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K. KASSENS/U.S. Army

Special operations forces should more closely study data on training incidents and spend more time observing high-risk, noncombat operations to better mitigate accidents involving elite troops, a federal watchdog found in a study published Thursday.

Reassessing risky training

GAO: Elite troop drills need to be studied to help avoid deaths, injuries

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Special Operations Command should more closely study data on training incidents and spend more time observing high-risk, noncombat operations to better mitigate accidents involving its elite forces, a federal watchdog found in a study published Thursday.

The Government Accountability Office found recent efforts by SOCOM to implement increased safety scrutiny for high-risk training operations have been constrained by fiscal shortfalls and limited by the command's own definitions of high-risk training operations. GAO, in the new report, recommended SOCOM analyze safety data to reassess its most dangerous training operations and reevaluate

how it assesses risky training.

The military has relied on special operations forces in recent decades — especially in the Global War on Terrorism campaign, where elite U.S. forces have fought near constantly in places such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Somalia. Special operations officials have long

SEE RISKY ON PAGE 3

War crimes cases shaped how Hegseth views military

BY DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

Military personnel manning a U.S. Army command outpost in Iraq found the radio report suspicious. During an operation to hunt suspected al-Qaida militants, American soldiers involved notified their commanders that they had just killed three detainees whom, they said, had broken free of their restraints and attacked them.

The soldiers had been in combat for months in Samarra, a city about 80 miles northwest of Baghdad, where a vicious insurgency had taken hold. The detainees' deaths on May 9, 2006, triggered an extensive U.S. military investigation, leading to courts-martial, two murder convictions, and a career-ending letter of reprimand for Col. Michael Steele, the troops' brigade commander. In the end, those found guilty acknowledged under oath that they had lied about the detainees' escape, and instead set them loose and shot them in the back as they ran away.

"Every single person that was involved in that has had an indelible mark left on them," Steele told The Washington Post in an interview. He attributed the murders to "guys that decided to go rogue."

The cases have taken on new significance with President-elect Donald Trump's nomination of Pete Hegseth for defense secretary. Hegseth was a 26-year-old lieutenant in the Army National

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Trump pushes past sting of Gaetz's exit with new selections
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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Judge: SiriusXM made it too hard for customers to quit

The Washington Post

Satellite radio provider SiriusXM made it too hard for customers to cancel their subscriptions, a New York judge ruled last week.

New York Supreme Court Justice Lyle Frank concluded in a Thursday ruling that the company allowed subscribers to sign up through an easy Web-based form, while it routed cancellations through a phone-based customer service system.

“Given the inevitable wait times

that come with a live customer service agent, and the again undisputed fact that [SiriusXM’s] agents first to through an evaluation and offer process with the customer before proceeding to cancel, their cancellation procedure is clearly not as easy to use as the initiation method,” Frank wrote.

SiriusXM, which has around 33 million subscribers, said in a statement Friday that it intends to appeal the ruling and that most of the allegations brought against it

were rejected by the judge, including those that alleged fraud.

New York attorney general Letitia James sued SiriusXM late last year, arguing it was “trapping consumers in subscriptions and maintaining deliberately long and burdensome cancellation processes.” James said customers were forced to sit through lengthy six-part conversations and hear up to five offers to keep subscriptions before they could cancel, practices she argued were a violation of state law.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Nov. 25)	0.93	Switzerland (Franc)
British pound (Nov. 25)	\$1.22	Thailand (Baht)
Japanese yen (Nov. 25)	151.00	Turkey (New Lira)
South Korean won (Nov. 25)	1,364.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769	
Britain (Pound)	1.2637	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3949	
China (Yuan)	7.2378	
Denmark (Krone)	7.0795	
Egypt (Pound)	49.6808	
Euro	.9492	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7830	
Hungary (Forint)	389.41	
Israel (Shekel)	3.7235	
Japan (Yen)	154.15	
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3075	
Norway (Krone)	11.0344	
Philippines (Peso)	58.89	
Poland (Zloty)	4.12	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7543	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3428	
South Korea (Won)	1,396.65	

(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	4.53	
30-year bond	4.60	

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MILITARY

Promotion delayed for general last to leave Kabul

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A batch of military promotions approved by the Senate on Thursday left out Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue, an officer who oversaw the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan and is now nominated to lead the Army in Europe and Africa.

It remains unclear why Donahue's nomination to become commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and Africa and receive a promotion to four-star general was not included.

However, The Washington Post reported that a hold was placed on Donahue's promotion by Sen. Markwayne Mullin, R-Okla.

The Post said the report was based on correspondence it had seen, and there was no comment from Mullin, an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation, or his office.

Three years ago, Mullin, then a member of the House, twice tried to personally rescue people from Afghanistan during the evacuation, only to be rebuffed once by the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan and once by the Pentagon, The Post said.

The Senate Armed Services



ALEX BURNETT/U.S. Army

Then-Maj. Gen. Chris Donahue, commander of the Army 82nd Airborne Division, XVIII Airborne Corps, boards a C-17 cargo plane at the international airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Aug. 30, 2021.

Committee approved nearly 1,000 promotions, including Donahue's, earlier in the week before advancing them to the full upper chamber.

The timing of Donahue's promotion is now uncertain with the Senate not expected to return from recess until December. A

senator's hold on his nomination could be bypassed with a time-consuming vote on the Senate floor.

The chamber resorted to such a procedure last year after Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., blocked the promotions of hundreds of general and flag officers

for months in a failed bid to overturn a Pentagon policy providing troops with access to abortion and other reproductive health care.

Donahue is best known for being the last U.S. service member to leave Afghanistan, a moment that was captured in a grainy night vision photo that went viral in 2021. He led the 82nd Airborne Division at the time and was responsible for securing the airfield at then-Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.

The chaotic evacuation of Americans and Afghan refugees from Kabul continues to be a frequent target of criticism by Republicans who blame President Joe Biden's administration after a suicide attack at the airport killed 13 service members.

A 2022 independent review by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction said decisions made by Biden as well as former President Donald Trump were key factors in the rapid collapse of Afghanistan's security forces.

As Trump readies for a second term, he is reportedly searching for a way to prosecute U.S. mili-

tary officers who were directly involved in the violent withdrawal. He has called the hectic exit of American troops from Afghanistan after 20 years of war a "humiliation."

Donahue was pictured boarding the last plane out of Kabul, walking up a ramp with an assault rifle in hand. He sent a message to his troops as the C-17 cargo plane got off the ground: "Job well done, I'm proud of you all."

Donahue has served as the commander of XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Liberty, N.C., since 2022 and, if confirmed, would replace Gen. Darryl Williams at the Army's Europe and Africa headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany.

He has had a distinguished career in the Army since entering service in 1992, with roles as an Army Ranger and in the elite Delta Force. He deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere and served as the Joint Chiefs of Staff's deputy director for special operations and counterterrorism.

In 2022, Donahue was part of an 82nd Airborne contingent that arrived in Germany shortly before Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Risky: Watchdog questions some SOCOM 'high-risk' designations

FROM PAGE 1

said the tough, combat-like training conditions were the best way to build the elite troops needed to carry out the U.S. military's toughest — often secretive — operations around the globe.

The active-duty special operations community includes some 67,500 troops, including Army Rangers and Green Berets, Navy SEALs, Air Force pararescue forces and combat controllers, and Marine Raiders, among others, according to the GAO.

Between 2012 and 2022, the GAO found more than 3,600 non-combat accidents involving special operators, with an average of 258 reported training accidents per year with at least minor injuries or more than \$20,000 of military equipment damage. Accident reports ranged from a low of 120 in 2020, when training was constrained by the coronavirus pandemic, to a high of 402 accidents in 2015, the GAO found. Among all those incidents, there were about 86 major accidents among special operators — defined as having caused permanent, partial disabilities, inpatient care for three or more individuals, or more than \$500,000 of damage. There were 48 training deaths during that decade.

Their training could be safer, the GAO found in its latest report titled "Special Operations Forces: Additional Oversight Could Help

Mitigate High-Risk Training Accidents." The watchdog said the Defense Department agreed with the recommendations it made to improve high-risk training for special operators.

During the roughly two-year study, GAO analysts scrutinized accident data for special operations forces from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps during fiscal years 2012 through 2022, according to the report. The analysts also reviewed special operations training, risk management efforts and safety documents and interviewed defense officials associated with the special operations community.

The congressional watchdog found parachute and combat dive training to be the riskiest operations for special operators outside of a combat zone, with accidents during those two activities accounting for roughly 40% of training incidents during the decade that they analyzed.

The GAO also found most accidents — some 86% — were the result of "human error," primarily from "failure to adhere to training standards and complacency, overconfidence or indiscipline." Equipment or material failure was cited in only about 3% of reported incidents, and environmental factors accounted for less than 3% of accidents, including none of the fatalities in special operations training from 2012 to

2022.

SOCOM included parachute and combat dive training among seven categories that it designated "high-risk" for training in a 2022 overhaul of its training safety measures, the GAO said. The other categories that SOCOM officials deemed high-risk for training were joint terminal attack controller, mountain, sniper, urban combat and vertical lift operations.

Those high-risk training operations were designated to receive more oversight to ensure safety measures are followed, and SOCOM officials told the GAO that they were identified based on "common-sense interpretation" of training risk. But the GAO, in its report, questioned the designation for some of those categories.

"Some training areas designated by SOCOM as high-risk, such as sniper, had very few reported accidents while other training areas that SOCOM has not designated as high-risk, such as tactical vehicles training, had many more reported accidents," the GAO analysts wrote.

Sniper training only saw five reported incidents from 2012 to 2022, including no serious accidents or fatalities, the GAO wrote. Meanwhile, special operators were involved in 83 tactical vehicle training accidents, including 12 serious incidents that resulted in 10 fatalities, the analysts wrote.

The analysts suggested SOCOM reconsider the categories that it has labeled "high risk," and base its decisions on "an analysis of negative safety trends."

"Without performing additional analysis of negative safety trends in [special operations] training when designating high-risk training areas, SOCOM may miss an increase in issues related to safety within non-high-risk-designated programs," GAO wrote.

"By doing so, SOCOM could ensure that [special operations] service components have the required higher levels of oversight to mitigate risks during high-risk training."

SOCOM officials also told the GAO that they have not had enough money to fully implement their 2022 training oversight program, which aims to conduct assessments of the implementation of safety standards and policies. They also lack the funds for subject matter experts to observe high-risk training to take a proactive approach "to identify training and safety issues" before they become rampant.

Last year, SOCOM spent some \$767,000 on its training assessment program, but command officials told the GAO that sum was "insufficient to fully implement the number of scheduled observations that are part of the training assessment program." During that last three fiscal years, SO-

COM was only able to complete 18 of 30 scheduled safety observations, prioritizing the assessment efforts, the GAO found, because they are considered the "more formal effort" in the special operations community.

The GAO pointed out the assessment and observation efforts work. In one case, a SOCOM safety assessment last year found "shortcomings that resulted in undue stress and fatigue" for instructors and students at the Army's Military Free-Fall Parachutist Course at Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona.

That resulted in new safety protocols and "best practices," including reducing the student-to-instructor ratio and reducing the number of jumps instructors conducted each day during the course, according to the GAO.

The watchdog encourages SOCOM to implement a formal timeline for each of the military services with special operations components to implement the assessment and observation systems into their training protocols.

"SOCOM has not established milestones to ensure the components complete these efforts," GAO analysts wrote. "By not doing so, SOCOM does not have full assurance that each of the SOF service component commands possess an approach to safely conduct training and to mitigate risks."

MILITARY

USS George Washington back in Japan

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Hundreds of sailors stood in dress blues as the aircraft carrier USS George Washington pulled into Tokyo Bay on Friday morning for the first time in nearly a decade.

Scores of onlookers were joined by mascots and vendors while the U.S. 7th Fleet Band, high school cheerleaders and traditional Japanese musicians welcomed the ship's return to the place it called home from 2008 to 2015.

While many of the carrier's approximately 3,000 sailors are new to Japan, others, including its skipper, Capt. Timothy Waits, served aboard the George Washington during its previous deployment to Japan.

Many of the returning sailors specifically requested the assignment, Waits said at a pierside news conference.

"I think that serves as a testament to the people and the culture of Japan, as well as the strong relationship between our two nations," he said.

Among the new arrivals was 10-year-old William Prentiss, of Albuquerque, N.M., who was there to welcome his father, Cmdr. Jacob Prentiss, a supply officer aboard the George Washington.

"I'm really excited to see him. I haven't seen him in six months," he told Stars and Stripes ahead of the ship's arrival.

Amanda Murillo and her son,

Ethan, of Houston, were waiting to welcome Chief Warrant Officer 2 Robert Murillo.

"We're grateful to have my husband home," she said pierside.

The George Washington left Yokosuka in 2015 for a midlife nuclear refueling and maintenance period at Newport News, Va. The process was significantly delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other setbacks.

Its sister ship, the USS Ronald Reagan, took its place as the centerpiece of the 7th Fleet's carrier strike group until it left Yokosuka on May 16 for its own scheduled maintenance period at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in Bremerton, Wash.

During their 2015 interchange, the two ships swapped nearly two-thirds of their respective 3,000 crew members.

This time around, only about 350 sailors from the Ronald Reagan, or 13% of its crew, moved to the George Washington before it departed for Japan.

Moving that many sailors and families, as well as a ship the length of Tokyo Tower — 1,092 feet — is "no small feat," said U.S. Embassy to Japan deputy chief of mission Katherine Monahan.

"[The ship's] arrival here today clearly illustrates America's steadfast commitment to the U.S.-Japan alliance and our collective security and deterrence in the Indo-Pacific region," she said at the news conference.

The George Washington ar-



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

Family members and friends cheer pierside Friday as the aircraft carrier USS George Washington arrives at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.



Family members and friends wait pierside for the Washington.

rived less than a week after its aviation component, Carrier Air Wing 5, returned to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni in southwestern Japan.

The wing, which departed with the USS Ronald Reagan in May, returned with several changes to its roster.

Strike Fighter Squadron 147, a unit of F-35C Lightning II fighter

jets, replaced Strike Fighter Squadron 115's F/A-18E Super Hornets. While other F-35 models are prominent in Japan, the 147th brings the first C variant, which is equipped for arrested landings, squadron commander Cmdr. Christopher Case told Stars and Stripes on Nov. 17.

The newer aircraft are an example of how the U.S. is ensuring

peace and prosperity in the region, said U.S. Ambassador to Japan Rahm Emanuel.

"China knows what this USS George Washington can do today, because these are superior aircraft than they were nine years ago," he told reporters Friday. "America's deterrence and credibility are seen, heard and believed."

Ospreys make precautionary landings at Japanese airport

By BRIAN McELHINEY AND KEISHI KOJA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A Navy Osprey made a precautionary landing Thursday at a commercial airport on an island north of Okinawa, a week after a Marine Corps tiltrotor made a similar landing there.

A CMV-22 Osprey assigned to Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 30, Detachment 1, landed at Amani Airport at approximately 4 p.m. without incident, U.S. Naval Forces Japan spokesman Cmdr. Paul Macapagal said by email Friday.

Seven crew members were on board the tiltrotor, which is de-

ployed from Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego. Macapagal did not elaborate further.

No injuries or property damage were reported, and the cause of the landing is under investigation, he said. The aircraft was still at the airport on Friday afternoon.

"Precautionary landings are a part of our training and commitment to the highest safety standards for our personnel and the communities we serve," he said.

The Osprey landed after "a warning lamp turned on while it was flying," a spokesman with the Kyushu Defense Bureau, an arm of Japan's Ministry of Defense, said Friday.

Civilian flights at the airport were not affected, he added.

Japan Ground Self-Defense Force personnel from the Amami Area Security Force were dispatched to the airport, the spokesman said.

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

The incident follows a Nov. 14 precautionary landing at the airport by an MV-22B Osprey assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, according to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing spokesman Maj. Joseph Butterfield.

The aircraft was conducting routine training when it landed at approximately 10:45 a.m. following onboard warning indications, Butterfield said by email Friday. He did not elaborate on the warning indications.

No injuries or property damage were reported, he wrote.

Two other MCAS Futenma-based tiltrotors landed at the airport at 10:45 a.m. and 11:11 a.m. to help with maintenance, the bureau spokesman said.

The aircraft returned to their base the same day, Butterfield said.

"Operating our aircraft safely and effectively is a top priority, and

our aviators take great precautions to ensure the safety of the aircrew and the communities in which we operate," he wrote.

Ospreys have come under increasing scrutiny after a series of fatal accidents. The U.S. and Japan grounded their tiltrotor fleets after an Osprey with Air Force Special Operations Command crashed Nov. 29, 2023, just off Yakushima, an island south of Kyushu in southern Japan, killing all eight crew members on board.

The accident investigation found a catastrophic mechanical failure at fault, compounded by a "lack of urgency" by the crew to deal with an engine problem.

MILITARY

GOP IVF critics: Cut troop access from bill

By SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two House Republicans are urging congressional leaders to omit expanded access to in vitro fertilization for troops and their families from a defense policy bill set to pass before the end of year.

Reps. Matt Rosendale, R-Mont., and Josh Brecheen, R-Okla., argue provisions providing extensive military health care coverage of IVF treatments are too costly and would lead to the “destruction of innocent human life.”

The lawmakers made their case in a Thursday letter to the leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees just weeks after two Democratic lawmakers lobbied negotiators of the National

Defense Authorization Act to include the IVF provisions.

The House and Senate versions of the must-pass legislation remove long-standing restrictions on Tricare coverage of IVF treatments, no longer requiring that service members and dependents link their infertility to a service-related illness or injury.

Negotiators are expected to unveil a compromise bill next month.

Rosendale, a prominent IVF critic on Capitol Hill, has sought to curb access to the procedure. In June, he unsuccessfully attempted to put forward an amendment defunding IVF treatment for troops.

The procedure, which involves fertilizing eggs outside the womb and then implanting a resulting

embryo, became a contentious political issue this year after Alabama’s Supreme Court ruled that frozen embryos should be considered children.

Rosendale and Brecheen said 4.1 million “embryonic children” were created through IVF in 2021 but only 97,128 of them resulted in a birth, citing statistics from the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“While we have great sympathy for couples who are having difficulty starting a family, IVF is ineffective, leads to the destruction of innocent human life, and does nothing to treat the root cause of a couple’s infertility,” they wrote.

The lawmakers contend the IVF industry is “heavily underregulated and is done without the needed

ethical guidelines in place.” The nonprofit American Society for Reproductive Medicine has said IVF is “one of the most heavily regulated procedures in all American medicine.”

Rosendale and Brecheen also argue the “dramatic” expansion of access to IVF for service members would cost taxpayers about \$1 billion per year. Rosendale is set to leave Congress after his term ends in January.

“Congress must protect the most vulnerable in our country and reject any provision that leads to the destruction of innocent human life and expands our nearly \$36 trillion debt,” the lawmakers wrote in their letter.

Their anti-IVF stance is at odds with the positions of many mem-

bers of Congress and military service organizations that contend service members deserve access to affordable fertility treatments due to the unique challenges of life in service.

Troops are disproportionately affected by infertility as a result of hazardous working conditions and significant time away from their partners and often pay tens of thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket costs for IVF due to lack of insurance coverage.

Democrats in the Senate twice attempted to pass legislation this year guaranteeing federal protections and insurance coverage for IVF but Republicans blocked both efforts on grounds that the procedure was not under threat in most states.

Vicenza \$7M pipe project shifts

By REBECCA HOLLAND
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — The parking crunch at Caserma Ederle should start to ease around mid-December as work on a wide-ranging \$7 million steam pipe project wraps up in places on base that have been most affected.

For a little over a year, parking and streets have been disrupted across the base, most recently near Five Guys and the PX.

While the project won’t be completed until 2025, the work will be mostly out of sight after this year.

The project, which started in January 2023, encompasses almost the entire base and entails replacement of decades-old pipes with more efficient ones. According to estimates, the base will realize about \$750,000 a year in energy savings as a result.

“That translates to real dollars that go to other community projects,” said Callie Carmichael, project manager for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Vicenza.

Some pipes are about 60 years old and the surrounding trenches have been soaked with rain, destroying the insulation and making them less energy-efficient.

Most of Caserma Ederle’s domestic heating and all its hot water come from steam, starting at a central energy plant near Community Bank. Supply lines branch out from the plant, under the sidewalks and throughout the base.

The new, better-insulated



REBECCA HOLLAND/Stars and Stripes

A new heat exchanger is in place Friday at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy. The construction project has caused a parking crunch, but when the work is complete, the base will see significant energy savings.

steam lines run to a heat exchanger, which converts steam to hot water and runs that to the buildings.

Transmission is improved because the switch means the steam won’t have to run from the central processing plant all the way to the various buildings.

Over the summer, when heat exchangers were activated in some areas, the base saw an energy savings of 37%, said Lyman

Parkhurst, the former energy manager for U.S. Army Garrison Italy.

“That will go up significantly because we’re hitting heating season,” he said.

The central processing plant had been losing more than 9 cubic meters of water per hour because of leaks. With the work that’s been done so far, the base has seen a 67% decrease in water loss following the installation of new pipes.

Agencies warn US defense sites in Europe to protect against Russian sabotage

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. authorities say American defense industrial sites in Europe should step up their security over concerns that Russian saboteurs could target them.

The National Counterintelligence and Security Center, the FBI and several Defense Department agencies issued a joint statement Thursday saying the Kremlin has recruited criminals and other proxies to conduct such operations.

“U.S. companies, particularly those supporting entities involved in the Ukraine conflict or other ongoing geopolitical conflicts, are encouraged to enhance their vigilance and security efforts as a precaution,” the statement said.

The warning comes after a series of suspected Russian sabotage actions last week that included the severing of undersea communication cables running from Germany to Finland and elsewhere.

Over the past year, there have been indications of Russia getting more brazen in its sabotage efforts in Europe. Numerous acts of arson and the attempted assassination of a German defense industrial leader are among the operations that have been carried out attempted, according to allies.

In July, Russian sabotage also was suspected when a package caught fire at a DHL logistics center before being loaded onto a cargo plane in the eastern German city of Leipzig.

Package fires occurred in the same month in Poland and Britain.

The senders’ intent was to do a test run on delivery channels for such packages, which were ultimately destined for the U.S. or Canada, a Polish prosecutor told the BBC in November.

Gen. Darryl Williams, the U.S. Army’s top commander in Europe, said in October that the situation is increasing the risks of a broader military escalation should Russian agents take things too far.

“We could tumble into this thing because of the people that are currently snooping around Europe and causing mischief in all of our backyards,” Williams said during an Army conference in Washington.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte said earlier this month that Russia is intensifying its campaign of hybrid attacks across allied territories, “sabotaging industry and committing violence.”

The United States is involved in an array of military and defense industry efforts in Europe.

In Bavaria, for instance, American and European companies are coordinating with NATO to produce 1,000 Patriot air defense missiles at a new factory, according to NATO.

In June, U.S. military bases were put on heightened alert in connection with potential threats to installations across the Continent.

While the Pentagon never specified the nature of the threat, CNN reported in July that the move came in response to information that Russia-backed actors were considering sabotage attacks against American military personnel and facilities.

MILITARY

Credit, debit fraud town hall draws big crowd on Okinawa

By **BRIAN McELHINEY**
Stars and Stripes
KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Credit and debit card fraud may be more widespread on Kadena Air Base than officially reported, base leaders told a packed town hall meeting Thursday, according to an attendee.

The 18th Security Forces Squadron had received 23 reports of unexplained charges on credit or debit cards from people who shopped on base as of Nov. 16, wing Chief Master Sgt. Brandon Wolfgang said at the meeting, Air Force spouse Kaily Watson said by phone Friday.

Stars and Stripes was barred from covering the town hall meeting at Schilling Community Center by wing spokeswoman Maj. Alli Stormer.

But individual banks have received more complaints, the wing's deputy commander, Col. Joshua Lundebly, told the newspaper after the meeting.

"We don't have a firm number — a total number of fraudulent charges," he said.

The 18th Wing recently warned its community about fraud following reports of unexplained charges billed to cardholders who shopped at on-base businesses.

Several customers saw fraudulent charges — from a few cents to thousands of dollars — posted to their accounts after shopping at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and elsewhere, they told Stars and Stripes. The problem may be part of a "widespread financial institution breach," the wing announced via Facebook on Nov. 14.

More than 100 people attended the town hall, Lundebly said. The event was standing room only, Watson said Friday.

Wing commander Brig. Gen. Nicholas Evans, in an email Thursday evening, said he does not permit "recording, livestreaming or press access" at town hall meetings to ensure that "attendees can speak

freely without concern for how their comments may be publicly broadcast or scrutinized."

Stars and Stripes is challenging that decision through official channels.

At the meeting, Lundebly and Wolfgang stressed the need to officially report fraud to security forces and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, according to meeting notes Watson shared.

Fraud victims must make a report in person at the security squadron's headquarters, a squadron representative said at the meeting, according to Watson.

Senior Airman Mikayla Brown with the 18th Comptroller Squadron, whose cards showed unexplained charges recently, wanted an easier way to report incidents, she told Stars and Stripes after the meeting.

"It's clearly a trend, and it's not just 10 people or 20 people," she said. "It's a good amount of people."

Lundebly and Wolfgang said the wing has no evidence that the recent rash of fraud is confined to Kadena, according to Watson's notes.

They said Marine Corps Camp Foster and other bases had reported similar instances. It was unclear if they meant reports were made to Camp Foster or if fraud was found on Camp Foster, Watson said Friday.

Wolfgang said Misawa and Yokota air bases had not received similar reports, according to Watson's notes.

Security forces and the Office of Special Investigations, AAFES and the Defense Commissary Agency inspected point-of-sale terminals and found them to be safe, Wolfgang said, according to Watson's notes.

"I appreciate that they were potentially investigating this on the back end more than public affairs led us to believe," Watson said Friday. "I think that reassurance was provided."

and respected, not misled and defrauded," Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement.

The attorney general's office filed a lawsuit against Harris Jewelry in 2018, accusing the Long Island-based company of defrauding service members and veterans into illegal financing contracts for cheaply made products. In 2022, the attorney general's office and the



KEVIN STEFFANSON/U.S. Navy

Military Sealift Command will look to attract and retain workers in the next two years by focusing on keeping consistent work and time-off schedules to ensure mariners have a work-life balance.

Military Sealift Command rolls out initiative to fill jobs at sea

By **CAITLYN BURCHETT**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Military Sealift Command is rolling out an initiative to improve mariner recruiting and retention as hundreds of unfilled jobs at sea have forced the command to sideline 17 ships.

The command's efforts to attract and retain workers in the next two years will focus on keeping consistent work and time-off schedules to ensure mariners have a work-life balance.

The command is also seeking reforms to pay caps to offer higher wages that will attract more mariners.

"The overarching goal of the workforce initiative is to rebuild mariner trust and improve quality of service. To do this, [Military Sealift Command] is focused on four things: retention, recruiting, quality of service, pay reform, and HR policies and systems," Rear Adm. Philip Sobeck, commander of the Navy's Military Sealift Command, said Thursday.

In October, the Military Sealift Command announced it was looking to sideline 17 ships with hopes it would address the workforce shortage crippling its logistics fleet. Sobeck confirmed Thursday that the command is moving forward with that plan as part of its new workforce initiative.

The Military Sealift Command operates about 125 civilian-crewed ships responsible for a range of tasks, such as resupplying Navy ships, transporting combat cargo at sea and conducting specialized missions. But the command is having trouble attracting and keeping workers due to high operational tempo, delayed reliefs, extended deployment time and mandated pay caps, Sobeck said.

"We are just not competitive," he said.

About 5,600 civilians fill 4,500 billets across the Military Sealift Command. It follows a 1.22 model, where for every 100 mariners on a ship, there should be 22 mariners on shore. That model, Sobeck said, is unsustainable. The command is looking to achieve a 1.4 model by 2026 and eventually, a 1.7 model.

The 17 ships will be moved into an extended maintenance period or, in some cases, deactivated. Sobeck said he could not identify specific ships because the fate of some ships could change. He said if or when any of those ships rejoin the fleet is yet to be determined.

"It really is about getting after our retention. So as those mariners start coming back and we start building the bench is when we will bring ships back as they finish up their extended maintenance," Sobeck said.

Taking 17 ships offline will free up

about 800 mariners, who will be reassigned to higher priority ships, such as fleet replenishment oilers, dry cargo and ammunition ships, expeditionary fast transports and expeditionary sea bases.

"Higher priority ships will be fully manned and mission capable. Bringing consistency to that force is paramount," Sobeck said.

Still, the command needs to fill 800-1,000 jobs to meet the 1.4 model and achieve 95% readiness across its fleet, he said.

"There's currently a critical shortage across the U.S. civilian mariner landscape that certainly affects our ability to crew our combat logistics fleet and the other [government-owned, government-operated] ships and our ability to fully generate ready forces," Sobeck said.

The initiative is meant to help the Military Sealift Command regain mariners' trust. Sobeck said he hopes the change will get the workforce healthy and back to what it means to be a Military Sealift mariner — the ability to sail across the spectrum of ships and grow in their field while being paid competitively.

"We have done career fairs, we have done other things, but we haven't been competitive in the last couple of years," he said. "Rebuilding that and that relationship, I believe, is the winning solution."

Service members, vets defrauded in jewelry scam eligible for refunds

By **MATTHEW ADAMS**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Service members and veterans defrauded by a retail jeweler's price gouging scheme are eligible for refunds from a civil settlement secured by the New York attorney general.

"Service members and veterans give up so much to serve our country, and they deserve to be honored

and respected, not misled and defrauded," Attorney General Letitia James said in a statement.

The attorney general's office filed a lawsuit against Harris Jewelry in 2018, accusing the Long Island-based company of defrauding service members and veterans into illegal financing contracts for cheaply made products. In 2022, the attorney general's office and the

Federal Trade Commission led an 18-state agreement that recovered \$34.2 million in refunds, canceled debt and secured settlement money from the company.

The jewelry company deceptively claimed financing jewelry purchases through Harris would raise service members' credit scores, misrepresented that its protection plans were not optional or were re-

quired, and added the plans to purchases without consumers' consent, the trade commission said in a statement. The company was also accused of violating numerous financial consumer protection laws, including the Military Lending Act.

The settlement required Harris Jewelry to cancel \$21.3 million in debt for more than 13,000 people and provide \$12.8 million in re-

funds for more than 40,000 who were misled into paying for lifetime protection plans on low-quality jewelry without disclosure, the attorney general's office said in a statement.

More than 30,000 consumers remain eligible for refunds from a fund exceeding \$8 million, according to the AG's office. A claim must be filed by Dec. 21.

WAR IN UKRAINE

Moscow offers debt forgiveness to new recruits

By SAMYA KULLAB AND ELISE MORTON
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law granting debt forgiveness to new army recruits who enlist to fight in Ukraine.

The measure, whose final version appeared on a government website Saturday, underscores Russia’s needs for military personnel in the nearly 3-year-old war, even as it fired last week a new intermediate-range ballistic missile.

According to Russian state news agency Interfax, the new legislation allows those signing up for a one-year contract to write off bad debts of up to \$96,000. The law applies to debts for which a court order for collection was issued and enforcement proceedings had commenced before Dec. 1, 2024. It also applies to the spouses of new recruits.

Russia has ramped up military recruitment by offering increasing financial incentives, in some

cases several times the average salary, to those willing to fight.

The strategy has allowed the military to boost its ranks in the conflict zone while avoiding another mobilization order. A “partial mobilization” in September 2022 sparked an exodus of tens of thousands of Russian men, who fled the country to avoid enlistment.

The intense and drawn-out war has strained Russian resources. Putin in September called for the military to increase its troops by 180,000.

The U.S., South Korea and Ukraine say North Korea sent more than 10,000 troops to Russia in October, some of whom have recently begun engaging in combat on the front lines, piling more pressure on Ukraine’s also weary and overstretched army.

The push for recruits coincides with a new intermediate-range ballistic missile the Kremlin fired at Ukraine on Thursday. Putin said it was in response to Kyiv’s use of American and British mis-



EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

A journalist looks at fragments of a rocket which struck Dnipro on Nov. 21, at a center for forensic analysis in an undisclosed location in Ukraine on Sunday.

siles capable of striking deeper into Russia.

Ukraine’s Security Service showed The Associated Press on Sunday wreckage of the new experimental ballistic missile, which struck a factory in the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro.

The fragments of the missile called Oreshnik — Russian for hazel tree, and which the Pentagon said is based on Russia’s RS-26 Rubezh intercontinental ballistic missile — have not been analyzed yet, according to security officials on site in an undisclosed location in Ukraine. The AP and other media were able to see the fragments before they were taken by investigators.

Charred, mangled wires and an ashy airframe the size of a large snow tire was all that remained of the weapon, which can carry either conventional or nuclear warheads.

“It should be noted that this is the first time that the remains of such a missile have been discovered on the territory of Ukraine,” said an expert with Ukraine’s Security Service, who identified himself only by his first name Oleh because he wasn’t authorized to discuss the issue.

Ukraine’s Main Intelligence Directorate said the missile was fired from the 4th Missile Test

Range, Kapustin Yar, in Russia’s Astrakhan region and flew for 15 minutes before striking Dnipro. The missile had six warheads, each carrying six submunitions. The peak speed was 11 Mach.

Meanwhile, Moscow sent 73 drones into Ukraine overnight into Sunday. According to Ukraine’s air force, 50 drones were destroyed and four lost, likely having been electronically jammed.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said that 34 Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight into Sunday in four regions of western Russia, including Kursk, Lipetsk, Belgorod and one over the Oryol region.

N. Korean general hurt in Ukraine attack on Russia

By DAVID CHOI AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

A recent Ukrainian attack wounded a North Korean general, the first senior officer casualty reported among thousands of North Korean troops sent to bolster Russian forces, a report said.

The unidentified general was wounded in an unspecified attack in the Kursk region, according to unnamed Western officials cited by the Wall Street Journal on Thursday.

North Korean troops deployed to that area are a “fair target” and the U.S. Defense Department “absolutely” expects them to be engaged in the fight, Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said.

South Korean officials had not commented on the Journal report as of Friday evening. The country’s Ministry of National Defense did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The potential sacrifice of one general amounts to little in the grand scheme of the two-year war in Ukraine, said former North Korean soldier Kim Seongmin, chief executive of Free North Korea Ra-

dio, a broadcast station ran by North Korean defectors.

Kim said he served as a captain in the North Korean army between 1988 and 1995.

“Pyongyang put its head into the lion’s mouth for money and the safety of the [North Korean leader] Kim Jong Un regime,” he said Friday. “How could infantrymen survive in such a battlefield? It will not end with just a general.”

North Korea’s state-run Korean Central News Agency has yet to confirm it has deployed troops for Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The country’s Foreign Ministry in a statement last month said it reserved the right to deploy them to support Russia.

South Korean lawmakers briefed by intelligence officials Oct. 29 said they received reports that Col. Gen. Kim Yong Bok, deputy chief of the General Staff of the North Korean army, was among the troops sent to Russia, according to a Yonhap News report.

At a June summit in Pyongyang, Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin pledged mutual military aid if either of their countries were at war.

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MILITARY

Crimes: Some who served with Hegseth in Iraq surprised by nomination

FROM PAGE 1

Guard when he joined that unit, the 101st Airborne Division’s 3rd Brigade Combat Team, in summer 2005 just ahead of its deployment. Though he was not present during the murders and had no role in them, the incident was formative, other soldiers said, with men he grew to care about ensnared in the case.

This account of Hegseth’s deployment to Iraq is based on interviews with eight people familiar with that time in his life, along with a review of military documents and past media accounts. Taken together, a picture emerges of a potential secretary of defense who witnessed an extended inquiry into military misconduct that upended the lives of colleagues and mentors. The experience left soldiers not directly involved in the murders convinced that the Army had turned on them, too, those involved said.

Hegseth and representatives for the Trump transition team did not respond to requests for comment. Some people spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a high-profile potential nomination that is embroiled in controversy for other reasons. In recent days, The Post and other news organizations have revealed that Hegseth was investigated by police in 2017 for an alleged sexual assault. His lawyer, Timothy Parlatore, has said that the encounter was consensual and that Hegseth was not charged with the crime, though he later paid to settle the matter with the accuser.

Hegseth, 44, has rarely, if ever, mentioned the Iraq cases publicly, and has shifted in the years since from being an ardent supporter of the 2007 surge of U.S. forces in Iraq to questioning the entire point of the war. Over time, he also took on an increasingly populist tone in defense of U.S. troops accused of war crimes, arguing that the military put unreasonable restrictions on the rules of engagement that govern how American soldiers fight.

His appearances on the cable news show “Fox & Friends Weekend” captured the attention of then-President Donald Trump, leading to phone calls between them, people familiar with the matter said. Hegseth took particular interest in three prosecutions: those of Army officers Clint Lorange and Mathew Golsteyn for alleged murders in Afghanistan, and Navy SEAL Edward Gallagher, who beat a murder charge but was punished for staging a photo with an Islamic State fighter’s corpse in Iraq.

In November 2019, after Trump pardoned Lorange and Golsteyn, and reinstated Gallagher’s rank — rejecting pushback from senior Pentagon officials — Hegseth gave a full-throated defense of the moves, telling Fox viewers the

president had shown support for “people out there making the impossible calls at impossible moments.”

“These are not cases where people went into villages with the intention of killing innocent people,” Hegseth said, dismissing evidence and testimony pointing to violations of military law. “These are split-second decisions.”

Privately, Hegseth commiserated with Golsteyn about the investigation the 3rd Brigade Combat Team had endured, Golsteyn told The Post. It appeared that Hegseth saw “a replay of events in my case that were relatable to his own experiences,” Golsteyn said.

Hegseth worked at Fox until recently, decamping the network this month when his nomination was announced.

‘Kill Company’

Hegseth graduated from Princeton University in 2003, joining the investment bank Bear Stearns and the Minnesota Army National Guard as an infantry officer. He deployed in 2004 first to Guantánamo Bay, the U.S. detention facility in Cuba that at the time housed hundreds of 9/11 suspects and combatants in the war on terrorism. After returning to Wall Street for a brief interlude, he volunteered for an assignment to Iraq in 2005, landing a slot as a platoon leader overseeing about 40 men in the brigade’s Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment.

“I showed up in the 101st Airborne Division, in one of the most storied units in our nation’s history, with a bunch of combat vets who’d already done a tour in Iraq and they looked at me like, ‘Who the hell is this guy?’” Hegseth said in a 2021 interview on the Will Cain Show podcast.

One former officer who served with Hegseth said he was surprised to see a National Guard member taking on such a role. He surmised that Hegseth probably wanted to run for office someday and thought a combat tour could help, the former officer said.

On the battlefield, Hegseth appeared calm and levelheaded, two soldiers who served with him said. He led missions initially in Baghdad and then around Samarra, said retired Sgt. Maj. Eric Geressy, who served as the senior enlisted soldier in Charlie Company. The fighting became especially intense, Geressy recalled, after an important Shiite landmark, the Golden Mosque, was blown up in February 2006, triggering a wave of sectarian bloodshed with U.S. forces caught in the middle.

Charlie Company, numbering about 140 men, was considered the brigade’s most aggressive unit, engaging threats with a bravado that would later draw scrutiny from senior leaders, said people familiar with the deployment. As

recounted by The New Yorker in 2009, Charlie Company was nicknamed “Kill Company” and maintained a whiteboard listing confirmed kills — including civilians — that each platoon had notched.

The former officer, who served in another company within the battalion, said the behavior exhibited by Hegseth’s infantry company was viewed as “a little bit strange” by those on the outside: “We joked sometimes that they were on their own crusade down there.”

Hegseth, in an interview for the New Yorker article, said that Charlie Company’s aggressiveness was shaped by training it had received while preparing for the deployment at Fort Campbell, Ky. He claimed then that he voiced concerns to his former company commander, Capt. Daniel Hart, that he didn’t “feel comfortable telling my guys to go into that door hot,” with their weapons poised to be fired.

“I can’t quote him directly, but he said, ‘What do you mean? This is an enemy target, we have intelligence that it is an Al Qaida mortar team,’” Hegseth told The New Yorker. “And I said, ‘I understand that, sir, and I don’t want to put my platoon in danger, but at the same time I am talking to other people who have been here for a while and nobody else goes in hot — nobody. And if we go in hot we are going to kill civilians.’”

Hart, now an Army colonel and military psychiatrist, declined through an Army spokesman to comment.

Hegseth eventually was reassigned and tasked with overseeing local governance projects in Samarra, where there had been little order since the region’s decent into violence, Geressy said. Steele and Geressy both lauded his service in interviews with The Post.

But for his old unit, disaster was coming.

Operation Iron Triangle

Steele had survived the infamous “Black Hawk Down” incident that killed 18 U.S. soldiers in Somalia in 1993. He held a mindset that, in the run-up to their deployment, there was little time for anything other than preparing for war, several soldiers who served under him said. Once in Iraq, he clashed frequently with senior commanders over strategy and tactics, as U.S. forces struggled to simultaneously squelch the violence and win over the civilian populace, several people said.

After Hegseth’s departure, as fighting in and around Samarra soared, Steele and his staff engineered a series of helicopter assaults intended to pummel militants. One such mission, branded Operation Iron Triangle, targeted an al-Qaida training facility on a tiny island in Lake Tharthar.

Charlie Company’s 3rd Platoon

lifted off in Black Hawk helicopters expecting a fierce battle, soldiers involved said. Their target, according to a military document describing the operation that was obtained by The Post, was “full of Al Qaida” and associates of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, a precursor to Islamic State.

Geressy, in a witness statement after the operation as part of the inquiry, said soldiers began clearing houses after their helicopters landed but that the first few houses had no one inside. Later, when soldiers were flown to another part of the island, they opened fire on a building, killing one man and taking several people captive, he told military investigators.

Geressy was elsewhere on the island at the time, he told investigators, and instructed the soldiers to prepare the detainees to be moved by aircraft for an intelligence screening by other Army personnel. About 20 minutes later, the captives were dead.

Hart, Hegseth’s former superior officer, sent a memo to Steele saying the first man killed had looked through a window as the soldiers approached and that three other “military aged males” had used their wives inside the building to shield themselves. Hart’s report also said that his soldiers used deadly force to respond to a hostile act by the detainees. A military court later determined that account to be false. An Army official familiar with the matter said that Hart wrote the report based on what he believed to be true at the time.

As the story fell apart, Army investigators alleged that two soldiers, Cpl. William Hunsaker and Pfc. Corey Clagett, shot the detainees and accused a more senior member of the unit, Staff Sgt. Raymond Girouard, of ordering the killings and then helping to cover them up. A fourth, Spc. Juston Graber, was accused of shooting one of the detainees in the head after the initial gunfire stopped to “ease his suffering,” he told investigators.

Clagett and Hunsaker pleaded guilty to murder and related charges, receiving prison sentences of 18 years each. Graber pleaded guilty to aggravated assault, receiving a sentence of nine months in exchange for his testimony against the others, and Girouard was convicted of negligent homicide and other charges and sentenced to 10 years, according to military documents. Girouard’s conviction was later overturned on appeal, while the others have since been released.

Clagett, Hunsaker and Girouard did not respond to requests for comment. Graber, now 39, said in a text message that he is writing a book about his experience, including carrying out “that mercy killing.”

A unit under suspicion

Suspicion spread far beyond the soldiers eventually sent to prison. Defense attorneys for the men accused depicted a bloodthirsty and undisciplined culture within Hegseth’s old infantry company. The experience, one senior soldier in the unit said, was searing for all of them.

Steele received the letter of reprimand from Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, who later became a four-star general and vice chief of staff of the Army. In a phone interview, Steele said that Chiarelli “tried to connect the murder of the detainees to my command climate” and that others in the brigade thought the general’s conclusions were “ludicrous.”

Steele portrayed Chiarelli as disconnected from what rank-and-file infantry personnel experienced, saying the general “lived in a palace” in Iraq “while my guys are out bleeding to death in the streets of Samarra.” His voice hardened as he recalled witnessing more senior commanders receiving orders to release militants who had been captured by U.S. forces.

“There are soldiers that absolutely died because of that stupidity,” Steele said.

Asked about the Charlie Company’s “kill board” and the harsh methods of training he instituted, Steele said he did not condone illegal behavior but wanted his soldiers not to be timid when their lives were in danger. Death, he said, is “irrevocable.”

Chiarelli said in an email that he reprimanded Steele “because the soldiers under his command violated the rules of engagement.”

Steele said he supports Hegseth’s potential nomination as defense secretary, calling his mindset a rarity for that job. Hegseth is intelligent, articulate, and will refocus the Pentagon on winning the nation’s wars, the retired colonel said.

Critics of Hegseth’s selection have stressed that he has never led any large organization and has faced mounting scrutiny of his personal life and punditry, including advocating for firing generals who support diversity programs, opposing women serving in combat units and suggesting in a book that Islam “is not a religion of peace, and it never has been.” He also has tattoos that were flagged by National Guard colleagues as being associated with the far right.

The former Army officer who served with Hegseth in Iraq said he believes he has latched on to “populist scenarios” in a quest for personal gain. When news of Hegseth’s nomination emerged, old acquaintances from those days got back in touch with one another, the former officer said.

One text he received especially stood out. All it said: “WTF?”

NATION

Trump pushes past the sting of Gaetz's exit

President-elect chooses Bondi for attorney general amid a flurry of picks for key roles

BY ISAAC ARNSDORF,
MARIANNE LEVINE
AND ASHLEY PARKER
The Washington Post

President-elect Donald Trump quickly put behind him the loss of his first choice for attorney general, his top-priority position, while Senate Republicans expressed relief that they had avoided an ugly, drawn-out standoff with the incoming president.

The day after former Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., withdrew his name from consideration to lead the Justice Department, Trump pushed ahead with a burst of fresh announcements for planned appointments and nominations, including some controversial picks. The president-elect also showed no sign of shrinking from his choice of former Fox News host Pete Hegseth for secretary of defense or any of his other picks facing tough confirmation fights. Still, his team is taking a more cooperative approach to the upper chamber after initially demanding to bypass confirmation hearings and votes.

"President Trump appreciates the advice and consent of Senators on Capitol Hill, but ultimately this is his administration," said Steven Cheung, Trump's choice for White House communications director. "Voters gave President Trump a mandate to choose Cabinet nominees that reflect the will of the American people and he will continue to do so."

Senate Republicans welcomed the rapid substitution of former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi as Trump's pick for attorney general after Gaetz announced his withdrawal. One aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private conversations, said the Gaetz withdrawal was more of a learning experience for the Senate and Trump than a setback.

Trump followed that move on Friday by naming hedge fund executive Scott Bessent as his choice for treasury secretary following days of hand-wringing over the position that is fifth in the line of succession and of keen interest to global investors. He also said he'd bring back his first-term budget director, Russell Vought, a key author of the Project 2025 policy blueprint who has advocated for unilaterally rejecting spending that Congress authorized, firing federal workers and taking control of independent regulators.

Trump also announced plans to bring back controversial foreign policy aide Sebastian Gorka, who left Trump's first White House under then-Chief of Staff John Kelly. Alex Wong, who was deputy assistant secretary for North Korea in the State Department under Trump, with the additional title of deputy



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi is President-elect Donald Trump's new pick for U.S. attorney general.



MATT KELLEY/AP

Hedge fund executive Scott Bessent is Trump's pick for treasury secretary, fifth in the line of succession.



GEORGE WALKER IV/AP

Dr. Janette Nesheiwat, a medical contributor on Fox News, is set to become the next U.S. surgeon general.



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

Trump's choice for labor secretary is Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, R-Ore.



THOMAS SIMONETTI/For The Washington Post

Foreign policy aide Sebastian Gorka is set to return after he left Trump's first administration.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Former Texas state Rep. Scott Turner is the pick for secretary of housing and urban development.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

Trump has asked Russell Vought to once again be budget director in the Trump administration.



BRENDAN FARRINGTON/AP

Former Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., is to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

special representative for North Korea, was named to return as the principal deputy to the national security adviser — a position Trump has asked Rep. Michael Waltz, R-Fla., to fill.

Trump's choice for labor secretary, Rep. Lori Chavez-DeRemer, R-Ore., flipped the usual Republican pattern because organized labor lobbied for her while business leaders objected. He named Janette Nesheiwat, a medical contributor on Fox News, as his pick for surgeon general; former Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Johns Hopkins surgeon and public health expert Marty Makary as Food and Drug Administration commissioner; and retired football player and former Texas state Rep. Scott Turner for secretary of housing and urban development.

Trump advisers said selecting Gaetz was not some complicated chess move to soften up the Senate or provide cover for other controversial picks. The decision was simple: Trump wanted him for attorney general, a position the president-elect took special interest in because of his experience being investigated for trying to interfere with the 2020 election results and allegedly mishandling classified records. Special counsel Jack Smith signaled he is winding down those cases after Trump won the Nov. 5 election.

On Wednesday, Gaetz appeared optimistic in meetings at the Capitol,

where he made the case for his confirmation, according to a Republican senator who was surprised by his decision to withdraw Thursday. But other senators conveyed to Trump's team that the votes weren't there.

Trump and Gaetz spoke about the decision on Thursday morning before Gaetz announced his withdrawal, according to a person briefed on the conversation. The person emphasized that Trump did not pressure Gaetz to bow out and understood it was his decision.

Another person briefed on Gaetz's decision said he recognized the confirmation process would take months and resurface sordid details from a federal criminal investigation and House ethics probe involving allegations of paying for sex, including with a 17-year-old, and drug use. Gaetz resigned from Congress days before the ethics report was scheduled to become public — a sequence of events that angered Trump, this person said.

Short-lived Cabinet picks are not uncommon. The past five presidents before Joe Biden each had at least one pick fail.

Senate confirmations have generally become slower and more fiercely scrutinized in recent presidencies, according to the Center for Presidential Transition, a nonpartisan research and expert group. Trump threw down a gauntlet on Nov. 10 by demanding recess appointments, a constitutional maneuver

to bypass confirmation hearings and votes. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., the next Senate majority leader, was noncommittal. Pushing for recess appointments would also mean acknowledging Trump lacked support from within his own party, which will have a 53-seat majority.

"Obviously, we want to use the regular process to get these nominees through," Thune told reporters this month. "My intention is to get these folks going and get voting on it."

With Gaetz out, Hegseth became the pick of highest concern within the transition, as details continue to emerge from a 2017 sexual assault allegation against him. Hegseth has denied wrongdoing, claiming that the encounter was consensual and noting that the claim was investigated, he was not charged, and the district attorney said there wasn't evidence to prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Hegseth also met with senators last week, receiving supportive statements from at least 10 Republicans, including Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee and Joni Ernst of Iowa. Some people involved in the transition said that, in addition to the sexual assault allegation and multiple documented instances of marital infidelity, Hegseth faces challenges over his opposition to women in combat.

Other Trump advisers expressed confidence that Hegseth and other controversial selections, including

former Hawaii Rep. Tulsi Gabbard for director of national intelligence and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. for health secretary, will succeed in the Senate.

"President Trump will continue to appoint highly-qualified men and women who have the talent, experience, and necessary skill sets to Make America Great Again," Trump-Vance transition spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt said.

By announcing a new attorney general pick less than seven hours after Gaetz withdrew, Trump helped keep the process moving and avoided getting bogged down in the defeat, said several advisers, speaking on the condition of anonymity to describe internal conversations. Bondi, a former local prosecutor and state attorney general who served on Trump's first impeachment defense team, immediately drew praise from Senate Republicans, with some Trump allies calling her a better choice than Gaetz.

"Matt Gaetz sunk Matt Gaetz, the senators didn't sink him," said John Fredericks, a pro-Trump talk radio host who campaigned with Bondi in Pennsylvania this year. "These Republicans are serving at the pleasure of MAGA. All we ask is to give the president his due. He won. They better play ball with us or we're going to retaliate by doing the only thing they understand: primarying them. 2026 can't come fast enough for any of these people voting against Trump's nominees."

Winter storms possible during Thanksgiving week

By Godofredo A. Vasquez
Associated Press

WINDSOR, Calif. — Forecasters throughout the United States issued warnings that another round of winter weather could complicate travel leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, while California and Washington state continue to recover from storm damage and power outages.

In California, where a person was found dead in a vehicle submerged in floodwaters Saturday, authorities braced for more precipitation while grappling with flooding and small landslides from a previous storm.

The National Weather Service office in Sacramento, Calif., issued a winter storm warning for the state's Sierra Nevada for Saturday through Tuesday, with heavy snow expected at higher elevations and wind gusts potentially reaching 55 mph. Total snowfall of roughly 4 feet was forecast, with the heaviest accumulations expected Monday and Tuesday.

The Midwest and Great Lakes regions will see rain and snow Monday and the East Coast will be the most impacted on Thanksgiving and Black Friday, forecasters said.

A low pressure system is forecast to bring rain to the Southeast early Thursday before heading to the Northeast. Areas from Boston to New York could see rain and breezy conditions, with snowfall possible in parts of northern New Hampshire, northern Maine and the Adirondacks. If the system tracks further inland, there could be less snow and more rain in the mountains, forecasters said.



STEPHEN LAM, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP

Tristan Millstone steps into water after kayaking across a flooded section of Neely Road to buy groceries after a major storm in Guerneville, Calif., on Saturday.

“The system doesn’t look like a powerhouse right now,” Hayden Frank, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Massachusetts, said Sunday. “Basically, this is going to bring rain to the I-95 corridor so travelers should prepare for wet weather. Unless the system trends a lot colder, it looks like rain.”

Frank said he isn’t seeing any major storm systems arriving for the weekend anywhere in the country, so travelers heading

home Sunday can expect good driving conditions. Temperatures, however, will get colder in the East while warming up out West.

Last week, two people died when the “bomb cyclone” storm arrived in the Pacific Northwest. Hundreds of thousands lost power, mostly in the Seattle area, before strong winds moved through Northern California. A rapidly intensifying storm that hit the West Coast on Tuesday brought fierce

winds that resulted in home and vehicle damage.

Rescue crews in Guerneville, Calif., recovered a body inside a vehicle bobbing in floodwaters around 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Sonoma County Sheriff’s Deputy Rob Dillion said, noting the deceased was presumed to be a victim of the storm but an autopsy had not yet been conducted.

Santa Rosa, Calif., saw its wettest three-day period on record with about 12.5 inches of rain by

Friday evening, the National Weather Service in the Bay Area reported. Vineyards in nearby Windsor, Calif., were flooded Saturday.

About 36,000 people in the Seattle area were still without electricity after this season’s strongest atmospheric river, a long plume of moisture that forms over an ocean and flows over land.

Another storm brought rain to New York and New Jersey, where rare wildfires have raged in recent weeks, and heavy snow to northeastern Pennsylvania. The precipitation was expected to help ease drought conditions after an exceptionally dry fall.

“It’s not going to be a drought buster, but it’s definitely going to help when all this melts,” said Bryan Greenblatt, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Binghamton, N.Y.

Heavy snow fell in northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Pocono Mountains. Higher elevations reported up to 17 inches, with lesser accumulations in valley cities including Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. Around 35,000 customers in 10 counties are still without power, down from 80,000 a day ago.

In the Catskills region of New York, nearly 10,000 people remained without power Sunday morning, two days after a storm dumped heavy snow on parts of the region.

Precipitation in West Virginia helped put a dent in the state’s worst drought in at least two decades and boosted ski resorts preparing to open their slopes in the weeks ahead.

Experts: Record dryness in US Northeast should change water behavior

By Brittany Peterson
Associated Press

DENVER — It hasn’t been a typical fall for the northeastern United States.

Fires have burned in parks and forests around New York City. Towns and cities in a stretch from Portsmouth, N.H., to south of Philadelphia had their driest three months on record, according to the Applied Climate Information System. Some reservoirs in the region are near historic lows.

Major changes need to happen to avoid critical shortages of water in the future, even if that future isn’t immediate. As the climate warms, droughts will continue to intensify and communities should use this one as motivation to put in place long-term solutions, experts have said.

“This is the canary in the coal mine for the future,” said Tim Eustance, executive director of the North Jersey District Water Supply Commission. “People should stop

watering their lawns yesterday.”

Eustance wants New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy to issue a drought emergency to increase people’s sense of urgency.

One important place water is stored is under our feet. Groundwater has dropped significantly over the years in parts of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and New York.

Groundwater makes up about half of New Jersey’s drinking water. Sprawl and concrete can make it tough for rain to replenish the water underground.

“New Jersey is ‘mall-landia.’ We have these giant parking lots that could be ways to reclaim water instead of having runoff,” Eustance said.

In some other parts of the country, there is increasing use of permeable asphalt, concrete and pavers that allow water to percolate into the ground and back into the aquifer. It would be up to municipalities to require that, he said.

A faster way to replenish the aquifer is by injecting highly treated wastewater into it, something Los Angeles has been doing for years. It is dramatically adding to the city’s available water.

Virginia Beach, Va., is also pumping highly treated water back into its aquifer, and Anne Arundel County in Maryland is trying to pass legislation that would allow the same.

In some places in the western U.S., getting paid to save water has long been an option. Some cities and counties pay dollars for every square foot of lawn torn out and replaced with native landscaping.

Those policies are not nearly as widespread in the Northeast, said Alan Roberson, CEO of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators.

“The abundance has created a different perspective,” he said. This can make it hard to get people on board with conservation.

Upgraded water meters can give

customers details about their water use and help them see where they can save money when drought doesn’t feel as urgent, said Beth O’Connell, chief engineer for Anne Arundel County in Maryland.

Another concept, reusing water, is a simple one: capture water from the sink, clothes washer, shower and toilet, treat it to a high standard and use it again for nonpotable purposes: It can be sent back through pipes to flush toilets, cool buildings, water yards or help raise water levels in a river or aquifer.

“One of the crimes I think, in America, is we use drinking water to water our lawns and flush our toilet,” Eustance said.

Zach Gallagher is CEO of Natural Systems Utilities, which designs, builds and operates water recycling systems. He is also the father of three kids and lives in New Jersey, so this drought hits close to home.

“I feel like I’m doing something that is going to be meaningful and

leave something beyond for my children, and their children,” he said.

Reuse can be a tool for both drought and flood, he explained. When a building can reuse its own wastewater and discharge it directly into a body of water, it eases stress on a city’s fragile sewer system, which is a common vulnerability in old coastal cities. It also reduces demand on new water.

Once open this summer, the company’s redesign of the old Domino Sugar Refinery on New York’s East River will be able to treat 400,000 gallons of wastewater a day, enough to cover a football field in nearly 15 inches of water. The cleaned water will be piped back into the new mixed-use buildings for flushing toilets, cooling and landscaping, with some of it discharged back into the river.

Nonpotable reuse has a growing footprint in the eastern U.S., but scaling it to a regional level should be the next focus, O’Connell said.

NATION



LM OTERO/AP

A Texas flag is displayed in an elementary school in Murphy, Texas. Texas' education board voted Friday to allow Bible-infused teachings in elementary schools under optional new curriculum that could test boundaries between religion and public classrooms.

Bible-infused curriculum for Texas elementary schools gets a key OK

AP/Report for America

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas' education board voted Friday to allow Bible-infused teachings in elementary schools under optional new curriculum that could test boundaries between religion and public classrooms in the U.S.

The material adopted by the Texas State Board of Education, which is controlled by elected Republicans, passed in an 8-7 final vote over criticism that the lessons would proselytize to young learners and alienate students of faiths other than Christianity. Supporters argued the Bible is a core feature of American history and that teaching it will enrich lessons.

The vote allows schools in Texas, which has more than 5 million public school students, to begin using the material in kindergarten through fifth grade classrooms as early as next year.

Republican lawmakers celebrated the vote, including Texas' powerful lieutenant governor, Dan Patrick, who has pledged to pass legislation next year that would

follow Louisiana in trying to require schools to display the Ten Commandments in classrooms.

Schools are not required to use the material, but those that do would receive extra funding from the state.

In the newly approved kindergarten materials, one lesson on helping one's neighbor instructs teachers to talk about the Golden Rule using lessons from the Bible. It also instructs the teachers to explain that the Bible is "a collection of ancient texts" and that its different parts are "the core books of the Jewish and Christian religions."

With the new curriculum, Texas would be the first state to introduce Bible lessons in schools in this manner, according to Matthew Patrick Shaw, an assistant professor of public policy and education at Vanderbilt University. Whether the lesson plans will be considered constitutional is up in the air, he said.

The Texas Education Agency, which oversees public education for more than 5 million students

statewide, created its own instruction materials after a law passed in 2023 by the GOP-controlled Legislature required the agency to do so. The lesson plans were publicly released this spring.

"This curriculum is not age-appropriate or subject matter appropriate in the way that it presents these Bible stories," said Amanda Tyler, executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty.

Children who would read the material, she said, "are simply too young to tell the difference between what is a faith claim and what is a matter of fact."

Mary Castle, director of government relations for Texas Values, a right-leaning advocacy group, said there are "close to 300 common-day phrases that actually come from the Bible" and that students "will benefit from being able to understand a lot of these references."

More than 100 people testified at a board meeting last week that rung with emotion from parents, teachers and advocates.

NY judge calls off Trump's sentencing in hush money case

BY SHAYNA JACOBS
The Washington Post

NEW YORK — The judge overseeing Donald Trump's hush money case has given his lawyers until a few days after Thanksgiving to argue that his conviction should be thrown out because he was elected again as president, and he officially called off Trump's sentencing that was scheduled for this week.

It remained unclear whether New York Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan would sentence Trump for his 34 felony convictions before the president-elect takes office Jan. 20, but the schedule that was ordered Friday potentially leaves room for it. The judge's one-page order canceled this week's proceeding but did not schedule a new one or reference the possibility of a new date.

Merchan is allowing Trump's lawyers to make a new set of immunity-related arguments related to his conviction in May for falsifying business records to cover up a hush money payment to an adult-film actress ahead of the 2016 election. Those arguments will focus on whether further proceedings, including a sentencing, would interfere with Trump's ongoing presidential transition and his presidency.

Merchan gave Trump's attorneys until Dec. 2 to file a formal motion to dismiss, telling prosecutors to reply by Dec. 9. The judge may take weeks or longer to reach a decision, but he did not give himself a deadline.

Steven Cheung, a spokesman for Trump, called Merchan's ruling a "decisive win." Trump, who was president from 2017 to 2021, has been announcing future nominations and appointments for a second term and meeting with officials since his Nov. 5 election win.

Trump's lawyers submitted their latest request in a letter to Merchan last week. Trump's election, they ar-

gued, means he should not be dealing with court proceedings while setting up his administration.

"Just as a sitting President is completely immune from any criminal process, so too is President Trump as President-elect," Trump's lawyers wrote in a letter filed Tuesday seeking permission to file the arguments by Dec. 20 — a month before Trump is sworn in.

The schedule proposed by the defense would have left little or no room to potentially hold a sentencing before Trump's term begins.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office suggested a much speedier timeline for the upcoming round of motions and replies, asking that Trump file his request promptly and that prosecutors be allowed to respond by Dec. 9, the date Merchan granted.

Merchan adopted a schedule closer to the speedier one proposed by Bragg's trial team, leaving it unclear whether sentencing would happen before Jan. 20. It is also unclear whether the judge would sentence Trump given the change in circumstances.

Some legal experts have said that a higher court would probably block a sentencing if Merchan were to order one between now and Trump's inauguration.

The sentencing was originally scheduled for July, but Trump's lawyers won two delays because of a July 1 Supreme Court ruling that significantly broadened presidential immunity. While Trump's conduct in falsifying the business records was not part of his official presidential duties, some of the evidence used during the grand jury proceedings and the trial did involve White House staff members and actions he took while president.

Bragg's office last week signaled openness to postponing the sentencing four years, until Trump's term is completed.

Cheating on your spouse is no longer a crime in New York state

BY ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York on Friday repealed a seldom-used, more than century-old law that made it a crime to cheat on your spouse — a misdemeanor that once could have landed adulterers in jail for three months.

Gov. Kathy Hochul signed a bill repealing the statute, which dates back to 1907 and has long been considered antiquated as well as difficult to enforce.

"While I've been fortunate to share a loving married life with my husband for 40 years — making it somewhat ironic for me to sign a bill decriminalizing adultery — I know that people often have complex relationships," she said. "These matters should clearly be handled by these individuals and not our criminal justice system. Let's take this silly, outdated statute off the books, once and for all."

Adultery bans are actually law in several states and were enacted to

make it harder to get a divorce at a time when proving a spouse cheated was the only way to get a legal separation. Charges have been rare and convictions even rarer. Some states have also moved to repeal their adultery laws in recent years.

New York defined adultery as when a person "engages in sexual intercourse with another person at a time when he has a living spouse, or the other person has a living spouse." The state's law was first used a few weeks after it went into

effect, according to a New York Times article, to arrest a married man and 25-year-old woman.

State Assembly member Charles Lavine, sponsor of the bill, said about a dozen people have been charged under the law since the 1970s, and just five of those cases resulted in convictions.

"Laws are meant to protect our community and to serve as a deterrent to anti-social behavior. New York's adultery law advanced neither purpose," Lavine said in a state-

ment Friday.

New York came close to repealing the law in the 1960s after a state commission tasked with evaluating the penal code said it was nearly impossible to enforce.

At the time, lawmakers were initially on board with removing the ban but eventually decided to keep it after a politician argued that repealing it would make it seem like the state was officially endorsing infidelity, according to a New York Times article from 1965.

WORLD

Israeli strike kills Lebanese soldier, wounds at least 18

Associated Press

BEIRUT — An Israeli strike on a Lebanese army center Sunday killed one soldier and wounded 18 others, the Lebanese military said. Meanwhile, the Hezbollah militant group fired barrages of rockets into northern and central Israel, wounding at least five people.

Israeli strikes have killed over 40 Lebanese troops since the start of the war between Israel and Hezbollah, even as Lebanon's military has largely kept to the sidelines.

The Israeli military expressed regret over the strike, saying it occurred in an area of ongoing combat operations against Hezbollah. It said in a statement that its operations are directed solely against Hezbollah and not the Lebanese military, and that the strike was under review.

Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, condemned it as an assault on U.S.-led cease-fire efforts, calling it a "direct, bloody message rejecting all efforts and ongoing contacts" to end the war.

"(Israel is) again writing in Lebanese blood a brazen rejection of the solution that is being discussed," a statement from his office read.

The strike occurred in southwestern Lebanon on the coastal road between Tyre and Naqoura, where there has been heavy fighting between Israel and Hezbollah.

Hezbollah fired barrages of rockets into northern and central Israel on Sunday, some of which were intercepted.

Israel's Magen David Adom res-

cue service said it was treating two people in the central city of Petah Tikva, a 23-year-old man who was lightly wounded by a blast and a 70-year-old woman suffering from smoke inhalation from a car that caught fire. The first responders said they treated three other people in northern Israel, including a 60-year-old man in serious condition.

It was unclear whether the injuries and damage were caused by the rockets or interceptors.

Israeli airstrikes early Saturday pounded central Beirut, killing at least 20 people and wounding 66, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

Israeli attacks have killed more than 3,500 people in Lebanon, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry. The fighting has displaced about 1.2 million people, or a quarter of Lebanon's population.

On the Israeli side, about 90 soldiers and nearly 50 civilians have been killed by bombardments in northern Israel and in battle following Israel's ground invasion in early October. Around 60,000 Israelis have been displaced from the country's north.

The European Union's top diplomat called for more pressure on both Israel and Hezbollah to reach a deal, saying one was "pending with a final agreement from the Israeli government."

Josep Borrell spoke Sunday after meeting with Mikati and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally who has been mediating with the group.



RAFIQ MAQBOL/AP

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev greets people after a closing plenary session at the COP29 U.N. Climate Summit on Sunday in Baku, Azerbaijan.

\$300B annual deal for climate cash at UN summit sparks outrage, hope

Associated Press

BAKU, Azerbaijan — United Nations climate talks adopted a deal to inject at least \$300 billion annually in humanity's fight against climate change, aimed at helping developing nations cope with the ravages of global warming in tense negotiations.

The \$300 billion will go to developing countries who need the cash to wean themselves off the coal, oil and gas that causes the globe to overheat, adapt to future warming and pay for the damage caused by climate change's extreme weather. It's not near the full amount of \$1.3 trillion that developing countries were asking for, but it's three times a deal of \$100 billion a year from 2009 that is expiring. Some delegations said this deal is headed in the right direction, with hopes that

more money flows in the future.

But it was not quite the agreement by consensus that these meetings usually operate with, and some developing nations were livid about being ignored.

COP29 President Mukhtar Babayev gavelled the deal into acceptance before any nation had a chance to speak. When they did they blasted him for being unfair to them, the deal for not being enough and the world's rich nations for being too stingy.

"It's a paltry sum," India negotiator Chandni Raina said, repeatedly saying how India objected to rousing cheers. "I'm sorry to say we cannot accept it."

She told The Associated Press that she has lost faith in the United Nations system.

A long line of nations agreed with India and piled on, with Nige-

ria's Nkiruka Maduekwe, CEO of the National Council on Climate Change, calling the deal an insult and a joke.

"I'm disappointed. It's definitely below the benchmark that we have been fighting for for so long," said Juan Carlos Monterrey, of the Panama delegation. He noted that a few changes, including the inclusion of the words "at least" before the number \$300 billion and an opportunity for revision by 2030, helped push them to the finish line.

"Our heart goes out to all those nations that feel like they were walked over," he said.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a post on X that he hoped for a "more ambitious outcome." But he said the agreement "provides a base on which to build."

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WORLD

Philippine VP threatens to have president assassinated

By JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine Vice President Sara Duterte said Saturday she has contracted an assassin to kill the president, his wife and the House of Representatives speaker if she herself is killed, in a brazen public threat that she warned was not a joke.

Executive Secretary Lucas Bersamin referred the “active threat” against President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to an elite presidential guards force “for immediate proper action.” It was not immediately clear what actions would be taken against the vice president.

The Presidential Security Command boosted Marcos’ security and said it considered the vice president’s threat, which was “made so brazenly in public,” a national security issue.

The presidential security force said it was “coordinating with law enforcement agencies to detect, deter, and defend against any and all threats to the president and the first family.”

Duterte, a lawyer, later tried to

walk back her remarks and said they were not an actual threat but only an expression of concern over an unspecified threat to her own life.

“If I expressed the concern, they will say that’s a threat to the life of the president?” she said.

“Why would I kill him if not for revenge from the grave? There is no reason for me to kill him. What’s the benefit for me?” Duterte told journalists.

Under the Philippine penal code, such public remarks may constitute a crime of threatening to inflict a wrong on a person or his family and is punishable by a jail term and fine.

The Philippine Constitution says that if a president dies, sustains a permanent disability, is removed from office or resigns, the vice president takes over and serves the rest of the term.

Marcos ran with Duterte as his vice-presidential running mate in



Duterte

the May 2022 elections and both won with landslide victories on a campaign call of national unity.

The two leaders and their camps, however, rapidly had a bitter falling-out over key differences, including in their approaches to China’s aggressive actions in the disputed South China Sea. Duterte resigned from the Marcos Cabinet in June as education secretary and head of an anti-insurgency body.

Like her equally outspoken father, former President Rodrigo Duterte, the vice president became a vocal critic of Marcos, his wife Liza Araneta-Marcos and House Speaker Martin Romualdez, the president’s ally and cousin, accusing them of corruption, incompetence and politically persecuting the Duterte family and its close supporters.

Her latest tirade was set off by the decision by House members allied with Romualdez and Marcos to detain her chief of staff, Zuleika Lopez, who was accused of hampering a congressional inquiry into the possible misuse of her budget as vice president and edu-

cation secretary.

Lopez was later transferred to a hospital after falling ill and wept when she heard of a plan to temporarily lock her up in a women’s prison.

In a pre-dawn online news conference, an angry Sara Duterte accused Marcos of incompetence as a president and of being a liar, along with his wife and the House speaker in expletives-laden remarks.

When asked about concerns over her security, the 46-year-old suggested there was an unspecified plot to kill her. “Don’t worry about my security because I’ve talked with somebody. I said ‘if I’m killed, you’ll kill BBM, Liza Araneta and Martin Romualdez. No joke, no joke,’” the vice president said without elaborating and using the initials that many use to call the president.

“I’ve given my order, ‘If I die, don’t stop until you’ve killed them.’ And he said, ‘yes,’” the vice president said.

Amid the political divisions, military chief Gen. Romeo Brawner issued a statement with

an assurance that the 160,000-member Armed Forces of the Philippines would remain nonpartisan “with utmost respect for our democratic institutions and civilian authority.”

“We call for calm and resolve,” Brawner said. “We reiterate our need to stand together against those who will try to break our bonds as Filipinos.”

The vice president is the daughter of Marcos’ predecessor, Rodrigo Duterte, whose police-enforced anti-drugs crackdown when he was a city mayor and later as president left thousands of mostly petty drug suspects dead in killings that the International Criminal Court has been investigating as a possible crime against humanity.

The former president denied authorizing extrajudicial killings under his crackdown but has given conflicting statements.

He told a public Philippine Senate inquiry last month that he had maintained a “death squad” of gangsters to kill other criminals when he was mayor of southern Davao city.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Meghan McCain voted for late father in 2024

AZ PHOENIX — Even in death, John McCain has his daughter’s vote for president.

In a podcast interview released Thursday, Meghan McCain revealed she cast a vote for her late father as a write-in for president on her 2024 ballot.

The Republican political commentator and daughter of the Arizona senator — who died in 2018 after a battle with brain cancer — waxed poetic about politics on the latest episode of “Next Question with Katie Couric.”

“I wrote in my dad,” she told Couric. “People are mad at me. People are so mad at me, Katie. I mean, mad that I didn’t vote either way.”

McCain went on to explain the reasoning behind her decision, saying she could “never” vote for Donald Trump but couldn’t support Kamala Harris either.

State sues Dallas over pot decriminalization

TX DALLAS — Attorney General Ken Paxton is suing Dallas for the second time in three months, this time arguing the city is violating state law by enforcing a voter-approved charter amendment banning arrests for low-level marijuana offenses.

The latest legal action follows suits Paxton filed in January against cities like Austin and Denton, where similar voter-supported mandates on weed passed. Dallas officials announced Tuesday the city would enforce Proposition R, barring police from arresting or citing people on suspicion of carrying four ounces or less of marijuana.

Voters approved the proposition on Nov. 5 despite the use and possession of recreational marijuana still being illegal in Texas.

Dads sue over ban from games in wristband flap

NH CONCORD — Two New Hampshire fathers who were barred from school district events for wearing pink wristbands marked “XX” to represent female chromosomes insisted at a federal court hearing Thursday that they didn’t set out to harass or otherwise target a transgender soccer player at the game they attended.

Kyle Fellers and Anthony Foote sued the Bow school district after being banned from school grounds for wearing the wristbands at their daughters’ soccer game in September. The no-trespass orders have since expired, but a judge is deciding whether the plaintiffs should be allowed to wear the wristbands and carry signs at upcoming school events, including basketball games, swim meets and a music concert, while the case proceeds.

Testifying at Thursday’s hearing, both men said that they did



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Downtown dunk

Artest Herring jumps to dunk a ball on the Hoopbus parked temporarily last week at Crypto.com Arena in downtown Los Angeles last week. The arena is the home of the NBA's Los Angeles Lakers and other professional sports teams.

not view the wristbands as a protest against Parker Tirrell, a transgender girl on the opposing team, but rather as a show of support for their daughters and their teammates. U.S. District Court Judge Steven McAuliffe questioned whether there is a meaningful distinction and whether their intentions matter.

French fry firms accused of forming potato ‘cartel’

ID BOISE — Two leading frozen potato manufacturers based in Idaho face a lawsuit over allegations of price fixing.

Boise agribusiness giant J.R. Simplot and Eagle potato producer Lamb Weston were among four companies sued Friday in U.S. District Court in Illinois for conspiring to artificially raise prices of frozen potato products, including french fries, hash browns and tater tots, according to the lawsuit.

McCain Foods and Cavendish Farms, both headquartered in Canada, are also named in the lawsuit. Together, the four companies control over 97% of the frozen potato product market in the U.S. — a \$68-billion-per-year industry, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit, brought by Redner’s Markets, an employee-owned supermarket chain based in Pennsylvania, on behalf of itself and others, accuses the companies of illegally coordinating an effort to implement lockstep price increases since at least 2021 in violation of

the Sherman Act, a federal law that prohibits anticompetitive agreements and conduct that monopolizes or attempts to monopolize a certain market.

Nitrogen used to execute man who killed hitchhiker

AL ATMORE — An Alabama man convicted in the 1994 killing of a hitchhiker cursed at the prison warden and made obscene gestures with his hands shortly before he was put to death Thursday evening in the nation’s third execution using nitrogen gas.

Carey Dale Grayson, 50, was executed at the William C. Holman Correctional Facility in southern Alabama. He was one of four teenagers convicted of killing Vickie DeBlieux, 37, as she hitchhiked through the state on the way to her mother’s home in Louisiana. The woman was attacked, beaten and thrown off a cliff.

Alabama began using nitrogen gas earlier this year to carry out some executions. The method involves placing a respirator gas mask over the face to replace breathable air with pure nitrogen gas, causing death by lack of oxygen.

Governor seeks spending for school vouchers

AR LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Thursday proposed a nearly \$6.5 billion bud-

get for the coming year that directs half of new spending toward a school voucher program.

The Republican governor called for increasing the state’s budget by nearly 3%, or \$182.5 million, in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Sanders detailed the budget plan to lawmakers ahead of next year’s legislative session, which begins Jan. 13.

Sanders’ proposal calls for increasing funding for the state’s education freedom accounts, created under an education overhaul signed into law last year, by \$90 million to \$187 million.

She also proposed setting aside \$90 million in surplus funds as a reserve for the program, which will be fully phased in the 2025-2026 school year.

Casey concedes Senate race to McCormick

PA HARRISBURG — Democratic Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania conceded his reelection bid to Republican David McCormick on Thursday, as a statewide recount showed no signs of closing the gap and his campaign suffered blows in court in its effort to get favorable ballots counted.

Casey’s concession comes more than two weeks after Election Day, as a grindingly slow ballot-counting process became a spectacle of hours-long election board meetings, social media outrage, lawsuits and accusations that

some county officials were openly flouting the law.

Republicans had been claiming that Democrats were trying to steal McCormick’s seat by counting “illegal votes.” Casey’s campaign had accused of Republicans of trying to block enough legitimate votes to prevent him from pulling ahead and winning.

Lawsuit challenges gun ban for young adults

HI HONOLULU — The latest lawsuit to take aim at Hawaii’s gun laws challenges the state’s ban on gun ownership for young adults 18 to 20 years old, which Second Amendment advocates say is an unconstitutional restriction on the right of Americans to bear arms.

Elijah Pinales, 19, and Juda Roache, who turns 18 next month, want to own guns for self-defense, according to their lawsuit filed Wednesday night in U.S. District Court in Honolulu.

Their lawyers assert that Hawaii is the only state with a complete ban on acquiring and owning firearms and ammunition by those who are 18 to 20. Some states allow 18-year-olds to purchase a long gun and some allow for private party transfer of handguns, said Alan Beck, one of the lawyers who filed the lawsuit and has lodged numerous other challenges to Hawaii weapons laws.

FACES

Lamar surprises with drop of ‘GNX’

Kendrick Lamar gave music listeners an early holiday present Friday with the surprise drop of a new album.

The Grammy winner’s 12-track “GNX” is his first release since 2022’s “Mr. Morale & The Big Steppers” and his sixth studio album overall. It comes just months after his rap battle with Drake.

Lamar first teased the album with a cover art and video snippet of “GNX,” which features multi-instrumentalist Jack Antonoff as a co-producer on every track except for “Peekaboo.” Other notable producers include Sounwave and DJ Mustard, who both contributed production on the hit “Not Like Us,” the ubiquitous diss track emanating from the Drake feud.

On the opening track “Wacced Out Murals,” Lamar raps about cruising in his Buick GNX (Grand National Experimental) car while listening to Anita Baker. He brings up Snoop Dogg posting Drake’s AI-assisted “Taylor Made Freestyle” diss track on social media and Nas congratulating Lamar for being selected to headline February’s Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show in New Orleans.

Lamar, 37, has experienced massive success since his debut album “good kid, m.A.A.d city” in 2012. He has accumulated 17 Grammy wins and became the first non-classical, non-jazz musician to win a Pulitzer Prize for his 2017 album “DAMN.”

The surprise release caps a big year for Lamar, who was featured on the song “Like That” with Future and Metro Boomin — a track that spent three weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 this year.

Lamar is up for seven Grammys, fueled by “Not Like Us,” which earned nods for record and song of the year, rap song, music video as well as best rap performance. He has two entries in the latter category, a career first: “Like That” is up for best rap performance and best rap song, too.

Other news

■ **Chuck Woolery**, the affable, smooth-talking game show host of “Wheel of Fortune,” “Love Connection” and “Scrabble” who later became a right-wing podcaster, has died. He was 83. Woolery was inducted into the American TV Game Show Hall of Fame in 2007 and earned a daytime Emmy nomination in 1978.

■ **Anne Hathaway** is set to lead in the Amazon MGM Studios adaptation of Colleen Hoover’s best-selling novel “Verity,” according to Deadline. Hathaway will reunite with director Michael Showalter, who collaborated with her on “The Idea of You.” A release date for the film has not been announced.

From wire reports



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Dolly Parton appears at an event to celebrate the expansion of the Imagination Library of Kentucky at the Lyric Theatre in Lexington, Ky., on Aug. 27. Parton recently released an album that traces her family’s musical legacy, “Smoky Mountain DNA: Family, Faith & Fables” (below).

Dolly Parton sings her family’s story on new album, ‘Smoky Mountain DNA’

BY MARIA SHERMAN
Associated Press

Dolly Parton’s musical story starts further back than most might expect — to the British Isles of the 1600s. That’s where her ancestors hail from, eventually landing in the hollers of East Tennessee and its familiar mountain ranges, bringing their songs with them. Her new album, “Smoky Mountain DNA: Family, Faith & Fables,” credited to Dolly Parton and Family, explores the great legacy of the Partons and the Owenses, her maternal family, as she performs alongside five generations of family members.

“My grandpa used to say when I got famous, he said, ‘Well, she came out crying in the key of D,’” she told The Associated Press. “I think we all did.”

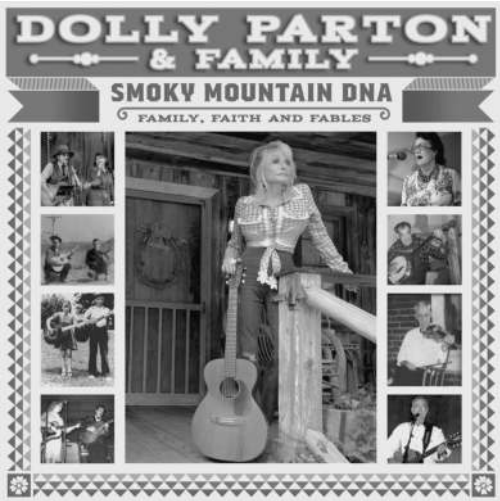
“Smoky Mountain DNA” was an inevitable labor of love, one that taught Parton more about her family line.

“We’re kind of like the Carter family. We go back generations,” Parton said. (The Carters are widely considered the first family of country music.)

“I would imagine this will be my favorite album,” Parton said.

“This really involves, you know, my grandmas and my grandpas, my uncles and my aunts and all the people going all the way back that had the biggest influence on my life. The ones that I remember from being little, and it even goes on farther back from there.”

Richie Owens — Parton’s cousin, who she describes as “the family historian” — produced “Smoky Mountain DNA.” He says that



the family has long been archivists, but the idea to curate a record started around 2010 and 2011. Then, right before the pandemic, Parton approached Owens and said, “we need to get together and start trying to get all this information (and) material together,” he recalls. Because Owens had already been working on a family story, specifically tied to his grandfather’s fiddle, they teamed up for what is now “Smoky Mountain DNA.”

For some of the new songs, Owens utilized digital technology — what he compares to the AI-assist on the new Beatles song, “Now and Then,” used to extract John Lennon’s voice from an old demo for a new composition — for “restoration work.”

“With the technology that’s been available, we were able to achieve wonderful, miraculous situations where we were able to go in and

build new music tracks” from previous vocal recordings of deceased family members, he says. It was about cleaning up crackles and noise — not creating doctored recordings.

Parton and Owens started curating the album by finding songs that she had co-written with deceased family members — or those of deceased family members that she had recorded previously. Others were hits and integral to the story of their heritage, and the songs recorded with younger members of the family — including those born in the 21st century — included more Parton co-writes, but with styles that felt true to each person.

That’s one of the many reasons the album, which is centered in country, folk, hymns and bluegrass, spans a wide swath of genres, including a kind of soulful R&B performance (like on “Not Bad” with Shelley Rená), swamp pop (“I Just Stopped By” with Parton’s late uncle Robert “John Henry” Owens), various rock genres (“Where Will We Live Tomorrow” with Rebecca Seaver and “Crazy in Love with You” with Richie Owens’ daughter Estelle).

The album revisits Parton’s own career, too: There is a delightful cover of “Puppy Love,” originally recorded when she was 13, now sang with some of the youngest members of her family.

“Smoky Mountain DNA” could only end with one song: “When It’s Family,” originally co-written by Parton and released as “Family” on her 1991 album “Eagle When She Flies.” It’s a moving song about acceptance, Parton singing: “Some are preachers, some are gay / Some are addicts, drunks and strays / But not a one is turned away / When it’s family.”



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OPINION

You do 5-day RTO, I'll watch your best workers quit

BY SARAH GREEN CARMICHAEL
 Bloomberg Opinion

Five days a week. That's the new return-to-office policy at Jeff Bezos' Washington Post and at Amazon.com, the retail giant now run by his designated successor, Andy Jassy. It's also the RTO recommendation Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy have announced for the U.S. federal government.

It's a terrible way to manage talent. It seems obvious that these unpopular policies are a way to spur employees to quit, in a kind of "self-deportation" version of layoffs — but without severance payouts, health insurance continuance or WARN Act notification periods. That may sound appealing to some employers, but they should recognize which workers are most likely to leave voluntarily: those with the most sterling credentials, the most in-demand skills, and the best alternative employment options. In other words, the top-tier talent employers are usually desperate to retain.

Jassy has denied that his RTO policy is a backdoor layoff, but the head of Amazon Web Services told staff that if they don't want to work full time in the office, "That's OK, there are other companies around."

A leaked Washington Post memo shared on BluSky takes the same tone: "If an employee decides they do not want to return to The Post on a 5-day a week office schedule, we understand and will accept their resignation."

Similarly, Musk and Ramaswamy, whom President-elect Donald Trump has named to spearhead a new government efficiency effort, laid out their thinking in a Wall Street Journal op-ed. A five-day-a-week schedule could result in a "wave of voluntary terminations that we welcome," they wrote. Ramaswamy told Tucker Carlson that the plan could get perhaps 1 in 4 federal workers to quit. And Musk has repeatedly slammed those

who work from home, announcing the end of remote work at Twitter (now X) in his very first email to staff. Although he later backtracked and has told some staff to work remotely after closing offices — one of his first acts at the company was to stop paying rent at several locations — he's made no secret of his view that any form of WFH is lazy and even morally suspect.

He's not the only executive to assume that those who aren't working five days in the office are less valuable or less committed. Malcontents. Slackers. Dead weight. But these assumptions are dead wrong. The employees likeliest to stay after the imposition of a strict, five-day in-office mandate are not necessarily the most talented or the most committed, but those convinced they have no better employment options; those close to retirement; and those who live nearest the office. That's not exactly strategic talent management.

The employees who will quit in the face of a strict RTO policy are the very ones who are the most employable — the mid-career stars who will find it easiest to get another job. Remote and hybrid workers tend to be more highly educated, wealthier, and to do the kind of work that isn't tied to a specific location; that is, the kind of work that would be easy to do for a rival company with a more appealing set of policies.

I am no fan of mass layoffs — I believe the data that suggests they are nearly always counterproductive and corrosive — but if an organization must cut staff, it would be far better to make strategic choices about which departments should go, rather than simply let the people with the most options walk out the door. The idea that five days a week in the office is better rests on several false assumptions that simply are not backed up by the data. There are both upsides and challenges to fully remote work; hybrid arrangements, on the other hand, show only upsides. Nevertheless, there are some CEOs — a mi-

nority, but a vocal one — who keep saying remote and flexible work just doesn't work; studies keep proving those assertions wrong. Faced with facts that don't confirm their beliefs, even executives who usually demand rigorous evidence for major decisions simply decide to throw the data out. (Bezos in particular made Amazon synonymous with data-driven insight, and brought to The Post more attention to customer analytics.)

Here's just some of the information they're choosing to ignore: A 2024 meta-analysis of over 100 research papers on remote and hybrid work found such arrangements had a positive impact on "job satisfaction, organizational commitment, perceived organizational support, supervisor-rated performance, and turnover intentions."

Sometimes such studies are criticized because of the possibility that the employees who want to work remotely may be different in some way than those who work in the office; more responsible, more self-motivating, or with more family commitments. To allay those concerns, Stanford's Nick Bloom and his colleagues conducted a randomized experiment where employees were assigned to work in the office five days a week, or told to come in three days a week, based only on their birthdays. The randomized hybrid arrangement was so successful — reducing turnover and increasing satisfaction among both employees and managers — that the skeptical company decided to expand the program to all employees. By ignoring such evidence in favor of a strict in-office policy, Musk, Ramaswamy, Jassy and Bezos are essentially daring their most credentialed, in-demand workers to quit. That's a game of chicken they're ultimately going to lose.

Sarah Green Carmichael is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and editor. Previously, she was an executive editor at Harvard Business Review. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

DOGE crew could cut spending, if they don't implode

BY NOLAN FINLEY
 The Detroit News

If Donald Trump doesn't kill Elon Musk before Musk offs Vivek Ramaswamy, together the three best bros have a chance to achieve something every administration promises, but none has delivered: Rid the federal budget of waste, fraud and inefficiency.

President-elect Trump tasked Musk, the X and Tesla chairman and richest man in the world, and Ramaswamy, a biotech billionaire and former presidential candidate, to head the new Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE.

It's not clear whether DOGE will operate inside or outside of government — only Congress can approve a new government department.

Keeping it on the outside in an advisory and advocacy role would protect it from getting sucked into the bureaucratic quicksand and avoid the irony of creating another federal agency in the name of shrinking the size of the government.

Finding squandered dollars will be the easy part. The Pentagon, where much of the spending abuse is housed, has an inspector general who regularly issues reports on \$34 screws and \$640 toilet seats. And the General Accounting Office has pinpointed \$250 billion in taxpayer dollars across the government lost to waste, fraud, abuse and mis-

management annually. A truism of the federal budget is that once it goes up, it never comes down. So, the massive deficit outlays for COVID-19 relief have remained in the budget even though the emergency has subsided. A federal budget that totaled \$4.4 trillion in 2019 now stands at \$6.5 trillion, and the deficit has doubled to \$1.8 trillion from \$984 billion. Every dollar of federal spending has its own constituency. Even the slightest trims are deemed "draconian" and raise dire alarms about grannies being rolled off cliffs and children left to misery. Countering the spending lobby will take every bit of Musk's marketing genius and Ramaswamy's intense focus.

The pair are talking about "gamification," a technique long deployed by software developers to spur a competitive environment through the use of such things as points and leaderboards.

Musk is already using his social media platform, X, to highlight examples of waste and bloat. Wednesday, he targeted the legion of "climate advisers" who earn six figure salaries and are deployed throughout the bureaucracy. Included on the list is the niece of former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Keeping waste and the deficit constantly in front of taxpayers through social media

campaigns and internet memes is designed to create a movement in support of spending cuts and minimize the political impact on those who ultimately will have to vote to put the reductions in place. It's a brilliant strategy that affirms the wisdom of bringing experts from outside or government to do the work the bureaucrats have proven incapable of doing. It comes with a risk. Spending advocates are already trying to undercut Musk's credibility because his SpaceX and other enterprises benefit from government grants. The bigger challenge, though, will be keeping the team together. At the moment, there's no one closer to Trump than Musk. He has been job-shadowing the president-elect since before the election and is even showing up in family photos. If politics hold true to form, that will stir jealousies and make Musk a target of those he is displacing. There's also the question of how long two massive egos such as Musk and Ramaswamy can share the spotlight, particularly considering Ramaswamy is the most irritating person in politics. But if Trump can hold the band together, this could be the best and last shot the nation has for heading off a debt-driven economic catastrophe.

Nolan Finley is editorial page editor of The Detroit News.

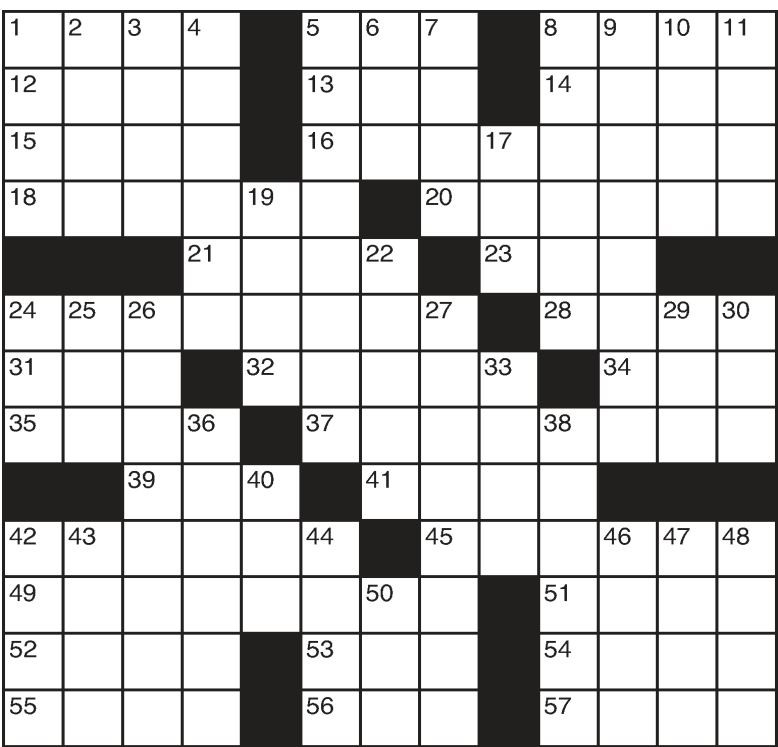
Bizarro



Loose Parts



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



- ACROSS
- 1 Throat clearer

5 Wall St. debut

8 Radar dot

12 Hawaiian dance

13 French diarist Anaïs

14 Lighten

15 Needing liniment

16 Thanksgiving staple

18 Aspen topper

20 Long-legged wading birds

21 Biblical kingdom

23 Depot (Abbr.)

24 Clumsy walker

28 Pouchlike parts

31 Tax-collecting org.

32 — the above

34 Long. crosser

35 Funny person

37 Invalidate

39 Gift for a tot

41 Cabbage salad

42 Scents

45 Is real

49 Protruded

51 Tidy

52 Prefix with byte

53 Industrious insect

54 Words to Brutus

55 CEO's aide
- 56 Fish eggs

57 56-Across provider
- 22 Thaws
- 24 — Lancelot
- 25 Part of TNT
- 26 Traveling shows for GIs
- 27 Casino wheel
- 29 Half- — (latte option)
- 30 Pigs' digs
- 33 Linen source
- 36 Male feline
- 38 Cords
- 40 Talk and talk
- 42 Hammett pooch
- 43 Numbered rds.
- 44 Take to the sky
- 46 Third son
- 47 "Toodle-oo!"
- 48 Poker type
- 50 Family card game

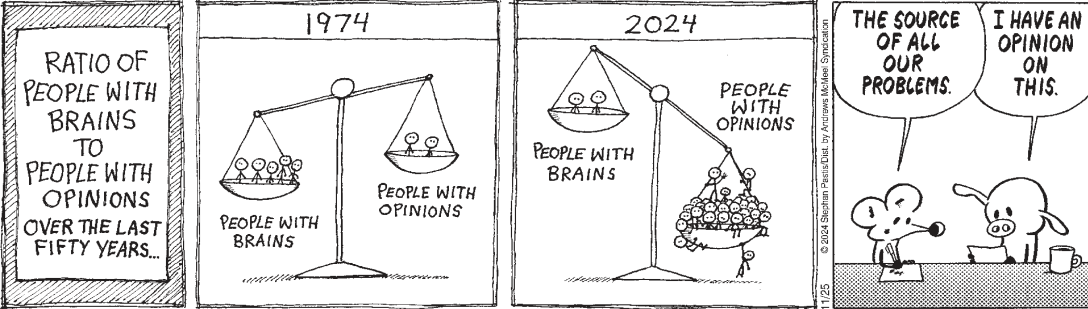
Answer to Previous Puzzle



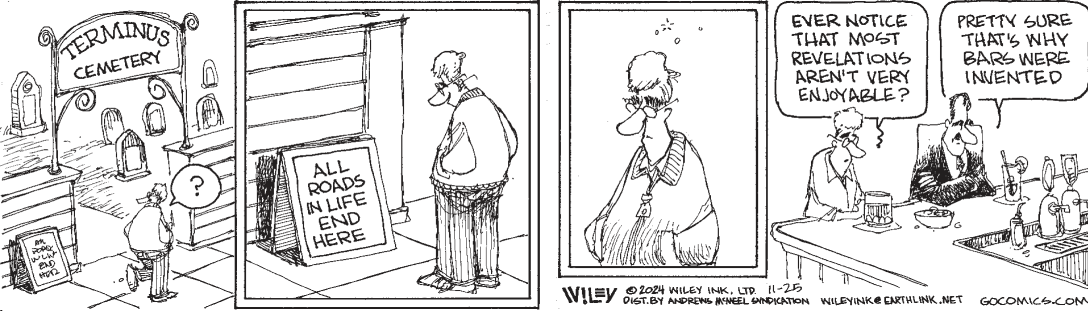
Frazz



Pearls Before Swine



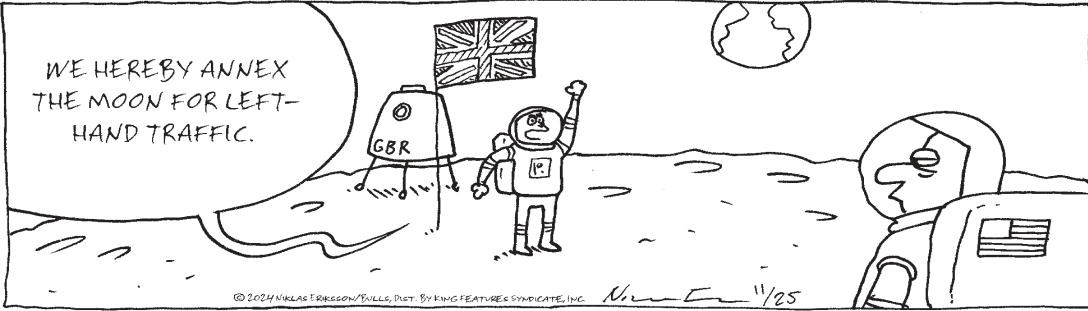
Non Sequitur



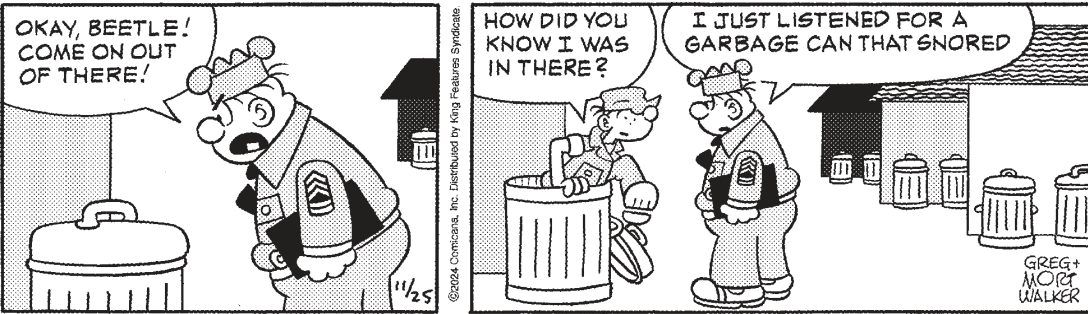
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



11-25

CRYPTOQUIP

ZGOV LNUO URLQXCJ EQFGNDV
LGOOI CDO GQMMQVF DOCJJP
JNZ VNMOL, ZGCM KN MGOP
IDNKR XO? MZN ECCL.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DID THE RESOURCEFUL FARMER FASHION HIS ENGAGEMENT RING OUT OF? TWENTY-FOUR-CAROT GOLD.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

SCOREBOARD/AUTO RACING

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Saturday's men's scores	
EAST	
Albany (NY) 67, UMKC 65	
American 73, Cowboys 56	
Boston U. 75, UMBC 71	
Brown 83, Canisius 76	
Columbia 82, Stony Brook 63	
George Washington 83, Louisiana-La-fayette 74	
Georgetown 82, St. Francis (Pa.) 65	
Marist 54, New Hampshire 49	
Mass.-Lowell 80, Quinnipiac 70	
Mount St. Mary's 76, Delaware St. 66	
Rider 57, Bucknell 53	
Temple 87, UMass 80	
Vermont 75, Delaware 71	
Wagner 81, Springfield 46	
Yale 91, Fairfield 66	
SOUTH	
Alabama A&M 77, Coastal Carolina 70	
Cincinnati 81, Georgia Tech 58	
East Carolina 72, Ill.-Chicago 55	
FIU 76, CS Bakersfield 73, OT	
Furman 67, Charleston Southern 46	
George Mason 100, Ferrum 55	
Georgia Southern 64, West Georgia 54	
James Madison 71, Jacksonville St. 65	
LIU 79, Charlotte 76	
La Salle 92, Stetson 77	
N. Kentucky 85, Kentucky St. 59	
North Alabama 74, Louisiana-Monroe 62	
Northeastern 59, Florida Gulf Coast 55	
Queens (NC) 98, SC-Upstate 74	
SC State 72, IU Indianapolis 62	
Wake Forest 67, Detroit 57	
MIDWEST	
Akron 92, Omaha 84	
Alabama St. 77, Lamar 75	
Bellarmine 80, Bowling Green 68	
DePaul 98, N. Illinois 52	
Illinois 87, Md.-Eastern Shore 40	
Illinois St. 84, UAB 83	
Kent St. 68, Cleveland St. 52	
Loyola Chicago 89, Tulsa 53	
Marquette 80, Georgia 69	
Milwaukee 76, Wofford 74	
Purdue 80, Marshall 45	
SIU-Edwardsville 83, St. Ambrose 49	
St. Thomas (MN) 91, Portland St. 65	
UC San Diego 80, Toledo 45	
SOUTHWEST	
Presbyterian 71, Monmouth (NJ) 61	
Stephen F. Austin 64, Youngstown St. 57	
Texas A&M-CC 82, Le Moyne 61	
FAR WEST	
BYU 87, MVSU 43	
Cal Baptist 79, E. Washington 68	
Fresno St. 72, Long Beach St. 69	
N. Colorado 114, Prairie View 98	
North Carolina 87, Hawaii 69	
S. Utah 82, Idaho 67	
Saint Mary's (Cal.) 80, Cal Poly 66	
Stanford 71, Santa Clara 69	
UNLV 72, New Mexico St. 65	
Saturday's women's scores	
EAST	
Albany (NY) 54, Cornell 47	
Army 56, UMass 50	
Boston College 81, Holy Cross 55	
Bucknell 51, Youngstown St. 36	
Colgate 82, St. Bonaventure 72	
Fairleigh Dickinson 67, St. Peter's 50	
Florida Gulf Coast 66, Georgetown 57	
Fordham 90, Siena 51	
George Washington 56, Georgia South-ern 46	
Indiana 72, Columbia 62	
La Salle 69, American 60	
Loyola (Md.) 67, UNC-Asheville 51	
Marshall 84, Tulsa 80, OT	
Merrimack 87, NJIT 76	
Penn St. 67, Georgia 47	
Pittsburgh 64, Robert Morris 51	
Rhode Island 63, Brown 58	
Temple 52, Drexel 43	
Villanova 65, Texas A&M 57	
SOUTH	
Baylor 101, Southern Miss. 55	
E. Kentucky 87, Radford 40	
ETSU 53, Tennessee Tech 48	
FAU 62, FIU 52	
Furman 101, Bob Jones 47	
Gardner-Webb 88, Johnson C. Smith 67	
Georgia Tech 71, S. Dakota St. 57	
Howard 76, New Hampshire 55	
Lipscomb 86, Evansville 79	
Murray St. 87, Memphis 83	
Navy 75, Longwood 61	
Norfolk St. 71, UNC-Wilmington 52	
SE Louisiana 59, Louisiana Tech 47	
Utah Tech 79, McNeese St. 69	
Virginia Tech 87, Elon 69	
Wake Forest 60, Davidson 55	
Winthrop 71, North Florida 61	
MIDWEST	
Cleveland St. 94, Ohio Dominican 52	
Detroit 72, W. Michigan 63	
E. Illinois 66, Loyola Chicago 60	
Harvard 75, Northwestern 50	
Kent St. 89, Xavier 69	
Missouri St. 91, Saint Louis 68	
North Carolina 63, Ball St. 52	
S. Indiana 75, N. Kentucky 73	
Texas Rio Grande Valley 110, Arlington Baptist 37	
Wisconsin 67, Omaha 65	
SOUTHWEST	
Sam Houston St. 67, Ark.-Pine Bluff 48	
Texas Tech 78, New Orleans 70	
UTEP 83, N.M. Highlands 54	
FAR WEST	
Alaska-Anchorage 68, Vermont 52	
Arizona 84, Grambling St. 60	
Idaho 74, Cal Poly 54	
N. Arizona 84, Colorado St. 80	
N. Colorado 67, BYU 60, OT	
Notre Dame 74, Southern Cal 61	
Portland 85, Cal Baptist 66	
Seattle 88, Evergreen St. 43	
Utah Valley St. 89, Bethesda 56	

DEALS

Saturday's transactions	
BASEBALL	
Major League Baseball American League	
NEW YORK YANKEES — Released RHP Cody Morris from his minor league contract.	
National League	
ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with RF Carlos D. Rodriguez on a one-year contract.	
COLORADO ROCKIES — Agreed to terms with INF Kyle Farmer on a one-year contract.	
BASKETBALL	
National Basketball Association	
MILWAUKEE BUCKS — Assigned F Tyler Smith to the Wisconsin Herd of the G League.	
FOOTBALL	
National Football League	
ARIZONA CARDINALS — Elevated S Andre Chachere from the practice squad to the active roster.	
BALTIMORE RAVENS — Waived DB Eddie Jackson. Signed LB Kristian Welch to the active roster.	
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Placed RB Miles Sanders on injured reserve. Signed WR Deven Thompson to the active roster. Elevated WR Dan Chisena and OLB Kenny Dyon from the practice squad to the active roster.	
CHICAGO BEARS — Elevated DB Adrian Colbert from the practice squad to the active roster.	
DALLAS COWBOYS — Activated T Chuma Edoga and DE Marshawn Kneeland from injured reserve. Elevated TE Princeton Fant and DB Kemon Hall from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed DB Markquese Bel on injured reserve. Waived DE K.J. Henry.	
DENVER BRONCOS — Elevated ILB Zach Cunningham and OL Nick Gargiulo from the practice squad to the active roster.	
DETROIT LIONS — Activated CB Emmanuel Moseley from injured reserve. Placed CB Ennis Rakestraw on injured reserve. Elevated LB David Long from the practice squad to the active roster.	
HOUSTON TEXANS — Elevated DT Tommy Togiai from the practice squad to the active roster.	
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Activated DE Tyquan Lewis from injured reserve. Waived DE Genard Avery. Elevated G Antonio Mafi from the practice squad to the active roster.	
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Elevated LB Cole Christiansen from the practice squad to the active roster.	
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Elevated CB Kyu Blu Kelly and RB Sincere McCormick from the practice squad to the active roster.	
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Elevated DE Jonah Williams, T Geron Christian and DB Cam Lampkin from the practice squad to the active roster.	
MIAMI DOLPHINS — Elevated LS Tucker Addington and T Jackson Carman from the practice squad to the active roster.	
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Elevated LS Jake McQuaide from the practice squad to the active roster. Activated TE Nick Muse from injured reserve. Waived CB Akayleb Evans.	
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Elevated LB Keshawn Banks and TE Jack Westover from the practice squad to the active roster.	
NEW YORK GIANTS — Activated OLB Kayvon Thibodeaux from injured reserve. Signed QB Tim Boyle to the active roster. Waived QB Daniel Jones and LB Tomon Fox.	
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Elevated TE C.J. Usomah from the practice squad to the active roster. Activated WR Britain Covey from injured reserve.	
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Elevated LB Jalen Graham and CB Nick McCloud from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed S Tashaun Gipson Sr. to the active roster. Placed LB Tatum Bethune on injured reserve.	
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Activated S Rayshawn Jenkins from injured reserve. Elevated TE Tyler Mabry and LB Patrick O'Connell from the practice squad to the active roster.	
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Activated CB Jamel Dean from injured reserve. Elevated LB Vi Jones from the practice squad to the active roster.	
TENNESSEE TITANS — Placed LB Jack Gibbens and CB L'Jarius Sneed on injured reserve. Elevated DB Daryl Worley from the practice squad to the active roster.	
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Activated DE Javontae Jean-Baptiste from injured reserve. Waived RB Chris Rodriguez Jr.	
HOCKEY	
National Hockey League	
ANAHEIM DUCKS — Assigned C Jansen Harkins to San Diego (AHL).	
DETROIT RED WINGS — Activated LW Timothy Gettinger from the injured non-roster list and placed him on waivers.	
EDMONTON OILERS — Sent D Josh Brown to Bakersfield (AHL).	
LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled G Phoenix Copley from Ontario (AHL). Reassigned G Erik Portillo to Ontario.	
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Recalled C Fyodor Svechkov from Milwaukee (AHL). Reassigned D Adam Wilsby to Milwaukee.	
PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Assigned C Anthony Richard to Lehigh Valley (AHL). Activated D Cameron York from injured reserve.	
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Reassigned C Vasilij Ponomarev to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL). Activated C Kevin Hayes from injured reserve.	
VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Reassigned D Robert Hagg to Henderson (AHL). Activated D Nicolas Hague from injured reserve.	

AUTO RACING

Las Vegas Grand Prix	
Formula One Sunday	
At Las Vegas Street Circuit Las Vegas, United States.	
Lap length: 6.00 kilometers (Start position in parentheses)	
1. (1) George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 50 laps, 1:22:05.969, 25 points.	
2. (10) Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Mercedes, 50, +7.313 seconds, 18.	
3. (2) Carlos Sainz Jr, Spain, Ferrari, 50, +11.906, 15.	
4. (4) Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 50, +14.283, 12.	
5. (5) Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 50, +16.582, 10.	
6. (6) Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 50, +43.385, 10.	
7. (8) Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 50, +51.365, 6.	
8. (9) Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Haas, 50, +59.808, 4.	
9. (7) Yuki Tsunoda, Japan, Racing Bulls, 50, +1:02.808, 2.	
10. (15) Sergio Perez, Mexico, Red Bull Racing, 50, +1:03.114, 1.	
11. (16) Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 50, +1:09.195.	
12. (12) Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, Haas, 50, +1:09.803.	
13. (13) Guanyu Zhou, China, KICK Sauber, 50, +1:14.085.	
14. (20) Franco Colapinto, Argentina, Williams, 50, +1:15.172.	
15. (18) Lance Stroll, Canada, Aston Martin, 50, +1:24.102.	
16. (14) Liam Lawson, New Zealand, Racing Bulls, 50, +1:31.005.	
17. (11) Esteban Ocon, France, Alpine, 49, +1 lap.	
18. (19) Valtteri Bottas, Finland, KICK Sauber, 49, +1 lap.	
19. (18) Alexander Albon, Thailand, Williams, did not finish, 25.	
20. (3) Pierre Gasly, France, Alpine, did not finish, 15.	
Driver Standings	
1. Max Verstappen, Netherlands, Red Bull Racing, 393 points.	
2. Lando Norris, Great Britain, McLaren, 331.	
3. Charles Leclerc, Monaco, Ferrari, 307.	
4. Oscar Piastri, Australia, McLaren, 262.	
5. Carlos Sainz Jr, Spain, Ferrari, 244.	
6. George Russell, Great Britain, Mercedes, 192.	
7. Lewis Hamilton, Great Britain, Mercedes, 190.	
8. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Red Bull Racing, 151.	
9. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Aston Martin, 62.	
10. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Haas, 31.	
Manufacturers Standings	
1. McLaren, 593.	
2. Ferrari, 557.	
3. Red Bull Racing, 544.	
4. Mercedes, 382.	
5. Aston Martin, 86.	

PRO SOCCER	
MLS playoffs	
Semifinals Nov. 23-24	
Eastern Conference	
Seattle 2, Los Angeles FC 1	
Minnesota vs. LA Galaxy	
Western Conference	
New York Red Bulls 2, New York City FC 0	
Atlanta vs. Orlando	
Conference Finals Nov. 30 - Dec. 1	
NWSL playoffs	
Championship Saturday, Nov. 23	
At CPKC Stadium, Kansas City, Mo.	
Orlando 1, Washington 0	

COLLEGE SOCCER	
NCAA Division I women's soccer tournament	
Second Round Friday, Nov. 22	
No. 3 Ohio St. 2, No. 6 Auburn 1	
No. 6 Minnesota 2, No. 3 South Carolina 1	
No. 4 Penn St. 1, No. 5 TCU 0	
No. 4 Notre Dame 3, No. 5 Kentucky 1	
No. 3 Stanford 2, UConn 1	
No. 5 Michigan St. 3, No. 4 Texas 2, OT	
No. 2 North Carolina 1, Santa Clara 0	
No. 4 Virginia 0, No. 5 Wisconsin 0, Wisconsin advances 4-2 on penalty kicks	
No. 1 Florida St. 3, No. 8 Vanderbilt 3, Vanderbilt advances 4-3 on penalty kicks	
No. 2 Wake Forest 3, Colorado 1	
No. 1 Duke 3, No. 8 Texas 0	
No. 3 Iowa 1, No. 6 Georgetown 0	
No. 1 Mississippi St. 1, Washington 0	
No. 7 Arkansas 1, California 0	
No. 1 Southern California 4, No. 8 Saint Louis 3, OT	
No. 7 Virginia Tech 2, No. 2 UCLA 1	
Third Round Sunday, Nov. 24	
No. 3 Ohio St. vs. No. 2 Wake Forest	
No. 2 North Carolina vs. No. 6 Minnesota	
No. 4 Penn St. vs. No. 8 Vanderbilt	
No. 4 Notre Dame vs. No. 1 Mississippi St.	
No. 1 Duke vs. No. 5 Michigan St.	
No. 2 Arkansas vs. No. 3 Stanford	
No. 1 Southern California vs. No. 8 Saint Louis	
No. 3 Iowa vs. No. 7 Virginia Tech	



MATT YORK/AP

Max Verstappen adjusts his champion hat while conducting an interview after the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday.

Verstappen claims 4th championship

By JENNA FRYER Associated Press	
LAS VEGAS — Asked how he planned to celebrate his fourth consecutive Formula 1 championship, Max Verstappen did a quick scan of the room searching for a drop of alcohol.	
“Well, I ran out of beer, so I don’t know,” he said. “Maybe another one, and then maybe I switch to something else. I don’t need to drive anymore, so we don’t do the drink and drive. I don’t need to do that.”	
Actually, Verstappen can do anything he wants after finishing fifth on Saturday night in the Las Vegas Grand Prix to beat Lando Norris of McLaren for the title with two F1 races remaining this season.	
The Red Bull driver is now a king of Las Vegas, a year after he arrived in Sin City extremely negative about the extravagant race on the famed Strip. He won and completely changed his tune last November as the Dutchman even sang “Viva Las Vegas” as he crossed the finish line.	
Now he used the street circuit to become only the sixth driver in F1 history to win at least four titles. Verstappen needed only to finish ahead of Norris to win the title. He started fifth but was already up to second by the 10th lap and Norris never challenged.	
He ended the race up 63 points over Norris with two events remaining this season — a position Verstappen said he never expected to be in even though he’s the son of a former F1 driver. His father, Jos, was even once teammates with Michael Schumacher, one of the best in F1 history.	
Despite being surrounded by greatness, Verstappen insisted he never expected his own career to be so successful.	
“When you’re growing up racing some legendary drivers, it’s very impressive that I can even be on the podium, whenever it is,” he	
said. “Maybe win a championship? It’s already hard enough to win one, and then of course, then you also need a bit of luck to be in the right team situation to maybe win more. Luckily, we did that.”	
The team celebrated their champion as soon as the race ended.	
“Max Verstappen you are a four-time world champion,” team principal Christian Horner said on the radio. “That is a phenomenal, phenomenal achievement. You can be incredibly proud of yourself as we are.”	
Verstappen sounded unusually emotional on the radio.	
“Oh My God, what a season. Four times. Thank you, thank you guys,” he said. “We gave it all.”	
The race was won, meanwhile, by George Russell who was followed by Lewis Hamilton in the first 1-2 sweep for the Mercedes drivers since 2022. Hamilton came from 10th on the grid to capture his podium finish.	
The duo crossed the finish line under a checkered flag waved by actor Sylvester Stallone.	

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	20	12	6	2	26	61	50
Florida	21	12	8	1	25	74	72
Buffalo	21	11	9	1	23	69	65
Boston	22	10	9	3	23	51	70
Tampa Bay	19	10	7	2	22	68	59
Detroit	20	8	10	2	18	49	63
Ottawa	20	8	11	1	17	62	65
Montreal	20	7	11	2	16	56	77

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	23	14	7	2	30	79	60
Carolina	20	14	5	1	29	78	51
Washington	20	13	6	1	27	81	55
N.Y. Rangers	19	12	6	1	25	65	50
N.Y. Islanders	21	8	8	5	21	54	60
Columbus	20	9	9	2	20	70	72
Philadelphia	21	9	10	2	20	60	73
Pittsburgh	23	7	12	4	18	59	93

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Winnipeg	21	17	4	0	34	85	51
Minnesota	20	13	3	4	30	69	50
Dallas	19	13	6	0	26	66	44
Colorado	21	12	9	0	24	73	75
Utah	20	8	9	3	19	55	64
St. Louis	22	9	12	1	19	53	74
Nashville	21	7	11	3	17	50	65
Chicago	21	7	12	2	16	50	63

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	21	13	6	2	28	81	64
Calgary	21	12	6	3	27	58	57
Los Angeles	21	11	7	3	25	63	57
Edmonton	22	11	9	2	24	64	69
Vancouver	19	10	6	3	23	61	62
Seattle	21	10	10	1	21	59	57
Anaheim	19	8	8	3	19	48	57
San Jose	23	6	12	5	17	56	83

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.

Friday's games

Winnipeg 4, Pittsburgh 1
Buffalo 3, Anaheim 2, OT

Saturday's games

Calgary 4, Minnesota 3, SO
Philadelphia 3, Chicago 2, OT
Los Angeles 2, Seattle 1
Colorado 7, Florida 4
New Jersey 3, Washington 2
Boston 2, Detroit 1
Utah 6, Pittsburgh 1
Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 2
Vegas 6, Montreal 2
Nashville 4, Winnipeg 1
Vancouver 4, Ottawa 3
Columbus 5, Carolina 4, SO
N.Y. Islanders 3, St. Louis 1
Buffalo 4, San Jose 2
Edmonton 6, N.Y. Rangers 2

Sunday's game

Utah at Toronto

Monday's games

Colorado at Tampa Bay
Dallas at Carolina
Nashville at New Jersey
St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers
Vegas at Philadelphia
Washington at Florida
Calgary at Ottawa
Detroit at N.Y. Islanders
Winnipeg at Minnesota
Seattle at Anaheim
Los Angeles at San Jose

Tuesday's games

Utah at Montreal
Vancouver at Boston

Scoring leaders

Through Saturday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	21	7	28	35
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	19	13	21	34
Martin Necas, CAR	20	11	22	33
Jack Eichel, LV	21	7	25	32
Mikko Rantanen, COL	21	14	18	32
Sam Reinhart, FLA	21	16	15	31
Cale Makar, COL	21	8	22	30
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	22	16	14	30
Nikita Kucherov, TB	19	11	18	29
Dylan Strome, WSH	20	6	22	28
Jesper Bratt, NJ	23	10	18	28
Connor McDavid, EDM	19	11	17	28
Mitch Marner, TOR	20	6	20	26
Artemi Panarin, NYR	19	12	14	26
Kyle Connor, WPG	21	13	13	26

ROUNDUP

Andersson, Flames beat Wild in SO

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Rasmus Andersson scored the shootout winner and the Calgary Flames held off the Minnesota Wild 4-3 after blowing a two-goal lead late in the third period Saturday.

Kevin Rooney, Martin Pospisil and Yegor Sharangovich scored in regulation for Calgary, which has won four games in a row.

Marcus Johansson, Brock Faber and Marco Rossi scored for Minnesota. The NHL's top road team, the Wild have lost only once in regulation in 13 away games.

Frederick Gaudreau scored for Minnesota before Justin Kirkland replied for the Flames to tie the shootout at 1 until Andersson fired a shot past Filip Gustavsson in the fifth round. Calgary goalie Dan Vladar then clinched the win by denying Ryan Hartman.

Down 3-1 late in the third, Faber's power-play goal with four minutes left drew the Wild to within one. Rossi provided the game-tying goal with 34 seconds remaining and the goalie pulled to help the visitors earn a point.

Flyers 3, Blackhawks 2 (OT): Matvei Michkov scored a power-play goal in overtime as host Philadelphia overcame a two-goal deficit in the third period to beat Chicago.

Michkov scored on a set play, taking a pass from Travis Konecny on the back door and slamming it home at 1:06 of overtime.

With the Flyers trailing 2-0 in the third period, Sean Couturier and Noah Cates scored goals 2:38 apart to tie the score.

Kings 2, Kraken 1: Adrian Kempe and Quinton Byfield scored in the second period, and host Los Angeles beat Seattle.

David Rittich made 19 saves for the Kings, who improved to 6-2-1 at home.

Kempe and Byfield scored 1:44 apart in the second period. Byfield buried a sharp-angle slap shot on a power play while dropping to a knee. It was his 98th career point in 200 games.

Avalanche 7, Panthers 4: Jonathan Drouin got his first two goals of the season, Mikko Rantanen had a goal and three assists and visiting Colorado beat slumping Florida.

Drouin was playing for only the fifth time this season. He missed 16 games with an upper-body injury.

Valeri Nichushkin had a goal and two assists for the Avalanche, who got a four-goal second period — with scores from Drouin, Rantanen, Logan O'Connor and Samuel Girard.

Golden Knights 6, Canadiens 2: Visiting Vegas exploded for five unanswered goals in the second



JEFF MCINTOSH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The Minnesota Wild's Marcus Johansson, right, checks the Flames' Rasmus Andersson during the second period in Calgary on Saturday. Andersson scored the shootout winner in the Flames' 4-3 victory.

period to roll over Montreal.

Tomas Hertl, Callahan Burke, Ivan Barbashev, Tanner Pearson and Keegan Kolesar each scored.

Canucks 4, Senators 3: Jake DeBrusk had two goals and an assist, and visiting Vancouver beat Ottawa.

Kiefer Sherwood had a goal and an assist for the Canucks in the opener of a six-game trip. Teddy Blueger also scored, and Elias Pettersson had two assists.

Bruins 2, Red Wings 1: Brad Marchand's goal midway through the third period proved to be the winner, and visiting Boston won its second straight game under interim coach Joe Sacco, beating Detroit.

Marchand scored with 8:30 left as the Bruins followed a 1-0 victory over Utah on Thursday in Sacco's debut after he replaced Jim Montgomery, who was dismissed Tuesday. Marchand's goal was his sixth this season and the 18th of his career against the Red Wings.

Stars 4, Lightning 2: Matt Duchene and Roope Hintz scored in the third period, and visiting Dallas beat Tampa Bay.

Jake Oettinger stopped 27 shots while improving to 11-3 on the season.

Utah 6, Penguins 1: Sidney Crosby scored his 600th NHL goal for Pittsburgh on Saturday night, but the Penguins lost to visiting Utah.

Crosby is the 21st player in NHL

history to score 600 goals. He reached the milestone with 10 seconds left on a five-on-three power play and now has seven goals in his last 12 games. He finished a one-timer from the right side of the net, set up on a pass from Erik Karlsson at 3:11 of the second period.

Devils 3, Capitals 2: Tomas Tatar had a goal and an assist, and visiting New Jersey beat Washington.

Brenden Dillon and Dougie Hamilton also scored for the Devils, who moved to first place in the Metropolitan Division. Jake Allen made 23 saves, including a game-saving glove stop on Connor McMichael late in the third, and has now won three of his last four starts to improve to 5-2-1 on the season.

Blue Jackets 5, Hurricanes 4 (SO): Kirill Marchenko tied it late in the third period with his second goal of the game, Sean Monahan had the only score in a shootout, and host Columbus beat Carolina for its third straight win.

Dmitri Voronkov had a power-play goal and Dante Fabbro also scored for the Blue Jackets. Elvis Merzlikins made 32 saves, including stopping all three shots he faced in the shootout to help Columbus get its third straight win for the first time since March 11-16, 2022.

Predators 4, Jets 1: Roman Josi scored twice and Jonathan Marchessault scored a goal and assist-

ed on another to lead host Nashville to a victory over Winnipeg.

Steven Stamkos also scored and Juuse Saros made 22 saves for the Predators, winners of two of three.

Islanders 3, Blues 1: Kyle Palmieri scored twice, Brock Nelson had a goal and two assists and host New York beat St. Louis to end a three-game skid.

Ilya Sorokin stopped 24 shots and got his 100th career victory for the Islanders.

Sabres 4, Sharks 2: Alex Tuch scored a short-handed goal early in the third period to give visiting Buffalo its first lead and the Sabres beat San Jose.

Tuch intercepted a pass in his defensive zone and beat Mackenzie Blackwood on a breakaway for his third short-handed goal of the season. That gave Buffalo a come-from-behind win and spoiled the night for the sellout crowd that turned out to watch Joe Thornton get his No. 19 jersey retired.

Oilers 6, Rangers 2: Connor McDavid had two goals and an assist as host Edmonton beat New York.

Leon Draisaitl and Evan Bouchard each had a goal and an assist, and Vasily Podkolzin and Darnell Nurse also scored to help the Oilers win for the second time in five games (2-2-1) after a three-game win streak. Mattias Janmark and Connor Brown each had two assists and Stuart Skinner had 33 saves.

NBA/MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic, right, shoots as Lakers forward Anthony Davis defends during the first half Saturday in Los Angeles.

NBA ROUNDUP

Jokic, Nuggets top Lakers once again

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Nikola Jokic scored 34 points and Michael Porter Jr. added 24 as the Denver Nuggets used a strong second half to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 127-102 on Saturday night. The Nuggets are now 13-1 in their last 14 games against the Lakers.

Russell Westbrook had 14 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds for Denver against his former team.

Austin Reaves scored 19 points and LeBron James added 18 for Los Angeles, which lost consecutive home games after starting the season 7-0 at home. Rui Hachimura, back in the starting lineup after missing the previous five games with a left ankle sprain, scored 10 points in 22 minutes.

It was the teams' first meeting since the Nuggets beat the Lakers in the first round of the playoffs earlier this year. Denver also swept them in the Western Conference final the previous year.

The Nuggets trailed by six points at halftime but outscored Los Angeles 37-15 in the third quarter and 70-39 for the second half while dominating inside and outside.

Jazz 121, Knicks 106: Lauri Markkanen had 34 points, Collin Sexton had four 3-pointers in the fourth quarter and host Utah ran past New York to snap a four-game skid.

Sexton finished 25 points and John Collins had 20 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz.

Magic 111, Pistons 100: Franz Wagner had 30 points, nine rebounds and eight assists as host Orlando beat Detroit for its eighth

win in nine games.

Wagner, who has scored 30 or more points in five of his last seven games, sat out the fourth quarter while the Magic's bench stretched Orlando's lead to 22 with 7:19 remaining.

Grizzlies 142, Bulls 131: Scotty Pippen Jr. had a career-best 30 points with 10 assists to lead visiting Memphis past Chicago.

Jaylen Wells added 26 points as the Grizzlies won their second straight.

Trail Blazers 104, Rockets 98: Anfernee Simons scored 25 points and Shaedon Sharpe added 24 as visiting Portland bounced back from a tough loss with a win over Houston.

The victory came after the Trail Blazers were blown out 116-88 by the Rockets in an NBA Cup game Friday night.

Bucks 125, Hornets 119: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points and 11 rebounds and Damian Lillard added 31 points to lead host Milwaukee past Charlotte for its fourth straight victory.

LaMelo Ball had a career-high 50 points for the Hornets, and Brandon Miller added 32. Ball hit 17 of 38 shots, including 6 of 17 beyond the arc, and 10 of 13 free throws.

Spurs 104, Warriors 94: Victor Wembanyama scored 25 points, Harrison Barnes had 22 and host San Antonio overcame a 17-point third-quarter deficit to beat Golden State.

Wembanyama added nine assists, seven rebounds and three blocks in his return from a three-game absence with a bruised right knee.

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference					
Atlantic Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Boston	13	3	.813	—	
New York	9	7	.563	4	
Brooklyn	6	10	.375	7	
Toronto	4	12	.250	9	
Philadelphia	3	12	.200	9½	
Southeast Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Orlando	11	7	.611	—	
Miami	6	7	.462	2½	
Atlanta	7	10	.412	3½	
Charlotte	6	10	.375	4	
Washington	2	12	.143	7	
Central Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	16	1	.941	—	
Milwaukee	8	9	.471	8	
Chicago	7	11	.389	9½	
Detroit	7	11	.389	9½	
Indiana	6	10	.375	9½	
Western Conference					
Southwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	12	6	.667	—	
Memphis	10	7	.588	1½	
Dallas	9	7	.563	2	
San Antonio	9	8	.529	2½	
New Orleans	4	13	.235	7½	
Northwest Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Oklahoma City	12	4	.750	—	
Denver	9	6	.600	2½	
Minnesota	8	7	.533	3½	
Portland	7	10	.412	5½	
Utah	4	12	.250	8	
Pacific Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	12	4	.750	—	
L.A. Lakers	10	6	.625	2	
L.A. Clippers	10	7	.588	2½	
Phoenix	9	7	.563	3	
Sacramento	8	8	.500	4	
Saturday's games					
Utah 121, New York 106 Orlando 111, Detroit 100 Memphis 142, Chicago 131 Milwaukee 125, Charlotte 119 Portland 104, Houston 98 San Antonio 104, Golden State 94 Denver 127, L.A. Lakers 102					
Sunday's games					
Minnesota at Boston Washington at Indiana Dallas at Miami L.A. Clippers at Philadelphia Toronto at Cleveland Brooklyn at Sacramento					
Monday's games					
New Orleans at Indiana Orlando at Charlotte Toronto at Detroit Dallas at Atlanta L.A. Clippers at Boston Portland at Memphis New York at Denver Brooklyn at Golden State Oklahoma City at Sacramento					
Tuesday's games					
Chicago at Washington Milwaukee at Miami Houston at Minnesota San Antonio at Utah L.A. Lakers at Phoenix					
Wednesday's games					
Atlanta at Cleveland Chicago at Orlando Houston at Philadelphia L.A. Clippers at Washington Miami at Charlotte Portland at Indiana New York at Dallas Detroit at Memphis Sacramento at Minnesota Toronto at New Orleans L.A. Lakers at San Antonio Brooklyn at Phoenix Denver at Utah Oklahoma City at Golden State					
Scoring leaders Through Saturday					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Antetokounmpo, MIL	16	209	97	518	32.4
Jokic, DEN	12	133	71	364	30.3
Ball, CHA	16	165	80	483	30.2
Davis, LAL	15	159	121	452	30.1
Tatum, BOS	16	146	108	465	29.1
Fox, SAC	16	168	91	461	28.8
Gil-Alexander, OKC	16	159	112	459	28.7
Doncic, DAL	14	138	72	393	28.1
Edwards, MIN	15	149	49	419	27.9
Towns, NY	15	141	71	391	26.1

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Kaufman-Renn leads No. 6 Purdue to shut down Marshall in rout

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Trey Kaufman-Renn had 18 points and Myles Colvin and Camden Heide each scored 13 to lead No. 6 Purdue to an 80-45 rout of Marshall on Saturday.

Colvin and Heide were making their first starts of the season for the Boilermakers (5-1). Braden Smith, who was averaging 14.6 points, was scoreless on an 0-for-4 shooting day. Smith had a team-high nine assists.

Nate Martin led the Thundering Herd (3-2) with nine points, playing 24 minutes before fouling out with several minutes left in the game.

Purdue shot 55% in the first half to take a 39-24 halftime lead. The Boilermakers, however, made only one field goal in the final nine minutes of the first half.

Purdue picked up the intensity in the second half, leading by as many as 41 points. The Boilermakers shot 50% for the game and held Marshall to 30%.

No. 10 North Carolina 87, Hawaii 69: R.J. Davis scored 14 of his 18 points in the first half and the Tar Heels pulled away from the host Rainbow Warriors.

Elliot Cadeau had 17 points on 7-of-8 shooting, Seth Trimble scored 11 of his 13 points after halftime and Ian Jackson added 11 for North Carolina (3-1).

Davis, an All-American guard, moved into fourth place on the Tar Heels' all-time career scoring list. He overtook Sam Perkins with his free throw at the 11:59 mark of the first half.

No. 15 Marquette 80, Georgia 69: David Joplin scored a career-high 29 points and made six 3-pointers, Chase Ross had 14 points and five steals, and the Golden Ea-

gles beat the Bulldogs in the Bahamas.

Joplin scored five straight Marquette points to begin a 12-3 run that Stevie Mitchell capped by banking in a shot with 1:33 remaining for a 78-66 lead. Mitchell made a steal at the other end to help seal it.

Blue Cain scored 17 points and Tyrin Lawrence added 15 for Georgia (5-1). Dakota Leffew had 11 and Silas Demary Jr. 10. The Bulldogs turned it over 18 times, leading to 27 points by the Golden Eagles.

No. 18 Cincinnati 81, Georgia Tech 58: Dillon Mitchell had 14 points and 11 rebounds for his first double-double of the season, and the Bearcats beat the host Yellow Jackets.

Jizzle James and Cole Hickman also scored 14 points apiece for Cincinnati (5-0), which passed the first true test of the young season against its first major conference opponent in Georgia Tech of the ACC.

Naithan George made three 3-pointers while scoring 13 points for the Yellow Jackets (2-3). Duncan Powell added 10 points, while leading scorer Baye Ndogo finished with just five points.

No. 25 Illinois 87, Maryland Eastern Shore 40: Will Riley scored his 19 points in the second half and the Illini beat the visiting Hawks.

Kylan Boswell added 13 points, Tomislav Ivisic had 11 and Morez Johnson Jr. finished with 10 for Illinois (4-1), which shot 25% (10 for 40) from 3-point range but committed just nine turnovers.

Tre White grabbed 11 rebounds and Kasparas Jakucionis seven for the Illini, who outrebounded the Hawks 59-38.



Purdue forward Trey Kaufman-Renn (4) makes a pass over Marshall forward Wyatt Fricks (2) and forward Nate Martin during the first half in West Lafayette, Ind., on Saturday. Purdue won 80-45.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ADAM HUNGER/AP

QB Bryson Daily rushed for 139 yards and both of Army's TDs. He now has 23 this season.

Irish: Army is held well below rushing average

FROM PAGE 24

(9-1) left No. 1 Oregon as the only unbeaten team in FBS. Army came in leading the nation with 334.9 yards rushing per game but managed only 207 against Notre Dame.

“We couldn’t stay on the field and props to them,” Daily said. “They’re a great team.”

Notre Dame beat Army for the 16th straight time in the first matchup where both teams were ranked since 1958, the Black Knights’ last victory. This meeting was scheduled to honor the 100th anniversary of Notre Dame’s 1924 victory in New York at the Polo Grounds, when Grantland Rice began his story about the exploits of Harry Stuhldreher, Jim Crowley, Don Miller and Elmer Layden with one of the most famous openings in history, writing: “Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again.”

That quote lined the wall above Monument Park in the stadium’s outfield, behind the end zone where Notre Dame took a 14-0 lead on TD passes by Leonard on its first two possessions. Army cut it to 14-7 on Daily’s 4-yard run early in the second quarter, but the Irish went up by two TDs again on Love’s 14-yard run that tied Wayne Bullock’s record of 11 straight games with a rushing TD in 1973-74.

Army coach Jeff Monken said playing the Irish at Yankee Stadium was a great experience for his players, though wished they could have made it more competitive.

“I mean, every phase they out-classed us,” Monken said.

Notre Dame scored touchdowns on four of its six drives in the first half, then added another 10 seconds into the second half when Love went 68 yards on the first play to make it 35-7.

Ohio State runs over Indiana

No. 2 Buckeyes take control after halftime, hand No. 5 Hoosiers 1st defeat of season

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Will Howard passed for two touchdowns and rushed for another, TreVeyon Henderson ran for a score and No. 2 Ohio State beat previously undefeated No. 5 Indiana 38-15 on Saturday.

All Ohio State (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten, CFP No. 2) has to do now is beat Michigan at home next Saturday and it will earn a return to the Big Ten championship game for the first time since 2020 and get a rematch with No. 1 Oregon. The Ducks beat Ohio State 32-31 in a wild one back on Oct. 12.

The Hoosiers (10-1, 7-1, No. 5 CFP) had their best chance to beat the Buckeyes for the first time since 1988 but were hurt by special teams mistakes and disrupted by an Ohio State defense that sacked quarterback Kurtis Rourke five times.

“In life, all good things come to an end,” Indiana coach Curt Cignetti said.

Late in the first half, Indiana punter James Evans fumbled a snap and was buried at his own 7-yard line with the Buckeyes taking over. That turned quickly into a 4-yard TD run by Henderson that gave the Buckeyes a 14-7 lead.

Early in the second half, Caleb Downs fielded an Evans punt at the Ohio State 21, raced down the right sideline, cut to the middle and outran the coverage for a TD that put the Buckeyes up 21-7. It was the first time a Buckeye returned a punt for a TD since 2014.

Howard finished 22-for-26 for 201 yards. Emeka Egbuka had seven catches for 80 yards and a



JAY LAPRETE / AP

Ohio State defensive lineman Ty Hamilton, right, recovers a fumble against Indiana during the first half on Saturday in Columbus, Ohio. Ohio State beat Indiana for the 30th straight time, 38-15.

touchdown.

“Our guys just played with a chip today, and that’s the way you got to play the game of football,” Ohio State coach Ryan Day said.

Indiana scored on its first possession of the game and its last, both short runs by Ty Son Lawton, who paced the Hoosiers with 79 rushing yards. Rourke was 8-for-18 for 68 yards.

“We had communication errors, pass (protection), every time we dropped back to pass, something bad happened,” Cignetti said.

Indiana’s 151 total yards was its lowest of the season. And it was the most points surrendered by the Hoosiers defense.

The takeaway

Indiana: Its special season was blemished by the Buckeyes, who beat the Hoosiers for the 30th straight time. Indiana was eyeing its first conference crown since sharing one with two other teams in 1967. That won’t happen now.

“Ohio State deserved to win,” Cignetti said.

“They had those (third quarter

scores), and we just couldn’t respond.”

Ohio State: Didn’t waste the opportunities presented by the Hoosiers when they got sloppy. An offensive line patched together because of multiple injuries performed surprisingly well.

“We know what was at stake,” Day said. “We don’t win this game, and we have no chance to go to Indianapolis and play in the Big Ten championship. And that’s real. We’ve had that approach for the last few weeks now, more than that.”

No. 12 Boise advances to Mountain West title game

By ALEX TAYLOR
Associated Press

LARAMIE, Wyo. — Ashton Jeanty rushed for 169 yards and a touchdown to lead No. 12 Boise State to a 17-13 victory over Wyoming on Saturday night and a berth in the Mountain West Conference title game.

The Broncos (10-1 overall, 7-0) will play in the conference championship game for the seventh time in the past eight seasons against an opponent to be determined and kept their College Football Playoff hopes alive. Boise State was the provisional No. 4 seed in the playoff in last week’s rankings.

Boise State finished its Mountain West schedule unbeaten, extended its winning streak to nine games and beat Wyoming (2-9, 2-5) for the eighth straight time, dating to 2016.

“I’m proud of our guys, and



DAVID ZALUBOWSK / AP

Boise State running back Ashton Jeanty, left, avoids a tackle by Wyoming cornerback Keany Parks Saturday in Laramie, Wyo.

knowing this team and knowing our heart, we’re not done yet,” Boise State coach Spencer Danielson said. “We got a big-time opponent that we have to be ready for in Oregon State and whoever we play in the championship

game. We got to go earn the right to play our best.

“I couldn’t tell you the last time we won back-to-back championships, I know it’s not in my time. We know whoever we play, we’re going to get their best and we have

to be ready, but right now, we’re locked and focused on Oregon State.”

Wyoming, which entered as a heavy underdog, held a 13-10 lead midway through the fourth quarter. But Boise State’s Jambres Dubar scored on a 2-yard run with just over five minutes left to play and the Broncos defense came up with one final stop to seal the win.

Boise State quarterback Maddux Madsen was 14-for-25 passing for 168 yards.

Led by Heisman Trophy candidate Jeanty, who surpassed 2,000 yards for the season and averaged 8.5 yards per carry, the Broncos outgained the Cowboys 353-319 in total yardage, despite going 1-for-10 on third down.

Jeanty went to the medical tent in the second half with an apparent lower body injury, but he was back in the game after missing one drive.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

TOP 25 ROUNDUP

Buffs’ Big 12 hopes take hit

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Devin Neal ran for 207 yards and three touchdowns, caught four passes for 80 yards and another score, and led Kansas to a 37-21 victory over No. 16 Colorado on Saturday that dealt a big blow to the Buffaloes’ hopes of playing for the Big 12 title.

Jalon Daniels threw for 189 yards and a touchdown, and the Jayhawks (5-6, 4-4 Big 12) scored on every offensive possession but their last, keeping Colorado stars Shedeur Sanders and Heisman Trophy candidate Travis Hunter standing on the sideline.

“We controlled our own destiny,” Buffaloes coach Deion Sanders said afterward, “and we fumbled it.”

Now, the Buffaloes (8-3, 6-2, No. 16 CFP) need to beat Oklahoma State next week and get some help to play for a title in their return to the Big 12, and ultimately earn the league’s spot in the College Football Playoff.

Shedeur Sanders finished with 266 yards passing and three TDs, setting the Colorado single-season record with 30 of them, and Hunter had eight catches for 125 yards and two scores as the two-way standout continued his Heisman campaign.

Problem is Hunter did little on defense, nor did anyone else in an all-white uniform. Kansas controlled the ball for more than 40 minutes, piled up 331 yards rushing and finished with 520 yards of total offense.

“There was a lot of negativity hanging around about what was wrong with this program and what should be done, and all of that,” said Kansas coach Lance Leipold, whose team became the first in FBS history with a losing record to

beat three straight teams in the AP Top 25. “They owned it, they kept working, they stuck together and you can see the results of that.”

The Jayhawks, whose back-to-back wins over Iowa State and BYU had given them newfound confidence, suddenly resemble the team expected to challenge for a Big 12 title, before a series of late-game collapses resulted in a 1-5 start.

“We’ve just played with an extra edge, just in general these last three weeks. We have a different motivation,” said Neal, who also became the first player in Kansas history with three 1,000-yard rushing seasons. “Eventually we were just tired of losing — tired of losing the close ones. We knew what we had to do. It was a matter of doing it.”

The Jayhawks sure did it Saturday, opening the scoring with Neal’s 51-yard TD catch. They forced a three-and-out and scored again for a 10-0 lead. When they got the ball back yet again, taking advantage of a misfiring Colorado offense, Kansas churned down field and Neal scampered into the end zone for another score.

It was 17-0 before Hunter, who has emerged as the Heisman front-runner, took a short pass from Sanders and cut up field, deftly slipping between several Kansas defenders and going untouched 51 yards for a touchdown.

The teams traded scores into the break, the Jayhawks holding tight to a 23-14 advantage.

After the Buffaloes closed with-in 23-21 on Hunter’s second TD catch, the Jayhawks marched 80 yards with Neal answering the score. Kansas immediately forced a three-and-out, sacking Sanders on third down — he appeared to shove an official in the back after

the play — and the Neal scored again to cap an 8-plus minute drive and give the Jayhawks a 37-21 lead.

Arizona State 28, BYU 23: Cam Skattebo was the workhorse once again, carrying the host Sun Devils on his back by rushing for 147 yards and three touchdowns. His reward was a well-earned celebration with fans.

Twice. Skattebo had another big game, Sam Leavitt threw for 247 yards and Arizona State held on in the final minutes to beat BYU 28-23.

The tight finish was capped by a bizarre final minute, including a premature field storming by Arizona State’s fans that took roughly 15 minutes to clear before BYU heaved a final Hail Mary that fell incomplete.

“We won the football game,” second-year coach Kenny Dillingham said. “We beat another ranked team at Mountain America Stadium. So this is all about the guys. These guys battled, these guys fought and found a way to win. Whatever happened at the end, it happened.

“You know what? We got to rush the field twice, how about that?”

Javan Robinson’s interception with 1:04 left looked as if it would close it out for Arizona State, but the Sun Devils stalled on the ensuing offensive drive. Leavitt threw the ball out of bounds on fourth down and Arizona State’s student section — believing the game was over — rushed the field.

But officials ruled there was 1 second left and BYU had a shot at the Hail Mary attempt from its own 49. BYU coach Kalani Sitake argued for an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty, which would have moved the ball closer to the end zone, but didn’t get it.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas running back Devin Neal gashed Colorado for 207 yards rushing and four total touchdowns in a 37-21 victory on Saturday.

Thousands of fans had to be cleared from the field before Jake Retzlaff’s pass fell incomplete a few yards short of the end zone.

The surprising Sun Devils (9-2, 6-2 Big 12) have won four straight and now find themselves on the fringe of the College Football Playoff discussion. BYU (9-2, 6-2) has lost two in a row, all but dashing its CFP hopes.

No. 4 Penn St. 26, Minnesota 25: Drew Allar passed for 244 yards and a touchdown, rushed for a score and completed a late fourth-down conversion to help the visiting Nittany Lions stay on track for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

Tyler Warren had eight receptions for 102 yards for Penn State (10-1, 7-1 Big Ten, No. 4 CFP), which dodged the upset on an afternoon when three teams in the projected 12-team playoff were

beaten.

No. 11 Miami 42, Wake Forest 14: Cam Ward passed for 280 yards and threw two touchdowns to Jacolby George on another record-breaking day, Mishael Powell ran an interception back 76 yards for a touchdown and the host Hurricanes pulled away late.

Miami (10-1, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference, No. 8 College Football Playoff) can clinch a berth in the ACC title game with a win at Syracuse next weekend.

No. 13 SMU 33, Virginia 7: Kevin Jennings threw for a career-high 323 yards and two touchdowns and ran for another, and the visiting Mustangs clinched a spot in the ACC championship game by routing the Cavaliers.

Isaiah Smith and Jared Harrison-Hunte each had two sacks to help SMU (10-1, 7-0, No. 13 CFP) extend its winning streak to eight.

Scoreboard

Saturday’s scores

EAST

Albany (NY) 41, Hampton 34
Boston College 41, North Carolina 21
Bucknell 48, Colgate 34
CCSU 21, Duquesne 14
Columbia 17, Cornell 9
Dartmouth 56, Brown 28
Holy Cross 34, Georgetown 0
Illinois 38, Rutgers 31
Iowa 29, Maryland 13
LIU Brooklyn 35, Wagner 28
Lehigh 38, Lafayette 14
Mercyhurst 21, St. Francis (Pa.) 20
Merrimack 19, Fordham 3
Monmouth (NJ) 55, Stony Brook 47
Morgan St. 35, Howard 21
NC Central 52, Delaware St. 10
New Hampshire 27, Maine 9
Princeton 20, Penn 17
Rhode Island 35, Bryant 21
Robert Morris 31, Stonehill 13
Syracuse 31, Uconn 24
Villanova 38, Delaware 28
West Virginia 31, UCF 21
Yale 34, Harvard 29

SOUTH

Alabama A&M 49, MVSU 35
Alabama St. 9, Prairie View 6
Appalachian St. 34, James Madison 20
Auburn 43, Texas A&M 41, 40T
Charlotte 39, FAU 27
Chattanooga 24, Austin Peay 17
Clemson 51, The Citadel 14
Drake 49, Stetson 10

MIDWEST

Bowling Green 38, Ball St. 13
Illinois St. 35, North Dakota 13
Kansas 37, Colorado 21
Kansas St. 41, Cincinnati 15
Michigan 50, Northwestern 6
N. Iowa 41, Indiana St. 34
Nebraska 44, Wisconsin 25
Notre Dame 49, Army 14
Ohio St. 38, Indiana 15
Penn St. 26, Minnesota 25
S. Dakota St. 45, Missouri St. 9
S. Illinois 62, Murray St. 0
South Dakota 29, N. Dakota St. 28
St. Thomas (Minn.) 32, Dayton 9
Valparaiso 18, Davidson 17
W. Illinois 45, Gardner-Webb 28
Wheaton (Ill.) 35, Wis.-Stout 32

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas 35, Louisiana Tech 14
Arkansas St. 28, Louisiana-Monroe 21
Baylor 20, Houston 10
East Carolina 40, North Texas 28
Georgia St. 52, Texas State 44
Hous. Christian 62, Northwestern St. 24
Oklahoma 24, Alabama 3
Steph. F. Austin 32, Abilene Christian 19
TCU 49, Arizona 28
Tarleton St. 39, Cent. Arkansas 14
Texas 31, Kentucky 14
Texas Southern 31, Ark.-Pine Bluff 23
Texas Tech 56, Oklahoma St. 48

FAR WEST

Air Force 22, Nevada 19
Arizona St. 28, BYU 23

Boise St. 17, Wyoming 13
California 24, Stanford 21
Fresno St. 28, Colorado St. 22
Idaho 40, Idaho St. 17
Iowa St. 31, Utah 28
Montana St. 34, Montana 11
N. Arizona 30, E. Washington 18
Oregon St. 41, Washington St. 38
Portland St. 45, N. Colorado 13
S. Utah 37, Utah Tech 34, 20T
Southern Cal 19, UCLA 13
UC Davis 42, Sacramento St. 39
Utah St. 41, San Diego St. 20
W. Colorado 28, Cent. Washington 21
Weber St. 28, Cal Poly 17

NCAA Division II playoff glance

First Round Saturday, Nov. 23

Slippery Rock 14, New Haven 7
Ashland 40, Charleston (W.Va.) 38
California (Pa.) 30, East Stroudsburg 27
Miles 14, Carson-Newman 13
Virginia Union 34, Wingate 31, OT
Lenoir-Rhyne 37, West Ala. 34
Central Okla. 38, Ouachita Baptist 31, OT
Grand Valley St. 24, Ulndy 7
Harding 48, Pittsburg St. 3
Minnesota St. 20, Augustana (S.D.) 19
Western Colo. 28, Central Wash. 21
Bemidji St. 24, Angelo St. 14

Second Round Saturday, Nov. 30

Ashland vs. California (Pa.)
Virginia Union vs. Lenoir-Rhyne

Grand Valley St. vs. Harding
Western Colo. vs. Bemidji St.
Kutztown vs. Slippery Rock
Valdosta St. vs. Miles
Ferris St. vs. Central Okla.
CSU Pueblo vs. Minnesota St.

NCAA Division III playoff glance

First Round Saturday, Nov. 23

Wis.-La Crosse 59, NW-St. Paul 14
Bethel (Minn.) 31, Coe 26
Endicott 44, Alfred St. 0
Whitworth 21, Pomona-Pitzer 13
Mary Hardin-Baylor 29, Trinity (Texas) 22
Maryville (Tenn.) 20, Berry 16
King’s (Pa.) 32, Ursinus 29
John Carroll 52, Mt. St. Joseph 7

Second Round Saturday, November 30

Saint John’s (Minn.) vs. Wis.-La Crosse
Susquehanna vs. Hobart
Wartburg vs. Wis.-Platteville
Lake Forest vs. Bethel (Minn.)
Cortland vs. Endicott
Springfield vs. UMass Dartmouth
Hope vs. Aurora
North Central (Ill.) vs. Whitworth
Hardin-Simmons vs. Mary Hardin-Baylor
Linfield vs. Texas Lutheran
Johns Hopkins vs. Grove City
DePauw vs. Maryville (Tenn.)
Salisbury vs. King’s (Pa.)
Randolph-Macon vs. Wash. & Jeff.
Carnegie Mellon vs. Centre
Mount Union vs. John Carroll

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Florida wide receiver Aidan Mizell dunks on a basketball backboard placed on the Mississippi sideline after a 24-17 victory Saturday in Gainesville, Fla. It was the Gators' second straight win over a ranked team.

Florida upset in Swamp ends No. 9 Mississippi's CFP hopes

By MARK LONG
Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Coach Billy Napier and his team did something no one at Florida had done in nearly two decades. It could be the turning point for a once-proud program that had slipped in recent years. DJ Lagway threw two touchdown passes, Montrell Johnson ran for 127 yards and a score, and the Gators upset No. 9 Mississippi 24-17 on Saturday to knock the Rebels out of College Football Playoff contention. Florida (6-5, 4-4 Southeastern Conference), which topped LSU last Saturday in the Swamp, beat ranked teams in consecutive weeks for the first time since 2008. “We’re just getting started,” said Napier, who is expected back for a fourth season in 2025. “This is part of the big-picture journey. Belief is the most powerful thing in the world.” Ole Miss (8-3, 4-3), which was a 10-point favorite, lost for the first time in four games and will drop out of the 12-team playoff picture. The Rebels ranked ninth in the latest CFP and needed only to avoid a let-down against Florida and lowly Mississippi State to clinch a spot in the playoff field. “Obviously a lot was at stake, and we didn’t come through,” coach Lane Kiffin said. “A lot of missed opportunities.” The Rebels failed to score in three trips inside the red zone and dropped countless passes in perfect weather, miscues Kiffin called “very unusual.” Still, Ole Miss had chances late. But Jaxson Dart threw interceptions to end the team’s last two drives. Bryce Thornton, beaten for a touchdown in the first

half, picked off both. The second one came with 17 seconds remaining and set up a raucous celebration by defenders in the end zone. Dart completed 24 of 41 passes for 323 yards, with two TDs and the two interceptions. He was sacked four times and also scrambled 14 times for a team-high 71 yards. “You look at the way we played, we had a chip on our shoulder for sure,” Florida defensive tackle Cam Jackson said. The Rebels probably would have had a comfortable lead had it not been for repeated failures inside the 20-yard line. Defensive tackle J.J. Pegues, a 325-pound wrecking ball out of the backfield, was stopped on two fourth-down runs inside the 20-yard line, and Caden Davis missed a 34-yard field goal in the second quarter. Ole Miss’ drops were egregious, including at least three that probably would have been touchdowns. Jordan Watkins (twice), Wells (twice), Dae’Quan Wright and star receiver Tre Harris were among the droppers. Florida was much more efficient. Lagway completed 10 of 17 passes for 180 yards, with an interception. He made three throws with defenders draped all over him. “Those were the plays of the game,” Napier said. Johnson had a few of those, too. His 9-yard scoring run from the wildcat formation was huge and came after missed most of the last four games. “I focused on grinding and trying to work my way back,” Johnson said. “Last week I got a couple carries and this week I shot to the moon.”

“Obviously a lot was at stake, and we didn’t come through.”

Lane Kiffin
Ole Miss coach

Oklahoma stuns No. 7 Alabama

By CLIFF BRUNT
Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma’s fans literally couldn’t wait to celebrate the Sooners’ victory over Alabama. An overzealous crimson-and-cream-clad mob stormed the field with 28 seconds remaining. After an announcement that the game was not over, the field was cleared. The Sooners took a knee to run out the clock in their stunning 24-3 win over the seventh-ranked Crimson Tide on Saturday night. After that, thousands of Oklahoma fans returned to the field and partied for more than 10 minutes as songs such as “Jump Around” by House of Pain and “FE!N” by Travis Scott played. True freshman Xavier Robinson ran for career highs of 107 yards and two touchdowns as Oklahoma became bowl eligible and took coach Brent Venables off the hot seat. “We finally got the result we want and we put it all together,” Venables said. “I just want to thank our players — congratulate our players and the staff for a really tough, challenging season. And I just appreciate their belief, their leadership, their work, their strain, their competitive spirit, the willingness to continue to come back week in and week out and continue to believe and do the things that we’ve asked them to do.” Jackson Arnold ran for 131 yards on 25 carries and completed 9 of 11 passes for the Sooners (6-5, 2-5 Southeastern Conference), who won their final home game of the season. It was Oklahoma’s first SEC home win after leaving the Big 12 this past summer. “It’s huge,” Arnold said. “I’ll say this would be a signature win in

my playing career. You don’t have many like this. I don’t know if I’ll ever have the field rushed again when I play. But it’s special, especially on Senior Night with all the seniors and all the other dudes I look up to.” The Sooners dealt a severe blow to Alabama’s chances of receiving a College Football Playoff berth. “Obviously extremely disappointed, frustrated,” Alabama coach Kalen DeBoer said. “We worked, I thought, extremely hard all week. Put a plan together ... Good energy. Excited to come here on the road. We’ve got to play better. We got to be better in all ways.” Alabama’s Jalen Milroe, who had been one of the nation’s best players, had his worst game of the season. He completed 11 of 26 passes for 164 yards with three interceptions and gained just seven yards on 15 carries for Alabama (8-3, 4-3, No. 7 CFP). The Sooners held Alabama to 234 yards. Alabama lost linebacker Deontae Lawson to a lower extremity injury in the second quarter, and he will be evaluated when the team gets home. Robinson’s 18-yard touchdown run with 37 seconds left in the second quarter put the Sooners up 10-3. Oklahoma outgained the Crimson Tide 242 yards to 97 in the first half. Oklahoma’s Eli Bowen intercepted Milroe on the third play of the second half and returned it 25 yards to the Alabama 14. Robinson’s 1-yard touchdown run increased Oklahoma’s lead to 17-3. On the next possession, Oklahoma linebacker Kip Lewis intercepted Milroe and ran it back 49 yards for a touchdown to put the Sooners up 24-3 with 8:05 left in the third quarter.



ALONZO ADAMS/AP

Oklahoma QB Jackson Arnold ran for 131 yards as the Sooners upset Alabama 24-3 on Saturday night in Norman, Okla.

SPORTS



New season, same result
Jokic, Nuggets keep up success against Lakers » **NBA, Page 20**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Love leads No. 6 Irish in runaway

Sophomore RB scores 3 TDs as Notre Dame hands No. 18 Army 1st defeat, boosts its CFP hopes

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Notre Dame's tribute game to its "Four Horsemen" turned into a pretty good one-man show by Jeremiah Love.

Love scored three touchdowns, tying a school record with his 11th straight game with a rushing TD, and the No. 6 Fighting Irish ended No. 18 Army's 13-game winning streak with a 49-14 victory on Saturday night at Yankee Stadium.

The sophomore had TD runs of 68 and 14 yards, finishing with 130 yards on seven carries, and leaped over a defender at the goal line to finish a 6-yard scoring pass from Riley Leonard.

"It's almost like he's anticipating what the defense is going to do and when he breaks through that second level, I don't see many people that can catch him," Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said of Love, who had a 76-yard TD run last weekend against Virginia.

Leonard threw for two TDs and Jadarian Price ran for two scores for the Irish (10-1), who won their ninth straight to improve their College Football Playoff chances. Notre Dame was No. 6 in those rankings this week and looks every bit like a national title contender, allowing 14 or fewer points in six straight games.

"Everybody on our offense is a dog," Love said. "Coach Freeman calls us 'savages' and that's really what we are. We're just continuing to grow every single week and get better."

Army quarterback Bryson Daily rushed for 139 yards and both touchdowns, giving him 23 on the ground this season. The loss by the Black Knights

SEE IRISH ON PAGE 21

Notre Dame running back Jeremiah Love leaps over Army cornerback Donavon Platt to score a TD in the first half Saturday night in New York. Love had 130 yards rushing on seven carries as the Fighting Irish beat the Black Knights 49-14 at Yankee Stadium.

ADAM HUNGER/AP



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