

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Georgia wins second title in a row with historic rout of TCU  
Page 24



FACES

Cage channels Charles Bronson in 'The Old Way'  
Page 15



MILITARY

Cats rule calendar made by Ore. Army Corps of Engineers  
Page 6

Air Force tape test returns with a new waist-to-height ratio >> Page 3

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 81 Edition 189 ©SS 2023 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2023 平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く) 発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50 50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



CHRISTIAN CARRILLO/U.S. Army

A 3rd Infantry Division M1 Abrams tank seen maneuvering at Hohenfels Training Area, Germany, in June is a hallmark of the “hard power” NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Christopher Cavoli sees as essential in today’s world.

## ‘Hard power is a reality’

US Army general at head of NATO command tells allies drastic changes are coming

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Drastic changes are coming for NATO, and the U.S.-led alliance’s top American officer in Europe says members must face this fact: “Hard power is a reality.”

Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Christopher Cavoli, speaking at a security forum in Sweden on Monday, outlined the steps allies are taking, many of which stem



Cavoli

from how Russia’s unprovoked war of aggression against Ukraine is unfolding.

“The scale of this war is out of proportion with all of our recent thinking, but it is real,” Cavoli said. “And we must contend with it.”

The implication is that while

RELATED

Russia intensifies attacks on wrecked city of Bakhmut  
Page 8

“soft power” diplomacy and economic measures favored by some allies in recent years have a role, being skilled with tanks, artillery

and all manner of firepower must take precedence to defend against Russia.

For NATO, implementing its overarching strategy, known as Defense and Deterrence of the Euro-Atlantic Area, is central to its efforts as allies prioritize collective territorial defense, Cavoli said.

The work revolves around tai-

SEE NATO ON PAGE 7

## Calif. storms bring threat of mudslides and drenching rain

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER  
AND STEFANIE DAZIO  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — California saw little relief from drenching rains Tuesday as the latest in a relentless string of storms continued to swamp roads and batter coastlines with high surf, turning rivers into gushing flood zones and forcing the evacuation of thousands in towns with histories of deadly mudslides. At least 14 people have died since the storms began last week.

The storm prompted a few tornado warnings early Tuesday and also was expected to bring heavy snow to the Sierra Nevada a day after dumping up to 14 inches of rain at higher elevations in central and Southern California.

Miles of Sierra highways were subject to chain requirements and closures due to whiteout conditions, and avalanche warnings were posted in the backcountry. The Eastern Sierra’s Mammoth Mountain ski resort reported 4.5 to 5.5 feet of snow, with more expected.

After a brief respite, another

SEE STORMS ON PAGE 10



DOUG DURAN, BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/AP

A resident walks along College Road after the area was flooded during a recent storm in Watsonville, Calif., on Monday.



BUSINESS/WEATHER

Promotions follow Southwest's holiday chaos

*Associated Press*

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines announced a number of executive promotions on Monday, days after announcing that last month's service meltdown will cost the company up to \$825 million, but none of the changes involved the highest ranking officers.

The airline said the changes "will strengthen our operational execution" while also saying they were long-planned and a continuation of restructuring that began in September under a new CEO,

Robert Jordan.

Four of the five executives getting promoted joined Southwest in 2001 or before, although one left for five years before returning to the Dallas-based airline.

The most notable move was the promotion of Adam Decaire from vice president of network planning to senior vice president of network planning and network operations control. Southwest said this would add reliability to its operation by creating "a tighter feedback loop" between designing

the schedule and actually flying it.

A Southwest spokesman said no one was demoted or left the company in connection with Monday's moves.

Southwest canceled more than 16,700 flights over the last 10 days of December that began with a winter storm and grew worse when its crew-rescheduling technology broke down under the strain of reassigning thousands of pilots and flight attendants. The airline said the crisis would lead to a money-losing fourth quarter.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates			
Euro costs (Jan. 11)	\$1.05	South Korea (Won)	1246.11
Dollar buys (Jan. 11)	0.9067	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9220
British pound (Jan. 11)	\$1.18	Thailand (Baht)	33.47
Japanese yen (Jan. 11)	131.00	Turkey (NewLira)	18.7728
South Korean won (Jan. 11)	1208.00		
Commercial rates		(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770		
Britain (Pound)	1.2156		
Canada (Dollar)	1.3404		
China (Yuan)	6.7802		
Denmark (Krone)	6.9246		
Egypt (Pound)	27.6507		
Euro	0.9310		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8082		
Hungary (Forint)	370.99		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4680		
Japan (Yen)	132.02		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3059		
Norway (Krone)	9.9619		
Philippines (Peso)	54.79		
Poland (Zloty)	4.36		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7551		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3313		

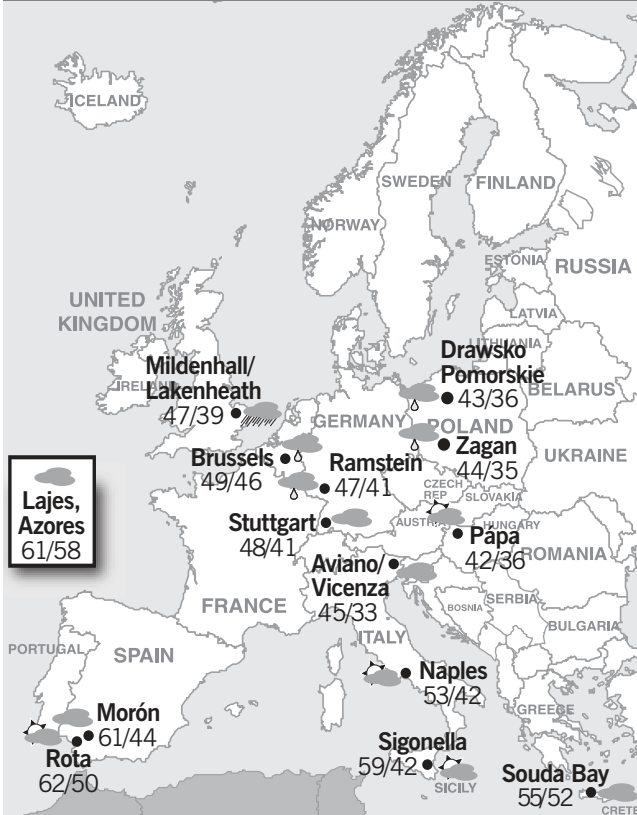
INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	7.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	3.83
3-month bill	4.67
30-year bond	3.65

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



**TODAY**  
IN STRIPES

American Roundup ..... 14  
Classified ..... 13  
Comics ..... 16  
Crossword ..... 16  
Faces ..... 15  
Opinion ..... 17  
Sports ..... 18-24

**STARS AND STRIPES**

However you read us,  
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE		ADVERTISING
CustomerService@stripes.com	+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111	DSN: 314.583.9111
MIDDLE EAST		ADVERTISING
CustomerService@stripes.com	+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111	DSN: 314.583.9111
PACIFIC		ADVERTISING
PacificAdvertising@stripes.com	+81 (42) 552.2511	DSN: 315.227.7310

**AIR FORCE INNS**  
USAF SERVICES

**TURUMI LODGE**  
OSAN AIR BASE, KOREA

Do you have friends & family visiting soon? Or do you just need a time out? Make reservations at the most comfortable and affordable place in town. Room rate is \$72.00 per night for all rooms.

Space Available reservations can be made for up to 120 day in advance.

Turumi Lodge operation 24 hours, 7days a week.

DSN: 315-784-1844    Comm: 82-31-661-1844  
E-mail: turumilodge.reservat@us.af.mil

**www.dodlodging.net    www.51fss.com**



MILITARY



Sailors from the patrol coastal ship USS Chinook transfer weapons seized from a fishing vessel in international waters of the Gulf of Oman, on Friday.

PHOTOS BY U.S. NAVY

US seizes thousands of smuggled rifles in Gulf of Oman, blames Iran

By J.P. LAWRENCE  
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy accused Iran of smuggling weapons and war supplies for at least the third time in recent months, following the seizure of more than 2,000 rifles from a fishing vessel transiting the Gulf of Oman.

A boarding crew from Navy patrol coastal ship USS Chinook intercepted the vessel carrying 2,116 AK-47 rifles on Jan. 6 along a maritime route from Iran to Yemen, Naval Forces Central Command said in a statement Tuesday.

“This shipment is part of a continued pattern of destabilizing activity from Iran,” Vice Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of NAVCENT and the 5th Fleet, said in the statement.

The Navy detained six Yemeni citizens, whose repatriations are in progress, the NAVCENT statement said.



Thousands of AK-47 assault rifles sit on the flight deck of the destroyer USS The Sullivans during an inventory process in the Gulf of Oman, on Saturday.

ment said.

The patrol coastal ship USS Monsoon and the destroyer USS The Sullivans supported the interdiction, the statement said.

Last week’s seizure comes after more than 170 tons of potentially explosive chemicals were seized on a fishing vessel in November. And last month, 50 tons of ammunition rounds, fuses and rocket propellants were captured on another vessel, 5th Fleet has said.

Analysts say Iran and the U.S. and its allies in the Middle East are locked in a cold war of armed proxy groups, covert attacks and influence peddling.

The U.S. has levied numerous sanctions on Iran in recent months, accusing Tehran of carrying out a brutal national crackdown on protests.

National security adviser Jake

Sullivan accused Iran on Monday of “contributing to widespread war crimes” in Ukraine due to Tehran’s sales of combat drones to Russia, The Associated Press reported.

The U.S. says that smuggling to militant groups has increased in recent years in the busy shipping lanes of the Middle East.

Iran has been accused of transferring rifles, rocket-propelled grenades and missiles to Houthi rebels in Yemen, despite a United Nations arms embargo.

The U.S. Navy says it hopes to build a 100-vessel fleet of unmanned surface ships, or drone boats, to patrol the waters of the Middle East by the end of summer.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jplawrence3

Air Force sets new tape test requirements

By ALEXANDER RIEDEL  
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force tape test is returning to base gyms and fitness testing facilities, two years after the service dropped the abdominal circumference measurement in fitness assessments.

The service is introducing a waist-to-height ratio that will determine whether airmen and Space Force guardians meet their annual fitness standards, according to a statement Monday.

The ratio is calculated by dividing waist circumference by height and cannot exceed 0.55.

For example, a person measuring 70 inches tall, or 5-foot-10, with a 38-inch waist would just barely pass with a ratio of 0.54.

The ratio aims to measure excess fat distribution in the abdominal region, the Air Force statement said.

Instead of the top of the hip bones, as before, measurements will be taken at the midpoint between the lowest rib and the top of the hip bones, which is normally the narrowest portion of the abdomen, according to the statement.

The new body composition assessment is mandatory but separate from the annual fitness test.

Initial failure to meet the body composition standard is “nonpunitive,” the service said Monday. Instead, overweight personnel will have to complete a yearlong “informal, self-directed body composition improvement program,” the statement said.

During the program, airmen will receive education on risk factors and may be referred for further medical evaluation.

Space Force members will be referred to so-called guardian resilience teams, which the service plans to establish soon.

While the abdominal circumference measurement under the new format may be less intimidating, it can still affect airmen’s careers.

Missing scheduled measurement appointments can cause “commander-driven administrative actions.”

Measuring in the high-risk category after the 12-month grace period will be considered failure to meet standards and may result in reprimands, delayed promotions or separation.

Studies have found that waist-



CASSIE MORLOCK/U.S. Air Force

**Airmen perform a waist measurement at Gowen Field, Idaho, in 2015. The service announced a new requirement for waist-to-height ratios independent of the annual fitness test requirement.**

to-height ratio is a good indicator of body fat distribution and is strongly correlated with body mass index and other measures of body composition.

Excess fat in the abdominal region is associated with increased health risks such as cardiovascular disease, stroke, diabetes, and hypertension.

As recently as 2019, service officials explored options for a gender-neutral fitness index. Initial proposals of the policy would have divided an airman’s running time by a waist-to-height ratio for a universal measurement of fitness among troops. The plan was ultimately scrapped.

In 2020, fitness testing was paused because of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, the service told airmen it would do away permanently with waist measurements.

A Defense Department policy updated last year, however, continues to require all services to maintain a body composition program for their members.

Airmen will complete their measurement each year in the month of their birthday. Guardians get a bit more leeway and have to log their composition in the quarter of their birthday.

Results will be tracked via myBodyComp, a new application under the troubled myFSS platform, the service said.

Assessments are expected to begin in April.

riedel.alexander@stripes.com  
Twitter: @lexRiedel

Correction

A Jan. 9 story on an Army officer’s sentencing at court-martial incorrectly referenced a dishonorable discharge as part of a dismissal. Officers do not receive bad conduct or dishonorable discharges, but a dismissal at court-martial is broadly considered an equivalent.



PACIFIC

Marines plan new Okinawa force to counter China

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND KEISHI KOJA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps plans a new quick-reaction force on Okinawa to counter Chinese maritime expansion in the region and aid in defending Japan’s remote southwestern islands, a Japanese newspaper reported Tuesday, citing unnamed U.S. and Japanese government sources.

The new Marine littoral regiment, typically about 2,000 Marines, could be established by 2025, the Yomiuri Shimbun reported Tuesday.

The unit will reportedly not add to the total number of Marines on Okinawa.

About 18,000 Marines, sailors and their families already live on Okinawa, according to the Marine Corps Installations Pacific website.

The unit, if the plan moves forward, will be the second of three proposed for the Pacific, according to Yomiuri. The first, the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment, was launched in Hawaii in March.

The littoral regiments are a key



BRANDON AULTMAN/U.S. Marine Corps

**Members of the 3rd Marine Littoral Regiment prepare to take off in an MV-22 Osprey at Marine Corps Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, in August.**

tenet of Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger’s Force Design 2030 modernization effort. They are designed to thwart long-range precision fires by moving quickly and stealthily over land

and sea.

The new Okinawa-based littoral regiment is reportedly on the agenda for talks Wednesday in Washington, D.C., by the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Com-

mittee, or 2+2, according to Yomiuri. The committee is composed of Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada and Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi of Japan and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

The Japanese government is expected to agree to the plan, Yomiuri reported. It said Guam is reportedly being considered for the third planned littoral regiment.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force on Okinawa on Tuesday referred Stars and Stripes to the U.S. National Security Council for comment, “pending the conclusion of national-level leadership meetings and associated announcements,” spokesman 1st Lt. Zachary Voss said by email to Stars and Stripes. Voss said Marine Corps headquarters plans to make a statement following the meetings.

“We anticipate an opportunity to provide local comment in the coming week,” he said.

Japan’s Ministry of Defense did not respond to questions about the proposal emailed by Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

Hirokazu Matsuno, Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary, declined to comment when asked about the Tuesday report during a press conference at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo.

A spokesman from Okinawa prefecture’s base countermeasures department declined to comment by phone Tuesday, saying the department was not yet notified about a new Marine unit.

The Chinese military in recent years has increased its presence in the East and South China seas and stepped up exercises around Taiwan and Japan’s Nansei island chain, which stretches southwest from the main islands of Japan. China’s coast guard has confronted the Japan Coast Guard in the waters claimed by Japan around the Senkaku Islands northeast of Taiwan.

In response, Tokyo has increased defense spending to record levels, placed new bases on their remote islands and dispersed surface-to-air missile batteries.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

Report: In Taiwan, US likely to win costly victory over Chinese

By DOUG G. WARE  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — If China chose to invade Taiwan, it would likely be defeated by U.S., Japanese and Taiwanese forces, but at great cost and loss of life, according to think tank experts who conducted several war simulations.

The Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, released a report Monday that details 24 different war simulations that featured a Chinese invasion of Taiwan. Most of them ended with the island retaining its autonomy and the U.S.-led coalition victorious in defeating China.

“In most scenarios, the United States/Taiwan/Japan defeated a conventional amphibious invasion by China and maintained an autonomous Taiwan,” the 165-page report states. “However, this defense came at high cost. The United States and its allies lost dozens of ships, hundreds of aircraft and tens of thousands of service members. ... China also lost heavily and failure to occupy Taiwan might destabilize Chinese Communist Party rule.”

The military victories depended on several factors, such as immediate Taiwanese resistance, swift U.S. military involvement and use of bases in Japan.

The CSIS analysis concluded, however, “victory is therefore not enough” and recommended the United States “strengthen deterrence immediately.”

Tensions between the U.S. and China have been rising for years, and Pentagon officials recently identified China as the No. 1 competitor for the U.S. in terms of military capabilities and advances.

“My big takeaway here, right up front, is we need to get creative about deterring



Justin Stack/U.S. Navy

**The USS Antietam transits the East China Sea in the Taiwan Strait. A simulation of potential invasions of Taiwan would result in defeat for China.**

China from invading Taiwan,” said retired Air Force Lt. Gen. David Deptula, who is the dean of the Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, another think tank based in Washington.

Deptula said Monday at an event about the release of the CSIS report that the only way China will be deterred from invading Taiwan is if there’s tremendous uncertainty about its chances for success and Beijing understands there will be serious consequences for doing so.

For example, he said, the United States should not exclude the possibility of attacking the Chinese mainland.

Believing that U.S. counterattacks could possibly strike inside Chinese borders

would have a tremendous influence on Beijing if the country was seriously considering an invasion, he said.

Deptula, who served in the Air Force for almost 35 years, further warned any military fight with China would lead to “massive attrition.”

Concerns that Beijing might seek to “unify” with Taiwan — an island off China’s coast that it considers to be a breakaway territory — grew in 2022 after Russia invaded Ukraine, which was based on similar geopolitical beliefs.

President Joe Biden has said in response that the U.S. military would help defend Taiwan if China launched an invasion.

“The [war games] project does not imply that war is inevitable or even necessarily likely. Just that it’s indeed possible,” said Eric Heginbotham, a research scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Center for International Studies. “This project is about uncertainty.”

“A conflict with China would be a disaster,” added William Murray, a professor at the U.S. Naval War College. “We have to deter this conflict.”

Monday’s report identifies several challenges that U.S. involvement would face in a direct conflict with China, which include moving equipment and personnel to the Indo-Pacific region.

“The task of loading and transporting troops, landing on a hostile shore, building up forces and then moving inland is inherently difficult,” the report states. “In 1944, the United States considered an invasion of Taiwan [during World War II] as the next step in the Pacific campaign. The move was rejected because of the difficulty.”

“What this represents is the most stressful scenario that U.S. military forces could

face in the Indo-Pacific,” said Becca Wasserman, a senior defense program fellow at the think tank Center for a New American Security. “And because of that, the Department of Defense is purposefully trying to look at the hardest set of challenges in order to ensure that it can deter effectively. It sheds light on particular problems that need to be overcome.”

The analysis underscores that if deterrence fails, a fight with China would result in scores of casualties.

Matthew Cancian, a senior researcher at the U.S. Naval War College, said the number of casualties would be more than any conflict since World War II.

To conduct the simulations, CSIS used historical data and operational research to model a Chinese amphibious invasion of Taiwan in the year 2026. Information about past military decisions and strategies and theoretical weapons data were also weaved into the rules for the war games. The same set of rules were used for all 24 war simulations.

In the end, the report concludes, projecting a military victory over China isn’t much of a victory because such a scenario would include too many dead and injured, too much physical and economic damage, and too much long-term effect. Paying such a heavy price, it concludes, is why deterrence is the most valuable takeaway.

“Taiwan should become a porcupine,” Murray said. “What I mean by that is, Taiwan should become so difficult to subjugate that it’s not worth the effort. Just like a porcupine rarely gets attacked in the wild, so should Taiwan be in the strategic world.”

ware.doug@stripes.com



MILITARY

# Army revives recruiting station in Japan

By JEREMY STILLWAGNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — For the first time in two decades, the U.S. Army has a recruiting station on the most populous of Japan’s four main islands. Not to sign up prospective recruits from the local population, but to help U.S. service members, their dependents and civilians employed by the Department of Defense looking for a change of scene. In March at Camp Zama, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Blowers, 38, became the only Army recruiter working on Honshu, the main island of Japan and the site of several U.S. military bases in the country, including Yokota Air Base, the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan, and Yokosuka Naval Base, the homeport for the U.S. 7th Fleet. Camp Zama

is headquarters for U.S. Army Japan. “I cover all of Honshu,” Blowers told Stars and Stripes at Yokota on Jan. 5. In addition to the naval and air bases, he visits Misawa Air Base, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and Sasebo Naval Base farther south on Kyushu Island, on a quarterly basis. The decision to reopen a recruiting office at Zama stemmed from increasing interest in the Army among service members and DOD civilians living on Honshu, Bowers said. “Historical data shows that there was this massive drop off, and it’s starting to climb again,” he said. “I know it’s not even just for the Army, honestly, it’s for all branches.”

While military recruiters in Japan may have less trouble finding applicants, the same can’t be said everywhere else. Every military branch had trouble meeting their recruiting goals last year, according to The Associated Press on Oct. 1. Overall, service branches are struggling to find physically capable applicants with the desire to enlist, the AP reported. Enlistments were down about 15% compared to previous years for all branches, even though all but the Army met their recruitment goals. The Army fell short by about 25%, or 15,000, according to the report. Blowers began his recruiting operations in March before he even had an office assigned to him. He said he took to local gyms to con-

duct the necessary physical fitness assessments and coordinated with hospitals on other bases to get applicants the medical exams they needed to complete the enlistment process. Bowers also helps service members from other branches switch to the Army. As many as eight service members per month from the other branches contact him about Army careers. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Adam Wilks, 32, the unit training manager at Yokota’s 374th Communications Squadron, is looking to become a commissioned officer in the Army. “I want to serve in a better capacity and be more meaningful and impactful,” he said. “Air Force [officer trainees], their boards have

either been canceled or have low selection rates. So, I thought, which branch is closest to the Air Force, and it’s the Army.” For the past 20 years, recruiters based on Okinawa were responsible for all recruitment efforts in Japan. When applicants on Honshu contacted their offices to start the enlistment process, the recruiter had to fly to Honshu for the appointment and to start the necessary paperwork. Then the applicant would have to travel to Okinawa to complete tests and physical examinations. “Financially speaking, that process was not very fun, and it was very time consuming,” Blowers said.

stillwagner.jeremy@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JeremyS\_Stripes

## Army Strykers test their firepower near border with N. Korea

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

POCHEON, South Korea — A Stryker brigade flexed its firepower for the first time during drills Tuesday in the snowy hills of Rodriguez Live Fire Complex, roughly 16 miles from the border with North Korea. Around 41 Stryker vehicles from 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team took part in a live-fire exercise that in previous years involved an armored combat team, including M1A2 Abrams tanks.

Last fall, the Army began transitioning to Stryker teams for nine-month rotations to South Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division. The eight-wheeled Strykers are a “significant improvement in mobility” compared to the vehicles in the armored brigade combat teams, Lt. Col. Michael Filanowski, 8-1 Cavalry Regiment commander, told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday. “We have the ability to go pretty much anywhere there’s a road,” he said. “We can move quick, we can move pretty quiet and ... we carry more dismounted soldiers, which is better suited for the mountainous terrain of Korea.” Tuesday’s live-fire event was the culmination of six weeks of training that included digital simulations and an exercise, Filanowski said. At the range, crews inside the Strykers identified simulated targets using cameras and thermal optics and remotely fired their mounted MK-19 grenade



Army 1st Lt. Don Sparaco, a Stryker commander with 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, identifies targets for his gunner during an exercise.

launchers and M-2 Browning machine guns. Targets that represented enemy vehicles emerged from the ground up and fell after being hit by the Strykers. Inside one vehicle, 1st Lt. Don Sparaco, of Suwanee, Ga., identified targets on a monitor for his gunner, Spc. Daniel Howard. “On the way,” yelled Howard, a cavalry scout from Liberia, West Africa, as he fired the M-2 mounted atop the vehicle. Sgt. Maj. Rigoberto Torres said the training was an opportunity for the Stryker crews to “gel as one.” “Once they’re actually out in an engagement, it’s not just one soldier looking through one sight,” he said. “It’s the driver doing his part, the gunner doing his part, the [commander] mapping out wherever they need to go and finding engagement targets.” The training comes amid renewed threats from North Korea.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER GREEN/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team prepare for a live-fire exercise at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in Pocheon, South Korea, on Tuesday.

The communist regime fired more than 70 missiles during 36 separate days of testing last year and flew at least five drones into South Korea’s airspace on Dec. 26. Based on the training, Filanowski said he is confident that enemy combatants facing his Stryker crews would face “the most lopsided victory of one force over another.” “The crews ... are by far the most lethal Stryker crews in the U.S. Army,” he said. “And with our [South Korean] partners, I have no doubt that we would inflict a devastating loss on any enemy that dared to threaten the sovereignty and security of [South Korea].”

choi.david@stripes.com  
Twitter: @choiboy



Army Spc. Daniel Howard, a cavalry scout, removes unused rounds from an M-2 Browning machine gun at Rodriguez Live Fire Complex.



MILITARY

# Adam Driver's charity to fold in next month

**By JOSEPH DITZLER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The organization founded by actor and Marine veteran Adam Driver to involve U.S. service members in the theater is dissolving on Feb. 1, the organization announced Monday.

Driver, known for playing Kylo Ren in the recent "Star Wars" films and twice nominated for an Academy Award, cofounded Arts in the Armed Forces with his wife, actor Joanne Tucker, in 2006 to bring artistic experiences in film and theater to service members and U.S. military bases.



**Actor and Marine veteran Adam Driver, cofounder of Arts in the Armed Forces, performs with other actors at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, in 2016.**

AITAF involved professional artists and contemporary American content, according to its mission statement.

"Unfortunately, given a number of circumstances facing the organization heading into 2023, after a strategic review, the Board has made the incredibly difficult decision to dissolve the organization in its current operating structure, effective February 1," the charity announced in a news release from its office in Brooklyn, N.Y.

The organization provided grants for playwrights with military service, brought high-quality theater productions to military bases and connected service members and veterans with an artistic bent with the theater community, according to a November 2017 report by The New York Times.

"We're reaching out to cadets, current servicemen and women, veterans and providing a space" where they can tap into their inner scribe, Driver told the Times. "The military has acronyms for acronyms that can explain everything, but when it comes to explaining an experience, a post-traumatic experience, there's not a lot of opportunities."

That year, AITAF brought a production of "Jesus Hopped The 'A' Train" to a community center

at Yokota Air Base, the Air Force's airlift hub in western Tokyo, for two nights in March, according to the 374th Airlift Wing.

"This was the first play I saw that moved me," AITAF actress Samantha Soule told the wing for its report. "Before I saw this I used to think plays were only like Shakespeare. I'm so grateful for the chance to bring this to military members overseas."

The organization's board will look for ways to continue some AITAF programs, according to the release.

"We have produced impactful artistic experiences on 26 military bases in 7 countries, and awarded \$50,000 to veteran playwrights and screenwriters through the Bridge Awards," the release states.

AITAF served more than 18,000 members of "our military community" over its 14 years, according to a tweet by the organization Monday.

An email message to the organization's public relations representative seeking further information late Monday was not immediately returned.

ditzler.joseph@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JosephDitzler



**The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Portland, Ore., branch made a 2023 calendar featuring giant cats placed into photos of the Corps' projects. In this photo, two cats watch construction on a jetty at the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon.**

## Cats rule calendar constructed by Ore. Army Corps of Engineers

**By J.P. LAWRENCE**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Gigantic cats using hydropower dams as scratching posts are just some of the pawed pinups in a 2023 calendar released by Pacific Northwest-based U.S. military personnel.

The photoshopped felines are part of an effort by the Portland, Ore., branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to portray their work in an entertaining light.

Staffers at the Portland office, which handles civil works in Oregon and southwestern Washington, placed the big cats into landscape photos of some of their most notable projects.



**A cat sits atop Green Peter Dam near Sweet Home, Ore., in this image from the 2023 calendar.**

February's cats play with a crane, August's cats scream at excavators and November's prowl near a fish ladder.

Engineering isn't always exciting, so the district tries to have a fun social media presence, public affairs specialist Chris Gaylord told NBCtoday.com on Monday.

"I will use levity whenever I can; that's what people enjoy," Gaylord said. "That's not us dumbing things down. That's us respecting and not taking for granted the attention of

our publics."

Gaylord added that he plans to add dogs to the mix in the spring.

The cat calendars are free to download as a PDF that can be printed out at <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org>.

More cats roam around Portland-area dams in photos in the district's Twitter feed and on its Facebook page, which often feature gifs refer-

encing pop culture.

The Portland district is one of 38 in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which has approximately 37,000 personnel, most of them civilians, according to its website.

The agency operates more than 700 dams and 12,000 miles of inland waterways, a 2022 report by the Congressional Research Service said.

## Houston post office renamed in honor of Vanessa Guillen

**By ROSE L. THAYER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — A Houston post office will be renamed in honor of Army Spc. Vanessa Guillen after President Joe Biden signed the change into law Thursday.

The post office at 5302 Galveston Rd. in Houston is just blocks away from where the late soldier attended high school, said Rep. Sylvia Garcia, D-Texas, who filed the legislation. Its official name is now the Vanessa Guillen Post Office Building, according to the

law.

Guillen had a lifelong ambition to serve in the Army and enlisted after graduating from Houston's César Chávez E. High School in 2018. Two years later, she was killed in an arms room at Fort Hood, Texas, by a fellow soldier.

It took Army investigators more than two months to find her body buried near the Leon River about 20 miles from the base.

Subsequent investigations determined the 20-year-old Guillen had been sexually harassed while assigned to Fort Hood but did not

trust the reporting system within her unit. Her story captured international media attention and led to the passage of military justice reforms and changes to how the military investigates and manages sexual harassment and sexual assault cases.



EUROPE

NATO: Cavoli emphasizes importance of force model over diplomacy

**FROM PAGE 1**  
loring military plans by region with updated details on how strategic areas will be defended.  
“Of course, these plans are going to go ahead and drive a tremendous amount of change in the alliance,” Cavoli said.  
For example, command and control structures meant for putting defense plans into action will have to be altered to “make them fit for a new purpose,” he said.  
A new force model to produce larger and more combat-ready forces is also in the works. That will involve having troops ready on a standing basis, as opposed to the rotational, schedule-based model allies have had the luxury of using during the past 20 years.  
The new force model, which Cavoli described as “promising,” is

now being fleshed out with troop commitments from member states.  
On top of that, a new force structure will be installed that will specify the amounts and types of equipment needed across the alliance to conduct operations, he said.  
Such plans will play a role in NATO being able to reinforce eight battlegroups that have been set up along NATO’s eastern flank. Other changes on the way include a more integrated air and missile defense posture in the east, Cavoli said.  
The Russia-Ukraine war has shown the West that it needs to produce weaponry and munitions at a large scale, he added. In Ukraine, the Russians have expended on average well over 20,000 ar-

tillery rounds per day, Cavoli said. Meanwhile, the Ukrainians have fielded 37 front-line brigades plus dozens more territorial brigades. For comparison, the U.S. Army has 31 regular Army brigade combat teams.  
For decades, NATO’s focus was on “out of area” operations such as the war in Afghanistan, while territorial defense fell by the wayside during a post-Cold War era that took peace in Europe as a given.  
The jarring effect of Russia’s full-fledged invasion of Ukraine has put in motion changes almost unthinkable a year ago, such as Finland’s and Sweden’s bids to shift from military nonalignment to NATO membership.  
Regarding Sweden’s accession, delayed because of objections from Turkey, Cavoli said incorpo-

rating the Nordic country into allied defense plans would be easy given the quality of the country’s military.  
“It’s good if it’s easy, because I think the future looks hard,” Cavoli told his Swedish audience. “The NATO you are planning to join is in a new world, one shaped by Russia’s illegal war on Ukraine.”  
Cavoli, an Army officer who also serves as head of the Stuttgart-based U.S. European Command, said that future means prioritizing hard power, a comment that could go against the grain of the sensibilities of some member states such as Germany.  
In Berlin’s previous dealings with Moscow, fostering economic ties and downplaying Russia’s military threat was the norm in the years leading up to the 2022 in-

vasion.  
That mindset held firm for German leaders in spite of the Kremlin’s armed annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the assassination of a Chechen refugee in Berlin by a former colonel in Russia’s security services in 2019.  
But soft power isn’t sufficient in deterring adversaries like Russia, Cavoli said.  
“The great irreducible feature of warfare is hard power. And we have to be good at it,” he said.  
He added that in the military realm, cyber and information operations are also valuable.  
“But if the other guy shows up with a tank, you better have a tank,” Cavoli said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

Stoltenberg confident Finland, Sweden will join NATO despite holdups

*Associated Press*  
BRUSSELS — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg expressed confidence Tuesday that Finland and Sweden will join the military alliance, just days after the government in Stockholm said it did all it could to satisfy Turkey’s reser-

ervations about its membership.  
Alarmed by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Sweden and Finland dropped their lasting policies of military nonalignment and applied to join NATO in May. All 30 member countries must agree to admit the two Nordic neighbors to the world’s

biggest security organization.  
Turkey has held up the process. The Turkish government wants Finland and Sweden to crack down on groups it considers to be terrorist organizations and to extradite people suspected of terror-related crimes. Turkey’s foreign minister

said last month that Sweden had not addressed his country’s concerns.  
“I’m confident that the accession process will be finalized and that all NATO allies will ratify the accession protocols in their parliaments. That also goes for Turkey,” Stoltenberg told reporters at the alliance’s Brus-

sels headquarters.  
He also played down any risk Finland and Sweden might come under attack or pressure for trying to join the alliance, saying the United States and other allies have offered the two bilateral “security assurances” until they are full members.

HERE TO HELP YOU  
GET SETTLED AT YOUR  
*New duty station*

WELCOME TO  
Naples

WELCOME TO  
Bahrain

WELCOME TO  
Germany

WELCOME TO  
Sigonella

WELCOME TO  
Vicenza-Ariano

WELCOME TO  
the U.K.

GET YOUR DIGITAL COPY NOW!  
Head to [stripes.com/special-publications](https://stripes.com/special-publications)

STARS AND STRIPES



## EUROPE

## Russia intensifies attack in eastern Ukraine

By ANDREW MELDRUM

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian forces are escalating their onslaught against Ukrainian positions around the wrecked city of Bakhmut, Ukrainian officials said, bringing new levels of death and devastation in the grinding, monthslong battle for control of eastern Ukraine that is part of Moscow's wider war.

"Everything is completely destroyed. There is almost no life left," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Monday of the scene around Bakhmut and the nearby Donetsk province city of Soledar.

"The whole land near Soledar is covered with the corpses of the occupiers and scars from the strikes," Zelenskyy said. "This is what madness looks like."

The Kremlin, whose invasion of its neighbor 10½ months ago has suffered numerous reversals, is hungry for victories. Russia illegally annexed Donetsk and three other Ukrainian provinces in September, but its troops have struggled to advance.

After Ukrainian forces recaptured the southern city of Kherson in November, the battle heated up around Bakhmut.

Ukraine's deputy defense minister, Hanna Malyar, said Russia has thrown "a large number of storm groups" into the fight for the city. "The enemy is advancing literally on the bodies of their own soldiers and is massively using artillery, rocket launchers and mortars, hitting their own troops," she said.

Pavlo Kyrylenko, the Donetsk region's Kyiv-appointed governor, on Tuesday described the Russian attacks on Soledar and Bakhmut as relentless.

"The Russian army is reducing Ukrainian cities to rubble using all kinds of weapons in their scorched-earth tactics," Kyrylenko said in televised remarks. "Russia is waging a war without rules, resulting in civilian deaths and suffering."

The Moscow-backed leader of



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

**A Ukrainian serviceman carries his injured comrade evacuated from the battlefield into a hospital in Ukraine's Donetsk region, on Monday.**

the occupied areas of Donetsk said Tuesday that Russia's forces were "very close" to taking over Soledar. But the gains were coming "at a very high price," Denis Pushilin told Russian state TV.

Control over the city would create "good prospects" for taking over Bakhmut, as well as Siversk, a town further north where Ukrainian fortifications "are also quite serious," Pushilin said.

The U.K. Defense Ministry concurred with that appraisal of the battle developments. Russian troops alongside soldiers from the Wagner Group, a Russian private military contractor, have advanced in Soledar and "are likely in control of most of the settlement," the ministry tweeted Tuesday.

It said that taking Soledar, 6 miles north of Bakhmut, was likely Moscow's immediate military objective and part of a strategy to encircle Bakhmut. But it added that "Ukrainian forces maintain stable defensive lines in depth and

control over supply routes" in the area.

The Wagner Group's leader, Dmitry Prigozhin, confirmed in a post on a Russian social media platform Tuesday that his forces are fighting in the area and acknowledged "heavy battles" in Soledar against a Ukrainian army he said "bravely fights."

A Western official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Wagner Group "has moved from being a niche sideshow of Russia's war to a major component of the conflict," adding that its forces now make up as much as a quarter of Russian combatants.

An exceptional feature of the fighting near Bakhmut is that some of it has taken place around entrances to disused salt mine tunnels which run for some 120 miles, the British intelligence report noted.

"Both sides are likely concerned that (the tunnels) could be used for infiltration behind their lines," it said.

In Russia, two signs emerged Tuesday that officials were grappling with the military shortcomings revealed during the conflict in Ukraine.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, whose performance has been fiercely criticized in some Russian circles but who has retained Russian President Vladimir Putin's confidence, said Tuesday that his military would use its experience in Ukraine to improve combat training.

Military communications and control systems will be improved using artificial intelligence, Shoigu said, and troops will be given better tactical gear and equipment.

The second indication of trouble involves Russia's production of weapons and other supplies its military needs for the fight in Ukraine. The deputy head of Russia's Security Council, Dmitry Medvedev, warned that officials who failed to meet deadlines for such items could face criminal charges.

Putin appointed Medvedev last month to head a new commission tasked with trying to solve the military's supply problems. Numerous reports have suggested Russia is running low on certain weapons and was sending some troops into battle with insufficient equipment and clothing.

Part of the Kremlin's challenge is keeping up with the weapons and supplies that Western allies have provided to Ukraine. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that NATO members "have become a party to the conflict, pumping weapons, technology and intelligence data into Ukraine."

Several front-line cities in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk and Luhansk provinces have witnessed intense fighting in recent months.

Together, the provinces make up the Donbas, a broad industrial region bordering Russia that Putin identified as a focus from the war's outset and where Moscow-backed separatists have fought since 2014.

Russia's grinding eastern offensive captured almost all of Luhansk during the summer. Donetsk escaped the same fate, and the Russian military subsequently poured manpower and resources around Bakhmut.

Taking Bakhmut would disrupt Ukraine's supply lines and open a route for Russian forces to press on toward Kramatorsk and Sloviansk, key Ukrainian strongholds in Donetsk.

Like Mariupol and other contested cities, Bakhmut has endured a long siege without water and power even before Moscow launched massive strikes to take out public utilities across Ukraine.

Kyrylenko, the Donetsk region's governor, estimated more than two months ago that 90% of Bakhmut's prewar population of over 70,000 had fled since Moscow focused on seizing the Donbas.

Ukraine's presidential office said at least four civilians were killed and another 30 wounded in Russian shelling between Monday and Tuesday.

## US to train Ukrainians on Patriot missile system at Fort Sill

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About 100 Ukrainian troops will head to Oklahoma's Fort Sill as soon as next week to begin training on the Patriot missile defense system, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

Ukraine has long sought the Patriot surface-to-air guided missile defense system because it can target aircraft, cruise missiles and shorter-range ballistic missiles. During his late December visit to the U.S., Ukrainian President Vo-

lodymyr Zelenskyy said the battery would make a significant difference in bolstering Kyiv's defenses against Russia's invasion.

The number of Ukrainians coming to Fort Sill is about the number it takes to operate one battery, and they will focus on learning to operate and also maintain the Patriot, Pentagon spokesman Air Force Gen. Pat Ryder said Tuesday.

Kyiv's decision to take troops off the battlefield to train across the Atlantic in the U.S. is unusual, although it has sent forces for

short-term training at European bases for other more complex systems it has received, such as on the longer-range High Mobility Artillery Rocket System.

Patriot training normally can take several months, but "the longer those troops are off the line, they're not actually engaged in combat," Ryder said, so the training will be shortened.

Fort Sill was selected because it already runs Patriot training schools, Ryder said.

The U.S. pledged one Patriot

battery in December as part of one of several large military assistance packages it has provided Ukraine in recent weeks. Last week Germany pledged an additional Patriot battery.

Each Patriot battery consists of a truck-mounted launching system with eight launchers that can hold up to four missile interceptors each, a ground radar, a control station and a generator. The Army said it currently has 16 Patriot battalions.

The Patriot batteries will com-

plement a variety of air defense systems that both the U.S. and NATO partners have pledged to Ukraine, as it faces an evolving barrage of missiles and drones against its civilian population and infrastructure from Russia in the nearly 11-month old conflict.

In the last few months Germany has pledged four IRIS-T air defense systems; the U.S. has also pledged eight mid-range National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile Systems, or NASAMS, and Avenger air defense systems.



## NATION

# House Republicans vote to slash IRS funding

By KEVIN FREKING

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans began their tenure in the majority Monday by passing a bill that would rescind nearly \$71 billion that Congress had provided the IRS, fulfilling a campaign promise even though the legislation is unlikely to advance further.

Democrats had beefed up the IRS over the next decade to help offset the cost of top health and environmental priorities they passed last year and to replenish an agency struggling to provide basic services to taxpayers and ensure fairness in tax compliance.

The money is on top of what Congress provides the IRS annually through the appropriations process and immediately became a magnet for GOP campaign ads in the fall claiming that the boost would lead to an army of IRS agents harassing hard-working Americans.

The bill to rescind the money passed the House on a party-line vote of 221-210. The Democratic-controlled Senate has vowed to ignore it.

Shortly before the vote, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office projected that rescinding the extra IRS funding would increase deficits over the coming decade by more than \$114 billion. That created an awkward moment for Republicans, who have been saying that addressing deficits would be one of their top concerns in the majority. It offered an



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

**Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., talks to reporters as he walks to the House chamber at the Capitol in Washington on Monday.**

early example of how the GOP's bold promises on the campaign trail could get tangled in the messy reality of governing.

Still, the CBO's projection didn't appear to dampen Republican support. Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., said the extra IRS funding Democrats provided last year was for one purpose.

"To go after small businesses, hard-working Americans to try to raise money for reckless spending, reckless spending that has caused \$31 trillion in debt in this

nation," Duncan said.

Duncan and other GOP lawmakers have routinely said the extra funding will be used to hire 87,000 new agents to target Americans, but that's misleading. The number is based on a Treasury Department plan saying that many IRS employees would be hired over the next decade if it got the money. But those employees will not all be hired at the same time, they will not all be auditors and many will be replacing some 50,000 employees who are expect-

ed to quit or retire in coming years.

"This debate about IRS lends itself to be the most dishonest, demagogic rhetoric that I have seen in the Congress at any point in time," said Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

Charles Rettig, the former commissioner of the IRS, said in a final message to the agency in November that the additional money would help in many areas, not just beefing up tax enforcement. He said the investments would make it "even less likely for honest tax-

payers to hear from the IRS or receive an audit letter."

But Rep. Nicole Malliotakis, R-N.Y., and other Republicans weren't buying the argument that the funding would be focused on auditing the wealthy.

"This is meant to nickel-and-dime, audit and harass America's small businesses and families, who they know cannot afford the legal fees to fight this army," Malliotakis said.

Sen. Ron Wyden, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said a decade of Republican-led budget cuts gutted the IRS.

"The only way that House Republicans could make it any more obvious that they're doing a favor for wealthy tax cheats is by coming out and saying it in exactly those words," Wyden said. "This bill is going nowhere in the Senate."

The White House also said President Joe Biden would veto the bill if it gets to his desk, saying that the wealthiest 1% of Americans hide about 20% of their income so they don't have to pay taxes on it, shifting more of the tax burden to the middle class.

"With their first economic legislation of the new Congress, House Republicans are making clear that their top economic priority is to allow the rich and multi-billion-dollar corporations to skip out on their taxes, while making life harder for ordinary, middle-class families that pay the taxes they owe," the White House said.

## Small drop in traffic fatalities seen at start of 2022

Associated Press

DETROIT — The number of traffic deaths on U.S. roadways fell slightly during the first nine months of 2022, but pedestrian and cyclist deaths continued to rise.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 31,785 people were killed in crashes from January through September last year, down 0.2% from the same period of 2021.

The agency also estimates that fatalities dropped slightly in the third quarter of the year, the second straight quarterly decline after seven quarters of year-over-year increases.

Agency Acting Administrator Ann Carlson said in a statement Monday that there's still more work to do to address a crisis on the nation's roads. She urged people to drive safely and watch out for vul-

nerable road users such as pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

The Governors Highway Safety Association, a group of state traffic safety officials, said the reduction in deaths is welcome, but it follows an unprecedented two-year surge in roadway deaths and dangerous driving.

The number of deaths is down by only 65 from January through September.

"Today's news is a small step forward for safer roads," the group said, blaming the spike in 2020 and 2021 on unsafe driver behavior, including speeding, impaired and distracted driving and lack of seat belt use.

Fatalities began to rise two years ago when roads were largely empty due to stay-at-home orders in many states during the height of the COVID pandemic. With less

traffic, speeds increased, as did reckless and impaired driving, leading to a record spike in deaths last year, authorities have said. Many people weren't wearing seat belts, the government said.

In an effort to reduce the deaths, the federal government is sending \$5 billion in aid to cities and localities to slow vehicles, carve out bike paths and nudge commuters to public transit.

## Feds propose 'student loan safety net' alongside forgiveness

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is moving forward with a proposal that would lower student debt payments for millions of Americans now and in the future, offering a new route to repay federal loans under far more generous terms.

President Joe Biden announced the repayment plan in August, but it was overshadowed by his sweeping plan to slash or eliminate student debt for 40 million

Americans. Despite the low profile of the payment plan, however, some education experts see it as a more powerful tool to make college affordable, especially for those with lower incomes.

Education Department officials on Tuesday called the new plan a "student loan safety net" that will prevent borrowers from getting overloaded with debt.

"Student debt has become a dream killer," Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said. "This is a

promise to the American people that, at long last, we will fix a broken system and make student loans affordable."

Biden, a Democrat, is moving forward with the repayment plan even as his one-time debt cancellation faces an uncertain fate before the Supreme Court. The White House has asked the court to uphold the plan and reject two legal challenges from conservative opponents. The Biden administration submitted its brief last

week, with oral arguments slated for Feb. 28.

The Education Department formally proposed the new repayment plan on Tuesday by publishing it in the Federal Register, starting a public comment period that often takes months to navigate.

If it's finalized, the proposal would give a major overhaul to income-driven repayment plans — one of several payment options offered by the federal government.

The resulting plan would have lower monthly payments, an easier path to forgiveness and a promise that unpaid interest will not be added to a borrower's loan balance.

The federal government now offers four types of income-driven plans, but the proposal would mostly phase out three of them while focusing on one simplified option, scaling back the confusing array of options borrowers now face.



NATION

Storms: Weather knocks out power for thousands

FROM PAGE 1

storm was expected to barrel into the state beginning Wednesday, adding to the misery and further saturating areas already at risk of flooding and debris flows.

The storms threatened coastal and riverside towns and left more than 200,000 homes and businesses without power early Tuesday, according to the website power-outage.us, which tracks utility reports. The weather service issued a flood watch through Tuesday for the entire San Francisco Bay Area, along with Sacramento Valley and Monterey Bay. Areas hit by wildfires in recent years faced the possibility of mud and debris sliding off denuded hillsides that have yet to fully recover their protective layer of vegetation.

The storm — the latest extreme weather event to kick off 2023 — was expected to bring enough rain to exacerbate ongoing flooding and heighten the risk of mudslides, forecasters said.

Forecasters also warned southwestern California could see 60-mph wind gusts at the peak of the storm, while some areas could receive rainfall of a half-inch per hour.

The death toll from the storms that began last week climbed from 12 to 14 on Monday, after two people including a homeless person were killed by falling trees, state officials said.

California state highway authorities said late Monday night that parts of U.S. and state highways were closed because of flooding, mud or rockslides, heavy snow or car spinouts and truck crashes. The closures included northbound lanes of U.S. 101, a key coastal route, and sections of U.S. 6 and State Route 168.

Evacuation orders were issued in Santa Cruz County for about 32,000 residents living near rain-swollen rivers and creeks. The San Lorenzo River was declared at flood stage and drone footage showed numerous homes sitting in muddy brown water, the top halves of autos peeking out.

A 5-year-old boy vanished in floodwaters Monday on the central coast. The boy's mother was driving a truck when it became stranded near Paso Robles. Bystanders managed to pull her free but the boy was swept out of the truck and carried away, probably into a river, said Tom Swanson, assistant chief of the Cal Fire/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department.

A roughly seven-hour search for the missing boy turned up only his shoe before officials called it off as water levels were too dangerous for divers, officials said. The boy had not been declared dead, said spokesperson Tony Cipolla of the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office.

About 130 miles to the south,



RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

People carrying their belongings arrive Monday at an evacuation center in Santa Barbara, Calif.

about 10,000 people were ordered to evacuate in Santa Barbara County.

The entire seaside community of Montecito — home to Prince Harry, Oprah Winfrey and other celebrities — was ordered to flee on the fifth anniversary of a mudslide that killed 23 people and destroyed more than 100 homes in the coastal enclave.

County officials ordered 20 homes evacuated in the area of Orcutt after flooding and a sinkhole damaged up to 15 homes.

Jamie McLeod's property was under the Montecito evacuation order, but she said there was no way for her to "get off the mountain" with a rushing creek on one side and a mudslide on the other. The 60-year-old owner of the Santa Barbara Bird Sanctuary said one of her employees came to make a weekly food delivery and also became stuck.

McLeod said she feels fortunate because her home sits on high ground and the power is still on. But she tires of the frequent evacuation orders since the massive wildfire followed by the deadly landslide five years ago.

"It is not easy to relocate," McLeod said. "I totally love it, except in catastrophe."

Ellen DeGeneres shared an Instagram video of herself standing in front of a raging creek near the Montecito home where she lives with her wife, actor Portia de Rossi. She said in the post that they were told to shelter in place because they are on high ground.

"This is crazy," the talk show host, wearing a hoodie and raincoat, says in the video.

Some miles down the coast another town, La Conchita in Ventura County, was ordered evacuat-



DAI SUGANO/AP

Uvas Creek floods a section of Miller Avenue in Gilroy, Calif., Monday as the latest series of atmospheric rivers hit the Bay Area.

ed. A mudslide killed 10 people there in 2005.

In Ventura County, the Ventura River reached its highest level on record at more than 25 feet on Monday.

Firefighters using helicopters rescued more than a dozen people trapped on an island in the surging waters. The water level quickly dropped to minor flood stage levels overnight.

The storm also washed 3 feet of mud and rock onto State Highway 126, stranding a long line cars and big-rig trucks. Crews worked into the night to pull them free.

In Los Angeles, a sinkhole swallowed two cars in the Chatsworth area on Monday night. Two people

escaped by themselves and firefighters rescued two others who had minor injuries, authorities said.

The National Weather Service warned of a "relentless parade of atmospheric rivers" — long plumes of moisture stretching out into the Pacific that can drop staggering amounts of rain and snow. The precipitation expected over the next couple of days comes after storms last week knocked out power, flooded streets, and battered the coastline.

President Joe Biden issued an emergency declaration Monday to support storm response and relief efforts in more than a dozen counties.

Stanford 'harmful language' guide nixed

The Mercury News

STANFORD, Calif. — Stanford University officials have decided to cast aside a newly crafted "harmful language guide" that sent the internet into a frenzy last month for discouraging the use of words like "American," "Hispanic" and "cakewalk."

The Stanford guide quickly became part of the "culture war" discourse, criticized on social media and in the media for going too far in trying to dictate politically correct speech in professional settings.

While it was conceived as a way to promote a more inclusive and welcoming environment for people of all walks of life, the guide "missed the intended mark" and was broadly viewed as counter to inclusivity," university spokesman Steve Gallagher said in a statement last week.

Written by the Elimination of Harmful Language Initiative at Stanford, in partnership with People of Color in Technology and the Stanford CIO Council, the "language guide" is part of a multi-phase, multiyear project to address harmful language information technology (IT) uses only at the university. Its goal is to "eliminate many forms of harmful language, including racist, violent and biased language" in Stanford websites and code.

Gallagher said the initiative was created to address racist terms historically used in IT, such as "master" and "slave" to describe aspects of systems.

The 13-page guide also discourages the use of what it describes as ableist, ageist, colonialist, and culturally appropriative language, and urges code writers to avoid words ranging from the obvious "retarded" and "spaz" to phrases that might seem more innocuous, like "brave," "American," "Hispanic," "cakewalk" and "homeless person."

"It was this expansion in scope that is at the heart of the intense recent feedback from the Stanford community and beyond," Gallagher said. "The path forward will be determined after reviewing all recent feedback and consulting with university academic and administrative leadership."

In a previous statement, the university made clear that the guide was not university policy and "does not represent mandates or requirements."

But that didn't stop the internet from going berserk over what many labeled too politically correct.



NATION

# GOP calls for intel review of Biden docs

By ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The top Republican on the House Intelligence Committee has requested that the U.S. intelligence community conduct a “damage assessment” of potentially classified documents found in the Washington office space of President Joe Biden’s former institute.

Rep. Mike Turner sent the request Tuesday to Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines,

saying that Biden’s retention of the documents put him in “potential violation of laws protecting national security, including the Espionage Act and Presidential Records Act.”

The revelation that Biden potentially mishandled classified or presidential records could prove to be a political headache for the president, who called former President Donald Trump’s decision to keep hundreds of such records at his private club in Florida

“irresponsible.”

Biden ignored shouted questions about the matter Tuesday during a bilateral meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Mexico.

Turner’s request came a day after the White House confirmed that the Department of Justice was reviewing “a small number of documents with classified markings.” The documents were discovered as Biden’s personal attorneys were clearing out the offices

of the Penn Biden Center, where the president kept an office after he left the vice presidency in 2017 until shortly before he launched his presidential campaign in 2019, the White House said.

“Those entrusted with access to classified information have a duty and an obligation to protect it,” said Turner in a letter to Haines. “This issue demands a full and thorough review.”

The documents were found on Nov. 2, 2022, in a “locked closet” in

the office, according to special counsel to the president Richard Sauber.

Sauber said the attorneys immediately alerted the White House Counsel’s office, which notified the National Archives and Records Administration — which took custody of the documents the next day.

It wasn’t immediately clear why the White House didn’t disclose the discovery of the documents or the DOJ review sooner.



YUKI IWAMURA/AP

Marion Van Reeth, second right, who lost both of her legs in the West Side Highway terror attack, arrives at Manhattan federal court, Monday, in New York.

## Prosecutor: Man who drove into NYC bike path proud of death trail

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man who killed eight people on a New York City bike path in 2017 smiled as he proudly spoke of the carnage, asking to hang the flag of an Islamic militant group in his hospital room, a prosecutor said Monday in the first federal death penalty trial to commence since President Joe Biden took office.

On a sunny Halloween day, Sayfullo Saipov steered a rented pickup truck onto a concrete trail along the Hudson River and accelerated to 66 mph, running over cyclists and pedestrians and leaving a trail of dead and injured.

The rampage came to an end when the truck crashed into a school bus a few blocks from the World Trade Center. Saipov was shot by a police officer who says Saipov emerged from the wreck and pointed black pellet and paintball guns that looked like deadly weapons at him.

After he was shot by the officer,

Saipov was arrested at the scene along the West Side Highway.

Saipov, 34, has pleaded not guilty to terrorism charges. But in his opening statement to the jury, defense lawyer David Patton said his client meant to kill.

“It wasn’t an accident. He did it intentionally,” Patton said, explaining that Saipov had immersed himself in terrorist audio and video materials and social media and was convinced a terror act was his religious obligation.

“And as we sit here today, he still believes that,” Patton said. “Among other crimes, he murdered eight people.”

The lawyer, though, said prosecutors were wrong to claim Saipov acted to earn admittance to a terrorist group and jurors should follow the evidence to see prosecutors are wrong.

Saipov expected to die that day as a martyr to avenge the deaths of Muslims worldwide, Patton said.

As Saipov fiddled with an electronic device at the defense table, Assistant U.S. Attorney Alexander Li described the gruesome scene Saipov left behind, including the dead and serious permanent injuries to about a dozen others.

Li described the attack’s aftermath, in which mangled bicycles were strewn along a popular path.

“The riders, human beings, lay unconscious or dead. Survivors staggered around, wounded and dazed, searching for their family and friends. Screams filled the air,” he said. The dead included a mother visiting from Belgium with her family, five friends from Argentina and two Americans.

“He was eager to speak with the FBI. He was proud of his attack,” the prosecutor said, adding that the agent will testify that Saipov smiled while recounting his destruction. “He told them that his goal was to kill as many people as possible.”

## Chief: 6-year-old shot teacher during class

Associated Press

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — In the moments before a 6-year-old Virginia boy shot his teacher, there was no fight, no physical struggle and no warning, authorities said Monday.

“What we know today is that she was providing instruction. He displayed a firearm, he pointed it and he fired one round,” Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew said.

Drew, who spoke during a news conference, offered the first detailed description of a shooting that shocked the city and was notable even in a country like the United States that seems inured to constant gun violence. Drew had previously said that the shooting was not accidental and had declined to elaborate.

Drew said he wanted to clarify remarks he made just after the shooting on Friday, when he said there was an “altercation” before the shooting. He said it was more like an “interaction” between the boy and his first-grade teacher at Richneck Elementary School, 25-year-old Abby Zwerner.

But Drew also reiterated that the shooting was “not accidental.” “It was intentional,” he said.

Drew also revealed that the 9mm handgun used by the boy was legally purchased by his mother and was in the family’s home. He said the boy brought it to school in his backpack the day of the shooting.

Zwerner put up her hand in a defensive position when the gun fired, and the bullet went through her hand and into her upper chest, Drew said. Although her injuries were initially considered life-threatening, she has improved and is currently listed in stable condition at a hospital.

Drew hailed Zwerner as a hero for quickly hustling her students out of the classroom after she was shot. He said surveillance video shows she was the last person to leave her classroom.

“She made a right turn and started down the hallway, and then she stopped. ... She turned around and make sure every one of those students was safe,” Drew said.

Drew said a school employee rushed into the classroom and physically restrained the boy after hearing the gunshot. He said the boy became “a little combative” and struck the employee. Police officers arrived and escorted him to a police car.

The boy has been held at a medical facility since an emergency custody order and temporary detention order were issued Friday, Drew said. He said it will be up to a judge to determine what the next steps are for the boy. He also said the boy’s mother has been interviewed by police, but it is unclear whether she could potentially face any charges.

As questions loomed about the boy and his mother, Zwerner’s friend told a crowd gathered at a Monday night vigil that the first-grade teacher has shown “dedication and love for what she does day in and day out.”

“Abby is a warrior and she demonstrates mental and physical strength every day,” said Rosalie List, a 2nd-grade teacher at Richneck. “I’m so proud of her.”

Lauren Palladini, Richneck’s school counselor, told the crowd that Zwerner is “sweet. She’s thoughtful. She’s caring. And she’s been one of the most amazing teachers that I’ve been blessed to interact with.”

Gun owners can be prosecuted under a Virginia law that prohibits anyone from recklessly leaving a loaded, unsecured gun in a manner that endangers the life or limb of children under 14.

Legal experts said even though it is theoretically possible under Virginia law to criminally charge a 6-year-old child, there are numerous obstacles to doing so and it’s highly unlikely that any prosecutor would even try.



WORLD

# Hard-liner moves show shift in Taliban control

## Officials cite crackdown on women's rights, changes in policy procedures

By SUSANNAH GEORGE  
The Washington Post

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Taliban hard-liners are consolidating their control over Afghanistan with the recent bans on women's education and work, overriding the wishes of some Taliban officials in the capital, Kabul, and at the provincial level, according to government and aid officials.

The Taliban's supreme leader, Haibatullah Akhundzada, and his fellow ultraconservatives based in Afghanistan's second city of Kandahar are cracking down on social freedoms as their movement transitions from primarily waging an insurgency to governing a large, diverse country.

The draconian restrictions issued by Akhundzada last month, banning women from attending universities and from working for international organizations, demonstrated that real authority continues to reside in Kandahar rather than in Kabul, home to Taliban ministries and the group's acting prime minister.

"This is [the supreme leader] taking more control" over national policy and how his directives are followed in Kabul and elsewhere, said an aid official in Kabul with direct knowledge of negotiations within Taliban leadership. The official, like others interviewed for this article, spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing negotiations or internal policy disagreements.

Akhundzada, an ultraconservative Muslim cleric, has led the Taliban since 2016, rarely appearing in public but increasingly meeting in private with local religious officials. Despite having appointed Taliban ministers and governors after the collapse of Afghanistan's

previous government in 2021, Akhundzada retains the final say on all major national policy decisions.

"At first, we were just sent guidelines" from the supreme leader for formulating policy, said one Taliban official in Kabul at the ministry level. "Now for anything important, we need to get Kandahar's approval," he said.

In other cases, rulings come directly from Kandahar without consultation with Kabul, though the decisions are formally announced by government ministries, he said.

"Not everyone agrees" with the recent rulings, the official said, referring to Taliban members in Kabul and at the provincial level. But Kandahar is demanding more oversight of policy, and ministers who lack a direct line to Kandahar are increasingly sidelined, he said. Two other Taliban officials confirmed his description of the recent shifts in the group's policy-making.

The acting education minister was ousted in September after Akhundzada replaced him with the head of Kandahar's provincial council as part of a wider reshuffle. The reshuffle also saw Taliban members from the supreme leader's inner circle appointed to senior political and security positions at the provincial level.

Qari Muhammad Yousef Ahmadi, a deputy Taliban spokesman, denied any shift in the group's policymaking or implementation.

"The leaders, ministers and members of the cabinet of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan make policies under the guidance" of the supreme leader, and his guidance is entirely based on Islamic law, Ahmadi said.

The recent rulings appeal to



TALIBAN HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRY/AP

The U.N. envoy met with the Taliban-led Afghan government's higher education minister in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Saturday to discuss the ban on women attending universities.

many members of the Taliban's base, but they also threaten to expose critical divisions within the movement and test its ability to maintain unity.

For years, while at war with U.S. and NATO forces, the Taliban maintained a degree of diversity within its network of alliances. The movement's more conservative wing is largely dominant in Afghanistan's mostly rural Pash-tun south, but commanders in the east and north were granted some autonomy in how they carried out the Taliban's strict interpretation of Islamic law. In some districts under Taliban control, for instance, women were allowed to travel to nearby cities to attend university.

With the war over, it's unclear whether the group is prepared to allow a similar level of autonomy within its leadership. While some cabinet members in Kabul and Taliban leaders at the provincial level disagree with the recent restrictions on the rights of women, these figures have not publicly voiced their dissent, fearing it would be interpreted as an affront to Islamic rule and undermine national unity, according to two Taliban officials in Kabul.

Some Taliban officials have suggested that rulings restricting women's education and ability to work are temporary and could be adjusted once stricter gender segregation is introduced and if con-

servative dress is observed. But other officials have come out in strong support of the decrees.

The acting minister of higher education, speaking on Afghan television, accused women in universities of failing to observe a strict Islamic dress code and instead wearing clothing "women wear to go to a wedding." And a Taliban spokesman in Qatar said that Afghan women do not need to work and that "if the international community wants to help women, they should deliver it to their husbands who will share with their wives."

The restrictions have also sparked fierce international criticism and warnings from aid groups that any reduction in the level of humanitarian assistance could leave millions without the ability to feed their families.

"A part of the Taliban leadership appears either not to comprehend the chilling consequences of these latest decisions or they are indifferent to the suffering of millions of ordinary Afghans," said Markus Potzel, acting head of the U.N. mission in Afghanistan. Potzel did not specify what part of Taliban leadership he was referring to but warned that some Taliban leaders also appear "prepared to take the country further into isolation away from the community of nations."

Since taking control of Afghanistan, the Taliban has steadily

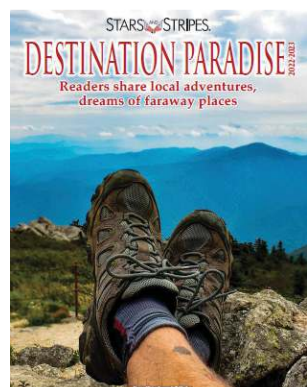
cracked down on women's rights. The majority of female government employees were immediately banned from coming to work in 2021.

In March, a surprise last-minute ruling banned girls from secondary school education. In May, an order heavily restricted how women dress in public, and in November, women were banned from public parks and gyms.

Despite many of the bans triggering global outrage and protests across Afghanistan, senior Taliban leadership has so far refused to overturn any of the decisions, defending them as internal issues that should be free of outside interference.

Ahmadi, the deputy Taliban spokesman, said that the rulings are necessary for the Taliban to establish nationwide Islamic law and that the international community's "responsibility" is to continue to help the Afghan people.

During the first months of Taliban rule, security was the group's primary concern amid fears of a resurgence by the Islamic State group and a simmering resistance movement in the northeastern province of Panjshir. Now, more than a year later, Ahmadi said the group is also focusing on development and social issues. "These are the needs of the people, and they have expectations from us," he said.



Take a trip across the Pacific and beyond with

# DESTINATION PARADISE

Pick up the magazine or get it online



STARS AND STRIPES



WORLD



The LauncherOne rocket is seen in a hangar at Spaceport Cornwall, at Cornwall Airport in Newquay, England.

UK satellite launch fails as space industry mulls setback

*Associated Press*  
LONDON — British officials and space scientists said Tuesday that they were disappointed but not deterred after the first attempt to launch satellites into orbit from the United Kingdom ended in failure. U.S.-based Virgin Orbit attempted its first international launch late Monday, using a modified jumbo jet to carry one of its rockets from Cornwall in southwestern England over the Atlantic Ocean. The plane released the rocket, carrying nine small satellites for a

mix of civilian and domestic uses. But about two hours after the plane took off, the company reported “an anomaly that has prevented us from reaching orbit.” The plane, piloted by a Royal Air Force pilot, returned to Cornwall. The rocket and satellites were destroyed. “This isn’t the first time we’ve been knocked, this is the biggest definitely, but I feel OK and we’ll get up and we’ll go again,” said Melissa Thorpe, head of Spaceport Cornwall.

China suspends S. Korea visas in retaliation for virus testing

*Associated Press*  
BEIJING — The Chinese government suspended issuing tourist and business visas Tuesday for South Koreans—and reportedly for Japanese, too—in apparent retaliation for COVID-19 testing requirements imposed by those countries on travelers from China. The Chinese Embassy in Seoul, in a brief notice on its WeChat social media account, said the ban would continue until South Korea lifts its “discriminatory entry measures” against China. Japan’s Kyodo News service said the ban would also affect Japanese travelers, though there was no similar announcement from China. A Japanese Foreign Ministry official said the government was aware of the report and was holding unofficial discussions with Chinese authorities about measures being considered by Beijing. It would be “regrettable” if restrictions are imposed, the official

said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. China’s Foreign Ministry threatened countermeasures last week against countries that had announced new virus testing requirements for travelers from China. At least 10 in Europe, North America and Asia have done so recently, with officials expressing concern about a lack of information about rapidly spreading virus outbreaks in China. The Chinese announcement in South Korea appeared to apply only to new applicants, and said nothing about South Koreans currently holding visas. South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement that “our government’s step to strengthen anti-virus measures on passengers arriving from China is based on scientific and objective evidence. We have provided information to the international community in a transparent manner and we have communicated with the Chinese side in advance.”

A withholding of visas from South Korean or Japanese businesspeople could delay a hoped-for revival of commercial activity and potential new investment following China’s abrupt lifting of anti-virus controls last month. Business groups had warned earlier that global companies were shifting investment plans away from China because it was too hard for foreign executives to visit under the pandemic controls. A handful of foreign auto and other executives have visited China over the past three years, but many companies have relied on Chinese employees or managers already in the country to run their operations. China’s move appeared to be grounded in its demands that its citizens be treated the same as those of other countries. About a dozen countries have followed the United States in requiring either a negative test before departing China, a virus test on arrival at the airport, or both.

STARS AND STRIPES<sup>®</sup>

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service

- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY	UNITED KINGDOM	U.S.A.
Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730	+44-(0)1638-515714	+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)		+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de	enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk	info@tgal.us
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	www.carshipuk.co.uk	www.tgal.us

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations




Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)  
For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de  
Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...  
Get entertained with...  
STARS AND STRIPES

Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.  
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman found dead inside recycling truck

**CA** EUREKA — Police are investigating after a woman was found dead in a load of recycling picked up by a truck in Northern California.

The body was discovered at the Samoa Resource Recovery Center in Humboldt County, according to the Eureka Police Department.

Trucks deliver loads of recycling to the center from around the coastal region.

“Based on the pickup route, it is believed the female had been picked up from within the city limits of Eureka,” police said in a statement.

It’s not clear how the unidentified woman ended up in the truck, if she was dead when she was picked up or if she was the victim of foul play or an accident.

## Thieves steal \$300K by distracting Brink’s guard

**NY** NEW YORK — A trio of thieves stole \$300,000 from an armored truck in a bold Brooklyn heist, grabbing a sack of cash while they distracted a Brink’s guard by asking for directions, police said.

The trio struck when an armored truck pulled up to a Chase bank on Eighth Avenue and 55th Street in Sunset Park, authorities said.

The driver stayed in the truck while his co-worker, whose job it is to deliver and pick up cash, placed the bag of money on the bumper, police said.

That’s when two of the crooks walked up to the worker, asking for directions, police said.

While they spoke, the third thief slipped in and grabbed the bag, police said. He ran off south on Eighth Avenue with the score, while his accomplices scattered, police said.

## Feral cows face removal from national forest

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Federal authorities have a plan to remove feral cows that are roaming New Mexico’s Gila National Forest and causing damage by over-grazing and trampling stream banks.

The Albuquerque Journal reported feral cattle have inhabited the forest since the 1970s and the U.S. Forest Service began its efforts to remove them in the 1990s.

The Forest Service’s proposed plan would make both lethal and non-lethal methods available to remove the remaining population of unbranded cattle, according to the Journal.

Center for Biological Diversity co-founder Todd Schulke told the Journal that his organization supports the Forest Service’s approach because the alternative is conducting roundups and that still leads to many cattle being euthanized due to stress and injury.

New Mexico Cattle Growers’



Russ Dillingham, (Lewiston, Maine) Sun Journal/AP

# Facing off in foosball

**Auburn, Maine, Mayor Jason Levesque, left, reacts after scoring a goal during a friendly game of foosball against Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, right, and Auburn Police Chief Jason Moen, in Auburn. Collins was visiting the Auburn Police Activities League Community Center that will receive \$3 million that the city is allocating from its share of the American Rescue Plan Act to build a new facility.**

Association President Loren Patterson disagrees with the plan to use lethal on-site measures.

He said the carcasses are left in place and the meat is wasted as opposed to the cattle going to auction, and the practice poses a risk of giving predators a taste for cattle.

**Hot spring roof falls, 7 injured, cause unknown**

**IA** BOISE — A roof collapsed on bathers at an Idaho hot spring, sending seven people to hospitals with a variety of injuries.

The injured ranged in age from 9 to 70. All were conscious and in stable condition when taken for further medical care after the collapse at Givens Hot Springs, the Owyhee County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement.

Witnesses said 15 to 20 people were in the pool when pieces of wood began falling in the water, KTVB-7 reported.

“I saw the first piece of wood come down from the ceiling. I heard it snap and then the whole thing caved in,” Lee Wilson said. “I got hit and knocked out and I went under the water. A firefighter saved me, and my nephew pulled me out. But it was scary.”

Wilson suffered a concussion but was released from the hospital, he said.

What caused the roof collapse at

the privately owned pool 20 miles southwest of Boise was unknown.

**3 hurt as SUV hit small plane in highway landing**

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A small plane clipped an SUV as it made an emergency landing on a highway north of Las Vegas, sending three people to a hospital as a precaution.

Nevada State Police said the two-seater plane was having mechanical issues and had to land on U.S. 95. The agency posted photographs on Twitter showed the SUV’s windshield after it shattered from hitting the plane’s wing as the aircraft was sitting on the left shoulder of the highway.

Authorities said the injuries were not life-threatening.

One southbound lane remained open as authorities conducted their investigation.

**Bear chooses family’s deck to hibernate**

**CT** PLAINVILLE — A Connecticut family is letting a sleeping bear lie for now after discovering it hibernating under a backyard deck.

Vincent Dashukewich of Plainville told WTNH television he was shocked to see the black bear looking back at him when he went to investigate why his dog was growling.

Since then, Dashukewich has taken the advice of the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and let the bear be as long as it is not causing problems. An agency employee said the animal would likely leave by the end of the month.

“He’s been super chill, I’ve gone out to check on him a few times and he hasn’t really moved,” Dashukewich said. “He’s looked at me a few times but he’s pretty calm right now.”

A video of the sleepy bear posted to TikTok has been viewed millions of times.

**Fake teen doctor, now 25, sentenced for new scam**

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — A serial grifter who gained national infamy as a teenager when he impersonated a doctor to defraud a patient is heading back to prison after pleading guilty to stealing more than \$10,000 from his employer.

Malachi Love-Robinson, 25, received a sentence of over two years and four months after pleading guilty in Palm Beach County, Fla., to grand theft and organized scheme to defraud.

Court documents showed that in 2020, Robinson was working as a salesperson for a company that connects shippers with trucking companies. Instead of having customers make payments to the

company, Love-Robinson would have them send the money to accounts he controlled.

Love-Robinson first came to national attention in 2016 as an 18-year-old when he was arrested after opening The New Birth New Life Medical Center, identifying himself as “Dr. Love.”

**Protester guilty of felony in coffee shop fire**

**PA** ERIE — A man accused of setting fire to a northwestern Pennsylvania coffee shop during 2020 demonstrations following the death of George Floyd has pleaded guilty to a federal charge of malicious destruction of property by fire.

Melquan Barnett, 30, entered the plea as part of a deal with prosecutors that calls for them to recommend no more than a five-year federal prison term when he is sentenced May 2, the Erie Times-News reported.

The FBI accused Barnett of lighting fire to “an ignitable liquid” tossed onto a countertop at Ember + Forge in Erie shortly after May 2020 protests were followed by rioting. The front window of the shop had already been broken. Apartments above the shop were occupied at the time but no one was injured.



FACES

# Channeling Charles Bronson

Cage influenced by iconic character while filming his first Western

BY STEPHEN SCHAEFER  
*Boston Herald*

With 100-plus acting credits, Nicolas Cage is only now starring in his first Western.

“It’s purely happenstance. I had been scratching my head for many years wondering why this hadn’t happened sooner,” Cage, 59, said in a Zoom interview about the newly released film, “The Old Way.”

“I mean, I grew up in California. I think I wear a cowboy hat well. So I don’t know why it took this long. I grew up watching movies like ‘Once Upon a Time in the West’ and I enjoyed specifically Charles Bronson’s performance as Harmonica in that movie.”

As Colton Briggs in “The Old Way,” a cold-blooded gunslinger changed by a wife and daughter, Bronson’s laconic character “was always on my mind. The challenge here was, How can I get close to that feeling of minimalism where you can convey so much and do so little?”

What’s unique is that both Colton and his 9-year-old daughter Brooke have, Cage pointed out, “A condition which is never explained. In this condition, they have no feeling for love, or even to react in a normal way in society to a joke. They almost have to ‘act’ like they’re laughing, ‘act’ like they’re crying or ‘act’ like they’re feeling anything at all. On top of that, they both have a propensity for violence.

“It’s through this tragedy that happens on this road trip between father and daughter that they finally learn to love. And that,” he emphasized, “was a bit of a balancing act. You don’t want to feel like you’re portraying a robot. At the same time, you want to feel like you’re within the confines of the character’s condition but still have some emotions and nuance.”

Cage famously grew up part of an artistic family — his birth name is Nicholas Coppola, and “Godfather” director Francis Ford Coppola is his uncle. He always knew he wanted to act. But did he

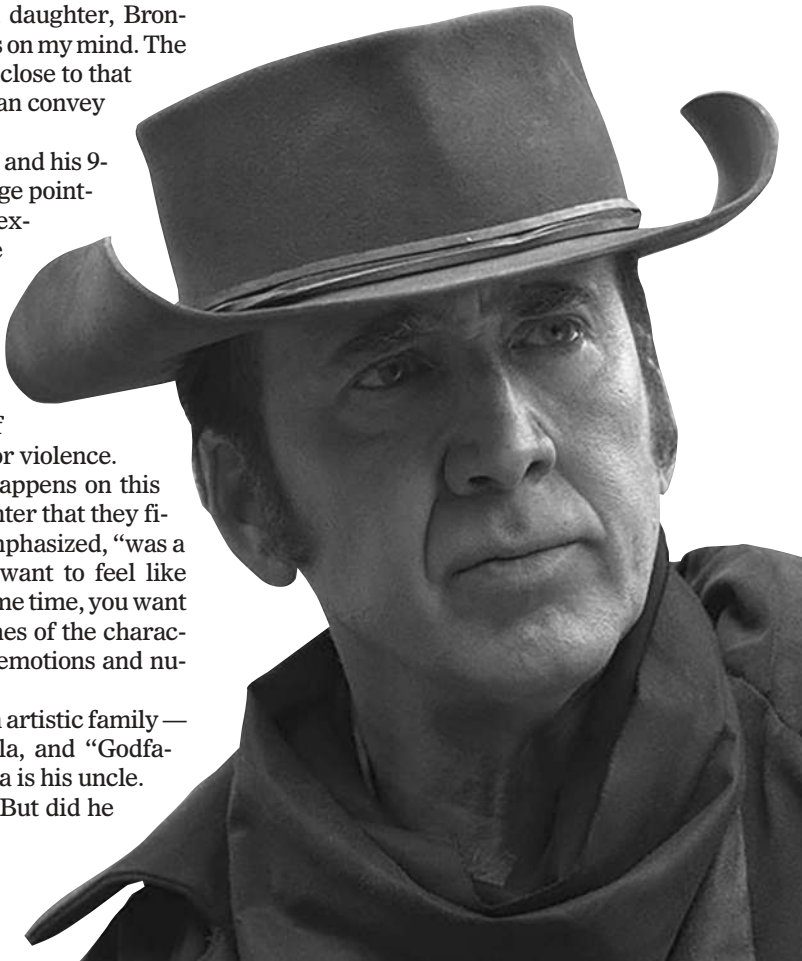


Bronson

ever wonder: Do I do this the rest of my life?

“I think I’m doing exactly what I was meant to be doing. And I feel blessed that I found it at such an early age. But there were times I thought, This isn’t going to happen. I didn’t give up, but I did feel like there were many times when it was getting close to ‘I’m going to try and find a fishing boat or join the Merchant Marines because I don’t think this is going to work out.’

“There are only so many times actors can take rejection before it starts caving you in, where you don’t feel you’re going to make it.”



Nicolas Cage as gunslinger Colton Briggs in “The Old Way.”

LIONSGATE/TNS



Alyse Gafkjen

Singer-songwriter Margo Price, who recently released a memoir, will release her fourth full-length studio album, “Straits,” on Friday.

## This week: Margo Price, ‘Gold, Lies & Videotape’

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

■ The title of Sierra Pettingill’s “Riotville, USA” refers to a fake town the U.S. military created in the 1960s to hold exercises mimicking police and military response to rioting. The drills, staged in front of cardboard storefronts, helped make a violent playbook for controlling the era’s social unrest. “A door swung open in the late ’60s,” reads Charlene Modeste in narration penned by essayist Tobi Haslett. “And someone, something, sprang up and slammed it shut.” Using archival footage from those exercises, “Riotville, U.S.A.,” which debuts Thursday on Hulu, wearily surveys the militarization of the police force.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

### Music

■ Alt-country singer-songwriter Margo Price’s fourth studio full-length album, “Straits,” includes the super kiss-off single “Change of Heart,” with the lyrics, “If you break both your legs / Don’t come running to me.” The album features contributions from Sharon Van Etten, Lucius and Mike Campbell, plus the previously released track “Been to the Mountain.” On “Lydia,” Price illustrates the internal strife and self-doubt of a struggling woman who finds herself pregnant and unable to raise a child. The album will be released Friday. Want more Price? Check out her new memoir, “Maybe We’ll Make It,” which tracks her early years as an artist in Nashville.

■ “I got gothic babe tendencies / I always choose the dark,” sings up-and-coming singer-songwriter

Julia Wolf. Her debut full-length, “Good Thing We Stayed,” is set to drop Friday, and a highlight is the moody, lovely “Gothic Babe Tendencies” featuring blackbear. The Long Island-raised Wolf also leans into her dark side with the smooth and clever single “Dracula” and the lyrics, “I call you Dracula / ’Cause most of you people just can’t even look in the mirror.” But she can also be cheeky, as with her sunny anthem “Get Off My.”

— Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

### Television

■ The team behind the Emmy-nominated HBO docuseries “McMillions” has a new investigative series called “Gold, Lies & Videotape.” It’s about a family who claims its ancestors discovered a fortune in gold bars, jewels and coins hidden in a New Mexico cave, now worth billions. Before they could remove it, an accident barricaded the entrance. The land was then blocked off by the government for military use. One man has been pushing for decades to obtain what he believes belongs to his family, because finders keepers, while others wonder if the treasure trove is just a myth. “Gold, Lies & Videotape” delves into this story in six parts debuting Friday on Discovery Channel and discovery+. The series features images of the treasure plus archival footage and present-day interviews.

■ Andie MacDowell and Chylér Leigh (formerly of “Grey’s Anatomy”) co-star in a new drama called “The Way Home.” The pair play an estranged mother and daughter who haven’t spoken in decades until Leigh’s character’s teen daughter, played by Sadie Laflamme-Snow, brings them together for the first time in 20 years to hopefully repair what’s broken. The 10-episode series debuts Sunday on Hallmark Channel.

— Alicia Rancilio

## Lamar, Foo Fighters to headline Bonnaroo

From wire reports

Kendrick Lamar is returning to Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival this summer along with headliners Foo Fighters and electronic duo ODESZA.

The Foo Fighters were supposed to headline in 2021, but the festival was canceled because of flooding. The rock band returns to touring in 2023 after the death of drummer Taylor Hawkins last March during a South American tour.

Lamar, a Pulitzer Prize-winning rapper, last headlined Bonnaroo in 2015. He released his new album “Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers” last year.

The lineup was released Tuesday ahead of ticket sales starting Thursday for the annual festival that is held in Manchester, Tenn., about 60 miles southeast of Nashville. The festival runs June 15-18.

ODESZA, the duo of Clayton Knight and Harrison Mills, will headline the Saturday night of the festival after coming off a four-year hiatus to release the dance-friendly album “The Last Goodbye” in 2022.



Lamar

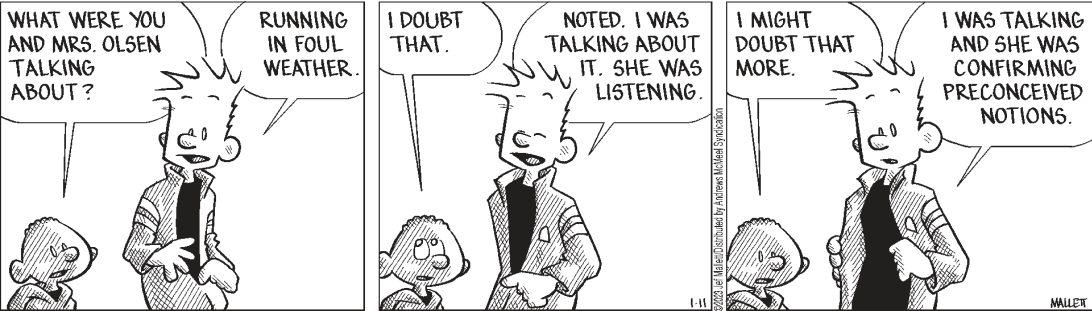
### Other news

■ Netflix is rewarding the cast of its hit show “Stranger Things” for its fifth and final season with substantive pay raises, according to Puck News. The subscription Hollywood news outlet said the entire cast negotiated together except for Millie Bobby Brown, who plays Eleven and has an existing deal with Netflix that includes the “Enola Holmes” movies and an upcoming Russo Brothers film “The Electric State.” Salaries were placed in tiers. In total, Puck estimates the cast budget to be around \$80 million. The two actors in the top tier are the big adult names: Winona Ryder and David Harbour. Both are receiving \$9.5 million apiece, up from \$2.8 million for season three. The four original season one younger male actors are in tier two: Gaten Matarazzo, Caleb McLaughlin, Noah Schnapp and Finn Wolfhard pocket \$7 million. Season two entry Sadie Sink, who truly shined in season four, is part of that tier as well.

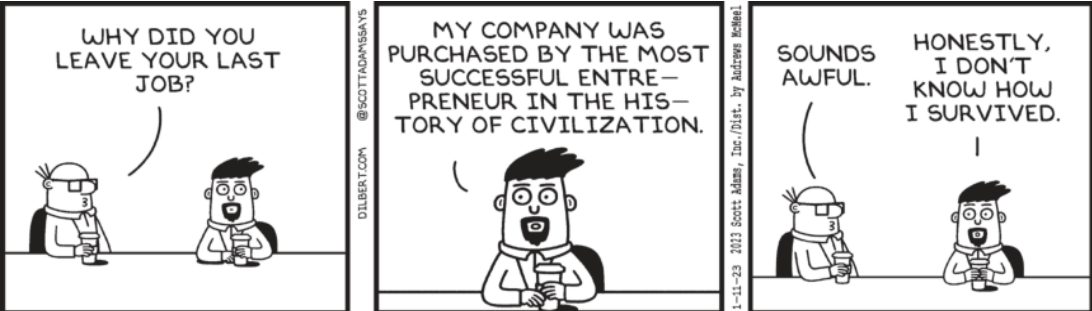
The older teens and young adults are in tier three: Natalia Dyer, Charlie Heaton, Joe Keery and Maya Hawke. They will receive about \$6 million each.



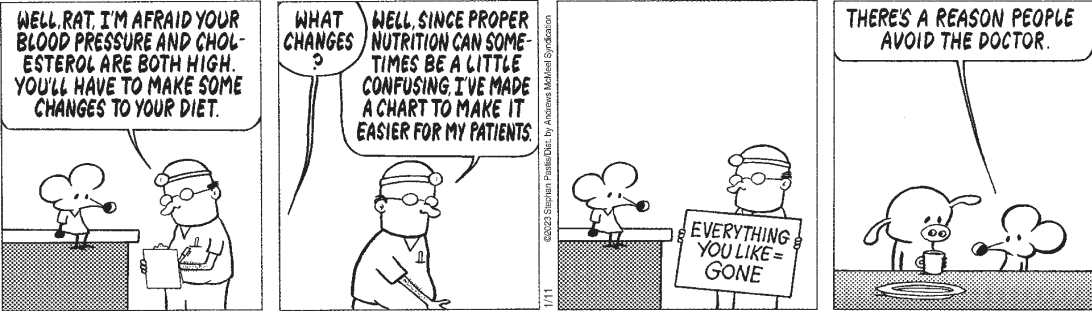
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



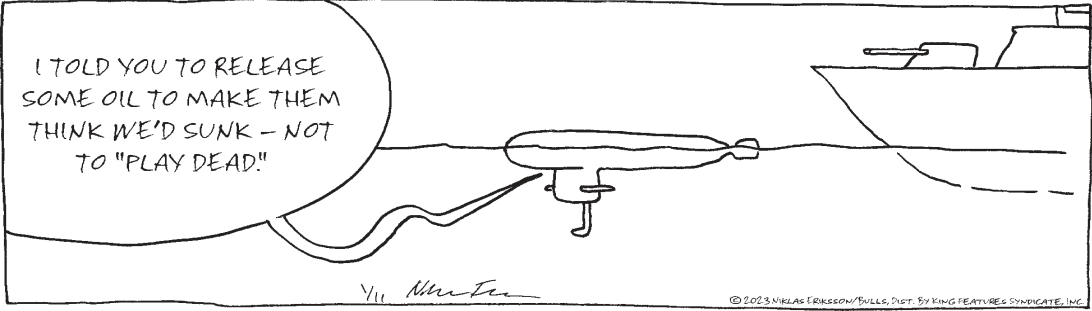
Non Sequitur



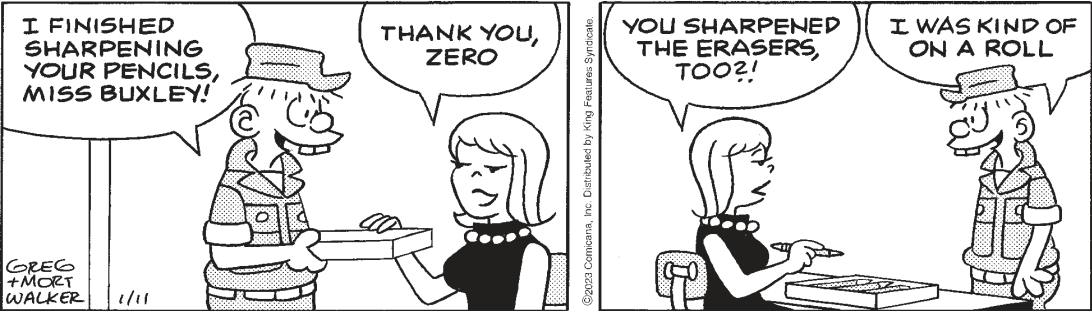
Candorville



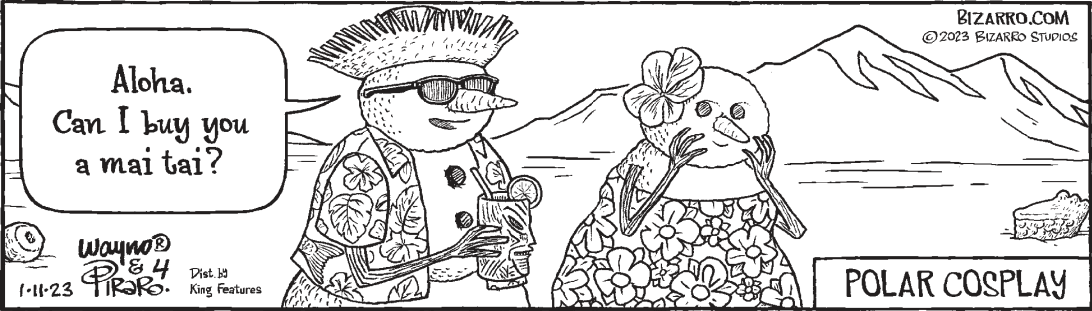
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34						35		
36				37					38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

- ACROSS
- 1 Red planet
- 5 Language akin to Thai
- 8 Mimicked
- 12 Skip
- 13 College URL ender
- 14 New Delhi dress
- 15 One of a fairy-tale trio
- 17 Egyptian deity
- 18 Commercial cow
- 19 Fabric sample
- 21 Hammer target
- 24 Out — limb
- 25 Robbers' foes
- 28 Eye drop
- 30 Occupation, for short
- 33 "Entourage" role
- 34 Heat to near boiling
- 35 Docs' bloc
- 36 Favorite
- 37 Really, really
- 38 Rocky outcrop
- 39 Buddy
- 41 Wife of Zeus
- 43 Vinegar bottles
- 46 Riyadh residents
- 50 Corridor
- 51 Groceries holder, at times
- 54 Hybrid fruit
- 55 Ms. Thurman
- 56 Last writes?
- 57 Sail support
- DOWN
- 1 Sulk
- 2 Lawyer Clooney
- 3 Splits
- 4 Wood applications
- 5 Country music star Greenwood
- 6 Oklahoma city
- 7 Partially mine explorer
- 8 Chinese or Korean
- 9 Buffet area for carb lovers
- 10 Idle or Bana
- 11 Platter
- 16 Actress Arthur
- 20 Dictionary entry
- 22 Craving
- 23 Tether
- 25 Upper limit
- 26 Metal source
- 27 Relentless fighters
- 29 Medicinal plant
- 31 "— Little Teapot"
- 32 Sharp turn
- 34 Chimney grime
- 38 Snowman's nose
- 40 Ignited anew
- 42 Arctic
- 43 Pal
- 44 Sitarist's music
- 45 Tater
- 47 "Fernando" group
- 48 Lure
- 49 Pvt.'s superiors
- 52 Arles pal
- 53 Skillet

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	H	O	P		J	A	M		R	A	M	P
P	A	R	R		U	S	A		A	L	O	E
A	R	B	O	R	D	A	Y		H	O	P	E
			P	I	E		B	A	R	T	E	R
C	E	L	E	B		V	E	R	A			
H	A	U	L		B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y
A	C	A		T	E	R	R	Y		E	C	O
T	H	U	R	S	D	A	Y		C	B	E	R
			E	A	R	L		A	R	I	S	E
B	O	L	E	R	O		U	S	E			
A	B	E	L		O	N	C	E	A	D	A	Y
T	I	N	E		M	E	L		M	O	N	A
H	E	A	D		S	E	A		S	H	A	M

1-11 CRYPTOQUIP

RFMC LYNFC HQE KMXX LMXI

WYAXYSNW RFQ KQSWCMSCXH

KMECYQS TIQTXI MAQEC

CFYSNW? RMDSID ADQCFIDW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN POLAND'S CAPITAL WAS THE SCENE OF A LARGE-SCALE FIGHT, WHAT HAPPENED? WARSAW SAW WAR.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals G



Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Laura Law, Chief Operating Officer  
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander  
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff  
Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander  
Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.com

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

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

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

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

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

Pacific

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

Washington

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

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

CIRCULATION

Mideast

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

Europe

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

Pacific

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

CONTACT US

Washington

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

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at [ombudsman@stripes.com](mailto:ombudsman@stripes.com), or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published week-days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2023

stripes.com

OPINION

The mob in Brazil has done Lula a favor – for now

BY MAC MARGOLIS

Special to The Washington Post

Most days, Brasilia's worst headaches are gridlock and restaurant queues. That changed abruptly on Sunday, when an angry mob overran the Brazilian capital, defied police, attacked the media and trashed the modernist palaces of Latin America's most celebrated political skyline.

If the outburst of rage came as a jolt to this nation of about 215 million people, it should not have been a surprise. For months, political pundits, security wonks and local authorities had warned of the gathering fury. Nonconforming followers of former President Jair Bolsonaro, who refused to acknowledge his loss in October's election to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, doubled down on denialism. They pitched tents in public squares across Brazil and before military garrisons, begging for armed intervention. Yet for weeks, the protesters were regarded with only amusement and disdain. Bolsonaro, after all, had fallen silent and fled to Orlando, Fla., two days before his term ended.

Then, on Sunday, Brasilia became a battlefield. All the windows on the main entrance of the Supreme Court were shattered. Vandals wrapped in Brazilian flags and the yellow jerseys of the Brazilian soccer team invaded the National Congress. Rioters broke into the Planalto presidential palace, razing salons and slashing a painting by Emiliano Di Cavalcanti valued at \$1.5 million. The day ended in clouds of pepper spray, water cannonade and multiple arrests. Come dusk, the Brazilian mobs had outdone their gringo muses of Jan. 6, 2021, by sacking the headquarters of all three branches of government.

New doubts then emerged. Would the turmoil return or spread? And how serious a threat did the riots pose to Lula's presidency? The answers won't come immediately. But chances are good that the mob havoc in Brasilia will end up playing to Lula's advantage, at least for now.

A review of 2.2 million social media posts



ANDRE PENNER/AP

**A demonstrator holds a doll in the likeness of Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva during a protest calling for protection of the nation's democracy in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Monday.**

during the upheaval showed 90% of Brazilians roundly rejected the attacks. This sentiment comes at a critical time for Lula, who is struggling to revive Brazil's post-pandemic economy, keep his unwieldy governing coalition on message and placate markets over the country's deepening fiscal challenges. On Monday, all 27 of Brazil's state governors answered Lula's call for an emergency meeting, while the country's financial markets barely flinched, with the Ibovespa index gaining slightly.

Last month, when Lula's economic advisers dug into Bolsonaro's books, they found a sinkhole. The outgoing administration had tweaked the fiscal rules five times, creating some \$152 billion in uncovered outlays. Not even the emergency spending that Lula brokered with Congress might be enough to cover the shortfall. The new government inherits a system of public services verging on collapse.

Yet by Sunday night, congressional leaders, state governors and public opinion had rallied around the besieged new government. Even Valdemar Costa Neto, the head of Bolsonaro's own Liberal Party and his closest legislative ally, decried the invasion

Without Cunningham, there would be no moon landing

BY BUZZ ALDRIN

Special to The Washington Post

Without Walt Cunningham, we would not have walked on the moon. Subsequently, we never would have beaten the Soviets and begun the process to end the Cold War.

He knew it. I knew it. And America should know it, too.

Walt, who died last week at the age of 90, was the lunar module pilot for the Apollo 7, the first successful manned operation of the Apollo missions. Without that "perfect mission," our flight to the moon never would have happened.

He was a lifetime friend. Selected into the third class of NASA astronauts with me in 1963, Walt was part of the backup crew for Apollo 1, along with Wally Schirra and Donn Eisele. When Apollo 1's crew died tragically in a launchpad fire in January 1967, the backup crew became prime.

It might be hard for people to grasp the pressure under which Walt and that Apollo 7 crew operated. The prior crew never reached space. The American public was restless, and Apollo 7 in some ways was a "go/no go" mission. During the 11-day flight

in 1968, the crew had to test and adjust hundreds of systems — everything from life support, engines and communications to basic electrical hardware — on a spacecraft never flown before. The Soviets were hard on our tail. The mission had to be perfect — and it was.

Walt always stepped up. He was part of the Apollo 1 accident review board and helped redesign the Apollo capsule. Having tested the capsule systems the day before the tragedy, he was in a special position to assess the platform. He suggested design changes, including rethinking the environmental control systems and re-engineering the spacecraft for safety. That ensured success for all subsequent Apollo missions.

If the review board had gotten it wrong, we would probably have had a catastrophic event in space — long before we got to the moon.

Each of us got to the program in a different way. Mine was the U.S. Military Academy; Walt's was studying physics, engineering and working hard. His patience, patriotism, courage and love of flying made him a natural fighter pilot and astronaut.

We worked well together. Together, along

as the work of criminals. Many mainstream conservatives with no love for Lula were taken aback. "The turmoil frightened even right-wing Brazilians who do not support a coup," said political scientist Octavio Amorim Neto of the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

More troubling was the stony silence from the armed forces, which had done little to dissuade the Bolsonarista encampments at their gates from becoming a rabble. "Bolsonaro put the armed forces at the center of national politics," said Amorim Neto. If civilian authorities prove incapable of thwarting the next attack, he added, the risk of military intervention will still be on the table.

The responsibility to stand strong now falls to the new government. Lula is fondly remembered by many Brazilians for his first two terms in office (2003 to 2010), when Chinese demand for raw materials filled national coffers, goosed growth and hoisted the poor into the middle class. But that was then. And many other Brazilians recall the graft and cronyism that metastasized on his watch.

Lula begins his third term more than a decade later, with Brazilians still staggered by a deadly pandemic and the worst recession in decades, amid a continentwide surge in dissatisfaction with democracy. Only 9% of Brazilians trust their politicians, polls suggest. The armed forces rate more than three times as high.

This means that any anti-insurrection bump Lula now accrues is unlikely to last if the economy falters or his government fails to deliver on its many expensive promises. If Brazilians were aghast at Sunday's attempted coup, they remain deeply polarized, with many still sympathetic to the rebels' cause, if not their methods. Bolsonaro might have left the picture, but the sour mood that fed his popularity cannot be cleared away with the tents.

Mac Margolis, an adviser to the Brazilian Igarapé Institute, writes frequently about Latin America. He is the author of "The Last New World: The Conquest of the Amazon Frontier."

with Neil Armstrong and Gene Cernan, we sat in front of congressional oversight committees in the 1990s to share a common view: America cannot afford to lose our leadership edge in space. Human exploration is essential. We must return to the moon, and then go farther.

Finally, on an individual level, Walt knew something about exceptionalism. He flew 54 combat fighter missions in Korea, logged more than 4,500 hours in 40 different planes and spent 263 hours in space.

Less well known might be Walt's wry wit, candor and depth. In a world of egos, Walt always had his in check. Walt's other hallmark was gratitude, for everything — for the chance to fly for the Marines, for becoming an Apollo astronaut and for being able to serve the nation. He and his wife, Dot Cunningham, made it a point to be at mission anniversaries, including the 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 in 2019, held at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. I was grateful for that.

Bottom line: We have lost a real treasure in Walt. Americans should give him thanks.

Buzz Aldrin was lunar module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission.







# NHL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



JEFFREY T. BARNES/AP

**Philadelphia Flyers goaltender Samuel Ersson, right, makes a save against Sabres center Peyton Krebs during the first period Monday in Buffalo, N.Y. Ersson made 28 saves in the Flyers’ 4-0 victory.**

## NHL ROUNDUP

# Ersson, Flyers shut out Sabres

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Joel Farabee had two points and Samuel Ersson made 28 saves to lead the Philadelphia Flyers to a 4-0 win over the Buffalo Sabres on Monday night.

In his fifth start of the season, Ersson earned his first career NHL shutout against the league’s highest-scoring team and gave the Flyers their fifth win in six games.

“I think that’s what’s been impressive about (Ersson), he’s just very calm and he gets about his business,” Flyers coach John Tortorella said. “It helps the team. So I’m happy for him.”

Farabee’s goal and assist came 1:27 apart in the first period. After Zack MacEwen opened the scoring early in the first, Farabee’s goal gave Philadelphia a 2-0 lead. He then helped set up a goal from Noah Cates that made it 3-0. Wade Allison scored about 2 minutes into the third period.

“(Farabee’s) obviously such a smart player and really deceptive,” Cates said. “Coming off surgery and whatnot this offseason, it maybe took him a little to get into the season, but ... he’s been great for us lately, especially.”

Craig Anderson made 34 saves for Buffalo, which was shutout for the first time this season and lost for just the second time in the past 10 games.

“I thought tonight our guys looked and felt emotionally drained,” Sabres coach Don Granato said. “They just had a really difficult time executing things that they execute simple. They didn’t look like themselves. We fought the puck all night and we didn’t look fast.”

**Kraken 4, Canadiens 0:** Vince Dunn and Eeli Tolvanen each had a goal and an assist, Martin Jones stopped 21 shots for his second shutout of the season and visiting Seattle got its fifth straight win.

Daniel Sprong and Matty Beniers also scored, and Yanni Gourde had two assists in his return to his home province of Quebec. The Kraken have outscored opponents 26-8 during their winning streak.

Jones had six saves in the first period, nine in the second and six in the third to get his 27th career shutout.

**Predators 3, Senators 0:** Filip Forsberg had a goal and an assist and visiting Nashville won its fourth straight.

Juuse Saros made 38 saves for his first shutout of the season and the 18th of his NHL career. He has stopped 102 of the 105 shots he’s faced in the last two games — following a 64-save performance Thursday in a 5-3 win over Carolina.

Roman Josi and Jeremy Lauzon also scored for the Predators.

**Kings 6, Oilers 3:** Kevin Fiala had two goals and two assists, Adrian Kempe also scored two power-play goals and host Los Angeles beat Edmonton.

Alex Iafallo and Viktor Arvidsson also scored as Los Angeles improved to 9-2-1 since Dec. 15. Phoenix Copley had 28 saves as he improved to 11-2-0 in 13 starts — all since Dec. 6.

Fiala had his sixth game with at least three points this season and second consecutive. It was the first time in Kings history two players scored multiple power-play goals in a game.

## NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference								
Atlantic Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Boston	40	32	4	4	68	156	88	
Toronto	41	25	9	7	57	141	108	
Tampa Bay	38	24	13	1	49	133	112	
Buffalo	38	20	16	2	42	149	131	
Florida	41	18	19	4	40	133	141	
Detroit	38	16	15	7	39	114	129	
Ottawa	40	18	19	3	39	120	127	
Montreal	41	16	22	3	35	109	156	
Metropolitan Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Carolina	40	25	8	7	57	127	108	
New Jersey	40	25	12	3	53	136	106	
Washington	43	23	14	6	52	140	118	
N.Y. Rangers	41	22	12	7	51	134	113	
Pittsburgh	39	20	13	6	46	128	117	
N.Y. Islanders	41	22	17	2	46	129	114	
Philadelphia	41	16	18	7	39	114	133	
Columbus	39	12	25	2	26	100	152	
Western Conference								
Central Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Dallas	41	24	11	6	54	144	110	
Winnipeg	40	26	13	1	53	133	103	
Minnesota	39	22	14	3	47	126	112	
Nashville	39	19	14	6	44	111	115	
Colorado	38	20	15	3	43	112	110	
St. Louis	41	20	18	3	43	132	148	
Arizona	39	13	21	5	31	108	145	
Chicago	39	10	25	4	24	86	144	
Pacific Division								
	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA	
Vegas	42	27	13	2	56	140	120	
Los Angeles	44	24	14	6	54	148	149	
Seattle	39	23	12	4	50	143	122	
Calgary	41	19	14	8	46	129	124	
Edmonton	42	21	18	3	45	147	144	
Vancouver	39	17	19	3	37	135	156	
San Jose	41	12	21	8	32	126	155	
Anaheim	41	12	25	4	28	96	169	
<b>Note:</b> 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 4, Buffalo 0 Seattle 4, Montreal 0 Nashville 3, Ottawa 0 Los Angeles 6, Edmonton 3								
Tuesday's games								
Columbus at Tampa Bay Minnesota at N.Y. Rangers New Jersey at Carolina Seattle at Buffalo Vancouver at Pittsburgh Winnipeg at Detroit Dallas at N.Y. Islanders Calgary at St. Louis San Jose at Arizona Florida at Colorado								
Wednesday's games								
Washington at Philadelphia Nashville at Toronto Edmonton at Anaheim San Jose at Los Angeles								
Thursday's games								
Carolina at Columbus Dallas at N.Y. Rangers Nashville at Montreal Seattle at Boston Toronto at Detroit Vancouver at Tampa Bay Winnipeg at Buffalo Minnesota at N.Y. Islanders Calgary at St. Louis Colorado at Chicago Ottawa at Arizona Florida at Vegas								
Friday's games								
Winnipeg at Pittsburgh New Jersey at Anaheim Edmonton at San Jose								
Scoring leaders								
Through Monday								
	GP	G	A	PTS				
Connor McDavid, EDM	42	34	43	77				
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	40	22	40	62				
David Pastrnak, BOS	40	32	26	58				
Jason Robertson, DAL	41	28	29	57				
Tage Thompson, BUF	38	31	25	56				
Nikita Kucherov, TB	38	14	41	55				
Erik Karlsson, SJ	41	13	41	54				
Mitch Marner, TOR	41	15	34	49				
Matthew Tkachuk, FLA	38	20	29	49				
Kyle Connor, WPG	40	20	29	49				
Jack Hughes, NJ	40	26	23	49				
R. Nugent-Hopkins, EDM	42	19	29	48				
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	39	23	25	48				
Mikko Rantanen, COL	38	26	22	48				
Alex Ovechkin, WSH	43	29	19	48				

## TOP 25 THIS WEEK

# No. 11 Kansas St. aims to keep rising under Tang

**By AARON BEARD**  
*Associated Press*

The gains have come quickly for Kansas State under new coach Jerome Tang.

The 11th-ranked Wildcats haven’t lost in more than a month and turned two road wins against ranked Big 12 teams last week into Monday’s headline-grabbing debut in the national rankings. They played Tuesday against Oklahoma State and then visit No. 17 TCU on Saturday as part of the national AP Top 25 schedule with their first ranking since the 2018-19 season.

“I am very happy for our fans and for our players and for our staff,” Tang said at a news conference Monday. “Our goal wasn’t to be a ranked team, but it is pretty cool that along the journey it happened.”

Tang had spent 19 seasons at Baylor before taking over at Kansas State, a program picked to finish last in the 10-team Big 12. But the Wildcats (14-1) dropped 116 points in a win at now-No. 10 Texas and claimed a high-scoring overtime win at Baylor last week, matching the program’s best start since the 1958-59 season.

While teams have gone from unranked to the top 10 before, NCAA director of media coordination and statistics David Worlock said Kansas State is the first to go from unranked to as high as No. 11 after the turn of a new year.

Keyontae Johnson averages a team-high 18.8 points, while No. 2 scorer Markquis Nowell posted two huge performances (36 points against Texas, 32 against Baylor) in last week’s wins. Kansas State enters the week with eight straight wins and its first 3-0 start in Big 12 play since the 2012-13 season, and has already matched last season’s win total in Bruce Weber’s final year.

## Big 12

The Big 12 is tied with the Southeastern Conference for the most ranked teams with five each, and Kansas State isn’t the only one of

those meeting Top 25 opponents. The Longhorns host TCU on Wednesday, while No. 2 Kansas hosts No. 14 Iowa State on Saturday.

## SEC

Fourth-ranked Alabama has moved to the top of the SEC’s ranked teams, just ahead of Tennessee in the Volunteers’ first appearance this season inside the top 5. The Crimson Tide visit No. 15 Arkansas on Wednesday for the week’s top matchup, though the Volunteers have a noteworthy Saturday visit from unranked Kentucky.

## Big East

No. 25 Marquette joined No. 19 Providence as the Big East’s two additions to Monday’s latest poll. The Golden Eagles won’t have an easy week back in the AP Top 25 schedule with Wednesday’s visit from sixth-ranked Connecticut and Sunday’s trip to No. 12 Xavier.

## At the top

Houston, which is back at No. 1 for the second time this season, has a light week. The Cougars host South Florida on Wednesday, then don’t play again until visiting Tulane on Jan. 17.

## Watch list

Clemson is the unexpected leader of the Atlantic Coast Conference and sitting just outside the AP Top 25. The Tigers (13-3, 5-0 ACC) host two-win Louisville on Wednesday before getting a marquee matchup with No. 24 Duke on Saturday, and a win against the Blue Devils could be enough to push the Tigers into the poll for the first time in two years.

There’s also Florida Atlantic (14-1, 4-0 Conference USA), which enters the week with the nation’s second-longest winning streak at 13 games. Dusty May’s Owls visit Florida International on Wednesday then host North Texas on Saturday as they chase the program’s first-ever appearance in the AP Top 25.



ERIC GAY/AP

**Kansas State head coach Jerome Tang signals to his players during the first half in Austin, Texas, on Jan. 3.**



ROUNDUP

# Bucks rally in 2nd half to top Knicks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Giannis Antetokounmpo could feel the Bucks playing with more energy and could sense a shift in their confidence on their three-point shots.

“Once we made one, then we made the second one,” he said. “Then we made the third one.”

And pretty soon, their 17-point deficit was gone.

Antetokounmpo had 22 points and 10 rebounds, and Milwaukee rallied in the second half and beat the New York Knicks 111-107 on Monday night.

Joe Ingles added a season-high 17 points and Brook Lopez also scored 17 for the Bucks, who made 12 three-pointers after falling behind 70-53 with five minutes remaining in the third quarter.

“I think in the long run we’re going to make a lot of those shots,” Ingles said.

Lopez made one that snapped a 97-all tie before Jrue Holiday — forced to the bench after committing three fouls in the first 4½ minutes — scored five straight Milwaukee points. The Bucks closed it out at the free throw line to snap the Knicks’ four-game winning streak and bounce back nicely after allowing a season-worst 51 points in the first quarter of their loss to Charlotte on Friday.

Jalen Brunson scored a career-high 44 points for the Knicks, adding seven assists. Julius Randle had 25 points, 16 rebounds and five assists, but was just 1-for-12 from three-point range.

Ingles, who didn’t play for the Bucks until last month after missing the first 29 games recovering from a torn ACL in his left knee,



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

The New York Knicks’ Julius Randle, left, defends the Milwaukee Bucks’ Giannis Antetokounmpo during the second half Monday in New York. Antetokounmpo had 22 points in the Bucks 111-107 win.

helped fuel the comeback with five three-pointers.

“It’s nice to finish a game, it’s nice to be in those situations obviously,” Ingles said.

**Celtics 107, Bulls 99:** Jayson Tatum scored 32 points and Jaylen Brown added 19, as host Boston beat Chicago and reached the midway point of its season with the NBA’s best record.

Grant Williams added 20 points and Al Horford had seven rebounds and eight points, including a clutch three-pointer with 24 seconds to play that helped seal the win for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who are 29-12

after the first 41 games. Malcolm Brogdon scored 20 points for Boston, which played without injured point guard Marcus Smart.

**Nuggets 122, Lakers 109:** Jamal Murray scored a season-high 34 points, Nikola Jokic recorded his 11th triple double of the season and host Denver beat Los Angeles in a game in which LeBron James sat out due to a sore left ankle.

Jokic finished with 14 points — on 5 of 5 shooting — grabbed 11 rebounds and dished out 16 assists to help the Nuggets win their 11th straight home game. It’s their longest home streak since capturing 12 in a row in 2018. Denver remains

tied with Memphis for the top spot in the Western Conference.

**Grizzlies 121, Spurs 113:** Tyus Jones, filling in for Ja Morant, had 24 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 16 and host Memphis withstood a comeback attempt by San Antonio.

Desmond Bane and Dillon Brooks finished with 15 apiece for Memphis, which played its second consecutive game without Morant, its leading scorer, who is nursing soreness in his right thigh.

**Pelicans 132, Wizards 112:** CJ McCollum scored 34 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 27 points and 12 rebounds as visiting New Orleans beat Washington.

# Durant out at least 2 weeks with knee injury

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Kevin Durant has a sprained right knee and the Brooklyn Nets said he will miss at least two weeks.

Durant was hurt Sunday during the third quarter of the Nets’ 102-101 victory in Miami after the Heat’s Jimmy Butler fell into his knee. Durant grabbed at his knee and briefly remained in the game before asking to come out and going to the locker room.

He had an MRI on Monday that revealed an isolated sprain in his medial collateral ligament. The team said he would be re-evaluated in two weeks.

Durant has led the Nets to 18 wins in their last 20 games and a 27-13 record, a game behind Boston for the best record in the NBA.

He missed 21 games last season when he sprained his left MCL in January — also when a player fell into him — and the Nets fell apart.



MATTHEW HINTON / AP

Brooklyn Nets forward Kevin Durant warms up before a game against the New Orleans Pelicans in New Orleans on Friday.

They went 5-16, tumbling down the standings, and their poor play without him contributed to Durant’s disappointment with the franchise and trade request over the summer.

Durant eventually rescinded the request and has been playing some of the best basketball of his career this season. He is sixth in the league with 29.7 points per game and shooting a career-high

55.9% from the field. Durant passed Dominique Wilkins to move into 14th place on the NBA’s career scoring list earlier in Sunday’s game.

Now the Nets will hope to better withstand his absence, believing they are better balanced than last season under coach Jacque Vaughn.

“The strength of our team is us picking each other up and just being ready for whatever’s thrown at us,” teammate Kyrie Irving said after the game.

The Nets play again Thursday when they host Boston in a nationally televised showdown. If Durant can return soon after the next evaluation, he could be ready to play in the Feb. 19 All-Star Game in Salt Lake City. The current leading vote-getter among Eastern Conference frontcourt players had to miss the game because of injury last season.

## NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	12	.707	—
Brooklyn	27	13	.675	1½
Philadelphia	24	15	.615	4
New York	22	19	.537	7
Toronto	17	23	.425	11½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	20	.512	—
Atlanta	19	21	.475	1½
Washington	17	24	.415	4
Orlando	15	26	.366	6
Charlotte	11	30	.268	10
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	26	14	.650	—
Cleveland	26	15	.634	½
Indiana	23	18	.561	3½
Chicago	19	22	.463	7½
Detroit	11	32	.256	16½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	27	13	.675	—
New Orleans	25	16	.610	2½
Dallas	23	18	.561	4½
San Antonio	13	28	.317	14½
Houston	10	30	.250	17
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	27	13	.675	—
Minnesota	20	21	.488	7½
Portland	19	20	.487	7½
Utah	20	23	.465	8½
Oklahoma City	18	22	.450	9
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	21	18	.538	—
Golden State	20	20	.500	1½
L.A. Clippers	21	21	.500	1½
Phoenix	20	21	.488	2
L.A. Lakers	19	22	.463	3
Sunday's games				
Philadelphia 123, Detroit 111				
Toronto 117, Portland 105				
Indiana 116, Charlotte 111				
Brooklyn 102, Miami 101				
Memphis 123, Utah 118				
Minnesota 104, Houston 96				
Oklahoma City 120, Dallas 109				
Cleveland 112, Phoenix 98				
Atlanta 112, L.A. Clippers 108				
Monday's games				
New Orleans 123, Washington 112				
Boston 107, Chicago 99				
Milwaukee 111, New York 107				
Memphis 121, San Antonio 113				
Denver 122, L.A. Lakers 109				
Sacramento 136, Orlando 111				
Tuesday's games				
Detroit at Philadelphia				
Charlotte at Toronto				
Oklahoma City at Miami				
Cleveland at Utah				
Orlando at Portland				
Phoenix at Golden State				
Dallas at L.A. Clippers				
Wednesday's games				
Chicago at Washington				
Minnesota at Detroit				
Indiana at New York				
Milwaukee at Atlanta				
New Orleans at Boston				
San Antonio at Memphis				
Houston at Sacramento				
Phoenix at Denver				
Thursday's games				
Oklahoma City at Philadelphia				
Boston at Brooklyn				
Charlotte at Toronto				
Milwaukee at Miami				
Cleveland at Portland				
Dallas at L.A. Lakers				
Friday's games				
Atlanta at Indiana				
New Orleans at Detroit				
New York at Washington				
Golden State at San Antonio				
Oklahoma City at Chicago				
Phoenix at Minnesota				
Orlando at Utah				
Denver at L.A. Clippers				
Houston at Sacramento				
Assist leaders				
Through Monday				
	G	AST	AVG	
Haliburton, IND	39	402	10.3	
Young, ATL	36	353	9.8	
Jokic, DEN	37	359	9.7	
Doncic, DAL	37	323	8.7	



# NFL

## Final statistics

AFC individual leaders						
Quarterbacks						
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int	
Mahomes, KC	648	435	5250	41	12	
Herbert, LAC	699	477	4739	25	10	
Burrow, Cin	606	414	4475	35	12	
Allen, Buf	567	359	4283	35	14	
Lawrence, Jac	584	387	4113	25	8	
Tagovailoa, Mia	400	259	3548	25	8	
Wilson, Den	483	292	3524	16	11	
Carr, Las	502	305	3522	24	14	
Mills, Hou	479	292	3118	17	15	
Ryan, Ind	461	309	3057	14	13	
Rushers						
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
Jacobs, Las	340	1653	4.9	86t	12	
Henry, Ten	349	1538	4.4	56	13	
Chubb, Cle	302	1525	5.1	41t	12	
Etienne, Jac	220	1125	5.1	62t	5	
Stevenson, NE	210	1040	5.0	49	5	
Harris, Pit	272	1038	3.8	36	7	
Pierce, Hou	220	939	4.3	75t	4	
Ekeler, LAC	204	915	4.5	72t	13	
Mostert, Mia	181	891	4.9	67	3	
Taylor, Ind	192	861	4.5	66t	4	
Receivers						
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
Hill, Mia	119	1710	14.4	64	7	
Adams, Las	100	1516	15.2	60t	14	
Diggs, Buf	108	1429	13.2	53t	11	
Waddle, Mia	75	1356	18.1	84t	8	
Kelce, KC	110	1338	12.2	52	12	
Cooper, Cle	78	1160	14.9	55	9	
Kirk, Jac	84	1108	13.2	49	8	
G.Wilson, NYJ	83	1103	13.3	60	4	
Chase, Cin	87	1046	12.0	60t	9	
Higgins, Cin	74	1029	13.9	59t	7	
Punters						
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg		
Stonehouse, Ten	90	4779	74	53.1		
Townsend, KC	53	2672	76	50.4		
Scoring Touchdowns						
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts		
Ekeler, LAC	18	13	5	0 108		
Adams, Las	14	0	14	0 84		
Chubb, Cle	13	12	1	0 78		
Henry, Ten	13	13	0	0 78		
Kicking						
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts		
Tucker, Bal	31/32	37/43	58	142		
Carlson, Las	35/36	34/37	57	137		

AFC team statistics			
AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Kansas City	413.6	115.9	297.8
Buffalo	397.6	139.5	258.1
Miami	364.5	99.2	265.4
Cincinnati	360.5	95.5	265.0
L.A. Chargers	359.3	89.6	269.6
Jacksonville	357.4	124.5	232.9
Las Vegas	352.5	121.1	231.4
Cleveland	349.1	146.5	202.6
Baltimore	338.8	160.0	178.8
Denver	325.1	113.8	211.3
Pittsburgh	322.8	122.2	200.6
N.Y. Jets	318.2	99.2	219.0
New England	314.6	106.6	208.0
Indianapolis	311.6	109.8	201.9
Tennessee	296.8	125.4	171.4
Houston	283.5	86.8	196.7
DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
N.Y. Jets	311.1	121.6	189.4
Buffalo	319.1	104.6	214.6
Denver	320.0	109.8	210.2
New England	322.0	105.5	216.5
Baltimore	324.3	92.1	232.2
Kansas City	328.2	107.2	220.9
Pittsburgh	330.4	108.1	222.3
Cleveland	331.5	135.2	196.2
Indianapolis	334.0	124.1	209.9
Cincinnati	335.7	106.6	229.1
Miami	337.8	103.0	234.8
L.A. Chargers	346.1	145.8	200.4
Tennessee	351.6	76.9	274.8
Jacksonville	353.3	114.8	238.5
Las Vegas	365.6	122.8	242.9
Houston	379.5	170.2	209.3

NFC individual leaders						
Quarterbacks						
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int	
Brady, TB	733	490	4694	25	9	
Cousins, Min	643	424	4547	29	14	
Goff, Det	587	382	4438	29	7	
Smith, Sea	572	399	4282	30	11	
Hurts, Phi	460	306	3701	22	6	
Rodgers, GB	542	350	3695	26	12	
Jones, NYG	472	317	3205	15	5	
Dalton, NO	378	252	2871	18	9	
Prescott, Dal	394	261	2860	23	15	
Garoppolo, SF	308	207	2437	16	4	
Rushers						
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
Barkley, NYG	295	1312	4.4	68	10	
Sanders, Phi	259	1269	4.9	40t	11	
Cook, Min	264	1173	4.4	81t	8	
Fields, Chi	160	1143	7.1	67t	8	
McCaffrey, SF	244	1139	4.7	49	8	
Jones, GB	213	1121	5.3	36	2	
J.Williams, Det	262	1066	4.1	58	17	
Walker, Sea	228	1050	4.6	74t	9	
Allgeier, Atl	210	1035	4.9	44	3	
Pollard, Dal	193	1007	5.2	57t	9	
Receivers						
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD	
Jefferson, Min	128	1809	14.1	64	8	
Brown, Phi	88	1496	17.0	78t	11	
Lamb, Dal	107	1359	12.7	39	9	
Smith, Phi	95	1196	12.6	45	7	
McLaurin, Was	77	1191	15.5	52	5	
St. Brown, Det	106	1161	11.0	49	6	
Evans, TB	77	1124	14.6	63t	6	
Metcalfe, Sea	90	1048	11.6	54	6	
Olave, NO	72	1042	14.5	53t	4	
Lockett, Sea	84	1033	12.3	40t	9	
Punters						
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg		
Camarda, TB	79	3859	74	48.8		
Fox, Det	52	2525	66	48.6		
Scoring Touchdowns						
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts		
J.Williams, Det	17	17	0	0 102		
Hurts, Phi	13	13	0	0 78		
McCaffrey, SF	13	8	5	0 78		
Elliott, Dal	12	12	0	0 72		
Kicking						
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts		
Myers, Sea	41/42	34/37	56	143		
Maher, Dal	50/53	29/32	60	137		

NFC team statistics			
AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Philadelphia	389.1	147.6	241.5
Detroit	380.0	128.2	251.8
San Francisco	365.6	138.8	226.8
Minnesota	361.5	97.7	263.8
Dallas	354.9	135.2	219.8
Seattle	351.5	120.1	231.4
Tampa Bay	346.7	76.9	269.8
Green Bay	337.9	124.3	213.6
N.Y. Giants	333.9	148.2	185.7
New Orleans	333.8	116.6	217.2
Washington	330.3	126.1	204.2
Arizona	323.5	110.2	213.3
Atlanta	318.6	159.9	158.8
Chicago	307.8	177.3	130.5
Carolina	306.2	130.0	176.2
L.A. Rams	280.5	97.7	182.8
DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
San Francisco	300.6	77.7	222.9
Philadelphia	301.5	121.6	179.8
Washington	304.6	113.3	191.3
New Orleans	314.8	130.5	184.4
Tampa Bay	324.3	120.7	203.6
Dallas	330.2	129.3	200.9
Green Bay	336.5	139.5	197.0
L.A. Rams	341.1	115.1	226.0
Arizona	348.9	118.6	230.3
Carolina	350.2	122.6	227.5
N.Y. Giants	358.2	144.2	214.0
Seattle	361.7	150.2	211.5
Atlanta	362.1	130.2	231.9
Chicago	375.9	157.3	218.6
Minnesota	388.7	123.1	265.6
Detroit	392.4	146.5	245.8

### BEHIND THE CALL

# Staying sharp was a risk Chargers willing to take

By ARNIE STAPLETON  
Associated Press

DENVER — If the NFL insists on calling the first round of the playoffs next week “Super Wild Card Weekend,” then Week 18 was the “Fantastic Frenzied Forerunner” or the “Harrowing Harbinger.”

Chargers coach Brandon Staley elected to play most of his starters for most of the game at Denver even though their playoff position (fifth seed) and first-round destination (Jacksonville) were locked in before kickoff.

It sure looked like a losing bet when wide receiver Mike Williams was carted off the field, linebacker Kenneth Murray Jr. left with a stinger and star Joey Bosa, who just returned from a serious groin injury, limped around following a cameo that featured a sack and maybe a tweak.

Backups were in by the time the fourth quarter rolled around, although receiver Keenan Allen, who missed most of the season with a bad hamstring, returned and caught a touchdown pass with 6 minutes left.

“We signed up for 17 games,” Allen said. “And I only played, what, six or seven games this whole year? So, it feels good for me to keep playing, play in this altitude, get some more wind. And I’m tired right now. I can barely breathe now. Good to get out there and play with the guys some more.”

Allen said neither the game plan nor the mindset were affected by learning before kickoff that the Chargers didn’t need to beat Denver on Sunday to avoid a first-round game at Cincinnati.

“No, not at all,” Allen said. “We practiced all week. We prepared to come and fight, to come to play today and that’s what we did.”

Even if they left Denver a little more banged up after their 31-28 loss to the Broncos that snapped their four-game winning streak.

If the Chargers go on a run in the playoffs behind third-year pro Justin Herbert, Staley will be hailed for keeping his players sharp.

If not, he’ll face ridicule for risking so much in a meaningless matchup.

“We wanted to go and compete,” said Herbert. “We wanted to be out there. I think whatever Coach Staley and the front office, whatever they decided for us to go out there, we were going to be on board with it 100%.”

“We love this game. We love to be able to compete with each other,



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert and the rest of the regulars played the finale against the Broncos rather than rest, even though the game meant nothing for the playoffs.**

NFL playoffs	
<b>Wild-card Playoffs</b>	
<b>Saturday, Jan. 14</b>	
Seattle at San Francisco. <b>AFN-Sports, 10:30 p.m. Saturday CET; 6:30 a.m. Sunday JKT</b>	
L.A. Chargers at Jacksonville. <b>AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m. Sunday CET; 10:15 a.m. Sunday JKT</b>	
<b>Sunday, Jan. 15</b>	
Miami at Buffalo. <b>AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday CET; 3 a.m. Monday JKT</b>	
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota. <b>AFN-Sports 10:30 p.m. Sunday CET; 6:30 a.m. Monday JKT</b>	
Baltimore at Cincinnati. <b>AFN-Sports 2:15 a.m. Monday CET; 10:15 a.m. Monday JKT</b>	
<b>Monday, Jan. 16</b>	
Dallas at Tampa Bay. <b>AFN-Sports 2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET; 10:15 a.m. Tuesday JKT</b>	

and we’ve got a special locker room. It didn’t go our way, unfortunately ... But hopefully everyone will stay healthy and get after it for next week.”

The Chargers certainly won’t have to worry about rust when they face the Jaguars, a team they lost at home to by a 38-10 score back in September.

“We’re a way different team than we were back then,” Chargers safety Alohi Gilman insisted. “We’ve gone through the ups, the downs of an NFL season and the good thing about that is that’s what molds us. That’s what builds the character into the team that we are now. I’m not going to lie. I don’t even know who that team was in Week 3. This is where we’re at right now.”

The Jaguars enter the playoffs on a five-game winning streak after ending a four-year playoff drought by beating the Tennessee Titans 20-16 on the final weekend.

The Titans were 7-3 at their bye just before Thanksgiving but lost their last seven games, including two to Trevor Lawrence and the Jaguars, who were just 2-6 at Halloween.

Over in the NFC, the Seattle Seahawks crashed the playoff party, sneaking in as the seventh seed

when Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers blew a fourth-quarter lead in a win-and-they’re-in game against the Lions.



## NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Kingsbury, Keim fired by Cardinals

**By DAVID BRANDT**  
*Associated Press*

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals have fired coach Kliff Kingsbury and parted ways with general manager Steve Keim after a dreadful season that saw constant unwanted headlines, a serious knee injury to star quarterback Kyler Murray and lots of losing.

Now it's time for a franchise reset — again.

"It's the hardest day in the football life, when you've got to part ways with people that you respect and appreciate all their contributions," Cardinals owner Michael Bidwill said on Monday.

The 43-year-old Kingsbury — who received a contract extension just last year — finishes his tenure with a 28-37-1 record in four seasons, including a 4-13 mark this year. The Cardinals ended the season on a seven-game losing streak, falling to the San Francisco 49ers 38-13 on Sunday.

"I wished it could have worked out better for him," Bidwill said. "Because in terms of putting in the effort, he's a guy who deserved to have the outcome we were all expecting."

The 50-year-old Keim also received a contract extension last season. He's been with the Cardinals since 1999 and served as the team's general manager since 2013. He took a medical leave of absence in December, but the team didn't elaborate on the reason.

Now Bidwill begins the process of looking for a new coach and general manager. The job could be attractive to candidates: The Cardinals already have a long-term quarterback and also possess the No. 3 overall pick in the upcoming draft.

Bidwill is a part of the NFL's Workplace Diversity Committee and said he plans to use those connections in the search.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP  
The Arizona Cardinals fired head coach Kliff Kingsbury and GM Steve Keim on Monday after the team went 4-13 this season.

"It's giving me a real head start," Bidwill said.

Kingsbury joins a long list of names who couldn't win enough games for one of the NFL's least-successful franchises. The Cardinals haven't won a championship since 1947 and have never had a coach last more than six seasons in more than a century of existence.

The low-key Kingsbury was Bidwill's surprise choice to lead the franchise back in 2019, replacing Steve Wilks. A few months later, the franchise selected quarterback Kyler Murray with the No. 1 overall pick in the draft.

A former quarterback himself, Kingsbury had developed a reputation for working with young quarterbacks, including Patrick Mahomes, who played for Kingsbury at Texas Tech and went on to lead the Kansas City Chiefs to a Super Bowl win.

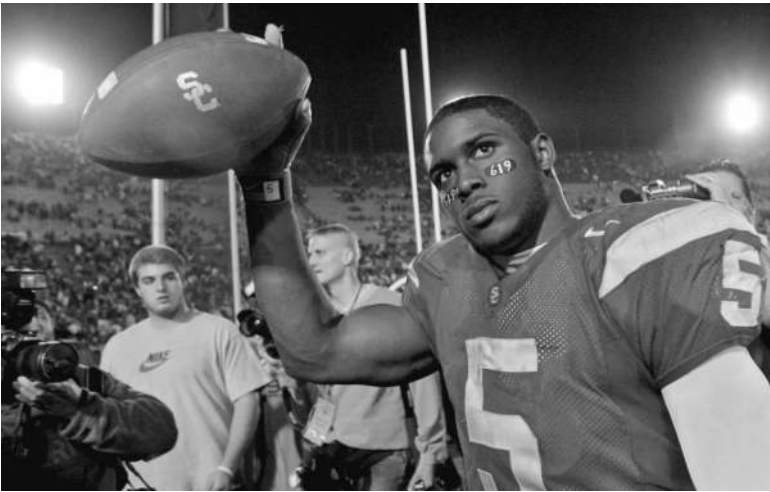
For a while, the Kingsbury-Murray pairing looked as if it would succeed. The Cardinals went 5-10-1 in 2019 before improving to 8-8 in 2020. The Cardinals started last season with a 10-2 record, emerging as a Super Bowl favorite, but lost four of their final five regular-season games.

They still made the playoffs, but lost to the Los Angeles Rams 34-11 in the wild-card round.

The Cardinals started this season with high expectations, but nothing went as planned. The first bad omen came when three-time All-Pro receiver DeAndre Hopkins was suspended for the season's first six games after violating the NFL's policy on performance-enhancers.

Hopkins returned after his six-game suspension in October, but the season had already gone sideways.

Then Murray was lost for the season after tearing ligaments in his knee against the Patriots on Dec. 12.



KEVORK DJANSEZIAN/AP  
USC running back Reggie Bush, whose Heisman Trophy in 2005 was vacated because of NCAA violations, was among 18 players in the latest College Football Hall of Fame class announced Monday.

### BRIEFLY

## Bush, Tebow make College Football Hall

*Associated Press*

Reggie Bush, whose Heisman Trophy victory for Southern California in 2005 was vacated because of NCAA violations, was among 18 players in the latest College Football Hall of Fame class announced Monday.

Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, who won the Heisman in 2007, was also elected to the hall by the National Football Foundation, along with Dwight Freeney of Syracuse; Luke Kuechly of Boston College; LaMichael James of Oregon; and Michael Bishop of Kansas State.

Bush played on two national championship teams with USC in 2003 and '04, and led the Trojans to another title game in 2005, a season in which he won the Heisman with a spectacular season. He ran for 1,740 yards, averaged 8.7 yards per carry and scored 19 touchdowns.

He went on to become the second overall pick in the NFL Draft by the New Orleans Saints after a college career that saw him run for 3,169 yards in three seasons, averaging 7.3 yards per carry, and score 42 touchdowns.

The NCAA later investigated USC and Bush and determined he and his family had received impermissible benefits from a marketing agent while playing for the Trojans.

The NCAA hit USC with severe sanctions in 2010 and later the Heisman Trust vacated Bush's Heisman victory and asked him to return his trophy.

While Bush is still not a Heisman winner in the official record books, he will be a Hall of Famer.

**Source: Twins, Correa reach \$200M, 6-year deal**

Carlos Correa reversed course for a second time, agreeing Tuesday to a \$200 million, six-year con-

tract that keeps him with the Minnesota Twins after failing to complete deals with the New York Mets and San Francisco Giants, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The deal for the All-Star shortstop could be worth \$270 million over 10 seasons if Correa remains healthy. The agreement is subject to a successful physical, the person said, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not announced.

Minnesota's deal includes options for \$25 million in 2029, \$20 million in 2030, \$15 million in 2031 and \$10 million in 2032, each becoming guaranteed if Correa has 502 or more plate appearances in the previous season.

**NWSL permanently bans four from coaching**

The National Women's Soccer League permanently banned four coaches Monday as part of disciplinary action taken against several individuals and teams in response to an investigation into alleged abuse and misconduct in the league.

Former North Carolina coach Paul Riley, former Chicago Red Stars coach Rory Dames, former Washington Spirit coach Richie Burke and former Racing Louisville coach Christy Holly were all banned from coaching in the league. Also, former Utah Royals coach Craig Harrington and former Gotham general manager Alyse LaHue were suspended from working in the NWSL for two years, until Jan. 9, 2025.

The NWSL and its players association announced results late last month of their investigation, which found "widespread misconduct" directed at players dating back to the beginnings of the league nearly a decade ago.

# RB Corum staying at Michigan

**By LARRY LAGE**  
*Associated Press*

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan All-America running back Blake Corum is staying in school for his senior season and putting his professional football dreams on hold.

"I can go to the NFL next year," Corum told The Associated Press. "But I can't go to the NFL, then come back to Michigan the next year."

Corum announced his decision on Monday, hours before the national championship game, writing in a social media post that he had "unfinished business" on the field and in the classroom.

"I think a lot of people were surprised," Corum said. "I personally couldn't go out the way I did. Some people might remember me getting hurt at the Big House and that didn't sit well with me."

He had a season-ending left knee injury against Illinois on Nov. 19 after running for 1,463 yards and 18 touchdowns. Corum had 952 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns as a sophomore in 2021.

While Corum decided to stay, three teammates chose to go pro.

All-Big Ten defensive linemen Mazi Smith and Mike Morris, along with tight end Luke Schoonmaker, are entering the NFL Draft, passing on the opportunity to play another season in college.

Without Corum in the lineup, the Wolverines lost to TCU on Dec. 31.

Michigan has won two straight Big Ten titles.

"We accomplished a lot, but we haven't accomplished what we want," Corum said. "I'm a Michigan man, who loves being at Michigan, and I'm going to give it one last run."

The 5-foot-8, 210-pound Corum will return along with quarterback J.J. McCarthy to lead Michigan with or without coach Jim Harbaugh. Harbaugh has drawn interest from NFL teams while the NCAA is looking into potential rules infractions in the Wolverines' football program.



PAUL SANCYA/AP  
All-American running back Blake Corum will return to Michigan for his senior season.



## COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Georgia defensive back Javon Bullard intercepts a pass intended for TCU wide receiver Quentin Johnston during the first half of Monday's national championship game in Inglewood, Calif. Georgia won 65-7.

# TCU's CFP title dream turns into a nightmare

By JOE REEDY  
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — TCU coach Sonny Dykes sensed something wasn't right with his team when it came into the locker room after pregame warmups for Monday night's College Football Playoff championship game against Georgia.

It was just the start of what turned into a snowball effect that overwhelmed his team the rest of the night as the Horned Frogs' dream of turning into the princes of college football became a grim nightmare.

All the strengths that helped carry TCU to the title game were quickly taken away by Georgia in a 65-7 blowout loss at SoFi Stadium.

"You could sense some tension in the room (before the game). We haven't had that in the past. We've been pretty loose," Dykes said after his team finished 13-2 in what had been a storybook season. "The guys were really excited to play, really fired up to play. I thought we were probably just a little too fired up — maybe a little too emotional — and as a result did some things that we don't normally do. I just don't think we were in the state of mind that we needed to be in."

"We just dug such a big hole for ourselves. We never could quite

get them stopped defensively. We never could get out of our own way on offense."

It was the most points TCU allowed in a game since a 70-35 loss at Texas Tech on Sept. 18, 2004.

Quarterback Max Duggan was under pressure most of the night, the defense was unable to keep the Bulldogs out of the end zone and three first-half turnovers contributed to Georgia opening a 38-7 lead at halftime. It was cruise control from there for the Bulldogs.

Duggan, a Heisman Trophy finalist, completed 14 of 22 passes for 152 yards and two interceptions. The only time he got in any sort of rhythm was on the Horned Frogs' third drive of the game, which ended with the senior rushing around left end for a 2-yard touchdown to bring them within 10-7 with 4:45 remaining in the first quarter.

The touchdown was set up three plays earlier when Duggan connected with Derius Davis for a 60-yard completion to the Georgia 11-yard line.

The rest of the night, Duggan tried to avoid pressure, but was sacked five times. Even when he tried running on keepers, he often couldn't find an opening and didn't gain much.

"I think tonight was one of those nights where at least offensively we couldn't get anything rolling," said Duggan, who came out of the game midway through the fourth quarter. "They were playing well on defense. We were

shooting ourselves in the foot. I was making bad decisions. I wasn't executing well and not putting us in a position to score some points and move the ball."

Any hopes Duggan and TCU had of a comeback ended late in the second quarter when he threw his interceptions on consecutive series and Georgia converted both into touchdowns.

TCU's defense ended up being as overmatched as its offense. Stetson Bennett, receiver Ladd McConkey and tight end Brock Bowers found openings in the secondary and often had at least 3 yards of separation on receptions.

The Horned Frogs had held opponents to a 25.9% conversion rate on third down, but Georgia was 9-for-12.

"We just kind of beat ourselves up. Kind of just executed on our misalignments and kept scoring on those," linebacker Dee Winters said. "We just kept beating ourselves up, just overthinking, trying to run too fast to the ball and things of that nature."

After being predicted to finish seventh in the Big 12, TCU was the first school from the conference in the CFP era to get to the championship game.

"Obviously we didn't do a great job getting our guys prepared," Dykes said. "We've been on heck of a run, and it seemed like we just ran out of steam a little bit tonight. ... To come this far in a year is pretty remarkable, and got a lot of guys in that locker room that are hurting right now."

## Bullies: Horned Frogs never really had a shot

FROM PAGE 24

said. "All year I told them, I said, 'We ain't getting hunted guys, we're doing the hunting, and hunting season's almost over. We've only got one more chance to hunt,' and we hunted tonight."

TCU (13-2), the first Cinderella team of the playoff era, never had a chance against the Georgia juggernaut. Unlike Michigan in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal, the Bulldogs didn't succumb to the Hypnotoads' spell.

Georgia turned in one of the all-time beatdowns in a big game, reminiscent of Nebraska running over Florida by 38 in the 1996 Fiesta Bowl, USC's 36-point rout of Oklahoma in the 2005 Orange Bowl and Alabama's 28-point BCS blowout of Notre Dame in 2013.

But this was worse.

Too much talent. Too well-coached. Two straight titles for the 'Dawgs.

No team has ever scored more points in a national championship game, dating to the beginning of the BCS in 1998.

With 13:25 left in the fourth quarter, Smart called timeout in the middle of an offensive drive so Bennett could exit to a hero's ovation in the final game of his circuitous college career.

"That was special," said Bennett, who finished 18-for-25 for 304 yards and four touchdown passes. "I'll remember that for the rest of my life."

Georgia offensive linemen were munching on chicken wings on the sideline as the game wound down. Then, for the second straight year, the Bulldogs were showered by confetti and presented a championship trophy.

The Bulldogs were a different kind of dominant this season after losing 15 NFL Draft picks from the 2021 team: not quite as stingy on defense, but more explosive on offense.

"Last year's team probably had

more talent on it," Smart said. "But this year's team was different, like they had this eye of the tiger. They weren't going to lose."

Earlier in Smart's tenure at his alma mater, Georgia fans worried about whether the former defensive coordinator for Saban would be able to build an offense to match this high-scoring era of college football.

Under third-year coordinator Todd Monken, the Bulldogs have become prolific, creative and diverse offensively. They picked apart TCU's 3-3-5 defense from all angles.

Versatile tight end Brock Bowers had seven catches for 152 yards. Receiver Ladd McConkey caught two TDs. Georgia ran for 254 yards with seven players gaining at least 10.

The Bulldogs scored all six times they touched the ball in the first half. Twice Bennett ran it in himself; the former walk-on turned two-time national champion was barely touched on the two quarterback keepers.

He hit a wide-open McConkey for a 34-yard score in the first quarter, a perfectly executed play out of a bunched formation that had TCU's defensive backs in disarray. Bennett's 22-yard score to Adonai Mitchell was a higher degree of difficulty, dropped in over a defender who had tight coverage.

Heisman Trophy runner-up Max Duggan threw two first-half interceptions in the final game of his roller-coaster TCU career. A four-year starter who never played in a bowl before this season, Duggan led TCU on one of the most improbable runs in college football history.

Unranked after a losing 2021 season and picked seventh in the Big 12, the Frogs won nine games by 10 or fewer points. They were within a victory of the program's first national title since 1938.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett heads for the end zone during the first half of Monday's national championship game against TCU in Inglewood, Calif. Bennett had two rushing touchdowns.



# SPORTS

**Cardinals clean house**  
Arizona fires coach Kingsbury,  
GM Keim » **NFL, Page 22**



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF



Georgia linebacker Jalon Walker sacks TCU quarterback Max Duggan during the second half of Monday's national championship game in Inglewood, Calif.

MARK J. TERRILL/AP

# New bullies on the block

Top-ranked Georgia demolishes No. 3 TCU, cruises to second consecutive national title

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Stetson Bennett flashed a wry grin as he walked off the field, stopping to hug coach Kirby Smart as the crowd roared.



Smart

It was all standing ovations and sideline snacks in the fourth quarter of college football's most lopsided title game.

In emphatic and overwhelming fashion, Georgia became the first team to repeat as College Football Playoff national champions and left

no doubt the 'Dawgs are the new bullies on the block. Bennett threw two touchdown passes and ran for

INSIDE

Dream becomes nightmare for outmanned Horned Frogs  
**Page 23**

two scores — in the first half — as No. 1 Georgia demolished No. 3 TCU 65-7 on Monday night.

The Bulldogs (15-0) are the first repeat champs in major college football since Alabama went back-to-back a decade ago. There appears to be a new dynasty emerging from the Southeastern Conference.

"We wanted our kids to play without fear," Smart

SEE BULLIES ON PAGE 23



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Georgia wide receiver Ladd McConkey celebrates a 14-yard touchdown catch against TCU during the third quarter. McConkey also had a 37-yard TD catch during the first quarter.

**Nets' Durant sidelined at least two weeks** » **NBA, Page 20**



027664 463149