rhp; Carlos Correa, ss; Michael Fulmer, rhp; Billy Hamilton, of; Sandy León, c; Aaron Sanchez, rhp; Gary Sánchez, c; Miguel Sanó, 1b.

NEW YORK (8) — Andrew Benintendi, of; Zack Britton, lhp; Matt Carpenter, inf-of; Aroldis Chapman, lhp; Marwin Gonzalez, inf-of; Chad Green, rhp; q-Aaron Judge, of; Jameson Taillon, rhp.

OAKLAND (2) — Chad Pinder, of; Stephen Vogt, c.

SEATTLE (4) — Matt Boyd, lhp; Curt Casali, c; Adam Frazier, 2b; Mitch Haniger, of.

TAMPA BAY (4) — Kevin Kiermaier, of; Corey Kluber, rhp; David Peraltá, of; Mike Zunino, c.

TEXAS (5) — Kohei Aihara, rhp; Kole Calhoun, of; Charlie Culberson, inf-of; Matt Moore, lhp; Kevin Plawecki, c.

TORONTO (3) — Jackie Bradley Jr., of; David Phelps, rhp; Ross Stripling, rhp.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ARIZONA (2) — Zach Davies, rhp; Ian

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with RHP Ofreidy Gomez on a minor league contract. Agreed to terms with RHP Kyle Gibson on a one-year contract.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Agreed to terms with RHP Carlos Estevez on a two-year contract.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Agreed to terms with Senior Vice President and General Manager Brian Cashman on a four-year contract.

TEXAS RANGERS — Appointed Michaelene Curtis Senior Director Baseball Operations and Chandler Couch Assistant Director Professional Scouting. Promoted Kendall Coleman to Professional Scout and Sean Fields Major League Athletic Trainer.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with LHP Clayton Kershaw on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL

NBA

NBA — Fined Minnesota G D'Angelo Russell an undisclosed amount for directing inappropriate language toward a game official during a Dec. 3rd game against Oklahoma City.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed QB Brett Hundley to the practice squad. Signed WR DeSean Jackson to the practice squad. Released LB Devon Kennard from the practice squad. Waived WR Binjimen Victor.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Waived QB Baker Mayfield.

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Waived P Kevin Huber.

DENVER BRONCOS — Signed QB Jarrett Guarantano to the practice squad.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed QB Joshua Dobbs to the practice squad.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Signed OT Eric Fisher. Placed OL Austin Jackson on injured reserve.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed DB Quandre Mosely to the practice squad.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed CB Isaac Yiadom. Promoted WR Kirk Merritt and TE Lucas Krull from the practice squad to the active roster. Waived WR Kevin White.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed QB Josh Johnson off the Denver practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Reinstated S Logan Ryan from injured reserve. Waived S Nolan Turner. Promoted CB Anthony Cheshley and LB Ulysees Gilbert from the practice squad to the active roster.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed DE Tarell Basham. Placed WR Cody Hollister on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

National League Hockey

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Returned LW Pavol Regenda to San Diego (AHL).

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Recalled F Jakub Pour from Indy (ECHL).

COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Recalled RW Kirill Marchenko from Cleveland (AHL). Assigned RW Trey Fix-Wolansky to Cleveland.

EDMONTON OILERS — Reinstated RW Kailer Yamamoto from injured reserve.

FLORIDA PANTHERS — Recalled C Zac Dalpe from Charlotte (AHL).

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled D Jordan Gross from Milwaukee (AHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Recalled RW Jonny Brodzinski from Hartford (AHL).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Reassigned F Evan Barratt from Lehigh Valley (AHL) to Reading (ECHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Recalled G Hunter Shepard from Hershey (AHL). Reassigned G Clay Stevenson from South Carolina (ECHL) to Hershey.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

FC DALLAS — Signed D Sebastien Ibeagha to a two-year contract.

NEW ENGLAND REVOLUTION — Signed F Bobby Ward to a one-year contract.

ORLANDO CITY SC — Signed D Kyle Smith to a one-year contract.

PORTLAND TIMBERS — Acquired M Evander as a designated player from FC Midtjylland (Danish Superliga) pending receipt of his international transfer certificate and P-1 visa.

National Women's Soccer League

ORLANDO PRIDE — Signed D Carrie Lawrence to a two-year contract.

TENNIS

Angers Open

Tuesday

At Arena Loire

Angers, France

Purse: Euro 92,742

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Viktoria Tomova (7), Bulgaria, def. Joanna Garland, Taiwan, 1-6, 6-3, 6-0.

Greet Minnen, Belgium, def. Tatjana Maria (4), Germany, 7-5, 6-1.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Dec. 7

1985 — Auburn tailback Bo Jackson beats Iowa quarterback Chuck Long by 45 points in the balloting for the Heisman Trophy, the closest vote in the 51-year history of the trophy.

1991 — AJ Kitt becomes the first American in seven years to win a men's World Cup race, taking the first downhill of the season in Val d'Isere, France.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Houston (37)	8-0	1502	1
2. Texas (14)	6-0	1473	2
3. Virginia (3)	7-0	1416	3
4. Purdue (8)	8-0	1411	5
5. UConn	9-0	1295	8
6. Kansas	8-1	1131	9
7. Tennessee	7-1	1046	13
8. Alabama	7-1	1029	11
9. Arkansas	7-1	1021	11
10. Arizona	7-1	1013	4
11. Auburn	8-0	853	15
12. Baylor	6-2	841	6
13. Maryland	8-0	811	22
14. Indiana	7-1	759	10
15. Duke	8-2	745	17
16. Kentucky	6-2	596	19
17. Illinois	6-2	554	16
18. Gonzaga	5-3	517	14
19. UCLA	7-2	479	21
20. Iowa St.	7-1	376	23
21. Creighton	6-3	346	7
22. San			

NHL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	24	20	3	1	41	96	53
Toronto	26	15	5	6	36	79	66
Tampa Bay	24	15	8	1	31	84	75
Detroit	24	12	7	5	29	77	76
Florida	25	12	9	4	28	88	83
Montreal	25	12	11	2	26	76	90
Buffalo	25	11	13	1	23	96	92
Ottawa	24	10	13	1	21	75	78
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	26	16	10	0	32	82	66
Pittsburgh	25	13	8	4	30	89	78
N.Y. Rangers	27	12	10	5	29	82	80
Washington	27	11	12	4	26	74	85
Philadelphia	26	9	12	5	23	64	85
Columbus	23	8	13	2	18	66	92
Western Conference							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	25	14	6	5	33	98	72
Winnipeg	23	15	7	1	31	74	59
Minnesota	24	13	9	2	28	78	74
Colorado	23	13	9	1	27	78	66
Nashville	23	12	9	2	26	63	70
St. Louis	25	11	14	0	22	73	96
Arizona	23	7	12	4	18	61	81
Chicago	24	7	13	4	18	61	88
Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	27	19	7	1	39	94	71
Seattle	24	15	6	3	33	88	75
Los Angeles	27	13	10	4	30	92	97
Edmonton	26	14	12	0	28	89	93
Calgary	25	12	10	3	27	76	76
Vancouver	26	11	12	3	25	91	101
San Jose	28	8	16	4	20	82	103
Anaheim	26	6	17	3	15	65	111

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.

Monday's games

Philadelphia 5, Colorado 3
N.Y. Rangers 6, St. Louis 4
Vegas 4, Boston 3, SO
Washington 3, Edmonton 2
Calgary 3, Arizona 2
Vancouver 7, Montreal 6, OT

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

Thursday's games

Los Angeles at Toronto
Nashville at Tampa Bay
Detroit at Florida
Winnipeg at St. Louis
Ottawa at Dallas

Friday's games

Calgary at Columbus
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
Pittsburgh at Buffalo
Seattle at Washington
Winnipeg at Chicago
Minnesota at Edmonton
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado
Boston at Arizona
Philadelphia at Vegas
San Jose at Anaheim

Scoring leaders

Through Monday				
	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	26	22	26	48
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	26	17	25	42
Jason Robertson, DAL	25	23	18	41
Nikita Kucherov, TB	24	11	25	36
David Pastrnak, BOS	24	17	18	35
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	23	8	26	34
Erik Karlsson, SJ	28	11	23	34
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	23	12	22	34
Tage Thompson, BUF	25	16	18	34
Sidney Crosby, PIT	25	13	20	33
Elias Pettersson, VAN	26	12	20	32
Mikko Rantanen, COL	23	15	17	32
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	24	16	16	32



Vegas Golden Knights right wing Reilly Smith, left, celebrates after scoring on Boston Bruins goaltender Jeremy Swayman during the shootout portion of Monday's game in Boston.

CHARLES KRUPA/AP

NHL ROUNDUP

Vegas ends Bruins' home winning streak at 14 in SO

BOSTON — The Vegas Golden Knights made former Boston coach Bruce Cassidy's return a success on Reilly Smith's score in the fifth round of the shootout, beating the Bruins 4-3 to end their NHL-record for home victories to open a season at 14 games on Monday night.

The 57-year-old Cassidy was fired by Boston following 5½ seasons in June after the Bruins were eliminated by Carolina in the opening round of the playoffs. Eight days after he was let go, he was hired by Vegas.

In a matchup of two of the league's top three teams, Western conference-leading Vegas opened a 3-0 lead early in the second period on two goals by Paul Cotter and the other by Jonathan Marchessault.

The Bruins then started their comeback when Brad Marchand and David Pastrnak scored just over six minutes apart late in the period. They tied it on Taylor Hall's power-play goal 3:08 into the third when he spun in front and slipped a shot from the slot past goalie Logan Thompson.

Smith had the only score in the shootout, slipping a forehand shot past goalie Jeremy Swayman.

Cassidy knows what it sounds like in TD Garden with The Stan-

dells' song "Dirty Water" blaring after Bruins' wins.

"Now that you brought it up, I'm used to hearing "Dirty Water" at the end of the game," he said, smiling. "I'm glad I didn't hear it tonight. The streak is irrelevant to me. It's nice to come in and play well."

Boston lost for just the second time in 12 games.

"This locker room sticks together, and we knew we were going to do something special tonight," Swayman said. "It (stinks) losing, but we're going to make sure we fix the problems."

The Bruins' home-opening streak broke the record of 11 that was set by the 1963-64 Chicago Blackhawks and equaled by the Florida Panthers last season.

Rangers 6, Blues 4: K'Andre Miller, Alexis Lafrenière and Chris Kreider scored in the third period to rally host New York past St. Louis.

Vincent Trochek had a goal and an assist, and Braden Schneider and Adam Fox also scored for the Rangers, who won for the second time in seven games (2-4-1) and snapped a four-game skid (0-3-1) at home. Artemi Panarin had two assists, Lafrenière added one and Igor Shesterkin made 25 saves.

Flyers 5, Avalanche 3: Tony DeAngelo and Owen Tippett

scored power-play goals, and host Philadelphia held on to beat Colorado.

Tanner Laczynski, Travis Sanheim and Travis Konecny also scored for the Flyers, who won for just the second time in 14 games (2-9-3). Carter Hart finished with 29 saves.

Capitals 3, Oilers 2: Nic Dowd scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period and visiting Washington snapped a two-game skid.

Lars Eller and T.J. Oshie also scored for the Capitals, who are 2-5-3 in their last 10 road games. Charlie Lindgren made 28 saves.

Flames 3, Coyotes 2: Nazem Kadri scored the tiebreaking goal with 4:18 left in the third period and added two assists to lead host Calgary past Arizona.

Dillon Dube and Elias Lindholm also scored for Calgary, and Jonathan Huberdeau had two assists. Dan Vladar, starting for the fifth time in seven games, had 18 saves.

Canucks 7, Canadiens 6 (OT): Elias Pettersson scored 13 seconds into overtime and host Vancouver rallied to beat Montreal.

Ilya Mikheyev scored two goals, Andrei Kuzmenko had a goal and an assist, and Conor Garland, Bo Horvat and Jack Studnicka also scored for the Canucks. Pettersson also had two assists.

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

No. 18 Zags rally past Kent State

Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Drew Timme scored 29 points and grabbed 17 rebounds, and No. 18 Gonzaga closed the game on an 11-0 run to rally past Kent State 73-66 on Monday night.

The nation's longest home winning streak was extended to 69 games, but not without a major scare by the Golden Flashes. Kent State led 66-62 with 3:38 left after Miryne Thomas' three-point shot, but the Bulldogs tightened on the defensive end and got a handful of big plays offensively to hold off the Flashes.



Timme

Julian Strawther added 14 points, including a three-pointer with 3:19 left that started Gonzaga's decisive run. Timme's spinning basket in the lane with 2:29 left gave Gonzaga (6-3) the lead, and he added a key defensive play blocking Sincere Carry's layup attempt at the other end.

Timme was fouled and split free throws with 1:55 left, but Malachi Smith grabbed the offensive rebound and his three-point play gave the Bulldogs a 71-66 lead. It was Smith's first basket of the game.

"(Timme) was heroic. He wasn't really looking for the ball much early and wasn't demanding it... he was splitting the defense and scoring in a variety of ways like he does," Gonzaga coach Mark Few said. "To end up with 17 boards is monster, and we needed every one of them."

Nolan Hickman added 10 points and seven rebounds for the Bulldogs, who held a 43-30 advantage on the boards. It was just the second home game inside the McCarthey Athletic Center for Gonzaga and first since Nov. 7 against North Florida.

Thomas led Kent State (6-3) with 16 points, including four three-pointers. Malique Jacobs added 11 points.

No. 22 San Diego State 60, Troy 55: Matt Bradley scored 19 points and the host Aztecs beat the Trojans.

Darrion Trammell made a layup in traffic, converted two free throws and forced a key steal in the final three minutes to seal the win for San Diego State (7-2).

Aamer Muhammad scored 21 points for the Trojans (6-4).

Both teams had been averaging about 80 points per game. Troy relied on a pesky defense to limit the Aztecs to 4-for-22 shooting on three-pointers.

NBA

ROUNDUP

Leonard, Clippers top Hornets late

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Kawhi Leonard couldn't have drawn up a better return.

The five-time All-Star had 16 points, including an 18-foot jumper with 1.4 seconds to lift the Los Angeles Clippers to a 119-117 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Monday night in his return from a right ankle sprain.

"I don't think anybody loves playing this game more than me," Leonard said. "It gives me joy when I'm able to play. And it was great that I was able to make that shot."

Paul George also came back from a strained hamstring to score 19 points along with seven assists, helping the Clippers snap a two-game losing streak. Reggie Jackson and Nic Batum each had 13 points, and John Wall added 12 points and 12 assists.

Luke Kennard added nine points off the bench in his first game back from an injury as well.

Charlotte's Kelly Oubre scored 28 points and P.J. Washington added 26 after going 0-for-13 on Saturday night. Washington missed a fadeaway jumper as time expired that would have tied the game.

Getting Leonard, George and Kennard back should provide a huge boost for the Clippers (14-11). Leonard has been out since Nov. 21, George since Nov. 19 and Kennard since Nov. 15 with a calf strain.

George said it's "super important" getting everyone healthy again, and that it felt like the start of a new season.

"This is really a great opportunity to kind of get back on track," George said. "We were playing well when we were healthy, and now we can start building toward the team we were trying to be."

Rockets 132, 76ers 123 (20T): Jalen Green scored 27 points and Kevin Porter Jr. added



SCOTT KINSER/AP

Charlotte Hornets forward Jalen McDaniels guards against a layup from Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard during the first half Monday in Charlotte, N.C. The Clippers won 119-117.

24 to lead host Houston over Philadelphia as James Harden struggled through his return from injury.

Harden had 21 points but shot 4-for-19 from the field in his first game since Nov. 2. Coach Doc Rivers said Harden would be on a minutes restriction in his return. But Harden didn't seem to be limited much, and played 39 minutes.

Joel Embiid had 39 points before fouling out late in the first overtime and Tobias Harris added 27 as the Sixers dropped their third straight.

Celtics 116, Raptors 110: Jayson Tatum had 31 points and 12 rebounds, Jaylen Brown scored 22 points and visiting Boston won for the seventh time in eight games, beating Toronto.

Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart scored 18 points for Boston after sitting out Sunday's win at Brooklyn because of a

bruised left hip.

Blake Griffin scored 13 points and Luke Kornet had 11 for the Celtics, who own the NBA's best record at 20-5. Boston is 16-2 since starting the season 4-3.

Mavericks 130, Suns 111: Luka Doncic scored 33 points, Spencer Dinwiddie added 21 and host Dallas preserved a big lead against Phoenix this time.

The Mavericks remained in control after a 28-8 run covering most of the last 10 minutes of the first quarter while ending a 10-game regular-season losing streak against the Western Conference-leading Suns.

Pacers 112, Warriors 104: Rookie Andrew Nembhard scored a season-high 31 points and added 13 assists and eight rebounds to lead undermanned Indiana over host Golden State.

A second-round draft pick, Nembhard made a key three-

pointer with 4:26 to go and another jumper less than two minutes later. Indiana played without starting point guard Tyrese Haliburton for a second straight game as he nurses soreness in his left groin.

Bucks 109, Magic 102: Giannis Antetokounmpo scored five of his 34 points in the final two minutes to help visiting Milwaukee hold off a late Orlando rally.

Bobby Portis added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Bucks, and Jrue Holiday added 17 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Grizzlies 101, Heat 93: Tyus Jones had a career-high 28 points and 10 assists to lead short-handed host Memphis over Miami.

Thunder 121, Hawks 114: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Josh Giddey had 12 of his 17 points in the final period, and visiting Oklahoma City overcame a 14-point deficit in the third quarter to beat Atlanta.

Nets' Irving no longer one of Nike's athletes

Associated Press

Kyrie Irving's relationship with Nike is officially over, the shoe and athletic apparel maker said Monday, a move that came a month after the company suspended the Brooklyn Nets guard as part of the fallout from him tweeting a link to a film containing antisemitic material.

It was not a surprise breakup, especially after Nike co-founder Phil Knight said in the days after the company suspended Irving that he had doubts there would be any reconciliation.

"Kyrie Irving is no longer a Nike athlete," the company said in a



Irving

statement.

Irving's agent and stepmother, Shetellia Riley Irving, told The New York Times the sides "mutually decided to part ways and we just wish Nike all the best." Irving, without saying Nike by name, appeared to address the matter Monday on his Twitter account.

"Anyone who has even spent their hard earned money on anything I have ever released, I consider you FAMILY and we are forever connected," the Nets guard

wrote. "it's time to show how powerful we are as a community."

Irving has been wearing his signature line of Nike in recent games. It's unknown if the formal ending of his relationship with Nike will affect that, at least in the short term. He had been a Nike athlete for the entirety of his NBA career, starting in 2011, and got his first signature shoe with the company in 2014.

When Nike suspended Irving in early November, the company was just days away from releasing the Kyrie 8, what would have been the latest in his signature line.

"At Nike, we believe there is no

place for hate speech and we condemn any form of antisemitism," the Beaverton, Ore.-based company said at the time.

Irving missed eight games before being reinstated by the Nets on Nov. 20. He apologized that day to those who felt threatened or hurt when he posted a link to the documentary, and acknowledged that he should have handled earlier chances to clarify whether he has antisemitic beliefs differently.

"I don't stand for anything close to hate speech or antisemitism or anything that is going against the human race," Irving said on the day the Nets reinstated him.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	20	5	.800	—
Brooklyn	13	12	.520	7
Philadelphia	12	12	.500	7½
Toronto	12	12	.500	7½
New York	11	13	.458	8½

Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	13	11	.542	—
Miami	11	13	.458	2
Washington	11	13	.458	2
Charlotte	7	17	.292	6
Orlando	5	20	.200	8½

Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	17	6	.739	—
Cleveland	15	9	.625	2½
Indiana	13	11	.542	4½
Chicago	9	14	.391	8
Detroit	6	19	.240	12

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	15	8	.652	—
Memphis	15	9	.625	½
Dallas	12	11	.522	3
Houston	7	17	.292	8½
San Antonio	6	18	.250	9½

Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	14	9	.609	—
Portland	13	11	.542	1½
Utah	14	12	.538	1½
Minnesota	11	12	.478	3
Oklahoma City	11	13	.458	3½

Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	16	8	.667	—
Sacramento	13	9	.591	2
L.A. Clippers	14	11	.560	2½
Golden State	13	12	.520	3½
L.A. Lakers	10	12	.455	5

Monday's games

L.A. Clippers 119, Charlotte 117
Milwaukee 109, Orlando 102
Boston 116, Toronto 110
Oklahoma City 121, Atlanta 114
Memphis 101, Miami 93
Dallas 130, Phoenix 111
Houston 132, Philadelphia 123, 2OT
Indiana 112, Golden State 104

Tuesday's games

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

Wednesday's games

L.A. Clippers at Orlando
Atlanta at New York
Charlotte at Brooklyn
L.A. Lakers at Toronto
Detroit at New Orleans
Indiana at Minnesota
Oklahoma City at Memphis
Sacramento at Milwaukee
Washington at Chicago
Golden State at Utah
Boston at Phoenix

Thursday's games

L.A. Clippers at Miami
Houston at San Antonio
Denver at Portland

Friday's games

New York at Charlotte
Toronto at Orlando
Washington at Indiana
Atlanta at Brooklyn
L.A. Lakers at Philadelphia
Sacramento at Cleveland
Detroit at Memphis
Phoenix at New Orleans
Minnesota at Utah
Milwaukee at Dallas

Scoring leaders

Through Monday					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, DAL	22	254	165	734	33.4
Antetokounmpo, MIL	19	223	145	606	31.9
G.-Alexander, OKC	22	235	197	689	31.3
Tatum, BOS	24	242	172	738	30.8
Curry, GS	23	233	106	689	30.0
Durant, BKN	25	265	178	747	29.9
Davis, LAL	20	217	129	572	28.6
Morant, MEM	20	198	136	569	28.5
Mitchell, CLE	22	216	108	625	28.4
Booker, PHO	24	244	136	681	28.4
Young, ATL	22	194	171	607	27.6
Brown, BOS	23	228	104	615	26.7
James, LAL	16	163	53	418	26.1

WORLD CUP



FRANCISCO SECO/AP

Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou stops a penalty shot by Spain's Sergio Busquets during a penalty shootout in their round of 16 match Tuesday in Al Rayyan, Qatar.

Morocco outlasts Spain on penalties to advance

By TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

AL RAYYAN, Qatar — Morocco became the first Arab nation and only the fourth African nation to advance to the World Cup quarterfinals, beating Spain 3-0 in a penalty shootout on Tuesday.

Achraf Hakimi, who was born in Madrid and previously played for Real Madrid, converted the deciding penalty in the shootout. Abdelhamid Sabiri and Hakim Ziyech, who returned to the national team after a dispute with the previous coach, also scored for Morocco.

Pablo Sarabia, Carlos Soler and Sergio Busquets missed their penalties for Spain, with Sarabia hitting the post and Morocco goalkeeper Yassine Bounou stopping the other two.

The teams drew 0-0 in regulation and extra time.

Sarabia had entered the match in the final minutes of extra time, apparently for the shootout. He replaced Nico Williams, who had also come in as a substitute earlier in the match.

Spain goalkeeper Unai Simón stopped the penalty by Badr Bounou. Simón's counterpart, Bounou, plays for Spanish club Sevilla.

Morocco has been the biggest surprise of the tournament and will next face either Portugal or Switzerland.

Morocco is also the only team from outside Europe or South America to make it to the last eight. The team made the round of

Scoreboard

World Cup	
SECOND ROUND	
Saturday, Dec. 3	
Netherlands 3, United States 1	Argentina 2, Australia 1
Sunday, Dec. 4	
France 3, Poland 1	England 3, Senegal 0
Monday, Dec. 5	
Japan 1, Croatia 1, Croatia advanced 3-1 on penalty kicks	Brazil 4, South Korea 1
Tuesday, Dec. 6	
Morocco 0, Spain 0, Morocco advanced 3-0 on penalty kicks	Portugal vs. Switzerland
QUARTERFINALS	
Friday, Dec. 9	
Croatia vs. Brazil	Netherlands vs. Argentina
Saturday, Dec. 10	
Morocco vs. Portugal-Switzerland winner	England vs. France

16 once before, at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Spain was eliminated by host Russia in a penalty shootout at the 2018 World Cup, and by Italy in the semifinals of last year's European Championship.

"We were unable to score ... so no matter how much we say that we deserved to win for the chances we created and for playing more in their area, it is not going to change anything," Simón said. "The only thing left for us is to accept that we have been eliminated."

It was the fifth straight time Spain played extra time in a knockout round of a major tournament. The team played 120 minutes against Russia and in all three of its knockout games at Euro 2020.



LUCA BRUNO/AP

Morocco's Achraf Hakimi celebrates after his team qualified for the quarterfinals.

Morocco and Spain are close neighbors with a complex geopolitical relationship.

Cameroon, Senegal and Ghana are the only other African nations to reach the World Cup quarterfinals. None of the three advanced to the semifinals.

Moroccan fans significantly outnumbered — and were louder — than the Spaniards at Education City Stadium.

Neither team was able to create many significant scoring chances. Morocco seemed satisfied to keep Spain controlling possession and looked to threaten on counterattacks.

Brazilians keep Pelé in thoughts

By TALES AZZONI
Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — The image of a young Pelé celebrating goals and lifting trophies with Brazil's national team appeared brightly on the shirts, flags and banners of Brazilian fans gathering before the Seleção's World Cup match against South Korea on Monday.

The 82-year-old Pelé remained in a hospital in Sao Paulo recovering from a respiratory infection that was aggravated by COVID-19, and said he would watch the match on television.

"I'll be watching the game from hospital and I'll be rooting for each one of you," he wrote on Twitter. "Good luck!"

In the 10th minute of each half, Brazilian fans opened a large banner with his image behind one of the goals at Stadium 974, a reference to the No. 10 jersey that he used to wear, and chanted his name. In the image, Pelé was shown with the white No. 10 shirt that he wore while playing for Brazilian club Santos.

After Brazil's 4-1 victory, Neymar carried a banner with the soccer great's image and "Pelé" written on it. The entire team then posed behind it near midfield.

The news coming from Brazil early Monday was good. Two daughters and one grandson of the soccer great said he was not under an imminent risk of death.

It was reason for celebration for the many Brazilians who have been cheering for the Seleção and showing their support to Pelé in Qatar.

"We are all happy to hear that he is getting better," 35-year-old Brazil fan Raphael Bissonho said. "He's the King of Football, our biggest symbol in soccer. He represents Brazil as best as anyone. Let's hope that soon he is out of the

hospital and showing us a photo of him watching the national team on the television."

Pelé had a colon tumor removed last year, but neither his family nor the hospital have said whether it had spread.

A few thousand people were at the Brazilian fans' gathering point in Doha on Monday to cheer for the team in the match against South Korea in the round of 16. Many headed to Stadium 974 to watch the game.

"Everyone is thinking and talking about him," said 44-year-old Alexandre Carola, a Santos fan who traveled from Sao Paulo to watch Brazil play. "We are here, praying and hoping that he can recover as soon as possible. And I'm sure that when he watches the match on TV and sees this movement to wish him well, to send him this energy, I'm sure that it will give him more strength to get better and soon return home to his family and friends."

There also was a show of support before the game against Cameroon last week, after news came out that Pelé had been hospitalized.

There were tributes to Pelé put together by tournament organizers in Qatar, as well, including messages of support displayed on building facades. During a drone show at Doha bay, a large Brazilian flag with the No. 10 on it was displayed, along with the message "Get well soon, Pelé."

Pelé won three World Cups with Brazil, in 1958, 1962 and 1970. The Seleção also won the title in 1994 and 2002.

Pelé holds the record for goals in officials matches with Brazil with 77, one more than Neymar, who scored in the first half against South Korea after returning from a right ankle injury.



ANDRE PENNER/AP

Brazil's players hold a banner in support of Brazilian soccer legend Pelé at the end of their round of 16 match Monday against South Korea at the World Cup in Doha, Qatar. Brazil won 4-1.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/MLB

Four selected as Heisman Trophy finalists

QBs Bennett, Duggan, Stroud, Williams vying for award presented to top player

By ERIC OLSON
Associated Press

Quarterbacks Stetson Bennett of Georgia, Max Duggan of TCU, C.J. Stroud of Ohio State and Caleb Williams of Southern California were announced as finalists for the Heisman Trophy on Monday night.

The award given to the outstanding player in college football, determined by a vote of more than 900 sports journalists and past winners, will be presented Saturday at the Lincoln Center in New York.



Williams

Conspicuously absent from the list of finalists is Tennessee quarterback Hendon Hooker, who was the leader of the nation's No. 1 offense before his season ended Nov. 19 because of a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee.

Bennett had been a bit under the radar as a Heisman candidate and perhaps a mild surprise to be one of the top four vote-getters for no reason other than that his statistics don't jump off the page.

"I don't even know what to think right now," Bennett said. "We have a lot of good players who make me look good. It's special. This honor is all about my teammates and this team. I wouldn't be here if we didn't have the team that we have. This honor is for them."

Bennett, a sixth-year player from Blackshear, Ga., does know how to win, though. He has quarterbacked the defending national champion Bulldogs to a second straight spot in the College Foot-



Duggan



Stroud

ball Playoff and is 24-1 as a starter since last season.

Bennett was most valuable player of the Southeastern Conference championship game after throwing for 274 yards and four touchdowns in a 50-30 win over LSU that ran the Bulldogs' record to 13-0.

Of Georgia's three all-time wins over a No. 1-ranked team, Bennett was quarterback for two of them. He was at the controls for the Bulldogs' win over Alabama in the national championship game last January, and he passed for two TDs and ran for another in a 27-13 win over Tennessee last month.

"I understand what Coach (Kirby) Smart means when he says that success comes to those who don't look for it or are too busy working to look for it," Bennett said. "I have never thought about the Heisman. I just wanted to play quarterback at Georgia. I just wanted to play football. I'm thinking of the players and people who have been in this with me. Regardless of who wins, it's a huge honor to be in this group."

Duggan willed TCU to its first CFP appearance with an inspiring performance in the Big 12 championship game against Kansas State.

Duggan, who had heart surgery two years ago, was at the center of one of the signature sequences of the season. It happened late in the



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Quarterback Stetson Bennett is 24-1 as a starter since last season for defending champion Georgia.

fourth quarter when he broke loose for 40 yards and then, visibly out of breath, ran for an 8-yard TD and completed his two-point pass to bring the Frogs back from an 11-point, fourth-quarter deficit. Duggan came up just short of the goal line on a run in overtime, and the Frogs lost for the first time this season, 31-28.

"I think if you watch this game today, I think it's pretty clear that he's certainly deserving to, if not win the Heisman Trophy, to certainly be in the conversation," first-year TCU coach Sonny Dykes said. "His performance has been gritty week after week after week. The guy is one of the best players in college football. I think it's pretty obvious."

Duggan, a fourth-year player from Council Bluffs, Iowa, was Gary Patterson's starter for two seasons before Dykes picked

Chandler Morris over Duggan in the preseason. Duggan regained the job for the second game because of an injury to Morris and ended up leading the Big 12 in every major passing category.

Stroud, in his third season out of Inland Empire, Calif., is a Heisman finalist for the second year in a row. He was fourth in voting last year. He came into this season regarded as the front-runner and remained the favorite as Ohio State piled up impressive numbers through the first eight games.

But he struggled against Northwestern, the worst team in the Big Ten, and he couldn't rally the Buckeyes in the second half of their most recent game, a 45-23 home loss to Michigan.

Still, Stroud has the nation's highest passer rating and is tied for the lead with 37 touchdown passes.

Williams transferred to USC from Oklahoma in February, two months after Lincoln Riley was hired away from the Sooners.

The second-year player from Washington is responsible for a nation-leading 21.7 points per game. He turned in a gutsy performance in the Pac-12 championship game Friday, injuring his left hamstring on a 59-yard run in the first quarter but staying in the game and finishing with 363 yards passing and three touchdowns in the 47-24 loss to Utah.

Williams has thrown for 37 touchdowns against just four interceptions and has amassed a school-record 4,447 total yards. Including his 10 rushing touchdowns, he has accounted for a school-record 47.

AP sports writers Paul Newberry and Stephen Hawkins contributed.

Deals: Turner's signing may start a run on free-agent shortstops

FROM PAGE 24

seven big league seasons with the Yankees. But Cashman said he hasn't received any indication from Judge's camp that the team will have any last chance to match any offers to the slugger.

"I'm not putting a timeframe on him as of today, basically, and we've not put any timeframe on him that way because out of respect for the position he's earned himself in free agency," Cashman said. "And now you've seen in the last 48 hours, people are starting to make decisions. So it's not like we've missed time, in my opinion."

"But I understand that the longer things go, the more at risk you are."

Verlander made his decision Monday, agreeing to a contract with the Mets that is worth \$43,333,333 per year and includes a vesting player option for 2025 at \$35 million, according to a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because there was no immediate announcement.

Verlander departs Houston to step in for Jacob deGrom, who left New York after nine seasons when he agreed to a \$185 million, five-year contract with Texas last week. It also puts Verlander on the same team as Max Scherzer after they played together with the Detroit Tigers from 2010-14.

Mets general manager Billy

Eppler declined to confirm the Verlander move, but he said the team was working on its pitching plans.

"If we are able to add an impact pitcher or a couple of impact pitchers, that would be helpful," he said. "We continue to try to stay mindful of is creating that run differential. That can be done by scoring a lot more runs. However that manifests itself we will have to be open-minded to."

Turner's deal includes a no-trade clause, according to another person familiar with the negotiations who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because there was no immediate announcement.

Turner joins a Philadelphia

team that made it to the World Series this year before losing to Verlander and the Astros. He also reunites with slugger Bryce Harper after the two played together with the Washington Nationals from 2015-18.

Phillies President Dave Dombrowski declined to confirm the move, but acknowledged the importance of adding a shortstop.

"Not that we're not already focused on starting pitching and bullpen, too," he said. "But at least that would complete our major situation from a positional player perspective."

Turner rejected a \$19.65 million qualifying offer from the Dodgers in November, joining a stellar group of free-agent short-

stops that also included Carlos Correa, Xander Bogaerts and Dansby Swanson.

With Turner gone, there could be a run on shortstops for the rest of the winter meetings, especially with restrictions on defensive positioning coming to the game next year. Rodón, who had a 2.88 ERA in 31 starts with the Giants last season, also is attracting more attention with Verlander and deGrom off the market.

"I think that sometimes having some big deals happen, I think can kind of break the ice and allow some deals," said Jed Hoyer, the president of baseball operations for the Chicago Cubs. "It's clear now that that's going to happen."

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	3	0	.750	333	209
Miami	8	4	0	.667	299	289
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	252	223
New England	6	6	0	.500	249	226
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	7	5	0	.583	219	240
Indianapolis	4	8	1	.346	209	298
Jacksonville	4	8	0	.333	258	272
e-Houston	1	10	1	.125	188	287
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	285	236
Cincinnati	8	4	0	.667	312	255
Cleveland	5	7	0	.417	290	300
Pittsburgh	5	7	0	.417	213	277
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	3	0	.750	350	270
L.A. Chargers	6	6	0	.500	272	309
Las Vegas	5	7	0	.417	292	296
Denver	3	9	0	.250	166	204
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	11	1	0	.917	338	226
Dallas	9	3	0	.750	333	206
N.Y. Giants	7	4	1	.625	245	252
Washington	7	5	1	.577	253	256
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	6	0	.500	217	219
Atlanta	5	8	0	.385	288	312
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	230	266
New Orleans	4	9	0	.308	265	297
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Minnesota	10	2	0	.833	289	279
Detroit	5	7	0	.417	315	324
Green Bay	5	8	0	.385	263	302
e-Chicago	3	10	0	.231	270	333
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	4	0	.667	282	190
Seattle	7	5	0	.583	318	304
Arizona	4	8	0	.333	264	321
L.A. Rams	3	9	0	.250	201	280

e-Eliminated from playoffs

Monday's game

Tampa Bay 17, New Orleans 16

Thursday's game

Las Vegas at L.A. Rams

Sunday's games

Baltimore at Pittsburgh
 Cleveland at Cincinnati
 Houston at Dallas
 Jacksonville at Tennessee
 Minnesota at Detroit
 N.Y. Jets at Buffalo
 Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants
 Kansas City at Denver
 Carolina at Seattle
 Tampa Bay at San Francisco
 Miami at L.A. Chargers

Monday, Dec. 12

New England at Arizona

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):

Thursday

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS at LOS ANGELES RAMS — LAS VEGAS: DNP: DT Andrew Billings (fibula), ILB Jayon Brown (hand), CB Tyler Hall (back), TE Jesper Horsted (concussion), CB Rock Ya-Sin (knee). LIMITED: RB Ameer Abdullah (hamstring), RB Brandon Bolden (calf), LB Curtis Bolton (ankle). CB Duron Harmon (quadriceps), RB Josh Jacobs (quadriceps/calf), C Andre James (quadriceps), S Isalah Pola-Mao (ankle), DE Kendal Vickers (back). FULL: LB Denzel Perryman (wrist), LS Trent Leg (ankle).

LOS ANGELES RAMS: DNP: DE Aaron Donald (ankle), LB Travin Howard (hip), LB Terrell Lewis (back), DB David Long (groin), WR Lance McCutcheon (shoulder), QB John Wolford (neck). LIMITED: CB Troy Hill (groin), WR Ben Skowronek (shoulder).

Brady, Buccaneers edge Saints

QB throws 2 TDs in final 3 minutes

BY FRED GOODALL
 Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A relieved Tom Brady stepped to the podium with a big smile.

“Just like we drew it up,” the seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback said after throwing two touchdown passes in the final three minutes Monday night to help the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rally from a 13-point deficit and beat the New Orleans Saints 17-16.

Clearly frustrated and on the verge of being held without a TD pass at home by the Saints for the third straight season, Brady led scoring drives of 91 and 63 yards and the Bucs (6-6) back to .500, tightening the team’s grip on first place in the weak NFC South.

“We’ve had a lot of games come down to the end,” Brady said. “Some we’ve won, some we’ve lost, which is why we’re 6-6. It’s not where we want to be, but we’ll keep fighting.”

Brady, 45, tossed a 1-yard TD pass to rookie Cade Otton, pulling within 16-10 with exactly three minutes remaining. He got the ball back with 2:29 to go, then won it with a 6-yard throw to another rookie, Rachaad White, with three seconds left.

“They played hard, they showed grit. It was a complete team effort, obviously,” Bucs coach Todd Bowles said. “Defense got the ball back, the offense cashed it in. Got it back one more time, cashed it in one more time.”

The Saints (4-9) swept the season series between the division rivals each of the past two seasons, holding Brady without a TD pass in a 38-3 rout in 2020 and in a 9-0 road victory in 2021.

Tampa ended a seven-game, regular-season losing streak in the series with a 20-10 victory in Week 2, sacking Jameis Winston six times and forcing five turnovers.

Andy Dalton, who didn’t play in the earlier meetings, threw for 225 yards and a touchdown without an interception for New Orleans. The Saints, however, ultimately paid for having to settle for three field goals by Wil Lutz on drives deep into Bucs territory.

The Bucs rebounded from an overtime loss to Cleveland to extend their division lead over the Atlanta Falcons to 1½ games.

The last-place Saints missed out on an opportunity to pull into a tie for second with the Falcons. None of the four teams in the NFC South has a winning record.

“I’ve got to go into a bye week knowing that we should have beat this team,” Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan said. “The first



MARK LOGGLIO/AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers running back Rachaad White dives into the end zone for a touchdown as New Orleans Saints linebacker Demario Davis covers during the second half Monday night in Tampa, Fla.



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady reacts to the fans as he runs off the field after the 17-16 victory over the Saints.

time we should have beat this team. This time we should have. ... We should have beat a lot of other teams. We didn’t.”

Brady, who before the game exchanged greetings with the biggest prize on this winter’s baseball free-agent market, AL MVP Aaron Judge, finished 36-for-54 for 281 yards and two touchdowns.

The Bucs quarterback led a long field-goal drive on the opening possession of the game, but only had sporadic success after that until finally getting the Bucs in the end zone with help from a 44-yard pass interference penalty on Saints cornerback Paulson Adebo.

Otton scored on the next play. “Tom Brady is Tom Brady. He was meticulous in staying to the plan of his dink and dunk,” Jordan

said. “He had the one prayer that he sent out there and got bailed out with the flag.”

A week after being shut out for the first time in 332 games, the Saints built a 10-3 halftime lead on Dalton’s 30-yard TD pass to Tayson Hill and a 38-yard field goal set up by just the third interception Brady has thrown all season.

Demario Davis’ pick was also only the eighth takeaway by New Orleans’ defense — by far a league-low — in 13 games. Defensive end Cameron Jordan later forced a fumble that the Saints turned into a 12-play, 7-minute, 20-second drive that Lutz finished with a 21-yard field goal, making it 13-3 late in the third quarter.

“We didn’t make the plays when they were there at the end of the

game and they did. That’s what it came down to,” Dalton said. “We had opportunities for that game to be very different than what it was, and I feel like I’m a broken record saying the same thing. We just missed opportunities.”

Celebrity sighting

Judge was on the sidelines before the game — posing for pictures, signing autographs and wearing a Mike Evans No. 13 Buccaneers jersey. The team also tweeted a short video of Brady greeting the slugger, who has an offseason home in Tampa, where the New York Yankees hold spring training. Judge set an American League record with 62 home runs with the Yankees this year. He also led the AL with 131 RBIs and finished second with a .311 batting average.

Injuries

Saints: Played without cornerback Marshon Lattimore (abdomen) for eighth consecutive game. Safety P.J. Williams was inactive, too, after suffering a knee injury the previous week against the 49ers. ... Linebacker Zack Baun (ankle) left in the third quarter and did not return.

Buccaneers: All-Pro right tackle Tristan Wirfs was inactive with a high ankle sprain. Tight end Cameron Brate (illness) and three defensive starters — cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting (quadriceps) and safeties Antoine Winfield Jr. (ankle) and Mike Edwards (hamstring) — also sat out.

SPORTS



Brady leads Bucs back

QB throws two late TD passes to steal game from Saints » **NFL, Page 23**

MLB

Verlander, Turner get deals

All eyes on free agent Judge as winter meetings heat up

By JAY COHEN
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Justin Verlander is going to the New York Mets. Trea Turner has agreed to a blockbuster deal with the Philadelphia Phillies. There are three more high-profile shortstops in free agency, along with ace pitcher Carlos Rodón.

And one big slugger looms above the whole market.

Baseball's first winter meetings since 2019 kicked into high gear Monday when Verlander agreed to an \$86.7 million, two-year deal with New York, and Turner joined Philadelphia for a \$300 million, 11-year contract. Clayton Kershaw also returned to the Los Angeles Dodgers on a \$20 million, one-year deal.

The biggest outstanding question at the end of an eventful day at a downtown San Diego hotel centered on the status of AL MVP Aaron Judge, who was all the way across the country at the NFL's "Monday Night Football" game at Tampa Bay — right across the street from the Yankees' spring training complex.

Judge is a free agent after setting an American League record with 62 homers, powering the Yankees to the AL East title. He



Judge

also tied for the major league lead with 131 RBIs and just missed a Triple Crown with a .311 batting average.

Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, fresh off getting a new four-year contract, said he spoke with one of Judge's agents on Monday.

"We are in active conversations," Cashman said. "Certainly we'd love to land the plane favorably here in New York in the Bronx. But we're not flying the plane. And so we'll wait, we'll wait for this process to play out."

Judge, a Northern California native, also visited with the San Francisco Giants last month, and there likely are more teams monitoring the market for the 6-foot-7 outfielder who turns 31 in April.

"I feel good about what we've done but some of it is out of our control. I think we've put ourselves in position," said Farhan Zaidi, the president of baseball operations for the Giants.

Judge was drafted by New York in 2013 and spent his first

SEE DEALS ON PAGE 22



KEVIN M. COX, ABOVE, AND ASHLEY LANDIS, LEFT/AP

Above: Justin Verlander agreed to an \$86.7 million, two-year deal with the New York Mets on Monday after winning the Cy Young Award and the World Series last season with Houston. Left: Shortstop Trea Turner is headed to the Philadelphia Phillies after agreeing to a \$300 million, 11-year contract.



Morocco wins penalty shootout with Spain » World Cup, Page 21

