

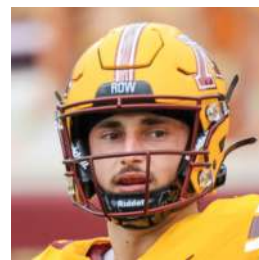
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# STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## 2 US Navy destroyers repel attacks from Houthis

By CAITLYN BURCHETT  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Two Navy destroyers near the Red Sea fended off more than a dozen drones and missiles launched at the ships Monday by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, Pentagon officials said.

The USS Stockdale and USS Spruance were attacked by at least eight drones and eight missiles while transiting the Bab el Mandeb Strait, a narrow waterway between the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The strait is between Yemen and the horn of Africa and ships move roughly \$1 trillion in goods through it in a year.

The one-way attack drones and anti-ship cruise and ballistic missiles were “successfully repelled,” Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder, the top Pentagon spokesman, said Tuesday.

No service members were injured and neither destroyer was damaged, he said.

“[U.S. Central Command] forces retain the inherent right of self-defense, and as I highlighted earlier, will take appropriate steps to protect our personnel,” Ryder said.

Earlier Tuesday, Houthi militants claimed on social media to have attacked both destroyers, as well as the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. The Pentagon denies the Lincoln was attacked.

“Based on the information I have, it was not attacked — contrary to some of the allegations, should I say, by the Houthis,” Ryder said.

The attacks were carried out about two days after the U.S.

SEE ATTACKS ON PAGE 4



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

President Donald Trump appears with “Fox & Friends” co-host Pete Hegseth at a Wounded Warrior Project Soldier Ride event in the East Room of the White House in Washington in April 2017.

# Trump’s pick to target ‘woke’ DOD

Nomination of Fox News host Pete Hegseth portends shakeup at the Pentagon

By MISSY RYAN, DAN LAMOTHE, JOHN HUDSON AND ALEX HORTON  
*The Washington Post*

President-elect Donald Trump’s selection of Fox News host Pete Hegseth as his nominee for defense secretary would place atop the Pentagon a combat veteran and political ally who has assailed the military as ineffective and “woke,” mused about firing the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and blasted the top brass as having failed to safeguard Amer-

ican strength.

Hegseth’s nomination suggests a coming battle over social and personnel issues within the armed forces, historically one of the nation’s most diverse institutions. He has been among Trump’s most high-profile supporters to champion the cause of rolling back initiatives designed to promote diversity.

Throughout his campaign, Trump made a distinction between fighting generals and “woke” generals, vowing to fire

## RELATED

Trump returns to DC, promises a smooth transition **Page 8**

the latter. Asked in a podcast interview with the “Shawn Ryan Show” published last week what he would do, Hegseth set a tone that looks ominous for senior Pentagon officials.

“First of all, you’ve got to fire the chairman of the Joint Chiefs,” Hegseth said, referring to Gen. Charles Q. Brown Jr. “Any general, any admiral, whatever,” who was involved in diversity, equity and inclusion programs or “woke s—” has “got to go,” Hegseth said.

His nomination represents a major victory for Donald Trump Jr., who has lobbied for the inclusion of more unorthodox candidates, such as Vice President-

SEE PENTAGON ON PAGE 4

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Kraft Heinz cuts school Lunchables due to low demand

Associated Press

Food and beverage manufacturer Kraft Heinz said Tuesday that it no longer is serving the Lunchables meals it created for U.S. schools.

The company introduced the two packaged meals — one starring pizza and the other a turkey, cheddar cheese and cracker plate — at the beginning of the 2023-24 academic year.

At the time, Kraft Heinz said the offerings were protein-enriched and contained reduced levels of

saturated fat and sodium to meet the requirements of the national free and reduced-price school lunch program.

Nutritionists and advocacy groups were not thrilled by the launch. The Center for Science in the Public Interest called having Lunchables in cafeterias “a highly questionable move for school nutrition” that might confuse families into thinking the versions sold at supermarkets were a healthy option.

The drumbeat quickened in

April, when Consumer Reports said its tests showed the school-approved Lunchables contained more sodium than the store varieties. The organization also reported that commercially available Lunchables had more lead compared to ready-made meals made several other companies.

In a statement, Pittsburgh-based Kraft Heinz attributed the decision to pull out of the market served by the National School Lunch Program to a lack of demand.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 14)	0.92	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound (Nov. 14)	\$1.24	Britain (Pound)	1.2709
Japanese yen (Nov. 14)	150.00	Canada (Dollar)	1.3986
South Korean won (Nov. 14)	1369.00	China (Yuan)	7.2147
		Denmark (Krone)	7.0469
		Egypt (Pound)	49.3012
		Euro	0.9446
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7804
		Hungary (Forint)	386.55
		Israel (Shekel)	3.7525
		Japan (Yen)	154.85
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3076
		Norway (Krone)	11.1253
		Philippines (Peso)	58.67
		Poland (Zloty)	4.10
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7574
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3395
		South Korea (Won)	1403.51
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8837		
Thailand (Baht)	34.81		
Turkey (NewLira)	34.3348		

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

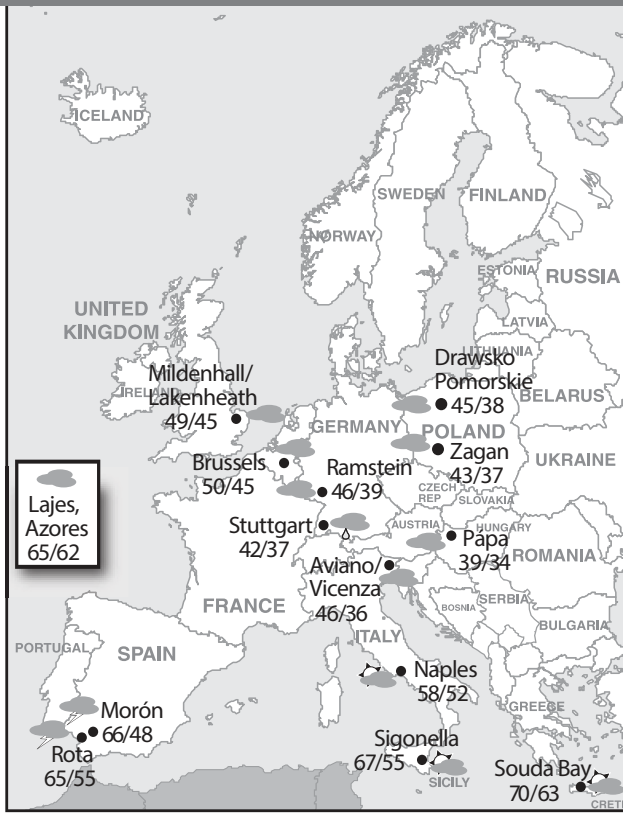
Prime rate	7.75
Interest Rates Discount rate	5.00
Federal funds market rate	4.58
3-month bill	4.54
30-year bond	4.57

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### THURSDAY IN EUROPE



### FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

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## MILITARY

## Discord leaker Teixeira sentenced to 15 years

BY STEPHANIE MORALES  
AND DAN LAMOTHE  
*The Washington Post*

BOSTON — Jack Teixeira, the Massachusetts Air National Guard member responsible for a sprawling leak of classified information, was sentenced Tuesday to 15 years in prison in a case that shook the U.S. national security community and exposed the ease with which government secrets can spread online.

Teixeira arrived in U.S. District Court here with a buzz cut and wearing an orange jumpsuit, appearing before Judge Indira Talwani after pleading guilty in March to six federal charges, including the willful retention and transmission of national defense information that the U.S. government classified as top secret. Teixeira, who turns 23 next month, had asked for a prison sentence of 11 years; prosecutors sought a sentence of nearly 17.

Teixeira addressed the court briefly, apologizing in a voice that was at times shaky.

“I wanted to say that I’m sorry for all of the harm that I’ve caused and wrought, to my friends, family and those overseas. I don’t think I can really sum up how contrite I am,” Teixeira said. “I understand all of my responsibility and the consequences fall upon my shoulders.”

“I accept whatever that may bring. I’m at your mercy, Your Honor,” Teixeira concluded.

As part of the sentence, Talwani said that, upon his release from prison, Teixeira would be prohibited from holding a job that would afford him access to sensitive information. The judge said, too, that she would recommend he be allowed to serve his sentence near his family’s home in the southeastern Massachusetts town of Dighton.

“I wish you good luck as you move forward,” she told him. Teixeira thanked her and, as he was led from the courtroom,



MARGARET SMALL/AP

This artist depiction shows Massachusetts Air National Guardsman Jack Teixeira, right, appearing in U.S. District Court in Boston, in April 2023.

briefly turned to his parents and said “See you later.”

Teixeira was an information technology specialist at Joint Base Cape Cod in Massachusetts when he smuggled out images of hundreds of classified documents and posted them on Discord, a chat platform popular with video gamers. Those materials revealed government assessments of the war in Ukraine, plotting by terrorist groups and espionage efforts by China against the United States and its allies, endangering American personnel overseas, prosecutors emphasized, while rattling Washington’s relationships with several foreign capitals.

Participants in the Discord group described Teixeira as a charismatic gun enthusiast who initially posted detailed information about current events before sharing the classified documents themselves. From Discord, some of the materials made their way onto more mainstream social media platforms, prompting a criminal investigation in April 2023 and a separate Air Force

review to determine how such a stunning lapse in security could have occurred. Teixeira has been in custody since his arrest that month.

Teixeira enlisted in September 2019 and received his security clearance in 2021. Within months, in January 2022, he began divulging government secrets online, authorities said. Shortly before his arrest in April 2023, they said, he attempted to cover up his actions, destroying electronic devices, deleting online accounts, and telling online friends to do the same.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jared Dolan on Tuesday likened Teixeira to Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning and others who have leaked government secrets. Teixeira, Dolan said, “became a threat and the damage he caused is historic,” aiding adversaries and harming relationships with U.S. allies.

“Jack Teixeira will be a cautionary tale for the men and women of the United States military and clearance holders in the government,” Dolan said. “The sentence im-

posed must adequately tell those individuals they should not even think about doing what he did.”

The acting U.S. attorney for the District of Massachusetts, Joshua Levy, said during a news conference after the sentencing that Teixeira “paid a very heavy price for the laws he broke.”

“He put himself above his country,” Levy said. “Today, justice was served for those who serve our country and who put their lives on the line.”

Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement Tuesday evening that Teixeira’s “profound breach of trust” endangered security for the United States and its allies. “This sentence demonstrates the seriousness of the obligation to protect our country’s secrets and the safety of the American people,” Garland said.

Teixeira’s attorney, Michael Bachrach, sought to downplay his client’s actions, telling the court Tuesday that Teixeira did not intend to distribute information to foreign adversaries and instead wanted to share information with friends online. The airman, he said, was obsessed with telling the truth and did not care about whom he put at risk.

The judge appeared to reject that argument, saying Bachrach had convinced her of “the defendant’s obsessive need to talk, not of his obsessive truth-telling.”

Military officials disciplined at least 15 people after finding that a “lack of supervision” and a “culture of complacency” had permitted Teixeira to sneak photographs of classified information out of his workplace despite colleagues having raised concerns after he was observed looking up government secrets to which his military job did not require access.

Teixeira’s civilian lawyers, along with Teixeira’s family, had appealed to the judge for leniency, revealing in documents filed in federal court in October that the airman was autistic and alleging he was the target of bullying while in high school and within his military unit, the 102nd Intelligence Wing.

## Japanese carrier completes F-35B trials off Southern Calif.

BY ALEX WILSON  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Japanese warship recently concluded F-35B Lightning II trials off Southern California, part of Japan’s pursuit of fifth-generation fighter capabilities at sea.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force on Tuesday released video footage of an F-35B landing aboard the JS Kaga, an 814-foot-long flattop vessel designed for helicopters and recently modified to accommodate the advanced stealth fighters.

The ability to deploy F-35Bs at sea will strengthen the U.S.-Japan alliance and “contribute to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region,” the Maritime Self-Defense Force said in the video’s caption posted to social platform X.

The Kaga on Nov. 6 successfully completed trials that included more than 100 short takeoffs and



DARIN RUSSELL/U.S. Navy

Vice Adm. John Wade, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, and Vice Adm. Yoshihiro Goka, commander of Japan’s Escort Fleet, speak to reporters aboard the JS Kaga off Southern California, on Nov. 6.

vertical landings, a Maritime Self-Defense Force said Wednesday.

The Kaga trials were scheduled from Oct. 5 to Nov. 18, which in-

cluded travel time to and from California, he added.

“By conducting take-offs and landings by F-35Bs, we were able

to gather fundamental data,” the spokesman said.

Some Japanese government spokespeople may speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

Testing was led by the U.S. Navy’s Air Test and Evaluation Squadron 23, Naval Air System Command’s largest flight-test squadron, a Maritime Self-Defense Force spokesman said last month.

Vice Adm. John Wade, commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, and Vice Adm. Yoshihiro Goka, commander of Japan’s Escort Fleet, held a press conference when the trials ended and voiced their commitment to deepening ties and working together, according to the X post.

Japan completed a variety of upgrades to the Kaga on March 29 to accommodate F-35Bs, a variant of the Lightning II capable of short

takeoffs and vertical landings.

The flight deck was strengthened to withstand the fighter engine’s heat during operations, lights were installed for nighttime operations and the bow was modified to reduce turbulence and extend the flight deck.

The modified vessel started for California in October to begin the trials, which included sorties and tests to see if the ship has adequate maintenance space or whether jets could be secured and maneuvered through the Kaga’s hangar bay.

Kaga’s sister ship, the JS Izumo, underwent similar retrofits in 2021, but both ships still require another round of modifications.

The final phase of modifications for the Izumo began Nov. 1; the Kaga’s will begin after the Izumo is complete, according to the Maritime Self-Defense Force spokesman.

## MILITARY

# US hits militants linked to Tehran

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

For the second time this week, U.S. forces in the Middle East retaliated against Iran-backed militants for attacks on American military personnel and facilities in Syria.

U.S. Central Command forces conducted strikes Tuesday targeting an unidentified militia group's weapons storage and logistics headquarters facility, the command said in a statement.

The strikes were in response to a rocket attack against U.S. and coalition forces at Patrol Base Shaddadi in northeastern Syria, CENTCOM said. There were no injuries to U.S. or partner forces, and no American facilities were damaged.

"These strikes will degrade the Iranian-backed groups' ability to plan and launch future attacks," CENTCOM said.

A U.S.-led coalition in Iraq and Syria is working to prevent a resurgence of the Islamic State group. There are about 900 U.S. military personnel operating in Syria, where they support local Kurdish forces.

It was unclear what group was targeted or where the U.S. strikes occurred. CENTCOM also didn't say when the rocket attack at Shaddadi happened.

Last month, the command said U.S. and coalition forces at Shaddadi had been attacked 22 times since October 2023.

The last confirmed rocket attack there was on Oct. 25, according to an online tracker by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank. The tracker also listed an unconfirmed attack at Shaddadi on Tuesday.

Militant strikes against U.S. and coalition forces in Syria



ZACHARY WILLIS/U.S. Air Force

**An Air Force F-15E Strike Eagle receives fuel over the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility Wednesday.**

have escalated since July following a lull of about five months, and the base at Shaddadi has been a frequent target, the tracker shows.

On Monday, the U.S. conducted two strikes against nine targets in two locations associated with Iran-linked groups in Syria, also in response to attacks against American forces and facilities, CENTCOM said in a statement the same day.

Those strikes followed two separate attacks — a drone and indirect firing of two rockets — on Sunday against U.S. forces at Mission Support Site Green Village, also in northeastern Syria, Pentagon spokesman Air Force Maj. Gen. Pat Ryder said at a Tuesday press briefing.

The strikes were "in response to several attacks on U.S. personnel in Syria over a 24-hour period," Ryder said.

## Attacks: Houthi launch sites hit

FROM PAGE 1

struck multiple Houthi facilities in Yemen used to store weapons. The weapons housed at the sites, Ryder said, were used to target military and civilian ships navigating international waters in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

The operation, conducted Saturday and Sunday, involved Air Force and Navy assets, including F-35C fighter jets.

On Tuesday, U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in the Middle East, shared a video of an F-35C jet taking off from the Lincoln in support of an attack against the Houthis.

The Stockdale and the Spruance are part of the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group.

The Lincoln and its strike group deployed July 11 from its homeport of Naval Base San Diego for what was intended to be a Pacific tour, but the carrier's strike group was directed to the Middle East in late August.

The strike group is expected to leave the region in the coming months.

# Pentagon: Hegseth has complained about women in combat

FROM PAGE 1

elect JD Vance and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, against the wishes of establishment Republicans who favored filling key administration roles with those they see as more traditional choices, such as former secretary of state Mike Pompeo.

The breakneck speed of the Hegseth nomination also underscores the value Trump places on TV personalities who have used their platform to promote his agenda.

On Thursday, the president-elect called Hegseth and asked whether he was interested in becoming the next defense secretary, said a person familiar with the conversations who, like others, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel meetings. Hegseth immediately said "yes," which then triggered Trump's team to begin the formal vetting process, this person said.

In last week's podcast interview with Ryan, a Navy SEAL veteran, Hegseth said he was one of two finalists to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs when Trump took office in 2017, but the president found him to be "a little young" then to do the job.

Nevertheless, during Trump's first term, Hegseth proved valuable to the president by promoting pieces of legislation he cared about on his show "Fox & Friends Weekend," including the VA-focused Mission Act and the Accountability Act. The show's

weekend schedule and four-hour time slot fit Trump's viewing habits, and he appeared on the show multiple times.

In his statement announcing the nomination, Trump cited a book that Hegseth wrote — "War on Warriors: Behind the Betrayal of the Men Who Keep Us Free" — and its treatment of what the president-elect said was a "left-wing betrayal of our warriors, and how we must return our military to meritocracy, lethality, accountability, and excellence."

The Biden administration has maintained that critics distort the military's diversity initiatives, saying they account for far less focus and time than opponents allege.

The Princeton- and Harvard-educated Hegseth, who served as an Army infantryman in Iraq and Afghanistan as a member of the Minnesota National Guard, also played a role in episodes that roiled the Pentagon and involved Trump's defiance of military norms during his first term in office.

Hegseth was a key player, for instance, in convincing the then-president to intervene in the war crimes cases of three U.S. service members in 2019.

That effort led to pardons for two Army officers, Mathew L. Golsteyn and Clint Lorange, in separate murder cases, and a redemption of sorts for Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, who had seen his rank reduced after a military

jury acquitted him of murder charges but found him guilty of posing for a photograph with a corpse.

Hegseth lobbied the president directly from his perch at Fox News, featuring the cases frequently and casting them as the malicious prosecution of war heroes. Trump called Hegseth numerous times about the issue, officials familiar with the discussion said at the time. While some Trump administration officials celebrated the decisions, others worried they would set a bad precedent and damage U.S. relationships abroad.

Golsteyn, who was accused of killing an unarmed Taliban official and burning his body to hide evidence in a murder case, celebrated the decision on Tuesday night.

"This is a phenomenal choice for SECDEF," Golsteyn said in a text message. "We are a military of lions led by morally bankrupt sheep. The scale of the problem requires someone of great intellect and character with whom the establishment can expect no quarter. Pete Hegseth is that guy."

Past comments by Hegseth, who has called for senior military officers to be held accountable for their failures at home and abroad, also suggests he will attempt to bring a new kind of criteria to his leadership of the Pentagon.

"[GI] Joe also knows that if he loses his rifle, he'll be demoted immediately," he wrote earlier this

year. "But if a general loses a war — or billions of dollars of military equipment — nothing happens."

His emergence as Trump's pick raises the stakes for high-profile officers such as Brown, the former pilot who President Joe Biden selected as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Although it was Trump who tapped Brown to become Air Force chief of staff in 2020, positioning him to become the first African American officer to serve in that role, he gained notoriety for a video in which he spoke in emotional terms that year about the impact of the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minnesota police and about his own experiences with race in the military.

In the podcast interview with Ryan, Hegseth said that firing Brown and other officials seen as being involved in diversity initiatives would be a step toward countering what he described as "socially correct garbage" in the military.

Hegseth has criticized the Obama administration's 2015 decision to drop gender-based restrictions and allow women to serve in direct-combat jobs, a move that followed years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan that erased traditional notions of what it means to serve on the front lines.

Since then, women have assimilated into positions that historically were all-male, including infantry and artillery units.

"Gimme a female pilot all day

long. I have no issues with that," Hegseth told Ryan in last week's interview. His sticking point, Hegseth said, is a perception that the military has lowered standards for women in physically demanding jobs.

Allowing women into combat roles, he said, "hasn't made us more effective, hasn't made us more lethal, has made fighting more complicated."

Israel, Britain and other U.S. allies also allow women to serve in combat.

Hegseth also has blamed the military's current culture for its ongoing recruiting challenges and said personnel with views like his were routinely sidelined.

"We can no longer expect to win the wars our nation sends us to fight if the sniper fire is coming from inside our ranks, and straight from the front of our formations," he wrote.

Senate Democrats, who will be involved in scrutinizing Trump's nominations, raised immediate skepticism about his pick of Hegseth.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a social media post that he is "not qualified" for the job.

"I lead the Senate military personnel panel. All three of my brothers served in uniform. I respect every one of our service-members," she wrote. "Donald Trump's pick will make us less safe and must be rejected."

PACIFIC

# Marines to beef up presence at US-Japan exercise

By BRIAN McELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps will have a larger role in a joint U.S.-Japan virtual exercise scheduled for December that will focus on defending remote Indo-Pacific islands, according to Japanese officials.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force will send about 140 Marines to this year's Yama Sakura, annual training to prepare for an attack or natural disaster, a spokesman for the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force said by phone Tuesday.

Held since 1982, Yama Sakura

typically involves virtual and tabletop scenarios between the U.S. and Japanese armies, in what the military calls a command post exercise.

III MEF spokesman Capt. Pawel Puczko confirmed in an email Wednesday that Marines will take part in the exercise but would not say how many will participate.

This year's training will take place primarily at Japanese bases Camp Asaka in Tokyo and Camp Kengun in Kumamoto, the Ground Self-Defense Force said in a news release Friday.

It will focus on the defense of remote islands in the Indo-Pacific "using cross-domain operations of

the Japanese army, multidomain operations of the U.S. Army and the expeditionary advanced base operations of the Marine Corps," according to the release.

Marines will participate "because of this feature of protecting remote islands," the Ground Self-Defense Force spokesman said.

Members of III MEF previously had a relatively small presence in the exercise. Last year, about 10 members of the 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade participated, the spokesman said.

About 5,500 Japanese, 1,350 Americans and 250 Australians will participate in this year's Yama Sakura, he added.

Some Japanese officials are required to speak to the media only on condition of anonymity.

Australia actively participated in the exercise for the first time last year after joining as an observer for a decade.

Troops from Japan, the U.S. and Australia planned the exercise at Camp Zama in early October, according to a U.S. Army news release Saturday.

The training will run concurrently with Warfighter, another tabletop exercise that will present "a dynamic, multi-day scenario to assess the readiness of units focused on the Indo-Pacific region," the release said.

The Marines' expeditionary advanced base operations call for mobile units to disperse inside the range of enemy missiles to seize and hold islands and sink enemy vessels at sea. It is one of the tenets of the Marines' Force Design plan, which calls for the service to better defend the small islands east of Taiwan and to counter China.

"The lessons we learned in Resolute Dragon are now being built on in Keen Sword 25 and we will further develop them in Yama Sakura and other upcoming exercises," III MEF commander Lt. Gen. Roger Turner said in a quote relayed by Puczko via email Oct. 29.

# Japanese troops to defuse unexploded WWII bombs found near airport

By BRIAN McELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese ordnance disposal experts plan to defuse two suspected World War II-era bombs found last month on Miyakojima, a popular tourist spot 170 miles southwest of Okinawa.

Soldiers with the Japan Ground

Self-Defense Force's 101st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit expect to defuse the 551-pound bombs on Nov. 29, a spokesman for the Miyakojima city Disaster Prevention and Crisis Management Division said by phone Tuesday.

The bombs will then be moved to a warehouse on the island, a spokesman for the Ground Self-

Defense Force said by phone Tuesday. The island is part of Okinawa prefecture.

They will be detonated at an unspecified date, the spokesman added.

The bombs were discovered on Oct. 8 and 11 on property next to Miyako Airport.

The operation will start after 9 p.m., when all planes are sched-

uled to leave the airport, and is expected to finish at 1 a.m. "to avoid any effects to Miyako Airport," according to the division spokesman. Traffic will be restricted around the property to a radius of 928 feet.

"We will not ask anyone to evacuate since there are no residences around the place," he said.

Contractors hired by the prefecture discovered the bombs while making a magnetic survey of the property.

Last month, Japan started magnetic surveys at Miyazaki Airport on Kyushu and is expected to finish in January, a spokesman for Japan's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism said by phone Wednesday.

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## PACIFIC

# Experts predict US numbers to rise in Australia

## Under Trump, DOD presence will be used to deter China, researchers say

By **SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Australia, already in partnership with the Pentagon on several fronts, would welcome an even larger U.S. presence under President-elect Donald Trump, Australian defense experts said Wednesday.

The United States has sent growing numbers of troops Down Under since 250 Marines kicked off annual rotations to the country's northern port of Darwin in 2012.

The force, which operates in Australia from April to October, has grown to over 2,000 members.

Australian security researchers predict the U.S. under Trump will accelerate its growing military presence in their country as it seeks to deter China and disperse its forces to make them less susceptible to enemy missiles.

Australia is already spending \$450 million in U.S. funds to build air bases in the Northern Territory to accommodate rotations of U.S. B-52 Stratofortress bombers, Pacific Air Forces commander

Gen. Kevin Schneider said in July. And the U.S. and United Kingdom are building five nuclear-powered submarines for Australia, part of the AUKUS pact, for deployment in 2027, the first delivery in a program expected to cost \$250 billion over three decades.

The Trump administration will seek to ramp up the size of the Marine rotational force several fold, Australian defense researcher Alan Orr said Tuesday.

"Likely at least 10,000 Marines and likely permanent if they get their way," he said.

Australia would prefer a permanently stationed force of 10,000-20,000 troops, Orr said, adding that the Marines should move forces from Japan to Australia as soon as possible.

"Moving these positions from a country where their presence is much more politically protested to Australia and out of most Chinese missile ranges would be ideal for both sides," he said.

The U.S. and Australian governments have wanted to increase the American military presence for



JUAN TORRES/U.S. Marine Corps

**Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Alex Aman looks down the sight of an M110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System at Robertson Barracks in Darwin, Australia, on April 5.**

more than a decade, Orr said.

"If anything, the U.S footprint is evolving too slowly," he said.

Australia needs to add missile defense, more runways for strategic bombers and enough troops to make sure the deployment deters China, Orr added.

Mike Green, chief of the United States Studies Centre in Sydney, told The Australian in a Nov. 7 report that ramped-up American deployments to Australia would be part of a bipartisan plan for a more distributed military posture in the region.

"They're going to come in on day one and want to accelerate cooperation with Australia on defence," he told the newspaper. "If there is an issue, frankly, it's that the (Australian) government is go-

ing to come under pressure to spend more on defence."

Australian military spending roughly matches the NATO target of 2% of gross domestic product.

"He (Trump) might also request a further boost in our defence budget — perhaps to 3% of GDP — within a few years," former Australian assistant defense secretary Ross Babbage said Wednesday.

It's possible that the Trump administration may want Australian units to operate more frequently with U.S. forces in the Far East and for Australia to accelerate efforts to build missiles to supply Australian and U.S. units, he said.

"Further U.S. operations in and from Australia are anticipated over time and are almost always

universally welcomed here," he said. "They are rarely controversial."

However, Paul Buchanan, an American security expert based in New Zealand, said Trump could scale back the U.S. commitment to the Indo-Pacific.

"The MAGA (Make America Great Again) people are neo-isolationist," he said Wednesday. "They want to withdraw American military commitments all around the world."

The U.S. Congress has pushed back on the AUKUS commitment, contending it distracts from efforts to grow the U.S. submarine force, Buchanan said.

"I'm not convinced [Trump] considers the Western Pacific the region of priority," he said.

## Air Force to retire A-10 jets from S. Korea, modernize F-16s

By **DAVID CHOI**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force is retiring A-10 Thunderbolt IIs from South Korea and upgrading its F-16 Fighting Falcons there as part of a "modernization effort" across the service, according to a news release Tuesday.

Starting in January, all 24 A-10s assigned to the 25th Fighter Squadron at Osan Air Base will be relocated in phases to the 309th Aerospace Maintenance and Regeneration Group in Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., 7th Air Force spokeswoman Maj. Rachel Buitrago said Wednesday. They'll undergo maintenance and display preparations in Arizona.

The A-10s will not be immediately replaced, according to Buitrago. The plane is better known as the Warthog, for its rugged durability and distinctive armament.

F-35A Lightning IIs, F-16s, FA-50 Golden Eagles and F-15K Slam Eagles from the U.S. and



KAHDJIA SLAUGHTER/U.S. Air Force

**A Thunderbolt II assigned to the 25th Fighter Squadron taxis toward the runway during Ulchi Freedom Shield 24 at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Aug. 20.**

South Korean air forces "are more than ready to fill the role of the A-10" on the peninsula, Buitrago added. The two services are "confident in their ability to bring the full spectrum of combat capabilities to defend [South Korea] during crisis and conflict," she said.

The 7th Air Force, headquartered at Osan, plans to outfit its fourth-generation F-16s with "pivotal upgrades," including a new avionics system to bring it "closer to fifth-generation capabilities" beginning next year, according to the Air Force news release.

The plan to upgrade F-16s and remove the A-10s mirrors a similar move in Japan by the Pentagon to replace older F-15 Eagles at Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, with the improved F-15EX fighter and replace F-16s at Misawa Air Base in northern Japan with 48 F-35As. The Navy is also swapping F/A-18 Super Hornets for F-35Cs at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in southern Japan.

The F-16 makes up about 50% of the Air Force fleet and has flown in every major U.S. conflict since the 1970s. In 2022, the service allocated \$6.3 billion for improvements to its F-16s, which pilots have described as a modular aircraft that is easily upgraded with new equipment.

"The modernization effort seeks to ensure peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region, including the Korean Peninsula, through state-of-the-art aircraft," the Air Force release said. "The strategy bolsters deterrence against North

Korea and reaffirms the ironclad U.S. security commitment to the South Korea-U.S. alliance by strengthening South Korean and U.S. combined defense."

The single-seat A-10 has proven its worth by providing close-air support for ground forces since it entered service in 1976. It is equipped with the infamous seven-barrel 30 mm Gatling gun and can carry up to 16,000 pounds of ordnance.

The Air Force plans to divest 56 A-10s from its inventory in the upcoming fiscal year, according to an undersecretary of defense budget report published April 4.

Talk of retiring the aircraft has circulated around the Pentagon since the 1980s.

Critics of the A-10 have argued its singular role of providing ground support is outdated in the contemporary battlefield and ought to be replaced with something that can also face off against aerial and anti-air threats.

## MILITARY

# Lame-duck Biden getting 'every dollar' to Ukraine

BY SAMYA KULLAB  
AND LORNE COOK

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — The Biden administration is determined in its final months to help ensure that Ukraine can keep fighting off Russia's full-scale invasion next year, sending it as much aid as possible so that it might hold Russian forces at bay and possess a strong hand in any potential peace negotiations, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday.

"President Biden has committed to making sure that every dollar we have at our disposal will be pushed out the door between now and Jan. 20," when President-elect Donald Trump is due to be sworn in, Blinken said.

NATO countries must focus their efforts on "ensuring that Ukraine has the money, munitions and mobilized forces to fight effectively in 2025, or to be able to negotiate a peace from a position of strength," Blinken said during a visit to Brussels.

The U.S. will "adapt and adjust" with the latest equipment it is sending, Blinken said, without providing details.

The almost three-year war has shown no signs of winding down.

Russia attacked the Ukrainian capital Kyiv with a sophisticated combination of missiles and



UKRAINIAN EMERGENCY SERVICE/AP

**Rescue workers extinguish a fire of a building destroyed by a Russian strike in Brovary, outside Kyiv, Ukraine, on Wednesday. Russia attacked the Ukrainian capital with missiles for the first time in 73 days.**

drones for the first time in 73 days on Wednesday. That came a day after the Pentagon said most of the North Korean troops sent to help Moscow's war effort are fighting to drive Ukraine's army off Russian soil in the Kursk border region.

Ukraine is also straining to hold

back a monthslong Russian onslaught in the eastern Donetsk region.

Political uncertainty over how a U.S. administration under Trump will change Washington's policy on the war is a key new factor in the conflict. U.S. military aid is vital for Ukraine, but Trump has sig-

naled that he doesn't want to keep giving tens of billions of dollars to Kyiv.

Air raid warnings blared for hours as Russia targeted eight regions of Ukraine on Wednesday, firing six ballistic and cruise missiles and 90 drones, the Ukrainian air force said.

Air defenses downed four missiles and 37 drones, and another 47 drones were stopped by electronic jamming, the statement said. The damage was being assessed.

The air assault came as most of the more than 10,000 North Korean troops sent by Pyongyang to help Moscow in the war are engaged in combat in Russia's Kursk border region, according to the Pentagon. A Ukrainian army incursion into Kursk three months ago has succeeded in holding a broad area of land and has embarrassed the Kremlin.

Russia's military has trained the North Korean soldiers in artillery, drone skills and basic infantry operations, including trench clearing, Pentagon deputy spokesperson Vedant Patel told a briefing Tuesday. The cooperation faces challenges, according to the Pentagon, including how to achieve military interoperability and overcoming the language barrier.

Kyiv officials say that Russia has deployed around 50,000 troops to Kursk in a bid to dislodge the Ukrainians.

Russia has in recent months been assembling forces for a counteroffensive in Kursk, according to the Institute for the Study of War think tank, though the timescale of the operation isn't known.

## Navy, USMC next to test AI threat detection tool

BY REBECCA HOLLAND  
Stars and Stripes

An artificial intelligence tool that can almost instantly detect and analyze even distant security threats will be put through its paces by the Navy and Marine Corps next year, on the heels of Army testing in Kentucky.

Known as Scylla, the experimental software connects to surveillance cameras and turbocharges their monitoring potential, picking up on things imperceptible to the naked eye of a guard.

Water tests using the AI models produced by the Army effort are slated for the second quarter of next year at Joint Base Charleston in South Carolina, Defense Department spokesman Robert Ditchey said.

For the past several months, members of a Pentagon group dedicated to security technologies have been putting Scylla into action at the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky.

"If you're the security operator, do you think you could watch 15 cameras at one time ... and pick out a gun at 1,000 feet? Scylla can," Chris Willoughby, the depot's electronic security systems manager, said in an Army statement.

In a Sept. 18 demonstration led by the DOD's Physical Security Enterprise and Analysis Group, Scylla spotted an intruder with a gun climbing a water tower a mile away and detected smoke coming from the bed of a pickup truck about 700 feet away.

When it was tested on a staged fight, Scyl-

**"If you're the security operator, do you think you could watch 15 cameras at one time? ... Scylla can."**

Chris Willoughby

Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky.

la immediately recognized the situation as a struggle and scanned a database for the faces of the two men.

"An on-duty military police officer is trying to subdue an intruder, a known bad actor with presumed hostile intent," it warned.

The tool uses facial recognition technology and does not send out alerts when it sees nonthreatening movements such as those of deer or tree branches.

Willoughby said the DOD standard for accuracy is 96% probability detection, local news outlet WKYT reported.

Even so, the possible pitfalls have raised questions about the potential for bias and Scylla's reliability in distinguishing between weapons and innocuous objects.

Willoughby countered by saying this software is unlike the sort of generative AI technology most commonly envisioned, as with ChatGPT for instance.

"It basically looks at pixels on the



LORI McFATE/U.S. Army

**Drew Walter, left, deputy assistant secretary of defense for nuclear matters, alongside Chris Willoughby, the electronic security services manager for the Blue Grass Army Depot in Richmond, Ky., says the AI tool Scylla could be crucial in protecting the U.S. nuclear arsenal.**

screen," he told local NPR affiliate WEKU. "When they move, the pixels change, and it sends you an alert. So it's not truly artificial intelligence; it's video-based analytics."

The software makes surveillance cameras "smart" in much the same way a plug-in

digital streaming stick enhances the content people can watch on their TV at home.

Scylla can also be installed on drones, according to WEKU. It was developed by the Blue Grass Army Depot, which is the only DOD site to have tested it so far, the Army statement said.

It was submitted to the service and the Physical Security Enterprise and Analysis Group, earning recognition as one of the top projects in fiscal year 2024, the statement said.

About 50 people were on hand for the September demonstration hosted by the facility. Among them was Drew Walter, a DOD official responsible for nuclear matters.

Scylla could be crucial in protecting the U.S. nuclear arsenal, Walter said in the statement.

"The ability to detect and respond to threats swiftly is paramount when dealing with assets critical to deterrence, be they Trident missile submarines, intercontinental ballistic missiles or strategic bombers," he said in a Defense Department statement.

The software could also be used in schools to detect active shooters, a possibility of great interest to educators who attended the demonstration.

"You imagine picking up a gun 200 feet away off of a school, and automatically sending an alert to the cops immediately, and autonomously locking the doors all at the same time and letting everybody know what's going on," Willoughby told WEKU.

## NATION

# Trump makes victor's return to Washington

By WILL WEISSERT,  
LISA MASCARO  
AND ZEKE MILLER  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump made a victor's return to Washington on Wednesday, visiting the White House for an Oval Office meeting with Democratic President Joe Biden and committing to a smooth transition of power as the Republican president-elect moves quickly to build out his new administration.

"Donald, congratulations," Biden said, greeting Trump with a handshake and adding that he looked "forward to a smooth transition."

Trump made a similar pledge and expressed thanks to Biden for the invitation — one that Trump himself had not extended to Biden after losing the 2020 election.

"Thank you very much," Trump said. "Politics is tough. And it's, in many cases, not a very nice world. But it is a nice world today and I appreciate it very much."

Trump, flying from Florida, arrived at a military base near the Capitol, meeting up with billionaire Elon Musk for a morning session with House Republicans as Trump prepares for a potentially unified Republican government and sweep of power.

Back in Washington for the first time since his election victory, Trump told the GOP lawmakers, "It's nice to win."

Trump received a standing ovation from House Republicans, many of whom took cellphone videos of him as he ran through their party's victories up and down the ballot, in what would be, under the constitutional limits, his final presidential election.

"I suspect I won't be running again unless you say he's good we got to figure something else," Trump said to laughter from the lawmakers.

It's a stunning return to the U.S. seat of government for the former president, who departed nearly four years ago a diminished, polit-



EVAN VUCCI/AP

**President Joe Biden meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House, on Wednesday, in Washington.**

ically defeated leader after the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol but is preparing to come back to power with what he and his GOP allies see as a mandate for governance.

"He is the comeback king," said House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., before Trump's arrival. "We owe him a great debt of gratitude."

The private meetings, including his sit-down with Biden, put in stark relief the former president's comeback. Trump's reemergence comes amid Republican congressional leadership elections, with the potential for him to place his imprint on the outcome.

Trump endorsed Johnson's return to the speaker's office with

the president-elect saying he is with Johnson all the way, according to a person familiar with the remarks but not authorized to publicly discuss the private meeting.

Musk has been spending much of his time at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Florida estate, and participating in discussions as the incoming Trump administration prepares to transition from Biden's.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO, was named by Trump to a government efficiency advisory role.

Some close to Trump and his team now see Musk as the second most influential figure in Trump's immediate orbit, after Susie

Wiles, the campaign manager who is Trump's incoming chief of staff.

Johnson has said Republicans are "ready to deliver on Trump's 'America First' agenda."

After his election win in 2016, Trump met with President Barack Obama in the Oval Office and called it "a great honor."

But he soon was back to heaping insults on Obama, including accusing his predecessor — without evidence — of having wire-tapped him during the 2016 campaign.

Four years later, Trump disputed his election loss to Biden, and he has continued to lie about widespread voter fraud that did not occur.

He didn't invite Biden, then the

president-elect, to the White House and he left Washington without attending Biden's inauguration.

It was the first time that had happened since Andrew Johnson skipped Ulysses S. Grant's swearing-in 155 years ago.

Biden insists that he'll do everything he can to make the transition to the next Trump administration go smoothly. That's despite having spent more than a year campaigning for reelection and decrying Trump as a threat to democracy and the nation's core values. Biden then bowed out of the race in July and endorsed Vice President Kamala Harris to succeed him.

In the wake of the election, the president has abandoned his dire warnings about Trump, saying in a speech last week, "The American experiment endures. We're going to be OK."

Traditionally, as the outgoing and incoming presidents meet in the West Wing, the first lady hosts her successor upstairs in the residence.

But her office said Melania Trump wasn't attending, saying in a statement that "her husband's return to the Oval Office to commence the transition process is encouraging, and she wishes him great success."

When Trump left Washington in 2021, even some top Republicans had begun to decry his role in helping incite a mob of his supporters that had staged the violent attack on the Capitol mere weeks earlier, trying to stop the certification of Biden's election victory.

But his win in last week's election completes a political comeback that has seen Trump once again become the unchallenged head of the GOP.

Wednesday's trip was not the first time Trump has returned to the Capitol area since the end of his first term, though. Congressional Republicans hosted Trump over the summer, as Trump was again solidifying his dominance over the party.

## GOP elects John Thune next Senate majority leader

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
AND STEPHEN GROVES  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Republicans have elected South Dakota Sen. John Thune as the next Senate majority leader, completing a momentous shift in their leadership that elevates a top deputy of Mitch McConnell into a key position as President-elect Donald Trump returns to the White House.

Thune, 63, is in his fourth Senate term and has promised to work closely with Trump, despite differences the two have had over the years, and will be a crucial part of

the incoming president's efforts to push through his policy agenda.

He beat out two other competitors, Sens. John Cornyn and Rick Scott, by gaining majority support from GOP senators in a secret ballot vote. Republicans are replacing McConnell, the longest serving Senate party leader, as they prepare to take majority control of the Senate with the 53 seats they won in last week's elections.

Like McConnell, Thune hails from the Republican Party's more traditional wing. He has held the Republican whip position — no. 2 in party leadership — since 2019.

At times, Thune has countered Trump's wishes for Congress, and he broke publicly with Trump over the effort to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election, which he called "inexcusable." But in recent months, Thune has realigned with Trump, visiting him in his Florida home, and the two have been consulting on how to implement the incoming president's agenda. Thune told The Associated Press over the summer that he views their potential relationship as a professional one. If they both win their elections, Thune said, "we've got a job

to do."

Well-liked and a respected communicator, Thune has been perceived as a front-runner for much of the year. As the No. 2 Republican, he took over for McConnell for several weeks last year when he was on a medical leave. He is also a former chair of the Senate Commerce Committee.

Thune's win is all the more extraordinary because of his 2004 election to the Senate — defeating then-Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle after arguing during the campaign that Daschle had lost his South Dakota roots during his

years in Democratic leadership. Twenty years later, Thune will become majority leader himself.

As he geared up to run for leader, Thune spent much of the year campaigning for his colleagues. According to his aides, he raised more than \$31 million to elect Senate Republicans this cycle, including a \$4 million transfer from his own campaign accounts to the Senate's main campaign arm.

This year, though, Thune and Trump have talked frequently on the phone and Thune visited the then-GOP candidate at his home in Florida.

## NATION



JABIN BOTSFORD/The Washington Post

Tech billionaire Elon Musk shares an aside with Donald Trump during a campaign event in October in Pennsylvania.

## Trump taps Musk, Ramaswamy to oversee 'drastic' government shifts

BY JEFF STEIN AND ELIZABETH DWOSKIN  
*The Washington Post*

President-elect Donald Trump announced Tuesday that he is appointing business executives Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead a new commission on cutting government spending and regulation, handing an enormous portfolio to the tech billionaire who gave political and financial support to his presidential bid.

In a statement, Trump said that his billionaire ally and his former Republican primary rival will lead the Department of Government Efficiency, an idea championed by Musk. Trump said the department would operate outside of government to drive "drastic change," while partnering with the White House and its budget office to provide recommendations to slash regulations, cut staff and overhaul federal operations. Musk has adopted the nickname "DOGE" for the commission, a reference to a meme-based cryptocurrency he also touted.

It is not clear how the effort will be funded or whether its recommendations will be approved, because federal spending is controlled by Congress and the White House. Still, Republicans are poised to control the House, Senate and White House, giving the GOP the opportunity to implement at least some of the commission's proposals — potentially triggering major repercussions for the U.S. government and millions of federal workers.

"We have a fourth branch of government — the administrative state — that our Founding Fathers

didn't envision," Ramaswamy, a former pharmaceutical executive who ran for president earlier this year, said in an interview. "Removing the excess bureaucracy is going to be good for our economy and for our national spirit."

Still, some analysts are doubtful much will materialize from the effort. Congress must approve any changes to federal appropriations, and it is not clear if the Musk commission will produce recommendations in time for action by the new GOP majorities.

Trump's statement said the commission's work must be completed by "no later" than July 4, 2026 — not long before the next midterm elections.

Musk's promises for the commission's impact have also been described as unrealistic. During the campaign, Musk called for the commission to find \$2 trillion in cuts to the federal budget — a sum far larger than the budgets of the Departments of Defense, Education and Homeland Security combined, which even some conservative budget analysts have panned, including one who described it as "absolutely absurd."

Musk's elevation to lead the commission comes amid concerns about his array of personal business interests with the federal government. His companies in the auto and space industries have grown through government contracts and subsidies, and he has long criticized government regulation of his firms. After souring on President Joe Biden, Musk has emerged as a key Trump ally during the presidential election, donating more than \$118 million to

Trump's campaign and running his most significant get-out-the-vote operation through a super PAC, America PAC.

Ramaswamy rose to prominence as a candidate in the 2024 GOP presidential primaries. During that campaign, he embraced extreme cuts to the federal government — at one point calling for reducing the workforce by more than 75%.

As a business leader, Musk is known for a willingness to make aggressive staffing changes, including slashing more than 75% of Twitter's staff shortly after purchasing the company.

"These two wonderful Americans will pave the way for my administration to dismantle Government Bureaucracy, slash excess regulations, cut wasteful expenditures, and restructure Federal Agencies," Trump said in the announcement.

Tech leaders in Musk's circle frequently talk about the need for new "Manhattan projects," arguing that the government has fallen behind on innovation in this century. "We will not go gently," said Ramaswamy, adding that the effort would be bipartisan.

A person familiar with the effort, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe sensitive negotiations, said that details of the organization's funding would emerge soon. The GOP had talked about reducing waste for many years but had not been effective, the person added, leading the campaign to the conclusion "outsiders with a much more entrepreneurial approach" were better suited to the task.

# Governor of SD picked to lead DHS by Trump

*Los Angeles Times*

In a move that further signals Donald Trump's commitment to enforce stringent controls on illegal immigration, the president-elect confirmed Tuesday he planned to appoint South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

Trump has already signaled he will tap Stephen Miller and Tom Homan, two longtime allies with a track record of pushing for mass deportations and extreme clampdowns on immigrants, to serve senior roles as deputy chief of staff for policy and "border czar."

Noem, 52, a Trump loyalist who has offered firm backing for the GOP leader's promise to carry out mass deportations, will preside over a vast department that oversees multiple agencies, including the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The department has more than 260,000 employees and a \$60 billion budget.

After Trump defeated Vice President Kamala Harris, Noem was asked how a Trump administration would carry out his plan to deport millions of immigrants who entered the country illegally.

"It is going to be a big operation," Noem told NewsNation. "President Trump has already indicated that he wants to start by deporting the most dangerous first — those criminals, murderers, rapists that are threatening safety in our communities. They're going to be the first ones on the list to go. And from there, yes, it's a commitment, but it's a commitment to our national security interests."

Noem, who Trump once considered as a possible running mate, signaled the new GOP administration would eventually target immigrants who had not committed crimes after arriving in the U.S.

"When they came into our country, let's all remember: The first thing they did was break the law," she said.

A rancher, farmer and business owner, Noem is currently serving her second four-year term as governor of South Dakota. In 2018, she was elected the first woman to take on the role after running on a platform of protecting South Dakotans against tax increases and big government.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Noem drew national criticism when she refused to close businesses or impose a statewide mask mandate.

"I believe in our freedoms and liberties," Noem said during a Fox News interview. "What I've seen across the country is so many people give up their liberties for just a little bit of security and they don't have to do that. If a leader will take too much power in a time of crisis, that is how we lose our country."

Noem

Noem easily won reelection in 2022, defeating her Democratic opponent by 28 percentage points.

Even before Noem became governor, she expressed support for Trump's immigration clampdown.

In 2017, when Noem was a U.S. representative for South Dakota, she expressed support for Trump's "Muslim ban," an executive order that temporarily suspended the U.S. refugee program and imposed a 90-day ban on immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries.

"My first priority is the safety and security of the American people," Noem said in a statement. "I share the President's concerns about our ability to screen refugees — especially those from terrorist hotbed areas. I support putting a temporary pause on accepting refugees from terrorist-held areas — at least until the administration can certify that asylum-seekers do not present a safety threat to the U.S."

After President Joe Biden won the White House, Noem was quick to voice opposition to his administration's handling of the rising number of migrants crossing the southern border.

"South Dakota won't be taking any illegal immigrants that the Biden Administration wants to relocate," Noem wrote on X, formerly Twitter, in 2021. "My message to illegal immigrants ... call me when you're an American."

In recent years, Noem sent multiple National Guard deployments to Texas to help secure its border with Mexico. In January, Noem said her administration was considering sending additional razor wire and security personnel.

## NATION

# \$42M is awarded to 3 Abu Ghraib prison detainees

By MATTHEW BARAKAT  
Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — A U.S. jury on Tuesday awarded \$42 million to three former detainees of Iraq's notorious Abu Ghraib prison, holding a Virginia-based military contractor responsible for contributing to their torture and mistreatment two decades ago.

The decision from the eight-person jury came after a different jury earlier this year couldn't agree on whether Reston, Va.-based CACI should be held liable for the work of its civilian interrogators who worked alongside the U.S. Army at Abu Ghraib in 2003 and 2004.

The jury awarded plaintiffs Suhail Al Shimari, Salah Al-Ejaili and Asa'ad Al-Zubae \$3 million each in compensatory damages and \$11 million each in punitive damages.

The three testified that they were subjected to beatings, sexual abuse, forced nudity and other cruel treatment at the prison.

They did not allege that CACI's interrogators explicitly inflicted the abuse themselves, but argued CACI was complicit because its interrogators conspired with military police to "soften up" detainees for questioning with harsh treatment.

CACI issued a statement expressing its disappointment in the verdict and its intention to appeal.

"For nearly two decades, CACI has been wrongly subjected to long-term, negative affiliation with the unfortunate and reckless actions of a group of military police at Abu Ghraib prison from 2003 through 2004," the company said. "To be clear: no CACI employee has ever been charged — criminally, civilly, or administra-

tively — in this matter. CACI employees did not take part in nor were any of our employees responsible for these disturbing events."

Baher Azmy, a lawyer for the Center for Constitutional Rights, which filed the lawsuit on the plaintiffs' behalf, called the verdict "an important measure of Justice and accountability" and praised the three plaintiffs for their resilience.

The \$42 million fully matches the amount sought by the plaintiffs, Azmy said. It's also more than the \$31 million that the plaintiffs said CACI was paid to supply interrogators to Abu Ghraib.

"Today is a big day for me and for justice," said Al-Ejaili, a journalist, in a written statement. "I've waited a long time for this day. This victory isn't only for the three plaintiffs in this case against a corporation. This victory is a shining light for everyone who has been oppressed and a strong warning to any company or contractor practicing different forms of torture and abuse."

Al-Ejaili traveled to the U.S. for both trials to testify in person. The other two plaintiffs testified by video from Iraq.

The trial and subsequent retrial were the first time a U.S. jury heard claims brought by Abu Ghraib survivors in the 20 years since photos of detainee mistreatment — accompanied by smiling U.S. soldiers inflicting the abuse — shocked the world during the U.S. occupation of Iraq.

None of the three plaintiffs were in any of the notorious photos shown in news reports around the world, but they described treatment very similar to what was depicted.



TERRY CHEA/AP

Two Waymo driverless taxis stop before passing one another on a San Francisco street in February.

## Waymo's robotaxis are now open for driverless ride in Los Angeles

Associated Press

Waymo on Tuesday opened its robotaxi service to anyone who wants a ride around Los Angeles, marking another milestone in the evolution of self-driving car technology since the company began as a secret project at Google 15 years ago.

The expansion comes eight months after Waymo began offering rides in Los Angeles to a limited group of passengers chosen from a waiting list that had ballooned to more than 300,000 people. Now, anyone with the Waymo One smartphone app will be able to request a ride around an 80-square-mile territory spanning the second largest U.S. city.

After Waymo received approval from California regulators to charge for rides 15 months ago, the company initially chose to launch its operations in San Francisco before offering a limited service in Los Angeles.

Before deciding to compete against conventional ride-hailing pioneers Uber and Lyft in Califor-

nia, Waymo unleashed its robotaxis in Phoenix in 2020 and has been steadily extending the reach of its service in that Arizona city ever since.

Driverless rides are proving to be more than just a novelty. Waymo says it now transports more than 150,000 weekly trips in its robotaxis, a volume of business numbers that helped the company recently raise \$5.6 billion from its corporate parent Alphabet and a list of other investors that included venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz and financial management firm T. Rowe Price.

"Our service has matured quickly and our riders are embracing the many benefits of fully autonomous driving," Waymo co-CEO Tekedra Mawakana said in a blog post.

Despite its inroads, Waymo is still believed to be losing money. Although Alphabet doesn't disclose Waymo's financial results, the robotaxi is a major part of an "Other Bets" division that had suffered an operating loss of \$3.3 billion through the first nine months of this

year, down from a setback of \$4.2 billion at the same time last year.

But Waymo has come a long way since Google began working on self-driving cars in 2009 as part of project "Chauffeur." Since its 2016 spinoff from Google, Waymo has established itself as the clear leader in a robotaxi industry that's getting more congested.

Electric auto pioneer Tesla is aiming to launch a rival "Cybercab" service by 2026, although its CEO Elon Musk said he hopes the company can get the required regulatory clearances to operate in Texas and California by next year.

Tesla's projected timeline for competing against Waymo has been met with skepticism because Musk has made unfulfilled promises about the company's self-driving car technology for nearly a decade.

Meanwhile, Waymo's robotaxis have driven more than 20 million fully autonomous miles and provided more than 2 million rides to passengers without encountering a serious accident that resulted in its operations being sidelined.



DANA VERKOUTEREN/AP

Former detainee at Abu Ghraib prison, Salah Al-Ejaili, foreground with glasses, is depicted at the trial of CACI in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va., in April.

## US worker charged with leaking classified documents on Israel's plans to strike Iran

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A man who worked for the U.S. government has been charged with leaking classified information assessing Israel's earlier plans to attack Iran, according to court papers filed Wednesday.

The man, identified as Asif William Rahman, was arrested by the FBI this week in Cambodia and was due to make his first court appearance in Guam.

He was indicted last week in

U.S. court in Virginia on two counts of willful transmission of national defense information — felony charges that can carry significant prison sentences.

It was not immediately clear whether Rahman had a lawyer or which federal agency employed him, but officials say he had top secret security clearance.

The charges stem from the documents, attributed to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and National Security Agency, ap-

pearing last month on a channel of the Telegram messaging app. The documents noted that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1.

Israel carried out a retaliatory attack on multiple sites in Iran in late October.

The documents were sharable within the "Five Eyes," which are the United States, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia.

## NATION



THE STRONG MUSEUM/AP

The 2024 National Toy Hall of Fame Inductees: My Little Pony, Phase 10, and Transformers.

## My Little Pony in Toy Hall of Fame, alongside Phase 10, Transformers

Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.Y. — My Little Pony finally made it to the winner's circle.

After years as an also-ran, the pastel-colored ponies were enshrined in the National Toy Hall of Fame on Tuesday, along with Transformers action figures and the Phase 10 card game.

The honorees rose to the top in voting by a panel of experts and the public from among 12 finalists. This year's field included: the party game Apples to Apples, balloons, "Choose Your Own Adventure" gamebooks, Hess Toy Trucks, Pokémon Trading Card Game, remote-controlled vehicles, Sequence, the stick horse and trampoline.

"These are three very deserving toys that showcase the wide range of how people play," Christopher Bensch, vice president for collections and chief curator, said in a statement. "But for My Little

Pony in particular, this year is extra validating. The beloved toy was a finalist seven times before finally crossing the finish line!"

Hasbro's mini-horses, distinguishable by different "cutie marks" on their haunches, were introduced in the 1980s and reintroduced in 2003, outselling even Barbie for several years.

The collectibles were recognized for encouraging fantasy and storytelling — the kind of creative play the Hall of Fame demands of inductees — along with popularity over time.

"The My Little Pony line has endured for decades because it combines several traditional forms of doll play with children's fascination with horses," said Michelle Parnett-Dwyer, curator of dolls and toys. "The variety of figures promotes collecting as a pastime."

Phase 10 was introduced by inventor and entrepreneur Ken Johnson in 1982. Today, Mattel

sells 2 million decks of the card game annually in 30 countries and more than 20 languages. That makes it one of the bestselling card games in the world, according to the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, where the Toy Hall of Fame is housed.

In the style of rummy, the game challenges players to collect groups of cards to complete 10 phases in sequential order before their opponents.

Transformers came along in the 1980s, when Hasbro bought the rights to several existing Japanese toy lines featuring transforming robots. They were first marketed with a cartoon and have since graduated to a series of live-action films. Social media sites allow for debates over which figures are must-haves, as well as demonstrations of the sometimes complex process of manipulating them from robot to vehicle or other alternate form.

# STD epidemic slows as cases decrease in US

By MIKE STOBBE  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. syphilis epidemic slowed dramatically last year, gonorrhea cases fell and chlamydia cases remained below prepandemic levels, according to federal data released Tuesday.

The numbers represented some good news about sexually transmitted diseases, which experienced some alarming increases in past years due to declining condom use, inadequate sex education, and reduced testing and treatment when COVID-19 hit.

Last year, cases of the most infectious stages of syphilis fell 10% from the year before — the first substantial decline in over two decades. Gonorrhea cases dropped 7%, marking a second straight year of decline and bringing the number below what it was in 2019.

"I'm encouraged, and it's been a long time since I felt that way" about the nation's epidemic of sexually transmitted infections, said the CDC's Dr. Jonathan Mermin. "Something is working."

More than 2.4 million cases of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia were diagnosed and reported last year — 1.6 million cases of chlamydia, 600,000 of gonorrhea, and more than 209,000 of syphilis.

Syphilis is a particular concern. For centuries, it was a common but feared infection that could deform the body and end in death. New cases plummeted in the U.S. starting in the 1940s when infection-fighting antibiotics became

widely available, and they trended down for a half century after that. By 2002, however, cases began rising again, with men who have sex with other men being disproportionately affected.

The new report found cases of syphilis in their early, most infectious stages dropped 13% among gay and bisexual men. It was the first such drop since the agency began reporting data for that group in the mid-2000s.

However, there was a 12% increase in the rate of cases of unknown- or later-stage syphilis — a reflection of people infected years ago.

Cases of syphilis in newborns, passed on from infected mothers, also rose. There were nearly 4,000 cases, including 279 stillbirths and infant deaths.

"This means pregnant women are not being tested often enough," said Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, a professor of medicine at the University of Southern California.

What caused some of the STD trends to improve? Several experts say one contributor is the growing use of an antibiotic as a "morning-after pill." Studies have shown that taking doxycycline within 72 hours of unprotected sex cuts the risk of developing syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia.

In June, the CDC started recommending doxycycline as a morning-after pill, specifically for gay and bisexual men and transgender women who recently had an STD diagnosis.

## Scientists think surfboard lights may prevent shark bites

Boston Herald

Let there be light!

That's what shark researchers are saying after finding that LED lights on surfboards could be the key to preventing great white shark bites.

The Australian scientists have published the results of a six-year shark study that could lead to a revolution in surfboard design.

"What we've been trying to do is understand how sharks see their prey. And with an understanding of that, see if we can create some shark deterrents, which protect people and also sharks," said Macquarie University Professor Nathan Hart.

The researchers went to the shark-infested waters of Mossel Bay in South Africa to test out how lights impact great white sharks.

While driving a boat, the researchers put out on the water a seal-shaped foam decoy — and saw how the sharks responded to that decoy.

"What we found out is if you put lights on the bottom of the decoys, the sharks leave them alone," Hart said. "And so we think this tells us a lot about how sharks see the world, and how they detect and target their prey."

"But it also potentially gives us an insight into how we can develop a non-lethal shark deterrent, especially for surfers," he added.

This light strategy is based on the counterillumination phenomenon in the ocean.

Some animals emit light from the underside of their body — which breaks up their silhouette to a predator that's looking at them from below.

"We have shown these lights break up the silhouette of the surfboard into smaller

pieces, and that's clearly something that the shark doesn't recognize as prey," Hart said.

"It's sort of like an invisibility cloak but with the exception that we're splitting the object, the visual silhouette, up into smaller bits so it doesn't all disappear," he added. "And the lights need to be fairly bright to have this effect."

Macquarie University Dr. Laura Ryan's previous research found that sharks are possibly colorblind. Her research group also discovered that sharks don't see as much detail as humans.

"They're really good at detecting an object from far away, but not so good at seeing the fine detail of that object," Ryan said.

"What we're trying to do now is move from seal decoys to a surfboard prototype by embedding LEDs into the bottom of a surfboard," she added.



DISCOVERY/AP

A great white shark in a scene from "Air Jaws: Final Frontier" as part of Discovery's Shark Week.

## WORLD

# US says it will not limit Israel arms transfers

## Biden administration cites some improvements in flow of aid to Gaza, wants to see more

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration said Tuesday that Israel has made some good but limited progress in increasing the flow of humanitarian aid to Gaza and will not limit arms transfers to Israel as it had threatened to a month ago if the situation had not improved. Relief groups say conditions are worse than at any point in the 13-month-old war.

State Department spokesman Vedant Patel told reporters the progress to date must be supplemented and sustained but “we, at this time, have not made an assessment that the Israelis are in violation of U.S. law.” It requires recipients of military assistance to adhere to international humanitarian law and not impede the provision of such aid.

“We are not giving Israel a pass,” Patel said, adding that the steps Israel has taken have not yet made a significant enough difference. “We want to see the totality of the humanitarian situation improve, and we think some of these steps will al-

low the conditions for that to continue to progress.”

The decision from the U.S. — Israel’s key ally and largest provider of arms — comes despite international aid organizations declaring that Israel has failed to meet U.S. demands to allow greater humanitarian access to the Gaza Strip. Hunger experts have warned that the north may already be experiencing famine.

The Biden administration last month set a deadline expiring Tuesday for Israel to “surge” more food and other emergency aid into the Palestinian territory or risk the possibility of scaled-back military support as Israel wages offensives against Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The obstacles facing aid distribution were on this display this week. Even after the Israeli military gave permission for a delivery to the northernmost part of Gaza — virtually cut off from food for more than a month by an Israeli siege — the United Nations said it couldn’t deliver most of it because of turmoil

and restrictions from Israeli troops on the ground.

In the south, hundreds of truckloads of aid are sitting on the Gaza side of the border because the U.N. says it cannot reach them to distribute the aid — again because of the threat of lawlessness, theft and Israeli military restrictions.

Dozens of people stood in long lines Tuesday waiting to receive food packages distributed by U.N. agencies in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis.

“We hope that the world would sympathize with us because of this affliction we are in,” Salim Abu Mansi said. “Life is poverty, and the country is getting worse every day.”

Israel opened a new crossing in central Gaza, outside the city of Deir al-Balah, for aid to enter. It also announced a small expansion of its coastal “humanitarian zone,” where hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are sheltering in tent camps. It connected electricity for a desalination plant in Deir al-Balah. But the effect was unclear.

President Joe Biden met Tuesday at the White House with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, but they didn’t speak publicly about the aid issue. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the U.S. knew how dire the conditions were and would keep discussing with Israel the extra steps it needs to take.

Eight international groups said in a report that the country also took actions “that dramatically worsened the situation on the ground, particularly in Northern Gaza. ... That situation is in an even more dire state today than a month ago.”

The report listed 19 measures of compliance with the U.S. demands, saying Israel had failed to comply with 15 and only partially complied with four. It was co-signed by Anera, Care, MedGlobal, Mercy Corps, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Oxfam, Refugees International and Save the Children.

In an Oct. 13 letter, the U.S. gave Israel 30 days, among other things, to allow a minimum of 350 truckloads of goods into Gaza each day; open a fifth crossing; allow people

in coastal tent camps to move inland before the winter; and ensure access for aid groups to northern Gaza. It also called on Israel to halt legislation that would hinder operations of the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA.

Aid levels remain far below the U.S. benchmarks. Access to northern Gaza remains restricted, and Israel has pressed ahead with its laws against UNRWA.

Israel launched a major offensive last month in the north, where it says Hamas militants had regrouped. The operation has killed hundreds of people and displaced tens of thousands.

Through October and the first days of November, Israel allowed no food to enter the area, where tens of thousands of civilians have stayed despite evacuation orders.

Last week, Israel allowed 11 trucks to go to Beit Hanoun, one of the north’s hardest-hit towns. But the World Food Organization said troops at a checkpoint forced its trucks to unload their cargo before reaching shelters.

# Philippines says it will cooperate if ICC seeks Duterte’s custody

By JIM GOMEZ  
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government said Wednesday its law enforcement agencies will be bound to cooperate if the International Criminal Court seeks the custody of former President Rodrigo Duterte as part of an investigation into thousands of deaths during his crackdown on illegal drugs.

The Hague-based court has been investigating the widespread killings that took place while Duterte was mayor of the southern Philippine city of Davao and later as president from 2016 to 2020, as a possible crime against humanity.

Human rights groups estimate the deaths could exceed 20,000 during Duterte’s presidency alone. The bloody campaign alarmed Western governments and led to complaints that sparked the investigation by the ICC, a court of last resort for crimes that countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute themselves.

Under intense grilling in a televised congressional inquiry Wednesday, the brash-speaking Duterte gave conflicting statements whether he would submit himself to the global court for investigation.

“The ICC does not scare me a bit. They can come here anytime,” Duterte told members of the House of Representatives conducting the inquiry. “I’m asking the ICC to hurry up and come here and start the in-



AARON FAVILA/AP

**Former Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, left, listens beside former Sen. Leila de Lima during a joint committee hearing of the House of Representatives investigating the war on drugs during his administration in Quezon City, Philippines, on Wednesday.**

vestigation tomorrow.”

“This issue has been hanging for many years and I may already die,” the 79-year-old said. “If I’m found guilty, I can go to prison and rot there for all time.”

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin, the most senior Cabinet member, said if Duterte “desires to surrender himself to the jurisdiction of the ICC, the government will neither object to it nor move to block the fulfillment of his desire.”

“But if the ICC refers the process to Interpol, which may then transmit a red notice to the Philippine au-

thorities, the government will feel obliged to consider the red notice as a request to be honored,” he said.

A red notice flags law enforcement worldwide to locate and temporarily arrest a person pending extradition or surrender.

Duterte withdrew the Philippines from ICC in 2019 in a move activists said was an attempt to evade accountability and prevent an international probe into the drug killings. However, the ICC still has jurisdiction over alleged crimes committed when the country was still a member state of the court.

# S. Korea’s Yoon takes up golf again to bond with Trump

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has dusted off his golf clubs in an attempt to forge a bond with President-elect Donald Trump, an avid lover of the game.

The presidential office said Tuesday that Yoon began practicing the game for the first time in eight years in preparation for a possible round of golf with Trump.

Since his election, Trump’s “America first” approach has raised concerns it could negatively affect the U.S. defense commitment to South Korea and hurt the trade interests of the North-east Asian country in various ways, including increased tariffs.

Some experts say it’s important to build a close personal friendship with Trump during the transition period before he formally takes office in January.

“Much could depend on whether Yoon is able to strike up positive chemistry with Trump immediately during the transition and foster a close personal friendship to convince him to want to support and advance Seoul’s interests,” said Duyeon Kim, a senior analyst at the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

Yoon and Trump discussed strengthening bilateral cooperation and agreed to hold an in-person meeting soon during a phone

call on Thursday. The South Korean president told reporters later that while things couldn’t remain the same as under the Biden administration, “we have been preparing to hedge these risks for a long time.”

And apparently, a game of golf may be what’s needed.

Local media said Yoon went to a Seoul golf course on Saturday, but the presidential office said it couldn’t confirm the reports.

A senior presidential official, speaking on condition of anonymity in a background briefing, said that while he didn’t know how hard Yoon practiced golf, training was necessary as “our president also has to hit a ball properly to get conversations going on” with Trump, who has “outstanding” golf skills.

Yoon isn’t the first world leader to try to use golf to develop relations with Trump.

When he was in office, Japan’s assassinated prime minister, Shinzo Abe, struck up a personal friendship with then-President Trump, on the greens of golf clubs both in Japan and the U.S. In 2017, Abe said that a round of golf with Trump was a good chance to relax and discuss difficult issues.



Yoon

# WORLD

## Russian parliament advances bill to ban adoptions by gender-transition countries

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's lower house of parliament on Tuesday passed final reading of a bill to ban adoption of Russian children by citizens of countries where gender transitioning is legal.

The measure, which now goes to the upper house of parliament and then to President Vladimir Putin for signing into law, follows an array of measures in recent years suppressing non-traditional sexuality.

State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin, who authored the bill, said on the Telegram messaging app that

"it is extremely important to eliminate possible dangers in the form of gender reassignment that adopted children may face in these countries."

He listed at least 15 countries that the law would apply to, most of them in Europe but including Australia, Argentina and Canada. Adoption of Russian children by U.S. citizens was banned in 2012.

Putin and other top officials in recent years have increasingly called for observing so-called "traditional values" as a counter to Western liberalism characterized as degener-

ate.

Russia last year banned gender-transition medical procedures and its Supreme Court declared the LGBTQ+ "movement" to be extremist.

In 2022, Putin signed a law prohibiting the distribution of LGBTQ+ information to people of all ages, expanding a ban issued in 2013 on disseminating the material to minors. The parliament is also considering a measure that would criminalize "propaganda" that discourages people from having children.

## Scholz to ask for vote of confidence Dec. 16

Associated Press

BERLIN — German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Wednesday that he will ask for a vote of confidence on Dec. 16, paving the way for early parliamentary elections in February. He declared his plans during a speech in parliament, a week after his three-party coalition government collapsed.

Germany has been governed since 2021 by a coalition led by Scholz's left-leaning Social Democrats, which included the smaller pro-business Free Democrats and the Greens. It was an uneasy and fractious alliance, and it fell apart when Scholz fired Finance Minister Christian Lindner of the Free Democrats in a late-night move following disagreements over how to revive the shrinking economy.

"The date at the end of February has now been set and I am very grateful for that," Scholz said, adding that he would try to pass important legislation through parliament before that, such as financial sup-

port for children of poor families, or amendments to the country's constitution to make the highest court more resilient to possible political interference.



Scholz

He said he would submit a request for a vote of confidence on Dec. 11, so that the Bundestag can decide on this on Dec. 16. The chancellor had initially wanted to have an early election only by late March — ahead of the vote that is regularly scheduled for September 2025. However, the center-right Christian opposition pushed for a quicker vote in the parliament to speed up the next election.

In the end, party leaders across the political spectrum agreed on Wednesday on the two dates for the vote of confidence and the new election on Feb. 23.

Scholz has said he wants to run as chancellor candidate again.

## Bali volcanic eruption grounds some flights

Associated Press

DENPASAR, Indonesia — Several international airlines canceled flights to and from Indonesia's tourist island of Bali on Wednesday as an ongoing volcanic eruption left travelers stranded at airports.

Tourists told The Associated Press that they have been stuck at Bali's airport since Tuesday after

their flights were suddenly canceled.

"The airline did not provide accommodation, leaving us stranded at this airport," said Charlie Austin from Perth, Australia, who was on vacation in Bali with his family.

Mount Lewotobi Laki Laki volcano on the remote island of Flores in East Nusa Tenggara province has

spewed towering columns of hot ash high into the air since its initial huge eruption on Nov. 4 killed nine people and injured dozens of others.

The 5,197-foot volcano shot up ash at least 17 times on Tuesday, with the largest column recorded at 5½ miles high, the Center for Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation said in a statement.

# STARS AND STRIPES

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Saks Fifth Avenue to change holiday display

**NY** NEW YORK — Dazzling displays of synchronized lights on the facade of Saks Fifth Avenue's flagship store in midtown Manhattan across from Rockefeller Plaza have thrilled holiday visitors for years.

But the store's holiday display will look a bit different this year, a spokesperson confirmed Monday.

"In our 100th year, which also marks the anniversary of the flagship, we are celebrating the season by honoring the architectural significance of this iconic building, elegantly illuminating the facade and framing the holiday windows, as well as highlighting the fashion for which Saks Fifth Avenue is known," the spokesperson said in an emailed statement.

The holiday windows will be on display later this month.

## Harriet Tubman named a general in National Guard

**MD** CHURCH CREEK — Revered abolitionist Harriet Tubman, who was the first woman to oversee an American military action during a time of war, was posthumously awarded the rank of general on Monday.

Dozens gathered on Veterans Day at the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad State Park in Maryland's Dorchester County for a formal ceremony making Tubman a one-star brigadier general in the state's National Guard.

Tubman escaped slavery in 1849 and settled in Philadelphia. Intent on helping others achieve freedom, she established the Underground Railroad network and led other enslaved Black women and men to freedom. She then channeled those experiences as a scout, spy and nurse for the Union Army during the Civil War, helping guide 150 Black soldiers on a gunboat raid in South Carolina.

The reading of the official order was followed by a symbolic pinning ceremony with Tubman's great-great-grandniece, Tina Wyatt.

## Yale to offer a course on Beyoncé, her legacy

**CT** NEW HAVEN — With a record 99 Grammy nominations and acclaim as one of the most influential artists in music history, pop superstar Beyoncé and her expansive cultural legacy will be the subject of a new course at Yale University next year.

Titled "Beyoncé Makes History: Black Radical Tradition, Culture, Theory & Politics Through Music," the one-credit class will focus on the period from her 2013 self-titled album through this year's genre-defying "Cowboy Carter" and how the world-famous singer, songwriter and entrepreneur has generated awareness and engagement in social and political ideologies.

Yale University's African American Studies Professor Daphne



MICHAEL S. WILLIAMSON/The Washington Post

## Trump house still standing

The "Trump House" in Latrobe, Pa. — a vacant rental property owned by Leslie Rossi, according to roadsideamerica.com — draws fans from all over the country. The home is painted red, white and blue and features a 14-foot cutout of President-elect Donald Trump.

Brooks intends to use the performer's wide-ranging repertoire, including footage of her live performances, as a "portal" for students to learn about Black intellectuals, from Frederick Douglass to Toni Morrison.

## Teachers in 3 towns strike over pay and leave policies

**MA** BOSTON — Teachers in three Massachusetts communities fighting for new contracts pushed forward with their demands Monday as parents braced for more canceled classes on Tuesday.

Teachers in Beverly and Gloucester voted last Thursday to authorize a strike, and schools were closed Friday as teachers in both districts hit the picket line over pay, paid parental leave and other issues.

In a third community, Marblehead, teachers voted to take to the picket lines on Tuesday.

Schools were closed Monday for Veterans Day.

In Gloucester, the union in the 2,800-student district is asking for eight weeks of fully paid parental leave, two weeks at 75% and two weeks at 50%. It also wants significant pay increases for paraprofessionals, safer conditions for students and more prep time for elementary school teachers.

The Beverly Teachers Association in a statement said last week that they were pushing for smaller class sizes in the 4,500-student district, 12 weeks of paid parental leave

and a "living wage" for paraprofessionals or teacher assistants whose starting salary is \$20,000.

## Shelter dog buddies adopted together

**SC** GREENVILLE — Shelter dogs Rellie and Boone bonded in their loneliness. They both had been passed up for adoption many times.

Rellie — a 4-year-old retriever mix — arrived at the Greenville Humane Society last December, after she was transferred from another shelter. She was skittish when meeting strangers and took a while to warm up.

But when she did, shelter staff said she was a stand-out pup.

"Every single person on our staff fell in love with her," said Emily Zheng, a marketing manager at the shelter.

They could not interest any prospective adopters in the black pup with pointy ears and white patches on her snout and chest.

Then Boone — a 6-year-old hound — showed up at the shelter in May. He had been surrendered by his owner.

As a deaf dog, he, too, had difficulty getting adopted. And so, in similar positions, Boone and Rellie spent a ton of time together. Staff noticed they seemed to be happiest when they were in each other's company.

Daniel Boone and his girlfriend Graecyn Boyd had been hoping to adopt a dog, and kept their eyes out for pups. When they stumbled upon

a post on social media about Rellie, they were intrigued.

"When we had seen that, we were like 'Rellie's probably the one we were looking for,'" said Boone.

They had not planned to adopt two dogs, but when staff suggested Rellie's buddy Boone, it seemed meant to be. After all, Boone the dog has the same name as Boone the human.

"One of the things that drew me to Boone is he has the same name as me," Boone said.

The couple decided to keep the doggie duo together. They adopted both dogs on Oct. 16, and staff was elated.

## Historic penthouse with a gold dome on market

**NY** NEW YORK — Greg Carr says he knew he had to buy the penthouse at 170 Fifth Ave. when it first came up for sale in 2001. The midrise prewar building had been converted into condos for the first time, and he liked the downtown location across from the Flatiron Building.

"I love architecture, and I love New York City, and I thought to myself, 'OK, there's a building with a 40-foot gold dome on Fifth Avenue — is it going to get any better than that?'" Carr said.

Carr, the co-founder of Boston Technology and chair of early internet service provider Prodigy, bought the apartment for \$7 million. Now he's listed the penthouse with Lawrence Treglia and Claire Groome of Sotheby's International

Realty for \$25 million. For that, a buyer gets 5,000 square feet in a duplex loft, with four bedrooms, three bathrooms and exclusive roof access with 360-degree views of Manhattan.

## Frat expels students accused of hate crimes

**MD** BALTIMORE — Sigma Alpha Epsilon expelled the students in their organization who are accused of being involved in a hate crime incident in October at Salisbury University in Wicomico County, a spokesperson for the national organization said Monday.

"Sigma Alpha Epsilon was disappointed to learn about the events described in Salisbury University's recent communications, in which former members of our organization were involved in an incident on campus. These individuals' actions do not align with the values of our organization or reflect the principles of our Fraternity's creed, The True Gentleman," David Pascarella, director of communications for the organization, said in a statement.

The action comes after 12 students from Salisbury were arrested and charged last week. Police said the incident took place in an off-campus apartment, where the group used the LGBTQ+ dating app Grindr to lure the victim "under false pretenses" and then filmed the assault.

From wire reports

## FACES

# End of TV's 'Outlander' in sight

Stars Caitriona Balfe, Sam Heughan wrap production on hit show based on book series

By NICKI FINLAY  
Associated Press

"Outlander" is resuming soon with the second half of its seventh season, but its stars have already wrapped official production on the show's eighth and final season.

Caitriona Balfe and Sam Heughan, who have played time traveler Claire and 18th century Highlander Jamie since the show began, recently teased their bittersweet goodbye. Speaking less than a fortnight after their official wrap day, the stars described filming their final scene for the upcoming season.

"It was very emotional. I was very emotional," Balfe said.

"I was, too," Heughan agreed. "We ended on a scene, well, I think — it was quite tough to do because it was a real Jamie-Claire moment, so it felt quite fitting. And I think they scheduled it like that. But it was also quite intense because a lot of the crew came to

sort of celebrate or watch the final take of the final scene."

"And there were a lot of words," added Balfe. "It was really hard to get through it because it also felt like everything had sort of this double meaning, you know; it's a lot of talk about goodbyes and things."

Based on the books by Diana Gabaldon and mostly filmed in Scotland, the long-running show has leapt across time periods, including the Jacobite Rising, 1740s Versailles, 1960s Boston, the Revolutionary War — and more.

"I played Jamie when he was 23 and now he's sort of around 60. So it's quite a journey," said Heughan. "The show is always changing, always moving. It's a real journey that they've been on from Scotland to America. And I think it's very rewarding. I'm glad we weren't in a sort of procedural where we had to be in the same location all the time."

The concluding half of Season 7, which

resumes Dec. 20 on AFN-Spectrum, begins with the couple returning to Jamie's homeland of Scotland, before America — and the rebel cause in the Revolutionary War — calls again.

"Returning home obviously is going to be so rewarding for Jamie, but also for the fans," Heughan said, "because I think the fans, they get to see a lot of, their favorite characters and their favorite locations."

The latest episodes weave in storylines involving Claire and Jamie's time-traveling daughter Brianna and her husband Roger (Sophie Skelton and Richard Rankin) and Jamie's nephew Ian (John Bell), as well as Jamie's secret son William (Charles Vandervaart) and the British lord who is raising him.

The "Outlander" universe will eventually expand with the upcoming prequel "Outlander: Blood of My Blood," about Jamie and Claire's parents.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Sam Heughan, left, and Caitriona Balfe, shown Oct. 16, say they have filmed the last scenes of the popular "Outlander" television series.

## Krasinski named People's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024

Associated Press

Let the office debates begin — John Krasinski is People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive for 2024.

The magazine announced the actor-writer-director as its pick Tuesday night during "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

Krasinski starred in "The Office" before launching the "Quiet Place" franchise and leading the action series "Jack Ryan." He joked in an interview with the magazine that he's hoping his wife, fellow actor Emily Blunt, makes good on a promise to plaster the cover as wallpaper at their home.

He takes the mantle from last year's honoree, Patrick Dempsey.

Krasinski, 45, told People that his immediate reaction to the honor was "just immediate blackout, actually. Zero thoughts." He added that he thought he might be getting pranked.

He burst to fame playing the

floppy-haired, lanky Jim on the U.S. version of the mockumentary "The Office," and transitioned into the clean-cut, muscular action star on Amazon's "Jack Ryan," playing the Tom Clancy character previously portrayed by Alec Baldwin, Harrison Ford and Ben Affleck on the big screen. He also co-wrote, directed and starred in "A Quiet Place," which has grown into a three-film franchise, and created the short-lived but immensely popular pandemic-era web series "Some Good News."

He debuted his sixth directorial effort this year, "IF," a film about imaginary friends that also featured Blunt.

The couple have two daughters together.

Krasinski told People in the issue that's on newsstands on Friday that the honor is likely to result in more than just jokes at home.

"I think it's going to make me do



AP

John Krasinski said his Sexiest Man Alive designation by People magazine might earn him some extra chores around the house.

more household chores," he quipped.

Now in its 40th year, the first Sexiest Man Alive was Mel Gibson. Other past recipients include Brad Pitt, George Clooney, John F. Kennedy Jr., David Beckham, Michael B. Jordan, John Legend, Dwayne Johnson, Paul Rudd and Pierce Brosnan.

## Timothy West, British actor of stage and screen, dies at 90

Associated Press

British actor Timothy West, who played wartime leader Winston Churchill on three occasions and the classic titular Shakespeare roles of Hamlet, King Lear and Macbeth, has died. He was 90.

In a statement, his children said that West died "peacefully" in his sleep "with his friends and family at the end."

During his long career, West was a regular presence on stage and screen, his versatility allowing him to play a broad range of characters. He excelled as a leading actor in numerous Shakespeare productions while recurring roles in British television's two most popular soap operas, "Coronation Street" and "EastEnders," kept him in the public eye in later life.

West, who was born in the north England city of Bradford, made his London stage debut in 1959,

before joining the Royal Shakespeare Company in the 1960s, where he earned his acting chops.

On television, he had roles in numerous adaptations of Charles

Dickens' novels, including "Hard Times", "Oliver Twist" and "Bleak House". "Hard Times" was parodied in ITV's "Brass" from 1982 to 1984, in which he



West

played a ruthless self-made businessman.

West played Churchill three times, in 1979's "From Churchill and the Generals," "The Last Bastion" five years later and in "Hiroshima" in 1995.

He was married for 61 years to actress Prunella Scales, who was most famous for her role as Sybil Fawlty in the classic 1970s BBC comedy "Fawlty Towers."

## Denzel Washington's plans include role in 'Black Panther 3'

Los Angeles Times

Denzel Washington could pay a visit to Wakanda before closing out his illustrious acting career. And he has an itinerary full of films to go with that trip.

Appearing on an Australian talk show this week, the two-time Oscar winner confirmed a potential development in Marvel's "Black Panther" franchise, saying that "Black Panther 3" will be among the final projects he takes on before retiring.

The "Glory" and "Training Day" star said that director Ryan Coogler — who helmed and co-wrote the 2018 Marvel blockbuster and its 2022 sequel, "Wakanda Forever" — is writing Washington a part in a potential



Washington

I'm only interested in working with the best," Washington said on Australia's "Today." "I don't know how many more films I'm going to make. It's probably not that many. I want to do things I haven't done."

The 69-year-old actor, to be seen next in Ridley Scott's "Gladiator II," outlined

third installment. He broached the subject when saying he felt no trepidation about working with Ridley Scott on the upcoming "Gladiator II."

"For me, it's about the filmmaker, especially at this point in my career.

what's left for him on the acting side.

"I played Othello at 22. I am about to play Othello at 70," he said, referring to the 2025 Broadway production co-starring Jake Gyllenhaal. "After that, I'm playing Hannibal. After that, I've been talking to Steve McQueen about a film. After that, Ryan Coogler is writing a part for me in the next 'Black Panther.' After that, I'm going to do the film 'Othello.' After that, I'm going to do King Lear. After that, I'm going to retire."

Marvel has yet to announce a third "Black Panther" film, let alone Coogler's involvement in another installment of the popular franchise. Representatives for Disney and Coogler did not immediately re-

spond to requests for comment.

Washington was already indirectly involved in "Black Panther's" success, according to its late star, Chadwick Boseman. The T'Challa actor revealed that Washington played a consequential role in its making: paying Boseman's tuition for summer acting classes at Oxford University.

"There is no 'Black Panther' without Denzel Washington," Boseman said in 2019 when he helped honor Washington with an AFI Life Achievement Award.

"And not just because of me. But my whole cast, that generation, stands on your shoulders," said Boseman, who died from colon cancer in 2020.

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## EDITORIAL

Robert H. Reid, Editor in Chief  
reid.robert@stripes.comSean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.comAnn 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.comxsscirculation@stripes.com  
+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

## Europe

Carlo Aquino, Circulation Manager  
aquino.carlo@stripes.commemberservices@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

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## OPINION

## Victorious GOP again falling for the mandate trap

BY JONAH GOLDBERG

Tribune Content Agency

In September, I wrote, “No matter who wins, the next president will declare that they have a ‘mandate’ to do something. And they will be wrong.”

I was wrong in one sense.

Now, I still think the idea of mandates are always conceptually flawed and often ridiculous. The only relevant constitutional mandate Donald Trump enjoys is the mandate to be sworn in as president.

Think about this way: Trump’s coalition together contains factions that disagree with one another on many things. Assume that self-described Republicans are Trump voters. According to the exit polls, about a third (29%) of voters who support legal abortion voted for Trump, while 91% of those who think it should be illegal voted for him. There are similar divides over support for Israel, mass deportation of immigrants and other issues. Heck, 12% of voters who think his views are “too extreme” nonetheless voted for him. Five percent of the people who would feel “concerned or scared” if he were elected still backed him at the polls.

In short, whatever Trump believes his mandate is, at least some of the people who voted for him will have different ideas. Save for dealing with inflation and righting the economy, there’s very little that he can do that won’t result in some people saying, “This isn’t what I voted for.” (Even if you believe in mandates, how big could Trump’s be given it’s tied as the 44th-best showing ever in the Electoral College?)

None of this is unique to Trump. Presiden-

tial electoral coalitions always have internal contradictions. FDR had everyone from progressive Blacks and Jews to Dixiecrats and Klansmen in his column.

Many people seem to think that politics is what happens during elections. But politics never stops. Once elected, the venue for politics changes. Presidents believe, understandably, that they were elected to do what they campaigned on. The challenge is that Congress and state governments are full of people who won an election too. And they often have their own ideas about what their “mandate” is. Postelection politics is about dealing with that reality.

Which gets me to what I got wrong. Although voters generally may not have spoken with anything like one voice on various policies, Republican voters voted for Republicans who would be loyal to, and supportive of, Trump. In other words, whether it fits some political scientist’s definition of a mandate, Republican senators and representatives believe that they have a mandate to back Trump.

The jockeying to replace Mitch McConnell as majority leader in the next Senate makes this so clear, it’s not even subtext, it’s just text. The three GOP contenders, John Thune of South Dakota, John Cornyn of Texas, and Rick Scott of Florida, are falling over each other to reassure Trump and everyone else that they will do everything possible to confirm Trump’s appointees with breakneck speed.

Thune, until recently the favorite for the job, said in a statement, “One thing is clear: We must act quickly and decisively to get the president’s cabinet and other nominees in place as soon as possible to start delivering on the man-

date we’ve been sent to execute, and all options are on the table to make that happen, including recess appointments.”

Thune was playing catch-up to Scott, who’d already signaled that he’d be Trump’s loyal vassal in the Senate. This earned him the support of Elon Musk and other backers who want Trump to be as unrestrained as possible.

An honorable and serious man of institutional instincts, Thune is simply dealing with the political reality of today’s GOP. The argument that anyone inside the Republican Party should do anything other than “let Trump be Trump” is over, at least in public.

Given that only 43% of voters said Trump has the moral character to be president (16% of his own voters said he doesn’t), this could lead to some challenging political choices for the party.

Once again, a victorious party is sticking its head in the mandate trap. In the 21st century, Yuval Levin writes, presidents “win elections because their opponents were unpopular, and then — imagining the public has endorsed their party activists’ agenda — they use the power of their office to make themselves unpopular.” This is why the incumbent party lost for the third time in a row in 2024, a feat not seen since the 19th century.

Hence the irony of the mandate trap. In theory, Trump could solidify and build on his winning coalition, but that would require disappointing the people insisting he has a mandate to do whatever he wants. Which is why it’s unlikely to happen.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

## Trump is using his ‘January Seventh Test’ of loyalty

BY KAREN TUMULTY

The Washington Post

President-elect Donald Trump has made it no secret that loyalty will be his chief criterion in putting together his incoming administration.

His early picks, however, suggest he has a specific standard of fealty — one that ensures that those around him will not check his worst and most dangerous impulses.

Call it the January Seventh Test.

Clearing that bar are those who, after Trump incited his supporters to overturn his 2020 election defeat by storming the Capitol building on Jan. 6, 2021, minimized his responsibility for the bloody siege. If they managed to stomach what Trump did that day, it should be assumed they would not stand in the way of any further trampling of democratic norms that the returning president might order.

We don’t know yet who he will name to a number of top jobs, including attorney general. But it is already clear that Trump will demand subservience, especially in law enforcement, foreign policy and national security, where he often felt thwarted by his own appointees during his first term.

The president-elect has granted some indulgences. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., now reported to be the selection for secretary of state, waged a bitter campaign against Trump for the 2016 GOP nomination, branding him a “con artist” unfit for the Oval Office.

Rubio’s transformation since then, though, has been a marvel.

Although he had initially called the rampage at the Capitol “one of the saddest days in

our history” and “a national embarrassment,” by a year later, Rubio was scoring an A on the January Seventh Test. When Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell referred to what happened as a “violent insurrection with the purpose of trying to prevent a peaceful transfer of power after a legitimately certified election,” the Florida senator insisted that “riot” was the more accurate word to use. “There was no way they were going to overthrow the government,” Rubio said.

It sounded like another way of saying that since it didn’t work, it was not such a big deal.

But that wasn’t as egregious as what then-Rep. Lee Zeldin of New York, Trump’s choice to head the Environmental Protection Agency, said on the very day of the attack.

“This isn’t just about the president of the United States,” he declared. “This is about people on the left and their double standards.”

The true culprits for the violence, Zeldin suggested, were “rogue state actors.”

Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., whom the incoming president plans to install as this country’s representative to the United Nations, is another shape-shifting former Trump skeptic who now echoes his use of the term “hostages” to refer to those sentenced to prison for their roles in the Capitol attack.

Rep. Mike Waltz, R-Fla., who is set to become national security adviser, took issue with Trump’s description of Jan. 6 as a “day of love.” I’ll give him that. But he also said Democratic comparisons of the attack to 9/11 or Pearl Harbor were “insane.”

Some of these choices, it should be noted, are not as disturbing as others Trump might have made. The hawkish Rubio, for instance,

is a stronger pick and less of a MAGA sycophant than, say, former acting director of national intelligence Richard Grenell, who campaigned hard to be the nation’s chief diplomat.

But we have learned that the inside story of Trump’s first stint in the White House was one in which those around him acted as guardrails at critical moments — when, for instance, he raised the possibility of firing Patriot missiles into Mexico to take out drug cartels and then making it look as if another country were responsible. It fell to his stunned defense secretary, Mark Esper, to inform the commander in chief that the idea was ludicrous.

In his memoir about his time in the Trump administration, Esper also recalled that the president wanted to put 10,000 active-duty troops on the streets of Washington in 2020 to deal with the demonstrations against police brutality that followed the killing of George Floyd. Referring to the protesters, Trump asked: “Can’t you just shoot them?”

Esper was one of five defense secretaries to serve during Trump’s first term. Standing up to the president on questions like that got him fired. But it could have been worse. Trump has gone so far as to say that his one-time chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Army Gen. Mark Milley, should be tried for treason — a crime punishable by execution.

Give Trump this much, though: People who agree to serve in this administration have been put on notice of exactly what it is that they are signing up for.

Karen Tumulty is a Washington Post associate editor and columnist covering national politics.

Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

Grid for Eugene Sheffer Crossword with numbers 1-58 indicating starting positions for across and down words.

ACROSS

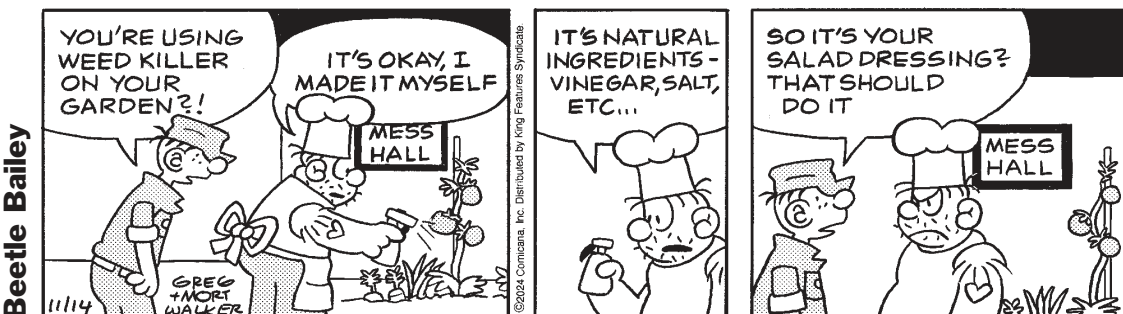
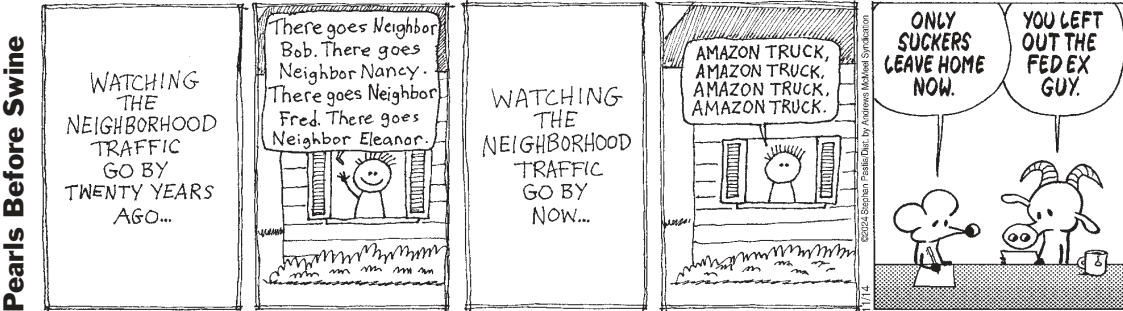
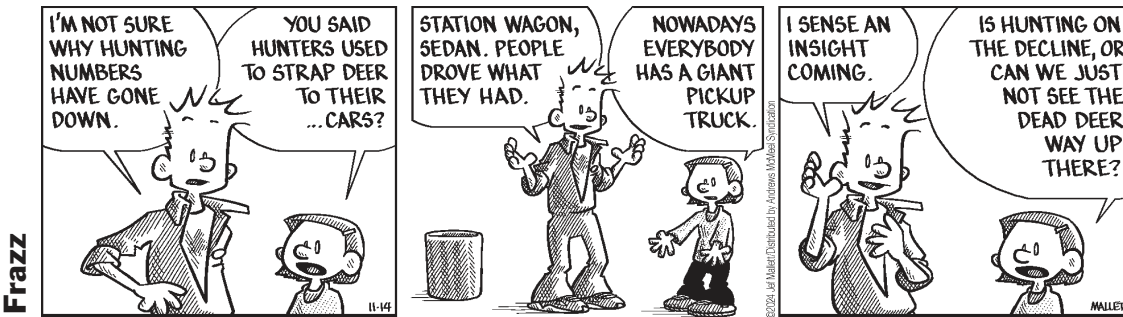
- 1 Engine sound
5 Monk's title
8 Fiscal execs
12 Jacob's twin
13 Speed (up)
14 Guesser's phrase
15 Jai —
16 Poetic tribute
17 Activist Parks
18 "Ed Wood" star Martin
20 "The Terminator" heroine Sarah
22 Seasonal helper
23 Mosquito barrier
24 OED entries
27 Turned over a new leaf
32 Bobby of hockey
33 Poetic contraction
34 Blackbird
35 Brazil's most populous city

- 55 "— Lisa"
56 Messes up
57 Yule quaff
58 Flock females
1 Bell tower sound
2 Actress Fisher
3 Indian bread
4 Tour leaders
5 Frilly ornamentation
6 Flushed
7 With (Fr.)
8 Intersection
9 U2's Bono, for one
10 — buco
11 Fly like a hawk
19 Pacino of "Serpico"

- 21 Musician Yoko
24 Coifs
25 Epoch
26 Not as friendly
28 Snaky fish
29 Prepping milk for a latte
30 Sinusitis doc
31 Insult, slangily
36 Oyster products
37 Cash dispenser
38 Presuppose
41 Opposite of nyet
42 Seize
43 Pt. of U.S.A.
44 One-named supermodel
46 Winter blanket
47 Queue
48 LAX guesses
51 Year, in San Juan

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Completed crossword puzzle grid with words filled in.



11-14

CRYPTOQUIP

N F I N E F T S I P H F N E P R J B Z
A N I H D A T S J E F D S F R ' H F
A J D D J B Z J B D X Y A U X E E I U
A I P N R T P D F H : Y P D S - E F D F A .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT KIND OF SHIRT DO YOU THINK COULD BE MOST SUITABLE FOR ANY FARMER TO WEAR? A CROP TOP.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals P

# SCOREBOARD

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Tuesday's scores

#### EAST

Buffalo 51, Ball State 48, OT

#### MIDWEST

Bowling Green 31, Western Michigan 13  
Toledo 37, Central Michigan 10

### Schedule

#### Thursday's games

##### SOUTH

Grambling St. (5-5) at Alabama A&M (4-5)

##### SOUTHWEST

East Carolina (5-4) at Tulsa (3-6)

#### Friday's games

##### SOUTH

Howard (4-6) at NC Central (6-3)

##### SOUTHWEST

North Texas (5-4) at UTSA (4-5)

#### FAR WEST

Wyoming (2-7) at Colorado St. (6-3)  
UCLA (4-5) at Washington (5-5)  
Houston (4-5) at Arizona (3-6)

#### Saturday's games

##### EAST

NC A&T (1-9) at Towson (5-5)  
Liberty (6-2) at Umass (2-7)  
Sacred Heart (4-6) at Merrimack (4-5)  
Princeton (2-6) at Yale (5-3)  
Tulane (8-2) at Navy (7-2)  
Clemson (7-2) at Pittsburgh (7-2)  
Bucknell (5-5) at Holy Cross (4-6)  
Presbyterian (4-6) at Marist (1-9)  
Columbia (5-3) at Brown (3-5)  
Robert Morris (6-4) at CCSU (5-5)  
Colgate (2-8) at Lehigh (6-3)  
Villanova (8-2) at Monmouth (NJ) (4-6)  
Wagner (4-6) at Duquesne (7-2)  
St. Francis (Pa.) (3-6) at LIU Brooklyn (3-7)

Stonehill (1-8) at Lafayette (5-5)  
Albany (NY) (3-7) at Rhode Island (8-2)  
Georgetown (5-4) at Fordham (1-9)  
Stony Brook (8-2) at New Hampshire (6-4)

Campbell (3-7) at Delaware (8-1)  
Coastal Carolina (5-4) at Marshall (6-3)  
Harvard (7-1) at Penn (4-4)  
Dartmouth (7-1) at Cornell (3-5)  
FAU (2-7) at Temple (2-7)  
SC State (7-2) at Morgan St. (5-5)  
Baylor (5-4) at West Virginia (5-4)  
Rutgers (5-4) at Maryland (4-5)

##### SOUTH

Furman (2-7) at ETSU (6-4)  
Delaware St. (1-9) at Norfolk St. (3-7)  
Louisiana Tech (3-6) at W. Kentucky (7-2)

Louisiana-Monroe (5-4) at Auburn (3-6)  
Bryant (2-8) at William & Mary (6-4)  
Richmond (8-2) at Hampton (5-5)  
VMI (1-9) at W. Carolina (5-5)  
MVSU (0-10) at Florida A&M (5-4)  
Samford (3-6) at Chattanooga (6-4)  
Murray St. (1-9) at Kentucky (3-6)  
Tennessee St. (7-3) at Gardner-Webb (4-6)  
The Citadel (4-6) at Wofford (5-5)  
McNeese St. (5-5) at Northwestern St. (0-

## AP SPOTLIGHT

### Nov. 14

**1943** — Sid Luckman of the Chicago Bears becomes the first pro to pass for more than 400 yards (433) and seven touchdowns in a 56-7 victory over the New York Giants.

**1964** — Gus Johnson and Walt Bellamy become the first NBA teammates to score 40 points apiece as the Baltimore Bullets beat the Los Angeles Lakers 127-115. Johnson has 41 points, Bellamy 40.

**1964** — Detroit's Gordie Howe becomes the NHL's all-time goal-scoring leader, including playoffs, with his 627th career goal. Howe beats Montreal's Charlie Hodge in a 4-2 loss.

**1965** — Gary Cuozzo, subbing for the injured Johnny Unitas, throws five touchdown passes to lead the Baltimore Colts to a 41-21 victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

**1966** — Muhammad Ali knocks out Cleveland Williams in the third round to retain the world heavyweight title in Houston.

**1970** — Forty-three members of the Marshall football team die when their chartered plane crashes in Kenova, W.Va.

**1993** — Don Shula breaks George Halas' career record for victories with No. 325 as the Miami Dolphins defeat Philadelphia 19-14. Shula's record: 325-153-6 in 31 seasons with Baltimore and Miami; Halas, 324-151-31 in 40 seasons with Chicago.

**2004** — John and Ashley Force become the first father-daughter combo in NHRA history to win at the same event in the season finale. John Force races to his 114th Funny Car victory, and his 21-year-old daughter takes the Top Alcohol class at Pomona (Calif.) Raceway.

**2009** — Toby Gerhart rushes for 178 yards and three touchdowns as Stanford annihilates Southern California 55-21. It's the most points ever conceded by the Trojans, who played their first game in 1888.

**2009** — Daniel Passafiume sets the NCAA record for most receptions in a single game, catching 25 passes for Division III Hanover College. Passafiume finishes with 153 yards receiving and two touchdowns in a 42-28 loss to Franklin.

**2015** — Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds breaks the NCAA record for career rushing touchdowns, upping his total to 81 with four scores in the No. 22 Midshipmen's 55-14 over SMU.

## PRO FOOTBALL

### NFL

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

##### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	2	0	.800	290	193
Miami	3	6	0	.333	147	202
N.Y. Jets	3	7	0	.300	177	214
New England	3	7	0	.300	160	220

##### South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	6	4	0	.600	224	226
Indianapolis	4	6	0	.400	208	223
Tennessee	2	7	0	.222	157	240
Jacksonville	2	8	0	.200	202	264

##### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	7	2	0	.778	215	146
Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	318	253
Cincinnati	4	6	0	.400	270	262
Cleveland	2	7	0	.222	148	213

##### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	9	0	0	1.000	219	161
L.A. Chargers	6	3	0	.667	186	118
Denver	5	5	0	.500	197	177
Las Vegas	2	7	0	.222	168	251

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

##### East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	7	2	0	.778	233	161
Washington	7	3	0	.700	290	217
Dallas	3	6	0	.333	177	259
N.Y. Giants	2	8	0	.200	156	222

##### South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	238	236
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	279	266
Carolina	3	7	0	.300	167	310
New Orleans	3	7	0	.300	227	246

##### North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	8	1	0	.889	284	171
Minnesota	7	2	0	.778	221	157
Green Bay	6	3	0	.667	230	194
Chicago	4	5	0	.444	175	167

##### West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	6	4	0	.600	238	220
San Francisco	5	4	0	.556	233	202
L.A. Rams	4	5	0	.444	185	217
Seattle	4	5	0	.444	210	221

### Thursday, Nov. 7

Baltimore 35, Cincinnati 34

### Sunday, Nov. 10

Carolina 20, N.Y. Giants 17, OT  
Buffalo 30, Indianapolis 20  
Kansas City 16, Denver 14  
Minnesota 12, Jacksonville 7  
New England 19, Chicago 3  
New Orleans 20, Atlanta 17  
Pittsburgh 28, Washington 27  
San Francisco 23, Tampa Bay 20  
L.A. Chargers 27, Tennessee 17  
Arizona 31, N.Y. Jets 6  
Philadelphia 34, Dallas 6  
Detroit 26, Houston 23  
**Open:** Cleveland, Las Vegas, Green Bay, Seattle

### Monday, Nov. 11

Miami 23, L.A. Rams 15

### Thursday's game

Washington at Philadelphia

### Sunday's games

Baltimore at Pittsburgh  
Cleveland at New Orleans  
Green Bay at Chicago  
Jacksonville at Detroit  
L.A. Rams at New England  
Las Vegas at Miami  
Minnesota at Tennessee  
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets  
Atlanta at Denver  
Seattle at San Francisco  
Kansas City at Buffalo  
Cincinnati at L.A. Chargers  
**Open:** Arizona, Carolina, N.Y. Giants, Tampa Bay

### Monday's game

Houston at Dallas

### Thursday, Nov. 21

Pittsburgh at Cleveland

### Sunday, Nov. 24

Kansas City at Carolina  
Minnesota at Chicago  
Tennessee at Houston  
Detroit at Indianapolis  
New England at Miami  
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Giants  
Dallas at Washington  
Denver at Las Vegas  
San Francisco at Green Bay  
Arizona at Seattle  
Philadelphia at L.A. Rams  
**Open:** Atlanta, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Jacksonville, New Orleans, N.Y. Jets

### Monday, Nov. 25

Baltimore at L.A. Chargers

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### Tuesday's men's scores

#### EAST

Army 101, Mount St. Mary 48  
Columbia 76, Lehigh 75  
Delaware 64, Iona 58  
Delaware St. 70, Gwynedd-Mercy 54  
Fairfield 62, New Hampshire 56  
Fordham 78, Binghamton 63  
George Washington 85, NC A&T 80  
La Salle 93, Cornell 77  
Lafayette 65, Penn 63  
Loyola (Md.) 68, NJIT 50  
Manhattan 88, Mercy 71  
Morgan St. 90, Dist. of Columbia 64  
Penn St. 92, St. Francis (Pa.) 62  
Providence 60, Hampton 51  
Rhode Island 105, Franklin Pierce 73  
Rider 90, Navy 79  
Saint Joseph's 83, Villanova 76  
Sienna 74, American 66  
Syracuse 74, Colgate 72  
Temple 69, Drexel 61

#### SOUTH

Belmont 80, Lipscomb 79  
Clemson 75, E. Kentucky 62  
East Carolina 110, Mount Olive 73  
Florida St. 72, Tarleton St. 52  
Georgia 90, North Florida 77  
Georgia Tech 81, Texas Southern 62  
High Point 76, NC Central 60  
James Madison 100, Mary Baldwin 52  
Kentucky 77, Duke 72  
Liberty 81, Piedmont International 45  
Mississippi 64, South Alabama 54  
Mississippi St. 80, SE Louisiana 59  
Radford 87, Old Dominion 75  
Samford 108, Rhodes 52  
South Carolina 80, Towson 54  
South Florida 85, Ark.-Pine Bluff 69  
Southern Miss. 104, Loyola (NO) 65  
Tennessee Tech 76, West Georgia 73  
UCF 100, FAU 94  
VMI 102, Christendom 56  
W. Kentucky 104, Campbellsville 76  
William & Mary 84, Norfolk St. 73

#### MIDWEST

Bradley 85, UTSA 72  
Cleveland St. 75, Valparaiso 67  
Fort Wayne 91, Bethune-Cookman 69  
IUPUI 97, Goshen 55  
Illinois St. 85, Ohio 75  
Iowa 96, South Dakota 77  
Kansas 77, Michigan St. 69  
Miami (Ohio) 88, Md.-Eastern Shore 70  
N. Illinois 79, Monmouth (NJ) 66  
North Dakota 85, Dickinson St. 54  
Northwestern 83, Ill.-Chicago 74  
SIU-Edwardsville 77, Indiana St. 72  
Xavier 94, Jackson St. 57

#### SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 101, McMurry 55  
Arkansas St. 80, UALR 63  
Baylor 104, Sam Houston St. 67  
Incarnate Word 84, Prairie View 81  
Rice 66, Louisiana-Monroe 50  
Stephen F. Austin 87, LeTourneau 68  
TCU 76, Texas St. 71  
Texas 105, Chicago St. 58  
UTEP 78, Texas-Permian Basin 58

#### FAR WEST

Boise St. 100, Corban 65  
Colorado St. 74, Denver 65  
Hawaii 76, Pacific 66  
N. Colorado 113, Colorado Christian 56  
New Mexico 100, Texas A&M-CC 81

Oregon 80, Portland 70, OT  
Oregon St. 94, W. Oregon 58  
Portland St. 85, San Diego 76  
S. Utah 107, Bethesda 54  
Saint Mary's (Cal.) 87, Akron 68  
San Diego St. 100, Occidental 49  
Stanford 90, N. Arizona 64  
UC Davis 80, Menlo 70  
UC Riverside 70, Cal Baptist 69  
UC San Diego 64, Sacramento St. 54  
Utah 96, Queens (NC) 65

### Tuesday's women's scores

#### EAST

Army 58, Oakland 54  
Boston U. 71, Emmanuel 38  
Bryant 59, CCSU 48  
Hofstra 75, Yale 61  
Mercyhurst 67, Davis & Elkins 51  
Navy 55, Iona 53  
Providence 58, Vermont 53  
Richmond 62, Fairfield 39  
Rider 66, LIU Brooklyn 54  
Seton Hall 67, Fordham 44  
Temple 67, Delaware 56  
West Virginia 82, Pittsburgh 54

#### SOUTH

Coppin St. 74, St. Francis (Pa.) 38  
ETSU 44, Gardner-Webb 35  
Florida 104, Chicago St. 42  
George Mason 89, Monmouth (NJ) 66  
Georgia Southern 54, Bethune-Cookman 50  
Kentucky 76, Wofford 42  
LSU 117, Charleston Southern 44  
Louisville 86, UT Martin 64  
North Carolina 66, NC A&T 47  
Northwestern St. 98, Arkansas Baptist 27  
S. Indiana 82, Murray St. 75  
Tennessee 89, Middle Tennessee 75  
UAB 74, Alabama A&M 67  
W. Kentucky 78, Mercer 54

#### MIDWEST

Cleveland St. 75, Bowling Green 68  
DePaul 75, Loyola Chicago 60  
Fort Wayne 104, Defiance 31  
Indiana St. 68, Wright St. 51  
Lindenwood (Mo.) 64, Bradley 56  
Minnesota 82, Mass.-Lowell 37  
Missouri 60, Tulane 52  
Nebraska 84, Southern U. 58  
North Dakota 77, Dickinson St. 58  
Ohio St. 94, Charlotte 53  
Saint Louis 78, Illinois St. 71  
Valparaiso 81, Trolls 40  
W. Illinois 62, UMKC 43  
Youngstown St. 60, St. Bonaventure 52

#### SOUTHWEST

SMU 72, W. Michigan 44  
Stephen F. Austin 68, Abilene Christian 65  
Tarleton St. 57, New Orleans 48  
Texas A&M Commerce 104, LeTourneau 33  
Texas A&M-CC 98, Sul Ross St. 54  
Texas Tech 75, New Mexico 68

#### FAR WEST

Arizona 75, UNLV 66  
Colorado 75, Nevada 59  
Montana St. 75, Cal Poly 57  
Oregon 66, North Texas 35  
Oregon St. 80, NW Nazarene 52  
Portland 108, Corban 41  
San Diego 66, Weber St. 63  
San Francisco 62, Portland St. 56  
San Jose St. 92, San Francisco St. 65  
Southern Cal 124, CS Northridge 39  
UCLA 91, Pepperdine 54

## DEALS

### Tuesday's transactions

#### BASEBALL

##### Major League Baseball

##### American League

**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — INF Nicky Lopez and LHP Sammy Peralta have cleared waivers and elected free agency.

**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Agreed to terms with C Travis d'Arnaud on a two-year contract. Designated RHP Guillo Zuniga for assignment.

##### National League

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Hired Brian Kaplan as pitching coach.

**CINCINNATI REDS** — Hired Brad Mills as bench coach.

#### FOOTBALL

##### National Football League

**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Signed WR Jakeem Grant to the practice squad.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Reinstated WR Adam Thielen from injured reserve. Waived TE Jordan Matthews.

**CHICAGO BEARS** — Fired offensive coordinator Shane Waldron. Named Thomas Brown offensive coordinator.

**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Signed QB Will Grier to the practice squad.

**DETROIT LIONS** — Waived LB Abraham Beuplan.

**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Released CB Desmond King and OT David Sharpe from the practice squad. Signed CB D'Angelo Ross and OT Cameron Erving to the practice squad.

**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Signed OT Mason Brooks to the practice squad. Released DR Derek Rivers.

**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — Signed OLS Dieter Eiselen and Jerome Carvin to the practice squad. Released LS Peter Bowden and QB John Rhys Plumlee.

**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** — Designated RB Isiah Pacheco and DE Charles Omenihu to return from injured reserve.

**LOS ANGELES RAIDERS** — Designated TE Michael Mayer to return from the non-football injury list.

**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Placed TE Tanner Conner on injured reserve. Claimed LB Tyrel Dodson off waivers from Seattle.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Released P Matt

Haack. Signed OT Joshua Miles to the practice squad.

**NEW YORK JETS** — Claimed OL Connor McGovern off waivers from New Orleans.

**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — Waived TE Jack Stoll.

**PITTSBURGH STEELERS** — Signed WR Jamal Agnew and RB Jonathan Ward to the practice squad. Released OT John Leglue and WR Lance McCutcheon from the practice squad.

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Signed RB Patrick Taylor to the practice squad. Released RB Ke'Shawn Vaughn.

**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Signed OL Chandler Brewer to the practice squad. Released G Cole Spencer. Claimed G Logan Bruss off waivers from the Los Angeles Rams.

#### HOCKEY

##### National Hockey League

**ANAHEIM DUCKS** — Waived G James Reimer. Placed C Robby Fabbri and D Cam Fowler on injured reserve.

**CAROLINA HURRICANES** — Reinstated D Riley Stillman from injured reserve and placed him on waivers. Sent D Ty Smith to Chicago (AHL).

**COLORADO AVALANCHE** — Reassigned Fs Nikita Prishchepov and T.J. Tynan to Colorado (AHL).

**MINNESOTA WILD** — Recalled D Daemon Hunt from Iowa (AHL).

**OTTAWA SENATORS** — Reassigned C Zack Ostapchuk to Belleville (AHL).

**PITTSBURGH PENGUINS** — Acquired a 2027 third-round pick and a 2025 fifth-round pick from Washington in exchange for F Lars Eller.

**ST. LOUIS BLUES** — Placed D Philip Broberg on injured reserve.

**TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS** — Recalled C Alex Steeves from Toronto (AHL).

**VANCOUVER CANUCKS** — Recalled LW Arshdeep Bains from Abbotsford (AHL).

**WINNIPEG JETS** — Claimed G Kaapo Kahkonen off waivers. Placed D Logan Stanley on injured reserve.

# NHL/MLB



MARY ALTAFFER/AP

**Winnipeg Jets goaltender Connor Hellebuyck makes a save against Rangers defenseman Braden Schneider during the third period Tuesday in New York. The Jets won their seventh straight, 4-2.**

## NHL ROUNDUP

# Jets add to win streak, improve to 15-1 overall

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Mark Scheifele and Kyle Connor each scored twice, Connor Hellebuyck made 33 saves, and the Winnipeg Jets won their seventh straight, 6-3 over the New York Rangers on Tuesday night.

Gabriel Vilardi and Vladislav Namestnikov also scored for the Jets, who have now won 15 of their first 16 games.

Will Cuyllé, Alexis Lafreniere and Kaapo Kakko scored for the Rangers, who dropped their second straight home game following last Thursday's 6-1 loss to the Buffalo Sabres.

Hellebuyck improved to 12-1-0 this season.

Scheifele scored 57 seconds into the contest before Cuyllé tied it at 13:07 of the first.

Vilardi put the visitors ahead on the power play at 8:58 before Lafreniere tied the game again at 12:51 of the second.

Connor put the Jets ahead for good at 16:03 of the second. Scheifele scored again 1:08 into the third — his ninth of the season — before Kakko narrowed the deficit to 4-3 just 32 seconds later. Namestnikov scored his fifth at 13:08 and Connor completed the scoring into an empty net with 20 seconds to play.

**Senators 3, Maple Leafs 0:** Linus Ullmark made 27 saves for his first shutout of the season as visiting Ottawa blanked Toronto.

Josh Norris, Tim Stutzle and Mi-

chael Amadio scored for Ottawa. Artem Zub added two assists.

Anthony Stolarz stopped 38 shots for Toronto, which saw its three-game winning streak come to an end.

**Devils 4, Panthers 1:** Timo Meier scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period, Jacob Markstrom made 34 saves and visiting New Jersey snapped Florida's seven-game winning streak.

Jack Hughes scored in the first period for the Devils, Paul Cotter put New Jersey up 3-1 with 15:07 left and Dougie Hamilton and Jesper Bratt each had a pair of assists. Ondrej Palat had an empty-netter to cap the win.

Sam Reinhart got his 12th goal for Florida, and Spencer Knight made 20 saves for the Panthers.

**Bruins 3, Blues 2:** David Pastrnak scored with 1:47 to play as visiting Boston scored three third-period goals to come back for a win over St. Louis.

Morgan Geekie and Charlie McAvoy also scored for the Bruins, who trailed 2-0 after two periods. Geekie returned to the lineup after sitting the last three games as a healthy scratch.

Jeremy Swayman made 20 saves as Boston won for the fourth time in its last six games.

**Oilers 4, Islanders 3 (OT):** Leon Draisaitl had two goals, including the overtime winner, and Connor McDavid had a goal and three assists to move one point shy of 1,000

for his career as host Edmonton beat New York.

Evan Bouchard had a goal and two assists for the Oilers.

Anders Lee had two goals and Kyle Palmieri also scored for the Islanders.

**Kraken 5, Blue Jackets 2:** Seattle scored twice in 10 seconds as part of a four-goal second period, coming back from a two-goal deficit to defeat visiting Columbus.

Brandon Tanev scored on a breakaway 7:13 into the second period, and Eeli Tolvanen followed with a power-play goal at 7:23 to give the Kraken the lead. Tye Karbye and Will Borgen also scored for Seattle in the second period. Jared McCann added a late empty-net goal and Joey Daccord had 38 saves.

Columbus took an early lead with its own pair of quick goals, as Sean Kuraly and Zachary Aston-Reese scored 22 seconds apart with about six minutes left in the first period.

**Canucks 3, Flames 1:** Elias Pettersson tied the game on the power play early in the second period and assisted on Erik Brannstrom's goal in the third as host Vancouver beat Calgary.

Pius Suter also scored for the Canucks while J.T. Miller had two assists. Vancouver goaltender Kevin Lankinen stopped 28 shots.

Justin Kirkland scored for Calgary and Flames goalie Dan Vladar made 29 saves.

## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	16	11	4	1	23	59	50
Toronto	17	9	6	2	20	50	44
Boston	17	8	7	2	18	43	54
Ottawa	15	8	7	0	16	51	44
Tampa Bay	14	7	6	1	15	49	45
Buffalo	16	7	8	1	15	55	53
Detroit	14	6	7	1	13	34	43
Montreal	16	5	9	2	12	46	67

#### Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	19	11	6	2	24	66	50
Carolina	14	11	3	0	22	59	36
Washington	14	10	4	0	20	59	40
N.Y. Rangers	14	9	4	1	19	52	36
N.Y. Islanders	16	6	6	4	16	42	50
Philadelphia	16	6	8	2	14	44	58
Pittsburgh	17	6	9	2	14	47	68
Columbus	15	5	8	2	12	46	54

### Western Conference

#### Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	16	15	1	0	30	73	34
Minnesota	15	10	2	3	23	53	39
Dallas	14	9	5	0	18	46	33
Colorado	16	8	8	0	16	55	61
Utah	15	6	6	3	15	41	51
St. Louis	16	7	9	0	14	40	55
Chicago	16	6	9	1	13	41	49
Nashville	16	5	9	2	12	39	53

#### Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	17	9	5	3	21	55	50
Vegas	15	9	4	2	20	63	48
Vancouver	14	8	3	3	19	45	44
Calgary	17	8	6	3	19	47	51
Edmonton	16	8	7	1	17	44	51
Seattle	16	7	8	1	15	49	50
San Jose	17	5	9	3	13	40	60
Anaheim	14	5	7	2	12	31	43

**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.

#### Tuesday's games

Winnipeg 6, N.Y. Rangers 3  
Ottawa 3, Toronto 0  
New Jersey 4, Florida 1  
Boston 3, St. Louis 2  
Edmonton 4, N.Y. Islanders 3, OT  
Seattle 5, Columbus 2  
Vancouver 3, Calgary 1

#### Wednesday's games

Detroit at Pittsburgh  
Toronto at Washington  
Carolina at Utah  
Los Angeles at Colorado  
Vegas at Anaheim

#### Thursday's games

New Jersey at Florida  
Philadelphia at Ottawa  
San Jose at N.Y. Rangers  
Winnipeg at Tampa Bay  
St. Louis at Buffalo  
Boston at Dallas  
Montreal at Minnesota  
Nashville at Edmonton  
Chicago at Seattle  
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver

#### Friday's games

Pittsburgh at Columbus  
Nashville at Calgary  
Vegas at Utah  
Washington at Colorado  
Detroit at Anaheim

#### Saturday's games

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

#### Scoring leaders

##### Through Tuesday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	16	7	23	30
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	15	9	19	28
Jack Eichel, LV	15	5	19	24
Cale Makar, COL	16	6	18	24
Martin Necas, CAR	14	8	16	24
Sam Reinhart, FLA	16	12	12	24
Nikita Kucherov, TB	14	11	12	23
Dylan Strome, WSH	14	4	18	22
Artemi Panarin, NYR	14	10	12	22
Kyle Connor, WPG	16	11	11	22

# Repairs to Rays' stadium at \$55M

By CURT ANDERSON  
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — A detailed assessment of the hurricane damage to Tropicana Field concludes that the home of the Tampa Bay Rays is structurally sound and can be repaired for about \$55.7 million in time for the 2026 season.

The 412-page report released Tuesday by the City of St. Petersburg, which owns the building,

found that the basic structure of the domed stadium “does not appear to have been adversely affected” by Hurricane Milton’s winds, which shredded most of its fabric roof.

“The primary structure is serviceable and capable of supporting a replacement tension membrane fabric roof,” said the report by Hennessy Construction Services.

Eighteen of the ballpark’s 24 fabric panels failed when Milton roared ashore Oct. 9, the report found. There was also damage to interior parts of the Trop, as it’s known for short, from rainwater and other storm-related causes. The ballpark opened in 1990 and has been the Rays’ home since their inception in 1998.

Tropicana Field is already scheduled to be demolished when a new, \$1.3 billion ballpark is finished in time for the 2028 season. With unforeseen costs to the city and Pinellas County from two hurricanes — vast amounts of debris removal, damage to parks and infrastructure — two of the main financial sources for the new ballpark could reconsider those plans or decide not to repair the Trop at all.

The St. Petersburg City Council will discuss the report at its Nov. 21 meeting.

St. Petersburg Mayor Ken Welch said the city anticipates that insurance and Federal Emergency Management Agency funds will cover the bulk of repair expenses.

“We believe having our hometown team play in St. Petersburg as soon as possible is important for our community,” Welch said in a statement.

Since the ballpark under this damage and repair assessment would not be ready until the 2026 season, the Rays must find another place to play next year.



Welch

## NBA

## ROUNDUP

# Knicks top 76ers in Embiid's return

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — OG Anunoby scored 24 points and the New York Knicks spoiled 76ers star Joel Embiid's season debut, beating Philadelphia 111-99 on Tuesday night in the opener of NBA Cup group play for both teams.

Embiid finished with 13 points and 26 minutes and was unable to lift the struggling Sixers, who fell to 2-8. He shot 2-for-11 and had only three rebounds. Paul George led the Sixers with 29 points and 10 rebounds.

Josh Hart added 14 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for the Knicks. Karl-Anthony Towns had 21 points and 13 rebounds, while Jalen Brunson scored 18 points.

New York started the fourth quarter on an 13-2 run that broke open a three-point game. Anunoby had three dunks during the run, often taking dead aim at a vacancy caused by Embiid, who was slow to defend the rim.

**Hawks 117, Celtics 116:** Onyeka Okongwu tipped in a missed shot with 6.1 seconds left, and Jaylen Brown missed a jumper at the buzzer as visiting Atlanta overcame a 15-point, second-half deficit to beat Boston.

Dyson Daniels scored a career-high 28 points, and Jalen Johnson had 18 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. Atlanta snapped a two-game losing streak despite playing without star Trae Young.

Brown scored a season-high 37 points and Derrick White added 31 for Boston.

**Magic 114, Hornets 89:** Franz Wagner scored 32 points and Jalen Suggs hit his first seven shots,

including three 3-pointers, to lead host Orlando to a win over Charlotte.

LaMelo Ball scored 16 of his 35 points in the first quarter for the Hornets. Coming off a career-high 38 points in Sunday's overtime loss at Philadelphia, Ball added six rebounds and seven assists.

Suggs had 13 points in the first quarter and finished with 17 points and two steals.

**Pistons 123, Heat 121 (OT):** Malik Beasley made a tiebreaking free throw with 1.1 seconds left in overtime for host Detroit after Miami was given a technical foul for calling a timeout when it had none left.

Tyler Herro's jumper put Miami up 121-119 with 1.8 seconds left, but after a timeout, Cade Cunningham hit Jalen Duren with an alley-oop on the inbounds pass.

The Heat then called the illegal timeout. Beasley hit the foul shot to put Detroit up 122-121, then added another free throw with 0.1 seconds left.

**Bucks 99, Raptors 85:** Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 23 points to lead host Milwaukee past Toronto in a game between teams that entered with the two worst records in the league.

Bobby Portis added 17 points off the bench for Milwaukee, and Brook Lopez scored 13.

Grady Dick paced the Raptors with 32 points, a career high for the second-year player.

**Suns 120, Jazz 112:** Devin Booker scored 31 points and Bradley Beal added 24 to help visiting Phoenix to a victory over Utah.

Grayson Allen chipped in 15



MATT SLOCUM/AP

**The Knicks' OG Anunoby goes up for a dunk against the 76ers' Guerschon Yabusele during the first half on Tuesday in Philadelphia.**

points for the Suns. Booker, Beal and Allen combined to make 13 3-pointers. Mason Plumlee finished with 15 points and 14 rebounds while starting in place of injured center Jusuf Nurkic.

John Collins led the Jazz with 29 points and 10 rebounds.

**Trail Blazers 122, Timberwolves 108:** Robert Williams and Jerami Grant each scored 19 points to lead host Portland to a win over Minnesota.

Naz Reid led Minnesota with 28 points in the loss while star guard Anthony Edwards pitched in 26 points.

The Blazers, who entered the game as the second-worst 3-point

shooting team in the NBA, shot a blistering 18-for-32 (56%) from behind the 3-point line.

**Warriors 120, Mavericks 117:** Stephen Curry scored 37 points, including his team's final 12, to rally Golden State past Klay Thompson and visiting Dallas.

Luka Doncic had 31 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

Thompson embraced Curry shortly before tipoff and his 3-pointer gave Dallas a 110-105 lead before his old Splash Brother took over.

Curry shot 14-for-27, making five 3s and added nine assists and six rebounds, also sparking a 20-3 burst to begin the third quarter.

# Thompson cheered in return to Golden State

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Klay Thompson exited the team bus then beamed as he strolled back into Chase Center on Tuesday night, greeted by some 400 cheering Warriors employees who lined up along his path to the Dallas locker room to show their love and appreciation for the former Golden State star.

Once the ball was tipped a couple of hours later, Thompson tried to pull off an impromptu shimmy, Stephen Curry-style, as the former Splash Brothers dualed in different uniforms.

The employees who greeted Thompson sported "Captain Klay" hats, the giveaway for all fans on a celebratory night re-

membering his 13 years with the franchise and four championships he helped win.

"That was really cool," Thompson said. "I'm very grateful for the employees to give me that kind of love ... totally unexpected and definitely put a smile on my face. Something I'll never forget."

Those white hats filled Chase Center, where video highlights of Thompson showed in a place where he's still beloved — and always will be. Curry jogged up to Thompson, now wearing No. 31 with teammate Kyrie Irving in No. 11, and offered a quick embrace in their first words of the day before Andrew Wiggins also hugged his old teammate.

"Thankfully we were all able to focus on the game and just hoop

and compete," Curry said. "It was an unreal night for sure all the way around."

Thompson scored 22 points on 7-for-17 shooting with six 3-pointers but watched Curry shine in the closing moments of Golden State's 120-117 victory. Thompson high-fived a fan afterward and tossed his white headband into the seats, giving some lucky patron an unexpected souvenir.

Earlier, after a brief jump-rope routine outside the Mavericks' locker room, Thompson ran out the tunnel and onto the floor to thunderous applause from Warriors fans with phones up to capture the moment.

"It was a cool moment to feel the energy from the fans," Thompson said.



JEFF CHIU / AP

**Mavericks guard Klay Thompson reacts toward fans before the game against the Warriors, his first since signing with Dallas.**

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	3	.750	—
New York	5	5	.500	3
Brooklyn	5	6	.455	3½
Philadelphia	2	8	.200	6
Toronto	2	10	.167	7

#### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	6	6	.500	—
Atlanta	5	7	.417	1
Miami	4	6	.400	1
Charlotte	4	7	.364	1½
Washington	2	7	.222	2½

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	12	0	1.000	—
Indiana	5	5	.500	6
Detroit	5	7	.417	7
Chicago	4	7	.364	7½
Milwaukee	3	8	.273	8½

### Western Conference

#### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	7	4	.636	—
Memphis	7	4	.636	—
Dallas	5	6	.455	2
San Antonio	5	6	.455	2
New Orleans	3	8	.273	4

#### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	9	2	.818	—
Denver	7	3	.700	1½
Minnesota	6	5	.545	3
Portland	4	8	.333	5½
Utah	2	8	.200	6½

#### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	9	2	.818	—
Golden State	9	2	.818	—
L.A. Lakers	6	4	.600	2½
L.A. Clippers	6	5	.545	3
Sacramento	6	5	.545	3

#### Monday's games

San Antonio 116, Sacramento 96  
Cleveland 119, Chicago 113  
Houston 107, Washington 92  
Brooklyn 107, New Orleans 105  
Oklahoma City 134, L.A. Clippers 128

#### Tuesday's games

Orlando 114, Charlotte 89  
Atlanta 117, Boston 116  
Detroit 123, Miami 121, OT  
New York 111, Philadelphia 99  
Milwaukee 99, Toronto 85  
Phoenix 120, Utah 112  
Portland 122, Minnesota 108  
Golden State 120, Dallas 117

#### Wednesday's games

Indiana at Orlando  
Boston at Brooklyn  
Chicago at New York  
Cleveland at Philadelphia  
New Orleans at Oklahoma City  
Detroit at Milwaukee  
L.A. Clippers at Houston  
Washington at San Antonio  
Memphis at L.A. Lakers  
Minnesota at Portland  
Phoenix at Sacramento

#### Thursday's games

Dallas at Utah

#### Friday's games

Detroit at Toronto  
Miami at Indiana  
Philadelphia at Orlando  
Brooklyn at New York  
Chicago at Cleveland  
L.A. Lakers at San Antonio  
Washington at Atlanta  
Denver at New Orleans  
L.A. Clippers at Houston  
Phoenix at Oklahoma City  
Memphis at Golden State  
Minnesota at Sacramento

### Rebounding leaders

#### Through Tuesday

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Jokic, DEN	10	45	92	137	13.7
Sabonis, SAC	11	34	107	141	12.8
Zubac, LAC	11	48	93	141	12.8
Towns, NY	10	32	92	124	12.4
Antetokmpo, MIL	10	22	97	119	11.9
Sengün, HOU	11	42	85	127	11.5
Pöltl, TOR	12	46	87	133	11.1
Kessler, UTA	9	34	62	96	10.7
Allen, CLE	12	24	103	127	10.6
Wembanyama, SA	11	24	92	116	10.5

# NFL

## Weekly statistics

### AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Burrow, Cin	358	246	2672	24	4
L.Jackson, Bal	288	199	2669	24	2
Stroud, Hou	329	207	2371	12	6
Allen, Buf	299	190	2281	17	4
Rodgers, NYJ	351	219	2258	15	7
Mahomes, KC	311	216	2208	12	9
Lawrence, Jac	274	168	2004	11	6
Nix, Den	324	206	1968	10	6
Herbert, LAC	241	159	1889	11	1
Minshew, Las	221	148	1501	6	8

Rushers					
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Henry, Bal	184	1120	6.1	87t	12
Dobbins, LAC	141	670	4.8	61	6
Pollard, Ten	151	666	4.4	41	3
Mixon, Hou	151	655	4.3	59	7
Harris, Pit	157	645	4.1	36t	3
Taylor, Ind	126	616	4.9	58	5
Cook, Buf	128	576	4.5	49t	8
Hall, NYJ	136	554	4.1	42	3
L.Jackson, Bal	91	538	5.9	33	2
C.Brown, Cin	118	521	4.4	30t	5

Receivers					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Chase, Cin	66	981	14.9	70t	10
Wilson, NYJ	65	704	10.8	35	5
Flowers, Bal	50	688	13.8	53t	3
Pickens, Pit	40	639	16.0	44	2
B.Thomas, Jac	37	607	16.4	85t	5
Bowers, Las	57	580	10.2	57t	2
Sutton, Den	42	569	13.5	37	3
Collins, Hou	32	567	17.7	67t	3
Shakir, Buf	48	529	11.0	52	2
Pierce, Ind	23	516	22.4	65t	4

Punters				
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Cole, Las	36	1921	70	53.4
Bojorquez, Cle	50	2600	84	52.0

Scoring Touchdowns				
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Henry, Bal	14	12	2	84
Chase, Cin	10	0	10	60

Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Fairbairn, Hou	20-20	24-29	59	92
Boswell, Pit	20-20	23-24	57	89

### AFC team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME			
OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Baltimore	440.2	182.6	257.6
Kansas City	346.7	115.1	231.6
Cincinnati	344.5	89.7	254.8
Buffalo	343.2	120.7	222.5
Houston	338.1	119.4	218.7
Pittsburgh	326.3	138.3	188.0
Indianapolis	319.6	121.3	198.3
Miami	315.2	126.4	188.8
L.A. Chargers	314.3	117.9	196.4
Denver	303.7	117.1	186.6
Jacksonville	302.9	107.7	195.2
N.Y. Jets	298.5	86.8	211.7
Tennessee	295.6	126.3	169.2
Las Vegas	280.2	76.9	203.3
Cleveland	274.4	91.0	183.4
New England	271.1	114.3	156.8

DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Tennessee	273.6	116.9	156.7
Houston	288.0	113.3	174.7
Kansas City	289.9	83.2	206.7
Denver	295.7	103.5	192.2
L.A. Chargers	302.1	110.6	191.6
N.Y. Jets	302.3	134.0	168.3
Pittsburgh	302.7	87.1	215.6
Miami	305.8	114.4	191.3
Las Vegas	325.0	129.9	195.1
Cleveland	328.2	122.6	205.7
Buffalo	336.1	123.2	212.9
New England	339.5	130.5	209.0
Cincinnati	347.5	127.3	220.2
Baltimore	367.9	73.0	294.9
Indianapolis	386.7	148.3	238.4
Jacksonville	390.6	129.4	261.2

### NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks					
	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Cousins, Atl	333	227	2634	17	8
Smith, Sea	342	233	2560	11	10
Mayfield, TB	344	243	2505	24	9
Purdy, SF	278	181	2454	12	7
Stafford, LAR	322	214	2262	9	7
Daniels, Was	262	180	2147	9	2
Darnold, Min	261	179	2141	17	10
Goff, Det	241	173	2080	16	9
Jones, NYG	341	216	2070	8	7
Murray, Ari	276	191	2058	12	3

Rushers					
	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Barkley, Phi	171	991	5.8	65t	6
Hubbard, Car	161	818	5.1	38t	6
Jacobs, GB	158	762	4.8	38t	3
Robinson, Atl	155	748	4.8	37t	6
Gibbs, Det	122	727	6.0	70t	7
Kamara, NO	167	715	4.3	24	6
Conner, Ari	159	697	4.4	22	5
Mason, SF	135	690	5.1	38	3
K.Williams, LAR	176	664	3.8	30	8
A.Jones, Min	142	653	4.6	39	2

Receivers					
	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Jefferson, Min	53	831	15.7	97t	5
McLaurin, Was	47	711	15.1	66	6
Mooney, Atl	46	684	14.9	41t	5
Lamb, Dal	59	681	11.5	65t	4
London, Atl	58	649	11.2	31	6
Reed, GB	36	620	17.2	70t	3
Nabers, NYG	61	607	10.0	39	3
Godwin, TB	50	576	11.5	55t	5
Metcalfe, Sea	35	568	16.2	71t	3
Njigba, Sea	50	568	11.4	46	3

Punters				
	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Fox, Det	31	1595	68	51.5
Mann, Phi	29	1490	70	51.4

Scoring Touchdowns				
	TDRush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Hurts, Phi	10	10	0	60
K.Williams, LAR	10	8	2	60

Kicking				
	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Seibert, Was	22-22	25-27	55	97
Aubrey, Dal	13-13	22-24	65	79

### NFC team statistics

AVERAGE PER GAME			
OFFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
San Francisco	412.4	149.7	262.8
Green Bay	390.6	154.8	235.8
Washington	377.0	153.5	223.5
Atlanta	375.1	124.7	250.4
Philadelphia	373.9	176.1	197.8
Detroit	366.9	147.3	219.6
Tampa Bay	361.5	125.3	236.2
Seattle	359.4	91.2	268.2
Arizona	346.4	149.4	197.0
Minnesota	343.6	120.2	223.3
New Orleans	334.8	122.4	212.4
L.A. Rams	328.7	94.1	234.6
Dallas	315.0	83.7	231.3
N.Y. Giants	309.7	119.9	189.8
Carolina	280.7	110.0	170.7
Chicago	277.7	108.1	169.6

DEFENSE			
	Yards	Rush	Pass
Philadelphia	274.1	100.7	173.4
San Francisco	303.7	106.2	197.4
Minnesota	310.9	79.0	231.9
Green Bay	320.0	113.0	207.0
Chicago	323.4	133.0	190.4
Washington	324.9	142.7	182.2
N.Y. Giants	331.3	147.1	184.2
Detroit	345.0	100.8	244.2
Arizona	346.0	127.5	218.5
L.A. Rams	347.1	127.6	219.6
Atlanta	352.8	129.4	223.4
Seattle	357.6	139.4	218.1
Dallas	362.9	152.1	210.8
New Orleans	385.6	141.0	244.6
Carolina	386.9	160.1	226.8
Tampa Bay	389.3	125.2	264.1



Nick Wass/AP

Washington Commanders rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels has completed 56.4% of his passes the last three games after completing 75.6% in his first seven. Washington has won three of its last four.

# Eagles-Commanders game more important this time

By DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jayden Daniels' nascent NFL career is all of 10 games old, yet the Washington quarterback responsible for the instant reshaping of the Commanders into a respectable franchise, and, finally, winners, already knows when a big game is on the schedule.

"I think people just know it's Philly week," Daniels said.

Oh yes, Commanders-Eagles, as serious as it gets this time of the NFL season. As a bonus, for the first time in nearly three decades, the outcome truly matters for either team.

Daniels has the Commanders (7-3) on the precipice of their biggest regular-season game in the series against the NFC East rival Eagles (7-2) in decades.

Hyperbole? Not a chance. Washington and Philadelphia meet — not only with the division lead at stake — but with both teams at least four games over .500 entering the game for the first time since 1996.

Terry Allen and Ricky Watters. Koy Detmer and Gus Frerotte. Norv Turner and Ray Rhodes.

Names forgotten to the history books until this week when every piece of the series rivalry has been resurrected as part of the anticipation for the primetime showdown at Lincoln Financial Field. The only drawback to the game is the short week — the Eagles won at Dallas and the Commanders lost to the Steelers on Sunday — has robbed the rivalry of a few extra days of hype.



Washington Commanders (7-3)  
at Philadelphia Eagles (7-2)  
AFN-Sports  
2:15 a.m. Friday CET  
10:15 a.m. Friday JKT

Behind QB Jalen Hurts and running back Saquon Barkley — who ranks second in the NFL with an average of 110.1 yards per contest while Washington is 28th in the league defensively against the run, allowing 142.7 yards per contest — the Eagles are riding a five-game winning streak; the Commanders have won three of four games.

The Eagles are 3½-point favorites, per BetMGM Sportsbook.

"I'm excited just to go to Philly and that type of atmosphere," Daniels said. "Heard they got very passionate fans, so man, I can't wait. I can't wait to go out there and see that fan base, and just experience that. And I know it's going to be a great venue, a great site, and we'll just go out there and see what happens."

Led by Daniels, the offense keeps putting up points, week in, week out, even against stingy opponents like Pittsburgh, which entered Sunday allowing just 14.9 per game. The QB is building a strong connection with receiver Terry McLaurin, who topped 100 yards receiving for the fourth time

in the past eight games, accumulating 113 on five catches.

The Eagles, who have won by 20-plus points in three of their last four games, understand the challenge Daniels presents.

"A really good player who started off on fire, so we'll have a challenge here this week," Eagles coach Nick Sirianni said. "You know how he's going to the right place with the football, being accurate, the things he can do when things do break down."

With a win, Washington would move to 8-3, its best record through 11 games since, yup, 1996.

"Taking our show on the road to go up and have another division battle, Thursday night in November, like come on, what are we talking about?" Washington coach Dan Quinn said.

## Run, Jayden run?

Daniels ran just three times for 5 yards in Washington's 28-27 home loss to the Steelers, by far the rookie quarterback's fewest carries and impact on the ground this season.

The No. 2 pick out of LSU has been playing through sore ribs for several weeks and credited Pittsburgh's defense for shutting down rushing lanes, and Philadelphia's second-ranked unit presents another challenge.

"Every game is different," said Daniels, who has completed 56.4% of his passes the last three games after 75.6% in his first seven. "It just depends on the coordinator. Just going out there and just kind of adjusting to what I see and what they're doing."

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Moving: Attitude just as important as talent in recruiting from FCS

## FROM PAGE 24

the decision to offer them scholarships was attitude.

"I'm not saying it's solely because of what we can afford, but it fits our resources and our ability to have grateful players in this university, our program and our locker room," Fleck said. "They are really good players and good people, and I think it's something we'll continue to focus on."

After Minnesota beat Rhode Island earlier this season, Rams coach Jim Fleming said Gophers assistants were actually trying to recruit some of his players on the field once the game ended, a tactic he told Fleck during their postgame handshake that he didn't appreciate.

"I said, 'Hey, I know I wouldn't have done it,'" Fleming said in an interview with The Associated Press.

For typically middle-of-the-pack programs like Minnesota that can't name their NIL price for the nation's top recruits, whether straight from high school or via the transfer portal, the FCS might well be a hidden gem for filling depth charts or, occasionally, finding an impact player like Brosmer even if it requires a two-level leap.

Nebraska punter Brian Buschini was an FCS first team All-American with Montana in 2021. Michigan State starting left guard Luke Newman came from Holy Cross. Rutgers leading receiver Dymere Miller transferred from Monmouth. Wisconsin has two contributors on defense, John Pius (William & Mary) and Elijah Hills (Albany), plucked from the FCS, and a starting cornerback, Nyzier Fourqurean, who made a three-level jump from an NCAA Division II program, Grand Valley State.

"Sometimes you find those guys who are incredibly hungry as opposed to maybe somebody who's

moving laterally, and they're moving laterally for a reason, whether they couldn't get it done where they were, maybe didn't have the work ethic to do it," said Badgers coach Luke Fickell, who actively recruited the FCS ranks at his previous job at Cincinnati.

The other power conferences are open to it, too. Colorado coach Deion Sanders brought a bunch of talent with him from Jackson State, starting with two-way standout Travis Hunter. Oklahoma's leading receiver, tight end Bauer Sharp, came from Southeastern Louisiana. Virginia's second-leading receiver, tight end Tyler Neville, transferred from Harvard. California leading tackler Teddye Buchanan moved up from UC Davis.

Then there's Pittsburgh running back Desmond Reid, who was picked by the AP at midseason as the most surprising player in the ACC, who followed offensive coordinator Kade Bell from Western Carolina.

Reid entered the week ranked fifth in the FBS in total yards from scrimmage. In a win over Cincinnati earlier this season, he became the first player in Panthers history to top 100 receiving yards and 100 rushing yards in the same game. One reason he was overlooked by the rest of the FBS? He's listed at 5-foot-8.

"He just plays with a chip on his shoulder, and those are the guys I love to coach because they're never satisfied. No matter how he plays, he's always frustrated, like, 'Oh man, I could have ran this ball better,' or 'Man, I could have hit this hole better,'" Bell said.

Bell didn't have to persuade coach Pat Narduzzi to sign Reid. The film from his time with the Catamounts took care of that.

"There's players everywhere," Bell said. "It don't matter what level you play at."



MATT FREED/AP

Pittsburgh running back Desmond Reid carries as he's defended by Virginia safety Jonas Sanker during the second half Saturday.



JENNY KANE/AP

Oregon quarterback Dillon Gabriel throws the ball as Maryland linebacker Kellan Wyatt defends during the second half Saturday in Eugene, Ore. The Ducks won 39-18, which helped them maintain their No. 1 ranking.

# Oregon tops CFP rankings again; Georgia off bracket

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
Associated Press

Undefeated Oregon stayed on top in the second batch of College Football Playoff rankings, while Tuesday's poll shoved Georgia completely out of the bracket after its lopsided loss to Mississippi.

Led by the Ducks, then Ohio State, the Big Ten captured four of the top five spots — a string interrupted only by Texas of the Southeastern Conference, which was slotted in at No. 3 and would receive a first-round bye.

Georgia's 28-10 loss to Ole Miss dropped the Bulldogs from third to all the way to 12th, but they would be the first team out because No. 13 Boise State of the Mountain West would receive an automatic bid and the final spot in the 12-team bracket as the fifth-best conference champion.

BYU was ranked sixth, but would receive a first-round bye as the Big 12's champion if it wins out.

Those byes go to the four highest-ranked conference champions, meaning Miami of the Atlantic Coast Conference would get a pass into the quarterfinals per this week's version of the bracket despite a loss to Georgia Tech that dropped the Hurricanes five spots to No. 9.

The other ranked teams are No. 4 Penn State, No. 5 Indiana, No. 7 Tennessee, No. 8 Notre Dame, No. 10 Alabama and No. 11 Ole Miss.

The CFP committee releases rankings every week, closing Dec. 8 with the final poll that will

## College Football Playoff rankings

Nov. 11

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

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

determine the official pairings. College football's first 12-team playoff begins with first-round games Dec. 20-21 and concludes with the title game Jan. 20.

Much of the hand-wringing this week had to do with Georgia's nine-spot drop in the rankings and its ouster from the bracket. Yes, the Bulldogs have two losses, but they also have what is widely regarded as the toughest schedule in the country. It wouldn't seem right, though, if they were ranked ahead of Ole Miss after last Saturday's beatdown.

"Both Alabama and Ole Miss beat them head-to-head," said Michigan athletic director Warde Manuel, who chairs the selection committee. "As we went through the rankings and looked at everyone, they obviously fell to 12, but it's based on who won in front of them, head-to-head and everything we look at in terms of body of work."

Both the SEC and Big Ten placed four teams in the projected Week 2 bracket.

Undefeated Army of the American Athletic Conference moved up one spot to No. 24 — still behind three teams with three losses — while Colorado came in at No. 17. Coach Deion Sanders' Buffaloes can earn a spot in the Big 12 title game by winning their next two games.

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

**No. 12 Boise State at No. 5 Ohio State:** The Buckeyes could still get a chance to avenge their one-point loss to Oregon in the Big Ten title game.

**No. 11 Ole Miss at No. 6 Penn State:** Rivalry brewing? The Rebels beat the Nittany Lions 38-25 in the 2023 Peach Bowl.

**No. 10 Alabama at No. 7 Indiana:** Alabama has 77 bowl appearances; Indiana has 13.

**No. 9 Notre Dame at No. 8 Tennessee:** The programs have split eight meetings. Notre Dame won the last one in 2005.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## TOP 25 ROUNDUP

# No. 1 Kansas holds off Michigan State

## Self passes Allen as winningest coach in Jayhawks team history

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Hunter Dickinson scored 28 points and Bill Self became the winningest coach in Kansas history as the No. 1 Jayhawks pulled away from Michigan State for a 77-69 victory in the Champions Classic on Tuesday night.

Spartans forward Jaxon Kohler hit a 3-pointer to tie the game at 52 with just under nine minutes remaining. KJ Adams Jr. hit a pair of free throws to put Kansas (3-0) ahead to stay.

Self improved to 591-143 in his 22nd season coaching the Jayhawks, pushing him past Phog Allen's mark of 590-129 in 36 seasons on the Kansas sideline.

Frankie Fidler led Michigan State (2-1) with 15 points.

The Jayhawks posted their second straight win over one of the nation's prominent programs, following up a 92-89 win over No. 10 North Carolina.

Dajuan Harris Jr. gave Kansas some breathing room when he laid one in off a fast break, drew a foul and completed the three-point play for a 68-59 lead with 4:25 to go. After tumbling to the court,

Harris remained on his back for a few seconds, clapping furiously. He finished with 11 points and six assists.

**No. 19 Kentucky 77, No. 6 Duke 72:** At Atlanta, Otega Oweh knocked down four free throws in the final 10.3 seconds and the Wildcats claimed the first big win of Mark Pope's coaching tenure, knocking off the Blue Devils in the Champions Classic.

In the frenetic closing seconds, Duke (2-1) tied the game at 72 on Cooper Flagg's layup with 1:14 remaining but never got off another shot.

Flagg ruined a 26-point night by turning it over twice in the final minute to hand the victory to Kentucky (3-0).

Oweh had a steal that led to a pair of free throws, then snatched away an offensive rebound off a missed free throw by Lamont Butler, drawing another foul that set up two more free throws with 0.5 seconds left.

Andrew Carr paced the Wildcats with 17 points, while Oweh added 15.

It was a huge win for Pope, a former Kentucky player who re-



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Kansas guard Dajuan Harris Jr. shoots as Michigan State forward Xavier Booker defends during the first half Tuesday in Atlanta. The Jayhawks won 77-69 for coach Bill Self's school-record 591st career victory.

turned to his alma mater after the departure of long-time coach John Calipari.

**No. 12 Baylor 104, Sam Houston 67:** Jayden Nunn had 19 points with five 3-pointers to lead six teammates in double figures, and the Bears won their home opener over the Bearcats.

Baylor (2-1) got double-doubles from Miami transfer Norchad Omier (18 points and 10 rebounds) and freshman VJ Edgecombe (13 points and 10 rebounds). They haven't trailed in their two games since a 38-point loss in a top-10 matchup at Gonzaga, including a win over then-No. 16 Arkansas.

Duke transfer Jeremy Roach had 12 points and eight assists while Josh Ojianwuna's 11 points included a dunk only 10 seconds into the game that put Baylor ahead to stay. Robert Wright III and Jalen Celestine both had 10 points.

Lamar Wilkerson had 19 points for reigning Conference USA champion Sam Houston (1-2). Josiah Hammons had 14 points, and Dorian Finister had 13.

**No. 24 Mississippi 64, South Alabama 54:** Sean Padilla scored 19 of his 27 points in the first half and the Rebels used a 9-0 surge in the final two minutes to beat the

visiting Jaguars.

Jaemyn Brakefield scored 14 points for Ole Miss (3-0) while Malik Dia added a game-high 13 rebounds. The Rebels led 38-26 at halftime.

Judah Brown led South Alabama (1-2) with 16 points while Myles Corey added 14.

The Jaguars pulled within 55-52 in the final four minutes, but consecutive 3-point shots by Jaylen Murray, Brakefield and Pedulla put the game away.

Ole Miss played without Matthew Murrell, a three-year starter at shooting guard, due to lower back concerns.

# Kiffin believes Ole Miss 'playing as well as anybody'

BY JOHN ZENOR

Associated Press

Mississippi was limping along after a second three-point loss left the team's playoff and Southeastern Conference hopes on life support.

The 10th-ranked Rebels then fell behind to Oklahoma at halftime. In the 10 quarters since, Ole Miss coach Lane Kiffin doesn't think any FBS team has played better.

"Some people would say right now we're playing as well as anybody in the country, which we are," Kiffin said.

No need to be humble when the Rebels (8-2, 4-2 SEC) entered a bye week fresh from a 28-10 win over then-No. 2 Georgia. They'll finish up against Florida and Mississippi State, games when Ole Miss is likely to be a significant favorite.

The turnaround came after a 29-26 overtime loss to LSU. Really, though, it started in the second half against Oklahoma



RANDY J. WILLIAMS/AP

Mississippi head coach Lane Kiffin leads his team to the field before its game against Georgia on Saturday in Oxford, Miss.

when the Rebels rallied for a 26-14 win with 16 unanswered points.

At halftime of that game, Kiffin challenged a team packed with transfer portal pickups to decide if they've "had enough" of letting those tight games slip away or

wanted to keep striving for bigger things.

"I told them you can keep screwing these games up at the end and the narrative can be, you guys came here for money and Ole Miss can't be one of those teams

that makes an elite run and can't be a championship team," Kiffin said. "Or you can have enough."

"Since then, it'd be hard to argue that anybody in the country is playing better these last 2½ games of football."

The Rebels, who had already lost 20-17 to Kentucky, have outscored Oklahoma, Arkansas and Georgia 107-41 since that halftime challenge.

Ole Miss scored the last 12 points against the Bulldogs to pull away.

Normally, this might be a bad time for a potential momentum-halting open date. But quarterback Jaxson Dart has an extra week to recover if needed from an ankle issue that briefly sidelined him in the Georgia game. It also gives more time to potentially get back wide receiver Tre Harris after he missed the last three games with a lower body injury.

Wide receiver Juice Wells, a South Carolina transfer, said the team knew the Rebels "weren't

playing to our standard at all."

"We knew there was something still left on the table and we knew we all came here for a reason," Wells said.

Indeed, once again Kiffin leaned heavily on the transfer portal to fortify his roster after a Top 10 finish last season.

The group included top players like now-injured tailback Henry Parrish Jr., linebacker Chris Paul Jr. and linemen Walter Nolen and Princely Umanmielen. But some of them didn't arrive until the summer.

Kiffin said that's one explanation for why his team has picked up steam late in the season.

"This was kind of like an NBA free-agent thing where it was put together late," he said. "There were a lot of late pieces."

"I think what you're seeing is when those teams are put together, they take longer sometimes than ones that have been together for years, and then they screw up early in the year sometimes."

# SPORTS



## Flying high

Jets beat Rangers to keep hot streak going, move to 15-1 » **NHL, Page 19**

### COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Moving up

## Minnesota QB Brosmer shows success of FCS transfer route

BY DAVE CAMPBELL  
*Associated Press*

MINNEAPOLIS — When Max Brosmer was at New Hampshire, spring practice was conducted before dawn and, sometimes, even in the aftermath of a snowstorm.

For the Wildcats to conduct those 6 a.m. workouts in the frigid air made colder still by the coastal winds, the field needed to be plowed first. With nowhere to put the piles but into the entrance, players had to lace up their cleats and climb 10-foot drifts to start the session.

“If we had the opportunity to go practice inside, we would’ve done it for sure, but it teaches you a lot of things, I think,” said Brosmer, who transferred to Minnesota this year. “Adding people from different backgrounds, it allows your team to see a perspective and ultimately grow tighter as a unit.”

In the FCS, indoor facilities are largely a wish, not a feature — just like the meals, tutors and array of other benefits of being in a power conference program. Joining the Golden Gophers has given Brosmer, a sixth-year quarterback making the most of his lone Big Ten season, an immeasurable sense of gratitude alongside the fulfillment of his desire to compete at the highest

level of college football.

Brosmer, who is seventh in the conference in pass efficiency rating and sixth in completion percentage, has thrown 14 touchdowns against only four interceptions and rushed for another four scores. His ability upon arrival to fully grasp the offense has pushed Minnesota into the rare air of calling more pass plays than run plays for the first time in 17 years.

He told coach P.J. Fleck and offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach Greg Harbaugh during the recruiting process that he wanted to be able to take full control of the offense on the field, and he has continually impressed the staff with how immersed and invested he is in the weekly game plans and film reviews.

“I’ve never had a relationship with a player like him where we can have this dialogue,” Harbaugh said.

Starting cornerbacks Jack Henderson, in his second season after transferring from Southeastern Louisiana, and Ethan Robinson, in his first season after coming from Bucknell, have given the Gophers an FCS presence in the secondary, too. Just as important as talent in

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BRUCE KLUCKHOHN, LEFT, AND ANDY CLAYTON-KING, RIGHT/AP

Defensive back Jack Henderson, left, and quarterback Max Brosmer both transferred to Minnesota from FCS schools and have found new levels of success.

# Eagles, Commanders clash for NFC East lead

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