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'This is my duty'

PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

U.S. World War II veteran Ceo Bauer visits the grave of a soldier he knew at the Lorraine American Cemetery at Saint-Avold, France, on Sunday.

American vet, 101, joins France in honoring 80 years of liberation

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

METZ, France — For over 30 years, officials in Metz have invited American soldiers who helped liberate the city from Nazi occupation during World War II to participate in commemorative ceremonies celebrating the city's freedom.

This year marks 80 years since the liberation, but only one soldier could make it back: Pfc. Ceo Bauer, who is 101. It appears this will be the last year a living veteran of the war will be able to share firsthand accounts with the city's



Bauer downs a shot of a local spirit with World War II reenactors.

people.

"I'm pragmatic," Bauer said. "If the good Lord allows it, I will come back. But I would think this would be my last time."

Stars and Stripes accompanied Bauer for several days as he toured Metz and neighboring areas of France that the U.S. helped liberate eight decades ago.

The visit, which spanned two weeks, was packed with appearances and speaking engagements, at which people lined up to chat, get his autograph and take selfies with him.

SEE DUTY ON PAGE 4

Mission: Transport tons of turkeys

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Roughly 700,000 pounds of Thanksgiving food staples will be served to troops deployed to hard-to-reach places around the world.

The Defense Logistics Agency and supply centers for the armed forces have been working for months to ensure troops have traditional holiday meals to feast on Thursday regardless of where they are deployed.

"Food is emotional, and we want to make sure that the soldiers, airmen, sailors, guardians and Marines serving around the world have that taste of home on Thanksgiving Day," said Robin Whaley, the agency's chief of subsistence for customers outside the continental United States.

U.S. troops in hard-to-reach places around the globe have re-

SEE TURKEYS ON PAGE 6



U.S. Navy

The Navy estimates nearly 45,000 pounds of roast turkey will be served to sailors on ships.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Australia's social media ban for kids moves closer

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia's House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill that would ban children younger than 16 years old from social media, leaving it to the Senate to finalize the world-first law.

The major parties backed the bill that would make platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram liable for fines of up to \$33 million for systemic failures to prevent young children from holding accounts.

The legislation passed 102 to 13. If the bill becomes law this week, the platforms would have one year to work out how to implement the age restrictions before the penalties are enforced.

Opposition lawmaker Dan Tehan told Parliament the government had agreed to accept amendments in the Senate that would bolster privacy protections. Platforms would not be allowed to compel users to provide government-issued identity documents including passports or driver's li-

censes, nor could they demand digital identification through a government system.

"Will it be perfect? No. But is any law perfect? No, it's not. But if it helps, even if it helps in just the smallest of ways, it will make a huge difference to people's lives," Tehan told Parliament.

The bill was introduced to the Senate late Wednesday but it adjourned for the day hours later without putting it to a vote. The legislation will likely be passed on Thursday.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 28)	0.93	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound (Nov. 28)	\$1.23	Canada (Dollar)	1.2650
Japanese yen (Nov. 28)	150.00	China (Yuan)	1.4041
South Korean won (Nov. 28)	1362.00	Denmark (Krone)	7.2463
		Egypt (Pound)	7.0648
		Euro	49.6512
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.9475
		Hungary (Forint)	7.7819
		Israel (Shekel)	391.31
		Japan (Yen)	3.6543
		Kuwait (Dinar)	151.45
		Norway (Krone)	0.3074
		Philippines (Peso)	11.0821
		Poland (Zloty)	58.75
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	4.08
		Singapore (Dollar)	3.7563
		South Korea (Won)	1.3427
			1392.76
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8822		
Thailand (Baht)	34.45		
Turkey (NewLira)	34.6488		

(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.)

INTEREST RATES

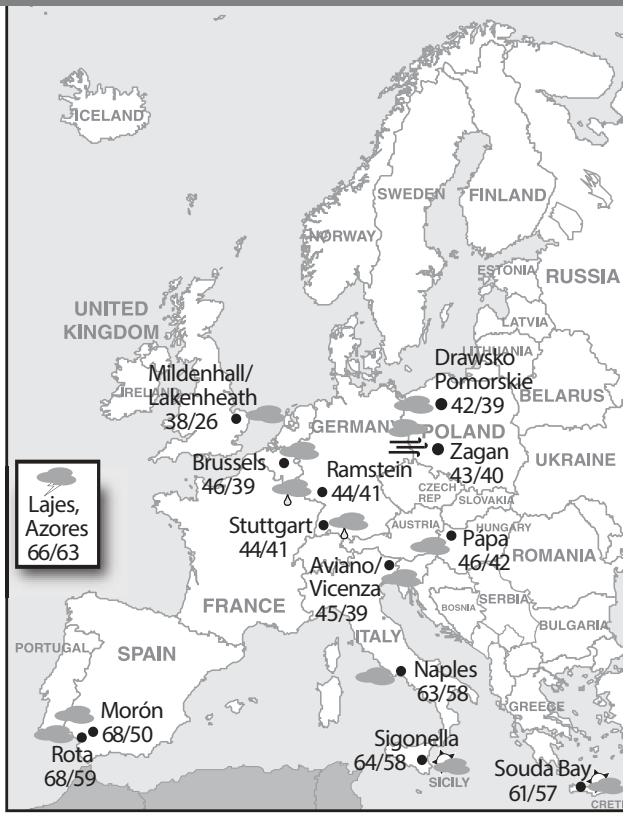
Prime rate	7.75
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	4.58
3-month bill	4.51
30-year bond	4.47

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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MILITARY

US aims strike at militant weapons in Syria

By MATTHEW ADAMS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—U.S. forces in the Middle East conducted a strike Tuesday against an Iran-backed militant weapons storage facility in Syria, according to U.S. Central Command.

“We will not tolerate any attacks on our personnel and coalition partners. We are committed to taking all necessary actions to ensure their protection,” said Army Gen. Michael “Erik” Kurilla, commander of CENTCOM, which oversees military operations in the

Storage facility targeted after attack on American troops

Middle East.

The strike came in response to an Iranian-backed militant attack Monday against U.S. forces in Syria. Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the top Pentagon spokesman, told reporters Tuesday that he was aware of an attack, but U.S. personnel were not injured and no damage occurred to base facilities.

A battle damage assessment is ongoing, though CENTCOM does not assess there were any civilian

casualties. Military officials did not provide further details about the attack on the weapons storage facility.

A U.S.-led coalition in Iraq and Syria is working to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State. About 900 U.S. service members and an undisclosed number of contractors are operating in Syria, where they support local Kurdish forces. An additional 2,500 American troops are in Iraq.

U.S. bases in the region have been prone to attacks since the surprise attack in October 2023 by Hamas militants on Israel. The Pentagon on Friday said U.S. forces had been attacked 125 times in Syria and 79 times in Iraq since the Hamas attack.

The U.S. in September announced an agreement with the Iraqi government for U.S. forces to remain in Iraq as part of a two-phased transition of the American-

led mission to defeat ISIS.

The first phase will conclude the anti-ISIS coalition’s military mission in Iraq and end the deployment of coalition forces in certain locations in Iraq by September 2025. Officials have not said how many U.S. troops will remain in Iraq or where they will be stationed.

U.S. and Iraq officials agreed to allow coalition troops to continue to support anti-ISIS operations in Syria from Iraq through the second phase of the transition until at least September 2026.

Next US administration could reignite nuclear ambitions for S. Korea

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Former President Donald Trump’s reelection could dramatically shift U.S.-South Korean relations and renew questions about whether Seoul should pursue a nuclear weapons program, experts said this week.

Trump’s second term may reignite debate over a goal South Korea abandoned in 1970 when it signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, according to analysts from the Seoul-based Institute for National Security Strategy who spoke Monday at the Seoul Foreign Correspondents’ Club.

The landmark agreement prohibits signatories from developing nuclear weapons and encourages the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Seoul’s consideration of nuclear weapons would depend largely on Trump’s relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, said Han Sukhee, president of the government-funded research institute.

Trump began his first term trading threats of “fire and fury” with Kim but later negotiated directly, meeting face to face in Singapore in 2018. The following year, a second summit in Hanoi ended without an agreement on denuclearization or sanctions relief.

If Trump recognizes Pyongyang as a legitimate nuclear state and begins disarmament talks with Kim, it could have “traumatic” consequences for South Korea, Han said.

“For the past 30 to 40 years, South Korea has been cooperative with the U.S.-led denuclearization and nonproliferation regime ...,” Han said. “However, on the contrary, North Korea has been hostile to the United States and they

also successfully developed their nuclear weapons systems.”

Pyongyang has conducted six nuclear tests since 2006, most recently on Sept. 3, 2017, when it claimed to have detonated a hydrogen bomb. So far this year, it has launched about 45 ballistic missiles over 12 days of testing.

While Trump is unlikely to support South Korea developing its own nuclear arsenal, Seoul could explore other “nuclear options,” such as deploying U.S. tactical nuclear weapons or revisiting past nuclear agreements, said Kyoung-Suk Ha, a research fellow at the institute.

Public opinion in South Korea also hinges on continued U.S. military support, Han said.

The U.S. has provided security assurances to South Korea since the 1950-53 Korean War, particularly in response to ongoing threats from the North.

The alliance is “stronger than ever,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said during a Nov. 13 press conference, emphasizing Washington’s commitment to South Korea’s defense. That commitment includes “the full range of our nuclear, conventional and missile defense capabilities,” he said.

In addition to maintaining 28,500 troops in South Korea, the U.S. has dispatched high-profile military assets to reaffirm its pledge.

Last year, the ballistic missile submarine USS Kentucky docked at Busan, marking the first visit of its kind in 42 years. On June 5, a U.S. Air Force B-1B Lancer bomber carried out live-fire drills with South Korean fighter jets, the first joint exercise of its kind in seven years.

Han noted that such actions underscore the U.S.’s extended deterrence, which could dissuade South Korea from pursuing its own nuclear weapons.



JOYCE BOGHOSIAN/The White House

President Donald Trump meets North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during their second summit at the Sofitel Legend Metropole hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2019.

Report: Trump team weighs talks with Kim to ease tensions

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

Members of President-elect Donald Trump’s staff are reportedly considering efforts to engage in dialogue with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to reduce tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Two unnamed sources familiar with the discussions said the proposed plan could repair Trump’s relationship with Kim, which was strained during his first term, the Reuters news agency reported Wednesday. However, no final decision has been made by the incoming president.

During his first year in office in 2017, Trump warned the communist regime would be met with “fire and fury” if it continued to threaten the United States.

Despite that initial rhetoric, Trump and Kim made history the following year when they met in Singapore for the first summit between a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader. The White House described the meeting as

an “epochal event” aimed at building a foundation for future peace talks on the peninsula.

The leaders held a second summit in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2019, but those talks collapsed without a formal agreement after disputes over sanctions relief for Pyongyang.

Four months later, Trump and Kim met at the heavily fortified Demilitarized Zone separating the two Koreas. In a symbolic gesture, Trump briefly crossed into North Korea, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to do so.

However, North Korea continued its ballistic missile testing during Trump’s presidency. The regime fired two short-range ballistic missiles on May 9, 2019, roughly seven weeks before the leaders’ DMZ meeting.

Trump dismissed concerns over North Korea’s launches, even after the regime fired two more short-range ballistic missiles on Aug. 2, 2019.

“There may be a United Nations violation, but Chairman Kim does

not want to disappoint me with a violation of trust ...,” Trump wrote on social media the next day.

Tensions remain high on the peninsula. North Korea has conducted 45 ballistic missile launches across 12 days of testing so far this year, including an intercontinental ballistic weapon fired Oct. 31 that flew approximately 620 miles at a lofted trajectory.

North Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency criticized Trump’s diplomacy earlier this year, saying it failed to deliver “any substantial positive change.” A July 23 report by KCNA said Trump has “tried to reflect the special personal relations” between the two leaders but “the foreign policy of state and personal feelings must be strictly distinguished.”

Kim, in a speech in Pyongyang on Nov. 22, reiterated his belief that North Korea has “already gone to every length in negotiations with the U.S.,” according to a KCNA report the following day.

EUROPE

Duty: WWII veteran shares his story of liberation fight

FROM PAGE 1

The well-wishers met a man quick to share a smile and embrace the moment — at one function, Bauer set aside his walker for a quick dance, with a little help.

It's been a tiring trip for family and friends traveling with him, some half his age. But even a snowstorm wouldn't stop Bauer from honoring his fellow soldiers.

"This is my duty," Bauer said. "I've got a real bad cold and all that, but this isn't about me. I'm doing it for others. I'm doing it for my comrades, I'm doing it for the U.S. military, I'm doing it for the United States. Because I'm the only one to do it."

Bauer, a Michigan native, was drafted into the Army in 1943 and assigned to I Company, 377th Regiment, 95th Infantry Division.

The division landed on Normandy's Omaha Beach in September 1944, a few months after the D-Day landings. At one of his recent speaking engagements, he described a sign he saw while walking up the bluffs that said, "Up this path have crossed some of America's finest manhood."

He still thinks of the sign and gets emotional when recalling all the fine men his unit would go on to lose.

In early November 1944, Bauer and his fellow soldiers received orders to attack and seize Chateau Brioux in Maizieres-les-Metz, just outside the city. As they were carrying them out, they came under attack.

Shrapnel tore through Bauer's left arm, side, face and leg. Two soldiers by his side were killed. Unable to walk, he crawled back to his company line and received medical attention.

Bauer was too severely injured to return to battle, but other 95th Infantry Division soldiers entered Metz and advanced further into the Lorraine region. Their efforts earned them the nickname "the iron men of Metz."

In 1989, the city erected a monument to the division, and it was around this time that officials began inviting soldiers back to commemorate major anniversaries.

A memorial ceremony at the monument on Friday was hit by a snowstorm. While many officials crossed their arms and shivered, Bauer sat straight up and saluted.

Col. Gabriel Chinchilla, defense attache at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, laid a wreath during the ceremony and spoke fondly of Bauer on the sidelines.

"It's amazing all the energy he brings to helping us remember not only what he did, but what many of his other countrymen and fellows from the 95th Division did," Chinchilla said. "There are challenges now, in the United States and in France, with getting young people to join the military. These little things can go a long way to help



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

World War II veteran Ceo Bauer sitting with white blanket, braves snowy weather to honor soldiers of the 95th Infantry Division at the American Eagle of Bellecroix memorial on Friday in Metz, France.



Bauer speaks at a ceremony at the city hall in Metz, on Friday to mark the 80th anniversary of the city's liberation during World War II.



Col. Gabriel Chinchilla, left, defense attache at the U.S. Embassy in Paris, speaks with Bauer on the sidelines of a ceremony at Metz city hall, on Friday.

people understand what it is to serve."

Bauer was joined in France by some 60 members of the 95th Infantry Division Association, a group started by people from the division shortly after the war. It's now made up mostly of their relatives.

Cliff Twaddle, who leads the group, said there are about 10 division members still alive out of nearly 15,000 soldiers.

"There's always a concern that as the years pass, memory will fade," Twaddle said at Metz's City Hall on Friday night. "But we continue to get inquiries from relatives of soldiers, and as long as they're willing to continue to get together, we'll be here."

After its famous success at

SEE DUTY ON PAGE 5



Air Force Maj. Christian Maude, right, and his daughter speak with Bauer, as the 101-year-old signs a book for the family following a ceremony in Saint-Avold, France, on Sunday.



Bauer salutes during a ceremony Friday in Metz, France, for his former unit, the 95th Infantry Division.

EUROPE

Duty: US general says ceremony is reminder of 'the horrible cost of war'

FROM PAGE 4

Metz, the 95th Infantry Division advanced through the Moselle region and liberated towns like Saint-Avold, not far from the current border with Germany.

The town held its own liberation celebrations over the weekend. On Saturday, there was a screening of the documentary film "The Girl who Wore Freedom," which Bauer briefly appears in.

"You are here with a living legend, and you will never get this opportunity again," Christian Taylor, the film's director, told the audience, visibly emotional. Bauer lightened the mood by telling Taylor she should have included more of him in her film.

Despite the serious nature of his visit, Bauer kept those around him upbeat. After being made a knight of the Order of Lafayette at a ceremony in Saint-Avold on Sunday, he downed a shot of local spirit with World War II reenactors, then tossed the plastic shot glass in the air behind his head.

The award recognizes individuals for strengthening relationships between the United States and France.

Air Force Maj. Christian Maude, who met Bauer earlier this year at D-Day commemorations in Normandy, is stationed at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, about 50 miles east of Saint-Avold.

He came so his two daughters could meet Bauer. The younger of the two is a century younger than the veteran.

"It's really important for us to come out and honor him, and it's special to share him and his story with my daughters," Maude said.

Lidwine Calte, who lives nearby, wore 1940s attire in memory of her grandmother and thanked Bauer.

"This is a very special moment," Calte said. "It's the last time that we can listen to what he has to say. We need to learn and keep the memory alive."

Saint-Avold is home to the Lorraine American Cemetery, the largest American cemetery in Europe, which honors the memory of nearly 10,500 military personnel who lost their lives during the war.

Of those, over 150 were assigned to the 95th Infantry Division.

Brig. Gen. John Cogbill, the deputy commanding general for

the 18th Airborne Corps, spoke at the separate ceremony there Sunday afternoon.

The 18th Airborne is based at Fort Liberty in Fayetteville, N.C., a sister city of Saint-Avold, and nearly 300 of its soldiers are buried in the cemetery.

"This ceremony is a solemn reminder of the horrible cost of war," Cogbill told the crowd. "These headstones represent the heroes who never made it home."

Pointing to Bauer, Cogbill added that some heroes did make it home. Bauer later visited the graves of two men he had known and shared his memories of them.

He passed on similar stories the following day when he visited a school in the small village of Drulingen. Bauer brought with him a black-and-white group photo of his unit and explained to the children how many of those depicted had died or were seriously injured, like himself, while fighting for common values shared by the U.S. and France.

The students asked questions, one of which took Bauer by surprise.

"Do you have any pets?" a small



Bauer shows a photograph of his Army unit to French students, while visiting a school in Drulingen, France on Monday.

boy said. His teacher explained that the class was learning how to talk about pets as part of their English lesson.

Bauer answered that he often feeds the cats behind his house in Ithaca, a town in central Michigan. He then had the children chant with him: "Vive la France. Long live the United States of America and our free-world al-

lies." It was a chant Bauer repeated throughout this visit.

Amy Uthe, Bauer's great-great niece by marriage, said she will continue to come to France to help carry on the legacy.

"We know how important this is to him, and it's our responsibility to make sure that that memory lives on," Uthe said.

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MILITARY



ROSE GUDEX/U.S. AIR FORCE

Deployed U.S. service members come together for a Thanksgiving meal last year at Air Base 201 in Niger.

Turkeys: Shipments nearly doubled

FROM PAGE 1

ceived nearly 140,000 pounds of turkey, 177,000 pounds of beef, 98,000 pounds of ham and 49,000 pounds of shrimp for service members to feast upon. Another 46,753 pounds of sweet potatoes and 9,324 cases of pies and cakes were delivered.

The amount of food shipped this year is an increase from the 360,000 pounds of food sent out for last year's Thanksgiving meals. This is due to more troops being stationed in Europe, Whaley said.

The effort requires the food to be ordered months in advance and transported to warehouses across the globe by way of cargo planes and ships and military vehicles. From there, delivery opportunities must be coordinated to military theaters such as the Indo-Pacific, Middle East and Africa. Scheduling considers the chance that operations might impact delivery opportunities, especially for those deployed to kinetic environments, such as the Middle East.

The Army, the largest of the services, begins this process in January — almost one year in advance. Coordination between transportation nodes, suppliers, vendors, regional commands and distributors work together to ensure meals reach the furthest point of the tactical footprint, said Jason Hicks, logistics management specialist for the U.S. Army's Sustainment Command.

"Thanksgiving symbolizes family, gratitude, and tradition. Providing traditional foods helps maintain a connection to home and cultural identity for service members who are deployed. This connection can be especially important in challenging environments far from loved ones," he said.

Celebrating Thanksgiving and other festivities, even in a modified form, provides a much-needed emotional lift to troops.

"The familiar tastes and rituals associated with the holiday can evoke positive memories and feelings of camaraderie among service members," Hicks said.

Officials with the Mission Feed-

ing program for the Air Force Services Center, which coordinates with the Defense Logistics Agency for the Air Force and Space Force, also said the Thanksgiving meal can boost troops' mental health and build resilience. The service has seen about 62,000 pounds of turkey and other holiday staples delivered to airmen and guardians.

"Deployment can be isolating, especially during holidays. A traditional meal can mitigate feelings of loneliness and homesickness," said Capt. Devonte Lee, deputy chief of the Air Force Mission Feeding program. "Special moments like these can make deployments feel less arduous and improve overall mental health, helping troops stay focused on their missions."

The Marine Corps estimates 30,000 forward-deployed Marines will celebrate Thanksgiving thousands of miles from home, feasting on more than 18,000 pounds of turkey, as well as canned and fresh vegetables, stuffing and pies. Planning began more than four months ago.

In remote Pacific locations near the Philippines, Thailand and Palau, Marines often rely on expeditionary field kitchens and modular setups that include multifunction ovens, immersion heaters, field ranges, griddles, and tray ration heaters.

"In austere environments, power limitations and equipment reliability add to the challenge," said Lt. Col. David Hunley, director of the Food Service and Subsistence Program for the Marine Corps. "When supplies inevitably fall short, food service Marines adjust menus accordingly, finding creative ways to use locally procured and approved ingredients to meet mission."

High winds can threaten burners, uneven terrain can destabilize equipment, and power generators needed to run refrigeration units often need constant attention to maintain functionality, he said.

"For Marines, this mission is about more than just providing a meal. It's about upholding the Marine Corps' values of taking care of

their own, no matter the circumstances. Even on the front lines, the spirit of Thanksgiving endures. This meal, prepared against all odds, becomes a powerful reminder of resilience, gratitude, and the unbreakable bonds of the Marine Corps family," Hunley said.

The Navy began planning this year's Thanksgiving and Christmas meals in March, according to Naval Supply Systems director, Cmdr. Brian Bieber.

"We know how important it is during the holidays for sailors to get that sense of home at sea. We work hard to ensure that everyone gets to celebrate Thanksgiving with a traditional meal," he said.

The Navy estimates nearly 45,000 pounds of roast turkey will be served to sailors on ships.

Another 11,457 pounds of mashed potatoes and 5,654 of stuffing will be served. Topping off the meal is an estimated 23,678 assorted pies.

In many cases, Bieber said, supplies necessary for the holiday meals will be loaded onto ships before they deploy. Doing so reduces the chance of not receiving the items in the event of an operational task or shift in schedules, he said.

Hostile environments such as the U.S. Central Command's ongoing effort in the Middle East to defend maritime merchant ships and military warships from attacks launched by Iran-back militants can "absolutely throw a wrench" in supply schedules, but Bieber said delayed deliveries can easily and safely be stored until the next delivery opportunity.

The Naval Supply Systems Command reported Monday that all deployed warships had their Thanksgiving meals onboard, ready for feasting upon.

"It is an opportunity to provide sailors a comfort of home, despite the fact they may be deployed, on duty, or separated from family. Our culinary specialists pride themselves in curating meals that not only bring friends and shipmates together but boost morale while also fueling our sailors for success," Bieber said.

Trump selects donor as next Navy secretary

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT
Stars and Stripes

President-elect Donald Trump announced businessman and mega donor John Phelan as his pick for the Secretary of the U.S. Navy.

"John will be a tremendous force for our naval servicemembers and a steadfast leader in advanced in my America First vision. He will put the business of the U.S. Navy above all else," Trump said in a statement shared to social media Tuesday night.

Phelan is the founder of Rugger Management LLC and co-founder of MSD Capital, both private investment firms. He also serves as a board member of military-

themed nonprofit Spirit of America.

Trump said Phelan's "unmatched" intelligence, experience and leadership will elevate the lives of sailors. It is unclear if Phelan has any military experience or a connection to the Navy.

"John will deliver real results for our Navy and our country," Trump said.

Phelan is a strong supporter of Trump's reelection, donating \$927,900 to the Trump 47 Committee since the start of 2024, according to the Federal Election Commission.

If confirmed, he would replace the current Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro.

Soldier at Landstuhl gets 4 years for assault

BY LYDIA GORDON
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A U.S. soldier assigned to a military hospital in Germany faces over four years behind bars and must register as a sex offender after being found guilty of sexually assaulting a female fellow soldier in his barracks room.

Pfc. Shreyan Karki, 20, a member of the Medical Readiness Battalion at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, was convicted Friday by a military jury in Kaiserslautern of sexual assault and assault consummated by battery, an Army statement Tuesday said.

Besides receiving a prison term

of four years and two months, Karki was sentenced to a demotion in rank to private and a dishonorable discharge.

The crime occurred Dec. 13, 2023, just after both Karki and the victim had arrived in Landstuhl for their assignments in the same unit, according to the statement.

The woman became ill while in Karki's barracks room, so he moved her to a spare bed and then sexually assaulted her, the statement said.

At trial, the victim's testimony was corroborated by DNA evidence, eyewitness testimony and a sexual assault nurse examiner, the Army said in the statement.

Soldier charged in overdose death

Stars and Stripes

A Fort Campbell soldier has been charged with involuntary manslaughter and negligent homicide in the 2022 death of an Army private who died of a fentanyl overdose, according to court records.

Spc. Ryan Faubel, 24, provided fentanyl to Pfc. Ivan F. Rios Segui, 25, who died July 1, 2022, according to Faubel's charge sheet and the Office of Special Trial Counsel.

Faubel pleaded not guilty at an arraignment hearing Nov. 14 before Military Judge Lt. Col. Daniel Mazzone at the Kentucky Army

base. He is also charged with possession and distribution of fentanyl on July 1, 2022, and cocaine on May 25, 2022. He pleaded not guilty, according to the Army's online court docket.

Faubel and Rios Segui, of New Haven, Conn., both served in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 101st Airborne Division, but in different battalions.

The two-year delay in the charges stemmed from the investigative work required, said Michelle McCaskill, spokeswoman for the Office of Special Trial Counsel.

MILITARY

McConnell to push for more military spending

Former Senate majority leader to be chairman of key defense subpanel

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — When Republicans take control of the Senate in January, the chairmanship of a panel that oversees military spending will fall to one of the upper chamber's most prominent defense hawks.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Senate's longest-serving leader, will become chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee's defense subpanel when he steps down from his leadership post next year. He said he intends to use his new perch to pour resources into the military.

"America's national security interests face the gravest array of threats since the Second World War," he said. "At this critical moment, a new Senate Republican majority has a responsibility to secure the future of U.S. leadership and primacy."

McConnell is a proponent of former President Ronald Reagan's "peace through strength" approach to foreign policy and is the Senate's most vocal Republican supporter of NATO and aiding Ukraine in its war with Russia.

Those positions put him at odds with President-elect Donald

Trump, who has threatened to pull the U.S. out of NATO and force Ukraine into negotiations with Russia. In February, Trump said he would encourage Russia to "do whatever the hell they want" to any NATO member that does not meet the alliance's defense spending benchmarks.

McConnell in recent years has pushed back against the growing isolationist bent within his party. He frequently took to the Senate floor this year to urge Republicans to vote for a major aid package for Ukraine and, in July, spoke of the need to counter interconnected threats from Russia, China and Iran.

"To meet them seriously, we must invest seriously in our defense," he said during a visit to the Kentucky National Guard earlier this year.

As chairman of the defense appropriations panel, McConnell is expected to advocate for a larger defense budget to expand the defense industrial base, rebuild stockpiles and invest in military strength. He has argued spending on a defense buildup now is cheaper than funding a war later.

"In World War II, we were up to 37% of our [Gross Domestic Prod-



GEORGIA NAPIER/U.S. Army

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., holds a news conference May 30 at the Army Aviation Support Facility on Boone National Guard Center in Frankfort, Ky.

uct on defense]. Right now, we're spending about roughly 2% of our GDP," he said in remarks to Guard members. "That needs to come up if we're going to be adequately prepared to avoid having way more spending, coupled with loss of life as well."

McConnell will find a willing partner for achieving that goal in Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., who will become chairman of the Sen-

ate Armed Services Committee.

Wicker released a plan this year to boost defense spending to 5% of GDP in the next five to seven years, calling for a "generational investment." He also proposed raising President Joe Biden's defense budget request for 2025 by \$55 billion — an idea McConnell endorsed.

McConnell has also opposed efforts to maintain parity between defense and non-defense expendi-

tures, writing on X in May that "this is not the time to shackle defense spending to partisan domestic priorities." That stance is likely to face resistance from Democrats.

McConnell has served in the Senate since 1985. His military service includes a brief stint as a private in the U.S. Army Reserve in Kentucky in 1967. He was honorably discharged after being deemed medically unfit.

Judge orders convicted Air Force general to pay for lodging

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — An Air Force general who was restricted to a military base for two months following his court-martial conviction paid nearly \$8,000 for his accommodations after a judge declined the officer's request to make the service pay.

Maj. Gen. Phillip Stewart was ordered to remain within the boundaries of Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Air Force Base in late June after being convicted of conduct unbecoming of an officer for inviting a subordinate female officer to spend the night in his hotel room and dereliction of duty for flying within 12 hours of drinking alcoholic beverages.

Stewart's court-martial also in-



Stewart

cluded a charge of sexual assault. But a jury of fellow general officers found him not guilty of sexually assaulting the female officer who served on his staff.

Military judge Col. Matthew Stoffel sentenced Stewart to a reprimand, restriction for two months to Randolph Air Force Base in Texas and to forfeit \$10,000 of pay for six months.

In August, Stewart's attorney, Capt. Jordan Grande, filed a motion with the judge requesting Stoffel order the Air Force to pay the cost of the base hotel. Stewart did not live on the base and would require lodg-

ing, according to court documents. The nightly rate at the base hotel was \$131.

As part of a clemency request, Stewart had previously asked Lt. Gen. Brian Robinson, the commander of Air Education and Training Command and the convening authority on the case, to reduce his fine by the nearly \$8,000 cost of the hotel, according to court documents. The request was denied.

Robinson also could have avoided the extra cost on Stewart "by coordinating and securing a dorm room" for Stewart, according to court documents.

"The convening authority is abusing its authority by effectively imposing an additional forfeiture or fine on Maj. Gen. Stewart that was not adjudged at trial," Grande wrote

in court records.

Restriction to base is more commonly used in sentences for those already living there, and if they don't, the airman's first sergeant would secure a dorm room for the service member, according to court documents. Stewart's command "refused to obtain and fund accommodations for the restriction period."

"The only difference in Maj. Gen. Stewart's case is, of course, his rank," Grande wrote.

Prosecutors responded that requiring anyone other than Stewart "to pay for his accommodations during restriction would be a burden to society."

Stoffel on Sept. 3 ruled there is no policy regarding who is responsible for payment or reimbursement of any costs accrued to carry out this

type of sentence.

Stewart began his restriction to the base 10 days later and completed it Nov. 12, according to the Air Education and Training Command, the unit at the base to which Stewart is assigned.

The general completed the sentence at the base hotel, a spokesman for Stewart said in a statement.

The command did not provide Stewart's current job title or position with the command but said he "continues to serve to meet the mission and needs of the Air Force."

When misconduct accusations arose against Stewart in May 2023, he was commander of the 19th Air Force, which oversees much of the service's pilot training from its headquarters at Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph Air Force Base.

Soldier gets suspended sentence for smuggling synthetic pot into S. Korea

By YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A South Korean court handed a suspended sentence to an American soldier convicted of smuggling synthetic cannabis into the country via military mail.

The service member, identified only as a 27-year-old soldier assigned to Camp Henry, received a three-year sentence from a three-judge panel in Daegu District Court on Nov. 22, according to the written verdict and court staff.

The judges suspended the sen-

tence for five years, meaning the soldier remains free unless he commits another offense in South Korea during that time. He was also fined roughly \$330.

Just ahead of his sentencing, the soldier was found guilty of purchasing 0.33 ounces of synthetic mari-

juana from a U.S.-based website on four occasions starting on Dec. 15, 2023, the verdict states. The judges determined the cannabis arrived in the country through the U.S. military's postal service.

South Korean law enforcement agencies and courts typically do not

identify defendants except in extreme cases, such as homicide.

The soldier said he suffered from a sleep disorder and stress from a divorce, and purchased the cannabis after seeing advertisements claiming its ingredients could help him rest, the verdict reads.

PACIFIC

Guam homeports its first Virginia-class sub

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The USS Minnesota arrived Tuesday at Naval Base Guam, the first Virginia-class fast-attack submarine to be homeported in the strategically important U.S. territory.

“The security environment in the Indo-Pacific requires that the U.S. Navy station the most capable units forward,” the service said in a news release announcing the sub’s arrival that day.

“This posture allows flexibility for maritime and joint force operations, with forward-deployed units ready to rapidly respond to deter aggression and promote a peaceful and prosperous Indo-Pacific region.”

The Virginia-class subs will eventually replace the Navy’s aging fleet of Cold War-era Los Angeles-class vessels.

Guam homeports four Los Angeles-class subs: USS Annapolis, USS Jefferson City, USS Asheville and USS Springfield.

Virginia-class subs are designed for a greater range of missions, with an emphasis on littoral operations, according to a Navy fact sheet.

They support a host of missions, including anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface ship warfare, strike warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance.

The subs are designed so that their torpedo rooms can be reconfigured to hold a large number of

special operations forces and their equipment during extended deployments.

The USS Minnesota was commissioned Sept. 7, 2013, in Norfolk, Va., becoming the 10th Virginia-class sub brought into service.

It was previously homeported at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, where it completed a two-year maintenance overhaul this summer.

The ship is manned by a crew of about 140 sailors, according to the Navy’s news release.

The crew members are “eager to get out into the local community and stand ready to contribute to our strategic objectives and maintain warfighting readiness in the Pacific,” Cmdr. Isaac Pelt,



JUSTIN WOLPERT/U.S. Navy

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine USS Minnesota arrives Tuesday at Naval Base Guam.

Minnesota’s skipper, said in the release.

Guam is of growing importance to the Pentagon’s Indo-Pacific strategy as China continues to expand its navy and its ambitions in the region.

The island is also home to Andersen Air Force Base and Camp Blaz, a massive Marine Corps base still under construction.

Guam would serve as a critical

hub in the event of a conflict with Beijing because of its proximity to the South China Sea, a flashpoint in the region.

The USS Minnesota’s presence “will enhance our operational capabilities and further strengthen deterrence efforts throughout the Indo-Pacific,” Capt. Neil Steinhagen, commander of Submarine Squadron 15, said in the news release.

Yokota community runs to remember fallen Osprey crew

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Hundreds of runners gathered Wednesday morning at this airlift hub in western Tokyo to honor eight airmen who died when a CV-22 Osprey went down off Japan’s coast a year ago.

The memorial run, consisting of three laps around the base golf course, marked the anniversary of the Nov. 29 crash of the tiltrotor assigned to Yokota’s 21st Special Operations Squadron. The tragedy led the U.S. military to ground its fleet of about 400 Ospreys between Dec. 6 and March 8 while investigators examined the cause.

The accident investigation found a catastrophic mechanical failure at fault, compounded by a “lack of urgency” by the crew at the time, according to the accident report.

Yokota’s Ospreys remained grounded until July 2 — 216 days after the crash. Now, the squadron has resumed operations, and its tiltrotors can be seen flying overhead once again.

Ahead of Wednesday’s run, airmen gathered in a parking lot to recite the names of their fallen comrades:

■ Maj. Jeffrey Hoernemann, 32, of Andover, Minn.

■ Maj. Luke Unrath, 34, of Riverside, Calif.

■ Maj. Terrell Brayman, 32, of Pittsford, N.Y.

■ Maj. Eric Spendlove, 36, of St. George, Utah

■ Tech. Sgt. Zachary Lavoy, 33, of Oviedo, Fla.

■ Staff Sgt. Jake Turnage, 25, of Kennesaw, Ga.

■ Staff Sgt. Jake Galliher, 24, of



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Community members prepare to take part in the Gundam 22 Memorial 5K Run on Wednesday at Yokota Air Base, Japan.



Hundreds of community members ran three laps around the Yokota golf course Wednesday to honor the eight airmen who died when a CV-22 Osprey went down off Japan’s coast last year.

Pittsfield, Mass.

■ Senior Airman Brian Johnson, 32, of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

“They mattered because we matter,” Col. Richard McElhaney, commander of Yokota’s 374th Air-



The Osprey’s call sign was “Gundam-22.”

vis said. He credited the broader Yokota community for the squadron’s resilience, noting the immediate outpouring of support after the accident.

People brought food and drinks to the squadron, he said, and mental health professionals and chaplains also provided support.

Among the runners was Megan Rollins, whose husband is a firefighter at Yokota. She wore a “Gundam 22” shirt, referencing the crashed Osprey’s call sign, and reflected on the fallen airmen’s families.

“I was praying for the names of all the guys and thinking about their family members,” she said. “This time of year is probably going to be somber for them for a couple of years, but hopefully, one day, it will be filled with happy memories of their lost loved ones.”

lift Wing, said addressing the runners. “Everything we do here matters.”

The memory of the fallen weighed heavily on the runners’ minds, Lt. Col. Matthew Davis, commander of the 21st Special Operations Squadron, said after the event.

Davis recalled how the Yokota community rallied around his unit after the accident.

“We were able to get back on our feet and continue our mission, which is important for this theater, because of the support of the base,” he said.

Since resuming operations, the Osprey squadron has trained for missions such as hostage rescue and humanitarian assistance, Da-

MILITARY



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

Visitors enjoy in snow at the Gyeongbok Palace, one of South Korea's well-known landmarks, in Seoul, South Korea, on Wednesday.

Biggest November snowstorm in half century blankets Seoul, grounds flights

BY KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The biggest November snowstorm to hit South Korea's capital in more than a half century blanketed the capital on Wednesday, grounding hundreds of flights, disrupting commuter traffic and leaving at least two dead.

South Korea's weather agency said 7.8 to 10 inches of snow fell in northern areas of Seoul and nearby areas.

The agency said it was the heaviest snowstorm Seoul has experienced in November in 52 years. A storm on Nov. 28, 1972, dumped 4.7 inches.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said one person died and four others were injured in a five-vehicle accident in the eastern town of Hongcheon.

In the town of Yangju, a tent-type garage collapsed and killed a person who was removing snow, according to South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety. The snow caused temporary power outages at about 230 homes in the city of Gwangju, near Seoul, according to the Gyeonggi provincial government.

The storm blanketed much of the country, with the central, eastern and southwestern regions recording about 3.9 to 11 inches of cover.

At least 317 flights were canceled or delayed at airports nationwide, while authorities ordered around 90 ferries to remain at port. They also shut down hundreds of hiking trails.

Icy road conditions slowed down the morning commute in Seoul and led to massive crowds at

subways, causing delays. Emergency workers across the country responded to fallen trees, road signs and other safety risks.

Officials at the Safety Ministry said they couldn't confirm any school closures as of Wednesday afternoon.

Visitors dressed in traditional hanbok garb were busy taking photographs at Seoul's snow-covered medieval palaces while snowmen popped up in playgrounds and schoolyards across the country.

The weather agency said snow will continue in most parts of the country until noon Thursday.

President Yoon Suk Yeol instructed the safety and transport ministries to mobilize all available relevant personnel and equipment to prevent traffic and other accidents.

First carrier since 'Fat Leonard' case visits Malaysia

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The USS Abraham Lincoln pulled into Port Klang over the weekend, marking the first U.S. aircraft carrier visit to Malaysia in more than a decade following a high-profile bribery scandal involving a Malaysian contractor.

The carrier sailed through the Strait of Malacca and docked at the port southwest of Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, for a scheduled stop, the Navy announced Monday.

The visit is the first by a U.S. aircraft carrier to Malaysia since the USS George Washington stopped there in 2012. That visit preceded the arrest of Leonard Glenn Francis — also known as "Fat Leonard" — who orchestrated a decade-long scheme to bribe U.S. Navy officials.

Francis, the former head of Glenn Defense Marine Asia, pleaded guilty in 2015 to bribery, conspiracy to commit bribery and conspiracy to defraud the United States. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison in November for paying off more than 30 Navy officials with cash, prostitutes and luxury travel to secure lucrative contracts.

The Department of Justice said Francis swindled the Navy out of more than \$30 million. Port Klang was among Francis' "pearl ports," named for their profitability in the scheme.

Leonard's defense team filed paperwork to appeal his conviction on Nov. 19.

The Abraham Lincoln's return



MALINA DAVY/U.S. Navy

Seamen Jaden Hamilton, left, and Seth Corpus shift colors aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln as the aircraft carrier pulls into Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Friday.

to Port Klang on Saturday was meant to reaffirm the strong ties between the U.S. and Malaysia, the Navy said in Monday's release. The visit highlights the countries' "close people-to-people, economic, and security ties," it added.

Fleet spokeswoman Lt. Cmdr. Jamie Moroney declined to comment on how long the Abraham Lincoln will stay in port, citing operational security concerns.

Moroney did not respond to a question about the significance of the carrier's visit in the wake of the scandal, instead pointing out how such port calls provide opportunities for ship resupplies and crew relaxation.

"The Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group stands ready to support any mission in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific," she added.

Navy commissions LCS named for industrial city in Wisconsin

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy's newest combat ship was commissioned in a Saturday ceremony held in Milwaukee, Wis., according to a Navy news release.

The subject of the ceremony was the USS Beloit, a Freedom-variant littoral combat ship, or LCS. Littoral combat ships are agile vessels intended for near-shore environments, though they can also operate in the open ocean.

Each of the class's two variants are primarily produced by a different industry team: Freedom-variant ships are made by Lockheed Martin, and Independence-variant ships are produced by Austal USA. The USS Beloit is the 15th Freedom-variant LCS.

The USS Beloit is named for the

city of Beloit, Wis., which was a center for heavy industry in the early 20th century — something referenced multiple times at the ceremony, according to the release. The name is a Navy first.

Sen. Tammy Baldwin, a guest speaker at the ceremony, said she took pride in Wisconsin's manufacturing economy. "When it comes to our ship building industry our workers have helped sustain America's security for our national defense for generations," she said.

Baldwin's comments were echoed by U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore. "[This ship] will be the first commissioned ship named after Beloit, Wis., in honor of that city's contributions to the US Navy, especially the ship engines built in



DIANA SALGADO/U.S. Marine Corps

The USS Beloit awaits to be commissioned at Veterans Park in Milwaukee, Wis., on Friday.

that city," Moore said.

Aside from Baldwin and Moore, other high-profile speakers for the ceremony included Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. James Kilby and Lockheed Martin executive Ali Ruwaih.

The ship's sponsor is retired Army Reserve Maj. Gen. Marcia Anderson. The trailblazing Anderson, who is the U.S. Army's first Black female reserve officer to reach the rank of major general, was born in Beloit, according to an Army press release.

The event was also attended by

veterans of major conflicts, from the war in Iraq to World War II, the Navy's release said.

The speed with which the Beloit completed its certifications was unusually high for the LCS class, the Navy's release said. It completed 19 certifications within seven weeks, each of which was passed on the first go.

The Beloit's commissioning came just one week after a similar ceremony was held in Boston for its sister ship, the USS Nantucket — also a Freedom-variant LCS.

The LCS program has come under fire for its cost overruns and maintenance issues, and the Navy has proposed decommissioning some vessels in the class before the end of their service life, to the concern of some in Congress.

NATION

After delay, Trump signs transition doc

By ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump on Tuesday reached a required agreement with President Joe Biden's White House to allow his transition staff to coordinate with the existing federal workforce before taking office on Jan. 20.

The congressionally mandated agreement allows transition aides to work with federal agencies and access non-public information and gives a green light to government workers to talk to the transition team.

But Trump has declined to sign a separate agreement with the General Services Administration that would have given his team access to secure government offices and email accounts, in part because it would require that the president-elect limit contributions to \$5,000 and reveal who is

donating to his transition effort.

The White House agreement was supposed to have been signed by Oct. 1, according to the Presidential Transition Act, and the Biden White House had issued both public and private appeals for Trump's team to sign on.

The agreement is a critical step in ensuring an orderly transfer of power at noon on Inauguration Day, and lays the groundwork for the White House and government agencies to begin to share details on ongoing programs, operations and threats. It limits the risk that the Trump team could find itself taking control of the massive federal government without briefings and documents from the outgoing administration.

As part of the agreement, Trump's team will have to publicly disclose its ethics plan for the transition operation and make a commitment to uphold it, the

White House said. Transition aides must sign statements that they have no financial positions that could pose a conflict of interest before they receive access to non-public federal information.

Biden himself raised the agreement with Trump when they met in the Oval Office on Nov. 13, according to the White House, and Trump indicated that his team was working to get it signed.

Trump chief of staff-designate Susie Wiles met with Biden's chief of staff Jeff Zients at the White House on Nov. 19 and other senior officials in part to discuss remaining holdups, while lawyers for the two sides have spoken more than a half-dozen times in recent days to finalize the agreement.

Without the signed agreement, Biden administration officials were restricted in what they could share with the incoming team. Trump national security adviser-

designate Rep. Mike Waltz met recently with Biden national security adviser Jake Sullivan, but the outgoing team was limited in what it could discuss.

"We are doing everything that we can to effect a professional and an orderly transition," White House national security spokesman John Kirby said on Monday. "And we continue to urge the incoming team to take the steps that are necessary to be able to facilitate that on their end as well."

A separate agreement with the Department of Justice to coordinate background checks for vetting and security clearances is still being actively worked on and could be signed quickly now that the White House agreement is signed. The agency has teams of investigators standing by to process clearances for Trump aides and advisers once that document is signed.

Trump's team on Friday formally told the GSA that they would not utilize the government office space blocks from the White House reserved for their use, or government email accounts, phones and computers during the transition.

The White House said it does not agree with Trump's decision to forgo support from the GSA, but is working on alternate ways to get Trump appointees the information they need without jeopardizing national security.

For instance, agencies may require in-person meetings and document reviews since the Trump team has declined to shift to using secure phones and computers. For unclassified information, agencies may ask Trump transition staff to attest that they are taking basic safeguards, like using two-factor authentication on their accounts.

Economic picks had roles in first term

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President-elect Donald Trump is turning to two officials with experience navigating not only Washington but the key issues of income taxes and tariffs as he fills out his economic team.

Trump on Tuesday announced he has chosen international trade attorney Jamieson Greer to be his U.S. trade representative and Kevin Hassett as director of the White House National Economic Council.

While Trump has in several cases nominated outsiders to key posts, these picks reflect a recognition that his reputation will likely hinge on restoring the public's confidence in the economy.

The president-elect also announced a number of other key personnel choices, including Vince Haley, who led Trump's speechwriting department in his first term, as director of the Domestic Policy Council.

Trump said in a statement that Greer was instrumental in his first term in imposing tariffs on China and others and replacing the trade agreement with Canada and Mexico.

Greer previously served as chief of staff to Robert Lighthizer, Trump's former trade representative who is deeply skeptical of



EVAN VUCCI / AP

Kevin Hassett, at the lectern, was a senior adviser in President-elect Donald Trump's first administration, and has been tapped to become director of the White House National Economic Council for the next one.

free trade. Greer is currently a partner at the King & Spalding law firm in Washington.

If confirmed as trade representative, Greer would be responsible for negotiating directly with foreign governments on trade deals and disputes, as well as memberships in international trade bodies such as the World Trade Organization.

He told The New York Times in June that the view of Trump officials was that tariffs "can help support U.S. manufacturing jobs in particular, especially to the extent that they're remediating an unfair trade practice."

His nomination comes a day after Trump promised to slap huge

new tariffs on foreign goods entering the United States — including a 25% tax on all products entering the country from Canada and Mexico, and an additional 10% tariff on goods from China — as one of his first executive orders.

As director of the White House National Economic Council, Hassett brings into Trump's administration a major advocate for tax cuts.

Hassett, 62, served in the first Trump term as chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers. He has a doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania and worked at the right-leaning American Enterprise Institute before joining the Trump White House in

2017.

In Trump's second term, Hassett would join a White House seeking to preserve and expand its 2017 tax cuts at a time when deficit pressures are weighing on federal borrowing costs.

He has argued that the tax cuts helped to meaningfully boost household incomes. Inflation-adjusted median household incomes jumped more than \$5,400 in 2019 to \$81,210. But the tax cuts also came with higher budget deficits as any economic gains failed to offset lost revenues, setting up a challenge for the incoming Trump administration to manage the debt even as it cuts taxes and seeks to hold down inflation.

NIH pick was against 2020 lockdowns

Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen health economist Dr. Jay Bhattacharya, a critic of pandemic lockdowns and vaccine mandates, to lead the National Institutes of Health, the nation's leading medical research agency.

Trump, in a statement Tuesday evening, said Bhattacharya, 56, a physician and professor at Stanford University School of Medicine, will work with Robert F. Kennedy Jr., his pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, "to direct the Nation's Medical Research."

The decision to choose Bhattacharya for the post is yet another reminder of the ongoing impact of the COVID pandemic on the politics on public health. Bhattacharya was one of three authors of the Great Barrington Declaration, an October 2020 open letter maintaining that lockdowns were causing irreparable harm. The document — which came before the availability of COVID-19 vaccines and during the first Trump administration — promoted "herd immunity," that people at low risk should live normally while building up immunity to COVID-19 through infection.

The Great Barrington Declaration was embraced by some in the first Trump administration, even as it was widely denounced by disease experts. Then-NIH director Dr. Francis Collins called it dangerous and "not mainstream science."

His nomination would need to be approved by the Senate.

NATION

NYC says better garbage pickup is in the bag

Change aims to fight rat problem

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

NEW YORK—For half a century, New York City residents have taken out their trash by flinging plastic bags stuffed with stinking garbage straight onto the sidewalk.

When the bags inevitably leak or break open, they spill litter into the street, providing smorgasbords for rats. In the winter, the trash mounds get buried in snow and remain frozen in place for days, sometimes weeks, reinforcing the city's reputation as being filthy.

Now, New Yorkers are slowly adjusting to a radically new routine, at least for America's biggest city: putting their trash in bins. With lids.

Covered bins became a requirement this month for all residential buildings with fewer than 10 living units. That's the majority of residential properties. All city businesses had to start using bins earlier this year.

"I know this must sound absurd to anyone listening to this who lives pretty much in any other city in the world," said Jessica Tisch, the city's former sanitation commissioner, who oversaw the new measures before becoming the city's new police commissioner this week. "But it is revolutionary by New York City's standards because, for 50 years, we have placed all our trash directly on the curbs."

Residents who've already experienced trash containerization else-

where agree it's long overdue for New York City to catch up.

"You see plastic bags open with the food just rotting and stinking and then it leaking out over the sidewalk and into the road," said John Midgley, who owns a brownstone in Brooklyn and has lived in London, Paris and Amsterdam. "Just the stink of it builds up, you know, week after week after week."

New York City's homes, businesses and institutions put about 44 million pounds of waste out on the curb every day, about 24 million pounds of which is collected by the city's sanitation department. Much of the rest is handled by private garbage carters.

In the early 20th century, New York City required trash to be placed in metal cans. But in the era before widespread plastic bag use, refuse was thrown directly into the bins, making them filthy and grimy.

Then in 1968, the city's sanitation workers went on strike. For more than a week, trash cans overflowed. Garbage mounds piled high on sidewalks and spilled into the streets like some dystopian nightmare.

Plastic bag makers donated thousands of bags to help clean up the mess, and New Yorkers never looked back, said Steven Cohen, a Columbia University dean specializing in public affairs.

"It had to do with convenience," he said. "After the strike, the sanitation workers preferred the modern



YUKI IWAMURA/AP

Sanitation workers collect trash this month in the Brooklyn borough of New York. New Yorkers are slowly adjusting to a radically new routine, at least for America's biggest city: putting their trash in bins with lids.

advance of lighter and seemingly cleaner sealed plastic bags."

Plastic kept more odors in, compared to the old metal bins. A worker could grab the neck of a bag and easily fling it into a truck.

But Democratic Mayor Eric Adams' administration has deemed trash bag mounds Public Enemy No. 1 in his well-documented war against the city's notorious rats.

Rats have little problem getting into a plastic bag. Durable bins with closing, locking lids should, in theory, do a better job of keeping them out.

The bin requirement, which took effect Nov. 12, comes with its own challenges. Among them: Finding a place for large, wheeled bins in neighborhoods where most buildings don't have yards, alleys or garages. Landlords and homeowners also have to collect the empty bins and bring them back from the curb in the morning — something you didn't have to do with plastic bags.

Caitlin Leffel, who lives in Manhattan, said residents of her building had to hire someone "at surprisingly high cost" to bring out the bins the night before and bring them back in three times a week.

"I know there are problems with the way this city has collected trash for years," she said. "But the way this program has been rolled out, it has not taken into account many of the nuances of living in New York City."

Eventually, the largest residential buildings — those with more than 31 units — will have their own designated container on the street. New trash trucks built with automated, side-loading arms — another innovation that is already common in many other countries — will then clear them out.

The upgrades should make pickups easier and cleaner, even if it might take longer for trash collectors to make the rounds, says Harry Nespoli, president of the union rep-

resenting some 7,000 city sanitation workers.

For now, he says, workers are still tossing trash into their trucks manually, which has its own downsides.

"Some places, they're not even using bags. They're just putting their trash into the bins," Nespoli said. "It's going to take time to get everyone to do it the right way, but at the end of the day, it's our job to pick it up."

Tisch believes New Yorkers will eventually come around to the new reality.

City officials, for now, are issuing written warnings for non-compliance. Not everyone knows about the new rules yet. But come Jan. 2, fines ranging from \$50 to \$200 will kick in.

"No one wants to live on a dirty block," Tisch said. "No one wants to walk past a heaping mound of trash and trash juice when they are leaving to go to work or they are walking their kids home from school."

White House: 3 Americans held in China have been released

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three American citizens imprisoned for years by China have been released and are returning to the United States, the White House said Wednesday, announcing a diplomatic agreement with Beijing in the final months of the Biden administration.

The three are Mark Swidan, Kai Li and John Leung, all of whom had been designated by the U.S. government as wrongfully detained by China. Swidan had been facing a death sentence on drug charges while Li and Leung faced espionage charges.

"Soon they will return and be reunited with their families for the first time in many years," the White House said in a statement.

The release comes just two months after China freed David Lin, a Christian pastor from California who had spent nearly 20

years behind bars after being convicted of contract fraud.

U.S.-China relations have been roiled for years over major disagreements on trade, human rights, the production of fentanyl precursors, security issues that include espionage and hacking, China's aggressiveness toward Taiwan and its smaller neighbors in the South China Sea, and Beijing's support for Russia's military-industrial sector.

The release of Americans deemed wrongfully detained in China has been a top agenda item in each conversation between the U.S. and China, and Wednesday's development suggests a willingness by Beijing to engage with the outgoing Democratic administration before Republican President-elect Donald Trump's return to the White House in January.

US inflation gauge ticks higher with price pressures still stubborn

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Consumer price increases accelerated last month, the latest sign that inflation's steady decline over the past two years has stalled in recent months.

According to the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge, consumer prices rose 2.3% in October from a year earlier, the Commerce Department said Wednesday.

That is up from just 2.1% in September, though it is still only modestly above the Fed's 2% target.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, "core" prices also picked up, climbing 2.8% last month from a year earlier, up from 2.7% in September. Economists watch core prices because they typically provide a better read on where inflation is headed.

Inflation has fallen sharply since it

peaked at 7% in mid-2022, according to the Fed's preferred measure.

Yet yearly core inflation has fluctuated between 2.6% and 2.8% since February. Price increases have remained elevated in services, including apartment rents, restaurant meals and car and home insurance.

Wednesday's report also underscored that Americans' incomes and spending remained healthy, a key reason the economy has kept growing this year despite widespread fears of a slowdown.

Incomes grew 0.6% from September to October, faster than economists had expected, while consumer spending rose by a solid 0.4%.

Solid growth and stubborn inflation, however, may keep Fed officials from cutting their key interest rate as quickly as they had signaled at their last meeting in September.

WORLD

Thousands return home as ceasefire starts

Associated Press

TYRE, Lebanon — Thousands of Lebanese displaced by the war between Israel and Hezbollah militants returned home on Wednesday as a ceasefire took hold, driving cars stacked with personal belongings and defying warnings from Lebanese and Israeli troops to stay away from some areas.

If it endures, the ceasefire would end nearly 14 months of fighting between Israel and Hezbollah, which escalated in mid-September into all-out war and threatened to pull Hezbollah's patron, Iran, and Israel's closest ally, the United States, into a broader conflagration.

The deal does not address the war in Gaza, where Israeli strikes overnight on two schools-turned-shelters in Gaza City killed 11 people, including four children, according to hospital officials. Israel said one strike targeted a Hamas sniper and the other targeted militants hiding among civilians.

The truce in Lebanon could give reprieve to the 1.2 million Lebanese displaced by the fighting and the tens of thousands of Israelis who fled their homes along the border.

"They were a nasty and ugly 60 days," said Mohammed Kaafarani, 59, who was displaced from the Lebanese village of Bidias. "We reached a point where there was no place to hide."

The U.S.- and France-brokered deal, approved by Israel late Tuesday, calls for an initial two-month halt to fighting and requires Hezbollah to end its armed presence in southern Lebanon, while Israeli



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

Displaced residents returning to their village sit in their car as they pass in front of a destroyed mosque, in Bint Jbeil, Lebanon, following a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah that went into effect Wednesday.

troops are to return to their side of the border.

Thousands of additional Lebanese troops and U.N. peacekeepers would deploy in the south, and an international panel headed by the United States would monitor compliance.

Israel says it reserves the right to strike Hezbollah should it violate the terms of the deal. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said troops arrested four Hezbollah operatives, including a local commander, who had entered what it referred to as a restricted area.

It said troops have been ordered

to prevent people from returning to villages near the border.

Israel is still fighting Hamas militants in Gaza in response to the group's cross-border raid into southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. But President Joe Biden on Tuesday said his administration would make another push in the coming days for a ceasefire there and the release of dozens of hostages held by Hamas.

Hezbollah supporters declare victory despite devastation

Israel can claim major victories in the war, including the killing of Hezbollah's top leader Hassan Nasrallah and most of its senior

commanders, as well as the destruction of extensive militant infrastructure. A complex attack involving exploding pagers and walkie-talkies, widely attributed to Israel, appeared to show a remarkable degree of penetration of the secretive militant group.

The battered Hezbollah has lost much of the mystique it acquired by fighting Israel to a stalemate in the 2006 war.

Yet the Shiite militant group still managed to put up heavy resistance, slowing Israel's advance while firing scores of rockets, missiles and drones across the border each day.

"This is a moment of victory, pride and honor for us, the Shiite sect, and for all of Lebanon," said Hussein Sweidan, a resident returning to the port city of Tyre. Sporadic celebratory gunfire was heard at a main roundabout in the city, as drivers honked their horns and residents cheered.

Israel carried out heavy strikes until the ceasefire took hold, pounding targets in the already hard-hit southern suburbs of Beirut known as the Dahiyeh, where Hezbollah was headquartered. Residents returning to its rubble-strewn streets on Wednesday projected defiance.

"We don't care about the rubble or destruction. We lost our livelihood, our properties, but it's okay, it will all come back," said Fatima Hanifa, evoking the rebuilding after the 2006 war.

"It will be even more beautiful. And I say to Netanyahu that you have lost, and lost, and lost because we are back and the others (Israelis) didn't come back."

Other Lebanese are more critical of Hezbollah, accusing it of having dragged the economically devastated country into an unnecessary war on behalf of its patron, Iran.

Israel warns Lebanese not to return to border as troops remain

The Israeli military warned displaced Lebanese not to return to evacuated villages in southern Lebanon, where Israeli troops were still present following their ground invasion in early October. Israeli forces opened fire to push back a number of vehicles that were entering a restricted area, it said.

Khan supporters dispersed, Pakistan ends lockdown of capital

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Authorities reopened roads linking Pakistan's capital with the rest of the country, ending a four-day lockdown, on Wednesday after using tear gas and firing into the air to disperse supporters of imprisoned former Prime Minister Imran Khan who marched to Islamabad to demand

his release from prison.

"All roads are being reopened, and the demonstrators have been dispersed," Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said.

Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, who was leading the protest, and other demonstrators fled in vehicles when police pushed back against the rallygoers following clashes in

which at least seven people were killed.

The police operation came hours after thousands of Khan supporters, defying government warnings, broke through a barrier of shipping containers blocking off Islamabad and entered a high-security zone, where they clashed with security forces.

Tension has been high in Islamabad since Sunday when supporters of the former prime minister began a "long march" from the restive northwest to demand his release. Khan has been in a prison for over a year and faces more than 150 criminal cases that his party says are politically motivated.

Hundreds of demonstrators

have been arrested since Sunday.

Bibi and leaders of her husband's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party fled to Mansehra in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, where the party still rules.

Khan, who remains a popular opposition figure, was ousted in 2022 through a no-confidence vote in Parliament.

ICC prosecutor requests warrants for head of Myanmar military regime

Associated Press

THE HAGUE — The International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor asked judges on Wednesday to issue an arrest warrant for the head of Myanmar's military regime for crimes committed against the country's Rohingya Muslim minority.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, who seized power from elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi in 2021, is accused of crimes against humanity for the deportation and persecution



Hlaing

of the Rohingya.

Nearly a million people were forced into neighboring Bangladesh to escape what has been called an ethnic cleansing campaign involving mass rapes, killings and the torching of homes.

From a refugee camp in Bangladesh, the court's top prosecutor, Ka-

rim Khan, said in a statement that he intended to request more warrants for Myanmar's leaders soon.

"In doing so, we will be demonstrating, together with all of our partners, that the Rohingya have not been forgotten. That they, like all people around the world, are entitled to the protection of the law," the British barrister said.

The allegations stem from a counterinsurgency campaign that Myanmar's military began in Au-

gust 2017 in response to an insurgent attack. Hlaing, who heads the Myanmar Defense Services, is said to have directed the armed forces of Myanmar, known as the Tatmadaw, as well as the national police to attack Rohingya civilians.

Khan was in Bangladesh where he met with members of the displaced Rohingya population. About 1 million of the predominately Muslim Rohingya live in Bangladesh as refugees from Myanmar, including

about 740,000 who fled in 2017.

Rohingyas face widespread discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, with most denied citizenship.

Myanmar's government refuses to recognize the Rohingya as one of the country's 135 lawful ethnic minorities, instead calling them Bengalis, with the implication that their native land is in Bangladesh and they are illegally settled in Myanmar.

SCIENCE

Petrified poo leads to dinosaur discoveries

By CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON
The Washington Post

When paleontologist Martin Qvarnström began peering inside 230-million-year-old fossilized dinosaur dung using an advanced X-ray technology, he wasn't sure he'd see anything of interest.

But embedded in ancient excrement, he discovered multitudes. Scans revealed tiny beetles with antennas and delicate legs intact, crushed bones from extinct crocodile ancestors, half-digested fish and an abundance of plant life within the bromalites — fossilized feces and vomit — of early dinosaurs and the creatures that roamed alongside them.

From paleontological poop, Qvarnström and colleagues reconstructed the ecology, biology and food webs that wove together the early dinosaur ecosystem in the Polish Basin in central Europe from 230 million to 200 million years ago. The research, published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, focuses on a critical, but obscure, period in the late Triassic and early Jurassic, when the first dinosaurs appeared in that region

and rose to dominance — part of a major turnover in life on Earth.

The picture that emerges from the study of more than 500 bromalites — mostly coprolites, or droppings — is one of a gradual process of change. Small dinosaur ancestors opportunistically took advantage of food sources made more abundant by environmental changes, evolved into larger creatures and widened their ecological niche.

Stephen Brusatte, a paleontologist at the University of Edinburgh who was not involved in the study, called the deep dive into dinosaur droppings “insightful and innovative,” for putting some of the “most maligned fossils” under scrutiny.

The celebrities of the paleontological world tend to have giant footprints and outsize bodies — the fearsome apex predators and charismatic herbivores whose skeletons fill museum halls and ignite the imagination.

Fossilized digestive contents, on the other hand, tend to be stored in basements and are often the object of jokes, said Grzegorz Niedz-

wiedzki, a paleontologist at Uppsala University in Sweden and the senior author of the study.

But look close enough, and they can reveal details about how dinosaurs lived — who and what they ate, how they fit into their ecosystems and how that changed over time.

“Inside these coprolites is a story about life and the biology of these early dinosaurs,” Niedzwiedzki said.

The authors used their study to construct a food web, with arrows showing what and who prehistoric creatures were chowing on. When the first dinosaur ancestors came on the scene in present-day Poland some 230 million years ago, they were small, omnivorous and opportunistic silesaurids. The study reveals they filled their stomachs with tiny beetles, among other food.

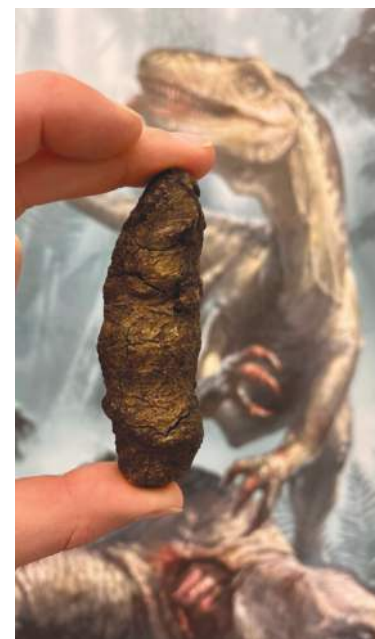
Carnivorous dinosaurs appeared around 220 million years ago. Herbivorous dinosaurs emerged about 10 million years later. Around 200 million years ago, the plant-eaters may have gained an advantage when the cli-

mate became more humid, favoring dinosaurs with a wider palate, who expanded from a mostly conifer diet to consume ferns and other plants that became more abundant.

This dietary flexibility may have helped allow for the emergence of larger dinosaurs. Then, they began to become far more diverse and spread geographically.

“The study shows the subtle interplay of climate, mainly arid, and eventually humid, and how climate mainly affected the dominant plants, which in turn gave opportunities for new herbivores at certain points,” said Michael Benton, a professor of vertebrate paleontology at the University of Bristol, who was not involved in the study.

While the question of how the non-avian dinosaurs went extinct is a source of wide fascination, the question of how they came to rule in the first place remains remarkably obscure. Did dinosaurs out-compete amphibians, other reptiles and large herbivores due to their physical prowess? Or did environmental changes pave the



GRZEGORZ NIEDZWIEDZKI/AP

Fossilized feces from an archosaur, a meat-eating reptile, is seen in Uppsala, Sweden, earlier this month.

way for their success?

The new study closely followed the record in one part of the world, and a similar approach could now be used in other regions, to discern if the food webs were similar and identify differences in how dinosaurs rose to dominance.

STARS AND STRIPES

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The Daily Guide to Navigating The Military Business Market

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Kamala Harris mulls run for California governor

DC WASHINGTON — Kamala Harris could be the next governor of California.

Weeks after being defeated by President-elect Donald Trump, the former Democratic presidential nominee has told her inner circle she will keep all options open, according to Politico. That could include California's 2026 gubernatorial race.

A University of California, Berkeley poll taken shortly before the election showed one in three Golden State voters said they'd be "very likely" to vote for Harris and another 13% consider themselves "somewhat likely" to support her.

Outgoing Rep. Katie Porter, Lt. Gov. Eleni Kounalakis and former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa are also considered potentially strong candidates for the job. Gov. Gavin Newsom has been elected twice and isn't eligible to run again.

Iconic Detroit towers may be razed in \$1.6B plan

MI DETROIT — Two towers at Detroit's iconic Renaissance Center would be razed and the complex converted to a mix of housing and offices under an ambitious \$1.6 billion plan announced Monday.

The complex, which next year will lose the headquarters of owner General Motors Co., is the symbol of Detroit, with aerial views often shown on television sports broadcasts.

GM decided last spring to leave what's locally known as the "Ren-Cen" for a more modern building being constructed downtown.

GM said in April it would join forces with the Bedrock real estate development firm and Wayne County to turn the partially vacant property into a roughly 27-acre entertainment complex across the Detroit River from Windsor, Ontario.

The 73-story main tower would remain, with high-end housing on the upper floors, according to Crain's Detroit Business, which first reported the plans.

Couple charged in theft of \$1M in Lululemon gear

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Connecticut couple has been charged in Minnesota with being part of a shoplifting ring suspected of stealing around \$1 million in goods across the country from the upscale athletic wear retailer Lululemon.

Jadion Anthony Richards, 44, and Akwele Nিকেisha Lawes-Richards, 45, both of Danbury, Conn., were charged this month with one felony count of organized retail theft. Both went free last week after posting bail bonds of \$100,000 for him and \$30,000 for her, court records show. They're due back in Ramsey County Dis-



MARTA LAVANDIER/AP

Parade of art on the beach

People walk around an installation of life-size elephants in advance of Art Basel, Tuesday in Miami Beach, Fla. The Real Elephant Collective are made of an invasive weed and metal by a group of indigenous Indian artisans.

trict Court in St. Paul on Dec. 16.

According to the criminal complaints, a Lululemon investigator had been tracking the pair even before police first confronted them. The investigator told police the couple would steal items and make fraudulent returns.

According to the investigator, they were also suspected in thefts from Lululemon stores in Colorado, Utah, New York and Connecticut, the complaint said.

Within Minnesota, they were also accused of thefts at stores in Minneapolis and the suburbs of Woodbury, Edina and Minnetonka.

County official serving time wins election

MI MONROE — A county official in Michigan has taken the oath of office for another term, but face-to-face meetings with his constituents are unlikely.

Mark Brant, reelected Nov. 5 as a Monroe County commissioner, soon will be off to federal prison. The Republican said he has no plans to resign and will collect a roughly \$15,000 salary.

"While I'm gone, my phone will be available," Brant told the Detroit Free Press. "I have somebody who will be taking my messages. And my fellow board members have all volunteered to handle all of my constituents' concerns that I won't be able to handle."

In September, Brant was sentenced to 18 months in prison, though his actual time in custody will be shorter. He pleaded guilty to allowing his land in southeastern Michigan to be used to grow marijuana for distribution across the border in Ohio.

Brant, a county commissioner since 2012, resigned on Oct. 1, a few weeks after he was sentenced. But his name remained on the Nov. 5 election ballot, and he got 91% of the vote for another four-year term.

Statewide sales tax hike to pay for new tax cuts

LA BATON ROUGE — Louisiana's GOP-dominated legislature passed tax cuts on personal and corporate income on Friday in exchange for a statewide sales tax increase, giving Gov. Jeff Landry much of what he wanted after his original tax reform package faced mounting resistance from lawmakers and lobbyists.

The final passage of the tax measures wrapped up a special legislative session launched Nov. 6 by the governor and his allies. They said their purpose was to make the state's tax code more business friendly, create jobs and reverse trends of outward migration from the state.

It was the third special legislative session called by Landry, a Republican, since he assumed of-

fice in January.

Critics warned the tax reforms would primarily benefit corporate shareholders and wealthy taxpayers while the sales tax increase would exacerbate Louisiana's regressive tax system where poorer households pay a higher percentage of their income on taxes.

Pilot killed in plane crash, but 2 dogs survive

NY WINDHAM — A pilot and a rescue dog he was transporting to an animal shelter were killed when a small plane crashed in the snowy woods of the Catskill Mountains, though two other dogs were later found to have survived, authorities said.

Seuk Kim, 49, was flying from Maryland to Albany, N.Y., when the plane crashed Sunday evening in a remote area of Windham, about 35 miles southwest of Albany, officials said.

A preliminary investigation indicates the pilot died from the impact, Greene County Sheriff Peter Kusminsky said. The flight was carrying three dogs and was associated with a not-for-profit group that transports rescue animals with help from volunteer pilots, the sheriff said.

Two dogs survived the crash: A Labrador-mix puppy that suffered broken bones, and another dog that had only minor injuries.

Tributes to Kim, who was from Springfield, Va., poured into an

online memorial Monday, with fellow dog rescuers thanking him for flying flights and coordinating pilots across the country.

Judge upholds ban on care for trans youth

MO COLUMBIA — A Missouri court on Monday upheld a new state law that bans some gender-affirming health care for minors, a victory for supporters of the ban as a multitude of lawsuits against similar bans in other states continue to play out.

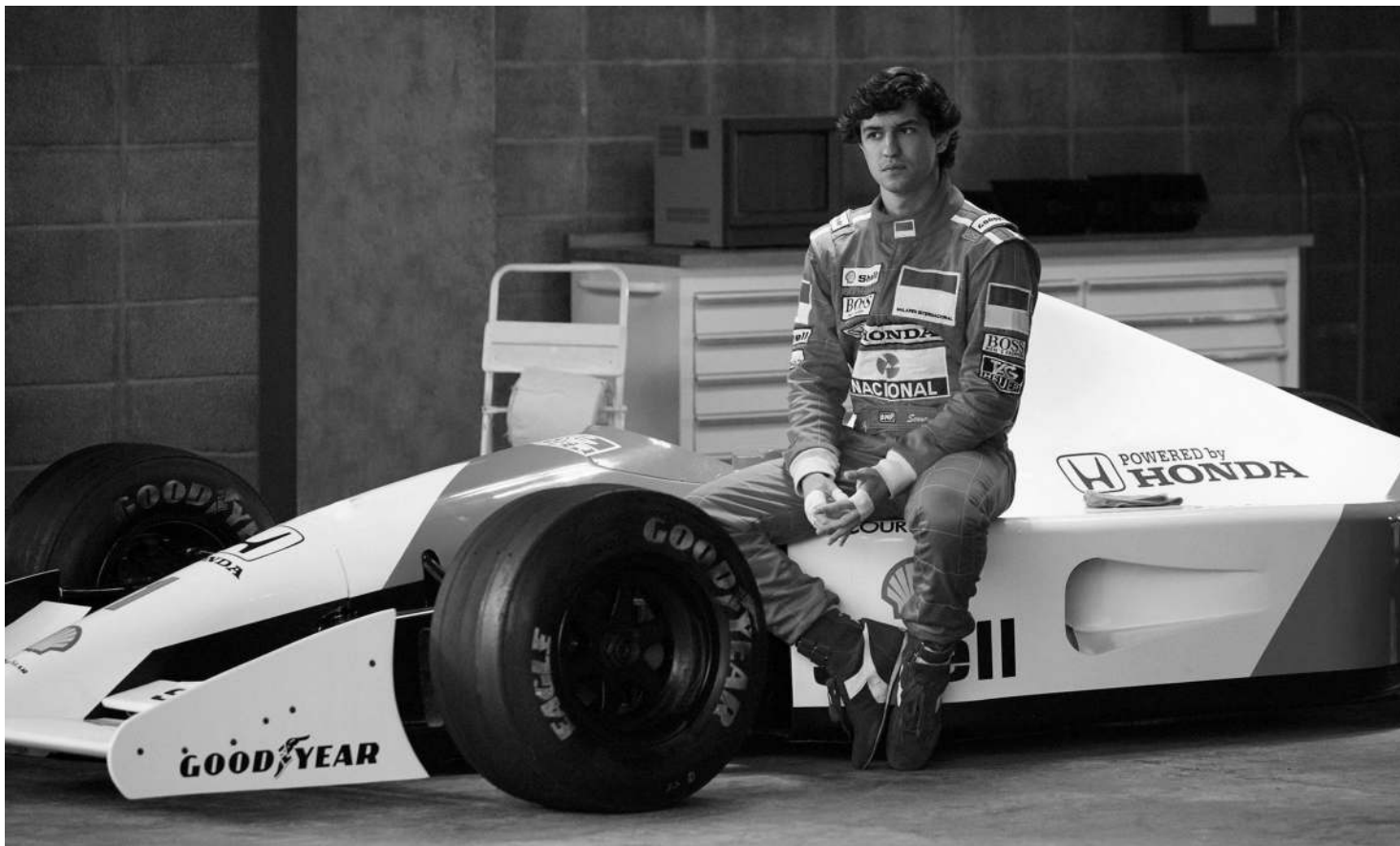
Republican Attorney General Andrew Bailey said in a statement that Missouri is the "first state in the nation to successfully defend such a law at the trial court level." Bailey, who tried to ban minors' access to gender-affirming health care through rule change but dropped the effort when the law passed, is responsible for defending the legislation in court.

"I'm extremely proud of the thousands of hours my office put in to shine a light on the lack of evidence supporting these irreversible procedures," Bailey said.

Every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, has opposed the bans on gender-affirming care for minors and supported the medical care for youth when administered appropriately.

From wire services

FACES



Netflix

Gabriel Leone plays Brazilian race car driver Ayrton Senna in "Senna," a six-episode Netflix series that debuts on Friday.

Focus on a high-octane life

Formula One racing champion Ayrton Senna the center of new Netflix limited series

BY MAURICIA SAVARESE
Associated Press

Thirty years after his death in a high-speed crash viewed by millions around the world, Formula One champion Ayrton Senna's high-octane life is also about to play out in front of a global audience.

The legendary Brazilian driver — who was killed when his car hit a concrete wall at the San Marino Grand Prix in 1994 — is the subject of a six-episode Netflix series that debuts on Friday and follows him from his early go-kart days to that fatal Sunday afternoon at the Imola track in Italy.

Even three decades after that accident, few F1 figures evoke as much emotion and passion among fans and fellow drivers as Senna, who won three championship titles before his death at the age of 34.

Senna's complex personality — he was a saint to his millions of Brazilian fans and a sinner to some critics who deemed his driving style too aggressive — comes to life through Brazilian actor Gabriel Leone, who embraced the challenge of portraying such a popular figure.

"He was much more than an F1 driver for us. He became an icon, much beyond his technique and his driving," Leone told The Associated Press in an interview in Sao Paulo. "He had this humanity, this honesty. The things he said, his values, it all made him closer to people."

Senna's life and career had no shortage of made-for-TV moments.

This was a driver who once won a race with his car stuck in sixth gear at the Interlagos track. And who went from fifth position to first in one lap at the 1993 European Grand Prix. And who jumped out of his car during a training session to save the life of a French driver who had crashed.

On the track, his rivalry with French driver Alain Prost was one of the most intense that F1 has ever seen. Off the track, he had some high-profile relationships as well and dated several models, including Elle Macpherson.

"For me as an actor, the more complex the character is, the better. It is more interesting to build him and live him. And this is quite a character, the biggest hero in Brazil,

"Ayrton was transcendent. He was more than an F1 driver. That's a guy who is the hero of great drivers in history."

Brazilian actor Gabriel Leone

not only in sport," Leone said. "Ayrton was transcendent. He was more than an F1 driver. That's a guy who is the hero of great drivers in history, like (Michael) Schumacher and (Lewis) Hamilton."

Senna won the drivers' championship in 1988, 1990 and 1991 with the McLaren team and moved to Williams in the year he died as the favorite to lift the title again.

For Leone, though, it was also important to portray him as a person who understood his role as a national hero, who advocated for the poor and proudly waved a Brazilian flag from his cockpit during every victory lap.

"He was not distant, he was close," said Leone, who attended a red carpet premiere in Sao Paulo on Tuesday with several other cast members and director Vicente Amorim. "That's for Brazilians and non-Brazilians. It was like this, and it still is like this."

To many international fans, Senna was simply an exceptional talent who was born to be a driver. Even former rival Martin Brundle, now a TV pundit, once likened Senna's ability to find grip on some corners to a dance seemingly innate to a Brazilian.

"It is a different kind of samba that I could not do," Brundle has said.

The Netflix series, however, shows some of the hard work and attention to detail that went into Senna becoming a wet-weather master.

The streaming giant — which reportedly invested more than \$170 million in its production — also takes a bit of liberty with the truth when it comes to building up the animosity between Senna and one of his other real-life antagonists, Jean-Marie Balestre, the French former president of F1's governing body FIA.

The Netflix series goes so far as to make Balestre (played by Arnaud Viard) the man responsible for Senna losing a go-kart title as a child, long before he even entered F1.

"If that was true it would be news to every reporter covering Senna's story over the last decades," said Ernesto Rodrigues, who wrote a biography on the three-time F1 champion.

Prost, played by Matt Mella, goes from being a racing foe to a friend after his retirement in the series just like in real life. The friction between the two as McLaren teammates and then in the title-deciding races in the 1989 and 1990 seasons create some of the best moments of the series for racing fans.

'Vanderpump Rules' ditching namesake

From wire reports

"Vanderpump Rules," the Emmy-nominated Bravo reality show that launched countless memes, merch, podcasts, endorsement deals and scandals, is recasting its 12th season — apart from its namesake, Lisa Vanderpump.

Bravo said in a press release Tuesday that the upcoming season would feature "a new group of close-knit SUR-vers who are as complicatedly involved with one another as their iconic predecessors."

The series debuted in 2013 as a spinoff to "The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills," executive produced and starring Vanderpump, a restaurateur. It focused on the personal lives of select staff at her West Hollywood restaurant, SUR, with Vanderpump in the role of both boss and maternal figure.

With in-fighting, cheating scandals, changing alliances and nonstop drama, the cast seemed destined to be followed by reality TV cameras.

"They're 20-something and they're young and they're hot," said Vanderpump of the cast ahead of the series premiere. "They want to play and they're waiting for their dream, and unfortunately their dream isn't really to work at my restaurant."

Bravo did not elaborate on its decision to cast a new group, but said the cast would be announced later and the new season would go into production next year.

"I can't thank enough those who have shared their lives. How I love you all," Vanderpump said. "In the restaurant business, one shift always gives way to another."

'Friday Night Lights' TV reboot planned; still in early stages

"Friday Night Lights," the emotionally stirring story of a West Texas football team, is getting a reboot from Universal Television, Variety reported this month.

The original TV series ran from 2006 to 2011, winning three Emmys over the five seasons. It was loosely based on Buzz Bissinger's 1990 book that captured the socio-political climate of Odessa through the lens of a beloved high school football team: the Permian Panthers. The book was also adapted in a 2004 film starring Billy Bob Thornton as coach Gary Gaines.

Kyle Chandler, Connie Britton and Jesse Plemons were co-stars in the series.

Showrunner Jason Katims is set to return for the new version, according to Variety. The upcoming project, which is still in the early stages, will focus on a new set of characters in the world of high school football.

Other news

■ **Wendy Williams'** health battle has taken a turn for the worse. The former talk show host is now "permanently incapacitated" due to her dementia diagnosis, according to her guardian. In May of 2023, Williams was diagnosed with primary aggressive aphasia and frontotemporal dementia, just one year after she was placed under legal guardianship.

■ **Jim Abrahams**, a writer and director behind slapstick comedies like "Airplane!" and "The Naked Gun" series, has died at his home in Santa Monica, Calif., of natural causes, his son Josh said in a statement. He was 80 years old.



Vanderpump

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OPINION

How Latinos found their voice in Donald Trump

BY JUAN RANGEL

Chicago Tribune

Donald Trump won 46% of the Latino vote, according to some exit polls highlighting the complexity and nuance of this demographic, which pundits too often mischaracterize as monolithic, or worse, an aggrieved minority. Against most expectations, a significant portion of moderate to conservative Latinos turned out for Trump, delivering critical margins in states such as Arizona and Nevada and exposed cracks in the Midwest's blue wall including Illinois.

Chicago, long a Democratic stronghold, saw 27% to 41% of the vote in the five wards with the highest rate of Latinos go to Trump. What gives?

Progressive critics claim racism, misogyny, self-hate and even trauma rooted in 500 years of colonialism to explain away "Latinos for Trump." Hogwash!

This outcome was not the product of identity politics; rather, it's the culmination of built-up concern over the direction of our values on family, faith, entrepreneurship and an aspiration for upward mobility.

Trump's appeal to economic opportunity, cultural preservation and dissatisfaction with government overreach proved a powerful message that resonated with Latinos striving to achieve their American Dream. Their vote for Trump was a rejection of the progressive movement that has veered far left and wrought havoc on Latinos' sense of family, economic stability and community safety.

Latino culture is deeply rooted in family values and religious faith, two areas in which Trump aligned himself with these voters. Democrats leaned heavily into progressive social issues such as gender identity, LGBTQ+ rights and, yes, abortion. While younger, urban Latinos often embraced these policies, many older and more reli-

giously devout Latinos, especially Mexican American Catholics, felt alienated.

Trump's emphasis on protecting traditional values connected with Latinos who saw the Democratic platform as dismissive of their cultural priorities. His opposition to late-term abortion and his vocal defense of religious freedoms appealed to Catholic and evangelical Latinos, who make up a major portion of the electorate.

Latino families also took notice of Trump's tough stance on crime and his support of law enforcement. This was particularly compelling in urban areas where concerns about rising crime rates have grown.

Latino voters gravitate toward candidates who prioritize job creation and economic growth. This message strikes a chord with a community that values its work ethic and where entrepreneurialism thrives. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos account for the fastest-growing segment of small-business owners in the nation. Latinos face the same struggles as other entrepreneurs: inflation, labor shortages and regulatory hurdles. Trump's promise to slash regulations, cut taxes and control inflation appealed directly to Latino aspirations and frustrations.

Moreover, the perception that the policies of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris had exacerbated rising costs — from housing to groceries — drove many Latinos away.

Within the more established Mexican American immigrant community, frustration with the Biden-Harris administration's handling of the migrant crisis played a significant role in their vote for Trump. Many viewed the influx of new migrants — particularly from Central and South America — with deep resentment. There's a strong belief that new arrivals receive preferential treatment — whether through expedited process-

ing, housing assistance, free health care, political attention and massive budget allocations — over immigrants who had earned their lot over decades without any government assistance. By promising fairness, order and stability, Trump tapped into this resentment, positioning himself as a defender of those who played by the rules.

Then there's an overall disillusionment with the Democratic Party. Democrats rely on Latino voters as a cornerstone of their coalition, often assuming their loyalty without earning it. This sense of being taken for granted is not new, but it gained traction in 2024 as Democrats continued to focus on victimhood and identity politics over practical issues and pragmatic solutions. A hint to Dems: Many Latinos despise the Latinx and Latine labels.

In contrast, Trump doubled down on the narrative of self-reliance and opportunity. This message particularly resonated with second- and third-generation Latinos who see themselves as fully integrated into the American mainstream and reject being defined solely by their ethnicity.

A takeaway for both parties: Latinos, specifically Mexican Americans, are in search of a political home that promotes their moderate to conservative values and translates those values into public policy.

Democrats must reckon with this reality if they hope to regain ground with Latinos in future elections. Meanwhile, Republicans should view their recent gains not as guaranteed but as an opportunity to build deeper connections with this growing electorate.

Trump's victory may well mark a turning point in how both parties understand and engage with the Latino community — a lesson neither side can afford to ignore.

Juan Rangel is CEO of The Urban Center, a nonprofit organization in Illinois that empowers moderate to conservative community leadership and public policy.

How a 'rightfully traumatized' NATO can survive Trump

BY LEE HOCKSTADER

Special to The Washington Post

BRUSSELS

NATO's new secretary general, Mark Rutte, stands 6-foot-4, so he can look Donald Trump straight in the eye. He's a deft dealmaker who managed four different coalition governments as prime minister of the Netherlands — during which he got on well with Trump, whose contempt for the U.S.-led alliance made it a stage set for chaos in his first term.

Rutte's friendly vibe with the president-elect might be his key job qualification, given Trump's explicit threats to gut the NATO collective defense guarantee that ensures Europe's security or abandon the alliance altogether. What Rutte needs now is a survival guide for NATO, where the officials I interviewed last week were resigned but clearly anxious.

Rutte, 57, who met with Trump at Mar-a-Lago last Friday, has his work cut out. But the components of NATO's survival in the Trump years are clear enough, even if some would be politically excruciating. The critical parts are concrete demonstrations that Europe will pull more weight and conveying that commitment in Trump's own language. That starts with...

Cash. Most of NATO's 30 European states shrank their armed forces and military industrial capacity for years. Spending climbed sharply after Moscow's full-scale invasion of

Ukraine; by the end of this decade, Washington's European allies are expected to have 600 advanced U.S.-made F-35 fighter jets in their arsenals. But the alliance's 2014 guideline that member states spend at least 2% of total economic output on defense is badly outdated and inadequate to execute existing battle plans.

Rutte should use next summer's NATO summit to set a higher minimum defense spending target for the alliance — 2.5% of gross domestic product immediately, rising to 3% by 2030. (The U.S. outlay is about 3.4% of GDP.) Rutte's focus should be on the alliance's European Big Four: Germany, Britain, France and Italy, which together accounted for almost two-thirds of NATO's non-U.S. defense spending last year. Each faces severe budget or fiscal restraints and would struggle to meet the goal — especially Italy, whose meager defense spending should be a national embarrassment.

Yet even 3% of GDP is less than some major European nations spent on defense during the Cold War. And it is just half the 6% of national income that Russia will spend next year.

Debt. Rutte will also need to press for Euro defense bonds, a form of joint borrowing that could raise hundreds of billions of dollars to expand defense industries and modernize militaries.

The key will be convincing Germany, which has blocked the idea until now. But Rutte might have an opening as Germans prepare

for federal elections in February, as well as a solid argument: The European Union jointly borrowed some \$850 billion to jump-start pandemic-wracked economies and could do it again to buttress its own security.

Asset seizure. Washington and its European partners haggled for months over using \$50 billion in future profits from frozen Russian state assets to support and rebuild Ukraine. That's too little. As lawyers bicker about seizing the underlying cash, roughly \$300 billion, Rutte can make the case that doing so is a political decision, not a legal one — and this is the moment.

Ukraine. A central question in any peace negotiations to end the war in Ukraine will be security guarantees for Kyiv — ensuring its sovereignty and the territory under its control. That will require ongoing financial and military support and probably a European-led peacekeeping force after a credible cease-fire is agreed.

Strategy. Trump might like to hasten Washington's shifting focus toward China and away from Europe. Rutte will need to make the case that the two are intertwined.

At NATO, there is optimism that Rutte is the right man to keep Washington in NATO's tent. Let's hope that's not just wishful thinking.

Lee Hockstader has been The Washington Post's European Affairs columnist, based in Paris, since 2023. Previously he was a member of the Post editorial board; a national correspondent, a foreign correspondent, and a local reporter.

Bizarro

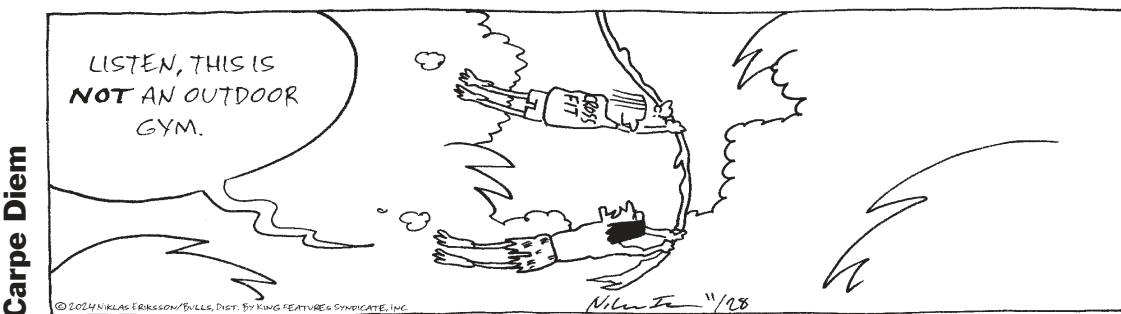
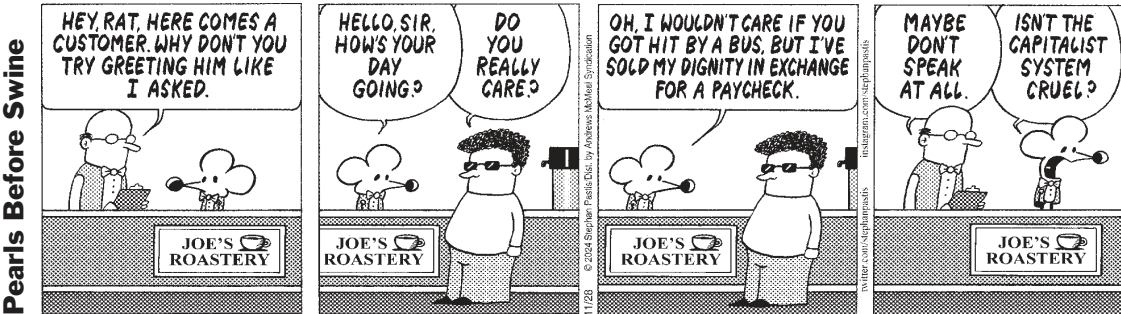
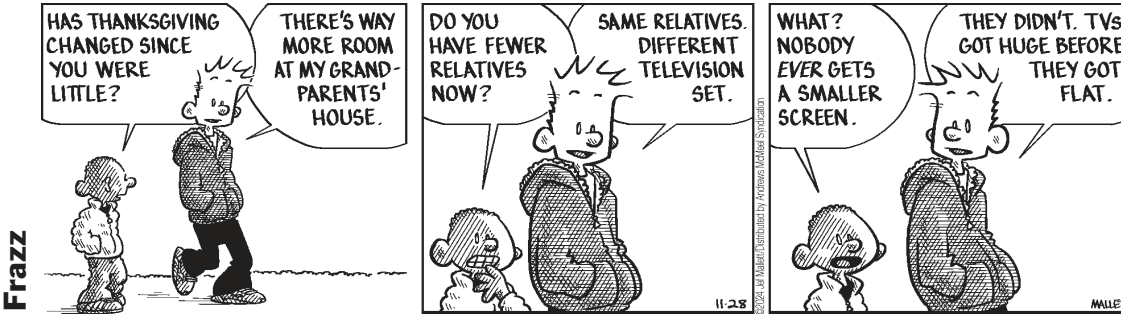


Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbered squares.



- ACROSS: 1 Cleans floors, 5 Categorize, 8 Lummoxes, 12 "So be it", 13 King, in Cannes, 14 Steakhouse order, 15 Hindu royal, 16 Gerund suffix, 17 French cheese, 18 Arts companion, 20 Bleak, 22 Hours spent with relatives, 26 Refine metal, 29 Garden buzzer, 30 Rapper — Kim, 31 Like ganders, 32 YouTube upload (Abbr.), 33 Sweet beginning?, 34 Yucatan "Bravo!", 35 Dispensed candy, 36 Stuns, as a perp, 37 Say grace at dinner, 40 Berry used in smoothies, 41 Pirate song chant, 45 Sax range, 47 Cartoon frame, 49 Infamous tsar, 50 Yuletide tune, 51 Privy, 52 Karaoke prop, 53 Art class subject, 54 Still, in verse, 55 "The — of March", 23 Spanish resort isle, 24 Charades player, 25 Yale students, 26 Urban haze, 27 Niger's neighbor, 28 Raised, 32 Jam ingredient?, 33 Raw fish dish, 35 Bake sale org., 36 Ring decision, 38 Paris school, 39 Hose material, 42 "Ars Amatoria" poet, 43 Cod cousin, 44 Snake eyes, in Vegas, 45 New England cape, 46 Baseball's Gehrig, 48 Fair hirer, in ads

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Completed crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.

11-28 CRYPTOQUIP
H A M O N X I S H G Q D
J M G E Y H Z X ' J T D F M Z H I K C D Z I
M T D I S D G Q J E H F H G E P K D N
P O J I Y K I S K I A K K I C M I D I M K J.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERYBODY REALLY LOVED WHAT I HAD COOKED INSIDE MY TURKEY. THERE WAS MUCH ADO ABOUT STUFFING.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Scores
Tuesday, Nov. 26
EAST
 Buffalo 43, Kent State 7

MIDWEST
 Akron 21, Toledo 14, OT

Schedule
Thursday, Nov. 28
SOUTH
 Tuskegee (0-1) at Alabama St. (6-5)
 Memphis (9-2) at Tulane (9-2)

Friday, Nov. 29
SOUTH
 Navy (7-3) at East Carolina (7-4)
 Texas State (6-5) at South Alabama (6-5)
 Mississippi St. (2-9) at Mississippi (8-3)
 Alabama A&M (6-5) at Florida A&M (6-5)
 Georgia Tech (7-4) at Georgia (9-2)
 Utah (4-7) at UCF (4-7)

MIDWEST
 Minnesota (6-5) at Wisconsin (5-6)
 Miami (Ohio) (7-4) at Bowling Green (7-4)
 Ball St. (3-8) at Ohio (8-3)
 Nebraska (6-5) at Iowa (7-4)

SOUTHWEST
 Liberty (8-2) at Sam Houston St. (8-3)

FAR WEST
 Oklahoma St. (3-8) at Colorado (8-3)
 Oregon St. (5-6) at Boise St. (10-1)
 Utah St. (4-7) at Colorado St. (7-4)
 Stanford (3-8) at San Jose St. (6-5)

Saturday, Nov. 30
EAST
 UTSA (6-5) at Army (9-1)
 Uconn (7-4) at Umass (2-9)
 North Texas (5-6) at Temple (3-8)
 Pittsburgh (7-4) at Boston College (6-5)
 Maryland (4-7) at Penn St. (10-1)
 Miami (10-1) at Syracuse (8-3)

SOUTH
 Duke (8-3) at Wake Forest (4-7)
 Louisiana-Lafayette (9-2) at Louisiana-Monroe (5-6)
 Louisville (7-4) at Kentucky (4-7)
 Tennessee (9-2) at Vanderbilt (6-5)
 South Carolina (8-3) at Clemson (9-2)
 Middle Tennessee (3-8) at FIU (3-8)
 Southern U. (7-4) vs. Grambling St. (5-6) at New Orleans
 Coastal Carolina (5-6) at Georgia St. (3-8)
 Southern Miss. (1-10) at Troy (3-8)
 Auburn (5-6) at Alabama (8-3)
 NC State (5-6) at North Carolina (6-5)
 UAB (3-8) at Charlotte (4-7)
 Jacksonville St. (8-3) at W. Kentucky (7-4)
 Kennesaw St. (2-9) at Louisiana Tech (4-7)
 Appalachian St. (5-5) at Georgia Southern (7-4)
 Oklahoma (6-5) at LSU (7-4)
 Florida (6-5) at Florida St. (2-9)
 Marshall (8-3) at James Madison (8-3)
 Virginia (5-6) at Virginia Tech (5-6)

MIDWEST
 Michigan (6-5) at Ohio St. (10-1)
 Illinois (8-3) at Northwestern (4-7)
 E. Michigan (5-6) at W. Michigan (5-6)
 Arkansas (6-5) at Missouri (8-3)
 Rutgers (6-5) at Michigan St. (5-6)
 Cent. Michigan (4-7) at N. Illinois (6-5)
 TCU (7-4) at Cincinnati (5-6)
 Purdue (1-10) at Indiana (10-1)
 Kansas St. (8-3) at Iowa St. (9-2)

SOUTHWEST
 Kansas (5-6) at Baylor (7-4)
 West Virginia (6-5) at Texas Tech (7-4)
 South Florida (6-5) at Rice (3-8)
 Old Dominion (4-7) at Arkansas St. (7-4)
 California (6-5) at SMU (10-1)
 FAU (2-9) at Tulsa (3-8)
 Texas (10-1) at Texas A&M (8-3)

FAR WEST
 Notre Dame (10-1) at Southern Cal (6-5)
 Arizona St. (9-2) at Arizona (4-7)
 Fresno St. (6-5) at UCLA (4-7)
 UTEP (2-9) at New Mexico St. (3-8)
 Wyoming (2-9) at Washington St. (8-3)
 Washington (6-5) at Oregon (11-0)
 Nevada (3-9) at UNLV (9-2)
 Houston (4-7) at BYU (9-2)
 Air Force (4-7) at San Diego St. (3-8)
 New Mexico (5-6) at Hawaii (4-7)

FCS Playoffs
First Round
Saturday, Nov. 30
 New Hampshire vs. UT Martin
 Richmond vs. Lehigh
 Illinois St. vs. Southeast Mo. St.
 Tarleton St. vs. Drake
 Abilene Christian vs. Northern Arizona
 Rhode Island vs. Central Conn. St.
 Villanova vs. Eastern Ky.
 Montana vs. Tennessee St.

Second Round
Saturday, Dec. 7
 Montana St. vs. New Hampshire-UT Martin winner
 Idaho vs. Richmond-Lehigh winner
 UC Davis vs. Illinois St.-Southeast Mo. St. winner
 South Dakota vs. Tarleton St.-Drake winner
 North Dakota St. vs. Abilene Christian-Northern Ariz. winner
 Mercer vs. Rhode Island-Central Conn. St. winner
 UIW vs. Villanova-Eastern Ky. winner
 South Dakota St. vs. Montana-Tennessee St. winner

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday's men's scores
EAST
 Army 91, SUNY Maritime 52
 Boston College 63, Boise St. 61
 Delaware St. 111, Penn St.-W.-Barre 43
 Drexel 83, Chicago St. 71
 Georgetown 66, Wagner 41
 Loyola (Md.) 70, VMI 67
 Saint Joseph's 83, Coppin St. 54
 St. Francis (Pa.) 88, Lehigh 78
 St. Peter's 78, Fairleigh Dickinson 76

SOUTH
 Alabama 85, Houston 80, OT
 Austin Peay 62, Georgia St. 50
 Bryant 97, Tennessee St. 85
 Clemson 75, Penn St. 67
 Duquesne 67, Old Dominion 54
 Florida St. 91, W. Carolina 57
 Gardner-Webb 73, SE Louisiana 69
 High Point 76, Hampton 73
 Jacksonville 75, Siena 64
 Kentucky 87, W. Kentucky 68
 Louisiana Tech 65, Richmond 62
 Loyola Marymount 77, Belmont 63
 Miami (Ohio) 75, Mercer 72
 Samford 103, N. Dakota St. 98, OT
 San Jose St. 69, UNC-Greensboro 64
 The Citadel 100, St. Andrews 85
 Utah Valley St. 77, West Georgia 74
 Virginia 74, Manhattan 65
 W. Illinois 64, South Alabama 63
 Wyoming 64, Tulane 63

MIDWEST
 Ball St. 94, Florida Tech 57
 Bellarmine 101, Midway 60
 Bethune-Cookman 79, North Dakota 67
 Cleveland St. 56, NJIT 53
 E. Kentucky 77, S. Illinois 72
 Iowa 110, SC-Upstate 77
 Iowa St. 89, Dayton 84
 Kansas 75, Duke 72
 Memphis 71, Michigan St. 63
 Radford 69, Fort Wayne 56
 S. Dakota St. 75, Missouri St. 55
 San Diego St. 71, Creighton 53
 Tulsa 63, Detroit 44

SOUTHWEST
 E. Michigan 72, N. Arizona 68
 Murray St. 79, Texas-Arlington 66
 Oregon 80, Texas A&M 70
 Texas A&M-CC 94, Texas Lutheran 45

FAR WEST
 Cal Poly 82, Grambling St. 79
 Cal St.-Fullerton 72, Pepperdine 63
 Colorado 73, UConn 72
 Grand Canyon 78, Stanford 71
 Montana St. 85, Abilene Christian 59
 N. Colorado 92, Northern New Mexico 50
 SMU 79, Cal Baptist 77
 San Francisco 85, Fordham 64
 UC Santa Barbara 67, E. Washington 51
 UCLA 88, S. Utah 43
 UTEP 70, Long Beach St. 44
 Utah 94, MVSU 48
 Utah Tech 68, Denver 54

Men's Top 25 schedule
Wednesday's games
 No. 3 Gonzaga (5-0) vs. West Virginia

Tuesday's women's scores
EAST
 Buffalo 86, Niagara 53
 Holy Cross 57, New Hampshire 43
 Illinois 75, Md.-Eastern Shore 55
 Iona 70, Wagner 51
 La Salle 65, Lehigh 62
 Lafayette 71, NJIT 69
 Maine 87, Stonehill 75
 Marist 67, Yale 65
 Monmouth (NJ) 59, St. Peter's 50
 Penn 114, Immaculata 39
 Princeton 62, Temple 57
 Siena 87, CCSU 50

SOUTH
 Alabama 73, Clemson 39
 Campbell 82, Furman 72
 Elon 74, Longwood 67
 George Mason 87, Mount St. Mary's 51
 Georgia 79, Prairie View 62
 Georgia St. 57, Fort Wayne 56
 Kentucky 77, Arizona St. 61
 Louisiana-Lafayette 61, New Orleans 46
 Middle Tennessee 80, Florida A&M 54
 Northwestern St. 80, Southern (NO) 45
 Old Dominion 63, William & Mary 39
 Queens (NC) 73, SC State 57

MIDWEST
 (3-1). Quarterfinals at Nassau, Bahamas
 No. 7 Tennessee (6-0) vs. UT Martin (2-4)
 No. 9 Alabama (4-1) vs. Rutgers (4-1), Game 7 at Las Vegas
 No. 10 Marquette (6-0) vs. Stonehill (4-4)
 No. 14 Indiana (4-0) vs. Louisville (3-1), Quarterfinals Nassau, Bahamas
 No. 16 Cincinnati (5-0) vs. Alabama St. (3-3)
 No. 17 Baylor (4-2) vs. New Orleans (2-4)
 No. 20 Texas A&M (4-1) vs. No. 21 Creighton (4-1) at Las Vegas
 No. 22 Xavier (6-0) vs. Michigan (5-1), Beach Division Championship Game at Fort Myers, Fla.
 No. 24 Arizona (2-2) vs. Davidson (4-0), Quarterfinals at Nassau, Bahamas

Thursday's games
 No. 6 Houston (3-1) vs. Notre Dame (4-1), at Las Vegas
 No. 13 Purdue (5-1) vs. NC State (5-0), Semifinals at La Jolla, Calif.
 No. 18 Florida (6-0) vs. Wake Forest (6-1), Semifinals at Orlando, Fla.
 No. 19 Arkansas (4-1) vs. Illinois (4-1) at Kansas City, Mo.
 No. 23 Mississippi (5-0) vs. BYU (5-0), Semifinals at La Jolla, Calif.
 No. 25 Mississippi St. (5-0) vs. UNLV (4-1), Cactus Division Semifinals at Tempe, Ariz.

Friday's games
 No. 8 Kentucky (5-0) vs. Georgia St. (3-2)
 No. 11 Duke (4-1) vs. Seattle (2-3)

Saturday's games
 No. 1 Kansas (5-0) vs. Furman (6-0)
 No. 2 UConn (4-0) vs. Md.-Eastern Shore (2-6)
 No. 10 Marquette (6-0) vs. W. Carolina (2-2)
 No. 15 Wisconsin (7-0) vs. Chicago St. (0-7)

Sunday's game
 No. 22 Xavier (5-0) vs. SC State (4-3)

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions
BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
TEXAS RANGERS — Named Luis Urueta bench coach, Dave Bush assistant pitching coach and Jordan Tiegs bullpen coach.
National League
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Agreed to terms with C Max Stassi on a minor league contract.
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
NBA — Fined Sacramento head coach Mike Brown \$35,000 for aggressively pursuing a game official during a Nov. 24 game against Brooklyn. Fined Atlanta \$100,000 for violating the player participation policy in connection with Trae Young missing the team's Nov. 12 Emirates NBA Cup game against Boston.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
NFL — Fined Jacksonville LB Ventrell Miller \$5,440.19 for unnecessary roughness.
DENVER BRONCOS — Reinstated LB Drew Sanders from the physically unable to perform list. Waived G Calvin Throckmorton.
DETROIT LIONS — Waived DR James Houston.
JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed OL Tyler Shatley to the practice squad. Released OL Dieter Eiselen from the practice squad.
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed K Matthew Wright. Reinstated TE Baylor Cupp from the practice squad injured reserve. Placed TE Peyton Henderson on injured reserve. Waived DE Cameron Thomas. Released OT Lucas Niang and DR Truman Jones from the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Signed TE McCallan Castles to the practice squad.
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Reinstated S Patrick McMorris from injured reserve. Waived S Marcus Maye.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Signed LB Jamin Davis. Placed LB Ivan Pace Jr. on injured reserve. Reinstated OLB Gabriel Murphy from injured reserve.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Claimed G Lester Cotton off waivers from Miami. Waived G Michael Jordan.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Designated DE Tanoh Kpassagnon to return from the physically unable to perform list.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Claimed TE Greg Dulcich off waivers from Denver. Placed DE Azezee Ojulari on injured reserve. Signed LB Tomon Fox to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed WR Easop Winston and RB Zonovan Knight to the practice squad. Released G Zack Bailey from the practice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Claimed DE Charles Harris off waivers from Carolina. Placed DE Brandon Graham on injured reserve. Released DT Siaki Ika and WR Marcus Rosemy-Jacksant from the practice squad. Signed DE K.J. Henry to the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed LB Julius Wellschof to the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Claimed DB A.J. Finley off waivers. Released RB Brittain Brown and DB Faion Hicks from the practice squad. Signed DB Ryan Cooper and WR Cornell Powell to the practice squad. Waived DE Myles Adams.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed LB Antonio Grier to the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Signed WR Stanley Morgan to the practice squad.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Signed RB Chris Rodriguez Jr. Placed K Austin Seibert on injured reserve. Signed DT Villami Fehoko Jr. to the practice squad. Released G Marquis Hayes from the practice squad.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NHL — Suspended New Jersey F Timo Meier for one game without pay for cross-checking during a Nov. 25 game against Nashville.
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Recalled D Tyson Hinds from San Diego (AHL).
BUFFALO SABRES — Reinstated C Tague Thompson from injured reserve. Sent Isak Rosen to Rochester (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Riley Stillman from Chicago (AHL).
NEW YORK RANGERS — Reassigned RW Matt Rempe to Hartford (AHL). Promoted D Chad Ruhwedel from Hartford.
OTTAWA SENATORS — Placed D Artyom Zub on long-term injured reserve. Recalled D Donocan Sebrango from Belleville (AHL).
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Waived RW Valtteri Puustinen.

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Reassigned G Yarovslav Askarov to San Jose (AHL). Recalled D Jack Thompson from San Jose.
SEATTLE KRAKEN — Reassigned C Ben Meyers for Coachella Valley (AHL).
UTAH — Loaned RW Milos Kelemen to HC Dynamo Pardubice and D Patrik Koch to HC Ocelari Trinec.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
MLS — Fined New York City FC M Maxi Moralez an undisclosed amount for violating the hands to the face/head/neck of an opponent policy following the conclusion of New York City FC's match against the New York Red Bulls on Nov. 23. Fined Minnesota United FC D Carlos Harvey an undisclosed amount for violating the Simulation-Embellishment policy in the 45th minute of Minnesota's match against the LA Galaxy on Nov. 24. Fined Minnesota United FC D Jefferson Diaz an undisclosed amount for failing to leave the field in a timely manner in the 82nd minute of Minnesota's match against the LA Galaxy on Nov. 24. Found Atlanta United and Orlando City SC in violation of the league's mass confrontation policy in the 33rd minute of their match on Nov. 23. Atlanta has violated the policy for the second time this season, and a fine for an undisclosed amount has been issued to the club and interim head coach Rob Valentino. Orlando has violated the policy for the third time this season, and a fine for an undisclosed amount has been issued to the club and head coach Oscar Pareja. Due to their roles in the mass confrontation, Atlanta United D Luis Abram and Ms Bartosz Slisz and Saba Lobjanidze and Orlando City SC G Pedro Gallesse and Ms César Araújo, Wilder Cartagena, and Martin Ojeda will be issued undisclosed fines for inciting and/or escalating a mass confrontation.
ATLANTA UNITED — Exercised contract options on G Brad Guzan, D Efrain Morales and Ms Jay Fortune and Santiago Sosa.
INTER MIAMI — Named Javier Mascherano head coach.
NEW YORK CITY FC — Fired coach Nick Cushing.
PHILADELPHIA UNION — Exercised a contract option on D Isaiah LeFlore.
ST. LOUIS CITY — Named Olof Mellberg head coach.

COLLEGE
NORTH CAROLINA — Fired head football coach Mack Brown.

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL
American Conference
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	2	0	.818	320	214
Miami	5	6	0	.455	215	236
N.Y. Jets	3	8	0	.273	204	242
New England	3	9	0	.250	197	282

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	7	5	0	.583	285	268
Indianapolis	5	7	0	.417	242	274
Tennessee	3	8	0	.273	202	290
Jacksonville	2	9	0	.182	208	316

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	252	186
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	364	294
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	297	296
Cleveland	3	8	0	.273	186	267

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	1	0	.909	270	218
L.A. Chargers	7	4	0	.636	243	175
Denver	7	5	0	.583	264	202
Las Vegas	2	9	0	.182	206	314

National Conference
East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	2	0	.818	296	199
Washington	7	5	0	.583	334	277
Dallas	4	7	0	.364	221	319
N.Y. Giants	2	9	0	.182	163	252

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	5	0	.545	244	274
Tampa Bay	5	6	0	.455	309	273
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	262	260
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	194	340

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	10	1	0	.909	360	183
Minnesota	9	2	0	.818	274	197
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	288	223
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	221	217

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	6	5	0	.545	244	236
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	246	244
L.A. Rams	5	6	0	.455	233	276
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	260	260

Thursday's games
 Chicago at Detroit
 N.Y. Giants at Dallas
 Miami at Green Bay

Friday's game
 Las Vegas at Kansas City

Sunday's games
 Arizona at Minnesota
 Houston at Jacksonville
 Indianapolis at New England
 L.A. Chargers at Atlanta
 Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
 Seattle at N.Y. Jets
 Tennessee at Washington
 L.A. Rams at New Orleans
 Tampa Bay at Carolina
 Philadelphia at Baltimore
 San Francisco at Buffalo

Monday's game
 Cleveland at Denver

Thursday, Dec. 5
 Green Bay at Detroit

Sunday, Dec. 8
 New Orleans at N.Y. Giants
 Cleveland at Pittsburgh
 N.Y. Jets at Miami
 Jacksonville at Tennessee
 Atlanta at Minnesota
 Carolina at Philadelphia
 Las Vegas at Tampa Bay
 Seattle at Arizona
 Chicago at San Francisco
 Buffalo at L.A. Rams
 L.A. Chargers at Kansas City

Monday, Dec. 9
 Cincinnati at Dallas
Open: Baltimore, Denver, Houston, Indianapolis, New England, Washington

Thursday, Dec. 12
 L.A. Rams at San Francisco

Sunday, Dec. 15
 Baltimore at N.Y. Giants
 Cincinnati at Tennessee
 Dallas at Carolina
 Kansas City at Cleveland
 Miami at Houston
 N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville
 Washington at New Orleans
 Buffalo at Detroit
 Indianapolis at Denver
 New England at Arizona
 Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
 Tampa Bay at L.A. Chargers
 Green Bay at Seattle

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	15	3	.833	—
New York	10	7	.588	4½
Brooklyn	8	10	.444	7
Toronto	4	14	.222	11
Philadelphia	3	13	.188	11
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	12	7	.632	—
Miami	7	8	.467	3
Atlanta	7	11	.389	4½
Charlotte	6	11	.353	5
Washington	2	14	.125	8½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	17	1	.944	—
Milwaukee	9	9	.500	8
Indiana	8	10	.444	9
Chicago	8	11	.421	9½
Detroit	8	11	.421	9½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	13	6	.684	—
Memphis	11	7	.611	1½
Dallas	10	8	.556	2½
San Antonio	10	8	.556	2½
New Orleans	4	14	.222	8½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	13	4	.765	—
Denver	9	7	.563	3½
Minnesota	8	9	.471	5
Portland	7	11	.389	6½
Utah	4	13	.235	9
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	12	5	.706	—
Phoenix	10	7	.588	2
L.A. Lakers	10	7	.588	2
L.A. Clippers	11	8	.579	2
Sacramento	8	10	.444	4½
Monday's games				
Indiana 114, New Orleans 110				
Orlando 95, Charlotte 84				
Detroit 102, Toronto 100				
Boston 126, L.A. Clippers 94				
Dallas 129, Atlanta 119				
Memphis 123, Portland 98				
Oklahoma City 130, Sacramento 109				
Brooklyn 128, Golden State 120				
New York 145, Denver 118				
Tuesday's games				
Chicago 127, Washington 108				
Milwaukee 106, Miami 103				
Houston 117, Minnesota 111, OT				
San Antonio 128, Utah 115				
Phoenix 127, L.A. Lakers 100				
Wednesday's games				
Atlanta at Cleveland				
Chicago at Orlando				
Houston at Philadelphia				
L.A. Clippers at Washington				
Miami at Charlotte				
Portland at Indiana				
New York at Dallas				
Detroit at Memphis				
Sacramento at Minnesota				
Toronto at New Orleans				
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio				
Brooklyn at Phoenix				
Denver at Utah				
Oklahoma City at Golden State				
Thursday's games				
No games scheduled.				
Friday's games				
New York at Charlotte				
Cleveland at Atlanta				
New Orleans at Memphis				
L.A. Clippers at Minnesota				
Orlando at Brooklyn				
Boston at Chicago				
Detroit at Indiana				
Toronto at Miami				
Oklahoma City at L.A. Lakers				
Sacramento at Portland				
Saturday's games				
Atlanta at Charlotte				
Philadelphia at Detroit				
Washington at Milwaukee				
Golden State at Phoenix				
Dallas at Utah				
Sunday's games				
Orlando at Brooklyn				
Indiana at Memphis				
Miami at Toronto				
New Orleans at New York				
Boston at Cleveland				
Oklahoma City at Houston				
L.A. Lakers at Utah				
San Antonio at Sacramento				
Dallas at Portland				
Denver at L.A. Clippers				

Unexpected star emerges for Cavs

Reserve guard Jerome takes game to another level during Cleveland's franchise-record start

By TOM WITHERS
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — As the Cavaliers were improving their home record to 10-0 and the franchise's historic start to an eye-popping 17-1, a solitary voice rose from the seats that could be heard throughout the lower bowl of Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse.

"M-V-P! M-V-P!" the lone fan chanted.

Down on the floor, Donovan Mitchell noticed. However, it wasn't directed at the five-time All-Star, but a teammate shooting free throws.

Later, Ty Jerome wanted proof it happened.

"Did you get it on video?" the reserve guard asked.

Cleveland's unexpected start has produced an unexpected rising star.

After missing all but two games last season with a severe ankle injury that required surgery, Jerome has not only become an invaluable piece for first-year Cavs coach Kenny Atkinson but is emblematic of the team's early-season success.

This wasn't expected — not by the Cavs and certainly not by Jerome.

"He's in this zone," Atkinson said of the 27-year-old Jerome, already with his fourth NBA team. "It's phenomenal."

While he's been good from the jump this season, Jerome has taken his game to another level in the past week.

One night after the Cavs lost in Boston after 15 straight wins, Jerome made seven 3-pointers —



MELISSA TAMEZ/AP

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Ty Jerome, who missed all but two games last season with an ankle injury, has looked like a rising star this year.

two on Steph Curry-like heat checks just inside the halfcourt logo — in the first half and finished with a career-high 29 points in a win over New Orleans.

For an encore on Sunday, he matched Mitchell, his longtime friend and boyhood teammate in

New York, with 26 points and six assists as the Cavs beat Toronto.

Jerome has been a marvel since the beginning of training camp, when he made a first impression on Atkinson that has only grown stronger.

"Since the moment he stepped

in our gym," Atkinson said when asked how long he knew Jerome would be a major contributor this season. "He's been phenomenal every day. I mean, (general manager) Koby (Altman) jokes about MVP of August, September, October. We're all expecting, not expecting, but when is it going to start dipping?"

"OK, it's open gym. OK, it's training camp. OK, first five games. He just keeps going and it's a real, real credit to him. He's just in a state of grace right now. It's beautiful to watch."

The same could be said for the Cavs, whose burst from the gate under Atkinson is one of the league's best stories. The 57-year-old Atkinson, an affable, fast-talking hoops junkie from Long Island, has made Cleveland an offensive powerhouse.

The Cavs lead the league in virtually every statistical category. It's a system based on pace, ball movement and fundamentals and it's hard to defend.

Atkinson is getting the best from Cleveland's core four of players — Mitchell, Darius Garland, Evan Mobley and Jarrett Allen — while also developing his bench, something predecessor J.B. Bickerstaff struggled to do.

Jerome, who played on Virginia's national championship team in 2019, gives Atkinson a multi-skilled player capable on both ends of the floor.

"It's hard to take him out of the game," Atkinson said. "He's in every conversation at all times. 'Do we need Ty in there?' He's playing phenomenally."

ROUNDUP

Beal, Durant return from injury, lead Suns past Lakers

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Bradley Beal and Kevin Durant each scored 23 points and the Phoenix Suns celebrated the healthy return of both players with a 127-100 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

Devin Booker led the way with 26 points and had 10 assists as the Suns snapped a five-game losing streak.

Beal had missed the past five games while Durant had missed seven in a row — both players were sidelined by a strained left calf.

Beal made 10 of 15 shots, including 3 of 6 from 3-point range.

The Lakers were led by Anthony Davis, who scored 25 points and grabbed 15 rebounds. LeBron James added 18 points, eight rebounds and 10 assists. Los Angeles has lost three straight.

The Suns outscored the Lakers 36-18 in the third quarter, turning a tight game into a 98-78 advantage. Booker had 11 points during the run while Jusuf Nurkic had 10.

Bucks 106, Heat 103: Damian Lillard

scored 37 points and handed out 12 assists as visiting Milwaukee wasted a 22-point second-half lead before beating Miami Heat in an NBA Cup game.

The Bucks (3-0 in Cup play) moved a half-game ahead of Detroit (2-0) in the East Group B standings.

Jimmy Butler scored 23 points for Miami, which got 18 from Tyler Herro, 17 from Terry Rozier and 16 from Bam Adebayo.

The Heat — who were outscored 60-30 from 3-point range — fell to 1-2 in Cup play.

The Bucks played without Giannis Antetokounmpo, a late pregame scratch because of swelling in his left knee.

Bulls 127, Wizards 108: Nikola Vucevic scored 19 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as visiting Chicago eased to a victory over struggling Washington.

Coby White scored 21 points and Zach Lavine had 18 for the Bulls, who pulled into a three-way tie at 2-1 with Boston and Atlanta and a half-game in front of Cleveland in East Group C.

Kyle Kuzma scored 23 points for Washington, which lost its 12th straight and fell to 0-3 in the group and were eliminated from quarterfinal contention.

Rockets 117, Timberwolves 111 (OT): Alperen Sengun had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 11 assists, Fred VanVleet added 27 points and 11 assists, and Houston pulled out an overtime win against host Minnesota.

Dillon Brooks added 22 points for Houston, which improved to 3-0 in the competition and clinched West Group A and a spot in the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

Anthony Edwards had 29 points and 10 rebounds for Minnesota, which has lost three in a row. Julius Randle scored 21, while Naz Reid had 19 off the bench.

Spurs 128, Jazz 115: Victor Wembanyama scored 34 points, rookie Stephon Castle matched his season high with 23 and San Antonio won at Utah.

Keyonte George led Utah with 26 points. The Jazz were eliminated from the NBA Cup quarterfinals.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S TOP 25 ROUNDUP

No. 1 Kansas holds off Duke

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Dajuan Harris scored 14 points and top-ranked Kansas withstood the ejection of star center Hunter Dickinson to beat No. 11 Duke 75-72 in the Vegas Showdown on Tuesday night.

Dickinson, who entered the game averaging 17.8 points and 10.4 rebounds, received a fragrant-2 foul and was ejected for kicking the Blue Devils' Maliq Brown in the head midway through the second half.

Highly touted Duke freshman Cooper Flagg took advantage of Dickinson's absence, and the Blue Devils kept it close all the way to the buzzer.

Zeke Mayo added 12 points for Kansas (6-0), and Dickinson and AJ Storr each scored 11.

Tyrese Proctor led Duke (4-2) with 15 points, Flagg scored 13, Kon Knueppel had 11 and Sion James finished with 10.

Mayo put Kansas ahead for good when he made a jumper with 1:57 left for a 73-71 lead. Flagg hit a free throw for Duke and Rylan Griffen answered with two foul shots with 2 seconds left.

Kansas has won four of the past five meetings with the Blue Devils and six of eight. Nine of the past 10 meetings have been decided by single digits.

Colorado 73, No. 2 UConn 72: Andrej Jakimovski converted an off-balance layup with 8 seconds left, and the Buffaloes handed the Huskies their second loss in two days at the Maui Invitational, beating the two-time defending national champion.

A day after a 99-97 overtime

loss to Memphis that left UConn coach Dan Hurley livid about the officiating, the Huskies (4-2) couldn't shake the unranked Buffaloes (5-1), who shot 62.5% in the second half.

With Colorado trailing 72-71 in the closing seconds, Jakimovski drove to his right and absorbed contact from UConn's Liam McNeeley. He tossed the ball toward the glass and the shot was good as he fell to the floor. Hassan Diarra missed a 3-pointer just ahead of the buzzer for UConn.

Elijah Malone and Julian Hammond III scored 16 points each for Colorado, and Jakimovski had 12 points and 10 rebounds.

No. 4 Auburn 85, No. 12 North Carolina 72: Johni Broome had 23 points and 19 rebounds to lead the Tigers to a victory over the Tar Heels in a Maui Invitational semifinal.

Miles Kelly added 15 points and Chad Baker-Mazara scored 14 for Auburn (6-0), which never trailed and led by as many as 19. Auburn will play Memphis for the tournament championship on Wednesday.

Broome scored 18 points in the first half and finished 9-for-18 from the field. He also had five assists and three blocks.

Chaney Johnson had 11 points and eight rebounds for Auburn.

Seth Trimble led North Carolina (4-2) with 17 points. RJ Davis, the reigning ACC player of the year, was held to a season-low 12 on 5-of-11 shooting.

No. 5 Iowa State 89, Dayton 84: Keshon Gilbert scored 24 points and Curtis Jones added 19

to lead the Cyclones to a victory over the Flyers in the Maui Invitational.

Iowa State (4-1) rallied from a nine-point deficit late in the first half and held off Dayton (5-2) in a game that featured 11 ties and 10 lead changes.

Gilbert made a pair of free throws with 44.9 seconds left to give Iowa State the lead for good. He shot 12 of 14 from the line.

Dishon Jackson had 12 points and six rebounds, and Milan Momcilovic scored 10 for Iowa State.

No. 9 Alabama 85, No. 6 Houston 80 (OT): Mark Sears scored 24 points and the Tide beat the Cougars in overtime at the Players Era Festival in Las Vegas.

After squandering an eight-point lead with 8:53 left in the game, and allowing Houston to force overtime, Alabama outscored the Cougars 7-2 in the extra frame for the win.

Houston's LJ Cryer, who led all scorers with a career-high-matching 30 points, had a chance to win the game but missed a mid-range baseline jumper with two seconds remaining.

Grant Nelson had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Mouhamed Dioubate had 10 points and 16 rebounds for Alabama.

No. 8 Kentucky 87, Western Kentucky 68: Otega Oweh and Andrew Carr each scored 18 points as the host Wildcats pulled away down the stretch to beat the Hilltoppers.

Oweh's 3-pointer with 8:57 remaining was key for cold-shooting Kentucky (6-0), which made just



LUCAS PELTIER/AP

Duke's Cooper Flagg dives for the ball against Kansas forward Flory Bidunga as KJ Adams, left, and Zeke Mayo watch during the second half on Tuesday in Las Vegas. The No. 1 Jayhawks won 75-72.

25 of 62 from the field (40%) after consecutive shooting performances of at least 54% in routs of Lipscomb and Jackson State. Kentucky shot just 8-for-29 from long range and even struggled at times from the free-throw line despite making 29 of 42.

Oregon 80, No. 20 Texas A&M 70: TJ Bamba had 18 points and the Ducks scored the last 11 to defeat the Aggies at the Players Era Festival in Las Vegas.

Oregon (6-0) held Texas A&M (4-2) without a field goal over the final 4½ minutes, allowing the Ducks to erase a 70-69 deficit.

Brandon Angel and Jackson Shelstad each scored 16 points for Oregon, while Jadrian Tracey

added 11.

Zhuric Phelps led the Aggies with 20 points, and Wade Taylor IV finished with 15.

San Diego State 71, No. 21 Creighton 53: BJ Davis scored a career-high 18 points and the Aztecs upended the Blue Jays on the opening day of the Players Era Festival in Las Vegas.

Creighton struggled to find its offensive rhythm against a San Diego State defense that generated eight steals and scored 13 points off turnovers.

Creighton finished 21-for-62 (33.8%) from the floor, while the Aztecs hit 30 of 62 (48.3%). San Diego State also finished 8-for-17 (47.0%) from 3-point range.

No. 1 Bruins taking their new ranking to Hawaii

By DOUG FEINBERG

Associated Press

UCLA, along with many other of the top teams, are heading to Thanksgiving tournaments in warm locations this week.

The No. 1 Bruins are headed to Hawaii for the Rainbow Wahine Tournament where they'll face UT Martin, Fresno State and Hawaii over three days.

Coach Cori Close loves the challenge of it.

"The turnaround and opportunity helps us prepare at a championship level as a habit," she said. "It's mostly mental preparation and create our own urgency. Not to believe our own press clippings, but how do we get better this week and stay focused."

This is the first time the school's been No. 1 in The Associated Press women's basketball poll.

The best game of the week may come in the Cayman Islands when



ERIC THAYER/AP

UCLA guard Londynn Jones looks to shoot against South Carolina guard Te-Hina Paopao on Sunday in Los Angeles. The Bruins and the Gamecocks both play in tournaments this week.

No. 3 Notre Dame faces 17th-ranked TCU on Friday. The schools boast two of the best of-

fenses in the game with the Irish led by a dynamic backcourt of Olivia Miles and Hannah Hidalgo.

The Horned Frogs, who have their best ranking since 2004, are led by the inside-outside duo of Sedona Prince and Hailey Van Lith.

Other top games ahead include South Carolina against Iowa State on Thursday at the Fort Myers Tip-Off. The Cyclones dropped from eighth to 15th in the poll after a stunning loss to Northern Iowa. The Gamecocks will need to find a way to slow down Cyclones star center Audi Crooks.

Sidelined

No. 25 Nebraska lost star sophomore center Natalie Potts for the season to a torn ACL. She was the team's leading scorer and rebounder averaging 14.4 points and 7.4 rebounds per game. She also was shooting 68.4% from the field.

Getting healthy

For the first time in a few years UConn is close to having its entire roster healthy. The Huskies wel-

comed back Azzi Fudd in last Wednesday's win over FDU, the 1,217th of coach Geno Auriemma's career. That broke the record he shared with Tara VanDerveer for most career wins in college basketball history.

Stat sheet

No. 22 Iowa (6-0) no longer has star Caitlin Clark, but is off to its best start since 2017-18 when the team won its first seven games. ... No. 19 Illinois has the longest active winning streak in the nation with 10 consecutive victories dating to last season.

Game of the week

No. 13 Duke and No. 8 Oklahoma will face off in Las Vegas in the championship game of the Ball Dawgs Classic on Wednesday. The Blue Devils knocked off No. 9 Kansas State on Monday in the opener.

NHL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Vancouver's Jake DeBrusk (74) scored against his former team as the Canucks beat the Bruins 2-0 on Tuesday night in Boston.

NHL ROUNDUP

DeBrusk delivers for Vancouver

Associated Press

BOSTON — Jake DeBrusk scored a power-play goal in his return to Boston, and Kevin Lankinen made 32 saves as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Bruins 2-0 on Tuesday night.

Conor Garland assisted on DeBrusk's goal and added an empty-netter with 13 seconds left.

DeBrusk, who played his first seven NHL seasons for Boston before signing with the Canucks as a free agent last summer, poked in a rebound 5:53 into the second period. It was the third goal in two games for DeBrusk, who has 16 points in November. He scored twice and had an assist in a 4-3 victory at Ottawa on Saturday.

Lankinen turned aside 13 shots in the second period and 11 in the third, getting his pads together just in time to stop Brad Marchand's attempt to poke the puck through with about 25 seconds remaining. It was the second shutout of the season for Lankinen.

Canucks forward Brock Boeser was back with the team after missing seven games with an upper-body injury resulting from a hit in a game on Nov. 7.

Jeremy Swayman made 13 saves for Boston.

Utah 3, Canadiens 2 (OT): Mikhail Sergachev scored the overtime winner in Utah's victory at Montreal.

Sergachev tapped in a pass from Nick Schmaltz with 27 seconds left in the extra period. Jack McBain and Dylan Guenther also scored for Utah. Karel Vejmelka made 11 saves.

Alex Newhook and Jayden Struble scored for Montreal, which dropped its second consecutive game after a dismal 6-2 loss to Vegas on Saturday.

Sam Montembeault stopped 26 shots for the Canadiens.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Toronto	21	13	6	2	28	64 52
Florida	22	12	9	1	25	75 76
Tampa Bay	20	11	7	2	24	76 61
Buffalo	21	11	9	1	23	69 65
Boston	23	10	10	3	23	51 72
Detroit	21	9	10	2	20	53 65
Ottawa	21	9	11	1	19	66 68
Montreal	21	7	11	3	17	58 80

Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
New Jersey	24	15	7	2	32	84 62
Carolina	21	15	5	1	31	84 55
Washington	21	14	6	1	29	85 56
N.Y. Rangers	20	12	7	1	25	67 55
N.Y. Islanders	22	8	9	5	21	56 64
Philadelphia	22	9	10	3	21	64 78
Columbus	20	9	9	2	20	70 72
Pittsburgh	23	7	12	4	18	59 93

Western Conference

Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Winnipeg	22	18	4	0	36	89 52
Minnesota	21	13	4	4	30	70 54
Dallas	20	13	7	0	26	70 50
Colorado	22	12	10	0	24	75 83
Utah	22	9	10	3	21	60 69
St. Louis	23	10	12	1	21	58 76
Nashville	22	7	12	3	17	52 70
Chicago	21	7	12	2	16	50 63

Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vegas	22	14	6	2	30	86 68
Calgary	22	12	7	3	27	61 61
Vancouver	20	11	6	3	25	63 62
Los Angeles	22	11	8	3	25	65 64
Edmonton	22	11	9	2	24	64 69
Seattle	22	11	10	1	23	62 59
Anaheim	20	8	9	3	19	50 60
San Jose	24	7	12	5	19	63 85

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

Monday's games

St. Louis 5, N.Y. Rangers 2
Tampa Bay 8, Colorado 2
New Jersey 5, Nashville 2
Washington 4, Florida 1
Carolina 6, Dallas 4
Vegas 5, Philadelphia 4, SO
Detroit 4, N.Y. Islanders 2
Ottawa 4, Calgary 3
Winnipeg 4, Minnesota 1
Seattle 3, Anaheim 2
San Jose 7, Los Angeles 2

Tuesday's games

Utah 3, Montreal 2, OT
Vancouver 2, Boston 0

Wednesday's games

Minnesota at Buffalo
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina
St. Louis at New Jersey
Boston at N.Y. Islanders
Calgary at Detroit
Montreal at Columbus
Toronto at Florida
Vancouver at Pittsburgh
Washington at Tampa Bay
Philadelphia at Nashville
Dallas at Chicago
Anaheim at Seattle
Vegas at Colorado
Winnipeg at Los Angeles
Ottawa at San Jose

Thursday's games

No games scheduled

Friday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia
Chicago at Minnesota
Calgary at Columbus
Florida at Carolina
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
New Jersey at Detroit
Tampa Bay at Nashville
Vancouver at Buffalo
Los Angeles at Anaheim
Seattle at San Jose
Pittsburgh at Boston
Winnipeg at Vegas
Colorado at Dallas
Edmonton at Utah

Saturday's games

Montreal at N.Y. Rangers
Carolina at Florida
Toronto at Tampa Bay
Washington at New Jersey
Calgary at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at St. Louis
Ottawa at Los Angeles
Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders
Nashville at Minnesota
Edmonton at Colorado
Utah at Vegas
San Jose at Seattle



MIKE KROFF/AP

SMU running back LJ Johnson Jr. runs past Virginia safety Ethan Minter during the second half on Saturday in Charlottesville, Va. The Mustangs, who won 33-7, moved up four spots in the CFP rankings to No. 9.

SMU, Indiana benefit from SEC losses in CFP rankings

By EDDIE PELLIS

Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference's losses were almost everyone else's gain in the College Football Playoff rankings, with SMU nudging its way into the top 12 and Indiana staying in the mix at No. 10 despite a lopsided loss.

The 12-team bracket released Tuesday placed undefeated Oregon on top for the fourth straight week. It did not include Alabama or Mississippi of the SEC, both of which suffered their third losses of the season last week.

That helped move SMU up four spots to No. 9, joining No. 6 Miami to give the Atlantic Coast Conference two teams in the bracket. They could meet in the ACC title game in two weeks. Clemson, ranked 12th, is also in the mix.

"We've been in that position where, so far, our résumé hadn't been good enough, so we needed some help," SMU coach Rhett Lashlee said a few hours before the rankings were released.

All eyes were on Indiana, and how harshly the committee would penalize the Hoosiers for their first loss of the season, a 38-15 thumping by No. 2 Ohio State. Indiana coach Curt Cignetti scoffed at the idea the Hoosiers weren't a playoff team. The selection committee agreed, only bumping the Hoosiers down five spots.

"We were impressed with some of the things Indiana did," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, the chair of the selection

College Football Playoff rankings

Nov. 26

1. Oregon	11-0
2. Ohio State	10-1
3. Texas	10-1
4. Penn State	10-1
5. Notre Dame	10-1
6. Miami	10-1
7. Georgia	9-2
8. Tennessee	9-2
9. SMU	10-1
10. Indiana	10-1
11. Boise State	10-1
12. Clemson	9-2
13. Alabama	8-3
14. Mississippi	8-3
15. South Carolina	8-3
16. Arizona State	9-2
17. Tulane	9-2
18. Iowa State	9-2
19. BYU	9-2
20. Texas A&M	8-3
21. Missouri	8-3
22. UNLV	9-2
23. Illinois	8-3
24. Kansas State	8-3
25. Colorado	8-3

The four highest-ranked conference champions will be seeded Nos. 1-4 and receive a first-round bye. Seeds 5-12 will play each other in the first round. The higher-seeded teams will play host in their first round games.

committee. "They dropped five but we still felt their body of work was strong enough to remain in the top 10."

The committee wasn't nearly as generous to the Big 12. Losses by its top two teams last week — BYU and Colorado — vaulted Arizona State, which beat BYU, into the bracket.

The Sun Devils were ranked 16th. That afforded them the 12th and final spot in the bracket as the fifth-best projected conference

champ, but gave the Big 12 the distinct feel of a one-bid league.

Another bid would belong to Boise State of the Mountain West. The Broncos were ranked 11th but got the fourth seed in the bracket as the fourth-best projected conference champion.

SEC leader Texas was ranked third.

Alabama dropped six spots to No. 13 and Ole Miss dropped five spots to No. 14. Both are out of the mix, but not completely out of the question, as the committee wrestles over the next two weeks with whether a three-loss team belongs in the playoff.

"The appetite is there to rank the teams as we see them," Manuel said, while pointing out that in the 10-year history of the CFP, the committee has placed 22 three-loss teams in the top 12.

Before this year, of course, only the top four seeds mattered.

Projected first round

First-round games will take place on the campus of the better-seeded team Dec. 20-21. Here's what the matchups would look like based on this week's rankings (teams are listed by seed, not ranking):

- No. 12 Arizona State at No. 5 Ohio State**
- No. 9 Tennessee at No. 8 Georgia**
- No. 11 Indiana at No. 6 Penn State**
- No. 10 SMU at No. 7 Notre Dame**

NFL

'Reliable' Sutton boosts rookie QB Nix, Broncos

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — What's stoking the Denver Broncos' surprising surge is the growing connection between rookie quarterback Bo Nix and veteran wide receiver Courtland Sutton.

Whenever the Broncos (7-5) need a clutch catch, a key flag or a timely touchdown, Sutton is usually the one delivering it like he did Sunday when he caught eight passes on 10 targets for 97 yards and two touchdowns that sparked the Broncos' come-from-behind 29-19 win at Las Vegas.

"Courtland played tremendous," coach Sean Payton said.

Again. "He's just reliable," Nix said. "He's just always there when you need him."

Sutton's size (6-foot-4 and 216 pounds) and experience (he's in his seventh NFL season) make him an ideal target and safety valve for the rookie QB whose confidence is growing by the week.

"He's smart. He's savvy. He makes plays when the ball's in the air," Nix said.

"You can trust him. When it's up in the air, it's his or nobody's. It's not going to be a pick."

Nix's first touchdown toss to Sutton was an 18-yarder that allowed the QB to break Marlin Briscoe's 1968 Denver rookie record of 14 TD passes, and the two connected again with 5:30 left to make it a two-score game.

The Broncos trailed 13-9 at half-time and Nix said they knew they had to get the ball into Sutton's hands more in the second half after he had caught the only pass thrown his way in the first half.

"Didn't target him (much) in the first half," Nix said. "We come out and say, 'Look, Courtland, this is your half.' We take over the game. He goes for two touchdowns. That



RICK SCUTERI/AP

Broncos wide receiver Courtland Sutton pulls in a touchdown catch last week. Sutton has 36 catches for 467 yards and three TDs in the past five games as Denver makes a push for the playoffs.

just kind of speaks for what he means to our team."

Sutton has been on a tear since he wasn't targeted a single time in Denver's 33-10 win at New Orleans on Oct. 17. (Payton mentioned as recently as last week what an anomaly that game was because there was a heavy diet of plays for Sutton that just didn't pan out for various reasons.)

In his six games before that goose egg, Sutton had 21 catches

on 49 targets for 277 yards and a touchdown. In the five games since, he's caught 36 of the 48 balls thrown his way for 467 yards and three TDs. Plus, he threw a touchdown pass to Nix on a "Philly Special" at Baltimore in Week 9.

"I think we're just scratching the surface," Sutton said.

Thanks in part to the chemistry between Nix and Sutton, the Broncos are in position for the final playoff spot entering December.

nique," Nabers said. "We were playing our butts off, we just lacked technique."

The Giants (2-9) trailed 23-0 at halftime and had run only 19 plays on offense. Nabers was not targeted in first the half but still finished with a team-high six catches for 64 yards.

The No. 6 overall pick in the draft, Nabers said his rant after the game — in which he said the Giants' quarterbacks weren't to blame for the team's poor performance — was just the competitor in him talking.

"That's just how I'm wired. That's just who I am," he said. "I

just don't like losing. If I feel like if I had an opportunity to help the team win, I'm going to express that.

"I'm not going to just sit back just because I'm a younger guy and not speak on how I feel," Nabers said. "They want me to speak up. They feel like my energy helps the offense, in a way, to be explosive. So, of course, I'm going to speak up if something doesn't go my way. That's just how I am."

Nabers said not being targeted in the opening half was tough because his body is prepared to play and not doing anything throws him off his game.

Weekly statistics

AFC individual leaders

	Quarterbacks				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
L.Jackson, Bal	343	231	3053	27	3
Burrow, Cin	408	274	3028	27	4
Stroud, Hou	396	250	2875	14	9
Mahomes, KC	381	266	2673	18	11
Nix, Den	399	259	2548	16	6
Allen, Buf	339	217	2543	18	5
Rodgers, NYJ	380	241	2442	17	7
Herbert, LAC	313	197	2404	13	1
Minshew, Las	306	203	2013	9	10
Lawrence, Jac	274	168	2004	11	6

	Rushers				
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Henry, Bal	221	1325	6.0	87t	13
Pollard, Ten	184	800	4.3	41	4
Mixon, Hou	185	786	4.2	59	10
Dobbins, LAC	158	766	4.8	61	8
Harris, Pit	191	749	3.9	36t	3
Taylor, Ind	161	708	4.4	58	5
Hall, NYJ	152	632	4.2	42	4
C.Brown, Cin	140	607	4.3	30t	5
L.Jackson, Bal	103	599	5.8	33	3
Stevenson, NE	162	598	3.7	33t	6

	Receivers				
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Chase, Cin	73	1056	14.5	70t	12
Flowers, Bal	57	789	13.8	53t	4
Pickens, Pit	52	776	14.9	44	2
Bowers, Las	74	744	10.1	57t	3
Sutton, Den	57	744	13.1	37	5
Wilson, NYJ	69	722	10.5	35	5
Collins, Hou	41	713	17.4	67t	4
McConkey, LAC	49	698	14.2	60t	4
B.Thomas, Jac	42	689	16.4	85t	5
Jeudy, Cle	45	645	14.3	89t	2

	Punters			
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Cole, Las	41	2165	70	52.8
Cooke, Jac	44	2271	73	51.6

	Scoring Touchdowns				
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts	
Henry, Bal	15	13	2	0	90
Chase, Cin	12	0	12	0	72
Cook, Buf	11	10	1	0	66
Mixon, Hou	11	10	1	0	66

	Kicking			
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Boswell, Pit	21-21	31-33	57	114
Fairbairn, Hou	27-27	28-34	59	111

AFC team statistics

	AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE		
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Baltimore	426.7	180.2	246.5
Cincinnati	354.3	91.5	262.7
Buffalo	345.3	119.2	226.1
Kansas City	342.7	116.3	226.5
Houston	336.0	114.6	221.4
Pittsburgh	328.0	135.2	192.8
Miami	323.9	116.8	207.1
L.A. Chargers	322.6	118.1	204.5
Indianapolis	316.3	116.7	199.7
Denver	313.5	111.6	201.9
Tennessee	302.1	118.4	183.7
N.Y. Jets	294.4	87.2	207.2
Las Vegas	292.6	74.6	218.0
Cleveland	292.5	88.2	204.3
Jacksonville	290.8	101.6	189.2
New England	280.2	112.8	167.3

	DEFENSE		
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Tennessee	276.4	106.7	169.6
Denver	296.0	96.2	199.8
Kansas City	300.8	85.3	215.5
Houston	303.1	110.8	192.3
Miami	304.5	106.9	197.5
N.Y. Jets	305.0	130.1	174.9
Pittsburgh	305.2	90.3	214.9
L.A. Chargers	323.6	119.7	203.9
Las Vegas	327.5	119.5	208.1
Buffalo	329.1	119.1	210.0
Cleveland	345.0	130.6	214.4
New England	347.5	123.1	224.4
Cincinnati	355.5	129.8	225.6
Baltimore	355.6	77.9	277.7
Indianapolis	375.8	142.6	233.2
Jacksonville	413.7	135.5	278.3

NFC individual leaders

	Quarterbacks				
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Smith, Sea	405	280	3035	12	12
Cousins, Atl	360	245	2807	17	9
Stafford, LAR	385	256	2800	15	7
Mayfield, TB	374	267	2799	24	9
Goff, Det	306	223	2761	20	9
Darnold, Min	327	221	2717	21	10
Daniels, Was	332	227	2613	12	5
Purdy, SF	306	202	2613	13	8
Hurts, Phi	285	197	2376	13	5
Ca.Williams, Chi	372	233	2356	11	5

	Rushers				
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Barkley, Phi	223	1392	6.2	72t	10
Jacobs, GB	202	944	4.7	38t	7
Gibbs, Det	154	886	5.8	70t	10
Hubbard, Car	177	876	4.9	38t	7
K.Williams, LAR	207	822	4.0	30	9
A.Jones, Min	179	798	4.5	41	3
Robinson, Atl	167	783	4.7	37t	6
Kamara, NO	183	782	4.3	24	6
Mason, SF	140	711	5.1	38	3
Conner, Ari	166	705	4.2	22	5

	Receivers				
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Jefferson, Min	61	939	15.4	97t	5
Lamb, Dal	77	841	10.9	65t	4
McLaurin, Was	53	823	15.5	86t	7
Smith-Njba, Sea	66	755	11.4	46	4
St. Brown, Det	71	747	10.5	35t	9
A.Brown, Phi	39	727	18.6	67t	4
Mooney, Atl	48	711	14.8	41t	5
London, Atl	61	710	11.6	31	6
Metcalf, Sea	46	697	15.2	71t	3
McBride, Ari	61	685	11.2	37	0

	Punters			
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Fox, Det	35	1787	68	51.1
Mann, Phi	33	1677	70	50.8

	Scoring Touchdowns				
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts	
Barkley, Phi	12	10	2	0	72
Gibbs, Det	11	10	1	0	66
Hurts, Phi	11	11	0	0	66
Montgmy, Det	11	11	0	0	66

	Kicking			
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Seibert, Was	22-24	27-30	55	103
Aubrey, Dal	18-18	25-30	65	93

NFC team statistics

	AVERAGE PER GAME OFFENSE		
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Detroit	394.3	150.8	243.5
Philadelphia	389.1	193.4	195.7
San Francisco	384.5	138.4	246.2
Green Bay	382.4	151.6	230.7
Washington	370.5	147.8	222.8
Tampa Bay	369.5	128.1	241.5
Atlanta	361.5	117.9	243.6
Minnesota	351.1	117.1	234.0
New Orleans	347.4	130.7	216.6
Seattle	346.3	89.1	257.2
Arizona	342.0	140.3	201.7
L.A. Rams	331.8	95.1	236.7
Dallas	323.2	82.5	240.6
N.Y. Giants	303.8	115.9	187.9
Chicago	298.9	111.8	187.1
Carolina	285.5	107.7	177.8

	DEFENSE		
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Philadelphia	274.6	99.2	175.5
San Francisco	304.3	110.8	193.5
Minnesota	317.3	74.7	242.5
Green Bay	319.3	112.7	206.5
Detroit	322.1	94.9	227.2
Washington	334.6	145.5	189.1
Chicago	339.0	129.7	209.3
Arizona	340.5	121.8	218.6
N.Y. Giants	342.1	147.9	194.2
Seattle	344.8	130.5	214.4
Atlanta	357.1	127.2	229.9
L.A. Rams	362.5	144.3	218.2
Dallas	369.9	150.5	219.5
Tampa Bay	376.2	120.7	255.5
Carolina	387.3	160.5	226.7
New Orleans	390.8	134.2	256.6

Nabers: Calling the Giants 'soft' wrong

By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Malik Nabers said calling the New York Giants "soft" after Sunday's embarrassing loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers was a mistake, although the star rookie receiver still plans to speak out when he thinks it's necessary.

After talking with coach Brian Daboll and general manager Joe Schoen and watching video of the Giants' 30-7 defeat, Nabers said Tuesday that "soft" was a poor choice of words.

"I don't think it was really soft. I think it was just a lack of tech-

NFL/MLB

Lions look to enjoy holiday, end Thanksgiving skid at 7

BY LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

DETROIT — Dan Campbell hopes to be happy on Thanksgiving for the first time in four years.

The Detroit Lions have dropped seven straight on the holiday, including three in a row with Campbell, and the coach said losing takes a toll on family gatherings after the game.

“Ask my wife, she’ll tell you,” he said. “Like that’s why she’s praying for a win big time because she knows that I’m a bear when we don’t win, so we all want it.”

“It is long overdue, but we have to win to win.”

The NFC-leading Lions (10-1) are expected to get what they want against the slumping Chicago Bears (4-7) on Thursday at Ford Field as favorites with a double-digit spread, according to BetMGM.

Chicago has lost five straight games, including three on the final play.

Lions quarterback Jared Goff isn’t taking anything for granted after setbacks on the holiday in each of the past three years affected his mood.

“I don’t like being grumpy around family,” Goff said.

“No one does. You want to win this game and be able to enjoy your Thanksgiving dinner with

your family and it’ll be my first time experiencing that here and I want to do that.”

Caleb’s comfort

Bears quarterback Caleb Williams, who was taken No. 1 overall at the NFL Draft in Detroit last spring, has looked more comfortable in two games with Thomas Brown as offensive coordinator after a rough stretch of play led to Shane Waldron’s firing.

“I think he’s done a good job understanding me and the players we have on this team,” Williams said.

Williams followed up a solid outing against Green Bay with one of his best performances. He helped the Bears rally from an 11-point deficit in the final 22 seconds of regulation against Minnesota, finishing with 340 yards passing and two touchdowns in an overtime loss.

The former Southern Cal star, who has set a franchise rookie record with 2,356 yards passing, has played four straight games without a turnover and five in a row without an interception.

“That’s a rookie quarterback who, in my opinion, has not even scratched the surface of how good he can be,” Brown said.

“It’s my job, my focus to contin-

ue to find ways to make him the best he can be, hold him accountable, but also the entire group, it’s not just about him.”

Motor City milestones

The Lions are 10-1 for the first time in 90 years and have a chance to win 11 of their first 12 games for the first time in franchise history.

Detroit’s nine-game winning streak is its longest since starting 10-0 in 1934, leading to the team being the favorite to win the Super Bowl for the first time.

The Lions have reached double digits in wins in consecutive seasons for the first time and their 22 total wins are a franchise record for a two-season span.

Struggling defense

Chicago won five of seven during a late surge last year with an improved defense, which led to Goff having two of his worst games in 2023.

Goff threw a season-high three interceptions in a win over the Bears in November and had a season-low passer rating against them in December.

A year later, Chicago’s defense is going in a different direction.

The unit is ranked No. 17, plummeting from fifth in the league going in Week 8 at Washington.

Backs: Dallas, Detroit swap positions

FROM PAGE 24

following night in a win over the Chargers. It was his 20th career game with at least 140 yards rushing.

Turkey day

For years, the Dallas Cowboys have been the featured stalwart on the Thanksgiving football schedule while the Detroit Lions have been more of an unwanted fixture at the holiday table.

The roles have changed.

The Lions take a 10-1 record into their annual Thanksgiving home game, while the Cowboys stumble in with a 4-7 mark. This year marks the 57th time Detroit and Dallas have both played on Thanksgiving and the six-win edge going into the day for the Li-

ons is double their largest previous advantage. Detroit was 7-4 and Dallas was 4-7 in 2000.

The Cowboys have been at least six wins ahead of the Lions headed into Thanksgiving five times, with the most recent coming in 2021 when Dallas was 7-3 and Detroit was 0-9-1.

The Lions have been setting marks all season as they are off to their best start since 1934. Detroit has double-digit wins in back-to-back seasons for the first time in franchise history.

Detroit has relied heavily on its running back duo of Jahmyr Gibbs and David Montgomery, who each have at least 10 TD runs for a second straight season. Only five other duos have done that in one season in the Super Bowl era,

with Gibbs and Montgomery the first teammates ever to do it back to back.

Top heavy

The Lions are one of five teams that already have won at least nine games, along with Kansas City (10-1) and a trio of 9-2 squads: Buffalo, Philadelphia and Minnesota.

That ties the record for the most teams to start a season 9-2 or better. It happened eight other times, with the only other seasons in the past 30 years being 2019 and 2015.

Detroit and Minnesota are joined in the top-heavy NFC North by the 8-3 Green Bay Packers, marking the first time since the 2002 realignment that one division had three teams win at least eight games in the first 12 weeks.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Blake Snell agreed to a \$182 million, five-year contract with the Dodgers after pitching one season for the San Francisco Giants.

Snell to Dodgers on 5-year contract

BY RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

Less than a month after winning the World Series, the Los Angeles Dodgers are spending big again to add one of baseball’s best pitchers to their star-studded roster.

Blake Snell and the Dodgers agreed to a \$182 million, five-year contract, according to a person with direct knowledge of the negotiations. The person spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal is subject to a successful physical.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner broke the news personally, posting a photo of himself on social media in a Dodgers uniform — No. 7.

Snell would join two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani and fellow Japanese right-hander Yoshinobu Yamamoto atop Los Angeles’ rotation, giving the Dodgers the first megadeal of this offseason following Ohtani’s \$700 million, 10-year contract and Yamamoto’s \$325 million, 12-year deal last winter.

Ohtani didn’t pitch this year while recovering from right elbow surgery but is expected back on the mound in 2025. He won his third MVP award — first in the National League — following a huge season at the plate exclusively as a designated hitter.

Yamamoto went 7-2 with a 3.00 ERA in 18 starts as a rookie, then won twice in four October outings.

Down to three healthy starting pitchers during the postseason, Los Angeles overcame a string of injuries to its projected rotation in winning the franchise’s second World Series title in five years.

Right-handers Jack Flaherty and Walker Buehler then became free agents this fall, creating more voids on the staff. But the addition of Snell would fill a large one at the

top with a legitimate ace.

Snell’s \$36.4 million average salary would rank as the fifth-highest among active deals next year behind Ohtani (\$70 million), Philadelphia pitcher Zack Wheeler (\$42 million), New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge (\$40 million) and Texas pitcher Jacob deGrom (\$37 million). Among expired contracts, it also was exceeded by pitchers Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander (both \$43.33 million) under deals they agreed to with the New York Mets.

ESPN first reported the details of Snell’s contract.

Earlier this month, Snell opted out of his deal with San Francisco to become a free agent for the second consecutive offseason after he was slowed by injuries during his lone year with the Giants.

Snell, who turns 32 next week, went 5-3 with a 3.12 ERA in 20 starts this year, throwing a no-hitter at Cincinnati on Aug. 2 for one of only 16 individual shutouts in the major leagues this season. He struck out 145 and walked 44 in 104 innings.

He was sidelined between April 19 and May 22 by a strained left adductor and between June 2 and July 9 by a strained left groin.

Snell won Cy Young Awards in 2018 with Tampa Bay and 2023 with San Diego. He is 76-58 with a 3.19 ERA in nine seasons with the Rays (2016-20), Padres (2021-23) and Giants.

Because he turned down a qualifying offer from San Diego last November, the Giants were not eligible to give Snell another one and won’t receive draft-pick compensation.

Los Angeles expects All-Star right-hander Tyler Glasnow and three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw back in the rotation next year.

					
Chicago Bears (4-7) at Detroit Lions (10-1) AFN-Sports 6:30 p.m. Thursday CET 2:30 a.m. Friday JKT		New York Giants (2-9) at Dallas Cowboys (4-7) AFN-Sports 10:30 p.m. Thursday 6:30 a.m. Friday JKT		Miami Dolphins (5-6) at Green Bay Packers (8-3) AFN-Sports 2:15 a.m. Friday CET 10:15 a.m. Friday	

SPORTS



Dodgers snag Snell

Source: Champs strike offseason's first megadeal » MLB, Page 23

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

Pairing up playmakers

Henry, Barkley heading into NFL's earliest ever meeting of 1,300-yard running backs

By JOSH DUBOW

Associated Press

Saquon Barkley and Derrick Henry combined for 395 yards rushing on back-to-back nights at SoFi Stadium as the dynamic playmakers keep proving that investing in running backs can pay off in the right situation.

Next, they will play on the same field at the same time when Barkley and the Philadelphia Eagles take on Henry and the Baltimore Ravens in the first matchup ever between two 1,300-yard runners in Week 13 or earlier.

Before this year, only 12 players in NFL history had rushed for at least 1,300 yards and 10 TDs in the first 12 weeks of the season. None had done it since Shaun Alexander in 2005 as teams moved away from bell-cow backs and diminished the importance of the position.

That might start to change now that Barkley has transformed Philadelphia's offense by rushing for 1,392 yards and 10 TDs so far this season and Henry has elevated Baltimore's with 1,325 yards rushing and 13 TDs.

While Barkley and Henry have been two of the biggest additions this season, that wasn't reflected back in the free agency frenzy in March when 19 players got bigger contracts than the \$37.75 million, three-year deal Barkley got from the Eagles and 58 players got more than the \$16 million, two-year deal Henry got from the Ravens.

Few, if any, of those other players have had as big an impact on their teams as Barkley and Henry — as evidenced again by their exploits this past weekend at SoFi Stadium.

Barkley became the sixth



RYAN SUN/AP

Saquon Barkley has 1,649 yards from scrimmage for the Eagles this season, the second most in league history by a player in his first 11 games with a team.

INSIDE
Campbell seeks 1st Thanksgiving win as coach of Lions
Page 23

player to have two TD runs of at least 70 yards in the same game as he rushed for a franchise-record 255 yards and became the fourth running back in the Super Bowl era to eclipse 300 yards from scrimmage in a game in the Eagles' win over the Rams on Sunday night.

Barkley's 1,649 scrimmage yards are the second most by any player in his first 11 games with a team after Eric Dickerson's 1,726 with the Rams in 1983.

Henry rushed for 140 yards the

SEE BACKS ON PAGE 23



JEFF LEWIS/AP

Derrick Henry has elevated the Ravens' offense since signing a \$16 million, two-year deal with Baltimore. Henry has 1,325 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns this season.

Others gain from SEC losses in CFP rankings » Page 21

