**GOLDEN GLOBES**
'Barbie' receives most nominations with 9, 'Oppenheimer' gets 8
**Page 15**

**NATION**
Crowds traveling for holidays expected to be bigger this year
**Page 9**

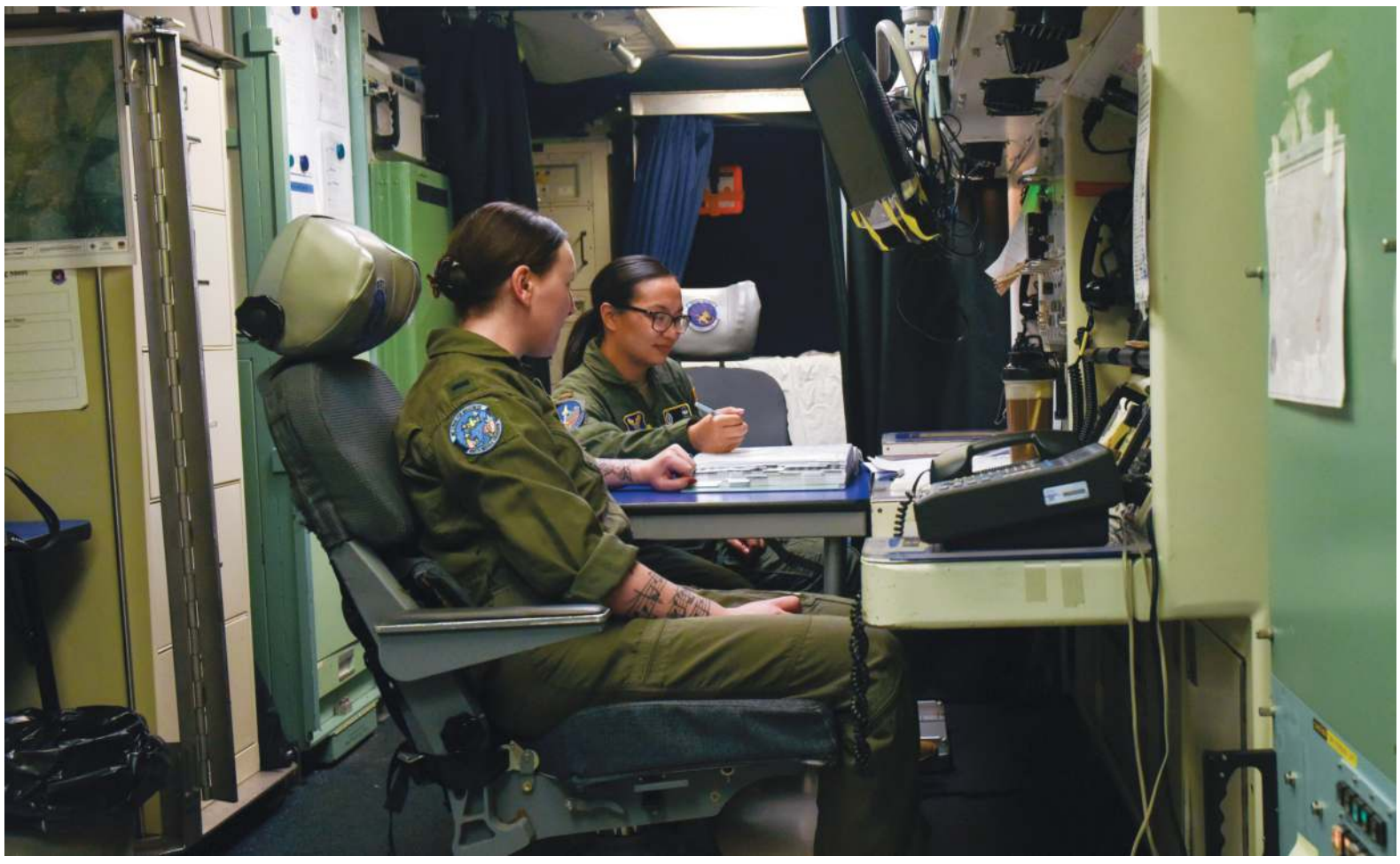
**NFL**
Cowboys beat Eagles, move into tie atop NFC East
**Page 24**

**US F-16 crashed into Yellow Sea following in-flight emergency »** Page 3


# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 82 Edition 171 ©SS 2023 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023 平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊（土日除く） 発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価￥50 50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

U.S. AIR FORCE/AP

**Two missile launch officers, or missileers, finish a 24-hour underground shift at a launch control center at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., in August. The capsules are still very much like they were when they were first designed in the 1960s, with old gear, bad lighting and not a lot of room to move around. The capsules will be completely redesigned as part of the new Sentinel intercontinental ballistic missile system.**

# Out with old, in with new

## Gigantic new ICBM will take US nuclear missiles out of Cold War-era

BY TARA COPP
*Associated Press*

F.E. WARREN AIR FORCE BASE, Wyo. — The control stations for America's nuclear intercontinental ballistic missiles have a sort of 1980s retro look, with computing panels in sea foam green, bad lighting and chunky control switches, including a critical one that says "launch."

Those underground capsules are about to be demolished and the missile silos they control will be completely overhauled. A new nuclear missile is coming, a gigantic ICBM called the Sentinel. It's the largest cultural shift in the land leg of the Air Force's nuclear missile mission in 60 years.

NEAL URANGA, U.S. AIR FORCE/AP

**One of the multiple launch switches at a missile alert facility launch control center at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., in 2018.**

But there are questions as to whether some of the Cold War-era aspects of the Minuteman missiles that the Sentinel will replace should be changed.

Making the silo-launched missile more modern, with complex software and 21st-century connectivity across a vast network, may also mean it's more vulnerable. The Sentinel will need to be well protected from cyberattacks, while its technology will have to cope with fri-

**SEE NEW ON PAGE 5**

# War in Gaza endangers delicate Iraq diplomacy

BY KAREEM CHEHAYEB AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — Dozens of attacks on U.S. military facilities by Iran-backed factions in Iraq over the past two months as the Israel-Hamas war has raged have forced Baghdad into a balancing act that's becoming more difficult by the day.

A rocket attack on the sprawling U.S. Embassy in Baghdad on Friday marked a further escalation as Iraqi officials scramble to contain the ripple effects of the latest Middle East war.

Iran holds considerable sway in Iraq and a coalition of Iran-backed groups brought Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani to power in October 2022. At the same time, there are some 2,000 U.S. troops in Iraq under an agreement with Baghdad, mainly to counter the militant Islamic State.

Baghdad also relies heavily on Washington's sanctions waivers to buy electricity from Iran, and since the 2003 U.S. invasion, Iraq's foreign currency reserves have been housed at the U.S. Federal Reserve, giving the Americans significant control over Iraq's supply of dollars.

Al-Sudani's predecessors also had to walk a delicate line between Tehran and Washington, but the Israel-Hamas war has considerably upped the stakes.

Since the war erupted on Oct. 7, at least 92 attacks on U.S. bases in Iraq and Syria have been claimed by an umbrella group of Iran-backed Iraqi militants dubbed the Islamic Resistance in Iraq. The militants say their attacks are in retaliation for Washington's backing of Israel and its military presence in Iraq and Syria.

**SEE IRAQ ON PAGE 8**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Much of Kenya is paralyzed by power blackout

*Associated Press*

NAIROBI, Kenya — A power blackout hit Kenya on Sunday evening, paralyzing large parts of the country, and the transport minister called for an investigation into "possible acts of sabotage and coverup" over the third nationwide outage in three months.

The electricity failure began around 8 p.m., affecting many vital facilities, including the main airport in the capital, Nairobi, which is a major transport hub connecting East Africa to Asia, Europe and other parts of the world.

Noting the recent big outages, Transport Minister Kipchumba Murkomen said soon after visiting the airport late Sunday that "we are making a formal request to the National Police Service to investigate possible acts of sabotage and coverup."

The state-run utility, Kenya Power, blamed the blackout on a "system disturbance" and said the problem was being addressed by technicians.

"We have lost electricity supply to various parts of the country due to a suspected fault affecting the power system," a statement said.

Later Sunday, Kenya Power issued an update saying it had restored electricity service to parts of the country, including some residential districts in the capital, but many areas in Kenya remained without power Monday morning.

During a similar blackout last month, it took engineers over 12 hours to restore power in most parts of the country.

## EXCHANGE RATES

| Military rates | |
|---|---|
| Euro costs (Dec. 12) | $1.05 |
| British pound (Dec. 12) | $1.23 |
| Japanese yen (Dec. 12) | 141.00 |
| South Korean won (Dec. 12) | 1285.00 |

| Commercial rates | |
|---|---|
| Bahrain(Dinar) | 0.3769 |
| Britain (Pound) | 1.2567 |
| Canada (Dollar) | 1.3564 |
| China(Yuan) | 7.1782 |
| Denmark (Krone) | 6.9340 |
| Egypt (Pound) | 30.9258 |
| Euro | 1.0753 |
| Hong Kong (Dollar) | 7.8048 |
| Hungary (Forint) | 355.24 |
| Israel (Shekel) | 3.7158 |
| Japan (Yen) | 146.25 |
| Kuwait(Dinar) | 0.3085 |
| Norway (Krone) | 10.9543 |
| Philippines (Peso) | 55.55 |
| Poland (Zloty) | 4.03 |
| Saudi Arabia (Riyal) | 3.7508 |
| Singapore (Dollar) | 1.3442 |
| South Korea (Won) | 1321.00 |
| Switzerland (Franc) | 0.8804 |
| Thailand (Baht) | 35.75 |
| Turkey (NewLira) | 28.9805 |

(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.)

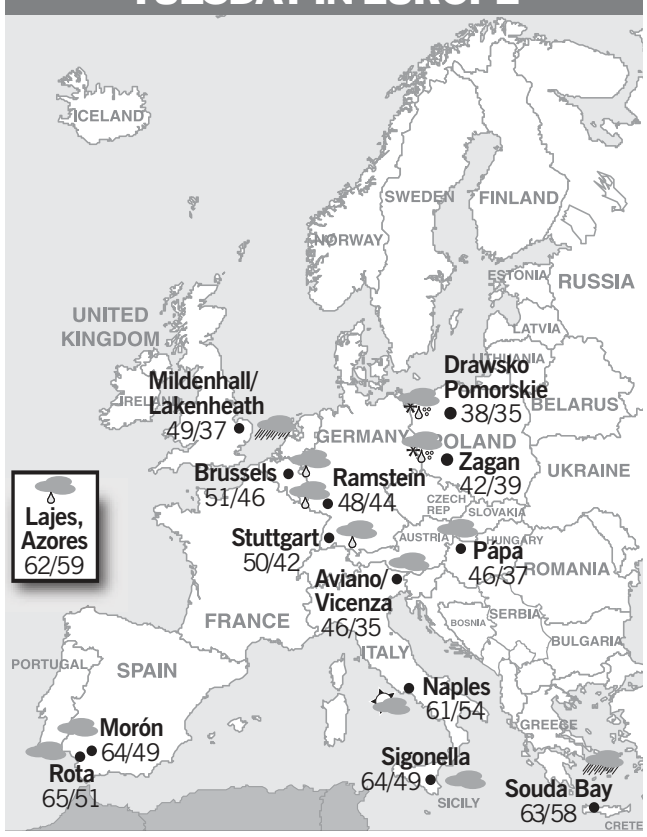
## INTEREST RATES

| | |
|---|---|
| Prime rate | 8.50 |
| Interest Rates Discount rate | 6.00 |
| Federal funds market rate | 5.25 |
| 3-month bill | 5.41 |
| 30-year bond | 4.31 |

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

### TUESDAY IN EUROPE




### WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC

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

## TODAY IN STRIPES


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



STARS AND STRIPES

*However you read us, wherever you need us.*

Mobile • Online • Print

**EUROPE** — ADVERTISING — CustomerService@stripes.com — +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

**MIDDLE EAST** — ADVERTISING — CustomerService@stripes.com — +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

**PACIFIC** — ADVERTISING — PacificAdvertising@stripes.com — +81 (42) 552.2511 DSN: 315.227.7310

# Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.
Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

# F-16 crashes following in-flight emergency

By David Choi
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — An Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcon crashed Monday morning off South Korea's western coast, according to the 8th Fighter Wing.

The fighter from Kunsan Air Base was flying over the Yellow Sea when it experienced an in-flight emergency at 8:43 a.m., the wing said in a news release Monday.

The pilot ejected and was rescued at sea by the South Korean navy and coast guard, 7th Air Force spokeswoman Maj. Rachel Buitrago told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

A South Korean air force helicopter airlifted the pilot to Kunsan, she added.

The pilot is awake and in stable condition, according to the news release.

"We are grateful for the safe recovery of our airman by our [South Korean] allies and that the pilot is in good condition," wing commander Col. Matthew Gaetke said in the release.

No further details on the crash were provided; however, the wing's release said "the incident will be thoroughly investigated."

Kunsan, about 115 miles south of Seoul, is home to the 8th Fighter Wing, which operates roughly 30 F-16s.

The incident comes seven months after one of the wing's F-16s crashed into a farmer's field near Osan Air Base, 30 miles south of the capital, on May 6.

The pilot ejected and suffered non-life-threatening injuries, the wing said at the time. That incident prompted a three-day stand-down of F-16 flights in South Korea.

choi.david@stripes.com
@choibboy

# Philippine military head aboard a ship harassed by China

By Jim Gomez
*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — The head of the Philippine military said Monday he was with his forces aboard a supply boat when it was blasted with a water cannon, surrounded and shoved by Chinese coast guard ships over the weekend in the disputed South China Sea.

China, meanwhile, accused archrival the United States of encouraging the Philippines, its treaty ally, to provoke China for its own purposes, though it provided no direct evidence.

The successive days of heated confrontations underscore China's determination to assert its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, despite the possibility of fomenting a larger conflict affecting shipping and other maritime activities in the crucial waterway.

Gen. Romeo Brawner Jr. told The Associated Press in a telephone interview that China was escalating its aggression in the contested waters but said it would not deter Filipino forces from defending their territorial interests.

More than 100 official Chinese and other government-linked ships have swarmed the high seas around the contested Second Thomas Shoal, where a marooned Philippine navy ship that Brawner visited has stood for decades. He said their presence was much bigger than in previous months.

"It's pure aggression," Brawner said. "I witnessed how many times the big Chinese coast guard and militia ships cut our path. They water-cannoned us, then bumped us. It's angering."

"This really needs a diplomatic solution at the higher level," he said, but added that the armed forces would continue to support front-line troops and protect fishermen.

Brawner, the U.S.-educated chief of the 150,000-member Armed Forces of the Philippines, joined navy personnel in a wooden-hulled supply boat, the Unnaiza Mae 1, which brought Christmas gifts, food and other supplies to a small contingent of Filipino marines and navy personnel stationed aboard the BRP Sierra Madre at Second Thomas Shoal.

Although now crumbling with rust and holes, the slightly listing Sierra Madre remains an actively commissioned Philippine navy ship, meaning any assault on it would be considered an act of war. It has become a fragile symbol of the territorial claims of the Philippines.

Aaron Favila/AP

**A video presentation shown during a press conference in Manila, Philippines, on Monday shows a Chinese coast guard vessel attempting to block a Philippine coast guard ship in the South China Sea.**

Brawner said he conveyed President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s Christmas greetings to the Filipino forces and shared with them a traditional rice lunch.

The United States has repeatedly warned it is obligated to defend the Philippines, its oldest treaty ally in Asia, if Filipino forces, ships or aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea. China has warned the U.S. not to meddle in what it says is a purely Asian dispute.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning reinforced that message at a daily briefing Monday, saying the maritime disputes were "issues between the two countries, and no third party has the right to intervene."

"Recently, the U.S., in order to realize its own geopolitical interests, has encouraged, supported, and cooperated with the Philippines in its violations and provocations in the South China Sea, exaggerating differences and inciting confrontation," Mao told reporters.

Over the weekend, Philippine officials said the Chinese coast guard and suspected militia ships targeted Philippine vessels two days in a row with water cannon blasts and rammed one of them, causing damage and endangering crew, off Second Thomas Shoal and separately in Scarborough Shoal off the northwestern Philippines.

The U.S. State Department said the actions by China's ship "were dangerous and unlawful" and undermined regional stability

# Navy probes why panel fell from Seahawk helo training off Japan

By Alex Wilson and Mari Higa
*Stars and Stripes*

A panel fell off a U.S. Navy helicopter last week as it was flying over waters southwest of Tokyo, a Navy spokesman said, prompting fresh concerns about U.S. military aircraft operating in the country.

The MH-60S Seahawk from Helicopter Sea Squadron 12 was conducting extended training when the part fell off, Naval Air Facility Atsugi spokesman Gregory Mitchell said by phone Monday.

The Navy realized the panel — 2 feet long, 1 foot wide and weighing about 15 pounds — was missing sometime after the Seahawk returned to NAF Atsugi on Thursday, he said. The aircraft had been flying south-southwest over Sagami Bay, about 25 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The incident is under investigation, Mitchell said.

The South Kanto Defense Bureau, an arm of Japan's Ministry of Defense, notified Kanagawa prefecture about the missing panel on Friday, the prefecture said in a news release that day.

Prefectural officials asked the bureau to "gather information on the damage and investigate the cause immediately."

The incident comes just over a week after an Air Force CV-22 Osprey went down off southwestern Japan, killing all eight crew members aboard. The crash led the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps to ground hundreds of Ospreys on Dec. 6 after a preliminary investigation pointed toward a materiel failure and not human error.

Ayase, a city adjacent to NAF Atsugi, sent letters to Japanese Defense Minister Minoru Kihara and the base's commander, Capt. Nicolas Leclerc, to ensure air safety protocols are in place, the city said Friday in a news release.

"While we have always requested the aircraft safety measures to be thoroughly implemented and citizens are increasingly concerned about aircraft safety after the Osprey crash occurred off Yakushima on November 29, the occurrence of this incident has further heightened citizens' anxieties, and we take it very seriously," the city wrote on its website.

The city echoed the prefecture's requests about a thorough investigation and asked that the findings be made public.

wilson.alex@stripes.com
@AlexMNWilson
higa.mari@stripes.com
@MariHiga21

PACIFIC

# Commissaries turn classrooms for some

By Juan King
*Stars and Stripes*

SAGAMIHARA HOUSING AREA, Japan — On-base supermarkets are also serving as classrooms for Department of Defense Education Activity students across the Pacific.

Schools in the region have been collaborating with their local commissaries to give pupils hands-on lessons in topics like nutrition, economics, marketing, business and personal finance, DODEA-Pacific spokeswoman Miranda Ferguson said by email last month.

For example, more than 50 Arnn Elementary School students — from Sure Start to fifth grade — participated in Math Night at their store in the Sagamihara Housing Area on Nov. 16. That commissary serves people assigned to nearby Camp Zama, the home of U.S. Army Japan just outside Tokyo.

The students, alongside their parents, learned about shopping, calculating the cost of groceries and problem-solving during the hourlong event.

"I thought it was a good idea to have kids involved in looking at prices at the supermarket and trying to figure out how much things cost and where things are," Pamela Brower, mother to Arnn third-grader Thiago Brower, said at the event. "The stations are making them think, like how many lemons are in a bag? How many cookies are in a jar?"

Akifumi Ishikawa/Stars and Stripes

**An Arnn Elementary School math teacher Athea Carter leads a Math Night problem-solving event at the commissary in the Sagamihara Housing Area near Camp Zama, Japan, on Nov. 16.**

The goal was to get the kids to make a connection between math and grocery shopping, principal Edwin Munoz said as students scrambled through the aisles around him.

"The team (of teachers) came up with the idea of helping the children make connections to real-life scenarios, and what better way than to do it in the commissary?" he said. "We're hoping that it will help them deepen their understanding of some of these little concepts."

The students also practiced things like rounding and estimating, said math teacher Athea Carter, one of 20 adults who helped guide students during the event.

A day earlier, students from Shirley Lanham Elementary at nearby Naval Air Facility Atsugi had their own math night at their commissary, Carter said.

"Schools have hosted curriculum nights emphasizing math, science and literacy for years," she said. "These curriculum nights expose students to real-life application of the subject matter, and they help build community."

king.juan@stripes.com
@JuanKing_17

# Special Olympians gather for first Kadena competition in 6 years

By Matthew M. Burke
*Stars and Stripes*

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — The Kadena Special Olympics returned to the home of the 18th Wing over the weekend after a six-year hiatus caused by a rise in costs and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approximately 70 athletes from Okinawa city, Chatan and Kadena town came to the Risner Fitness and Sports Complex on Saturday to compete for gold, silver and bronze medals in a slate of contests that included the 30-meter dash, basketball and soccer.

Participant numbers were down drastically from more than 800 in 2017.

The event was put on hold so organizers could find a more sustainable model, which included limiting competitor numbers and finding cheaper alternatives to things like food offerings, Col. Nicholas Evans, 18th Wing commander, said during a press conference at the event.

The event was further derailed in 2020 by the pandemic.

"We went with more of an organic ability to support this versus spending more money at the wing," he said.

The wing leveraged partnerships with local vendors and military service organizations that stepped up to offer support.

"We absolutely intend for this to be a yearly thing moving forward," Evans said.

The wing did not answer questions emailed last month about the event's cost and its funding sources.

The games started in 1999 with about 100 athletes at a local park, co-founder and retired Army public affairs officer Chip Steitz said Friday during a phone interview from his Florida home. It grew in size and scope year after year and became a unifying force on an island known for its anti-base protests, he said.

The athletes, who train year-round with Special Olympics Nippon - Okinawa Chapter, have gone on to participate in global competitions, Steitz said. The 2017 event featured 832 athletes and 2,000 U.S. volunteers.

Under the new format, the wing can support up to 110 athletes, Evans said. They hope to invite 30 to 40 more participants next year.

"I'm just so happy it's going to continue," Steitz said. "It shows the community that we care and that we really want to do something special for special needs individuals."

Saturday's games kicked off with participants parading into athletes' village surrounded by 450 volunteers and spectators. They were cheered on by costumed characters, including Pikachu and a "Star Wars" jedi.

Photos by Matthew M. Burke/Stars and Stripes

**People cheer as a track-and-field athlete crosses the finish line during the Kadena Special Olympics at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, on Saturday.**

After a torch was lit, Raymond Greene, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, spoke about how the Special Olympics ushered in a change in attitudes regarding people with disabilities.

**A member of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band high-fives an athlete during the Kadena Special Olympics' opening ceremony.**

It was founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister to President John F. Kennedy.

The commander of U.S. Forces Japan, Air Force Lt. Gen. Ricky Rupp, then led the participants in reciting the athlete's oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

The athletes danced with members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force Band during a stirring rendition of "When the Saints Go Marching In," before heading to their first events.

Five of the athletes competing this year came from Department of Defense Education Activity schools on the island, Maj. Rahn Lassiter, project officer for the Kadena games, said in an emailed statement Thursday.

Evans took in the basketball skills competition with 18th Wing Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Wolfgang. The pair high-fived players who sported wide smiles to go along with their glimmering medals.

Wolfgang said he has a special connection to the event, having been involved in the planning of a previous iteration a decade ago.

"The athletes take a lot of pride and excitement and joy in just coming out here and competing and interacting with our volunteers," Wolfgang said. The volunteers benefit equally, he added.

burke.matt@stripes.com
@MatthewMBurke1

MILITARY

# Army gets long-range missile to replace ATACMS

By Phillip Walter Wellman
*Stars and Stripes*

The Army has a new long-range missile at its disposal that can hit targets more than 100 miles farther away than its predecessor could.

The first shipment of precision strike missiles was received Friday, the Army said in a statement the same day. The statement didn't say where the missiles arrived.

The weapon is set to eventually replace the Army tactical missile system, or ATACMS, which the service has been using for over 30 years.

The newer surface-to-surface weapon has been designed to hit targets from about 40 miles to over 310 miles away, according to manufacturer Lockheed Martin.

Each launch pod contains two munitions, which are fired from M142 high mobility artillery rocket systems and M270A2 multiple launch rocket systems.

Darrell Ames/PEO Missiles and Space

**The Army announced Friday the initial delivery of its next-generation long-range precision fires missile. The delivery of precision strike missiles follows successful testing last month in New Mexico.**

By comparison, the ATACMS launch pods contain a single rocket and have a maximum range of about 190 miles.

"The precision strike missile will provide Joint Force commanders with 24/7, all-weather capability that will counter the enemy's ability to conduct combat maneuver and air defense operations," Doug Bush, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, logistics and technology, said in the statement.

The missile was one of two dozen key systems that the Army set out to introduce in fiscal year 2023 to modernize the force. Military analysts say that its deep-strike capability is vital to countering new technology from Russia and China.

Earlier this year, the U.S. started supplying Ukraine with ATACMS missiles, which Ukrainian troops have effectively used to target airfields, ammunition depots and other high-value targets from a distance.

The Army didn't specify how many of the missiles arrived Friday. In September 2022, the service ordered 54 from Lockheed Martin for $77.5 million.

The delivery follows successful testing last month at White Sands Missile Range, N.M., during which the weapons were fired from a HIMARS launcher at the shortest possible range. That short-range flight test represented the most stressful environment for the system, as it required excellent trajectory control to align to the target at hypersonic speeds, Lockheed Martin said.

wellman.phillip@stripes.com
@pwwellman

# **New:** Official says cybersecurity is a top focus of Sentinel program

**FROM PAGE 1**

gid winter temperatures in the Western states where the silos are located.

The $96 billion Sentinel overhaul involves 450 silos across five states, their control centers, three nuclear missile bases and several other testing facilities. The project is so ambitious it has raised questions as to whether the Air Force can get it all done at once.

An overhaul is needed.

The silos lose power. Their 60-year old massive mechanical parts break down often. Air Force crews guard them using helicopters that can be traced back to the Vietnam War. Commanders hope the modernization of the Sentinel, and of the trucks, gear and living quarters, will help attract and retain young technology-minded service members who are now asked each day to find ways to keep a very old system running.

Nuclear modernization was delayed for years because the U.S. deferred spending on new missiles, bombers and submarines in order to support the post 9/11 wars overseas. Now everything is getting modernized at once. The Sentinel work is one leg of a larger, nuclear weapons enterprise-wide $750 billion overhaul that is replacing almost every component of U.S. nuclear defenses.

For the Sentinel, silo work could be underway by lead contractor Northrop Grumman as soon as 2025. That is 80 years after the U.S. last used nuclear weapons in war, the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, which killed an estimated 100,000 in an instant and likely tens of thousands more over time.

For the Pentagon, there are expectations the modern Sentinel will meet threats from rapidly evolving Chinese and Russian missile systems. The Sentinel is expected to stay in service through 2075, so designers are taking an approach that will make it easier to upgrade with new technologies in the coming years. But that's not without risk.

"Sentinel is a software-intensive program with a compressed schedule," the Government Accountability Office reported this summer. "Software development is a high risk due to its scale and complexity and unique requirements of the nuclear deterrence mission."

Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall has acknowledged the challenges the program is facing.

"It's been a long time since we did an ICBM," Kendall said in November at a Center for New American Security event in Washington. It's "the biggest thing, in some ways, that the Air Force has ever taken on."

"Sentinel, I think quite honestly, is struggling a little bit," he said.

By far, the biggest cultural shift the Sentinel will bring is the connectivity for all those who secure, maintain, operate and support the system. The overhaul touches almost everything, even including new equipment for military chefs who cook for the missile teams. The changes could improve efficiency and quality of life on the bases but may also create vulnerabilities that the analog Minuteman missiles have never faced.

Since the first silo-based Minuteman went on alert at Montana's Malmstrom Air Force Base on Oct. 27, 1962 — the day Cuba shot down a U-2 spy plane at the height of the Cuban missile crisis — the missile has "talked" to its operators through thousands of miles of hard-wiring in cables buried underground.

Those Hardened Intersite Cable Systems, or HICS, cables carry messages back and forth from the missile to the missileer, who receives those messages through a relatively new part of the capsule — a firing control console called REACT, for Rapid Execution and Combat Targeting, that was installed in the mid-1990s.

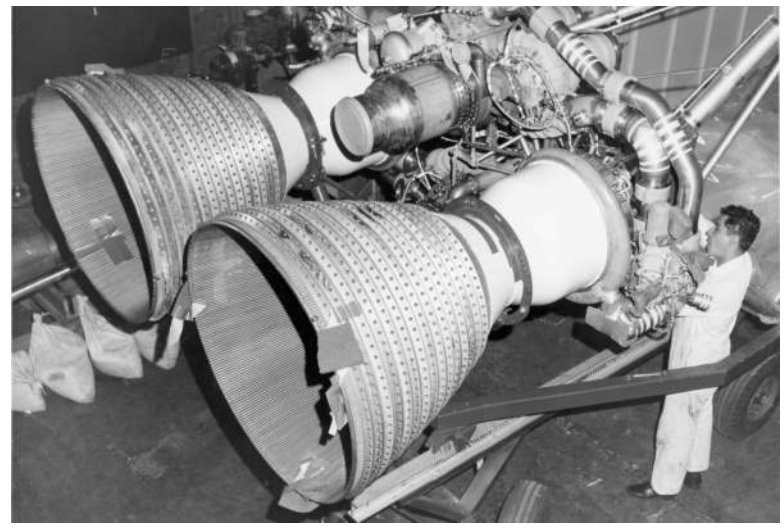
It's a closed communication loop, and a very secure one that brings its own headaches. Any time the Air Force wants to test one of the missiles, it literally has to dig up the cables and splice them, to isolate that test missile's wiring from the rest. Over decades of testing, there are now hundreds of splices in those critical loops.

But it's also one of the Minuteman's best features. You would need a shovel — and a lot more — to try to hack the system. Even when missile crews update targeting codes, it is a mechanical, manual process.

Minuteman is "a very cyber-resilient platform," said Col. Charles Clegg, the Sentinel system program manager.

Clegg said cybersecurity for the software-driven Sentinel has been a top focus of the program, one that has all of their attention.

"Like Minuteman, Sentinel will still operate within a closed network. However, to provide defense in depth, we will have additional security measures at the boundary and inside the network, enabling our weapon system to operate effectively in a cyber-contested environment," Clegg said.



U.S. Air Force

**The Ogden Air Logistics Center in Utah managed the Titan II Intercontinental Ballistic Missile system until its deactivation in 1987.**

Those who maintain the Minuteman III have tried over the years to bring in new technology to make maintenance more efficient, but they have found that sometimes the old manual way of tracking things — sometimes literally with a binder and pen — is better, especially in frigid temperatures. Nuclear missile fields are located in Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming. Those missiles need maintenance even in the winter, and crews spend hours outside in subzero field conditions,

"An iPad won't survive a Montana winter" at the launch sites, where maintenance crews have worked outdoors in temperatures of minus 20 degrees or even minus 40 degrees, said Chief Master Sgt. Virgil Castro, the 741st missile maintenance squadron's senior enlisted leader.

Also, when maintenance crews at Malmstrom tested some radio frequency identification, or RFID, technology — think of how seaports track items inside cargo containers — it created security vulnerabilities.

"Today, everything is connected to the internet of things. And you might have a back door in there you don't even know" said Lt. Col. Todd Yehle, the 741st maintenance squadron commander. "With the old analog systems, you're not hacking those systems."

What it means is that even though technology could automate the whole operations process, one critical aspect of missile launch will remain the same. If the day comes that another nuclear weapon must be fired, it will still be teams of missileers validating the orders and activating a launch.

"It's the human in the loop," said Col. Johnny Galbert, commander of the 90th Missile Wing at F.E. Warren. "I think what it comes down to is we want to rely on our airmen, our young officers out there, to make that decision, to be able to interpret what higher headquarters is telling them or directing them to do."

MILITARY

# Afghans flown to Germany before move to US

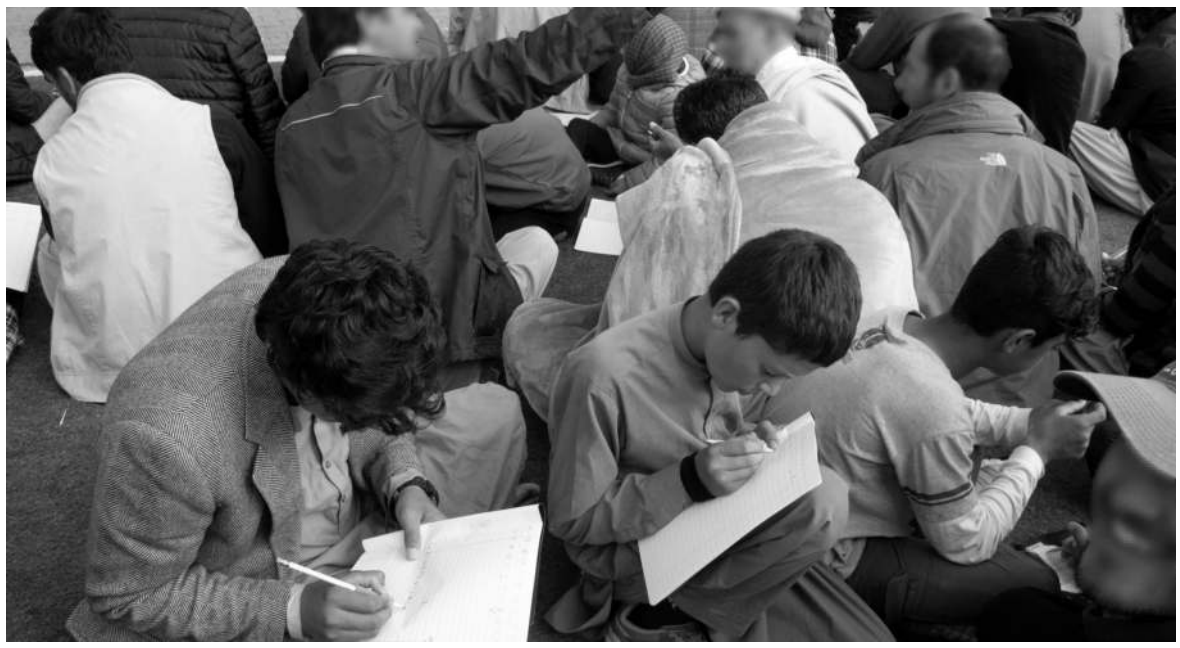
By Phillip Walter Wellman
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — For the first time since 2021, Afghan nationals are being brought here to the largest overseas American military community, where they're waiting for long-sought documents that will allow them to move to the United States.

It's part of a ramped-up effort by the State Department to resettle thousands of Afghans who worked for the U.S. government, along with their families, but who haven't yet received special immigrant visas, a representative from the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt said Monday.

The first of a planned series of flights from Kabul arrived in Germany earlier this month, said the consulate official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing State Department policy.

The State Department is aiming to process the visa applications in under 30 days, the consulate official said.



Stars and Stripes

**Men and boys attend an English lesson at Rhine Ordnance Barracks in Kaiserslautern, Germany, in 2021.**

After the U.S.-backed Afghan government's fall in August 2021, more than 34,000 refugees were flown to Germany and given temporary housing at Ramstein Air Base and Rhine Ordnance Barracks, in the southwestern state of Rheinland-Pfalz, before moving to the United States.

It was part of the largest humanitarian evacuation in U.S. history, known as Operation Allies Refuge, which airlifted more than 120,000 people out of Afghanistan.

The number of Afghans arriving in Germany now is much smaller than in 2021, said the consulate official, who was unable to provide figures or say exactly where the Afghans are staying.

The visas will be issued only to people and their families who meet all resettlement requirements and have provided "faithful and valuable service to the United States government," the representative said.

Prospective immigrants must obtain their visas before arriving in the United States. The U.S. diplomatic presence in Afghanistan ended with the Taliban takeover, so the Afghan visa applicants first must travel to a third country.

Bringing Afghans to a U.S. military base means the processing can be done on a larger scale and in a controlled environment.

Resettlement efforts have continued since 2021. Special immigrant visas have been processed at 60 posts around the world, but applicants have had to make their way to these posts themselves.

During the last fiscal year, the U.S. issued more than 18,000 special immigrant visas to Afghan applicants, the most in a single year, according to the U.S. Consulate in Frankfurt.

# Policy revision OKs dogs, cats, fish for US troops at Incirlik

By John Vandiver
*Stars and Stripes*

A tiny Yorkshire terrier named Archer is the first pooch in years to set paw on Incirlik Air Base, where a longtime ban on pets has been lifted, to the delight of U.S. personnel stationed at the base in southeastern Turkey.

Archer belongs to Chief Master Sgt. Melissa Robbins, the senior enlisted leader of the 39th Mission Support Group. His presence on base has been a morale booster, Robbins said.

"Archer is not just my companion. He represents the beginning of a new era for Incirlik," she said.

The pet policy revision allows for service members in single-occupancy homes — for one resident or a married couple — to have up to two dogs or cats, the 39th Air Base Wing said in a statement Monday.

The policy also authorizes all troops to have an aquarium of up to 25 gallons. But no reptiles allowed; the aquarium can house only fish, the wing said.

"The significance of this cannot be overstated," the wing statement said. "It marks a shift towards recognizing the importance of pets in the lives of military families."

Archer is the first dog to take up residence at the base since 2016, when deteriorating security conditions in Turkey prompted U.S. military leaders to order hundreds of family members out of the country.

The move brought an end to accompanied tours at the base, where previously either standard tours with dependents or two-year assignments were the norm.

Concerns at the time about terrorist threats and the intense fighting against the Islamic State group across the border in Syria prompted the change.

The lifting of the restrictions on pets is the latest sign of things getting back to normal at Incirlik.

In August, a U.S. Air Forces Europe and Africa task force hosted a meeting focused on the feasibility of reinstating standard tours at the base that allow for children. The task force's report is expected sometime this winter.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
@john_vandiver

Madison Sylvester/U.S. Air Force

**Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Melissa Robbins shares a moment with her Yorkshire terrier Archer at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey on Dec. 8.**

# New Hampshire computer chip plant 1st to get funding from CHIPS law

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration said Monday it would provide $35 million to BAE Systems to increase production at a New Hampshire factory making computer chips for military aircraft, including F-15 and F-35 jets.

This is the first allocation of incentives from last year's bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which provides more than $52 billion to boost the development and manufacturing of semiconductors in the United States.

The Commerce Department's choice of a military contractor instead of a conventional chip manufacturer reveals the national security focus of the law, as more and more weapons systems depend on advanced chips that could be decisive in both preventing and fighting wars.

President Joe Biden signed the incentives into law in August 2022 partly out of concerns that a military attack on Taiwan could deprive the world of advanced computer chips and plunge the U.S. into a recession.

"We can't gamble with our national security by depending solely on one part of the world or even one country for crucial advanced technologies," said Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, who called the investments a "once in a generation opportunity to advance our national and economic security and create a thriving, long lasting domestic semiconductor manufacturing industry."

The coronavirus pandemic revealed the fragility of computer chip supplies as a worldwide shortage curbed U.S. auto production and pushed up prices around the start of Biden's presidency.

Biden in a statement said the incentives his administration is providing have already led to more than $230 billion in planned investments in semiconductors and electronics.

Biden has gone to a planned Intel factory in Ohio and a new Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. plant in Arizona, as well as touted in New York investments by IBM.

The president has made these financial commitments part of his pitch to voters ahead of the 2024 elections, saying his policies have energized the U.S. economy.

"Over the coming year, the Department of Commerce will award billions more to make more semiconductors in America, invest in research and development capabilities to keep America at the forefront of new technologies," Biden said in a statement.

Government officials said the investment in the BAE Systems' facility will ultimately save money for taxpayers.

The money being paid out as the company hits benchmarks will help quadruple the plant's production capacity, helping to halve the price of making the chips and leading to net savings for the federal agencies buying the chips.

WAR IN UKRAINE

# Russia attacks Kyiv as energy infrastructure seen vulnerable

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — A Russian missile attack on Ukraine's capital early Monday destroyed several homes and left more than 100 households without electricity.

The predawn attack on Kyiv came amid warnings that Russia will step up its attacks on the country's energy infrastructure as winter sets in with freezing temperatures.

A series of loud explosions followed by air raid sirens broke the silence in Kyiv just after 4 a.m. as the city was under its nightly curfew.

Ukraine's military said its air defenses intercepted all eight ballistic missiles. However, falling debris from rockets damaged homes on the ground, leaving one person wounded and three others suffering severe shock, officials said.

AP journalists witnessed some of the destruction in the district of Bortnychi on the southeastern outskirts of Kyiv. A home under construction was ripped apart and nearby buildings were partially damaged, with gaping holes in the roofs and walls.

Victor Demchenko, the owner of the destroyed house, was clearing debris from his property, next to a crater about 16 feet deep in the backyard. Demchenko said he was in another part of the city when he heard the explosions.

"Then the neighbor called ... and said all that is left of the house is a crater," he said. "I didn't believe him, so I took the car and drove here. Well, you can see it yourself, there is nothing to be found here."

The attack also left some 120 households in the city without electricity, Ukraine's Ministry of Energy said. Ukrainian officials have warned that Russia will target energy infrastructure like it did last winter.

Elsewhere in Ukraine on Monday, the air force said it intercepted 18 Russian drones, mostly over the southern Mykolaiv region.

The attacks came as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in Argentina for the swearing-in of the country's new president, Javier Milei. It was the Ukrainian leader's first official trip to Latin America as Kyiv continues to court support among developing nations for its 21-month-old fight against Russia's invading forces.

Zelenskyy met with Milei as well as with the presidents of Uruguay, Paraguay and Ecuador. During the inauguration ceremony, Zelenskyy could be seen exchanging words with Hungarian leader Viktor Orban, widely considered one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's closest allies in Europe and one of the few European leaders who hasn't sided with Ukraine in the war.

In his nightly video address, Zelenskyy said he had a "highly straightforward conversation" with Orban, "focused on our European affairs." EU leaders are meeting this week in Brussels. Orban has demanded that EU membership talks with Ukraine and billions of euros in funding meant for Kyiv be taken off the agenda.

EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

**A local resident, top right, looks at the debris at a site of a recent Russian missile attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, on Monday.**

# Zelenskyy to visit Biden, members of Congress in bid to free Ukraine aid

*Bloomberg News*

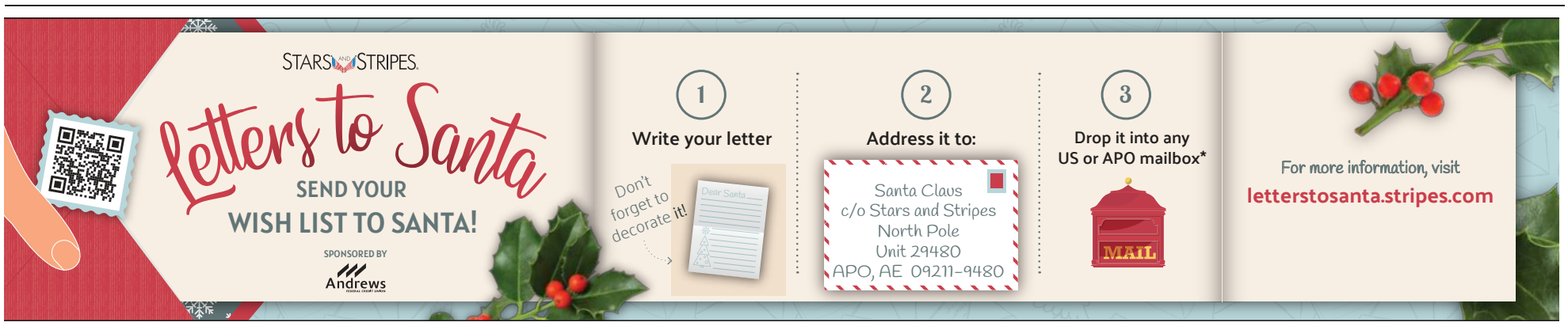
Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy is headed to Washington for talks with President Joe Biden and U.S. congressional leaders, signaling a push to energize support among his country's allies almost two years into Russia's invasion.

With Biden's request for further military assistance to Kyiv stalled in Congress, the Ukrainian president will make his case on Capitol Hill and at the White House on Tuesday at a key juncture in his fight to regain Russian-occupied territory.

Zelenskyy is expected to make an in-person address to a meeting of all U.S. senators on Tuesday morning, a Senate leadership aide said. House Speaker Mike Johnson will also meet Zelenskyy, spokesman Raj Shah said on X, formerly Twitter.

Continued U.S. military support has hit a snag as senators struggle to reach a compromise on U.S.-Mexico border policy changes that Republicans insist are needed for assistance to Ukraine to pass both houses of Congress.

With lawmakers scheduled to leave Washington at the end of the week for the holiday break, Senate negotiators said Sunday that differences persist.



MIDEAST

# Israel fights militants in Gaza's largest cities

## Civilians trapped as battles waged across north, south

BY NAJIB JOBAIN AND SAMY MAGDY
*Associated Press*

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Israeli forces battled Palestinian militants in Gaza's two largest cities on Monday, with civilians still trapped in the fighting even after hundreds of thousands have fled to other parts of the besieged territory.

Israel has pledged to keep fighting until it removes Hamas from power, dismantles its military capabilities and returns all of the hostages taken by militants during Hamas' Oct. 7 surprise attack into Israel that ignited the war.

The U.S. has provided unwavering diplomatic and military support for the campaign, even as it has urged Israel to minimize civilian casualties and further mass displacement. The war has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians and driven nearly 85% of the territory's 2.3 million people from their homes.

Residents said there was heavy fighting in and around the southern city of Khan Younis, where Israeli ground forces opened a new line of attack last week, and battles were still underway in parts of Gaza City and the urban Jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza, where large areas have been reduced to rubble.

In central Gaza, an Israeli airstrike overnight flattened a residential building where some 80 people were staying in the Maghazi refugee camp, residents said.

Ahmed al-Qarah, a neighbor who was digging through the rubble for survivors, said he knew of only six people who made it out. "The rest are under the building," he said.

Several of the dead were brought to a nearby hospital, where their loved ones could be seen sobbing and holding funeral prayers.

In Khan Younis, Radwa Abu Frayeh saw heavy Israeli strikes overnight around the European Hospital, where the U.N. humanitarian office says tens of thousands of people have sought shelter. She said one hit a home close to hers late Sunday.

"The building shook," she said. "We thought it was the end and we would die."

Hussein al-Sayyed, who fled Gaza City earlier in the war with his three daughters, is staying in a three-story home in the city with around 70 others. He said they have been rationing food for days. "I don't know where to go," he said. "No place is safe."

Hamas is believed to have suffered heavy losses, but on Monday it fired a barrage of rockets that set off sirens in Tel Aviv. One person was lightly wounded, according to the Magen David Adom rescue service, and Channel 12 broadcast footage of a cratered road and damage to cars and buildings in a suburb.

OHAD ZWIGENBERG/AP

**Israeli soldiers take positions near the Gaza Strip border, in southern Israel, on Monday.**

### Fears of displacement

With very little aid allowed into Gaza, Palestinians face severe shortages of food, water and other basic goods. Some openly worry that Palestinians will be forced out of the territory altogether in a repeat of the mass exodus from what is now Israel during the 1948 war surrounding its creation. That gave rise to built-up and seemingly permanent refugee camps like Jabaliya and Maghazi.

Eylon Levy, an Israeli government spokesman, called allegations that Israeli intends to drive people en masse from Gaza "outrageous and false." But other Israeli officials have discussed such a scenario, raising alarm in Egypt and other Arab countries that refuse to accept any refugees.

At the same time, it's not clear when or if Palestinians would be allowed to return to Gaza City and much of the north — home to some 1.2 million before the war — where entire neighborhoods have been flattened.

Palestinians in Lebanon and the Israeli-occupied West Bank observed a general strike on Monday called by activists to demand a cease-fire, after the U.S. vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for one on Friday. A similar, nonbinding vote is planned in the General Assembly on Tuesday.

### Harsh in the south

Israel says it tries to avoid harming civilians and blames their deaths on Hamas, saying it endangers residents by fighting in dense areas and positioning military infrastructure — including weapons, tunnels and rocket launchers — in or near civilian buildings.

The military said five soldiers were killed in a battle in southern Gaza on Sunday, after militants fired at them from a school and set off an explosive device. It said the troops, backed by aircraft and tanks, returned fire and killed the militants.

Forces operating in Jabaliya found a truck full of long-range rockets near a school, and a rifle, two rocket-propelled grenade launchers and explosives in a home, the army said.

Israel has urged people to flee to what it says are safe areas in the south — and the fighting in and around Khan Younis has pushed tens of thousands toward the town of Rafah and other areas along the border with Egypt. But Israel has continued to strike alleged militant targets throughout the territory.

Associated Press reporters saw nine bodies brought to a local hospital on Monday after an airstrike hit a home in Rafah overnight.

The aid group Doctors Without Borders said people in the south are also falling ill as they pack into crowded shelters or sleep in tents in open areas.

Nicholas Papachrysostomou, MSF emergency coordinator in Gaza, said "every other patient" at a clinic in Rafah has a respiratory infection after prolonged exposure to cold and rain.

# Iraq: Rocket attack marks escalation as officials try to contain war

FROM PAGE 1

Al-Sudani has condemned the attacks and U.S. counterstrikes as a violation of his country's sovereignty. He has also ordered authorities to pursue militants involved in the attacks, most of which caused no injuries and only minor damage.

His office declined further comment.

Washington has sent messages that its patience is wearing thin.

After the embassy attack, the Pentagon said that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin "made clear (to al-Sudani) that attacks against U.S. forces must stop."

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told al-Sudani that Washington expects Iraqi officials to take more action to prevent such attacks, and believes they have the capability to do so, a U.S. official told The Associated Press.

During a recent trip to the region, CIA Director William Burns warned al-Sudani of "harsh consequences" if Iraq doesn't act to stop the attacks, an Iraqi official said.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with briefing regulations.

In a call with the Iraqi premier earlier this month, Blinken said that Americans would take matters into their own hands, arguing that Baghdad had not done enough to pursue the perpetrators, according to two Iraqi officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

Two days later, a U.S. strike on a drone launch site near the Iraqi city of Kirkuk killed five militants.

The U.S. and much of the international community have scrambled to prevent the war in the besieged Gaza Strip from expanding across the region.

Analyst Renad Mansour said he believes Iran is making sure the attacks remain below a threshold that would provoke a major U.S. response.

"Both Iran and Iraq have maintained thus far a clear line that, at the moment, Iraq cannot turn into a playground that could destabilize the Sudani government," said Mansour, a senior research fellow at the Chatham House think tank.

He said that's partially due to Iraq's role of passing messages between Washington and Tehran.

Sometimes the messenger is al-Sudani.

In early November, Blinken met with al-Sudani in Baghdad a day before the Iraqi prime minister was set to visit Tehran.

Al-Sudani had won a specific promise from the militias that no attacks would be launched during Blinken's visit, according to an Iraqi official and a member of the Kataib Hezbollah militia.

Following the visit, al-Sudani carried a message from Blinken to Iran to restrain the militias.

Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment publicly.

A week after the Iraqi premier's diplomatic efforts, the United States extended Iraq's sanctions waiver by four months to purchase Iranian electricity.

Iran-hawks in Washington criticized the move, saying it would shore up revenue for Tehran while its proxies are at war with Israel.

Mansour says Washington has used the sanctions waiver as "one of its cards" in economy-centered efforts to pressure Iran and Iraq.

Unlike Lebanon's Hezbollah group, seen as Iran's most powerful proxy in the region, Iraq's militias have so far only played a limited role in the conflict.

For now, only small number of militiamen from Iraq are in southern Lebanon, near Israel's northern border, said the official from the Kataib Hezbollah group.

He said the Iraqis are working on "battle management" alongside Hezbollah and representatives of Hamas, the militant group that has ruled Gaza for 16 years and is currently battling Israel.

He said Iran-backed groups in Iraq don't want the conflict to spread across the region, but are prepared to respond with force to any attacks.

NATION

# More travelers are forecast for holiday season

LYNNE SLADKY/AP

**Travelers walk through Miami International Airport earlier this year. More Americans are expected to travel 50 miles or more over the Christmas holiday this year than did last year, experts say.**

BY DAVID KOENIG
*Associated Press*

More Americans are expected to fly or drive far from home over Christmas than did last year, putting a cap on a busy year for travel.

Auto club AAA forecast Monday that 115.2 million people will go 50 miles or more from home during the 10 days between Dec. 23 and New Year's Day. That's 2.2% more than AAA predicted during the comparable stretch last year.

"That desire to get away is stronger than we have seen in a very long time," said AAA spokeswoman Aixa Diaz. "People are willing to adjust their budgets in other areas of their life, but they want to keep traveling."

The AAA predicts that the holiday season will still fall 3% short of record travel in 2019, the last Christmas before COVID-19 hit the United States.

Air travel in the U.S. has already rebounded, surpassing 2019 levels.

The number of travelers going through U.S. airport checkpoints is up 12.4% over last year and 1.4% higher than in 2019, according to the Transportation Security Administration. Travel around the Thanksgiving Day holiday topped 2019 numbers, peaking at 2.9 million — a single-day record for TSA — screened on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Airlines are predicting a blockbuster holiday season.

Airlines for America says 39 million people — about 2.8 million a day on average — will board U.S. flights between Dec. 20 and Jan. 2. The trade group for big U.S. carriers expects about 3 million on the peak days — the Thursday and Friday before Christmas and the four days after the holiday.

The airlines count people more than once if they take connecting flights instead of nonstops, so their numbers are higher than those reported by TSA.

Travel is strong even though many Americans say they are worried about the economy. In an AP-NORC poll last week, seven out of 10 people surveyed rated the economy as poor. But at least inflation has cooled off a bit.

Airline passengers are getting a slight break from last year's high prices. Average fares in October were 13% lower than a year earlier, according to the government's latest data.

AAA predicts that 7.5 million people will fly in the U.S. in late December, but the club expects far more — nearly 104 million — to drive over the holidays.

Motorists will pay a bit less to fill up. The national average price for a gallon of gasoline was $3.19 at the end of last week, compared with $3.33 a year earlier, according to AAA. Gas is under $3 a gallon across a swath in the middle of the country.

# Trump not testifying 2nd time at fraud trial

EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ/AP

**Former President Donald Trump, second from left, sits at the defense table Thursdayy with his attorneys Christopher Kise, left, Alina Habba, second from right, and Clifford Robert at New York Supreme Court.**

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — Donald Trump said Sunday he has decided against testifying for a second time at his New York civil fraud trial, posting on social media a day before his scheduled appearance that he "very successfully & conclusively" testified last month and saw no need to do so again.

The former president, the leading contender for the 2024 Republican nomination, had been expected to return to the witness stand Monday as a coda to his defense against New York Attorney General Letitia James' lawsuit.

James, a Democrat, alleges Trump inflated his wealth on financial statements used in securing loans and making deals. The case threatens Trump's real estate empire and cuts to the heart of his image as a successful businessman.

"I will not be testifying on Monday," Trump wrote in an all-capital-letters, multipart statement on his Truth Social platform less than 20 hours before he was to take the witness stand.

"I have already testified to everything & have nothing more to say," Trump added, leaving the final word among defense witnesses to an accounting expert hired by his legal team who testified last week that he found "no evidence, whatsoever, for any accounting fraud" in Trump's financial statements.

A Trump spokesperson did not immediately respond to questions about his decision.

The decision was an abrupt change from Trump's posture in recent days, when his lawyers said he was insistent on testifying again despite their concerns about a gag order that has cost him $15,000 in fines for disparaging the judge's law clerk.

"President Trump has already testified. There is really nothing more to say to a judge who has imposed an unconstitutional gag order and thus far appears to have ignored President Trump's testimony and that of everyone else involved in the complex financial transactions at issue in the case," Trump lawyer Christopher Kise said Sunday.

Trump's decision came days after his son, Eric Trump, ditched his return appearance on the witness stand. Trump said on social media that he'd told Eric to cancel.

It also follows Trump's first trip back to court since he testified in the case on Nov. 6.

Trump's cancellation caught court officials by surprise. Without Trump on the witness stand, the trial will be on hold until Tuesday, when New York University professor Eli Bartov will finish his testimony. State lawyers say they'll then call at least one rebuttal witness.

# Snowfall, rain, gusty winds hit Northeast

*Associated Press*

A combination of heavy rain, snow, and wind brought threats of flooding and power outages to the Northeast on Monday, part of the same storm system that killed six people in Tennessee, where tornadoes toppled houses and tens of thousands of people lost power in the wintry weather.

The National Weather Service issued winter storm warnings through the evening as snow fell across Vermont and northern New York, where up to 10 inches of snow could accumulate. The weather service said that snowfall rates of an inch an hour were possible. Many schools were closed in Vermont.

A mix of rain and snow was falling in New Hampshire and some roads had minor flooding in Maine, and gusty winds were expected in New England Monday afternoon.

Between 1.5 to 3 inches of rain fell in the New York City area overnight, but the storm was moving fast and a flood watch and wind advisory were lifted Monday morning.

The Washington, D.C., area also saw rain and mild temperatures turn into some slushy snow and near-freezing conditions Sunday night.

The situation in parts of Tennessee and Kentucky was more dire: Emergency workers and community members were dealing with the aftermath of severe weekend storms and tornadoes that sent dozens of people to hospitals while damaging buildings, turning over vehicles and knocking out power. In all, 11 Tennessee counties were affected by Saturday's tornadoes and severe weather.

The tornado that hit Clarksville, Tenn., on Saturday, killing three people and injuring 62, was an EF3, with peak winds of 150 mph, the weather service office in Nashville announced. It was on the ground for more than an hour, traveling 43 miles across Montgomery County, Tenn., and Todd and Logan counties in Kentucky. At its widest point the tornado's path was 600 yards.

Another tornado that struck just north of Nashville and also raked Hendersonville and Gallatin was an estimated EF2, with winds of 125 mph, the weather service said. Authorities said it tossed one mobile home onto another, killing three people inside the two homes.

In the Bowling Green, Ky., area, an EF1 tornado traveled more than 2 miles with peak winds of 90 mph. And in west Tennessee, a survey team determined that an EF1 tornado with peak winds of 110 mph tracked nearly 25 miles over a half hour across Gibson and Weakley counties in west Tennessee.

NATION

# Shift in smuggling routes overwhelm US border agents

ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

**Hundreds of migrants gather along the border after breaking through gaps in the border wall on Dec. 5, in Lukeville, Ariz.**

BY ANITA SNOW
*Associated Press*

LUKEVILLE, Ariz. — Gerston Miranda and his wife were among thousands of migrants recently arriving at this remote area on Arizona's southern border with Mexico, squeezing into the United States through a gap in the wall and walking overnight about 14 miles with two school-aged daughters to surrender to Border Patrol agents.

"There is no security in my country," said the 28-year-old from Ecuador, who lost work when his employer closed due to extortion by criminals. "Without security you cannot work. You cannot live."

A shift in smuggling routes has brought an influx of migrants here from countries as diverse as Senegal, Bangladesh and China, prompting the Border Patrol to seek help from other federal agencies and drawing scrutiny to an issue critical in next year's presidential elections.

With hundreds of migrants crossing daily in the area, the U.S. government on Monday indefinitely shut down the nearby international crossing between Lukeville, Ariz., and Sonoyta, Mexico, to free Customs and Border Protection officers assigned to the port of entry to help with transportation and other support. The agency also has partially closed a few other border ports of entry in recent months, including a pedestrian crossing in San Diego and a bridge in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Customs and Border Protection "continues to surge personnel and resources to the Border Patrol's Tucson Sector to expeditiously take migrants into custody," the agency said Sunday. "The fact is we are enforcing the law, and there are consequences for those who fail to use lawful pathways."

"Individuals encountered at the border are screened and vetted, and those without a legal basis to stay are removed," it said, adding that consequences can include a minimum five-year bar on re-entry. The agency said it is also focusing efforts on smugglers and transportation networks like bus lines that bring the migrants through northern Mexico.

Critics of closing the Lukeville crossing, including Arizona Democratic Gov. Katie Hobbs; the state's two U.S. senators, the governor of Mexico's Sonora state and the leadership of the nearby Tohono O'odham Nation, said it could harm trade and tourism. Hobbs urged President Joe Biden to reassign the 243 National Guard members already in the Tucson sector to help reopen the Lukeville crossing.

The morning after it was closed, about a dozen Border Patrol agents in olive green uniforms watched over some 400 migrants who had spent the night by the towering wall of steel bollards, wrapped in shiny Mylar blankets they later discarded among saguaro cactus and Palo Verde trees.

Three or four times as many CBP field operations officers in navy blue uniforms helped the migrants into white vans for a short drive to a canopied field intake center. From there, agents took migrants for processing to the Border Patrol's Ajo station, a half-hour north, or to other locations such as Tucson.

U.S. authorities have been so short-handed in Arizona that they have used charter flights to transfer some migrants from Tucson to three Texas border cities for processing, according Witness at the Border, an advocacy group that analyzes flight data.

Federal air marshals who provide security on commercial flights, and even Federal Protective Service officers who guard U.S. government buildings, are being diverted to the border, officials have said, without saying exactly where they are going.

"We are seeing a lot of different kinds of uniforms down here," humanitarian aid worker Tom Wingo said in Lukeville.

Nonprofit groups worry about the migrants' well-being.

"This is a humanitarian crisis that's happening in our own backyard," said Dora Rodriguez, chairperson of the Tucson nonprofit Humane Borders, which keeps water tanks on the border for migrants. "There are hundreds of people, including infants and children, who are stranded in remote areas of the desert for days."

The Lukeville area's popularity as a place to cross the border from Mexico into the U.S. emerged in recent months. It's one of the most striking examples of migrants shifting to a remote area, putting the Border Patrol on its heels. In 2019, Antelope Wells, N.M., became a popular spot. This year also has seen hundreds of migrants camping in the mountains of Jacumba Hot Springs, Calif., waiting for agents to process them.

The 2020 census listed Lukeville's population as 35, but the mobile home park where many residents lived now appears abandoned, with boarded up buildings and a scattering of old manufactured homes.

A previously busy service station and store that sold ice and snacks to travelers was closed indefinitely on Monday.

The Lukeville border crossing is also popular among U.S. residents driving from Arizona to the popular resort of Puerto Peñasco, or Rocky Point. Nicknamed "Arizona's beach," it is about 62 miles south of the border on the northern shores of the Sea of Cortez.

Americans who want to travel to Puerto Peñasco now must cross through Nogales, a three-hour drive to the east, or San Luis, a two-hour drive to the west.

Alfonso Durazo, the governor of Mexico's Sonora state, has asked officials of both countries to "undertake all necessary efforts necessary to resume as soon as possible the extraordinary commercial, tourist and social relationship that have historically distinguished Sonora and Arizona."

"The solution is not to close border crossings," Durazo said.

# Special counsel asks high court for quick ruling on Trump prosecution

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Jack Smith on Monday asked the Supreme Court to take up and rule quickly on whether former President Donald Trump can be prosecuted on charges he plotted to overturn the 2020 election results.

A federal judge ruled the case could go forward, but Trump, 2024 Republican presidential primary front-runner, signaled he would ask the federal appeals court in Washington to reverse that outcome.

Smith is attempting to bypass the appeals court. The request filed Monday for the Supreme Court to take up the matter directly reflects Smith's desire to keep the trial, currently set for March 4, on track and to prevent any delays that could push back the case until after next year's presidential election.

"This case presents a fundamental question at the heart of our democracy: whether a former President is absolutely immune from federal prosecution for crimes committed while in office or is constitutionally protected from federal prosecution when he has been impeached but not convicted before the criminal proceedings begin," prosecutors wrote.

The earliest the court would consider the appeal would be Jan. 5, 2024, the date of the justices' next scheduled private conference.

Underscoring the urgency for prosecutors in securing a quick resolution that can push the case forward, they wrote: "It is of imperative public importance that respondent's claims of immunity be resolved by this Court and that respondent's trial proceed as promptly as possible if his claim of immunity is rejected."

At issue is a Dec. 1 ruling from U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan that rejected arguments by Trump's lawyers that he was immune from federal prosecution. In her order, Chutkan, who was appointed by President Barack Obama, wrote that the office of the president "does not confer a lifelong 'get-out-of-jail-free' pass."

"Former Presidents enjoy no special conditions on their federal criminal liability," Chutkan wrote. "Defendant may be subject to federal investigation, indictment, prosecution, conviction, and punishment for any criminal acts undertaken while in office."

If the justices get involved, they would have an opportunity to rule for the first time ever on whether ex-presidents enjoy immunity from prosecution. Justice Department policy prohibits the indictment of a sitting president. Though there's no such bar against prosecution for a former commander in chief, lawyers for Trump say that he cannot be charged for actions that fell within his official duties as president — a claim that prosecutors have vigorously rejected.

Smith's team stressed that if the court did not expedite the matter, there would not be an opportunity to consider and resolve the question in the current term.

"The United States recognizes that this is an extraordinary request. This is an extraordinary case," prosecutors wrote. "The Court should grant certiorari and set a briefing schedule that would permit this case to be argued and resolved as promptly as possible."

Prosecutors are also asking the court to take up Trump's claim, also already rejected by Chutkan, that he cannot be prosecuted in court for conduct for which he was was already impeached — and acquitted — before Congress.

Trump faces charges accusing him of working to overturn the results of the 2020 election he lost to Democrat Joe Biden before the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol. He has denied any wrongdoing.

A Supreme Court case usually lasts several months, from the time the justices agree to hear it until a final decision. Smith is asking the court to move with unusual, but not unprecedented, speed.

NATION

# End of strikes helps to keep unemployment rate under 4%

By Christopher Rugaber
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. employers added a healthy 199,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate fell, fresh signs that the economy could achieve an elusive "soft landing," in which inflation would return to the Federal Reserve's 2% target without causing a steep recession.

Friday's report from the Labor Department showed that the unemployment rate dropped from 3.9% to 3.7%, not far above a five-decade low of 3.4% in April. The jobless rate has now remained below 4% for nearly two years, the longest such streak since the late 1960s.

Last month's job gain was inflated by the return of about 40,000 formerly striking auto workers and actors, who were not at work in October but were back on the job in November.

The latest jobs report and other recent data portray an economy and a labor market that, while still sturdy, are downshifting back to pre-pandemic norms. Businesses are hiring but are less desperate to fill huge numbers of jobs. More Americans have come off the sidelines to look for work, and immigration has jumped this year.

As a result, employers are finding it easier to hire, with fewer complaints of worker shortages and less pressure to aggressively raise pay, which can fuel inflation.

"What we wanted was a strong but moderating labor market, and that's what we saw in the November report," said Robert Frick, an economist at the Navy Federal Credit Union.

A cooling job market is also just what the Fed was hoping to achieve as it sought to slow the economy and inflation with its rapid interest rate hikes in the past year and a half. Hiring has averaged just over 200,000 a month in the past three months, down from an average of about 320,000 in the same period last year.

And most of last month's job gains were concentrated in just a few sectors. The health care industry — doctors' offices and hospitals — added 93,000 jobs in November. Hotels and restaurants added 40,000, and governments 49,000, accounting for nearly all the job growth.

By contrast, retailers, shipping and warehousing companies, and temporary help agencies all cut jobs.

Michael Dwyer/AP

**Workers apply sheathing to a new residential building on Friday in Boston's East Boston neighborhood. U.S. employers added 199,000 jobs last month and the unemployment rate fell to 3.7%.**

# DOJ antitrust effort is dealt a blow after court overturns contractor conviction

By Rachel Weiner and Perry Stein
*The Washington Post*

A federal appeals court this month overturned the antitrust conviction of a North Carolina contractor for price-rigging in sales to the state government, a setback for an aggressive Justice Department push to prosecute illegal collusion between businesses.

Brent Brewbaker already served his 18-month prison sentence, and the court did not upend his related fraud convictions or a guilty plea by his company. But the unanimous opinion from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on Dec. 1 indicated that he never should have been charged with an antitrust violation because of the nature of the business arrangement and that district court judges should scrutinize such charges more closely.

The Justice Department is considering an appeal to the full Fourth Circuit, saying in a court filing that the decision's "ramifications" are "of exceptional importance to the criminal enforcement of the antitrust laws."

Brewbaker was a manager at an aluminum manufacturer called Contech that did work for the North Carolina Department of Transportation in collaboration with another company called Pomona Pipe Products. Both would bid on contracts with the state. When Contech won a bid, the company would hire Pomona to do the installation. When Pomona won, it would buy the aluminum from Contech.

The two companies both bid to increase their chances of winning contracts, because Pomona's bids had been thrown out for technical reasons in the past, and to stay on a list of contractors available for emergency products.

But according to the court record, in 2009 Brewbaker decided to start asking Pomona not just what it would charge Contech for its labor, but for the company's total bid price on contracts. Contech would then charge slightly more. In the eyes of the Justice Department, that turned a partnership into an illegal price-fixing scheme, underscored by the fact that Brewbaker began making his communications with Pomona more covert.

Even so, the court ruled, the two companies were not clearly in competition in a way that makes such price-fixing automatically illegal.

Because Contech was a supplier for Pomona, and manufacturers can set prices for the products they sell to distributors, it was a more complicated relationship that had to be evaluated based on whether the agreement did or did not have an anti-competitive impact on the market.

AP

**This image, provided by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Nov. 17, shows three recalled applesauce products — WanaBana apple cinnamon fruit puree pouches, Schnucks-brand cinnamon-flavored applesauce pouches and variety pack, and Weis-brand cinnamon applesauce pouches.**

# Applesauce lead cases in kids surge to 118 amid some oversight questions

*The Washington Post*

It started as a routine investigation: Two young siblings in western North Carolina had tested positive for lead poisoning in June. Alan Huneycutt, a longtime environmental health specialist with the state's department of health and human services, was doggedly trying to find the source.

He had ruled out the usual suspects in and around the children's home — old paint, contaminated water or tainted soil — yet the children's lead levels continued to climb.

What he eventually found — that the two siblings had eaten contaminated pouches of cinnamon applesauce — sparked an international investigation by the Food and Drug Administration and a massive national recall of cinnamon applesauce pouches manufactured by an Ecuador-based company, Austrofood, and sold under the brand names WanaBana, Schnucks and Weis.

Dozens of other children around the country are believed to have been poisoned. A Washington Post investigation has found the number of children affected is probably higher than official counts. As of Dec. 5, the FDA said it has received reports of 64 children under age 6 who have suffered "adverse events" linked to the tainted cinnamon applesauce pouches.

But state health and environment officials have told The Post they are investigating at least 118 confirmed or suspected cases in 31 states believed to be linked to the popular applesauce snacks. To determine the extent of the exposure, The Post contacted officials in 50 states and the District of Columbia, and received responses from all but Kansas.

The discrepancy in case counts is probably because of differences in how suspected and confirmed cases are reported at the state and federal level. The FDA said its count is based on self-reported information submitted by health care providers, consumers and some state partners. In some cases, parents of children with elevated lead levels don't have old applesauce pouches to test, but they have reported that their children had eaten the snacks in recent months.

As the investigation has expanded, experts have grown alarmed at the potential level of lead in the pouches, some of which have tested at more than 500 times acceptable thresholds, according to North Carolina health officials. Parents of exposed children told investigators that the applesauce pouches were a favorite treat, and some children reportedly consumed three, four or even as many as six pouches a day.

The recall has renewed questions about whether the FDA is doing enough to regulate toxic metals in baby and toddler foods. In 2021, two congressional reports found that many popular food products made for babies and toddlers contain significant levels of lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury, yet an action plan to establish voluntary limits by April 2024 appears to have stalled.

While these metals are often in soil and can be found in trace amounts in many foods, there's growing concern about contamination of baby and toddler foods because young children often eat a limited diet, and metals such as lead can damage a developing brain.

"We know that lead has major impacts on child development and health," said Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., who co-sponsored legislation in 2021 that would have strictly limited the levels of harmful heavy metals in baby food, in an emailed statement. "It's clear our nation must do more to get lead out of the food we feed them."

WORLD

# Argentina's president: Spending cuts coming

By David Biller and Débora Rey
*Associated Press*

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — It wasn't the most uplifting of inaugural addresses. Rather, Argentina's newly empowered President Javier Milei presented figures to lay bare the scope of the nation's economic "emergency," and sought to prepare the public for a shock adjustment with drastic public spending cuts.

Milei said in his address to thousands of supporters in the capital, Buenos Aires, that the country doesn't have time to consider other alternatives.

"We don't have margin for sterile discussions. Our country demands action, and immediate action," he said. "The political class left the country at the brink of its biggest crisis in history. We don't desire the hard decisions that will need to be made in coming weeks, but lamentably they didn't leave us any option."

South America's second largest economy is suffering 143% annual inflation, the currency has plunged and four in 10 Argentines are impoverished. The nation has a yawning fiscal deficit, a trade deficit of $43 billion, plus a daunting $45 billion debt to the International Monetary Fund, with $10.6 billion due to the multilateral and private creditors by April.

"There's no money," is Milei's common refrain.

But he promised the adjustment would almost entirely affect the state rather than the private sector, and that it represented the first step toward regaining prosperity.

"We know that in the short term the situation will worsen, but soon we will see the fruits of our effort, having created the base for solid and sustainable growth," he said.

Matilde Campodonico/AP

**Argentina's newly sworn-in President Javier Milei and his sister Karina ride a car heading to the government house in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on Sunday.**

# Suspect held in shooting deaths in Swiss town

*Associated Press*

BERLIN — Two people were killed and one was wounded as a gunman opened fire at two locations in a southern Swiss town on Monday and then fled, police said. The suspect was arrested on Monday afternoon.

Authorities were alerted to a wounded person in a parking lot in Sion, the capital of the Valais canton at 7:15 a.m., police said. They found a 34-year-old woman with a fatal gunshot wound. A 41-year-old man was shot and killed a few minutes later and a 49-year-old woman was wounded.

Police launched a manhunt and issued an appeal for people to come forward with any information on a 36-year-old believed to be the gunman.

The man was eventually caught by police in the St. Leonard region, according to a police statement.

They said that he appears to have known his victims, but did not give further details.

Local prosecutors have opened a murder investigation.

# Teen arrested in alleged plot to attack Vienna synagogue

*Associated Press*

BERLIN — A 16-year-old teenager has been arrested for allegedly planning to attack a synagogue in Vienna, Austria's top security official said Monday.

The teenager, who was arrested Thursday, had announced in online chats that he intended to procure a weapon to attack an unspecified synagogue in Vienna, Interior Minister Gerhard Karner said. He had already obtained the financial means for the attack, Austrian news agency APA reported.

Officials did not identify the suspect. They said he lived near Steyr in northern Austria.

His home was searched and several electronic data carriers were seized, APA reported.

Authorities also found images and video material with instructions for making bombs, weapons and ammunition, APA said.

Austrian authorities have beefed up security for synagogues and other Jewish and Israeli institutions following an increase in antisemitic incidents in the wake of the Israel-Hamas war.

WORLD

# Floating farms rise, address climate, food security woes

By Mike Corder and Melina Walling
*Associated Press*

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands — On the top deck of a three-tiered structure moored near downtown Rotterdam, brown and white cows graze on hay dropped from a conveyor belt above their heads and rinds of oranges salvaged from supermarket juice machines in the port city. Canopies overhead protect the cows from sun and collect rainwater they will eventually drink.

Sometimes the Maas-Rijn-Ijssel cows — named for three Dutch rivers — walk over to a machine that automatically milks them, or they shuffle out of the way of a robot trundling past to mop up manure that will be turned into organic fertilizer.

"We call our cows upcycle ladies," says Minke van Wingerden of the Floating Farm, which sells the milk, cheese and buttermilk produced by the cows in a small shop on dry land next to its harbor berth.

The Floating Farm, which has been operational since 2019 and bills itself as the world's first such farm, isn't on entirely new terrain.

Patrick Post/AP

**Cows eat at the Floating Farm on Nov. 7 in Rotterdam, Netherlands.**

Efforts to put agriculture on or in the water are as old as the Aztecs, who built artificial islets to grow food long ago in what's now Mexico.

But it's an idea that is getting new attention as a way of tackling both food security and the challenges of climate change. And it doesn't have to be as sophisticated as the Dutch farm, which came about after Van Wingerden's husband, Peter, witnessed the food shortages that hit New York after Hurricane Sandy slammed the city in 2012.

In coastal and low-lying areas of India and Bangladesh, a non-government organization is reviving a traditional practice of creating floating rafts that can keep seedlings above monsoon flood waters that can drown crops.

The South Asian Forum for Environment, based in Kolkata, has made some technological improvements for what it calls "climate-resilient float farming." The bamboo rafts are built larger and heavier to better withstand storms. Plastic covering and shade nets protect fragile plants, and solar-powered pumps collect rainwater to irrigate the seedlings.

And the organization has partnered with local research institutes to supply farmers with the best possible climate-resilient seeds, and to pass on knowledge about pest control. Communications director Amrita Chatterjee said that can become more urgent when pests proliferate in times of extreme heat, like this summer, where the temperature reached 113 degrees Fahrenheit in some locations.

Chatterjee said the rafts are "not a very conventional type of farming" and it takes patience to get used to them. But in a few years they've more than doubled, to 500, the number of floating farms operating in different villages. Vegetables like medicinal plants, spinach and chilies are among the items cultivated on the floating platforms, and farmers can also raise crabs to be fattened for market in floating boxes.

"Slowly, everyone is getting interested," Chatterjee said.

With increasingly erratic monsoons, the rafts have helped with food security, Chatterjee said. They were also helpful when the Indian state of West Bengal was hit with a one-two punch of a cyclone followed by COVID-19 in 2020, she said.

Farmers using the rafts now are feeding themselves and selling a bit of surplus in local markets, Chatterjee said. Her group hopes that the idea can be scaled up to make it much more commercially viable.

Floating farms will clearly be scalable in the coming decades in Southeast Asia, but educating about the technology may be a hurdle to its adoption in some places, said Craig Jenkins, academy professor of sociology at Ohio State University.

The owners of the Dutch floating farm are already moving to expand beyond their cows.

They plan to add a second floating farm in the same harbor for vertical agriculture — growing vegetables indoors, under lights in stacks of growing beds, irrigated with water purified in part with heat from the cows' manure.


STARS AND STRIPES
SERVICE DIRECTORY
The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking *(U.S. & Europe)*
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance *(Germany only)*

For Further Information Please Contact

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

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

Trans Global
LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WSA
WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

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

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

*Get entertained with...*

STARS AND STRIPES

Are you in the picture?

Reading **Stars and Stripes** gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

*No one covers the bases the way we do.*

STARS AND STRIPES

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Menu signed by Chairman Mao fetches $275,000

**MA** BOSTON — An official menu for a state banquet that bears the signature of former Chinese leader Mao Zedong has been auctioned for $275,000.

Boston-based RR Auction said the menu auctioned was for a banquet held in Beijing on Oct. 19, 1956, and commemorated the first state visit to China by Pakistan's Prime Minister Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy.

The menu was signed in fountain pen by six influential Chinese statesmen, including Mao and Premier Zhou Enlai. The banquet featured foods from both nations and included delicacies such as "Consommé of Swallow Nest and White Agaric," "Shark's Fin in Brown Sauce" and "Roast Peking Duck."

## Senator's son charged in crash that killed deputy

**ND** BISMARCK — The 42-year-old son of U.S. Sen. Kevin Cramer was charged with manslaughter and fleeing an officer after a police pursuit ended in a crash that killed a North Dakota sheriff's deputy who had just laid a tire deflation device on the road and was taking cover behind his squad car, according to court documents.

Ian Cramer, of Bismarck, was traveling over 100 mph and already had two flat tires when he slammed head-on into Deputy Paul Martin's squad car, pushing it "directly into Martin's person and launching him for about 100 feet," according to charging documents. Martin, 53, was killed.

According to Bismarck police, Ian Cramer was driven by his mother to Sanford Health emergency room in Bismarck over concerns about his mental health.

One of Kevin Cramer's daughters tracked the SUV through a cellphone and alerted authorities.

## Thousands of revelers descend for SantaCon

**NY** NEW YORK — Here come Santa Clauses. Again.

Throngs of people dressed as jolly Old St. Nick descended on New York City for the annual SantaCon charity pub crawl on Saturday.

The booze-fueled stroll, which included no shortage of Grinches, elves and other Christmas-themed costumes, kicked off at 10 a.m. in bars and clubs in midtown Manhattan. Revelers were expected to make their way downtown where the festivities end at 8 p.m. in local watering holes in the East Village.

The organizers encouraged participants to donate $15 to enter participating venues, which they have said will go to charitable causes.

Similar Christmas-themed bachanals were slated in cities across the U.S. and Europe, from San Francisco and Cincinnati to London and Berlin.

ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

# Frenemies forever

**Skiers dressed as The Grinch and Santa Claus, respectively, participating in the annual Santa Sunday fundraiser, ride a chairlift Sunday at the Sunday River ski resort in Newry, Maine. The annual event raises money for local charities.**

## Sprawling casino, hotel catering to locals opening

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas is getting its first ground-up casino in more than two years, with the debut of a modest $780 million property several miles from resort-lined Strip that will cater more to local residents than international tourists.

Station Casinos, subsidiary of publicly traded Red Rock Resorts Inc., planned a daylong celebration and a nighttime fireworks display with the opening of the 15-story Durango Casino and Resort outside the city's main resort corridor.

The 200-room hotel-casino represents the seventh off-Strip property in and around Las Vegas for Station Casinos, a company the late Frank Fertitta Jr. started as a bingo parlor in 1976 that today employs more than 11,000 workers.

## Maternal mortality rate higher for Black women

**MS** JACKSON — Black people make up about 38% of Mississippi's population, but a new study showed that Black women were four times more likely to die of causes directly related to pregnancy than white women in the state in 2020.

"It is imperative that this racial inequity is not only recognized, but that concerted efforts are made at the institutional, community, and state levels to reduce these disparate outcomes," wrote Dr. Michelle Owens and Dr. Courtney Mitchell, leaders of the Maternal Mortality Review Committee that conducted the study.

The Mississippi State Department of Health published the findings.

The committee said 80% of pregnancy-related deaths in Mississippi between 2016 and 2020 were considered preventable, and cardiovascular disease and hypertension remain top contributors to maternal mortality.

Women need comprehensive primary care before, during and after pregnancy, but many people live in areas where health care services are scarce, Owens and Mitchell wrote.

## White House pledges $6B to high-speed rail routes

**CA** SACRAMENTO — The Biden administration said it will give more than $6 billion to a pair of high-speed electric rail routes in the U.S. West, injecting new life into long-stalled projects hailed by supporters as the future of public transportation but bemoaned by critics for their high price tags and lengthy construction times.

U.S. senators from California and Nevada said the federal government will give $3 billion for a planned privately-owned route between Las Vegas and the Los Angeles area plus another $3.1 billion for an initial segment of California's publicly-funded effort to eventually connect Los Angeles and San Francisco.

The money is a fraction of the total cost to build the routes. But it signals the Biden administration's commitment to high-speed rail, a mode of transportation commonplace in Europe and Asia but bypassed in the U.S. and its car-obsessed culture.

## Pilot back after duck crashed into windshield

**IA** SIOUX CITY — An Iowa helicopter pilot is back in the air, two weeks after a waterfowl smashed through the windshield of his chopper and knocked him for a loop.

Pilot Troy McCormick told KCAU-TV that he's lucky he wasn't hurt worse when what he believed was a duck came crashing through the windshield.

McCormick flies for Wings Rescue in Sioux City. He was en route to Storm Lake Hospital to pick up a patient. The chopper was near the hospital, "and just about that time, 'wham!' " McCormick recalled. "The bird came through the windscreen and hit me right in the side of the head here, 'boom,' and then exploded all over in the inside of the aircraft."

McCormick, covered in blood and feathers, was able to divert to Storm Lake Airport and land, though he remains fuzzy about how that happened.

## Ex-labor leader convicted of embezzling from union

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — Former Philadelphia labor leader John "Johnny Doc" Dougherty and a codefendant were convicted of using more than $650,000 in union funds for personal use, marking the second conviction federal prosecutors have secured against the long-powerful figure since a sweeping 2019 indictment.

Dougherty, who led Local 98 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for nearly three decades, was convicted of conspiracy, embezzlement and dozens of other charges by a jury after a monthlong trial. Prosecutors said he and codefendant Brian Burrows, Local 98's former president, used the money for items including home renovations, concerts, groceries and even a cookie tray for the christening of a relative's baby.

From The Associated Press

FACES

# ‘Barbie’ gets 9 Globes nods

## ‘Oppenheimer’ has 8 as awards season kicks off; ‘Succession’ leads TV with 9

BY LINDSEY BAHR
*Associated Press*

Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” dominated the Golden Globe Awards nominations with nine nods for the blockbuster film, including best picture musical or comedy as well as nominations for actors Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling and three of its original songs.

It was closely followed by its release date and meme companion Christopher Nolan’s “Oppenheimer,” which scored eight nominations, including best picture drama and for actors Cillian Murphy, Robert Downey Jr. and Emily Blunt.

The revamped group, now a for-profit endeavor with a larger and more diverse voting body, announced nominations Monday for its awards show. Cedric the Entertainer and Wilmer Valderrama presided over the announcements from the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., where the show will take place on Jan. 7.

Other films nominated for best motion picture drama included Martin Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon,” Bradley Cooper’s “Maestro,” Celine Song’s “Past Lives,” Justine Triet’s “Anatomy of a Fall” and Jonathan Glazer’s “The Zone of Interest.”

In the best motion picture musical or comedy category, “Barbie” was joined by “Air,” “American Fiction,” “The Holdovers,” “May December” and “Poor Things.”

Yorgos Lanthimos’ “Poor Things” and Scorsese’s “Killers of the Flower Moon” both received seven nominations each.

“Barbie” tied for second-most nominations in Globes history with “Cabaret,” from 1972. Robert Altman’s “Nashville” remains the record-holder with 11 nominations.

“Succession” was the top-nominated television program, with nine nods including for series stars Brian Cox, Jeremy Strong, Sarah Snook and Kieran Culkin.

As always there were some big surprises, like Jennifer Lawrence getting nominated for her R-rated comedy “No Hard Feelings” for best performance by a female actor in a musical or comedy.

SCOTT GARFITT, INVISION/AP

**Ryan Gosling, left, and Margot Robbie pose July 12 during a “Barbie” film premiere in London. The movie’s nine Golden Globes nominations include one for Robbie in the category of best performance by a female actor in a musical or comedy.**

Sofia Coppola’s widely acclaimed “Priscilla” got only one nomination, for actor Cailee Spaeny’s portrayal of Priscilla Presley.

The Globes won’t have to worry about anyone criticizing its “all male” directors this year, however. Gerwig was nominated as was Celine Song, for her romantic debut “Past Lives,” alongside Nolan, Scorsese, Cooper and Lanthimos.

Netflix got the most nominations overall, with 13 total for a slate which included “Maestro,” “May December” and “Rustin,” followed by Warner Bros., which made “Barbie,” “The Super Mario Bros. Movie” and “The Color Purple” with 12.

Ridley Scott’s “Napoleon” was not nominated at all. Instead, its star Joaquin Phoenix was recognized for “Beau is Afraid” in the category of lead actor in a comedy or musical. Michael Mann’s “Ferrari,” with Adam Driver, and Wes Anderson’s starry “Asteroid City” also got zero nominations.

### Select 2024 Golden Globe nominees

Best drama movie: “Anatomy of a Fall”; “Killers of the Flower Moon”; “Maestro”; “Oppenheimer”; “Past Lives”; “The Zone of Interest”

Best movie musical or comedy: “Air”; “American Fiction”; “Barbie”; “The Holdovers”; “May December”; “Poor Things”

Female actor in a movie drama: Annette Bening, “Nyad”; Lily Gladstone, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Sandra Huller, “Anatomy of a Fall”; Greta Lee, “Past Lives”; Carey Mulligan, “Maestro”; Cailee Spaeny, “Priscilla”

Actor in a movie drama: Bradley Cooper, “Maestro”; Leonardo DiCaprio, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Colman Domingo, “Rustin”; Barry Keoghan, “Saltburn”; Cillian Murphy, “Oppenheimer”; Andrew Scott, “All of Us Strangers”

Female actor in a musical or comedy: Fantasia Barrino, “The Color Purple”; Jennifer Lawrence, “No Hard Feelings”; Natalie Portman,” May December”; Alma Poysti, “Fallen Leaves”; Margot Robbie, “Barbie”; Emma Stone, “Poor Things”

Actor in a musical or comedy: Nicolas Cage, “Dream Scenario”; Timothee Chalamet, “Wonka”; Matt Damon, “Air”; Paul Giamatti, “The Holdovers”; Joaquin Phoenix, “Beau Is Afraid”; Jeffrey Wright, “American Fiction”

Female actor in a supporting role: Emily Blunt, “Oppenheimer”; Danielle Brooks, “The Color Purple”; Jodie Foster, “Nyad”; Julianne Moore, “May December”; Rosamund Pike, “Saltburn”; Da’Vine Joy Randolph, “The Holdovers”

Male actor in a supporting role: William Dafoe, “Poor Things,”; Robert DeNiro, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Robert Downey Jr., “Oppenheimer”; Ryan Gosling, “Barbie”; Charles Melton, “May December”; Mark Ruffalo, “Poor Things”

Animated film: “The Boy and the Heron”; “Elemental”; “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse”; “The Super Mario Bros. Movie”; “Suzume”; “Wish”

Director: Bradley Cooper, “Maestro”; Greta Gerwig, “Barbie”; Yorgos Lanthimos, “Poor Things”; Christopher Nolan, “Oppenheimer”; Martin Scorsese, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Celine Song, “Past Lives”

Score: “Poor Things”; “Oppenheimer”; “The Boy and the Heron”; “Zone of Interest”; “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse”; “Killers of the Flower Moon”

Best screenplay: Greta Gerwig, Noah Baumbach, “Barbie”; Tony McNamara, “Poor Things”; Christopher Nolan, “Oppenheimer”; Eric Roth, Martin Scorsese, “Killers of the Flower Moon”; Celine Song, “Past Lives”; Justine Triet, Arthur Harari, “Anatomy of a Fall”

Best motion picture non-English: “Anatomy of a Fall” (France); “Fallen Leaves” (Finland); “Io Capitano” (Italy); “Past Lives” (USA); “Society of the Snow” (Spain); “The Zone of Interest” (United Kingdom/USA)

Cinematic and box office achievement: “Barbie”; “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol 3”; “John Wick: Chapter 4”; “Mission Impossible - Dead Reckoning Part One”; “Oppenheimer”; “Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse”; “The Super Mario Bros. Movie”; “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour”

Television drama series: “Succession”; “1923”; “The Last of Us”; “The Morning Show”; “The Diplomat”; “The Crown”

Television comedy series: “Ted Lasso”; “Abbott Elementary”; “The Bear”; “Barry”; “Only Murders in the Building”; “Jury Duty”

Limited series, anthology series or motion picture made for television: “All the Light We Cannot See”; “Beef”; “Daisy Jones & the Six”; “Fargo”; “Fellow Travelers”; “Lessons in Chemistry”

Female actor in a television drama: Helen Mirren, “1923”; Bella Ramsey, “The Last of Us”; Keri Russell, “The Diplomat”; Sarah Snook, “Succession”; Imelda Staunton, “The Crown”; Emma Stone, “The Curse”

Male actor in a television drama: Brian Cox, “Succession”; Kieran Culkin, “Succession”; Gary Oldman, “Slow Horses”; Pedro Pascal, “The Last of Us”; Jeremy Strong, “Succession”; Dominic West, “The Crown”

Female actor in a television comedy: Rachel Brosnahan, “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel”; Quinta Brunson, “Abbott Elementary”; Ayo Edebiri, “The Bear”; Elle Fanning, “The Great”; Selena Gomez, “Only Murders in the Building”; Natasha Lyonne, “Poker Face”

Male actor in a television comedy: Bill Hader, “Barry”; Steve Martin, “Only Murders in the Building”; Jason Segel, “Shrinking”; Martin Short, “Only Murders in the Building”; Jason Sudeikis, “Ted Lasso”; Jeremy Allen White, “The Bear”

Supporting female actor in a television series: Elizabeth Debicki, “The Crown”; Abby Elliott, “The Bear”; Christina Ricci, “Yellowjackets”; J. Smith-Cameron, “Succession”; Meryl Streep, “Only Murders in the Building”; Hannah Waddingham, “Ted Lasso”

Supporting male actor in a television series: Billy Crudup, “The Morning Show”; Matthew Macfadyen, “Succession”; James Marsden, “Jury Duty”; Ebon Moss-Bachrach, “The Bear”; Alan Ruck, “Succession”; Alexander Skarsgård, “Succession”

# Miyazaki’s ‘The Boy and the Heron’ is his 1st No. 1 at box office

*Associated Press*

For the first time in Hayao Miyazaki’s decades-spanning career, the 82-year-old Japanese anime master is No. 1 at the North American box office. Miyazaki’s latest enchantment, “The Boy and the Heron,” debuted with $12.8 million, according to studio estimates.

“The Boy and the Heron,” the long-awaited animated fantasy from the director of “Spirited Away,” “My Neighbor Totoro” and other cherished anime classics, is only the third anime to ever top the box office in U.S. and Canadian theaters, and the first original anime to do so.

Miyazaki’s previous best performer in North America was his last movie, 2013’s “The Wind Rises,” which grossed $5.2 million in its entire domestic run.

“The Boy and the Heron” follows a boy who, after her mother perishes in a World War II bombing, is led by a mysterious heron to a portal that takes him to a fantastical realm.

Last week’s top film, “Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé,” dropped steeply. The concert film collected $5 million in its second weekend, a decline of 76% from its $21 million opening.

“The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes” took second place, with an estimated $9.4 million in its fourth weekend of release. The “Hunger Games” prequel has a domestic haul of $135.7 million.

“Wonka,” one of the holiday season’s most anticipated releases, kicked off its overseas run with $43.2 million from 37 international markets. It opens this weekend in North America.

## Ryan O’Neal dies at 82

Ryan O’Neal, the heartthrob actor who went from a TV soap opera to an Oscar-nominated role in “Love Story” and delivered a wry performance opposite his charismatic 9-year-old daughter Tatum in “Paper Moon,” died Dec. 8, said his son Patrick O’Neal, a Los Angeles sportscaster, in a post on Instagram.

**O’Neal in 2011**

No cause of death was given. O’Neal was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2012, a decade after he was first diagnosed with chronic leukemia. He was 82.

O’Neal was among the biggest movie stars in the world in the 1970s, working across genres with many of the era’s most celebrated directors including Peter Bogdanovich on “Paper Moon” and “What’s Up, Doc?” and Stanley Kubrick on “Barry Lyndon.” He often used his boyish, blond good looks to play men who hid shadowy or sinister backgrounds behind their clean-cut images.

O’Neal maintained a steady television acting career into his 70s in the 2010s, appearing for stints on “Bones” and “Desperate Housewives,” but his longtime relationship with Farrah Fawcett and his tumultuous family life kept him in the news.

O’Neal had a best actor Oscar nomination for the 1970 tear-jerker drama “Love Story,” co-starring Ali MacGraw. The movie includes the memorable line “Love means never having to say you’re sorry.”

STARS AND STRIPES

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

EDITORIAL

Robert H. Reid, Editor in Chief
reid.robert@stripes.com

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

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

BUREAU STAFF

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

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

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

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

CIRCULATION

Mideast
David Schultz, District Manager
schultz.david@stripes.com
xsscirculation@stripes.com
+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe
Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager
aquino.carlo@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583.9136

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

CONTACT US

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

Reader letters
letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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

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

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

© Stars and Stripes 2023
stripes.com

# OPINION

## Will 3rd-party candidates matter? Too soon to guess.

**By Jonathan Bernstein**
*Bloomberg Opinion*

With former Republican Rep. Liz Cheney's comments that she's considering an independent bid for president against Donald Trump, experts are beginning to game out how she and other third-party candidates could affect next year's election.

A political action committee backing independent Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s campaign announced that it's planning to spend at least $10 million to get his name on that ballot in 10 states. And the quasi-party No Labels has threatened to recruit a big-name candidate, with retiring Republican Sen. Mitt Romney and retiring Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin getting plenty of buzz. Then you have independent candidate Cornel West and Green Party candidate Jill Stein, who also ran in 2012 and 2016.

There's still time for more to join the field, with filing deadlines a ways off. As long as President Joe Biden's approval ratings remain below 40% and similarly unpopular Trump remains the Republican front-runner, the race will seem tempting to many. Significant third-party or independent runs generally happen when there's an unpopular incumbent president eligible to run for reelection: see the candidacies of Ross Perot in 1992, John Anderson in 1980, George Wallace in 1968 and even Teddy Roosevelt in 1912 .

So the question arises about what impact Kennedy, West and the others could have on the race. To begin with, don't expect any of them to win the presidency, or even come close. I'd be surprised if any of them comes close to winning a single state. It's true that Kennedy is polling relatively well now, ranging from 12% to 17% of the vote in recent surveys. But there's a long history of third-party candidates starting strong and then fading.

It's not impossible to construct a scenario even more favorable to the independent candidate. Biden could be further harmed if the economy turns bad, Trump could be convicted at least once by Election Day, and both are vulnerable to the effects of aging. But the far more likely outcome is that none of them reach 10% nationally, or even 5%.

However in a close race, 5% of the vote is more than enough to potentially tilt the outcome for Biden or Trump, and analysts are already trying to assess which candidate might be harmed. But if they're looking at public opinion polls to see what voters might do, they're looking in the wrong place — at least for now. Most voters have no idea who Liz Cheney and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. are, even given their famous families. That's even more true for the kinds of swing voters most likely to align with a third-party or independent candidate. That's because the most attentive voters — the ones with the highest levels of political information — are also the most likely to be strong partisans.

The key is what those swing voters will be seeing next September and October when they start paying attention to the election. And that will depend on where and how these candidates campaign.

A candidate who puts resources into Democratic states would likely hurt Biden; one who makes an effort in Republican states hurts Trump. For example, since the Electoral College is winner-take-all by state, a candidate who mainly campaigns in Republican Utah would potentially only harm Trump, given that in a two-candidate contest a Republican should easily win there. Cheney, who says she would run only to prevent Trump from regaining the presidency, probably shouldn't even try to qualify for the ballot in Democratic states. For someone like Kennedy, it's worth watching to see where he allocates resources. That should give a sense of whether he's more likely to hurt Biden, as the Democratic Party fears. The same is true of any No Labels effort.

But none of these candidates have firm images, ideologically or otherwise, for most voters. And unlike major party candidates, they don't have a party with strong, well-developed positions on public policy, meaning they're free to choose what positions to take and what to emphasize. Kennedy could focus mainly on the very liberal positions he's taken on policies such as climate, which presumably would appeal to those who would otherwise find their way to Biden. Or he could talk mostly about his anti-vaccine stance and other conspiracy theories, which might entice potential Trump supporters. It's too early to know which strategy he'll choose. As for Cheney, who is strongly anti-abortion, she might maximize her appeal to voters by staking out a moderate position on the issue to woo Democrats who like her pro-democracy record and quest to defeat Trump, and are wary of Biden.

In any case, if you want to know who any candidate might help, ignore the polls now and look for signs of where and how they're campaigning, once the real campaigning begins. Until then, we'll just have to wait.

*Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics. A former professor of political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio, he wrote A Plain Blog About Politics. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.*

## No, Virginia, your Christmas tree is not a climate crime

**By Mark Gongloff**
*Bloomberg Opinion*

If there's one climate-change solution everybody seems to agree on, it's that trees are good. Even Donald Trump, who has called climate change a Chinese hoax, has proposed planting a trillion trees.

So it might seem that the holiday tradition of chopping down one of these precious planet-savers and dragging it into your living room to festoon with lights and ornaments, only to toss it on the curb a few weeks later, would be bad for the climate. But in fact, you may be doing the planet a favor.

For one thing, Christmas-tree farming is generally a sustainable business. Trees grow for many years before harvesting and are replaced by one or more seedlings when they're finally cut down. Just 30 million of the 350 million or so trees on farms actually get chopped down every season, according to The Nature Conservancy, an environmental advocacy nonprofit. While they grow, the trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere, doing their part to eat the emissions humans wantonly pump into the air by burning fossil fuels, raising cows and the like.

Of course, cutting trees down, digging up the soil to plant new ones and hauling the harvest to your local Elks Club or Walmart parking lot for sale to the public does generate carbon emissions. But this pollution is nothing compared with what's involved in producing artificial trees. These are typically hard to recycle, and they are also typically shipped all the way from China to that Walmart. According to one estimate, a 6-foot-tall artificial tree (on the short side for a McMansion) produces 88 pounds of $CO_2$ equivalent, compared with less than 8 pounds for a real tree of the same size.

To maximize the environmental benefits of the real tree, you will need to make sure it's both sourced and recycled responsibly. Cutting trees out of old-growth forests and then just leaving them on the ground to rot raises the carbon impact.

You could save yourself all of this agonizing by buying a live tree that you can replant once you're done making it look ridiculous. Of course, then you've given yourself a chore. But remember, if you still insist on getting an artificial tree, you'll have to use it for 12 Christmases to make up the difference in emissions. The risk is that you'd get sick of looking at it long before then; the average household uses such a tree for 10 years before chucking it.

Some people don't have any other choice, though. Maybe they have allergies or odor sensitivities that make real trees, live or dead, unbearable. This brings us to the deep, dark secret of this column: It doesn't really matter what you do. You could just stare at the corner where a tree should be, or you could buy 100 artificial trees and set them all on fire on New Year's Day. Whatever $CO_2$ equivalent you produce is not even fit to be a rounding error compared with the carbon emissions of, oh, let's say Walmart, which emitted 14 million tons of $CO_2$ last year. (1)

As I've noted before, the idea of a personal "carbon footprint" was invented by BP Plc, the oil behemoth formerly known as British Petroleum. It's a clever marketing ploy that makes you, dear reader, feel guilty about your own emissions, which in turn makes you less likely to complain about those of, say, BP (340 million tons last year). (2)

The conundrum is that many individual consumer choices together can shift demand so much that it starts to make a real difference. And the richer you are, the bigger your carbon impact and the greater your influence.

But the important thing to know is that you can buy an artificial tree and eat cheeseburgers and drive a gas-burning car if you need to and still help fight global warming. Make whatever lifestyle changes you can afford, sure. But the impact of talking to your friends, loved ones and enemies about climate, advocating for action and voting for politicians who want to make a difference will last longer than any Christmas decoration.

---

(1) I'm picking on Walmart only because I've mentioned it twice already in the column, and it's more fun to do things in threes. The company has actually been reducing its emissions steadily in recent years and has a goal to cut them by 65% from 2015 levels by 2030.

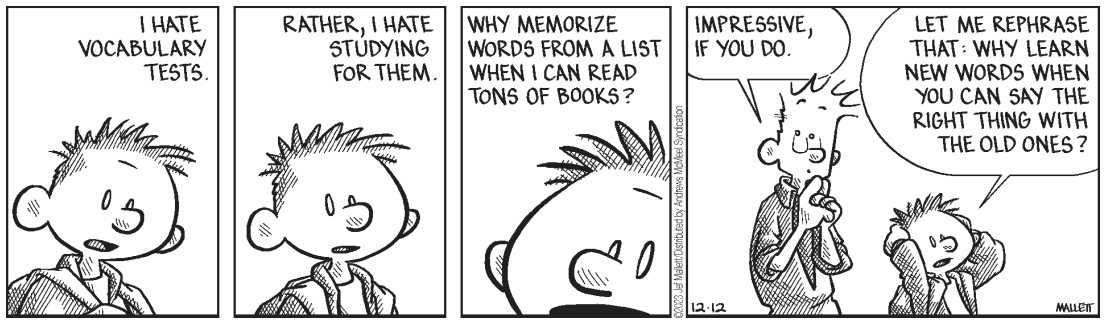
(2) Unlike Walmart's numbers, BP's numbers include "Scope 3" emissions, which include those generated by the fuel it produces and sells.

*Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for Fortune.com, The Huffington Post and The Wall Street Journal. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.*

## Bizarro

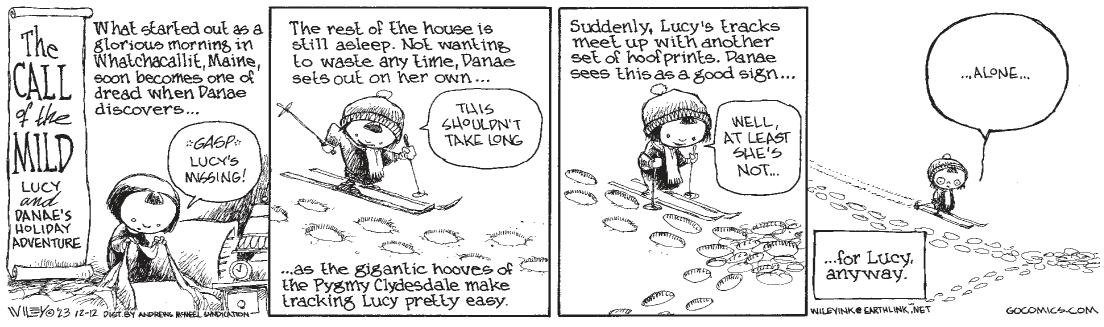
## Loose Parts

## Frazz

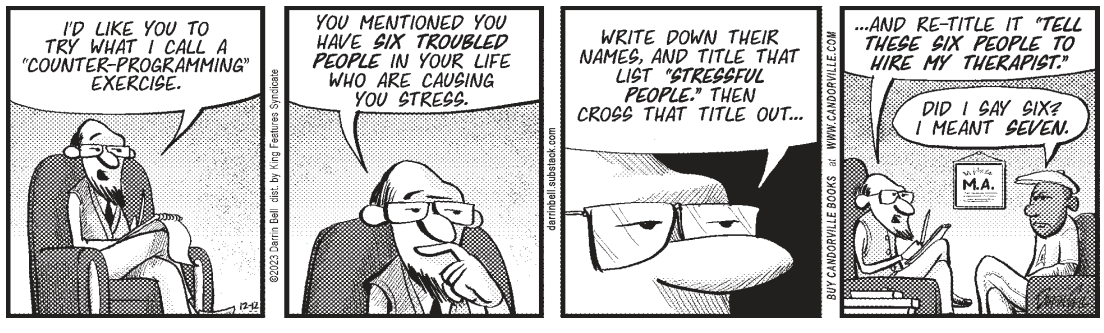



## Pearls Before Swine

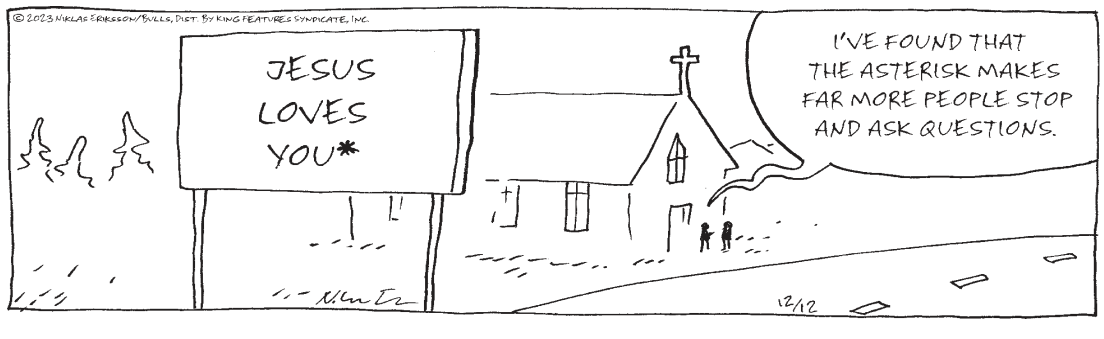
## Non Sequitur



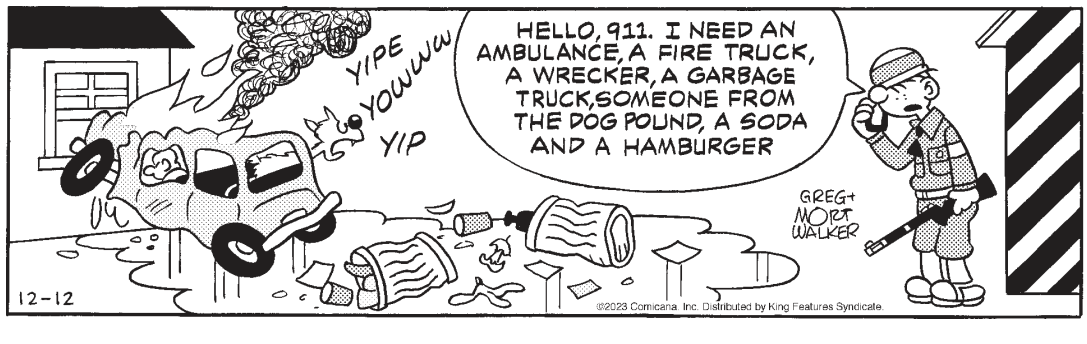

## Candorville



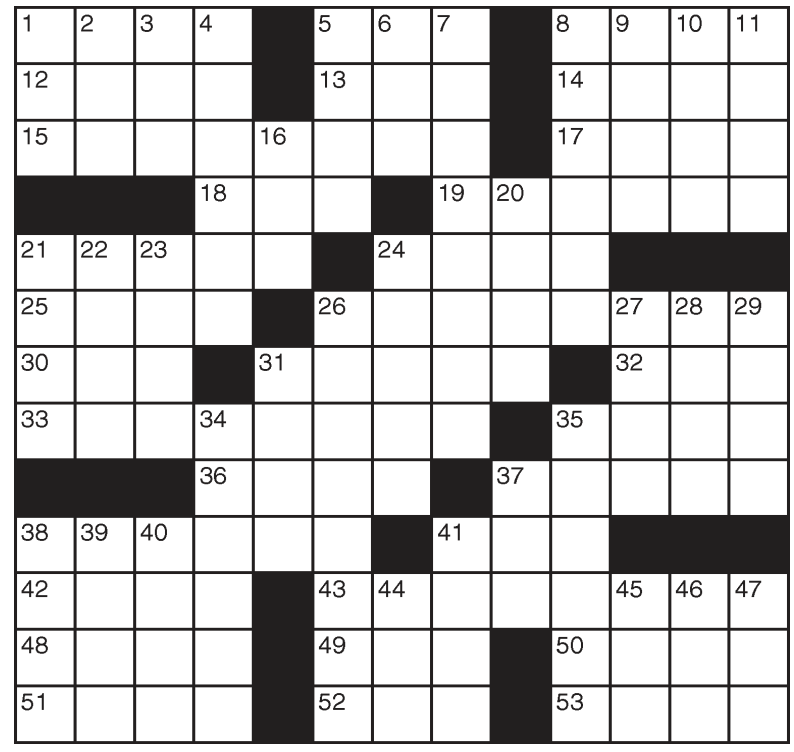

## Carpe Diem




## Beetle Bailey




## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

1 Treaty
5 Showbiz job
8 Stinging insect
12 Approximately
13 Notre Dame coach
14 Evoking an "Ugh!"
15 Aspen headwear
17 Hideaway
18 "Blue Bloods" extra
19 Using the Internet
21 Sum
24 Lost traction
25 "Cat on — Tin Roof"
26 Cozy spot in Sun Valley
30 Mafia boss
31 Songwriter Jule
32 Bagel variety
33 Vail feature
35 Knitting stitch
36 Chantilly, e.g.
37 Port of Nigeria
38 Hudson River feeder
41 Fix illegally
42 "The Good Earth" heroine
43 Footwear at the Alps
48 Chinese dynasty
49 Mil. morale booster
50 Gloomy
51 Tennis star Murray
52 Place
53 Chopping tools

### DOWN

1 Not neg.
2 Biblical boat
3 CBS forensic drama
4 Male feline
5 React in horror
6 Annoy
7 Tank filler
8 "You can count on me!"
9 "Superfood" berry
10 Epidermis
11 Combustible heap
16 Gmail alternative
20 Egyptian river
21 Tiny amounts
22 "Hmm, I guess so"
23 Collette of "The Staircase"
24 Video chat format
26 Buys by the case
27 Pharmaceutical
28 Greek deli order
29 Morays
31 Cabbage salad
34 Like "phat"
35 Asian temple
37 Freedom, for short
38 NYC gallery
39 Actress Lena
40 Royal flush, e.g.
41 Laugh-a-minute
44 Sch. near Topeka
45 Tic-tac-toe loser
46 Calendar abbr.
47 Soon-to-be grads

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | U | A | | C | O | N | C | H | | F | R | A |
| E | S | S | | A | F | I | R | E | | A | O | K |
| F | A | I | R | S | F | A | I | R | | R | B | I |
| | | | E | T | S | | S | E | R | M | O | N |
| B | A | F | F | L | E | | P | I | A | F | | |
| A | L | I | | E | T | E | | N | U | R | S | E |
| T | O | N | E | | S | A | D | | L | E | O | N |
| H | E | A | R | D | | T | A | P | | S | O | D |
| | | L | A | R | S | | N | I | G | H | T | S |
| C | A | F | T | A | N | | I | F | S | | | |
| O | R | O | | F | A | C | E | F | A | C | T | S |
| L | I | U | | T | R | O | L | L | | E | O | N |
| E | A | R | | S | E | N | S | E | | O | W | L |

## 12-12 CRYPTOQUIP

XDW'J RB QD FZGLJFBWJ JD QBB ILJBY RBLXFWC DW JTB ZDYWFWC CYLQQ. FJ IFOO TLGGBW FW XBI JFZB.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** LARGE CITY WHERE EVERY PERMANENT DWELLER HAS THE SAME GIVEN NAME AS ACTOR DAMON: MATT-ROPOLIS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

# SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Bowl schedule

**Saturday, Dec. 16**
**Myrtle Beach Bowl**
**Conway, S.C.**
Georgia Southern vs. Ohio
**Celebration Bowl**
**Atlanta**
Howard vs. Florida A&M
**New Orleans Bowl**
**New Orleans**
Jacksonville St. vs. Louisiana
**Cure Bowl**
**Orlando, Fla.**
Miami (Ohio) vs. Appalachian St.
**New Mexico Bowl**
**Albuquerque, N.M.**
New Mexico St. vs. Fresno St.
**LA Bowl Hosted**
**Inglewood, Calif.**
UCLA vs. Boise St.
**Independence Bowl**
**Shreveport, La.**
California vs. Texas Tech
**Monday, Dec. 18**
**Famous Toastery Bowl**
**Charlotte, N.C.**
W. Kentucky vs. Old Dominion
**Tuesday, Dec 19**
**Frisco Bowl**
**Frisco, Texas**
UTSA vs. Marshall
**Thursday, Dec. 21**
**Boca Raton Bowl**
**Boca Raton, Fla.**
USF vs. Syracuse
**Friday, Dec. 22**
**Gasparilla Bowl**
**Tampa, Fla.**
Geogia Tech vs. UCF
**Saturday, Dec. 23**
**Camellia Bowl**
**Montgomery, Ala.**
Arkansas St. vs. N. Illinois
**Birmingham Bowl**
**Birmingham, Ala.**
Troy vs. Duke
**Armed Forces Bowl**
**Fort Worth, Texas**
No. 24 James Madison vs. Air Force
**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**
**Boise, Idaho**
Georgia St. vs. Utah St.
**68 Ventures Bowl**
**Mobile, Ala.**
South Alabama vs. Eastern Michigan
**Las Vegas Bowl**
**Las Vegas**
Utah vs. Northwestern
**Hawaii Bowl**
**Honolulu, Hawaii**
Coastal Carolina vs. San Jose St.
**Tuesday, Dec. 26**
**Quick Lane Bowl**
**Detroit**
Bowling Green vs. Minnesota
**First Responder Bowl**
**Dallas**
Texas St. vs. Rice
**Guaranteed Rate Bowl**
**Phoenix**
Kansas vs. UNLV
**Wednesday, Dec. 27**
**Military Bowl Presented**
**Annapolis, Md.**
No. 23 Tulane vs. Virginia Tech
**Duke's Mayo Bowl**
**Charlotte, N.C.**
North Carolina vs. West Virginia
**Holiday Bowl**
**San Diego, Calif.**
No. 16 Louisville vs. Southern Cal
**Texas Bowl**
**Houston**
No. 22 Oklahoma St. vs. Texas A&M
**Thursday, Dec. 28**
**Fenway Bowl**
**Boston**
No. 17 SMU vs. Boston College
**Pinstripe Bowl**
**New York**
Rutgers vs. Miami
**Pop-Tarts Bowl**
**Orlando, Fla.**
No. 19 NC State vs. Kansas St.
**Alamo Bowl**
**San Antonio, Texas**
No. 12 Oklahoma No. 14 Arizona
**Friday, Dec. 29**
**Gator Bowl**
**Jacksonville, Fla.**
Clemson vs. Kentucky
**Sun Bowl**
**El Paso, Texas**
No. 15 Notre Dame vs. No. 21 Oregon St.
**Liberty Bowl**
**Memphis, Tenn.**
Memphis vs. Iowa St.
**Cotton Bowl**
**Arlington, Texas**
No. 7 Ohio St. vs. No. 9 Missouri

### FCS playoffs

**Semifinals**
**Friday, Dec. 15**
South Dakota St. vs. UAlbany
**Saturday, Dec. 16**
Montana vs. North Dakota St.
**Championship**
**Saturday, Jan. 7**
Semifinal winners

### NCAA Division II playoffs

**Championship**
Harding vs. Colo. Sch. of Mines

### NCAA Division III playoffs

**Championship**
North Central (Ill.) vs. Cortland

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### Sunday's men's scores

**EAST**
Boston College 86, St. John's 80
Boston U. 73, Wagner 59
Iona 61, St. Francis (Pa.) 54
Niagara 113, Buffalo St. 64
Providence 74, Brown 54
Saint Joseph's 74, Princeton 70
Temple 78, Albany (NY) 73
**SOUTH**
Chattanooga 112, Tenn. Wesleyan 51
Coll. of Charleston 85, Rhode Island 70
Colorado 90, Miami 63
E. Kentucky 121, Bethany (WV) 56
ETSU 73, Tennessee Tech 72
Lipscomb 78, Tennessee St. 71
Mississippi 70, UCF 68
Morehead St. 86, North Alabama 77
Stetson 123, Johnson 43
UNC-Greensboro 82, Elon 73
UNC-Wilmington 119, Montreat 50
UT Martin 110, Ecclesia 52
VCU 86, Alcorn St. 58
William & Mary 99, Va.-Lynchburg 50
**MIDWEST**
Ball St. 83, SIU-Edwardsville 71
Bowling Green 97, Ohio Dominican 49
Cent. Arkansas 73, E. Illinois 70
Iowa St. 107, Prairie View 56
Michigan 90, Iowa 80
N. Dakota St. 108, Oak Hills 14
Nebraska 77, Michigan St. 70
Northwestern 91, Detroit 59
**SOUTHWEST**
Abilene Christian 120, Howard Payne 69
Fordham 60, North Texas 59
Memphis 81, Texas A&M 75
Oklahoma St. 72, Tulsa 57
UTSA 93, Ark.-Fort Smith 60
Winthrop 85, UALR 68
**FAR WEST**
Hawaii 78, Hawaii Pacific 53
Long Beach St. 84, Southern Cal 79, OT
St. Thomas (MN) 66, Chicago St. 50
Washington St. 83, Grambling St. 65

### Sunday's women's scores

**EAST**
Boston College 88, Siena 59
Columbia 79, Wagner 50
Dartmouth 49, Merrimack 45
Duquesne 89, Kent St. 82, 2OT
Fairfield 77, Fordham 74
Iona 60, Sacred Heart 50
Maryland 71, Northwestern 58
Pittsburgh 94, Lehigh 82
Quinnipiac 66, Holy Cross 63
St. John's 55, Rhode Island 44
Temple 61, Penn 47
Towson 68, American 60
UMass 64, Mass.-Lowell 52
West Virginia 107, Delaware St. 43
**SOUTH**
Alabama 69, Samford 39
Alabama A&M 62, SC State 44
Ball St. 67, W. Kentucky 59
Coastal Carolina 73, UNC-Pembroke 49
Duke 82, Florida Gulf Coast 63
ETSU 77, Lees-Mcrae 42
Georgia Tech 94, Georgia St. 70
LSU 83, Louisiana-Lafayette 53
Lipscomb 85, Royals 49
Louisville 73, Kentucky 61
Memphis 69, Southern Miss. 67
Middle Tennessee 63, Tennessee Tech 47
NC State 80, Liberty 67
Queens (NC) 83, Columbia (SC) 62
Richmond 80, Appalachian St. 77, OT
South Florida 105, Gardner-Webb 75
Tennessee 72, E. Kentucky 63
Tulane 67, Howard 52
UConn 76, North Carolina 64
UNC-Greensboro 52, Elon 47
Virginia Tech 85, Radford 40
Wake Forest 51, Norfolk St. 46
Winthrop 77, Carolina 52
**MIDWEST**
Butler 84, Chicago St. 51
Cincinnati 69, Xavier 47
Cleveland St. 71, Akron 62
Indiana St. 65, SE Missouri 57
Iowa 87, Wisconsin 65
Iowa St. 89, N. Dakota St. 59
Kansas 76, Wichita St. 56
Marquette 64, Illinois St. 62
Michigan 84, Illinois 48
Minnesota 60, Purdue 58
N. Illinois 75, Detroit 66
Ohio St. 94, Penn St. 84, OT
Omaha 92, Peru St. 70
South Dakota 108, Dickinson St. 46
Toledo 65, Loyola (Md.) 35
UMKC 68, W. Illinois 60
**SOUTHWEST**
Ark.-Pine Bluff 74, Arkansas 70
Auburn 58, UALR 45
Incarnate Word 57, Tarleton St. 42
Sam Houston St. 114, Texas College 51
TCU 85, Prairie View 41
Tulsa 72, Florida 64
**FAR WEST**
Creighton 73, Wyoming 61
Loyola Marymount 58, Mustangs 46
New Mexico 68, Hampton 55
San Diego 85, CS Northridge 61
Santa Clara 80, Menlo 39
South Carolina 78, Utah 69
Southern Cal 85, UC Riverside 53
UC Davis 87, Saint Mary's (Cal) 66
UCLA 95, Florida St. 78
Washington 60, Washington St. 55

## COLLEGE SOCCER

### NCAA Men's Tournament

**Semifinals**
**Friday, Dec. 8**
**At Lynn Family Stadium**
**Louisville, Ky.**
No. 2 Notre Dame 1, Oregon St. 0
No. 9 Clemson 1, No. 5 West Virginia 0
**Championship**
**Monday, Dec. 11**
**At Lynn Family Stadium**
**Louisville, Ky.**
No. 2 Notre Dame vs. No. 9 Clemson

## TENNIS

### Montevideo Open

**Sunday**
**At Carrasco Lawn Tennis Club**
**Montevideo, Uruguay**
**Purse: $115,000**
**Surface: Red clay**
**Women's Singles**
**Championship**
Renata Zarazua (2), Mexico, def. Diane Parry (1), France, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

### Open Angers Arena Loire

**Sunday**
**At Arena Loire**
**Angers, France**
**Purse: Euro 100,000**
**Surface: Hardcourt indoor**
**Women's Singles**
**Championship**
Clara Burel (2), France, def. Chloe Paquet, France, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2.
**Women's Doubles**
**Championship**
Monica Niculescu, Romania, and Cristina Bucsa (1), Spain, def. Alexandra Panova, Russia, and Anna Danilina (2), Kazakhstan, 6-1, 6-3.

## GOLF

### Grant Thornton Invitational

**PGA Tour and LPGA Tour**
**Sunday**
**At Gold Course**
**Naples, Fla.**
**Purse: $4 million**
**Yardage: 7,382; Par: 72**
**Final Round**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Ko/Day, $1,000,000 | 58-66-66—190 | -26 |
| Henderson/Conners, $560,000 | 59-69-63—191 | -25 |
| Sagstrom/Aberg, $330,000 | 60-72-60—192 | -24 |
| Khang/McCarthy, $232,500 | 57-71-65—193 | -23 |
| Korda/Finau, $232,500 | 56-70-67—193 | -23 |
| Maguire/Glover, $185,000 | 57-69-68—194 | -22 |
| Thompson/Fowler, $185,000 | 60-68-66—194 | -22 |
| Yin/Taylor, $170,000 | 58-70-67—195 | -21 |
| Hull/Rose, $151,667 | 58-72-66—196 | -20 |
| Vu/Dahmen, $151,667 | 61-72-63—196 | -20 |
| Zhang/Theegala, $151,667 | 58-74-64—196 | -20 |
| Boutier/English, $140,000 | 63-69-65—197 | -19 |
| M.Reid/R.Henley, $135,000 | 64-70-66—200 | -16 |
| Corpuz/Champ, $127,500 | 59-78-65—202 | -14 |
| Lee/Horschel, $127,500 | 64-71-67—202 | -14 |
| Knight/Hoge, $120,000 | 66-71-66—203 | -13 |

## DEALS

### Sunday's transactions

**BASEBALL**
**National League**
**MIAMI MARLINS** — Acquired C Christian Bethancourt from Cleveland in exchange for cash considerations.
**BASKETBALL**
**National Basketball Association**
**CHICAGO BULLS** — Recalled F Julian Phillips from the Windy City Bulls of the G League.
**LOS ANGELES LAKERS** — Assigned F Maxwell Lewis to the South Bay Lakers of the G League.
**SAN ANTONIO SPURS** — Assigned F Charles Bassey to the Austin Spurs of the G League. Recalled F Sandro Mamukelashvili from the Austin Spurs of the G League.
**HOCKEY**
**National Hockey League**
**CAROLINA HURRICANES** — Assigned F Blake Murray to Allen (ECHL).
**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS** — Activated C Cole Sillinger from injured reserve.
**DETROIT RED WINGS** — Reassigned LW Alexandre Doucet and D Antti Tuomisto to Grand Rapids (AHL) from Toledo (ECHL).
**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS** — Reassigned G Vyacheslav Peksa to Newfoundland (ECHL) from Toronto (AHL).

## AP SPORTLIGHT

**Dec. 12**

**1937** — Rookie Sammy Baugh throws second-half touchdown passes of 55, 78 and 33 yards to overcome a 14-7 Chicago lead and give the Washington Redskins a 28-21 victory over the Chicago Bears for the NFL championship.

**1953** — Maurice Richard of the Montreal Canadiens becomes the NHL's all-time leading scorer with a goal and two assists in a 7-2 victory against the New York Rangers. Richard finishes the game with 611 points, one more than injured linemate Elmer Lach, who has held the record since February 1952.

**1965** — Chicago's Gale Sayers scores six touchdowns with 336 combined yards to lead the Bears to a 61-20 rout of the San Francisco 49ers. The six TDs give Sayers an NFL-record 21 for the season. Sayers' first touchdown is a reception, the next four rushing and the final one an 85-yard punt return.

**1968** — Arthur Ashe becomes the first black person be ranked No. 1 in tennis.

**1971** — Bobby Hull of the Chicago Black Hawks scores his 1,000th point with an assist in the first period of a 5-3 victory over the Minnesota North Stars.

**1977** — NBA Commissioner Larry O'Brien fined Kermit Washington $10,000 and suspends the Los Angeles Lakers forward for at least 60 days (26 games) for punching Houston's Rudy Tomjanovich during a game on Dec. 9. The suspension is the longest ever in NBA history and the fine is the maximum permissible under league rules.

**2021** — Dutchman Max Verstappen wins Formula 1 Drivers' Championship.

# LSU's Daniels heads AP All-America team

By Ralph D. Russo
*Associated Press*

Heisman Trophy winner Jayden Daniels from LSU was one of seven players in either their fifth or sixth season of college football selected to The Associated Press All-America team announced Monday.

Daniels, a fifth-year quarterback, won the Heisman and AP player of the year honors last week after accounting for 50 touchdowns and nearly 5,000 yards of offense this season.

He was joined in the backfield by Missouri's Cody Schrader, a sixth-year running back and former Division II player who leads the nation at 124.9 rushing yards per game.

The other sixth-year player of the AP first team was North Carolina State linebacker Payton Wilson, who won the Chuck Bednarik Award as national defensive player of the year.

Kansas State guard Cooper Beebe, edge rushers Laiatu Latu from UCLA and Jalen Green from James Madison, and Texas defensive tackle T'Vondre Sweat were the other fifth-year players to make the first team.

College players who were in school during the 2020 pandemic season were granted an extra year of eligibility and they are still making their presence felt around the country.

Eleven more fifth-year players made the second and third teams and there were eight sixth-year players selected to those teams, including Washington quarterback Michael Penix Jr., the Heisman runner up. Penix and the second-ranked Huskies face No. 3 Texas in the College Football Playoff's Sugar Bowl semifinal on Jan. 1.

Notre Dame offensive tackle Joe Alt and Ohio State receiver Marvin Harrison Jr. were selected first-team All-Americans for the second straight year. Beebe and Georgia tight end Brock Bowers moved up from second team last season to first this year.

No. 5 Alabama led all teams with three first-team All-Americans.

## Scoreboard

### AP All-America Team

The AP All-America team was selected by a panel of 18 college Top 25 poll voters.

**FIRST TEAM**
**Offense**

**Quarterback** — Jayden Daniels, fifth-year, LSU.
**Running backs** — Ollie Gordon II, second-year, Oklahoma State; Cody Schrader, sixth-year, Missouri.
**Tackles** — Joe Alt, third-year, Notre Dame; Olu Fashanu, fourth-year, Penn State.
**Guards** — Cooper Beebe, fifth-year, Kansas State; Zak Zinter, fourth-year, Michigan.
**Center** — Jackson Powers-Johnson, third-year, Oregon.
**Tight end** — Brock Bowers, third-year, Georgia.
**Wide receivers** — Malik Nabers, third-year, LSU; Marvin Harrison Jr., third-year, Ohio State; Rome Odunze, fourth-year, Washington.
**All-purpose player** — Travis Hunter, second-year, Colorado.
**Kicker** — Graham Nicholson, third-year, Miami (Ohio).

**Defense**

**Edge rushers** — Laiatu Latu, fifth-year, UCLA; Jalen Green, fifth-year, James Madison.
**Interior linemen** — T'Vondre Sweat, fifth-year, Texas; Jer'Zahn Newton, fourth-year, Illinois.
**Linebackers** — Payton Wilson, sixth-year, North Carolina State; Edgerrin Cooper, fourth-year, Texas A&M; Dallas Turner, third-year, Alabama.
**Cornerbacks** — Cooper DeJean, third-year, Iowa; Kool-Aid McKinstry, third-year, Alabama.
**Safeties** — Malaki Starks, second-year, Georgia; Xavier Watts, fourth-year, Notre Dame.
**Defensive back** — Terrion Arnold, third-year, Alabama.
**Punter** — Tory Taylor, fourth-year, Iowa.

**SECOND TEAM**
**Offense**

**Quarterback** — Michael Penix Jr., sixth-year, Washington.
**Running backs** — Audric Estime, third-year, Notre Dame; Omarion Hampton, second-year, North Carolina.
**Tackles** — Taliese Fuaga, fourth-year, Oregon State; JC Latham, third-year, Alabama.
**Guards** — Tate Ratledge, fourth-year, Georgia; Clay Webb, fifth-year, Jacksonville State.
Center — Sedrick Van Pran, fourth-year, Georgia.
**Tight ends** — Dallin Holker, fifth-year, Colorado State.
**Wide receivers** — Troy Franklin, third-year, Oregon; Malik Washington, fifth-year, Virginia; Luther Burden III, second-year, Missouri.
**All-purpose player** — Ashton Jeanty, second-year, Boise State.
**Kicker** — Jose Pizano, third-year, UNLV.

**Defense**

**Edge rushers** — Jonah Elliss, third-year, Utah; Jared Verse, fourth-year, Florida State.
**Interior linemen** — Byron Murphy II, third-year, Texas; Howard Cross III, fifth-year, Notre Dame.
Linebackers — Jeremiah Trotter Jr., third-year, Clemson; Jason Henderson, third-year, Old Dominion; Jay Higgins, fourth-year, Iowa.
**Cornerbacks** — Quinyon Mitchell, fourth-year, Toledo; Beanie Bishop Jr., sixth-year, West Virginia.
**Safeties** — Tyler Nubin, fifth-year, Minnesota; Caleb Downs, first-year, Alabama.
**Defensive back** — Kris Abrams-Draine, fourth-year, Missouri.
**Punter** — Matthew Hayball, sixth-year, Vanderbilt.

**THIRD TEAM**
**Offense**

**Quarterbacks** — Bo Nix, fifth-year, Oregon.
**Running backs** — Blake Corum, fourth-year, Michigan; Kimani Vidal, fourth-year, Troy.
**Tackles** — Javon Foster, sixth-year, Missouri; Troy Fautanu, fifth-year, Washington.
**Guards** — Christian Haynes, sixth-year, UConn; Luke Kandra, fourth-year, Cincinnati.
**Center** — Zach Frazier, fourth-year, West Virginia.
**Tight end** — Ben Sinnott, fourth-year, Kansas State.
**Wide receivers** — Ricky White, fourth-year, UNLV; Brian Thomas Jr., third-year, LSU; Tetairoa McMillan, second-year, Arizona.
**All-purpose player** — Xavier Worthy, third-year, Texas.
**Kicker** — Will Reichard, fifth-year, Alabama.

**Defense**

**Edge rushers** —Chop Robinson, third-year, Penn State; Bralen Trice, fifth-year, Washington.
**Interior linemen** — Kris Jenkins, fourth-year, Michigan; Braden Fiske, sixth-year, Florida State.
**Linebackers** — Nathaniel Watson, sixth-year, Mississippi State; Edefuan Ulofoshio, sixth-year, Washington; Danny Stutsman, third-year, Oklahoma.
**Cornerbacks** — Ricardo Hallman, third-year, Wisconsin; T.J. Tampa, fourth-year, Iowa State.
**Safeties** — Trey Taylor, fifth-year, Air Force; Dillon Thieneman, first-year, Purdue.
**Defensive back** — Sebastian Castro, fifth-year, Iowa.
**Punter** — James Ferguson-Reynolds, second-year, Boise State.

Associated Press

# NHL

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

**Atlantic Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 26 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 39 | 87 | 65 |
| Florida | 27 | 17 | 8 | 2 | 36 | 85 | 69 |
| Toronto | 24 | 14 | 6 | 4 | 32 | 84 | 77 |
| Detroit | 26 | 14 | 8 | 4 | 32 | 97 | 82 |
| Tampa Bay | 29 | 13 | 11 | 5 | 31 | 95 | 102 |
| Montreal | 28 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 27 | 76 | 97 |
| Buffalo | 28 | 11 | 14 | 3 | 25 | 79 | 94 |
| Ottawa | 22 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 22 | 78 | 70 |

**Metropolitan Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| N.Y. Rangers | 26 | 19 | 6 | 1 | 39 | 86 | 71 |
| Philadelphia | 27 | 15 | 10 | 2 | 32 | 83 | 73 |
| Washington | 25 | 14 | 8 | 3 | 31 | 64 | 72 |
| N.Y. Islanders | 26 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 31 | 79 | 84 |
| New Jersey | 26 | 14 | 11 | 1 | 29 | 92 | 95 |
| Carolina | 27 | 14 | 12 | 1 | 29 | 88 | 90 |
| Pittsburgh | 26 | 11 | 12 | 3 | 25 | 75 | 69 |
| Columbus | 30 | 9 | 16 | 5 | 23 | 87 | 106 |

### Western Conference

**Central Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Winnipeg | 26 | 16 | 8 | 2 | 34 | 85 | 70 |
| Colorado | 27 | 16 | 9 | 2 | 34 | 94 | 82 |
| Dallas | 26 | 15 | 8 | 3 | 33 | 89 | 81 |
| Nashville | 28 | 15 | 13 | 0 | 30 | 87 | 86 |
| Arizona | 26 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 28 | 86 | 77 |
| St. Louis | 27 | 13 | 13 | 1 | 27 | 76 | 88 |
| Minnesota | 26 | 10 | 12 | 4 | 24 | 81 | 88 |
| Chicago | 27 | 9 | 17 | 1 | 19 | 65 | 94 |

**Pacific Division**

| | GP | W | L | OT | Pts | GF | GA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Vegas | 29 | 19 | 5 | 5 | 43 | 104 | 73 |
| Vancouver | 28 | 18 | 9 | 1 | 37 | 107 | 73 |
| Los Angeles | 25 | 16 | 5 | 4 | 36 | 92 | 60 |
| Edmonton | 25 | 12 | 12 | 1 | 25 | 88 | 84 |
| Calgary | 27 | 11 | 13 | 3 | 25 | 78 | 93 |
| Seattle | 29 | 8 | 14 | 7 | 23 | 74 | 101 |
| Anaheim | 27 | 10 | 17 | 0 | 20 | 71 | 92 |
| San Jose | 28 | 8 | 17 | 3 | 19 | 66 | 120 |

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

**Saturday's games**

Boston 5, Arizona 3
Vegas 6, Dallas 1
New Jersey 4, Calgary 2
Washington 4, N.Y. Rangers 0
Toronto 4, Nashville 0
Montreal 3, Buffalo 2, SO
Ottawa 5, Detroit 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, Los Angeles 2, OT
Chicago 3, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 5, Colorado 2
Tampa Bay 4, Seattle 3, OT
Vancouver 4, Carolina 3

**Sunday's games**

Florida 5, Columbus 2
Edmonton 4, New Jersey 1
Washington 4, Chicago 2
Nashville 2, Montreal 1
N.Y. Rangers 4, Los Angeles 1
Winnipeg 4, Anaheim 2
Minnesota 3, Seattle 0
Vegas 5, San Jose 4, SO

**Monday's games**

Arizona at Buffalo
Toronto at N.Y. Islanders
Detroit at Dallas
Calgary at Colorado

**Tuesday's games**

Arizona at Pittsburgh
Carolina at Ottawa
Toronto at N.Y. Rangers
Philadelphia at Nashville
Detroit at St. Louis
Calgary at Vegas
Chicago at Edmonton
Florida at Seattle
Tampa Bay at Vancouver
Winnipeg at San Jose

ROUNDUP

# Oilers top Devils to win 7th straight

*Associated Press*

EDMONTON, Alberta — Calvin Pickard made 26 saves for his first NHL victory in almost two years and the Edmonton Oilers ran their winning streak to seven, beating the New Jersey Devils 4-1 on Sunday.

Pickard last won in the NHL on Jan. 28, 2022, with the Detroit Red Wings. He made his fourth appearance of the season for the Oilers and has also played four games this season for Bakersfield in the American Hockey League.

"You can't put too much pressure on yourself when you don't play very often, but I felt good in practice and I wanted to keep it going," Pickard said. "I thought we played a great game all the way through, very defensive, really good special teams and deserved the win."

The 31-year-old Pickard started the season in Bakersfield and was called up to replace Jack Campbell when Campbell had a tough start to the season.

"It is exciting. It is one of those things where everyone just feels so happy for the guy," Oilers forward Connor Brown said. "He stood on his head, especially down the stretch in that game. I thought he did a great job. You are nothing but happy for him. It's always fun."

Derek Ryan, Evan Bouchard, Connor McDavid and Evander Kane, with an empty-netter, scored to help Edmonton improve to 12-12-1. Kane and McDavid each added an assist, and Bouchard extended his points streak to 11 games and McDavid pushed his to nine.

Jesper Bratt scored for New Jersey, and Akira Schmid made 26 saves. Coming off their third straight victory Saturday in Calgary, the Devils dropped to 14-11-1.

"I think the schedule got us a little bit, we didn't have quite the energy," said Devils coach Lindy Ruff, whose team was playing its third game in four days. "I think we missed the net a few times, we didn't funnel pucks when we had opportunities."

**Rangers 4, Kings 1:** Jonathan Quick made 25 saves against his former team and host New York handed Los Angeles its second road loss in two nights following an NHL-record 11 consecutive victories away from home to start the season.

JASON FRANSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

**The New Jersey Devils' Nico Hischier is stopped by Edmonton Oilers goalie Calvin Pickard as the Oilers' Vincent Desharnais defends during the first period in Edmonton, Alberta, on Sunday.**

Los Angeles lost 3-2 in overtime to the New York Islanders on Saturday night.

Mika Zibanejad, Jimmy Vesey, Johnny Brodzinski and Will Cuylle scored for New York. Quick improved to 8-0-1. He played 16 seasons for the Kings, winning Stanley Cups in 2012 and 2014.

**Golden Knights 5, Sharks 4 (SO):** Jonathan Marchessault scored twice in regulation and had a goal in the shootout to lift host Vegas past San Jose.

Chandler Stephenson and Brayden McNabb also scored for the defending champion Golden Knights, who have won three straight and five of their last six to lead the NHL with 43 points. Jiri Patera stopped 35 shots in his season debut.

Mike Hoffman had two goals for San Jose, Mario Ferraro and Calen Addison also scored and Kaapo Kahkonen made 23 saves. The Sharks had won five of seven.

**Wild 3, Kraken 0:** Filip Gustavsson stopped 24 shots for his second shutout of the season as visiting Minnesota handed Seattle its eighth straight loss.

Matt Boldy, Marco Rossi and Joel Eriksson Ek scored for Minnesota. The Wild are 5-2-0 since John Hynes replaced the fired Dean Evason as coach Nov. 27.

Joey Daccord finished with 23 saves for the Kraken, who have been blanked twice during the second-longest losing streak in franchise history. They are one away from matching the franchise record set in 2021-22 in their inaugural season.

**Panthers 5, Blue Jackets 2:** Gustav Forsling had a goal and an assist, and visiting Florida had a three-goal third period to beat Columbus for its third straight victory.

Carter Verhaeghe scored for his 200th NHL point, Aleksander Barkov had a power-play goal, and Matthew Tkachuk and Eetu Luostarinen added empty-net goals. Sam Reinhart had four assists for his 13th multi-point game of the season, and Anthony Stolarz stopped 18 shots.

**Jets 4, Ducks 2:** Gabe Vilardi broke a tie with 1:42 left with the third of visiting Winnipeg's four third-period goals in a comeback victory over Anaheim.

Winnipeg rallied after losing scoring leader Kyle Connor to a knee injury in the second period when he took a knee from Ducks defenseman Ryan Strome, who received a game misconduct.

**Capitals 4, Blackhawks 2:** Nic Dowd scored twice, Darcy Kuemper made 32 saves and visiting Washington beat Chicago for its second straight victory.

Anthony Mantha, Dylan Strome and Dowd scored in a 7:12 span in the second period to put Washington ahead. Dowd sealed it with his second of the night with 4:02 left in the third.

**Predators 2, Canadiens 1:** Colton Sissons scored twice, Juuse Saros made 36 saves and visiting Nashville held off Montreal.

Captain Roman Josi assisted on both goals to help Nashville rebound from a 4-0 loss at Toronto on Saturday night. The Predators have won 10 of 13 to improve to 15-13-0.

# Ex-player, coach Granato has non-Hodgkin lymphoma

*Associated Press*

CHICAGO — Former NHL player and coach Tony Granato said on social media Sunday night that he has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma and is taking a leave of absence from TV work for NBC Sports Chicago and the NHL Network.

The 59-year-old Granato posted on X, formerly Twitter, that he will begin treatment this week.

**Granato**

"I wish I could reach out to everyone individually, but felt like this was the best way to share the news," Granato tweeted. "My family, faith, and friends will be my strength to help me through my treatments. I appreciate all the love and support I have received already."

Granato was fired in March as coach at alma mater Wisconsin after seven seasons.

A member of the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame, Granato had 248 goals and 244 assists in the NHL with the New York Rangers, Los Angeles Kings and San Jose Sharks. He won the 1998 Bill Masterton Trophy as the player who best exemplifies the qualities of perseverance, sportsmanship and dedication to hockey.

Granato was the head coach of the Colorado Avalanche in 2002-04 and again in 2008-09. He was an assistant with Pittsburgh and Detroit before returning to Wisconsin to take over the Badgers. Granato also coached the United States in the 2018 Winter Olympics.

Granato grew up in a hockey family in Downers Grove in suburban Chicago, with sister Cammi the first woman inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame and brother Don the head coach of the Buffalo Sabres.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NBA

MARK J. TERRILL/AP

**Southern California guard Bronny James, left, passes the ball as his father LeBron James, right, watches during the second half of a game against Long Beach State on Sunday.**

## Bronny James makes debut for USC after cardiac arrest

BY BETH HARRIS
*Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — Bronny James showed off his defensive skills in his college debut for Southern California nearly five months after he suffered cardiac arrest and expressed gratitude for the doctors and family who supported him.

He had four points, three rebounds and two assists on Sunday, coming off the bench to play in front of his superstar father LeBron James.

"I just want to say I'm thankful for everything," Bronny James said afterward in brief comments to a horde of media. He thanked the Mayo Clinic, where he received treatment, as well as his parents, siblings, coach Andy Enfield and his teammates "during this hard time in my life."

He left without taking any questions.

The Trojans lost in overtime to Long Beach State, 84-79. James walked off with his deflated teammates and didn't greet his father who sat courtside.

James logged 16 minutes, including starting the five-minute extra session, but he wasn't a factor then before coming out for the last time. He was 1-for-3 shooting, hitting a 3-pointer in the second half.

His biggest impression came on defense. All of James' rebounds were on the defensive glass and he had two steals.

"I thought Bronny played well," Enfield said. "He defended at a high level. He guarded the quick ballhandlers on the other team pretty well."

James was quick to pass to his teammates, even when it appeared he could have taken a shot.

Enfield said James' minutes would continue to be monitored by USC's medical staff.

He played six minutes in the first half, when the Trojans led 45-30 at the break. In his second three-minute stint, James made a huge block on Jadon Jones, who was streaking to the basket on a fastbreak, riling up the fans.

James assisted on a dunk by Vincent Iwuchukwu, who also suffered cardiac arrest as a freshman. He returned to play 14 games last season.

"It's great to see Bronny out there. He's put a lot of work in the gym," Iwuchukwu said. "We talked before the game and I told him to go out there and have fun."

James entered the game for the first time about seven minutes in, with some in the crowd standing and cheering. He missed his first shot, a 3-point attempt. Moments before, he tipped the ball away from a Long Beach State player, but the visitors got it back. The possession ended in a shot-clock violation for Long Beach. James also snagged a rebound.

"He makes the right play all the time," said Boogie Ellis, USC's top guard. "Everybody wants a guy like that on their team. He defends well at a high level."

LeBron James arrived seconds before the national anthem, holding hands with 9-year-old daughter, Zhuri, and tapped his son's rear as he passed the Trojans who were lined up across the court for the anthem.

The younger James' debut capped a big weekend for the family. LeBron helped the Lakers win the NBA's new In-Season Tournament on Saturday night in Las Vegas, earning everyone on the team a $500,000 payday each.

"It was exciting for everybody to see him out there," Enfield said, "and I'm sure his family was the most excited."

The NBA was well-represented in the game. One of James' teammates is DJ Rodman, the son of Dennis Rodman, who fouled out. Long Beach's roster includes Chayce Polynice, the son of 15-year NBA veteran Olden Polynice.

James joined his teammates for on-court warmups 90 minutes before tipoff. Wearing a white USC shirt and red sweatpants, he took a variety of jumpers under the watchful lenses of a baseline full of photographers.

Students lined up around one side of Galen Center and down an adjacent street waiting to get inside. Although there were pockets of empty seats in the 10,258-seat arena, James' debut helped the Trojans draw their largest crowd of 9,806 this season.

James suffered cardiac arrest on July 20 during a workout at Galen Center. He was found to have a congenital heart defect that was treatable.

James was recently cleared by his doctors and USC's medical staff to participate in full-contact practice. Previously, he had been limited to working out on his own doing weights, cardio and shooting.

## Pacers Haliburton's star continues to rise

BY W.G. RAMIREZ
*Associated Press*

LAS VEGAS — Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton doesn't care about his stats, he doesn't want to be put in any conversations regarding All-Star teams, and he certainly isn't interested in talks about being an MVP candidate.

He just wants to win.

And while it may not have happened Saturday night, when the Los Angeles Lakers beat Indiana 123-109 in the In-Season Tournament championship game, the rest of the league should be on notice about Haliburton and the Pacers.

"I think last year we snuck up on teams, teams didn't really know what to expect," said Haliburton, who had 20 points and 11 assists. "But I think now when you play the Pacers you know what to expect. ... Obviously, people didn't expect us to get here, the championship game, but I think teams are prepared for us."

Indiana got back to the regular season Monday with the league's No. 1 offense, which is averaging 128.4 points, led by Haliburton who is averaging 26.9 points and a league-high 12.1 assists.

And whether he likes it or not, those numbers have him almost assuredly on his way to a second straight All-Star appearance and have placed him in early season MVP chatter.

In seven tournament games, he led all players who made it to the final with an average of 26.7 points per game on 52.4% shooting, and had 13.3 assists per contest.

"Tyrese is a great young player that has all the tools, has the personality and has the desire," Indiana coach Rick Carlisle said. "The month, seven weeks that he's put together so far in this season, people are talking about him for MVP, and rightly so.

"He was completely unfazed by the limelight and it brought his game to a higher level (during tournament games). Like Reggie Miller, he's very similar to him. Body type stature, personality, and just overall character. He wants the responsibility for winning and losing. And he wants it unconditionally, and that's special."

Special enough that NBA commissioner Adam Silver loved the championship storyline of having one of the most storied players in NBA history — LeBron James — facing a young team with a budding star who's just beginning to author his story.

"People have said MVP, or all-NBA All-Star or whatever," Haliburton said. "But at the end of the day I just want to play basketball and I want to succeed as a team. I know (with) the team's success, individual success comes with that."

IAN MAULE/AP

**Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton averaged 26.7 points in the In-Season Tournament.**

## NBA scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

**Atlantic Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Boston | 16 | 5 | .762 | — |
| Philadelphia | 14 | 7 | .667 | 2 |
| New York | 12 | 9 | .571 | 4 |
| Brooklyn | 12 | 9 | .571 | 4 |
| Toronto | 9 | 13 | .409 | 7½ |

**Southeast Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orlando | 15 | 7 | .682 | — |
| Miami | 12 | 10 | .545 | 3 |
| Atlanta | 9 | 12 | .429 | 5½ |
| Charlotte | 7 | 13 | .350 | 7 |
| Washington | 3 | 18 | .143 | 11½ |

**Central Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Milwaukee | 15 | 7 | .682 | — |
| Indiana | 12 | 8 | .600 | 2 |
| Cleveland | 13 | 9 | .591 | 2 |
| Chicago | 9 | 14 | .391 | 6½ |
| Detroit | 2 | 20 | .091 | 13 |

### Western Conference

**Southwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 13 | 8 | .619 | — |
| Houston | 10 | 9 | .526 | 2 |
| New Orleans | 12 | 11 | .522 | 2 |
| Memphis | 6 | 15 | .286 | 7 |
| San Antonio | 3 | 18 | .143 | 10 |

**Northwest Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Minnesota | 17 | 4 | .810 | — |
| Oklahoma City | 14 | 7 | .667 | 3 |
| Denver | 14 | 9 | .609 | 4 |
| Utah | 7 | 15 | .318 | 10½ |
| Portland | 6 | 15 | .286 | 11 |

**Pacific Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| L.A. Lakers | 14 | 9 | .609 | — |
| Sacramento | 12 | 8 | .600 | ½ |
| Phoenix | 12 | 10 | .545 | 1½ |
| L.A. Clippers | 11 | 10 | .524 | 2 |
| Golden State | 10 | 12 | .455 | 3½ |

**Sunday's games**

No games scheduled

**Monday's games**

Cleveland at Orlando
Indiana at Detroit
Miami at Charlotte
Washington at Philadelphia
Denver at Atlanta
Toronto at New York
Chicago at Milwaukee
Dallas at Memphis
Minnesota at New Orleans
San Antonio at Houston
Utah at Oklahoma City
Brooklyn at Sacramento
Portland at L.A. Clippers

**Tuesday's games**

Cleveland at Boston
L.A. Lakers at Dallas
Denver at Chicago
Golden State at Phoenix
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers

# NFL

## Scoreboard

### American Conference

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Miami | 9 | 3 | 0 | .750 | 384 | 266 |
| Buffalo | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 348 | 244 |
| N.Y. Jets | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 201 | 257 |
| e-New England | 3 | 10 | 0 | .231 | 169 | 272 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jacksonville | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 312 | 290 |
| Houston | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 287 | 279 |
| Indianapolis | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 314 | 330 |
| Tennessee | 4 | 8 | 0 | .333 | 213 | 255 |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Baltimore | 10 | 3 | 0 | .769 | 361 | 218 |
| Cleveland | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 289 | 272 |
| Cincinnati | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 280 | 287 |
| Pittsburgh | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 210 | 250 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kansas City | 8 | 5 | 0 | .615 | 292 | 228 |
| Denver | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 287 | 309 |
| L.A. Chargers | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 282 | 282 |
| Las Vegas | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 202 | 259 |

### National Conference

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dallas | 10 | 3 | 0 | .769 | 421 | 233 |
| Philadelphia | 10 | 3 | 0 | .769 | 342 | 321 |
| N.Y. Giants | 4 | 8 | 0 | .333 | 159 | 292 |
| Washington | 4 | 9 | 0 | .308 | 261 | 395 |

**South**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 251 | 269 |
| New Orleans | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 285 | 261 |
| Tampa Bay | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 262 | 270 |
| e-Carolina | 1 | 12 | 0 | .077 | 197 | 341 |

**North**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 9 | 4 | 0 | .692 | 340 | 314 |
| Minnesota | 7 | 6 | 0 | .538 | 266 | 242 |
| Green Bay | 6 | 6 | 0 | .500 | 258 | 243 |
| Chicago | 5 | 8 | 0 | .385 | 270 | 309 |

**West**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| San Francisco | 10 | 3 | 0 | .769 | 380 | 205 |
| L.A. Rams | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 299 | 290 |
| Seattle | 6 | 7 | 0 | .462 | 280 | 318 |
| Arizona | 3 | 10 | 0 | .231 | 230 | 331 |

e-Eliminated from playoffs

**Thursday's game**

New England 21, Pittsburgh 18

**Sunday's games**

Baltimore 37, L.A. Rams 31, OT
Chicago 28, Detroit 13
Cincinnati 34, Indianapolis 14
Cleveland 31, Jacksonville 27
N.Y. Jets 30, Houston 6
New Orleans 28, Carolina 6
Tampa Bay 29, Atlanta 25
Minnesota 3, Las Vegas 0
San Francisco 28, Seattle 16
Buffalo 20, Kansas City 17
Denver 24, L.A. Chargers 7
Dallas 33, Philadelphia 13
Open: Arizona, Washington

**Monday's games**

Green Bay at N.Y. Giants
Tennessee at Miami

**Thursday, Dec. 14**

L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas

**Saturday, Dec. 16**

Minnesota at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Indianapolis
Denver at Detroit

**Sunday, Dec. 17**

Atlanta at Carolina
Chicago at Cleveland
Houston at Tennessee
Kansas City at New England
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans
N.Y. Jets at Miami
Tampa Bay at Green Bay
San Francisco at Arizona
Washington at L.A. Rams
Dallas at Buffalo
Baltimore at Jacksonville

**Monday, Dec. 18**

Philadelphia at Seattle

**Thursday, Dec. 21**

New Orleans at L.A. Rams

**Saturday, Dec. 23**

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at L.A. Chargers

ROUNDUP

# Flacco, Browns hold off Jaguars

*Associated Press*

CLEVELAND — When Joe Flacco arrived three weeks ago, Browns star Myles Garrett had his suspicions about what the 38-year-old quarterback had left.

Those doubts are gone.

"He's one us," Garrett said. "And as long as he continues what he's doing, he's going to stay one of us."

Flacco passed for 311 yards and three touchdowns — two to tight end David Njoku — in his home debut for Cleveland, and the Browns survived a late rally by Trevor Lawrence and the Jacksonville Jaguars for a 31-27 win Sunday.

The 38-year-old Flacco, who was signed on Nov. 20 by the Browns (8-5), delivered the kind of performance he had almost annually as a visitor with Baltimore. He went 26-for-45 and improved to 10-2 as a starter in Cleveland.

Flacco has thrown for 565 yards and five touchdowns in two starts. Although Browns coach Kevin Stefanski never announced his starting quarterback for this week's game, he quickly confirmed that he'll ride with Flacco the rest of the way.

"The guy is doing it all," Garrett said. "He's just giving it all for this team and got respect from the rest of the guys as well."

Flacco threw two TD passes in the first half to Njoku and then completed a 41-yarder to wide receiver David Bell in the fourth quarter when the Jaguars gambled with an all-out blitz on fourth down. As Bell streaked to the end zone, Flacco did his best to keep up — for an old guy.

The Browns are the eighth team in NFL history to win using four starting quarterbacks in the same season.

And now they're putting their playoff hopes in the hands of Flacco, who will lead their stretch drive.

The Jaguars (8-5) suffered their second loss in six days despite having Lawrence, who played through a right ankle sprain. The quarterback wasn't on his game early and finished 28-for-50 for 257 yards.

"We just shot ourselves in the foot over and over,'" Lawrence said. "It was not one of our cleaner games. Just too many mistakes. We were so inconsistent and didn't get into rhythm. There were too many miscommunications.

"There were too many things that we turned into turnovers or sacks or bad plays. There is stuff I didn't do well today."

Jacksonville, banged up on both sides of the ball, lost for the first time in seven road games. The Jags are trying to hold off Houston and Indianapolis in the AFC South. The Texans and Colts both lost Sunday.

SUE OGROCKI/AP

**Browns quarterback Joe Flacco hands off to running back Kareem Hunt during the second half against the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday in Cleveland. The Browns won 31-27.**

**Broncos 24, Chargers 7:** Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes and visiting Denver beat Los Angeles, which lost quarterback Justin Herbert to a broken finger on his right hand.

Wilson completed 21 of 33 passes for 224 yards, including a 46-yard touchdown to Courtland Sutton in the third quarter for the Broncos (7-6), who have won six of seven.

Herbert has a fracture in his right index finger, coach Brandon Staley said. He was 9-for-17 for 96 yards with an interception before being injured in the second quarter, apparently while he was taken down awkwardly by Denver's Zach Allen after throwing a pass.

Easton Stick completed 13 of 24 passes for 179 yards in Herbert's place. The Chargers (5-8) have dropped four of five.

**49ers 28, Seahawks 16:** Deebo Samuel scored on a catch and a run and host San Francisco beat Seattle for its 11th straight win over an NFC West opponent.

Samuel had his second straight game with multiple touchdowns to lead the 49ers (10-3) to the brink of winning back-to-back division titles for the first time since 2011-12. The Niners lead the Seahawks (6-7) and Rams by four games with four to play.

Seattle has lost four straight games for the first time in 14 seasons under Pete Carroll and has lost five in a row to the 49ers for the first time.

Brock Purdy finished 19-for-27 for a career-high 368 yards with two TDs and one interception, becoming the fourth player to complete at least 70% of his passes in seven straight games.

**Jets 30, Texans 6:** Zach Wilson threw a pair of second-half touchdown passes in his return from a two-game benching as host New York beat Houston to stop a five-game skid.

The Jets shut down the Texans' C.J. Stroud before the star rookie quarterback left late with a concussion.

Wilson was 27-for-36 for 301 yards — his third career game of 300 or more yards — in easily his best performance of the season.

**Bears 28, Lions 13:** Justin Fields threw for a touchdown and ran for another, and host Chicago beat NFC North-leading Detroit.

Receiver DJ Moore had his first career rushing touchdown and caught a scoring pass to help the Bears (5-8) win for the third time in four games.

Chicago scored 15 points in a span of about seven minutes to break open a game that was tied at 13-all late in the third quarter. They got the payback they were seeking after giving up 17 points over the final 2:59 in a loss at Detroit three weeks earlier.

**Buccaneers 29, Falcons 25:** Baker Mayfield threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Cade Otton with 31 seconds remaining, and visiting Tampa Bay beat Atlanta to move into a three-way tie for first place in the NFC South.

Atlanta (6-7) rallied for a 25-22 lead with a pair of TDs in the final period, including quarterback Desmond Ridder's 6-yard scoring run with 3:23 remaining. But Mayfield, who passed for just 144 yards, guided a 12-play, 75-yard scoring drive. The biggest play was a 32-yard completion to Chris Godwin.

**Bengals 34, Colts 14:** Jake Browning threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score in his second straight outstanding performance as host Cincinnati pounded Indianapolis.

With Joe Burrow out for the season because of a wrist injury, Browning has kept the Bengals (7-6) in playoff contention. He followed up a 354-yard outing in a win at Jacksonville last Monday night by completing 18 of 24 passes for 275 yards with an interception.

**Saints 28, Panthers 6:** Derek Carr returned from a recent concussion and upper-body injuries to throw touchdown passes to Chris Olave and Jimmy Graham, and host New Orleans beat NFL-worst Carolina.

Alvin Kamara ran 9 yards for a touchdown as the Saints (6-7) snapped a three-game skid and pulled into a first-place tie with Atlanta and Tampa Bay in the feeble NFC South.

NFL

# Ravens walk off Rams on OT punt return

By Noah Trister
*Associated Press*

BALTIMORE — Tylan Wallace caught the punt cleanly — no easy feat on this wet day — then slipped to his left, spinning away from one potential tackler and racing past a couple more while barely staying inbounds along the sideline.

By the time Shaun Jolly came diving at his feet near the 45-yard line, Wallace had Baltimore in decent shape for a field goal — but after stumbling a bit, he stayed on his feet and kept running.

"I'm like, 'I can't go down right here. I made it this far,'" Wallace said.

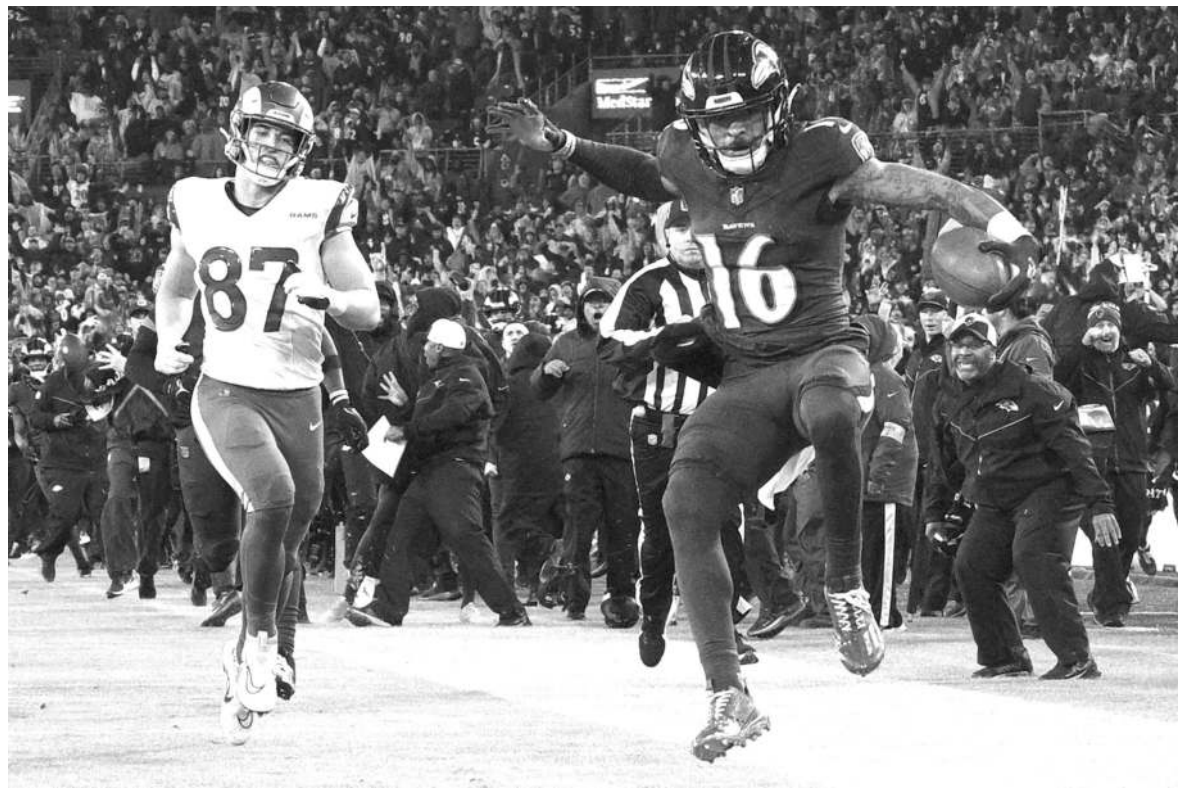
In his first game returning punts as a pro, Wallace ran one back 76 yards for a touchdown in overtime to lift the Ravens to a 37-31 victory over Los Angeles on Sunday, snapping the Rams' three-game winning streak.

Wallace became the fourth player in NFL history to score a touchdown on a punt return in OT. Xavier Gipson of the New York Jets also did it this season, on Sept. 11 against Buffalo.

"It just feels great to be able to make a difference in the game and help the team win," Wallace said. "You could say a once-in-a-lifetime moment."

The 24-year-old Wallace is in his third season after being drafted in the fourth round in 2021. He's managed only six receptions in his career, plus a couple of kickoff returns as a rookie.

When Devin Duvernay, Baltimore's top return man, left with back problems Sunday, Wallace was pressed into duty. He returned three punts in the game, and his final one more than made up for a crucial penalty he committed in the second quarter that led to points for Los Angeles.



NICK WASS/AP

**Ravens punt returner Tylan Wallace starts to celebrate as he returns a punt for a game-winning touchdown as Los Angeles Rams tight end Davis Allen looks on during overtime Sunday in Baltimore.**

Baltimore (10-3) took a half-game lead on Miami for the AFC's top seed. The Dolphins host Tennessee on Monday night.

The Rams (6-7) remain in a logjam of teams fighting for the final NFC playoff spots. They narrowly missed picking up a huge win on the road.

"Give the Ravens credit for finding a way," Los Angeles coach Sean McVay said. "There were some opportunities, but we made a lot of plays to stay in that game and there will be some opportunities for us as a team."

Jolly had the last real chance to bring Wallace down, and after he couldn't quite do it, the Baltimore returner punctuated the winning touchdown with a leap into the end zone before the Ravens mobbed him in the corner.

"It was mountains and valleys. It was peaks and there was lows in that game," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said. "National Football League in December against a very, very good opponent. Our guys just weather all those storms, figuratively and literally out there."

Catching passes and punts was an adventure on a rainy day in Baltimore, but Lamar Jackson and Matthew Stafford threw three touchdown passes apiece. Jackson passed for 316 yards and Stafford for 294. Each offense went three-and-out in overtime before the final Los Angeles punt.

"Just continue to trust the work we've put in," Stafford said. "Obviously didn't get the outcome we wanted but we battled. All three phases had positive things, and things we can be better at."

Jackson's 21-yard touchdown strike to Zay Flowers with 1:16 remaining — and his 2-point conversion pass to Flowers — put Baltimore up 31-28. Stafford then guided the Rams into position to take multiple shots to the end zone, and when that failed, Lucas Havrisik made a 36-yard field goal with 7 seconds left to force OT.

Jackson gave Baltimore a 7-3 lead when the Rams let Isaiah Likely run free down the left sideline for a 54-yard touchdown catch in the first quarter. Los Angeles answered with a 6-yard TD pass from Stafford to Cooper Kupp.

Odell Beckham Jr. got behind defensive back Jordan Fuller for a 46-yard scoring reception against the team he won a Super Bowl with two seasons ago. But Baltimore again didn't stay ahead for long.

Wallace was called for lining up in the neutral zone on a fourth-and-5 punt, gifting Los Angeles a first down, and a pass interference penalty on Kyle Hamilton put the Rams in the red zone. Stafford's 7-yard touchdown pass to Davis Allen gave Los Angeles a 17-14 lead, and the Rams were up 20-17 at the half.

It was tied at 20 when, on third down from the Baltimore 15, a shotgun snap caught Jackson off guard and went past him. The ball went into the end zone and Jackson kicked it out of bounds for a safety.

After Justin Tucker put the Ravens ahead with a field goal, Stafford found former Raven Demarcus Robinson for a 5-yard touchdown with 4:41 remaining, but the Rams' 2-point conversion was unsuccessful.

# Vikings beat Raiders in lowest-scoring game in 16 years

By Mark Anderson
*Associated Press*

LAS VEGAS — The brand of football Minnesota and Las Vegas played on Sunday set the NFL back 16 years.

Only Greg Joseph's 36-yard field goal with 1:57 left that gave the Vikings a 3-0 victory over the Raiders prevented the teams from setting the league back 80 years.

It was the first 3-0 game since Pittsburgh beat Miami on Nov. 26, 2007, the third in the past 40 years and the seventh in the Super Bowl era. The last game that ended regulation scoreless was a 0-0 tie between the New York Giants and Detroit Lions on Nov. 7, 1943.

The Vikings (7-6) had just 230 total yards, and the Raiders (5-8) — losers of three in a row — were limited to 201 yards and nine first downs. Minnesota beat an AFC West opponent for the first time this season after going 0-3.

It was Minnesota's first shutout since defeating Green Bay 16-0 on Dec. 23, 2017 and the first blanking of Las Vegas since its 24-0 loss to New Orleans on Oct. 30, 2022.

DAVID BECKER/AP

**Minnesota Vikings kicker Greg Joseph kicks what ended up being the game-winning field goal against the Raiders on Sunday in Las Vegas.**

Nick Mullens relieved an ineffective Joshua Dobbs at quarterback in the fourth quarter and led the Vikings on their lone scoring drive. His 22-yard completion to Jordan Addison to the Raiders 20 set up Joseph's kick.

"You never know when your name is going to be called, but you prepare and work as hard as you can and trust that there's a plan out there for you," Mullens said. "I did that, stepped in. The guys did an incredible job. ... It doesn't matter what it looks like, a win is a win."

Dobbs was 10-for-23 for 63 yards; Mullens completed 9 of 13 passes for 83 yards.

"I felt like my trust in Nick with his preparation he could be called upon," Vikings coach Kevin O'Connell said. "We made sure he got some reps last week so he was ready to go, and he did exactly that. Went out and made some critical, critical plays to move the chains and ultimately get us in range for the very limited amount of points we got today."

O'Connell said he didn't know who would start going forward.

Raiders interim coach Antonio Pierce could face a similar situation after Aidan O'Connell completed 21 of 32 passes for 171 yards with an interception, but the quarterback wasn't the only one at fault.

"No excuse there," Pierce said. "It is shocking. Plenty of time to prepare for an opponent. They did nothing new. Poor coaching. Poor performance by the players."

The Vikings lost wide receiver Justin Jefferson, the 2022 AP Offensive Player of the Year, in the second quarter to a chest injury. He was taken to a hospital, but O'Connell said the early prognosis was promising. This was Jefferson's first game back after missing the previous seven because of a hamstring injury.

Las Vegas lost running back Josh Jacobs to a knee injury in the fourth quarter. Jacobs led the NFL in rushing last season with 1,653 yards. He had rushed for more than 100 yards in two of the prior three games.

NFL

ED ZURGA/AP

**Chiefs wide receiver Kadarius Toney heads for the end zone after catching a lateral by teammate Travis Kelce late in the fourth quarter of Sunday's game against the Buffalo Bills in Kansas City, Mo. The play was nullified because Toney was called for being offside on the play, and the Chiefs lost 20-17.**

# Bills win after penalty negates late Chiefs TD

BY DAVE SKRETTA
*Associated Press*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Sean McDermott thought for a moment that a difficult week for himself and the Buffalo Bills would end with one last gut punch, an audacious touchdown pass by the Kansas City Chiefs with just over a minute left to steal a win Sunday.

Then the Bills' coach saw the yellow flag on the field.

The pass from Patrick Mahomes to Travis Kelce, which was then lateraled across the field to Kadarius Toney for the 49-yard score, was called back by an offside penalty on none other than Toney himself.

And when the Bills proceeded to hold the Chiefs on downs, they escaped Arrowhead Stadium with a heart-stopping and head-scratching 20-17 victory.

"As the play unfolded," McDermott said, "Kelce got wide open. The play after he caught the ball, I've never seen a play like that in the NFL. But I saw the referees signaling that direction. I didn't know if it was a pick or what. It turned out to be offside."

Rarely is offside called on an offensive player. But replays showed that Toney's foot was clearly across the line of scrimmage.

That didn't make the call sit any easier with Mahomes, who chased after three different officials for an explanation. Or with Chiefs coach Andy Reid, who was still incensed after walking out of the locker room afterward.

"It's a bit embarrassing for the National Football League for that to take place," Reid said.

It was the second straight week the Chiefs (8-5) were dealing with questionable officiating. Last week in Green Bay, they were left wondering why pass interference was not called on a pass intended for Marquez Valdes-Scantling in the closing minutes of that game.

"Loss for words, man," Mahomes said. "To end another game and we're talking about referees, it's bad for the NFL."

It was good for the Bills (7-6), though, and they sure needed something positive to happen.

Their week began with questions swirling around pass rusher Von Miller, who turned himself into police during their bye and is facing a charge of third-degree felony assault of a pregnant woman. And the week ended with criticism aimed at McDermott, who in 2019 had used the hijackers from Sept. 11, 2001, in a team meeting to stress the importance of communication, and was left apologizing again — just as he did after realizing his mistake four years ago.

CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

**Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes was incensed about the offside call, saying in his seven years in the league it's never been called on his team.**

"Just so thankful. I'm grateful for so many things," McDermott said. "So many people that reached out. Andy Reid, many of their staff after the game. I know quite a few of the coaches on their staff. They're a class act. I appreciate that."

The Bills' Josh Allen threw for 233 yards with touchdowns running and throwing, though he also threw an interception for the ninth consecutive game. James Cook had 58 yards rushing and caught five passes for 83 yards and a score.

The Bills had been 2-6 in games decided by six points or fewer, and they had lost a lead in the final two minutes in three losses.

"It wasn't the prettiest of wins. We all know that," Allen said. "But the defense played fantastic."

Mahomes finished with 271 yards passing and a touchdown with an interception, and Rashee Rice had seven catches for 72 yards and the score. But it wasn't enough to keep the Chiefs from losing for the fourth time in six games.

# Ground: Dallas kicker now 30-for-30 on FGs

FROM PAGE 24

lowed him to surpass Greg Zuerlein and Harrison Butker, who each had a pair from at least 58 yards.

The 28-year-old rookie added two in the fourth quarter, from 45 and 50 yards, to extend his NFL record for perfection to start a career. The previous record was 18.

"Just going out there, doing it one at a time," said Aubrey, who grew up in the Dallas area and once was a Major League Soccer prospect. "I know I can make any of the kicks they've asked me to do."

With McCarthy calling plays from the sideline just four days after leaving the facility and ending up in surgery, Prescott had a career-best seventh consecutive game with at least two TD passes.

"I just wanted to do my part," said McCarthy, who is in his first year of calling plays for Dallas. "I wanted to make sure I was prepared as I normally am. I was a little nervous about it today. We're all creatures of habit."

The Dallas offense bogged down after Prescott's first-half TD passes, but two big completions for first downs to tight end Jake Ferguson, including a hurdling effort early in the fourth quarter, led to both of Aubrey's field goals after the break.

The Cowboys were cruising when Prescott lost control of the ball while being sacked by Fletcher Cox in the third quarter, and Carter picked up the loose ball and ran untouched to get the Eagles within 24-13.

Down two touchdowns late in the third, Philadelphia couldn't convert on fourth-and-8 from the Dallas 30-yard line. Stephon Gilmore made the open-field tackle on DeVonta Smith for just a 1-yard gain.

"The fourth-down stop was probably the biggest one of the game," McCarthy said. "That was a huge momentum swing in the game. I thought our defense was lights out tonight."

Smith later had the last of Philadelphia's three fumbles, ending any realistic hopes for a rally. All three fumbles ended promising drives for the Eagles, who were coming off a 42-19 loss to San Francisco.

"It was the same thing two weeks in a row," Cox said. "We kind of dug ourselves a hole in the first half. It was kind of hard getting our way out. I think the biggest thing for this team now is really find out who the dudes are."

CeeDee Lamb and Michael Gallup had the scoring catches for Dallas, and Rico Dowdle had a 1-yard plunge that was originally called short but overturned when the Cowboys challenged.

Prescott was 24-for-39 for 271 yards, and the Cowboys limited Hurts to 197 yards passing and 30 rushing.

## Churning it out

Ferguson is compiling quite the highlight reel of hurdle plays, and now the second-year player has consecutive games of at least five catches and at least 70 yards for the first time.

"Confidence is through the roof with him," Prescott said. "He's a fun guy to play with. Active, will do whatever it takes. Wants to make the catch, wants to jump over guys."

## Injuries

Eagles S Reed Blankenship was ruled out with a concussion after leaving the game in the first half. ... Cowboys DT Johnathan Hankins sprained an ankle in the third quarter and didn't return.

SAM HODDE/AP

**Cowboys place kicker Brandon Aubrey was 4-for-4 on field-goal attempts Sunday, hitting from 60, 59, 45 and 50 yards out.**

# SPORTS

**On a hot streak**

Oilers down Devils to win seventh straight ›› NHL, Page 19

NFL

MICHAEL AINSWORTH/AP

**The Cowboys' Donovan Wilson, right, and Damone Clark force a fumble by Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts during the first half of Sunday's game in Arlington, Texas.**

TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

**Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott completed 24 of 39 passes for 271 yards and two touchdowns in Dallas' 33-13 win.**

# Cowboys ground Eagles

## Prescott, Dallas pull even with Philadelphia atop NFC East

BY SCHUYLER DIXON
*Associated Press*

ARLINGTON, Texas — Mike McCarthy was nervous for an NFC East showdown with Philadelphia after the Dallas coach missed two days during the week because of an emergency appendectomy.

Not to worry, thanks to his quarterback, kicker and opportunistic defense.

Dak Prescott threw for two touchdowns, Brandon Aubrey made four field goals to start his career a record 30-for-30, and the Cowboys pulled even in the division with their 15th consecutive home victory, 33-13 over the Eagles on Sunday night.

The Cowboys (10-3) weren't deterred by Jalen Carter's 42-yard fumble return for a touchdown, winning their fifth consecutive game since a loss at Philadelphia that gave the Eagles a two-game division lead.

McCarthy

Dallas owner Jerry Jones said it was the biggest win in McCarthy's four seasons as coach.

"And it has to do with the fact that he came up off the operating table and did not even wince and stand there and fight it all night and coach it," Jones said.

The Eagles (10-3) lost three fumbles and didn't score an offensive touchdown as quarterback Jalen Hurts, who had the first fumble, lost consecutive games for the first time since October 2021. But while the Cowboys currently hold the tiebreaker with an extra NFC East victory, the defending NFC champion Eagles would take the division title on subsequent tiebreakers if they win their remaining four games.

"The role's the same as it's always been," coach Nick Sirianni said. "And now we're going through some adversity. And so adversity can do a couple of things to you. It can break you or it can make it way better."

Aubrey became the first kicker with two field goals of at least 59 yards in the same game, connecting from 60 yards late in the first quarter. His 59-yarder in the third al-

SEE GROUND ON PAGE 23

**Younger James makes debut with USC** ›› College basketball, Page 20

027664 463149