FACES
'Obliterated' and 'Super Mario' new this week
Page 15

PACIFIC
North Korean troops return to DMZ guard posts
Page 5

NFL
Bills' latest collapse ramps up pressure on head coach
Page 24

Blinken leads charge to shore up NATO support for Ukraine » Page 3

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 82 Edition 162 ©SS 2023 WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2023 平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く) 発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価￥50 50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

OHAD ZWIGENBERG/AP

Israeli soldiers work on armored military vehicles along Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, in southern Israel, on Nov. 20. About 10,000 people living in the United States have reported for Israeli military duty after receiving draft notices.

Called to join the fight

Thousands leave behind American lives to enter Israel's war in Gaza

BY DAN LAMOTHE AND ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

The carnage in Kfar Aza was indelible. Villagers shot dead in the streets. Bodies set on fire.

Menachem Isseroff, a 29-year-old from Brooklyn, was among the Israeli soldiers dispatched to the kibbutz where Hamas militants, having massacred dozens, staged a raging battle amid their surprise cross-border assault. He described the barbarity as "absolutely horrific," adding, "Any one of those individual scenes would … last most people a lifetime."

Thousands of miles away in New York, his younger sister Shterny was celebrating the Jewish holiday Simchat Torah. As she learned what had happened, her perspective darkened, too — though for different reasons: The Israeli government, she was sure, would use the atrocities committed by Hamas on Oct. 7 as "justification" for carrying out "acts of violence against the Palestinian people."

"War crimes, even," she said.

The Isseroffs are among thousands of Americans with ties to the Israeli military as it prosecutes a fierce, divisive retaliatory war in Gaza. Weeks of aerial bombardment and an ensuing ground offensive — both now temporarily paused to enable an exchange of hostages and prisoners — have killed thousands of children and other civilians in the Palestinian enclave. With neighborhoods leveled, hospitals crippled and food, fuel and medical supplies scarce,

SEE AMERICANS ON PAGE 6

Fragile truce in Gaza is extended

BY TIA GOLDENBERG AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — A fragile truce between Israel and Hamas entered its fifth day on Tuesday, with the militant group promising to release more hostages to delay the expected resumption of the war and Israel under growing pressure to spare Palestinian civilians when it renews its offensive.

For the first time since the cease-fire began, Israel and Hamas traded accusations of a serious violation. The Israeli military said three explosive devices were detonated near its troops at two locations in northern Gaza, and that militants at one site opened fire on the troops, who fired back. It said its troops were in positions in accordance with the terms of the truce.

Hamas, in turn, accused Israel of committing a "blatant breach of the ceasefire," triggering retaliation by its fighters, without providing details. It said in a statement that it "was still committed to the cease-fire so long as the enemy is committed to it," and urged mediators to intervene.

It was not immediately clear if the exchange posed a threat to the truce. But it underscored the fragility of the truce in northern Ga-

SEE TRUCE ON PAGE 8

RELATED
Freed hostage says captivity conditions were worsening
Page 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EU: Amazon's buy of iRobot may harm competition

Associated Press

European regulators said Monday that Amazon's proposed acquisition of robot vacuum maker iRobot may harm competition.

The European Commission, the European Union's executive arm and top antitrust enforcer, said it has informed Amazon of its "preliminary view" regarding the deal following an investigation that began in July.

The news raised investors' concerns about the acquisition, sending shares in Bedford, Mass.-based iRobot Corp., most famous for the circular-shaped Roomba vacuum, down more than 17% Monday.

The European regulators raised concerns that the buyout may hinder iRobot's rivals from effectively competing on Amazon's marketplace, which they said is an important platform for sales of robot vacuum cleaners in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

If the deal goes through, the commission said Amazon may be incentivized to prevent competitors from selling their products on its marketplace or making it difficult for them to do so.

Among other things, it said Amazon could reduce the visibility of a competitor's product on its marketplace or limit access to certain labels, such as "Amazon's choice," that may attract more shoppers. It may also find ways to raise the costs of iRobot's rivals to advertise and sell their products on its platform, the commission said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Nov. 29)	$1.07
British pound (Nov. 29)	$1.23
Japanese yen (Nov. 29)	145.00
South Korean won (Nov. 29)	1262.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3768
Britain (Pound)	1.2654
Canada (Dollar)	1.3590
China (Yuan)	7.0917
Denmark (Krone)	6.7911
Egypt (Pound)	30.8985
Euro	0.9109
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7970
Hungary (Forint)	344.12
Israel (Shekel)	3.6887
Japan (Yen)	148.29
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3084
Norway (Krone)	10.6778
Philippines (Peso)	55.42
Poland (Zloty)	3.96
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3339
South Korea (Won)	1294.50
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8787
Thailand (Baht)	34.84
Turkey (NewLira)	28.9184

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

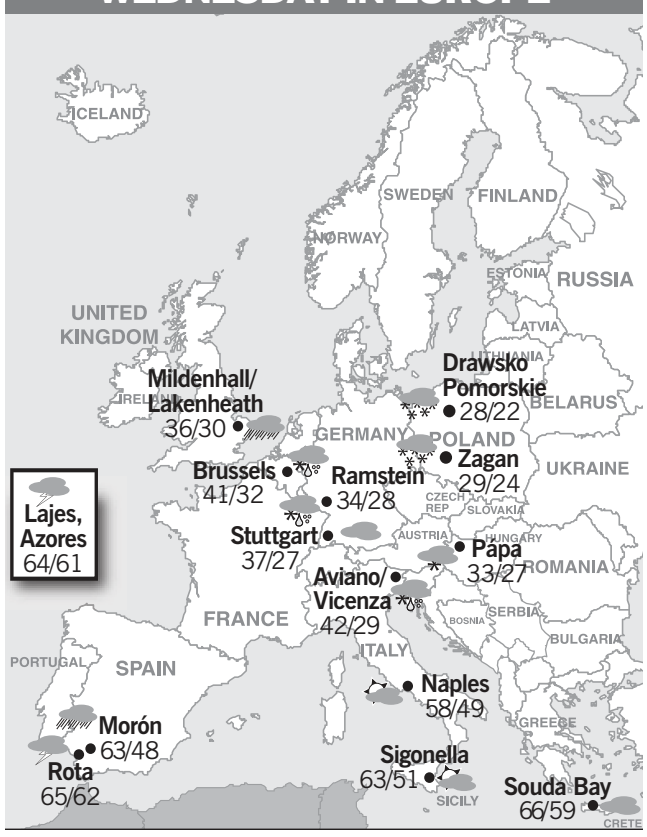
INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	8.50
Interest Rates Discount rate	6.00
Federal funds market rate	5.33
3-month bill	5.44
30-year bond	4.54

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC

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

TODAY IN STRIPES

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

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

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

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

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

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

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

STARS AND STRIPES®

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

MARCY SANCHEZ/LRMC

U.S. service members from Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany celebrate the town of Landstuhl's 700th anniversary in July. Nearly seven in 10 Americans in a recent poll said they view Russia as a major military threat, while just 36% of Germans surveyed felt the same way.

Germans, Americans view each other positively but split on global threats

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

Americans are much likelier than Germans to view Russia and China as a major security threat, according to a new survey, which also found relations between the two NATO allies on the upswing.

A poll released Monday by the Pew Foundation showed confidence in the U.S.-German relationship, with 85% of Americans and 77% of Germans holding positive views.

In Germany, the sentiment toward the United States has improved during the past two years, a result that appears tied to the departure of Donald Trump from the White House in 2021.

During the Trump administration, "most Germans saw relations with the U.S. in a negative light as America's image crumbled across Europe," Pew said.

But while the results indicate that citizens in both countries feel upbeat about the two allies as partners on the world stage, views diverge on matters of security related to Russia and China.

Nearly seven in 10 Americans polled view Russia as a major military threat, while just 36% of Germans felt the same way, Pew said. Among Germans, 40% viewed Russia as a minor military threat.

Meanwhile, 21% of Germans said they don't feel at all threatened by Russia, compared with just 5% of Americans, Pew said.

The disparities in Russia threat perceptions between the two countries aren't new, but the gap has closed somewhat. The share of Germans who say Russia is a major threat increased 14 percentage points from 2022.

The war in Ukraine could be one reason for that change. Still, there is a relatively positive view of Russia among the right-wing Alternative for Germany party, which has grown as a political force in recent years due in large part to its anti-immigration position.

For example, 14% of AfD members named Russia as their country's most important partner, compared with just 3% of overall respondents holding that view, according to the survey.

AfD supporters also are nearly split on whether it is more important to have a close relationship with the United States or Russia. The poll puts the former at 44%, the latter at 39%.

Differences on the security implications related to China are even starker, as about 70% of Americans see Beijing as a major economic and security threat.

Just 13% of Germans say the same, according to the survey. However, nearly 50% of Germans do see China as an economic threat, Pew found.

"Majorities in both the U.S. and Germany see China's growing influence as a bad thing for their countries," the poll said.

The survey was done in September and has a margin of error of 3.2 percentage points.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
@john_vandiver

Blinken aims to boost Ukraine support at NATO

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The top American diplomat sought to invigorate support for Ukraine on Tuesday as high-level NATO talks got underway in Brussels amid concerns about war fatigue and the durability of Western military backing.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken said allies will recommit to Ukraine during the two-day meeting of NATO member foreign ministers.

"We will be strongly reaffirming our support for Ukraine as it continues to face Russia's war of aggression," Blinken said.

Ukrainian foreign minister Dmytro Kuleba also will attend the meeting .

The Russia-Ukraine war has sparked significant changes in NATO since it began in February 2022 with a full-scale invasion of Ukraine on three sides. Among them are new defense plans individually tailored to the defense needs along NATO's eastern flank.

But the war also has stretched alliance ammunition stockpiles and tested member states' political willpower to keep up the flow of weaponry, which has enabled Ukraine to battle a much larger Russian force.

As talks started, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said recent waves of drone strikes on Ukrainian cities serve as a sign of more fighting to come.

But the uncertainty surrounding future Western military spending for Ukraine comes at a critical time in the war, which has become a virtual stalemate.

In the U.S., Ukraine has emerged as a congressional flashpoint, with some Republicans favoring scaled-back support.

The European Union also has struggled to follow through on promises of ammunition deliveries, as Western militaries face depleted stockpiles. Meanwhile, Russia's wartime budget shows no sign of decline.

NATO

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, center, with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, right, and Deputy Secretary-General Mircea Geoana in Brussels on Tuesday.

On Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin approved a 25% spending increase for a $415 billion national budget that devotes a record amount to the military, The Associated Press reported.

Stoltenberg said allies are obliged to keep up support, not only for Ukraine but also for Western security interests in general.

"It will be a tragedy for Ukrainians if President Putin wins, but it will also be dangerous for us," he said. "The challenge now is that we need to sustain this support."

A Putin victory in Ukraine would mean an emboldened Russia and send a dangerous signal to other powers such as China, Stoltenberg said.

Ahead of NATO's meeting Tuesday, Germany and the Netherlands announced several billion dollars in new support for Ukraine, leading Stoltenberg to believe that other allies also are ready to do more.

"I'm confident that the United States will continue to provide support ... because it is in the security interest of the United States to do so," he said.

Correction

A story in Thursday's edition of Stars and Stripes incorrectly stated that Col. Richard Rusnok is considering liberty changes at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Those changes are under consideration by U.S. Marine Corps Forces Japan.

Baltic nations to boycott OSCE talk over Russian attendance

Associated Press

SKOPJE, North Macedonia — The foreign ministers of the three Baltic states said Tuesday they will boycott a meeting by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe being held this week in North Macedonia, in objection to the participation of Russia's foreign minister.

The foreign ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania issued a joint statement saying they "deeply regret the decision enabling the personal participation" of Russia's Sergey Lavrov: "It will only provide Russia with yet another propaganda opportunity."

Lavrov said Monday he planned to travel to Skopje for the OSCE foreign ministers' meeting, which would mark a rare visit to a NATO member country since Russia invaded Ukraine.

He also has visited NATO member Turkey, which has no ban on Russian flights. In September, he was in New York to attend the United Nations' annual gathering of world leaders.

There was no immediate reaction from the Russian Foreign Ministry to the statement by the Baltic states.

With the exception of close Moscow ally Belarus, Lavrov has not visited any European country since the war in Ukraine started.

Task force to drain fuel dregs at Red Hill site

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — A brief but important step in permanently defueling the defunct Red Hill fuel facility in Hawaii is slated to begin — and end — next week with the draining of the dregs in 10 massive tanks.

Joint Task Force-Red Hill, the Defense Department entity overseeing emptying of the World War II-era facility, completed removal of 99.5% of 104 million gallons of fuel on Nov. 17.

Just over 103,458,000 gallons were drained in this fall via gravity through pipes leading to a fuel depot on Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The fuel was loaded into tanker ships and transferred to San Diego, Subic Bay in the Philippines, the Port of Singapore and a pair of depots in Hawaii.

On Dec. 5, the remaining 7 feet of so-called "flowable tank bottom" fuel in each tank will be drained through much smaller lines directly on the bottom the tanks, the task force announced in a news release Monday.

The 14 tanks to be drained each hold about 120,000 gallons of flowable tank-bottom fuel, the task force said in an online video. Draining each tank will take about 14 hours and is expected to be completed by Dec. 8.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in March 2022 ordered the facility to be permanently shut in the wake of a fuel spill in late 2021 that contaminated the Navy's drinking water system for housing on and near the joint base.

Thousands of residents were relocated to hotels on the island for several months as the Navy drained and flushed the system.

One contaminated well shaft, which was isolated soon after residents began complaining of tainted water, remains dormant and awaiting cleanup.

Hundreds of residents have complained of illnesses and conditions they claim have arisen from consuming or washing with water contaminated by fuel.

Some residents have joined a lawsuit filed in federal court seeking compensation for illnesses, stress and financial hardship they blame on the tainted water.

Joint Task Force-Red Hill's final job will be removing roughly 60,000 gallons of fuel in the lines that must be drained by means other than using the main drain pipes.

That work is expected to be complete by March, at which time a Navy task force will take charge of draining about 4,000 gallons of fuel that can only be accessed by destroying and disassembling piping.

The Navy will also remove about 28,000 gallons of sludge at the bottom of the tanks.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
@WyattWOlson

China warns Australia to act prudently in South China Sea

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — A visiting Chinese official on Tuesday warned Australia to act with "great prudence" in deploying warships in the South China Sea after a recent confrontation between the two navies.

Liu Jianchao, the Chinese Communist Party's international minister, gave the warning while speaking at a Sydney university during a trip that paves the way for President Xi Jinping's Australian visit, expected to take place next year.

Bilateral relations had been improving recently, but took a downturn when Australia accused the Chinese destroyer CNS Ningbo of injuring Australian navy divers with sonar pulses in Japanese waters on Nov. 14.

Australia said China disregarded a safety warning to keep away from the Australian frigate HMAS Toowoomba.

Liu reiterated China's position that the encounter happened outside Japanese territorial waters and that the Chinese warship caused no harm.

"We do urge the Australian government and also the military to act with great prudence in this area," Liu said at the University of Technology Sydney.

"Such a small incident could really escalate if it's not properly managed," he added.

AUDREY MCAVOY/AP

A Navy P-8A plane that overshot a runway at Marine Corps Base Hawaii and landed in shallow water offshore sits on a reef and sand in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, on Monday. The U.S. Navy said Monday that it has removed nearly all of the fuel from the large plane that landed in an environmentally sensitive bay, but it doesn't have a timetable for when it will get the aircraft out of the water.

US Navy removes fuel from plane that overshot runway in Hawaii

BY AUDREY MCAVOY
Associated Press

KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii — The U.S. Navy said Monday that it has removed nearly all of the fuel from a large plane that overshot a Hawaii runway and landed in an environmentally sensitive bay, but it doesn't have a timetable for when it will get the aircraft out of the water.

Rear Adm. Kevin Lenox said there was an estimated 2,000 gallons of fuel on board the P-8A.

"The team extracted all the fuel that they could get out of those tanks. This process was completed successfully without any fuel being released into the bay," Lenox said at a news conference. Removing the fuel will reduce the risks for the rest of the salvage operation, he said.

There were no injuries to the nine people who were on board when the plane landed Nov. 20 in shallow water just offshore of Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay.

The base is about 10 miles from Honolulu.

Cmdr. Mark Anderson, who is leading the Navy's mobile diving and salvage unit working at the site, said the plane was sitting on a mixture of coral and sand. The left engine is resting on coral. The plane rises a little with the tide, so the full weight of the plane is not on the coral, he said.

Kaneohe Bay is home to coral reefs, an ancient Hawaiian fishpond and a breeding ground for hammerhead sharks.

There may have been some minor damage to the coral but there didn't appear to be "massive chunks missing," Anderson said. Still, the focus currently is on stabilizing the plane and developing a plan to move it, he said.

State environmental officials expect to conduct a damage assessment once the plane is removed.

The Navy is studying two options for moving the aircraft, explained Lenox.

The first is to float it and get it within range of a crane on the runway. Then it would be lifted onto the runway and set down on its landing gear, which is still in good condition. The second option is to float it on top of cylinders and roll it up onto the runway.

Lenox said the Navy has three priorities while it does this work: safety of the salvage crew, protecting the environment and preserving the capability of the aircraft.

The Navy now has three temporary floating barriers around the P-8A aircraft at its resting spot to prevent any potential fuel spill or other contaminants from polluting the ocean.

The Navy hasn't had indications or reports that any fuel leaked from the plane, Lenox said.

The Navy also tested the removed fuel and found that no water had seeped into it, which indicated the plane's fuel system was still intact.

In addition to the floating barriers, the Navy has placed material around the plane to help absorb any potential pollutants and provide early warning of petroleum spills.

The Navy has also kept a skimmer on standby so it can remove any pollutants quickly.

On Thursday, sailors retrieved the data recorder and conducted a hydrographic survey to assess the plane's structural integrity.

The Navy has come under intense scrutiny in Hawaii for its environmental stewardship and transparency after jet fuel leaked from a World War II-era fuel storage facility into Pearl Harbor's drinking water in 2021. Some 6,000 Navy personnel, their dependents and civilians complained of physical ailments after the spill. After mounting pressure, the Navy agreed to drain the tanks, an operation that is currently underway.

Lenox said he is aware of the distrust in the community toward the Navy and is striving to be transparent. He said the state of Hawaii's on-scene commander observed the defueling of the plane and requested that the Navy install a third temporary protective barrier around the plane. The Navy complied.

The Navy uses P-8A planes to search for submarines and to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance. Manufactured by Boeing, the plane is a military version of the 737 passenger jet.

The plane is assigned to Patrol Squadron 4 stationed at Whidbey Island in Washington state. Patrol squadrons were once based at Kaneohe Bay but now deploy to Hawaii on a rotating basis.

The Navy has flown out another P-8A from Washington state to carry out patrol duties in place of the incapacitated jet.

It is flying out of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, on the other side of Oahu.

PACIFIC

N. Korean troops return to DMZ guard posts

Military officials in Seoul mulling response to move

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

SUWON, South Korea — Seoul is considering how it will respond now that North Korean troops have returned to border guard posts after Pyongyang scrapped a peace deal in place for the past five years.

Senior military officials met Tuesday to ensure the country is ready with countermeasures, spokesman Jeon Ha Gyu said during a news briefing at the Ministry of National Defense headquarters in Seoul.

"We will implement the necessary measures in order to be fully prepared for the protection of our people," he said.

Seoul and Washington are reviewing "corresponding countermeasures" to respond to Pyongyang, South Korean army Col. Lee Sung-jun of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the reporters.

Neither Jeon nor Lee elaborated on what that response could entail.

Asked by a reporter whether South Korea would deploy armed troops at the border, Jeon referred the question to U.N. Command, which is responsible for the South's security in the Demilitarized Zone.

North Korean soldiers with weapons are seen in a trench inside the Demilitarized Zone in this undated photo.

Photos from South Korea's Ministry of National Defense

North Korean soldiers are seen at a guard post inside the Demilitarized Zone in this undated photo.

The command did not respond to an emailed request for comment Tuesday.

North Korean troops have occupied 11 guard posts on its side of the DMZ since Friday, the Defense Ministry said in a news release Monday.

The ministry also said it observed temporary guard posts and artillery fortifications being built on the western coast.

"Our troops have been keeping a close eye on North Korea's provocative acts and maintaining a full readiness posture so that they can punish any [North Korean] provocation immediately and strongly," the release said.

Eleven guard posts on both sides of the border were withdrawn from or demolished after the Comprehensive Military Agreement was signed in 2018. The accord, inked by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and then-President Moon Jae-in, aimed to prevent border clashes with several measures, including no-fly zones.

Seoul partially suspended the agreement on Nov. 22, a day after Pyongyang successfully placed a military spy satellite into orbit.

In multiple reports after the launch, North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency said the satellite took photos of "major target regions," including Pyeongtaek city, home of Camp Humphreys; the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson docked in Busan, South Korea; and the White House.

In response, South Korea, which had warned the North against following through with the launch, announced it would resume reconnaissance flights banned under the peace agreement.

That decision prompted Pyongyang to scrap the accord entirely Thursday; KCNA reported the regime was no longer bound to the agreement and that it would deploy armed troops and a "new-type of military hardware" at the border.

The United States and South Korea are still analyzing the North's satellite and have yet to conclude whether it has any "military significance," Jeon said at Tuesday's briefing.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
choi.david@stripes.com
@choibboy

US Marine accused of punching woman in face is indicted

BY JONATHAN SNYDER AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A Marine stationed at this base near Hiroshima has been indicted after allegedly punching an elderly Japanese woman in the face earlier this month.

Lance Cpl. Manuel Gomez, 21, a motor vehicle operator with Wing Support Squadron 71, was charged with bodily injury on Friday, a spokesman for the Yamaguchi District Public Prosecutors Office said by phone Monday.

Gomez pushed the 76-year-old woman from behind on a street in Iwakuni city around 4 a.m. Nov. 4, causing her to fall, the spokesman said. It's customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

The Marine then punched the woman in the face several times, causing a compression fracture in her vertebrae and bruises to her face, the spokesman said.

Police arrested Gomez at the scene after a passerby called to report the incident, an Iwakuni Police spokesman said earlier this month. Officers said Gomez, who had been drinking, did not know the woman.

Gomez has denied the allegation, the police spokesman said.

"We take all allegations of misconduct seriously and are fully cooperating with the local authorities, who hold primary jurisdiction of this case," MCAS Iwakuni spokesman Maj. Gerard Farao said by email Monday. "The alleged actions are contrary to our values and we expect our service members to be upstanding members of the community," he added.

An uptick in off-base incidents as spurred the Marine Corps to consider liberty policy changes, a city official who deals with base policy told Stars and Stripes on Nov. 21.

"It's under review," Farao said. "Changes are coming in these next few weeks, and we really can't discuss it because we don't know what the changes are yet."

snyder.jonathan@stripes.com
@Jon_E_Snyder
kusumoto.hana@stripes.com
@HanaKusumoto

Kadena airman accused in drunken hit-and-run crash avoids jail time

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE AND MARI HIGA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A U.S. airman accused of a drunken hit-and-run crash last month on Okinawa has been fined about $2,000 by a Japanese court after prosecutors requested a summary judgment.

Tech. Sgt. Porter Smith-munroe, 35, of Kadena Air Base, was arrested at Koza Music Town in Okinawa city around 12:40 a.m. Oct. 7, about an hour after he struck a taxi with his car and fled the scene, an Okinawa police spokesman said Oct. 10.

He was found guilty of drunken driving on Nov. 8 in Naha Summary Court and fined about $2,000, a Naha District Court spokeswoman said Monday.

A spokesman for Naha District Public Prosecutors Office declined to say Monday why Smith-munroe was not charged with the hit and run.

To avoid a trial, Japanese prosecutors will sometimes ask for a summary judgment in minor cases where the facts are not in dispute. Suspects must agree to initiate proceedings and can opt for a trial at any time.

Smith-munroe was eastbound on Koza Gate Street, just outside Kadena's Gate 2, in a black Nissan X-Trail when he struck the taxi, the police spokesman said. He then drove about 600 feet before pulling into an alley.

The taxi driver, whom police did not identify, followed the vehicle and called police when it stopped, the spokesman said. There were no injuries and both vehicles received only minor damage.

A Breathalyzer at the scene measured Smith-munroe's blood-alcohol content at 0.12%, four times the legal limit for driving in Japan, the spokesman said. By comparison, all 50 U.S. states have set 0.08% as the legal limit for driving under the influence or while impaired.

Police forwarded charges of drunken driving and leaving the scene of a crash to prosecutors on Oct. 8, the spokesman said. Smith-munroe faced a maximum five years and three months in prison or a $7,000 fine.

He was indicted Nov. 8, the same day of the summary decision, the court spokeswoman said. Some Japanese officials are required to speak to the media only on the condition of anonymity.

burke.matt@stripes.com
@MatthewMBurke1
higa.mari@stripes.com
@MariHiga21

MIDEAST

Americans: IDF vets, reservists living in US felt galvanized to return

FROM PAGE 1

the crisis has torn at some families, and those directly involved have pondered difficult questions about the cause they have joined.

About 10,000 people living in the United States have reported for Israeli military duty after receiving draft notices, part of a larger mobilization of 360,000 troops, Israeli officials told The Washington Post. At least eight U.S. citizens have been killed while serving in Israeli security forces since the war began, according to the State Department.

The rush of U.S. citizens willing to take up arms for Israel resembles, in ways, the early days of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, whose government appealed to Americans and other foreign nationals to help repel the incursion now nearing the start of its third year. But there are differences, too.

In this case, most of the Americans who have joined the war effort have served previously in the Israel Defense Forces or remain IDF reservists. Historically, about 1,200 Americans serve in the IDF at a given time, according to a study published last year by the journal Sociological Forum. Many are, or become, dual citizens.

In interviews, IDF veterans and reservists who have left behind their American lives described feeling galvanized by the deadly attack by Hamas, even as the ferocity of Israel's response draws scrutiny and some have begun to wonder about the war's outlook beyond the Israeli government's stated goal of destroying Hamas.

"It's really not clear to any of us how this is going to play out long-term," Isseroff said, referring to fellow members of the 55th Paratroopers Brigade. "You hope that the people who are telling you what to do have a good grasp on the bigger picture."

They've put their trust, he said, in the belief that there is good in fighting to ensure nothing so ghastly can ever happen again.

'Yes, people will die'

Brooklyn-born, Miami-raised Izzy Ezagui was in Los Angeles last month when the attack on Israel occurred.

His IDF service dates back more than decade. In 2009, during the Israelis' 22-day offensive into Gaza known as Operation Cast Lead, he was catastrophically wounded, losing his left arm when a mortar hit his base.

A sharpshooter, he fought to stay in the Israeli military, he said, by learning to cradle, fire and reload his rifle with one arm.

About three years ago, Ezagui, now 35, completed his duty, feeling, he said, like he was getting old for a soldier.

That changed in an instant last month, when he decided to leave his service dog, Punch, with family and pause his career in finance to rejoin the IDF.

"As a Jew, there is no better place to be than an IDF base," he said. "There is no hopelessness here. I would be suffering if I stayed home."

Soon after his reinstatement, he had a chance encounter with an officer he had known for years who offered Ezagui an assignment ferrying water and ammunition to units inside Gaza and then bringing the wounded back out. He characterized the nighttime missions as quick and chaotic, traversing foggy, narrow corridors where friendly-fire incidents had occurred.

Ezagui returned to Los Angeles on Nov. 7 to settle affairs at home, including, he said, identifying which of his family members will look after Punch. He volunteered for 10 more years of reserve duty, he said. The forms he signed asked the reason he wanted to extend his service.

Ezagui wrote two words, he said: "Kibbutz Beeri," another of the Israeli villages where Hamas fighters rampaged. He appears resigned to the likelihood that there will be difficult and uncertain days ahead.

"Yes, people will die," he said. "More Israelis will die. A lot of Palestinians will die. But what choice does Israel have?"

'No room for skepticism'

Houston Mack, 33, lived in Israel for 10 years, earning citizenship before returning to the U.S. over the summer. As the magnitude of Hamas' savagery came into view, IDF commanders directed his unit of reservists to prepare for action. The message was unambiguous, Mack recalled: "Get your bags. Grab your kit and show up to base immediately. We're at war."

Mack, a Los Angeles native who had settled in Las Vegas, rotated through a variety of assignments earlier in his Israeli military career, primarily in the West Bank, another Palestinian territory. As a reservist living in the U.S., he was not obligated to return, he said. But he was moved to do so after seeing the Hamas assault.

In Tel Aviv, Mack said, there are shrines to those killed and taken hostage, some with teddy bears. He intends to stay as long as he is needed. His employer in the U.S., a Marine Corps veteran, told Mack he will have a job waiting for him when he returns, he said.

Asked about the doubts held among some Americans over Israel's prosecution of the war, Mack urged critics to remember that there is a long history of antisemitism and atrocities perpetuated against Jews.

"There is no room for skepticism. There are still people to this day that deny the Holocaust," he said. "We're here to defend our right to exist in front of an enemy that wants to destroy us."

A family divided

Shterny Isseroff sees things differently than her brother. She moved to Israel after high school, spending about five years there. But she left, she said, in part because she'd become troubled by the Israeli government's treatment of Palestinians.

She did work in Israel opposing its occupation of Palestinian areas, she said, but was also disgusted to hear Palestinian friends celebrate after seeing footage of rockets hitting Israeli homes.

"Very often, people are looking for a good guy and a bad guy," she said. "If anything, I have learned that this is complex and there is a long history and a lot of pain."

Her brother Menachem also said he sees war as inherently bad. But he added that, as he sees it, there was no alternative after the Hamas attack.

Israelis, he said, are "damned if we do and damned if we don't," forced between defending their homeland and contending with international criticism.

"The people of Gaza are not our enemies," he said. "Hamas is our enemy."

Shterny Isseroff said she worries about her brother and how he might process his military service years from now.

It was his choice to be in the IDF, she said, and "he's going to have to live with the consequences of his decisions."

Menachem Isseroff said he and his sister care about each other deeply, but that they see the world differently. There's a "large amount of human suffering and death that is happening in Gaza right now," but it was set in motion by the attacks Hamas launched, he said. The militant group, he added, is glossing that over as it "cynically" highlights that suffering in the messaging that people like his sister internalize.

On a recent break from duty, Isseroff said, he visited his wife and their 2-year-old son, whom he left behind Oct. 7. He was struck by his son asking him to sing "Shalom Aleichem," a traditional song often sung as Jews mark Shabbat, their day of rest. Those singing it wish that "peace be upon you."

"That's what you ask for," Isseroff said. "Every week, that's all you ask for."

The notion, he thought, seems far away.

ERIC THAYER/The Washington Post

Izzy Ezagui with his dog, Punch, at Palisades Park in Santa Monica, Calif., on Nov. 16.

OHAD ZWIGENBERG/AP

Israeli soldiers move near the border with the Gaza Strip, southern Israel, on Monday during the fourth day of a temporary cease-fire between Israel and Hamas.

MIDEAST

Freed hostage describes setting while held by Hamas

Hunger, sleep part of worsening captive conditions

BY TIA GOLDENBERG
Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel — An Israeli hostage freed by Hamas said in an interview that she was initially fed well in captivity until conditions worsened and people became hungry. She was kept in a "suffocating" room and slept on plastic chairs with a sheet for nearly 50 days.

In one of the first interviews with a freed hostage, 78-year-old Ruth Munder told Israel's Channel 13 television that she spent the entirety of her time with her daughter, Keren, and grandson, Ohad Munder-Zichri, who celebrated his 9th birthday in captivity. Her account, broadcast Monday, adds to the trickle of information about the experience of captives held in Gaza.

Munder was snatched Oct. 7 from her home in Nir Oz, a kibbutz in southern Israel. Her husband, Avraham, also 78, was taken hostage too and remains in Gaza. Her son was killed in the attack.

Initially, they ate "chicken with rice, all sorts of canned food and cheese," Munder told Channel 13, in an audio interview. "We were OK."

They were given tea in the morning and evening, and the children were given sweets. But the menu changed when "the economic situation was not good, and people were hungry."

Israel has maintained a tight siege on Gaza since the war erupted, leading to shortages of food, fuel and other basic items.

Munder, who was freed Friday, returned in good physical condition, like most other captives. But one of the released hostages, an 84-year-old woman, has been hospitalized in life-threatening condition after not receiving proper care in captivity, doctors said. Another freed captive needed surgery.

IDF via AP

Ruth Munder, a released Israeli hostage, walks with an Israeli soldier after her arrival in Israel on Friday.

Freed hostages have mostly kept out of the public eye since their return. Any details about their ordeal have come through relatives, who have not revealed much.

Munder, confirming accounts from relatives of other freed captives, said they slept on plastic chairs. She said she covered herself with a sheet but that not all captives had one.

Boys who were there would stay up late chatting, while some of the girls would cry, she said. Some boys slept on the floor.

She said she would wake up late to help pass the time. The room where she was held was "suffocating," and the captives were prevented from opening the blinds, but she managed to crack open a window.

"It was very difficult," she said.

Munder's account emerged as Israel and Hamas agreed to extend their truce. The two sides have been exchanging Israeli hostages for Palestinian prisoners under a cease-fire deal that has paused the fighting. The deal also includes an increase in aid to Gaza.

Israel declared war after the Islamic militant group's cross-border attack Oct. 7 in which 1,200 people were killed and 240 others taken hostage. An Israeli offensive has left over 13,000 Palestinians dead, according to health authorities in the Hamas-run territory.

Munder said that on Oct. 7, she was put on a vehicle with her family and driven into Gaza. A militant draped over them a blanket her grandson had carried from home, which she said was meant to prevent them from seeing the militants around them. While in captivity, she learned from a Hamas militant who listened to the radio that her son was killed, according to the Channel 13 report.

Still, she said, she held out that hope she would be freed.

"I was optimistic. I understood that if we came here, then we would be released. I understood that if we were alive — they killed whoever they wanted to in Nir Oz."

Two Israeli TV stations, Channels 12 and 13, reported that Hamas' top leader in Gaza, Yahya Sinwar, visited the hostages in a tunnel and assured them they would not be harmed.

"You are safest here. Nothing will happen to you," he was quoted as saying in the identical reports, which did not reveal the source of the account.

This round of releases has seen mostly women and children freed. They have been undergoing physical and psychological tests at Israeli hospitals before returning home.

Mirit Regev, whose 21-year-old daughter, Maya, was freed Sunday, told Israeli public broadcaster Kan that the family has been counseled to "return the power to her" in their interactions by always asking her for permission before things occur, such as leaving the room. Regev's 18-year-old son, Itai, is still being held by Hamas.

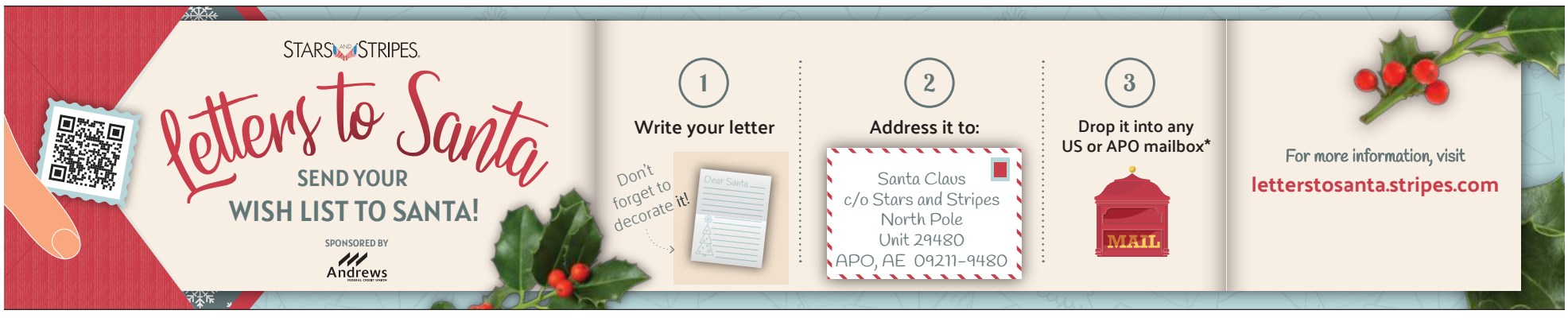
Itai Pessach, director of the Edmond and Lily Safra Children's Hospital at Sheba Medical Center, where many of the released children have been treated, said he felt some optimism because the hostages were physically recovering. But he said medical staff had heard "very difficult and complex stories from their time in Hamas captivity," without elaborating.

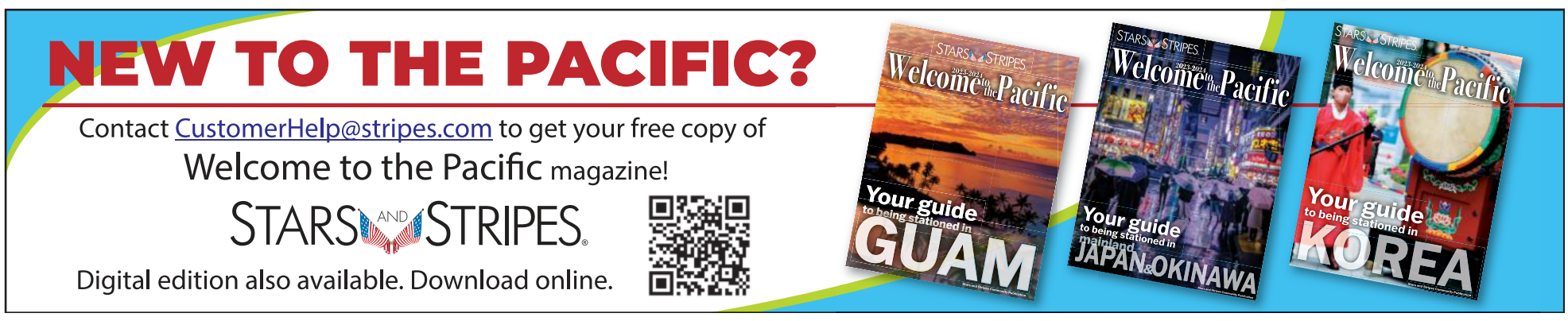
"We understand that despite the fact that they might seem physically improving, there's a very, very long way to go before they are healed," he said.

In a separate interview, the aunt of a 25-year-old Israeli-Russian hostage who was released Sunday from Gaza said her nephew fled his captors and hid within Gaza for a few days before being recaptured.

Israeli media aired video Monday of Ori Megidish, an Israeli soldier who was taken captive, then freed by the military late last month. She said she was happy and doing well and wished all the captives would return home.

"I'm glad to have my life back," she said.





MIDEAST

US says Israel must avoid civilian displacement

Biden administration looks to avoid more casualties, tells country to operate with more precision

BY AAMER MADHANI AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration has told Israel that it must work to avoid "significant further displacement" of Palestinian civilians in southern Gaza if it renews its ground campaign aimed at eradicating the Hamas militant group, senior U.S. officials said.

The administration, seeking to avoid more large-scale civilian casualties or mass displacement like that seen before the current temporary pause in the fighting, underscored to the Israelis that they must operate with far greater precision in southern Gaza than they did in the north, the officials said, briefing reporters on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

Amid mounting international and domestic pressure about the rising Palestinian death toll, the White House has begun to put greater pressure on Israel that the manner of the coming campaign must be "carefully thought through," according to one of the officials.

The Israelis have been receptive when administration officials have raised these concerns, the official said.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made clear that Israeli Defense Forces will eventually restart military operations after the conclusion of the current, temporary cease-fire that has allowed for an exchange of hostages taken by Hamas for Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

President Joe Biden has said he would like to see the pause — which has also allowed a surge of much-needed humanitarian aid to get into Gaza — continue as long as feasible. Secretary of State Antony Blinken will return this week to the Middle East as the U.S. hopes to find a way to extend the cease-fire and get more hostages released, the State Department said Monday.

It will be his third trip to the region since Israel's war with Hamas began last month.

Still, Biden and top officials have also been clear-eyed about Israel's desire to continue operations focused on Hamas that over the last seven weeks have largely focused on the north. They have said they support Israel's goal of eliminating Hamas' control over Gaza and the threat it poses to Israeli civilians, but have grown more vocal about the need to protect the lives of Palestinian civilians. Hamas has been known to seek shelter among the territory's civilian population, and Israeli officials have released videos from northern Gaza of what they said are weapons stockpiles and firing locations placed among civilian infrastructure.

More than 13,300 Palestinians have been killed since the war began on Oct. 7, roughly two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Hamas-run Health Ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants.

More than 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial attack. At least 77 soldiers have been killed in Israel's ground offensive.

The U.S. believes roughly 2 million Palestinians are now in south and central Gaza. Biden administration officials have made clear to the Israelis that an already stretched humanitarian support network would be unable to cope with the sort of displacement that those from northern Gaza have endured in Israel's retaliatory strikes and ground operations.

Biden administration officials have also told the Israelis they expect them to conduct operations in a way that will be "maximally deconflicted" with the operation of humanitarian aid facilities, United Nations-supported shelters and core infrastructure, including electricity and water.

Truce: Israel, Hamas trade accusations for 1st time since pact

FROM PAGE 1

za, where Israeli forces and Hamas fighters are holding their positions in close proximity to each other, each preparing for a potential resumption of fighting when the cease-fire ends.

The sides agreed to extend their truce through Wednesday, with another two planned exchanges of militant-held hostages for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. Mediators met in Qatar to try to extend the cease-fire beyond Wednesday.

But Israel has vowed to resume the war with "full force" to destroy Hamas once it's clear that no more hostages will be freed under the deal.

CIA director William Burns and David Barnea, who heads Israel's Mossad intelligence agency, were in Qatar, a key mediator with Hamas, to discuss extending the cease-fire and releasing more hostages, a diplomat said on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the talks.

Hamas and other militants are still holding about 160 people, out of the 240 seized in their Oct. 7 assault into southern Israel that ignited the war. That's enough to potentially extend the truce for another two weeks under the existing framework brokered by the Qatar, Egypt and the U.S., but Hamas is expected to make much higher demands for the release of captive soldiers.

Israel has vowed to end Hamas' 16-year rule in Gaza and crush its military capabilities. That would almost certainly require expanding the ground offensive from northern Gaza — where entire residential areas have been pounded into rubble — to the south, where hundreds of thousands of displaced people have packed into overflowing United Nations shelters.

Israel blames the soaring casualty toll on Hamas, accusing the militants of using civilians as human shields while operating in dense, residential areas.

Hostages released

The latest freed hostages — 9 women and a 17-year-old teenager — were being flown to hospitals in Israel, where they will be reunited with their families, the Israeli military said. Around 30 Palestinian prisoners are expected to be released as part of the deal negotiated by Qatar, Egypt, and the United States.

Tuesday's release brought to more than 60 Israelis freed under the terms of the initial four-day truce. An additional 21 hostages were released in separate negotiations, including 17 Thais, one Filipino and one Russian-Israeli. So far, 150 Palestinians have been released from Israeli prisons. Israel has said it would extend the cease-fire by one day for every 10 additional hostages released.

The Palestinian prisoners released so far have been mostly teenagers accused of throwing stones and firebombs during confrontations with Israeli forces. Some were convicted by Israeli courts of attempting to carry out deadly attacks. The prisoners are widely seen by Palestinians as heroes resisting occupation.

NASSER NASSER/AP

Released Palestinian prisoners arrive in the West Bank town of Ramallah on Tuesday. Thirty-three Palestinian prisoners released by Israel arrived early Tuesday in east Jerusalem and Ramallah.

Northern Gaza in ruins

The cease-fire has allowed residents who remained in Gaza City and other parts of the north to venture out to survey the destruction and try to locate and bury relatives. Footage from northern Gaza, the focus of the Israeli ground offensive, shows nearly every building damaged or destroyed.

A U.N.-led aid consortium estimates that over 234,000 homes have been damaged across Gaza and 46,000 have been destroyed, amounting to around 60% of the housing stock in the territory, which is home to some 2.3 million Palestinians. In the north, the destruction of homes and civilian infrastructure "severely compromises the ability to meet basic requirements to sustain life," it said.

More than 13,300 Palestinians have been killed since the war began, roughly two-thirds of them women and minors, according to the Health Ministry in Hamas-ruled Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants. More than 1,200 people have been killed on the Israeli side, mostly civilians killed in the initial attack.

At least 77 soldiers have been killed in Israel's ground offensive. Israel says it has killed thousands of militants, without providing evidence.

Fears for the south

Israel's bombardment and ground offensive have displaced more than 1.8 million people, nearly 80% of Gaza's population, with most having sought refuge in the south, according to the U.N. humanitarian affairs office. Israeli troops have barred people from returning to the north during the cease-fire.

Hundreds of thousands of people have packed into U.N.-run schools and other facilities, with many forced to sleep on the streets outside because of overcrowding. It's unclear where they would go if Israel expands its ground operation, as Egypt has refused to accept refugees and Israel has sealed its border.

The U.N. says the truce made it possible to scale up the delivery of food, water and medicine to the largest volume since the start of the war, and to bring in desperately needed fuel for homes, hospitals and water treatment plants. But the 160 to 200 trucks a day is still less than half what Gaza was importing before the fighting.

Four days into the truce, residents were still waiting for hours to buy gas and cooking fuel.

Juliette Toma, a spokesperson for the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, said people come to shelters asking for heavy clothes, mattresses and blankets, and that some are sleeping in damaged vehicles.

"The needs are overwhelming," she told The Associated Press.

NATION

Celebrities, politicians named in sex abuse suits

More than 3,700 claims filed before NY law expired

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For a year, New York's Adult Survivors Act suspended the usual legal deadlines to give sexual assault victims one last chance to file lawsuits over misconduct that occurred years or decades ago.

By the time the law expired last week, more than 3,700 legal claims had been filed, with many of the last few coming against big-name celebrities and a handful of politicians.

The list of the accused contained many familiar names from past #MeToo scandals and a few new ones. A huge number of claims were also made by former prisoners over alleged assaults in jails and prisons.

Here's a guide to some of the more noteworthy lawsuits:

■ **Donald Trump:** The former president was one of the first to be sued under the law when it took effect last November, by a writer who said he had raped her in a department store dressing room.

E. Jean Carroll, a columnist, had written of the alleged assault in a 2019 book. He rebuffed the accusation, saying it never happened. She initially sued Trump only for defamation because the allegations dated back to the mid-90s and the deadline for filing a legal claim had long since passed. But the Adult Survivors Act cleared the way for a suit claiming sexual assault.

In May, a jury found Trump liable of sexually abusing Carroll, but not raping her. She was awarded $5 million, including damages for defamation.

■ **Sean "Diddy" Combs:** The hip-hop music mogul was sued this month by three women. The first case was filed in federal court by R&B singer Cassie. She accused Combs of beatings and rape in a long-term relationship, which he denied. They announced a settlement the next day.

Two more women came forward with lawsuits last week, just before the law's expiration. They accuse Combs of sexual abuse in separate incidents dating back to the early 1990s. A spokesperson for Combs denied the allegations.

■ **Harvey Weinstein:** The movie producer, already convicted of rape in New York and Los Angeles, was sued in October by Julia Ormond, who accused Weinstein of bringing down her movie career after a sexual assault in 1995.

Weinstein, who is in prison in New York, "categorically" denied the accusations through his attorney.

■ **Jamie Foxx:** Among the rush of lawsuits filed in the last days of the law was one against performer Foxx.

A woman who says she asked him for a photo at a New York City rooftop bar in 2015 accuses him of groping her under her clothes.

A representative for the actor said the alleged incident never happened.

■ **Steven Tyler:** In an accusation dating back to the 1970s, a woman has accused the Aerosmith lead singer of forcibly kissing and groping her.

The woman says she was 17 when she met Tyler in Manhattan in the summer of 1975, and that he assaulted her twice during that day.

■ **Bill Cosby:** The comedian was sued by Joan Tarshis, who said she was a young comedy writer when Cosby drugged and assaulted her on two occasions in the years around 1970. She had first made the accusations in 2014, but her ability to sue him was previously limited due to the statute of limitations.

Cosby

A representative for Cosby didn't respond to questions about the claim.

■ **Russell Brand:** The British comedian and actor was sued under the law by a woman who said she was an extra on the set of the movie "Arthur" in 2010, in which Brand was starring. The woman accused Brand of exposing himself and assaulting her in a bathroom.

Brand

He has not commented on the suit, but in connection to claims in British media outlets in September by four women who said he assaulted them, he said his relationships were "always consensual."

■ **L.A. Reid:** Antonio "L.A." Reid was sued by a woman who worked for the Grammy-winning music executive when he was the head of Arista Records.

The woman, Drew Dixon, said Reid sexually assaulted her twice in 2001, and derailed what had been a promising career in the music industry. He hasn't commented on the lawsuit, but denied Dixon's claims when she first made them in 2017.

■ **Axl Rose:** Guns N' Roses' lead singer was accused by a former model of raping her in 1989 in a New York City hotel room.

Sheila Kennedy said she was diagnosed with anxiety and depression because of the attack, which she has referenced before.

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Sean "Diddy" Combs was accused by three women of beating, sexual assault and rape in separate incidents dating back to the 1990s.

Rose

An attorney for Rose said it was a false allegation and never happened.

■ **Mike Tyson:** The heavyweight boxer was sued by a woman who said he raped her in Albany, N.Y., in the early 1990s after she met him at a club and was in his limousine. No comment from representatives for Tyson.

The boxer spent three years in prison after being convicted of rape in 1992.

■ **Andrew Cuomo:** The former governor of New York, who resigned in 2021 after being accused of sexual misconduct, was sued by his former executive assistant. Brittany Commisso said she faced sexual harassment and unwanted touching from Cuomo and was punished when she reported the incidents.

Cuomo

Cuomo's attorney called the suit a "cash grab." Cuomo has denied the sexual misconduct allegations. He initially faced a criminal charge but it was dropped by a prosecutor, who cited lack of proof.

■ **Neil Portnow:** The former Grammy Awards CEO faces a lawsuit filed by a woman who said he sexually assaulted her in 2018. His accuser, a musician who wasn't named in the suit, accused Portnow of drugging her in a hotel room and assaulting her.

A representative for Portnow, who stepped down in 2019, called the accusations "completely false."

■ **Rudy Giuliani:** The former mayor of New York City and personal attorney for Trump, is being sued by a woman who says he coerced her into sexual activity while she did work off the books for him.

The woman, Noelle Dunphy, said Giuliani made suggestive comments and demanded sex while she worked for him as a business development director and public relations consultant between 2019 to 2021.

His spokesperson strongly denied the allegations.

The Associated Press does not typically name alleged victims of sexual assault in stories unless they decide to tell their stories publicly.

Gruesome JFK assassination artifact fetches $46K in auction

BY SARAH BAHARI
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Six decades after President John F. Kennedy was killed in Dallas, dozens of artifacts from his presidency and assassination fetched tens of thousands of dollars at an auction.

The highest-selling item — a pair of blood-stained leather swatches from the limousine Kennedy was riding in when he was shot — sold for $46,865, according to RR Auction. The swatches were authenticated with a letter from F. Vaughn Ferguson, a technical service representative for the White House who maintained the presidential limousine.

Four days after the assassination, Ferguson and the White House upholsterer removed this leather, Ferguson wrote in the letter.

The light blue leather is from the center of the rear seat, and the dark blue leather is from the border of the rear seat.

"The spots on the leather are the dried blood of our beloved President, John F. Kennedy," he wrote.

Boston-based RR Auction called the swatches from the 1961 Lincoln Continental X-100 a "poignant, historic reminder of that fateful November day."

The Nov. 8 auction, which coincided with the 60th anniversary of Kennedy's assassination in Dallas' Dealey Plaza, featured more than 70 photographs, letters, books and documents signed by both Kennedy and his wife, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy.

A large section of the picket fence from the "grassy knoll" at Dealey Plaza, which featured prominently in numerous assassination conspiracy theories, sold for $13,740.

A bullet shot by the same gun Jack Ruby used to shoot Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, sold for $18,568.

A ticket and program to Kennedy's 1962 birthday gala made famous by Marilyn Monroe's rendition of "Happy Birthday" sold for $2,525.

A selection of photographs of Kennedy from Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, moments before he departed for Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963, sold for $2,756. Old editions of The Dallas Morning News and the now-defunct Dallas Times Herald covering the assassination fetched $2,069.

And Oswald's first gun, a .38 revolver, sold for $31,625.

The revolver came with a letter from Oswald's brother, Robert L. Oswald:

"In early October 1956, Mother found out that my brother Lee had gotten a pistol. She was scared to death of guns. At the time, my mother, Lee and I were living in an apartment in Fort Worth, Texas. ... I told Lee that he had no business having a gun. I don't know where it came from, how he got it, or where he got it. I told him I'd give him ten dollars for it."

NATION

Haley: Trump brings too much chaos for White House term

By Meg Kinnard
Associated Press

BLUFFTON, S.C. — Nikki Haley argued Monday former President Donald Trump causes too much chaos to be successful in a second White House term, reiterating her argument about the GOP front-runner at a large town hall in her home state of South Carolina.

The former governor and United Nations ambassador drew the largest crowd of her primary campaign so far as she tries to close the gap with Trump just weeks before the Iowa caucuses kick off the Republican nominating calendar.

Haley invoked her former boss, saying as she has before that she believes Trump was "the right president at the right time" but that the time is now right for a new generation in U.S. leadership.

"I agree with a lot of his policies, but the truth is, rightly or wrongly, chaos follows him," Haley said. "We have too much division in this country, and too many threats around the world to be sitting in chaos once again."

About 2,500 people attended the event at a satellite campus of the University of South Carolina along the state's southern coast. Half that number watched her event from video screens outside the venue after it reached capacity.

Hours ahead of Monday's start time, the line for attendees wrapped around the venue, which the campaign said had to be changed from its original location due to demand.

Her staff has cast her campaign as being on a rising trajectory and pointed to growing crowds in recent weeks as she gets new attention from voters and donors looking for a Trump alternative.

On Tuesday, Americans for Prosperity, the political arm of the powerful Koch network, formally endorsed Nikki Haley's presidential campaign, promising to commit its nationwide army of activists — and virtually unlimited funds — to helping Haley defeat Trump in the GOP primary contest.

Haley remains among a pack of candidates competing for a distant second place with Trump, who has led the GOP field since kicking off his third presidential campaign last year.

Later this week, Haley will head back to New Hampshire, where she has stumped heavily. Entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy has more than a dozen events scheduled this week in Iowa. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis campaigns across South Carolina on Friday.

She often notes her ousting of a 30-year state incumbent in the South Carolina House, then beating three initially better-known candidates to become the first woman to serve as South Carolina governor.

The question of how Haley could close the gap with Trump was on the minds of some who gathered to hear her on Monday.

Vincent Francescangeli, who lives on Hilton Head Island, said he is leaning toward supporting Haley but is taking a wait-and-see approach as the election's first votes draw closer, noting that Trump is still on his list of candidates whom he might support.

"The world was a safer place when Trump was in office," Francescangeli said. "But Trump's got a lot of baggage, and you've got to ask yourself — is Trump really electable? I don't know."

Haley hit the usual points of her campaign speech on Monday, drawing applause and cheers following calls to term limit members of Congress, subject politicians to mental competency tests and end trade relations with China "until they stop murdering Americans with fentanyl."

On Monday, Haley riffed on Trump's recent appearance in her home state at Saturday's football rivalry matchup between the University of South Carolina and her alma mater, Clemson University. Trump was a guest of Gov. Henry McMaster, Haley's successor and an alumnus of South Carolina, which lost to Clemson.

"How did it work out for the Gamecocks having Trump show up?" Haley said. "Not so lucky for the Gamecocks, just sayin' — go Tigers."

MEG KINNARD/AP

GOP presidential hopeful Nikki Haley speaks during a campaign event on Monday in Bluffton, S.C. Haley is among a cluster of Republican candidates competing for second place in a GOP Republican primary thus far largely dominated by former President Donald Trump.

Trump may try to replace 'Obamacare' if he wins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump threatened over the weekend to reopen the contentious fight over the Affordable Care Act after failing to repeal it while in the White House, saying he is "seriously looking at alternatives" if he wins a second term.

Trump's comments drew rebuke from Democratic President Joe Biden 's campaign, which cast them as another "extremist" proposal from the GOP front-runner. And they rapidly moved to mobilize a response, including new advertising in battleground states contrasting Biden's efforts to lower drug costs with Trump's comments.

"Donald Trump is campaigning on a threat to rip away health care from millions of Americans, so we're going to use every tool in our arsenal to make sure the American people know that lives are literally on the line next November," said Biden campaign communications director Michael Tyler.

Health care has generally been a better issue for Democrats than Republicans, who have largely abandoned efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act in recent years. And Biden's campaign quickly seized the opportunity to discuss it. Beyond the new ads, the campaign will host a press call Tuesday with former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper to highlight the potential impact of repealing the law, while state Democratic parties in swing states will host their own events.

Trump has not spent much time discussing health care as he has laid out an aggressive agenda for a potential second term that has focused on immigration crackdowns and mass deportations, as well as efforts to target political rivals.

MEG KINNARD/AP

Donald Trump, left, gestures with South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster during halftime of a college football game on Saturday in Columbia, S.C.

But Trump weighed in on the issue Saturday morning on his Truth Social site.

"The cost of Obamacare is out of control, plus, it's not good Healthcare. I'm seriously looking at alternatives," he wrote.

Trump set to return to the witness stand in fraud trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After a pugnacious first turn on the witness stand, former President Donald Trump plans to testify again next month in his civil fraud trial, his lawyers said Monday.

He is to return Dec. 11, defense attorney Christopher Kise said.

Trump had plenty to say during his initial testimony Nov. 6 in the case, which has questioned his net worth, accused him of misleading banks and insurers and threatened his future in business in New York. The Republican 2024 presidential front-runner denies all the allegations, and he used his first stint on the witness stand to lambaste the case, the judge and New York Attorney General Letitia James, who brought the lawsuit.

"People don't know how good a company I built. You know why?" Trump complained as one of James' deputies questioned him. "Because people like you go around and try and demean me and try and hurt me, probably for political reasons."

The second round of Trump's testimony could be still more expansive. James' office led the questioning the first time; next month, that role goes to Trump's own lawyers, and they can ask about a wider range of subjects than they could during cross-examination before.

Eric Trump, who along with Donald Trump Jr. are EVPs, is due to testify for the defense Dec. 6, Kise said. Both Trump sons also testified during the attorney general's part of the case.

At the heart of the case are Trump's 2014 to 2021 annual "statements of financial condition," which were used to help secure loans and other deals.

A Trump Organization executive testified Monday that the company no longer produces such statements.

NATION

Homeless encampments stir up controversy

By Claire Rush, Janie Har and Michael Casey
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Tossing tent poles, blankets and a duffel bag into a shopping cart and three wagons, Will Taylor spent a summer morning helping friends tear down what had been their home and that of about a dozen others. It wasn't the first time and wouldn't be the last.

Contractors from the city of Portland had arrived to break down tents and tarps on a side street behind a busy intersection and people had an hour to vacate. Whatever they couldn't take with them was placed in plastic bags, tagged with the date and location, and sent for storage in an 11,000-square-foot warehouse.

"It can get hard," said Taylor, 32, who has been moved at least three times in the four years he's been homeless. "It is what it is. … I just let it go."

Tent encampments have long been a fixture of West Coast cities, but are now spreading visibly across the U.S. The federal count of homeless people reached 580,000 last year, driven by lack of affordable housing and a pandemic that economically wrecked households. Encampments are also generating more controversy because of homeless people with severe mental illness and drug addictions who refuse treatment or don't have access to programs.

Records obtained by The Associated Press show attempts to clear encampments increased in cities from Los Angeles to New York as public pressure grew to address what are dangerous and unsanitary living conditions. But despite tens of millions of dollars spent in recent years, there appears to be little reduction in the number of tents propped up on sidewalks, in parks and by freeway off-ramps.

Homeless people and their advocates say the sweeps are cruel and a waste of taxpayer money. They say the answer is more housing, not crackdowns.

The AP submitted data requests to 30 U.S. cities regarding encampment sweeps and received at least partial responses from about half.

Craig Mitchelldyer/AP

Amber Nastasia from Rapid Response Bio Cleanup cleans a homeless camp in Portland, Ore., in July.

In Phoenix, the number of encampments swept soared to more than 3,000 last year from 1,200 in 2019. Las Vegas removed about 2,500 camps through September, up from 1,600 in 2021.

The city of Los Angeles said its sanitation department responded to more than 4,000 requests a month from the public to address homeless encampments at the end of 2022, double the amount the previous year.

But it would not explain whether that meant the encampments were dismantled or simply cleaned around or even how large the encampments were.

But even cities without data confirmed camping is consuming more time, and they are starting to track numbers, budget for removals, and beef up or launch programs to connect people to housing.

State and local laws criminalizing homelessness are on the rise, said Scout Katovich, a staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union, which has filed lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of sweeps and property seizures in a dozen cities, including Miami, Anchorage and Boulder, Colo.

"These laws and these practices of enforcement do nothing to actually alleviate the crisis and instead they keep people in this vicious cycle of poverty," she said.

But California Gov. Gavin Newsom, whose state is home to nearly one-third of the country's homeless population, says leaving hazardous makeshift camps to fester is neither compassionate nor an option.

He is among officials urging the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a 9th Circuit appellate court ruling that prohibits local governments from clearing encampments without first assuring everyone is offered a bed indoors. San Francisco is under a court order to enforce the ruling.

"I hope this goes to the Supreme Court," said Newsom, a former mayor of San Francisco, in a September interview with news outlet Politico. "And that's a hell of a statement coming from a progressive Democrat."

Earlier this month, crews in Denver erected metal fencing as police officers called to residents to leave a sprawling downtown encampment. A bonfire blazed against temperatures in the teens and snow covered the ground.

"The word 'sweep' that they use … that's kind of how it feels, like being swept like trash," said David Sjoberg, 35. "I mean we're not trash, we're people."

Removing encampments is costly — an expense more cities, counties and states have to budget for. Several cities queried by the AP provided some costs, but others said comprehensive figures were difficult to get given the multiple departments involved, including police, sanitation and public health.

Still, Denver reported spending nearly $600,000 on labor and waste disposal in 2021 and 2022 to clean 230 large encampments, some more than once. Phoenix said it spent nearly $1 million last year to clear encampments.

Despite all that spending, said San Francisco real estate broker Masood Samereie, businesses keep losing customers because of people camped on sidewalks, some clearly in mental distress. "It's throwing money at it without any tangible or any real results," he said.

For homeless people, sweeps can be traumatizing. They often lose identification documents, as well as cellphones, laptops and personal items.

Roxanne Simonson, 60, said she had a panic attack during one sweep in Portland and started yelling for an ambulance. "And then I changed my mind, because if I go, then I would lose all my stuff," she said.

But, cities can't stand by and do nothing, said Sam Dodge, who oversees a San Francisco city department that coordinates multiple agencies to place people into housing so crews can clear tents.

"Saying, 'This is not working, this is dangerous, you can do better than this, you have a brighter future than this,' I think that's caring for people," Dodge said.

One August morning, his crew surveyed about a dozen structures and tents, some inches away from vehicles zipping by. Outreach workers fanned out, asking people if they had a case manager or wanted a room indoors.

City officials are particularly frustrated by people who have housing, but won't stay in it.

Michael Johnson, 40, was assigned a coveted one-room prefabricated structure with a bed, desk and chair, a window and locking door. But his friends aren't there and to him, it feels like jail, so he's sleeping in a tent.

Hunter Biden offers to testify publicly before House Oversight Committee

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hunter Biden on Tuesday offered to testify publicly before Congress in response to a subpoena from Republicans investigating nearly every aspect of his business dealings as they pursue an impeachment inquiry into his father, President Joe Biden.

The Democratic president's son slammed the inquiry as a "fishing expedition" and refused to give closed-door testimony but said he would "answer any pertinent and relevant question" in front of the House Oversight Committee next month, setting up a potential high-stakes face-off.

Rep. James Comer of Kentucky, the chairman of the House Oversight Committee, subpoenaed Hunter Biden in early November in the inquiry's most aggressive step yet and one that tests the reach of congressional oversight powers. Comer's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

So far, Republicans have failed to uncover evidence directly implicating President Biden in any wrongdoing. But lawmakers insist their evidence paints a troubling picture of "influence peddling" in the Biden family's business dealings, particularly with clients overseas.

The subpoena demanded Hunter Biden appear before the Oversight Committee for a deposition by mid-December. His uncle James Biden was subpoenaed same day, as well as former business associate Rob Walker.

Hunter Biden's attorney Abbe Lowell said in Tuesday's letter that his client had "misgivings about your motives and purpose" but had previously offered to speak with the committee without a response.

"Your empty investigation has gone on too long wasting too many better-used resources. It should come to an end," Lowell wrote. "From all the individuals you have requested depositions or interviews, all you will learn is that your accusations are baseless. However, the American people should see that for themselves."

He offered to appear on Dec. 13, the date named in the subpoena, or another day next month.

The subpoenas were bitterly opposed by Democrats, and the White House called for the subpoenas to be withdrawn. Richard Sauber, special counsel to the president, wrote that the subpoenas are "irresponsible" and the product of an overzealous House GOP majority that "weaponized the oversight powers of Congress."

NATION

WWII soldier killed in France finally laid to rest in Texas

It took 77 years to bring Clinton Edward Smith home

ROSE L. THAYER/Stars and Stripes

Doug Smith accepts a folded flag during the funeral service of his uncle, Pfc. Clinton Edward Smith, at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas, on Monday.

BY ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Pfc. Clinton Edward Smith left behind his music studies at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, to enlist in World War II.

The musician in him persisted, and Smith found himself playing "Lili Marlene" on a battered piano on a beachhead in Anzio, Italy, as German artillery provided the base.

The scene was recounted in his local newspaper, the Corpus Christi Caller-Times, in a report published May 20, 1945, about four months after Smith was struck by shrapnel and killed in France during an attempt by German forces to break the American front line. He was 19 years old when he died, and it took 77 years to bring him to rest.

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, identified Smith's remains last year from a group of unknown soldiers buried in Belgium. Smith, who was known in his family as Ed, was buried Monday with full military honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio.

Doug Smith, the soldier's 84-year-old nephew, said his uncle's service — or that he hadn't made it home — was not discussed much within the family, but he's been amazed to learn the history during the past year.

Smith

Information provided by DPAA exposed the hidden pain of the soldier's parents, which was laid out in nearly 20 pages of correspondence between them, the Army and recovery teams as the couple pushed for answers that would not come in their lifetime.

"It must have hit them hard," Doug Smith said. "The process of finding him was just a miracle."

Ed Smith was one of three brothers, all of whom served during World War II, Doug Smith said. Ed was the only brother who did not return home.

He enlisted in the Army on Jan. 6, 1944, and just a few months later fought on the beaches of Anzio with Company D, 1st Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Infantry Division, according to DPAA.

From Anzio, Smith took part in the campaign to Rome and the invasion of France.

On Jan. 14, 1945, Smith was hit by shrapnel while manning his machine gun in Reipertswiller, France, and died. The battle was part of Germany's final push to break American lines, known as Operation Northwind.

Because the Germans controlled the territory where Smith fell, his fellow soldiers were unable to recover his body.

His remains were later found by a resident in Reipertswiller and buried as an unknown soldier at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, an American Battle Monuments Commission site in Belgium, said Carrie Brown, laboratory manager for DPAA at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

Originally, 15 service members were missing from that battle, according to DPAA. To date, eight have been identified.

Across the entirety of the war, DPAA has accounted for 1,543 missing service members. More than 72,000 remain missing.

Smith's remains were removed from the Belgium cemetery in August 2021. DPAA scientists then used DNA, dental records and personnel records — including those letters his parents wrote after the war — to identify his remains.

"The personnel records help us support the circumstances of loss, and help us support things like height and age," Brown said. "That's an amazing thing to think about the impact that this loss is having because it's still felt decades and generations later. And there it is in that letter."

Doug Smith said he wished his father and the other relatives who knew his uncle were alive to see him returned home Monday. During the service, he sat among his cousins as a horse-drawn caisson brought Ed Smith's flag-draped casket toward the small gathering of people there to honor the soldier.

"If he had just made it another two or three months, it was all over," Doug Smith said. "He was such a young man going over there to fight at 19 years old."

thayer.rose@stripes.com
@Rose_Lori

WORLD

Rescuers pull out 41 workers trapped in tunnel for 17 days

Associated Press

UTTARKASHI, India — All 41 construction workers who were trapped in a collapsed mountain tunnel in northern India for more than two weeks were pulled out on Tuesday, bringing an end to a drawn-out rescue mission that had grabbed the country's attention for days.

A crowd of local residents gathered around the tunnel erupted in joy and shouted "Bharat Mata ki Jai," or "Long live mother India," and set off firecrackers in celebration. Officials presented the first rescued workers with garlands made of flowers, hanging them around their necks as the crowd cheered.

Nitin Gadkari, the minister of road transport and highways, said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that he was "completely relieved and happy" after all workers were rescued from the Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarkashi following an ordeal that lasted 17 days.

"I am very happy that all the 41 trapped workers have come out and their lives have been saved," he said in a video message posted on X. Gadkari added that "this was a well-coordinated effort by multiple agencies, marking one of the most significant rescue operations in recent years."

The workers were pulled out through a passageway made of welded pipes that rescuers previously pushed through dirt and rocks.

They will each have an initial health checkup at a temporary medical camp set up inside the 42.6-feet wide tunnel.

One of the rescuers, Devender, who only gave his first name, told the New Delhi Television channel that "the trapped workers were overjoyed when they spotted us in the tunnel. Some rushed toward me and hugged me."

AP

Pushkar Singh Dhami, right, chief minister of the state of Uttarakhand, greets a worker rescued in the Indian state of Uttarakhand, India, on Tuesday.

The massive rescue mission had many on edge. The workers got trapped on Nov. 12, when a landslide caused a portion of the 2.8-mile tunnel they were building in Uttarakhand state to collapse about 650 feet from the entrance.

They survived on food and oxygen supplied through narrow steel pipes.

Kirti Panwar, a state government spokesperson, said about a dozen men had worked overnight to manually dig through rocks and debris.

Tornadoes forecast in Black Sea region

Associated Press

Tornadoes were forecast for the Black Sea region on Tuesday, a day after a storm that left more than 2 million people without electricity in Crimea, Russia and Ukraine. A think tank said that the weather also impacted Russian military operations.

The storm killed at least 14 people in Russia and Ukraine officials said as it toppled trees, tore down power lines and flooded coastal areas.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said at least five people died in the Odesa region of southern Ukraine, and that engineers were working to restore electricity to villages that have been cut off.

On Tuesday morning, almost 100,000 people were still without power on the Crimean Peninsula and some still had no water supply, the Russia-installed governor said, announcing that several regions were still under a state of emergency.

Crimea, which was annexed from Ukraine by Russia in 2014, is a key military and logistics hub for Russia as it pursues its war in Ukraine. The damage caused by the storm affected "the tempo of military operations along the front line in Ukraine," but has not stopped military activity, the Institute for the Study of War said.

The Washington-based think tank reported that the storm forced Russia to return all of its naval vessels and missile carriers to their bases, and suggested that the threat of mines drifting in the Black Sea will increase because the storm has dispersed minefields.

There were also reports that the storm damaged railways in coastal areas which could have an impact on the Russian military's logistics capabilities in occupied Crimea and southern Ukraine, the ISW said.

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

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

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

For Further Information Please Contact

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

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

Trans Global LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Transportation 944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WSA WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY

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

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!

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

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Are you in the picture?

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

No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

LAMMERS MEDIA/AP

Cole Bures proposes to Samantha Camenzind during a photo shoot after she shot and killed a giant buck.

Woman bags marriage proposal on hunting trip

NE OMAHA — A Nebraska woman bagged a marriage proposal earlier this month along with a big buck during a recent deer hunting trip.

Samantha Camenzind's boyfriend not only gave her the first shot at the deer they had spotted on a trail camera south of Lincoln, but then surprised her by popping the question in the middle of a photo shoot with the prized trophy — a giant buck with 11 tines on one side of its antlers and nine on the other.

In three years of dating one of the things the couple bonded over is their shared love of hunting. They process and eat the meat of what they kill.

Cole Bures told Camenzind he wanted a professional photographer to take some pictures to commemorate the big moment. Partway through the pictures, he got down on one knee and asked her to marry him, allowing the photographer to capture exactly when she said yes.

GREG EANS, THE (OWENSBORO, KY.) MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

Santa run

Wes Hamilton, right, dressed in a Santa Claus costume, high-fives his daughter, Kate, as they approach the finish line while running in the Holiday Hustle 5K on Saturday in Owensboro, Ky.

Man gets 40 years for suffocating ex-girlfriend

WI MADISON — A Madison man has been sentenced to 40 years in prison for killing his former girlfriend, who suffocated after he buried her beneath a pile of furniture, clothing and other items inside her home.

A Dane County judge sentenced Gregg Raether, 58, on Tuesday for the death of Patricia McCullough, 55, the Wisconsin State Journal reported. Raether was convicted by a jury in September of first-degree reckless homicide and other charges.

Officers who were called to McCullough's home in September 2021 after she had not been heard from for weeks found her decomposed body beneath a pile of dresser drawers, shelving, televisions, clothing and other objects in her bedroom.

She suffered crushing, suffocating injuries that ultimately killed her, authorities said.

Strays may be euthanized due to overcrowding

GA ATLANTA — Multiple dogs living at animal shelters in a county just south of Atlanta could be euthanized due to overcrowding if they aren't adopted before Nov. 30, a Georgia animal control group said.

Clayton County Animal Control, which houses stray animals at two shelters, said two dozen dogs faced possible euthanasia due to overcrowding at the facilities.

In a memorandum posted to social media Thursday, the group said dogs that aren't fostered before Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. faced possible euthanasia.

Sarah Ortiz, a Clayton County animal advocate, said several animals were surrendered ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Ortiz said rescue groups have been able to take in some of the dogs, but several more still needed homes.

Moose's journey tracked by herd of dedicated fans

MN MEEKER COUNTY — A herd of followers are tracking a moose on the loose in southern Minnesota, hoping the majestic animal's journey ends safely after it was spotted Tuesday 140 miles northwest of Minneapolis.

Fans have been tracking the young male moose for weeks and posting updates on a Facebook page that as of Tuesday had more than 18,000 followers.

Admirers call the animal "Bullwinkle" or "Rutt," the latter in homage to a scatterbrained moose from the movie "Brother Bear."

A Minnesota Department of Natural Resources big game expert told the Minnesota Star Tribune that moose typically only roam in northern Minnesota, making the now-famous moose's visit to south and central Minnesota a rare treat. Todd Froberg, the agency's big game program coordinator, said the young moose is likely looking for home territory or other moose and is expected to continue moving north.

Child helped mom who had stroke while driving

MS COLUMBUS — A 6-year-old Mississippi girl is being honored for helping emergency responders find her family's car after her mother had a stroke while driving in a rural area.

Bryanna Cook is a first grader at Fairview Elementary School in Columbus, and Lowndes County supervisors have adopted a resolution to honor her bravery, the Commercial Dispatch reported.

Bryanna and her mother, Yolanda Cook, were headed to see Bryanna's grandmother in Preston on Oct. 23 when Cook had a stroke while driving on Mississippi Highway 21 between Shuqulak and Macon. After the car stopped in the woods, Cook became unresponsive and Bryanna grabbed her mom's cellphone to call her grandmother.

Her grandmother told her to call 911. Bryanna described her surroundings and stayed on the phone for two hours so first responders could find her. Bryanna's mother was taken to a hospital, where she stayed with her until Cook was released Oct. 31.

State sued over new plan for wolf management

WI MADISON — Animal welfare advocates filed a lawsuit Wednesday seeking to invalidate Wisconsin's new wolf management plan, accusing state wildlife officials of violating the state's open meetings law and disregarding comments from wolf researchers and supporters.

The Great Lakes Wildlife Alliance, also known as Friends of the Wisconsin Wolf and Wildlife, filed the latest lawsuit in Dane County Circuit Court. The organization describes itself as a statewide group of hunters, farmers, politicians, business owners and animal welfare advocates who support science-based conservation.

The lawsuit alleges that Department of Natural Resources policy board members collected comments on the plan from interest groups it favored even after the public comment period ended in February.

Schools reach tentative deal with teachers union

OR PORTLAND — Oregon's largest school district said late Sunday that it had reached a tentative agreement with its teachers union, and that roughly 45,000 students would be back in school Monday after more than three weeks without classes.

The agreement must still be voted on by teachers who have been on the picket line since Nov. 1 over issues of pay, class sizes and planning time.

It must also be approved by the school board, but the union agreed that classes could resume while those votes go forward. Portland Public Schools students missed 11 days of school before the district began its weeklong Thanksgiving break.

Students will make up missed school days by cutting a week off winter break and adding days in the new year.

The deal would provide educators with a 13.8% cumulative cost-of-living increase over the next three years and about half of all educators would earn an extra 10.6% from yearly step increases, PPS said.

The agreement would also add classroom time for elementary and middle grades starting next year and increase teacher planning time by 90 minutes each week for elementary and middle-aged classrooms.

From The Associated Press

FACES

CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Taylor Swift's record-breaking concert film will be available for rental on her birthday, Dec. 13.

Swift's 'Eras Tour' film headed to VOD

Taylor Swift will celebrate her birthday by letting you stream her "Eras Tour" concert movie from home.

But it isn't free — and it's not on Netflix, either.

The film will be available to rent, on demand, starting Dec. 13, the world's most famous Sagittarius said Monday on Instagram. The release will be an extended version that includes performances of "Wildest Dreams," "The Archer" and "Long Live."

"Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour" is a record-breaking phenomenon. The film has raked in more than $175 million domestically and nearly $250 million globally, making it the highest-grossing concert film in North America ever. The global title still belongs to Michael Jackson's "This Is It" from 2009.

The film was shot in August during Swift's six-night stand at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., during the first leg of her Eras tour. The movie has served as an extension of the global dominance of her tour, which has set concert sale records, catapulting Swift to a billion-dollar net worth.

Swift, 33, is done touring for the year. Her next show is Feb. 7 at the Tokyo Dome in Japan.

Other news

■ **Stephen Colbert's** "The Late Show" will be off the air this week as the host recovers from a burst appendix. The comedian revealed on social media Monday that he's recovering after surgery, wiping out planned shows for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

■ **Jean Knight,** the New Orleans-born soul singer known for her 1971 hit "Mr. Big Stuff," has died at the age of 80. "Mr. Big Stuff" reached No. 1 on Billboard's R&B chart and No. 2 on Billboard 200 pop chart at the time. It earned Knight a Grammy nomination for best female R&B vocal performance in 1972.

■ **Jennifer Lopez** will release a new 13-track album, "This Is Me ... Now," and an accompanying Amazon Prime Video film on Feb. 16, the 54-year-old singer announced on Instagram.

From wire reports

New this week: Ford's final Indy film, 'Super Mario' on Netflix, 'Obliterated'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ The biggest box-office hit of the year not named "Barbie" is coming to Netflix. "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" hits the streaming service Sunday, after its previous run on Peacock. The film, which grossed nearly $1.4 billion in theaters, has fared slightly better than the infamous 1993 "Super Mario Bros." In my review, I praised the primary-color visuals but wrote that "as nice as it is to look at 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie,' it's not anywhere near as fun as it would be to play it."

■ Todd Haynes' "May December" is a deliciously disquieting drama loosely based on a stranger-than-fiction true story. Haynes' film, which debuts Friday on Netflix, is inspired by Mary Kay Letourneau, the teacher who went to jail in 1997 for a sexual relationship with a student, only to later marry him. In "May December," Julianne Moore and Charles Melton play a couple years past a similar scandal, while Natalie Portman portrays an actress who's come to research them for an upcoming film. In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr called it "an audaciously self-aware, mischievously funny and emotionally complex drama that defies simple categorization."

■ Harrison Ford's last hurrah as Indiana Jones swings onto Disney+ on Friday. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" had a mixed reception when it launched over the summer. Ford was feted in Cannes. Reviews were mixed. Box office was lackluster. But "Dial of Destiny," directed by James Mangold (taking over for Steven Spielberg), co-starring Phoebe Waller Bridges and featuring a poignant scene with Karen Allen, has a lot going for itself. In her review, Bahr acknowledged it's no "Raiders" or "Last Crusade," "but it's solid, swashbuckling summer fare and a dignified sendoff to one of cinema's most flawless castings."

■ Matthew Heineman's "American Symphony" captures a whirlwind year for Jon Batiste. The film covers the pianist winning the 2022 Grammy for album of the year, winning an Oscar for co-creating the score to "Soul" and a triumphant concert at Carnegie Hall — all while his wife, Suleika Jaouad, battled leukemia. "American Symphony" begins streaming Wednesday on Netflix.

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

Music

■ Elvis will be honored with a starry special "Christmas at Graceland," featuring Post Malone, Alanis Morissette, John Legend, Kacey Musgraves, Kane Brown, Lainey Wilson, Lana Del Rey and The War and Treaty. It's set to air live Wednesday on NBC and simulcast on Peacock. "Christmas at Graceland" — airing right after NBC's "Christmas in Rockefeller Center" — is the first televised concert from the estate and Presley's granddaughter, Riley Keough, will make special appearances.

■ Peter Gabriel's sonic teasing is almost over. After releasing 10 singles during 2023 — coinciding with each month's full moon — the singer-songwriter finally will drop the album they all come from on Friday, "i/o." The album is available in two distinct mixes: The Bright-Side Mix by Mark "Spike" Stent and the Dark-Side Mix by Tchad Blake. "Tchad is very much a sculptor building a journey with sound and drama, Spike loves sound and assembling these pictures, so he's more of a painter," says Gabriel. "i/o" includes contributions from Brian Eno, Richard Chappell, Oli Jacobs, Katie May and Richard Evans.

■ If all you know about Violent Femmes is "Blister in the Sun," it's time you went deeper. The 40th anniversary deluxe edition of the band's self-titled debut is out Friday with more than a dozen demos, B-sides and live performances — including alternate versions of iconic songs "Please Do Not Go," "Gone Daddy Gone" and "Add It Up." Pop culture fans will know that Ethan Hawke serenaded Winona Ryder with a bitter rendition of "Add It Up" in 1994's "Reality Bites," while a 1995 episode of "My So-Called Life" opened on Claire Danes joyfully lip-synching "Blister in the Sun."

■ Singer-actor Dove Cameron drops her debut album "Alchemical: Volume 1," which contains six new songs and two previous hits, "Boyfriend" and "Breakfast." One of the new songs is "Lethal Woman," a club banger about a woman "sharp as a knife under the table" that includes sounds of banging on a door, a gun being cocked and heavy production elements. The lyrics include the playful rhyme: "Game recognizes game / By the way, what's your name?" Cameron has had a heady few years, winning new artist of the year honors at the 2022 American Music Awards and being named Best New Artist at the 2022 VMAs. She also was a scene-stealer in season two of "Schmigadoon!"

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

Netflix

Nick Zano and Shelley Hennig star in "Obliterated," a Netflix action comedy series about a special task force trying to prevent terrorism while also partying hard in Las Vegas.

Television

■ In recent years, Paris Hilton has been determined to (somewhat) drop the cutesy facade and show her layers. The second season of "Paris in Love" on Peacock, dropping Thursday, leans into that effort. First, it introduces Hilton as a new mom. Hilton and husband Carter Reum welcomed son Phoenix via surrogate earlier this year and just revealed a daughter, London. She managed to keep both births a secret, even from her family, until Hilton was ready to announce the news. "It's been really important for me to keep this a secret. It's just the first time that something is just mine," Hilton says in the trailer. New motherhood is never easy, though, and Hilton must adjust to the needs of her growing family conflicting with her busy schedule.

■ The creators of "Cobra Kai" are behind a new Netflix series called "Obliterated." The action comedy stars Nick Zano and Shelley Hennig ("Teen Wolf") as members of a special task force assigned to prevent a planned terror attack in Las Vegas. Once the mission is completed, the temptations of Sin City sway them to spend the night partying. A call interrupts the fun to inform the group that they didn't finish the job and need to get back to work, sober or not, to find and deactivate a bomb. "Obliterated" debuts Thursday.

■ It seems there's no longer bad (tiger?) blood between Chuck Lorre and Charlie Sheen. Lorre has tapped Sheen as a recurring guest star in his new Max series "Bookie." Stand-up Sebastian Maniscalco plays Danny, a longtime LA bookie struggling to keep business afloat despite the looming legalization of sports betting. Omar J. Dorsey plays a former pro football player and his best friend, Ray, who is by his side for many of his, er, adventures both on and off the clock. The first two episodes drop Thursday.

■ A documentary short called "Eddy's World" follows Eddy Goldfarb, a 102-year-old toy maker, who has created more than 800 toys (including the Yakity-Yak chattering teeth) and holds more than 250 patents. His story is a lesson that work isn't work if you love what you do. "Eddy's World" will be broadcast on PBS Stations, and available on PBS.org and the PBS app beginning Saturday.

— Alicia Rancilio

STARS AND STRIPES

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

EDITORIAL

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

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

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

BUREAU STAFF

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

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

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

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

CIRCULATION

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

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

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

CONTACT US

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

Reader letters
letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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

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

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

© Stars and Stripes 2023
stripes.com

OPINION

Christmas gift for military families

By Hugh Hewitt
The Washington Post

"We need to use every tool we have to fight back" against China, writes Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, in his new book, "Unwoke: How to Defeat Cultural Marxism in America." But "getting Democrats to stand up to China," he adds, "is a difficult task."

He's right on both counts. That's why I asked him, in a radio interview last week, if this urgency about China could prompt the Senate to find a way to confirm the more than 450 career military officers whose promotions have been blocked for much of the year by Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala. It was a relief to hear Cruz report, "I believe this issue will get resolved," because the "hold" by Tuberville "is having real and negative consequences" on the lives of military members, "on their careers, and ultimately, on military readiness."

The Senate Republican Conference meets this week to consider a resolution that would enact a standing order for the rest of this session of Congress — not a permanent change to the Senate's standing rules — that would expedite confirmation of these hundreds of officers.

The confirmations would have the knock-on effect of freeing up a logjam of military personnel who cannot move to their new assignments until those awaiting confirmation have moved forward in the promotion and deployment process. The true number of career military officers — and their families — directly and negatively affected by Tuberville's intransigence must number in the thousands.

Passing the proposed standing order — preferably with overwhelming support from the 49 Republican senators, joining with all Senate Democrats, who have condemned Tuberville's tactic from day one — would address the immediate problem while preserving Tuberville's ability to draw attention to what prompted his battle with the Pentagon beginning in February. The senator objected to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's order, following the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade, mandating the reimbursement of service members for out-of-state travel to obtain an abortion.

Ending Tuberville's hold is long overdue, and would be a huge relief to the military men and women who are innocent bystanders in this dispute. By now, any Republican senator who hadn't grasped the implications of their colleague's maneuver has heard the horror stories of how the lives of these dedicated professionals have been overturned. Imagine the plight of a Marine colonel or Army Silver Star recipient or other distinguished warrior who gets labeled as a "desk jockey" whose promotion apparently doesn't matter to U.S. military readiness.

Tuberville

Think, too, of the many military spouses who have borne the burden of countless deployments and the weight of raising families largely on their own. And remember that the inherent stress of danger in military service comes not just with deployment to a combat zone. The Defense Department reports more than 250 fatalities every year in ordinary readiness operations of the U.S. military, including the deaths on Nov. 10 of five U.S. Special Operations aviation soldiers in a helicopter crash while on a training flight over the Mediterranean Sea.

The negative impact of Tuberville's holds on morale among the officer corps (and, again, their families) is almost certainly off the charts. Not only is the military's readiness compromised by not having the selected men and women in the posts for which they have prepared for many years; significant damage to retention is inevitable.

Even a month's delay in an expected assignment can upend military families, derailing the intricate plans (including finding new schools for children) that moving requires. When a delay drags on, career ladders carefully constructed over decades suddenly seem broken.

A decade ago, the Navy experienced how damaging such career limbo can be as the bribery and corruption scandal known as the "Fat Leonard" affair unfolded. A years-long federal investigation rightly cost some admirals their careers, but the collateral damage among the innocent was massive. As Defense News noted in 2015, "The situation is affecting Navy commands ashore and afloat, across the globe."

That personnel disaster was small compared with the likely consequences from Tuberville's hundreds of confirmation holds. Yet senators tell me that Heritage Action, the political arm of the Heritage Foundation, has made support for the Tuberville holds a "scored" issue for purposes of rating members' conservatism.

That would be an enormous face-plant for Heritage Action, mistaking bad Senate theater for the reality of a pro-life voting record. Reversing the Pentagon's policy on abortion travel reimbursement will require winning the White House and Senate control in 2024. Alienating voters who support the military puts that prospect at risk.

Democrats know that support for the U.S. military and its readiness to defend the nation is a core value for a large slice of the conservative base. Senate Democrats thus love the self-immolation of their Republican colleagues now underway and the breach it has opened in the GOP ranks.

For all these reasons, but primarily because of the injustice being done to service personnel and their families, I pray that Cruz is right. There would be no better Christmas present for these deserving warriors.

Hugh Hewitt is a nationally syndicated radio host on the Salem Radio Network. He is also a professor at Chapman University School of Law, where he teaches constitutional law.

Supreme Court needs a real ethics code

By The Editors
Bloomberg Opinion

Holding judges to high ethical standards is essential to the US legal system. The Supreme Court's recent adoption of an ethics code is an overdue acknowledgement of this reality. But the court's failure to include any enforcement provisions reduces the code to a paper tiger. The public shouldn't fall for it.

Where ethics are concerned, the high court has long taken the approach of adopting "rules for thee but not for me" — requiring all other federal judges to adhere to high standards while exempting itself. Not surprisingly, the justices have exhibited a series of embarrassing ethical lapses, including failing to recuse themselves despite owning stock in companies appearing before them; failing to disclose lavish vacation gifts; using public employees to help promote and sell books; and accepting free accommodations for themselves and guests.

These breaches have led to a public outcry, and rightly so. They stain the court's reputation and reduce public confidence in its authority and independence.

At a time when public trust in democratic institutions is low, such failures are all the more intolerable.

Yet the court's new code could well breed more public cynicism, by continuing to allow its members to sit as their own judge and jury, a standing invitation for misconduct. As one example, the justices have long claimed that disclosure rules mandated by Congress in 1978 didn't apply to valuable gifts they received; such gamesmanship is likely to doom any new self-policing system.

Since the court has refused to take enforcement seriously, Congress should do so.

The Constitution provides lawmakers with broad latitude in regulating the judicial branch, and the legislature has a long history of imposing requirements on the high court, including mandating recusals in cases where justices' impartiality could be questioned, and requiring disclosure of their financial holdings and outside income.

Because their judicial decisions are not subject to review, the justices seem to think their recusal decisions shouldn't be either. There's no constitutional basis for such a view, and no reason why federal judges who review recusal judgments could not also consider the high court's.

At the least, the chief justice should be empowered to review and rule on recusal judgments made by other members, and they on his.

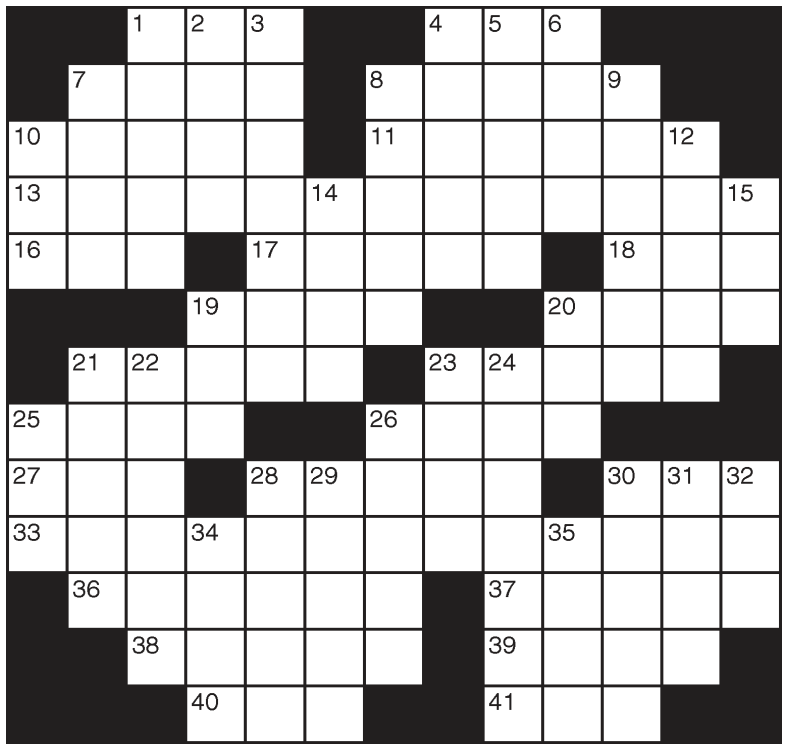
Judicial ethics are of paramount importance to democracy. It doesn't speak well of the justices that they've failed to grasp the obligations this imposes on them — and it was an insult to claim, as they did in a patronizing statement, that the new code is merely a matter of clearing up the public's "misunderstanding" about the court's rules. It is now up to Congress to hold the justices accountable.

In drafting legislation, lawmakers should strive for bipartisan consensus — which shouldn't be hard, given the bipartisan nature of the court's ethical breaches. They should also take care not to allow ethics enforcement to become politicized. But they can't let the court's blindness to its own injustice continue unchecked.

Bizarro

Loose Parts

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 "Today" rival, briefly
4 Former flier
7 Act of faith?
8 Warning sound
10 "Take responsibility!"
11 Villainous
13 Fall forecast
16 Hot temper
17 Gather
18 Bond rating
19 German river
20 Incline
21 Israel's Meir
23 Warning
25 Male children
26 "The Candy House" author Jennifer
27 "— a miracle!"
28 Japanese beer
30 Prattle
33 Texas cook-off dish
36 Equilibria
37 Dodge
38 Commercial cow
39 Author Morrison
40 Writer Rand
41 Tennis match division

DOWN

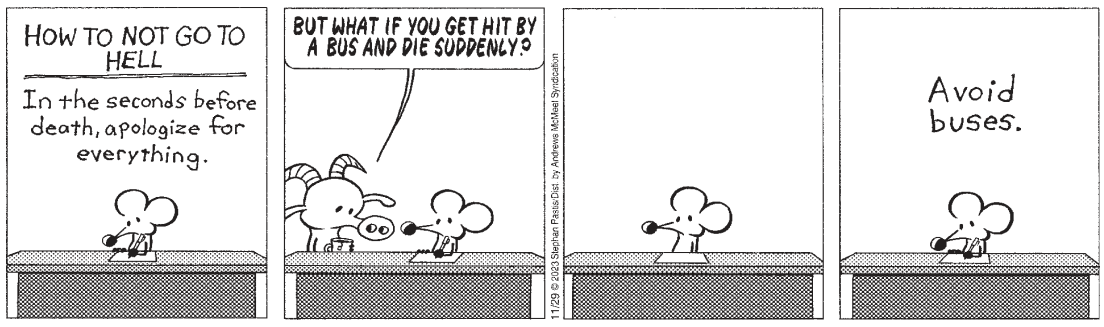
1 Wish granter
2 Manhandle
3 Praise
4 Plum relatives
5 Heroic tales
6 Jog
7 "Cowardly Lion" actor
8 Egypt's Sadat
9 Sweater wool
10 Roman 1101
12 Handed out hands
14 Jewish community org.
15 Squealer
19 "Kidnapped" monogram
20 X, at times
21 Barbarians
22 Kind of inspection
23 Opposite of "fer"
24 Surgical knives
25 Bracketed word
26 Irregularly notched
28 — -face
29 Strand during a blizzard
30 Hog's greeting
31 Me, myself —
32 Spell-off
34 In — land
35 Soap additive

Answer to Previous Puzzle

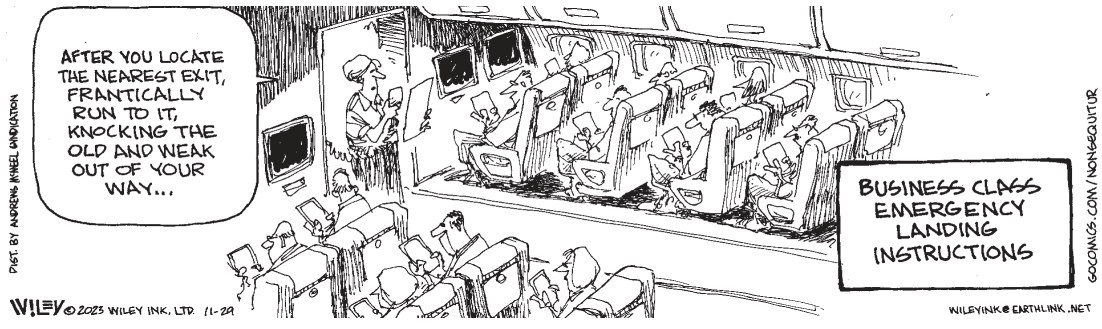
P	A	S	S		S	H	O		T	O	F	U
O	R	C	A		C	A	W		O	P	E	R
S	E	A	M		A	L	L	S	W	E	L	L
T	A	R	B	E	L	L		P	E	L	T	S
			A	M	P		P	A	R			
B	A	S	S	O		O	U	T	S	E	L	L
A	P	P			F	I	B			R	A	E
D	R	Y	C	E	L	L		B	A	R	B	S
			A	D	A		P	O	L			
A	B	A	S	E		C	O	W	B	E	L	L
B	U	S	H	N	E	L	L		A	L	E	E
E	R	I	E		L	E	A		N	I	N	A
S	G	T	S		F	O	R		Y	E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

Frazz

Pearls Before Swine

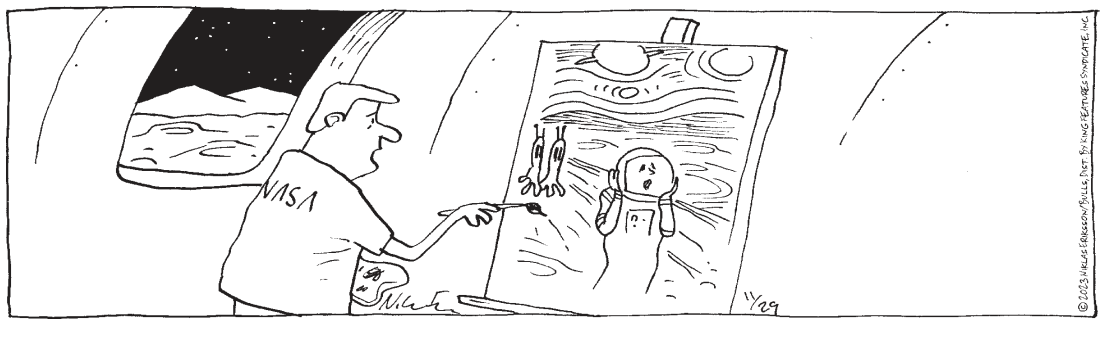


Non Sequitur

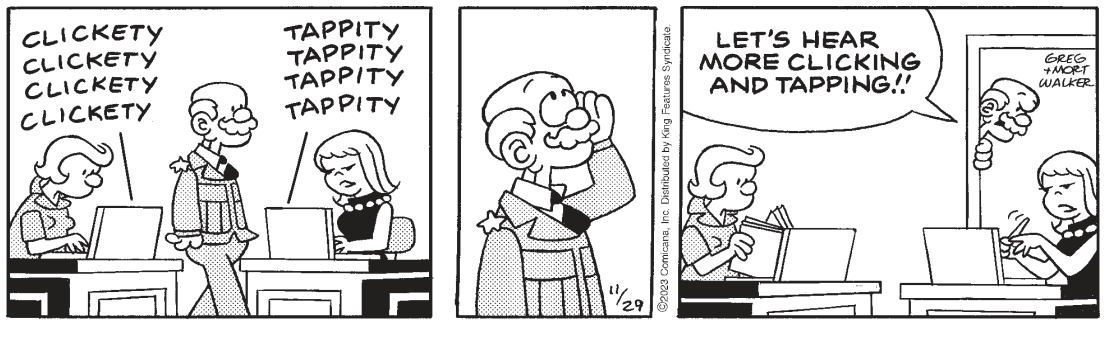


Candorville

Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



11-29 CRYPTOQUIP

XWJ UOL NRUFOLP' ZRQ GWUIAFE LBLCU, R'K GJLPAKRCQ LBLJTZWYT NRII ZL LHURCQ FWBLC-ZHELY XWWY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NONE OF THOSE THIEVES OR KID-WATCHERS TOOK OUR STUFF. WE'VE SEARCHED EVERY CROOK AND NANNY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals G

SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 schedule

Friday, Dec. 1

No. 3 Washington vs. No. 5 Oregon, Pac 12 Championship at Las Vegas

No. 20 Liberty vs. New Mexico St., Conference USA Championship at Lynchburg, Va.

Saturday, Dec. 2

No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 8 Alabama, SEC Championship at Atlanta

No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 18 Iowa, Big Ten Championship at Indianapolis

No. 4 Florida St. vs. No. 15 Louisville, ACC Championship at Charlotte, N.C.

No. 7 Texas vs. No. 19 Oklahoma St., Big 12 Championship at Arlington, Texas

No. 17 Tulane vs. No. 25 SMU, American Athletic Conference Championship at New Orleans

No. 23 Toledo vs. Miami (Ohio), MAC Championship at Detroit

Schedule

Saturday, Dec. 2

SOUTH

Troy (10-2) vs. Appalachian St. (8-4), Sun Belt Championship at Troy, Ala.

Florida A&M (10-1) vs. Prairie View (6-5), SWAC Championship at Tallahassee, Fla.

FAR WEST

UNLV (9-3) vs. Boise St. (7-5), Mountain West Championship at Las Vegas

FCS playoffs

Second Round

Saturday, Dec. 2

South Dakota St. (11-0) vs. Mercer (9-3)

Villanova (9-2) vs. Youngstown St. (8-4)

UAlbany (9-3) vs. Richmond (9-3)

Idaho (8-3) vs. Southern Ill. (8-4)

South Dakota (9-2) vs. Sacramento St. (8-4)

Montana St. (8-3) vs. North Dakota St. (9-3)

Furman (9-2) vs. Chattanooga (8-4)

Montana (10-1) vs. Delaware (9-3)

NCAA Division II playoffs

Quarterfinals

Slippery Rock vs. Kutztown

Lenoir-Rhyne vs. Valdosta St.

Harding vs. Grand Valley St.

Colo. Sch. of Mines vs. Central Wash.

NCAA Division III playoffs

Quarterfinals

Wis.-La Crosse vs. North Central (Ill.)

Wartburg vs. Wis.-Whitewater

Alma vs. Cortland

Johns Hopkins vs. Randolph-Macon

TENNIS

Andorra Open

Monday

At Poliesportiu d'Andorra

Andorra la Vella, Andorra

Purse: Euro 100,000

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Women's Singles

Round of 32

Marina Bassols Ribera (6), Spain, def. Noma Noha Akugue, Germany, 6-3, 7-5.

Celine Naef, Switzerland, def. Cristina Bucsa (1), Spain, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Nuria Parrizas Diaz, Spain, def. Patricia Maria Tig, Romania, 7-5, 6-2.

Erika Andreeva, Russia, def. Susan Bandecchi, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-4.

Alina Charaeva, Russia, def. Oceane Dodin (3), France, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Alize Cornet (8), France, def. Cagla Buyukakcay, Turkiye, 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Argentina Open

Monday

At Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club

Buenos Aires

Purse: $115,000

Surface: Red clay

Women's Singles

Qualification

Ekaterine Gorgodze (2), Georgia, def. Freya Christie, Britain, 6-0, 6-0.

Anna Rogers (4), United States, def. Nicole Fossa Huergo, Italy, 6-4, 6-1.

Amina Anshba (3), Russia, def. Julia Cafarena, Argentina, 6-0, 6-1.

Varvara Lepchenko (1), United States, def. Francesca Mattioli, Argentina, 6-0, 6-1.

Round of 32

Jamie Loeb, United States, def. Despina Papamichail, Greece, 6-3, 6-2.

Conny Perrin, Switzerland, def. Carolina Alves, Brazil, 6-2, 6-1.

Julieta Estable, Argentina, def. Lucciana Perez Alarcon, Peru, 6-2, 1-6, 6-2.

Polona Hercog, Slovenia, def. Carole Monnet (9), France, 6-4, 0-2, ret.

Laura Pigossi (5), Brazil, def. Leyre Romero Gormaz, Spain, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

PRO SOCCER

MLS playoffs

Semifinals

Saturday, Nov. 25

Eastern Conference

Columbus 2, Orlando City 0

Cincinnati 1, Philadelphia 0

Sunday, Nov. 26

Western Conference

Houston 1, Sporting Kansas City 0

Los Angeles FC 1, Seattle 0

Conference Finals

Dec. 2-3

Columbus vs. Cincinnati

Houston vs. Los Angeles FC

Championship

Saturday, Dec. 9

Conference Finals winners

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Purdue (60)	6-0	1572	2
2. Arizona (1)	6-0	1467	3
3. Marquette	5-1	1418	4
4. UConn (2)	6-0	1411	5
5. Kansas	5-1	1312	1
6. Houston	7-0	1289	6
7. Duke	5-1	1194	9
8. Miami	5-0	1031	10
9. Baylor	6-0	1030	13
10. Tennessee	4-2	967	7
11. Gonzaga	4-1	964	11
12. Kentucky	5-1	727	16
13. FAU	5-1	664	19
14. Texas A&M	6-1	646	12
15. Creighton	5-1	613	8
16. Texas	5-1	571	15
17. North Carolina	5-1	567	14
18. Villanova	6-1	534	—
19. BYU	6-0	416	—
20. Colorado St.	6-0	330	—
21. Mississippi St.	6-0	309	25
22. James Madison	6-0	303	22
23. Alabama	5-1	259	17
24. Illinois	5-1	134	—
25. Oklahoma	6-0	120	—

Others receiving votes: Memphis 108, San Diego St. 102, Colorado 70, Ohio St. 67, TCU 66, Michigan St. 57, Auburn 46, UCLA 24, Princeton 14, Arkansas 10, Florida St. 8, Iowa St. 8, Southern Cal 7, Liberty 7, Nevada 6, Clemson 6, Virginia 6, Mississippi 5, Nebraska 4, South Carolina 2, Cincinnati 2, Kansas St 1, Bradley 1.

Men's USA Today Top 25

The USA Today Sports Top 25 men's basketball poll, with first-place votes received in parenthesis, team's records, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th and ranking in last week's final poll:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Purdue (32)	6-0	800	2
2. Arizona	6-0	747	3
3. Marquette	5-1	703	5
4. Connecticut	6-0	700	4
5. Houston	7-0	681	6
6. Kansas	5-1	647	1
7. Duke	5-1	594	9
8. Miami (Fla.)	5-0	542	11
9. Baylor	6-0	537	12
10. Gonzaga	4-1	483	10
11. Tennessee	4-2	462	8
12. Kentucky	5-1	373	16
13. Texas A&M	6-1	326	13
14. Creighton	5-1	324	7
15. Villanova	6-1	317	—
16. North Carolina	5-1	303	14
17. Florida Atlantic	5-1	287	20
18. Texas	5-1	201	17
19. Brigham Young	6-0	187	—
20. Alabama	5-1	157	15
21. Colorado State	6-0	132	—
22. Mississippi State	6-0	125	25
23. James Madison	6-0	109	—
24. Illinois	5-1	99	22
25. Michigan State	3-3	66	19

Dropped out: No. 18 Virginia (5-1); No. 21 Colorado (5-1); No. 23 Memphis (5-1); No. 24 UCLA (4-2).

Others receiving votes: Memphis (5-1) 63; Virginia (5-1) 54; UCLA (4-2) 46; TCU (5-0) 45; San Diego State (5-1) 45; Oklahoma (6-0) 44; Colorado (5-1) 43; Ohio State (5-1) 37; Clemson (5-0) 27; Auburn (4-1) 26; Princeton (6-0) 24; Iowa State (5-2) 11; Nevada (4-0) 11; Southern California (4-2) 7; Liberty (6-0) 6; Bradley (6-0) 4; Arkansas (4-3) 2; Cincinnati (5-0) 2; Florida (4-2) 1.

Monday's men's scores

EAST

Bryant 108, Springfield 74

Fordham 93, Manhattan 61

Rutgers 71, St. Peter's 40

UConn 84, New Hampshire 64

SOUTH

E. Kentucky 77, Troy 76

Elon 82, Presbyterian 79

Louisiana-Lafayette 78, Loyola (NO) 54

UMBC 80, Hampton 76

MIDWEST

Northwestern 89, N. Illinois 67

Oakland 78, Xavier 76

Omaha 104, York (Neb.) 68

S. Dakota St. 92, Mount Marty 70

Utah Tech 73, Lindenwood (Mo.) 66

Wisconsin 71, W. Illinois 49

SOUTHWEST

Ark.-Pine Bluff 85, Arkansas Baptist 60

TCU 101, Houston Christian 64

FAR WEST

San Diego St. 71, Point Loma 51

San Jose St. 78, N. Dakota St. 65

UC Santa Barbara 69, Fresno St. 65

Utah 78, Saint Mary's (Cal.) 71

Washington St. 82, E. Washington 72

Weber St. 107, Skyhawks 45

Men's Top 25 schedule

Wednesday's games

No. 7 Duke at Arkansas

No. 10 Tennessee at No. 17 North Carolina

No. 14 Texas A&M at Virginia

No. 18 Villanova vs. Saint Joseph's

No. 20 Colorado St. vs. Colorado

No. 22 James Madison vs. Buffalo

Thursday's games

No. 13 FAU vs. Liberty

No. 15 Creighton at Oklahoma St.

No. 16 Texas vs. Texas St.

No. 25 Oklahoma vs. Ark.-Pine Bluff

Friday's games

No. 1 Purdue at Northwestern

No. 4 UConn at No. 5 Kansas

No. 6 Houston at Xavier

No. 19 BYU at Fresno St.

Saturday's games

No. 2 Arizona vs. Colgate

No. 3 Marquette at Wisconsin

No. 7 Duke at Georgia Tech

No. 8 Miami vs. Notre Dame

No. 9 Baylor vs. Northwestern St.

No. 11 Gonzaga vs. Southern Cal at Las Vegas

No. 12 Kentucky vs. UNC-Wilmington

No. 13 FAU vs. Coll. of Charleston

No. 17 North Carolina vs. Florida St.

No. 20 Colorado St. vs. Washington at Las Vegas

No. 24 Illinois at Rutgers

Sunday's games

No. 15 Creighton at Nebraska

No. 21 Mississippi St. vs. Southern U.

No. 22 James Madison vs. Keystone

Women's AP Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. South Carolina (36)	5-0	900	1
2. UCLA	6-0	855	2
3. Stanford	7-0	803	4
4. Iowa	7-1	745	5
5. NC State	7-0	740	10
6. Southern Cal	5-0	643	8
7. LSU	7-1	625	7
7. Colorado	6-1	625	3
9. Virginia Tech	5-1	585	9
10. Texas	7-0	560	12
11. UConn	4-2	541	6
12. Utah	5-1	517	10
13. Baylor	5-0	495	14
14. Kansas St	6-1	413	16
15. Florida St.	5-1	409	13
16. Ohio St.	5-1	406	15
17. Indiana	5-1	372	21
18. Notre Dame	5-1	367	17
19. Mississippi	6-1	192	24
20. Tennessee	4-2	186	19
21. Mississippi St.	8-0	181	25
22. Louisville	6-1	155	20
23. Marquette	6-0	76	—
24. North Carolina	5-2	74	18
25. Princeton	4-2	58	—

Others receiving votes: Washington St 55, Creighton 44, Oklahoma 20, Penn St. 16, Florida Gulf Coast 10, UNLV 9, Green Bay 6, Alabama 6, Maryland 3, Gonzaga 3, Davidson 2, BYU 2, Miami 1.

Monday's women's scores

EAST

Iona 67, Wagner 55

SOUTH

Lipscomb 64, MVSU 55

Louisiana-Lafayette 76, Loyola (NO) 47

UAB 85, Jacksonville St. 78, OT

Wofford 65, Southern Wesleyan 42

MIDWEST

Bowling Green 68, Duquesne 66

Miami (Ohio) 58, Xavier 57, OT

Omaha 87, CS Bakersfield 79, OT

Wright St. 89, Marshall 78

SOUTHWEST

Houston Christian 79, Howard Payne 51

Incarnate Word 57, Prairie View 44

FAR WEST

Long Beach St. 68, Pepperdine 53

Montana 108, Dickinson St. 57

San Jose St. 122, Bethesda 28

Women's Top 25 schedule

Wednesday's games

No. 5 NC State vs. Vanderbilt

No. 10 Texas vs. Oral Roberts

No. 18 Notre Dame at No. 20 Tennessee

No. 19 Mississippi vs. No. 22 Louisville

No. 21 Mississippi St. vs. Miami

No. 23 Marquette vs. Memphis

No. 25 Princeton vs. Seton Hall

Thursday's games

No. 1 South Carolina at No. 24 North Carolina

No. 7 LSU vs. No. 9 Virginia Tech

No. 13 Baylor at SMU

No. 15 Florida St. vs. Arkansas

No. 17 Indiana at Maine

Friday's games

No. 3 Stanford at San Diego St.

No. 14 Kansas St. vs. Jackson St.

Saturday's games

No. 4 Iowa vs. Bowling Green

No. 7 Colorado at Air Force

No. 12 Utah vs. BYU

No. 19 Mississippi at Southern Miss.

COLLEGE SOCCER

NCAA Men's Tournament

Quarterfinals

Saturday, Dec. 2

No. 2 Notre Dame vs. Indiana

No. 3 North Carolina vs. Oregon St.

No. 5 West Virginia vs. Loyola Marymount

No. 9 Clemson vs. No. 16 Stanford

Semifinals

Friday, Dec. 8

At Lynn Family Stadium

Louisville, Ky.

Notre Dame-Indiana winner vs. North Carolina-Oregon St. winner

West Virginia-Loyola Marymount winner vs. Clemson-Stanford winner

Championship

Monday, Dec. 11

At Lynn Family Stadium

Louisville, Ky.

Semifinal winners

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

CLEVELAND GUARDIANS — Named Craig Albernaz as bench coach and Kai Correa as field coordinator. Promoted Rouglas Odor to infield coach and Brad Goldberg to bullpen coach.

National League

MIAMI MARLINS — Claimed RHP Ryan Jensen off waivers from the Seattle Mariners.

NEW YORK METS —Named M. Scott Havens president of business operations.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Sony Gray on a three-year contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NEW YORK KNICKS — Signed G Jaylen Martin to a two-way contract. Waived G Duane Washington Jr.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Fired head coach Frank Reich, running backs coach Duce Staley and quarterbacks coach Josh McCown. Named Chris Taylor interim head coach.

CHICAGO BEARS — Elevated LB DeMarquis Gates and DB Christian Matthew from the practice squad to the active roster.

DENVER BRONCOS — Released DE Marcus Haynes from the practice squad.

GREEEN BAY PACKERS — Released WR Bo Melton and RB James Robinson. Designated DB Eric Stokes to return from injured reserve to practice.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Claimed DE Derek Barnett off waivers from Philadelphia. Waived K Matt Ammendola.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed LT Cam Robinson on injured reserve. Promoted OL Chandler Brewer from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed OL Keaton Sutherland and OL Jimmy Murray to the practice squad.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Waived WR John Ross from the retired list.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Waived CB Marcus Peters and S Roderic Teamer.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Elevated LB Anthony Barr from the practice squad to the active roster.

NEW YORK JETS — Re-signed OL Chris Glaser to the practice squad.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Reinstated DE Robert Beal from injured reserve. Placed S George Odum on injured reserve.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Signed CB Kelvin Joseph and WR Cody White to the practice squad. Released OLB Levi Bell and OG Ben Brown from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Minnesota F Ryan Hartman two games for a dangerous trip on Detroit's Alex DeBrincat.

ANAHEIM DUCKS — Reassigned RW Jaxsen Wiebe from San Diego (AHL) to Tulsa (ECHL).

LOS ANGELES KINGS — Returned D Jacob Moverare to Ontario (AHL).

MINNESOTA WILD — Fired head coach Dean Evanson and assistant Bob Woods. Named John Hynes head coach.

NEW YORK ISLANDERS — Recalled D Grant Hutton from Bridgeport (AHL).

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Reassigned D Mason Millman from Reading (ECHL) to Lehigh Valley (AHL).

SAN JOSE SHARKS — Signed RW Justin Bailey to a one-year, two-way contract.

SEATTLE KRAKEN — Recalled F Andrew Poturalski from Coachella Valley (AHL).

TORONTO MAPLE LEAFS — Recalled D Simon Benoit and LW Bobby McMann from Toronto (AHL).

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Activated D Martin Fehervary from injured reserve.

WINNIPEG JETS — Loaned C Dominic Toninato to Manitoba (AHL). Reassigned D Dmitri Kuzmin from Norfolk (ECHL) to Manitoba.

COLLEGE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE — Hired Tre Lamb as head football coach.

TEXAS A&M — Hired Mike Elko as head football coach.

AP SPORTLIGHT

Nov. 29

1890 — Navy beats Army 24-0 in the first matchup of this historic series.

1934 — The Detroit Lions play their first traditional Thanksgiving Day home game and lose to the Chicago Bears 19-16 in front of 26,000. CBS Radio does the first national broadcast of an NFL game.

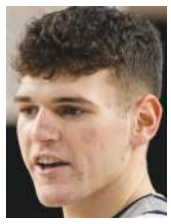
Clingan, Huskies win big

BY PAT EATON-ROBB

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — UConn's players like to point out that they are a different team than the one that took home the national championship in April.

But they were happy to carry a bit of that squad's history with them on Monday night, beating New Hampshire 84-64 to set a Division I record with the program's 24th consecutive victory over a nonconference opponent by double digits.



Clingan

The No. 4 Huskies haven't lost outside of the Big East since falling to New Mexico State in the first round of the 2022 NCAA Tournament. They broke a record held by North Carolina, which had 23 consecutive double-digit wins over nonconference opponents in 2008 and 2009.

"It's great to share a record with the men from last year's team," coach Dan Hurley said. "The men from this year's team and the men from last year's team are just such great men."

The Huskies (7-0) will take their streak into Lawrence, Kansas, on Friday to face the fifth-ranked Jayhawks.

Donovan Clingan, a 7-foot-2 sophomore who was part of both squads, hit 12 of his 13 shots from the floor to finish with a career-high 29 points.

Cam Spencer and Tristen Newton each scored 17 points and Newton also pulled down 10 rebounds. Backup center Samson Johnson chipped in with 10 points for Connecticut, which outscored New Hampshire 52-8 in the paint.

Jaxson Baker had 15 of his 20 points in the first half for New Hampshire (4-3). Ahmad Robinson and Clarence Daniels each added 19 points.

Spencer, a Rutgers transfer, hit two early 3-pointers to reach 200 for his career, and UConn used a 16-0 run to take a 24-8 lead midway through the first half.

Baker tried to keep New Hampshire close, hitting five of his first six shots from behind the arc. But the Wildcats had no answer for UConn's size underneath.

Clingan had 16 points in the first 20 minutes and the Huskies led 45-30 at intermission.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	21	14	4	3	31	71	55
Florida	21	13	7	1	27	63	55
Detroit	20	11	6	3	25	74	60
Tampa Bay	22	10	7	5	25	79	78
Toronto	19	10	6	3	23	67	66
Buffalo	22	10	10	2	22	64	71
Montreal	21	9	10	2	20	59	75
Ottawa	17	8	9	0	16	60	59

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
N.Y. Rangers	20	15	4	1	31	67	50
Carolina	20	12	8	0	24	67	67
Philadelphia	21	11	9	1	23	64	58
Washington	18	10	6	2	22	44	50
N.Y. Islanders	20	8	6	6	22	52	62
Pittsburgh	20	10	10	0	20	63	52
New Jersey	19	9	9	1	19	67	70
Columbus	23	7	12	4	18	67	79

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	21	15	6	0	30	80	59
Dallas	19	12	5	2	26	66	57
Winnipeg	20	12	6	2	26	71	59
St. Louis	20	11	8	1	23	60	62
Nashville	20	10	10	0	20	67	64
Arizona	20	9	9	2	20	65	63
Minnesota	19	5	10	4	14	57	77
Chicago	19	6	13	0	12	49	70

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	22	14	5	3	31	70	52
Los Angeles	19	13	3	3	29	76	47
Vancouver	22	14	7	1	29	88	56
Calgary	22	9	10	3	21	64	75
Seattle	22	8	9	5	21	62	78
Anaheim	21	9	12	0	18	58	73
Edmonton	20	7	12	1	15	66	74
San Jose	22	5	15	2	12	36	90

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.

Sunday's games

Detroit 4, Minnesota 1
St. Louis 4, Chicago 2
Carolina 3, Columbus 2
Nashville 3, Winnipeg 2
Edmonton 8, Anaheim 2

Monday's games

Buffalo 5, N.Y. Rangers 1
Columbus 5, Boston 2
Florida 5, Ottawa 0
Colorado 4, Tampa Bay 1
Calgary 2, Vegas 1, OT
San Jose 2, Washington 1

Tuesday's games

Florida at Toronto
N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
Carolina at Philadelphia
Dallas at Winnipeg
Pittsburgh at Nashville
St. Louis at Minnesota
Seattle at Chicago
Tampa Bay at Arizona
Vegas at Edmonton
Anaheim at Vancouver

Wednesday's games

Montreal at Columbus
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Los Angeles

Thursday's games

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

Scoring leaders

Through Monday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Nikita Kucherov, TB	21	15	21	36
Quinn Hughes, VAN	22	8	25	33
J.T. Miller, VAN	22	13	20	33
Cale Makar, COL	21	6	26	32
David Pastrnak, BOS	21	13	18	31
Artemi Panarin, NYR	20	11	19	30
Elias Pettersson, VAN	22	8	21	29
Brayden Point, TB	22	11	18	29
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	21	7	21	28
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	20	9	19	28
Mikko Rantanen, COL	21	12	15	27

ROUNDUP

Blue Jackets beat slumping Bruins

Boston suffers 3rd straight loss

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Yegor Chinakhov had a goal and an assist, lifting the Columbus Blue Jackets over Boston 5-2 on Monday night, handing the Bruins their third straight loss.

Dmitri Voronkov, Ivan Provorov, Kirill Marchenko and Justin Danforth also scored for Columbus, and Boone Jenner added a pair of assists. Spencer Martin stopped 31 shots for Columbus, which has won three of its last four games and beat Boston for the first time in seven games, dating back to Jan. 14, 2020.

The scores by Chinakhov, Voronkov, Provorov and Marchenko marked the first time in NHL history four Russians scored in a single game for the same team.

"Everybody chipped in," Blue Jackets coach Pascal Vincent said. "Everybody had a good game. We played really well as a team, and our goalie was really good when we needed him to be. I'm happy about it, but not overly surprised. Regardless of the score, just the way we played. We have very good people, and they want to be here, and they want to do well."

Matthew Poitras and John Beecher scored for Boston and Jeremy Swayman stopped 17 shots before being replaced in the second period by Linus Ullmark, who stopped 19 shots. The Atlantic Division-leading Bruins haven't lost three consecutive games since April 2022.

"There (are) a lot of things to address and move forward, but we've got to move forward," Bruins coach Jim Montgomery said.

JAY LAPRETE/AP

The Columbus Blue Jackets' Kirill Marchenko, center, celebrates his goal against the Boston Bruins with teammates Zach Werenski, left, and Boone Jenner during the third period Monday in Columbus, Ohio.

Sabres 5, Rangers 1: Alex Tuch scored twice and Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen stopped 25 shots as visiting Buffalo beat first-place New York.

Casey Mittelstadt had a goal and two assists, J.J. Peterka and Kyle Okposo also scored and Owen Power added two assists as the Sabres bounced back from a 7-2 loss at New Jersey two nights earlier.

Flames 2, Golden Knights 1 (OT): MacKenzie Weegar scored with 5 seconds left on the clock in overtime, lifting host Calgary past Vegas.

A.J. Greer also scored for the Flames, and Dan Vladar stopped 27 shots. Calgary won for the second time in three games and is 5-2-1 in its last eight games overall and 3-0-1 in the last four at home.

Sharks 2, Capitals 1: Luke Kunin scored a go-ahead power play-goal in the third period, Mackenzie Blackwood stopped 33 shots and host San Jose beat Washington.

Fabian Zetterlund also scored for the Sharks, who won back-to-back games for just the second time all season and earned points in three consecutive games for the first time.

Avalanche 4, Lightning 1: Ryan Johansen scored twice, Alexandar Georgiev made 37 saves and host Colorado won its fourth straight.

Cale Makar added a goal and an assist, while Valeri Nichushkin sealed the win with an empty-net score. Makar now has 20 assists in November, moving the Avalanche defenseman one away from matching the most in a month in franchise history. Peter Stastny holds the mark with 21 assists in October 1983.

Panthers 5, Senators 0: Sam Reinhart scored two goals and Sergei Bobrovsky made 20 saves to lead visiting Florida over Ottawa.

Sam Bennett had a goal and an assist for the Panthers, who had dropped two in a row. Carter Verhaeghe and Eetu Luostarinen also scored, and Aleksander Barkov had three assists.

Wild replace coach Evason with Hynes

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

The Minnesota Wild fired coach Dean Evason and replaced him with John Hynes on Monday after losing seven straight games and 14 of their first 19 to start to the NHL season.

General manager Bill Guerin announced the moves, including the firing of assistant Bob Woods. Hynes, the former New Jersey and Nashville coach, will take over. The Wild planned a news conference with Guerin and Hynes for Tuesday, prior to their game against St. Louis.

Evason, 59, had three full seasons in charge of the Wild, who gave him his first head coaching job in the NHL on Feb. 14, 2020, when Bruce Boudreau was fired

Evason

Hynes

and he was promoted from his assistant role. He went 147-77-27 in 251 regular-season games and 8-15 in the postseason without winning any series.

Hynes, 48, is 284-255-63 in eight NHL seasons. The Predators fired him on May 30, six weeks after missing the playoffs. They lost in the opening round in each of the three previous years, starting in 2020 when he was hired midseason to replace the fired Peter Laviolette. The Devils fired Hynes about a month before he was plucked off the market by the Predators.

Hynes was a coach in the AHL, like Evason, prior to his first NHL head coaching position. Hynes was named AHL Coach of the Year with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in 2011. The native of Warwick, R.I., played at Boston University from 1993-97, playing in four Frozen Fours and winning the 1995 NCAA championship.

During the pandemic break, Guerin decided to drop the interim tag and give Evason the job once the Wild resumed practice. They lost a best-of-five series to Vancouver in the qualifying round that year, then dropped best-of-seven, first-round matchups with Vegas in 2021, St. Louis in 2022 and Dallas in 2023.

The 2021-22 ending was the most disappointing, when the Wild posted a franchise-record 113 points in the regular season for the second-best record in the Western Conference behind eventual champion Colorado. They lost to the Blues in six games.

"Dean did an excellent job during his tenure with the Minnesota Wild, especially as head coach of our team," Guerin said in a statement distributed by the club. "I am very thankful for his hard work and dedication to our organization. I would also like to thank Bob for his hard work during his time as an assistant coach with the Wild. I wish Dean, Bob and their families all the best in the future."

NBA

ROUNDUP

Embiid, 76ers beat Lakers by 44

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — LeBron James never endured a lopsided basketball defeat like the one he suffered with Los Angeles in Philadelphia.

James has lost big before. His Miami Heat once got trounced by 36 points in the NBA Finals. The Indiana Pacers beat James and the Lakers by 42 in 2019.

But this blowout was an all-timer: By the time Joel Embiid clinched a triple-double in the third quarter, the 76ers were on their way to a 138-94 win over the Lakers on Monday night, the 44-point loss now the worst in James' career that dates to 2003.

"What needs to change in order for that to not happen again? A lot," James said, without elaboration.

The miserable milestones piled up for the Lakers. It was their worst loss to the 76ers in 290 games in the series.

It was so bad, James didn't even grab a rebound.

OK, one more: The 76ers beat the Lakers for the seventh straight time.

"That's my favorite team," Embiid said, again noting he learned of basketball through Kobe Bryant. "Any time I play against them, you want to get the win. But I do it every night anyways against every other team."

The box score tells part of the story. The 76ers hit 22 3-pointers to just seven for the Lakers, and even when Embiid sat out the entire fourth quarter, the 76ers still outscored them 40-14.

"We got killed on the 3-point line," James said. "They made shots. Give them credit."

The reigning NBA MVP, Embiid had 30 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists for his sixth career triple-double. It was Embiid's first of the season and his seventh career game with 10-plus assists.

MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid goes up for a shot against the Los Angeles Lakers' Anthony Davis on Monday in Philadelphia. Embiid had his first triple-double of the season as the 76ers won 138-94.

Embiid's anticipated showdown with James never really materialized. James scored 18 points in 29 minutes but nothing he did could make a dent in the 76ers' lead. He has now played more minutes than any player in NBA history, with playoff time included.

"That doesn't mean much to me," James said.

Tyrese Maxey scored 31 points for the 76ers. Anthony Davis had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers.

Nuggets 113, Clippers 104: Reggie Jackson scored 35 points, DeAndre Jordan had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and visiting Denver rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Los Angeles without Nikola Jokic.

Former Clippers Jackson and Jordan combined for 20 points in the fourth, when the Nuggets trailed by 11 to start. Jackson began and ended a 22-6 spurt with 3-pointers that put the Nuggets ahead 99-94. In between, he fed Jordan for two vicious dunks.

The Nuggets were missing starters Jokic, Jamal Murray and Aaron Gordon, who average a combined 58.2 points. Jokic sat out the second game of a back-to-back because of low back pain. Murray has a right hamstring strain and Gordon has a right heel strain.

Wizards 126, Pistons 107: Kyle Kuzma had 32 points and 12 rebounds as visiting Washington ended a nine-game losing streak with a rout of Detroit in a matchup of the NBA's worst teams.

Washington (3-14) won for the first time since a 132-116 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Nov. 8. The Pistons (2-15) have lost 14 straight after beating the Chicago Bulls 118-102 on Oct. 28.

Trail Blazers 114, Pacers 110: Jerami Grant scored 34 points and Deandre Ayton had 22 points and 13 rebounds to power visiting Portland past Indiana.

Malcolm Brogdon added 24 points for the Trail Blazers, including a game-sealing basket in the closing seconds.

Jazz 114, Pelicans 112: Rookie Keyonte George scored a season-high 19 points to lead host Utah over New Orleans for a sweep of their two-game series.

Jordan Clarkson chipped in 16 points and 10 assists for the Jazz. Walker Kessler added 14 points and eight rebounds off the bench. Simone Fontecchio scored 14 points.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	4	.765	—
Philadelphia	12	5	.706	1
New York	9	7	.563	3½
Brooklyn	8	8	.500	4½
Toronto	8	9	.471	5

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	12	5	.706	—
Miami	10	7	.588	2
Atlanta	8	8	.500	3½
Charlotte	5	10	.333	6
Washington	3	14	.176	9

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	12	5	.706	—
Indiana	9	7	.563	2½
Cleveland	9	8	.529	3
Chicago	5	13	.278	7½
Detroit	2	15	.118	10

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	10	6	.625	—
Houston	8	6	.571	1
New Orleans	9	9	.500	2
Memphis	3	13	.188	7
San Antonio	3	14	.176	7½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	12	4	.750	—
Oklahoma City	11	5	.688	1
Denver	12	6	.667	1
Utah	6	11	.353	6½
Portland	5	12	.294	7½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	11	6	.647	—
Sacramento	9	6	.600	1
L.A. Lakers	10	8	.556	1½
Golden State	8	9	.471	3
L.A. Clippers	7	9	.438	3½

Monday's games

Philadelphia 138, L.A. Lakers 94
Washington 126, Detroit 107
Portland 114, Indiana 110
Utah 114, New Orleans 112
Denver 113, L.A. Clippers 104

Tuesday's games

Atlanta at Cleveland
Charlotte at New York
Chicago at Boston
Milwaukee at Miami
Toronto at Brooklyn
Oklahoma City at Minnesota
Houston at Dallas
Golden State at Sacramento

Wednesday's games

L.A. Lakers at Detroit
Washington at Orlando
Phoenix at Toronto
Philadelphia at New Orleans
Utah at Memphis
Houston at Denver
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento

Point differentials may be key for In-Season Tournament

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — Say this for the NBA: There was sure to be some drama on the final night of group play in the inaugural In-Season Tournament.

Eight games were to be played Tuesday — all potentially having implications on who would advance.

All teams play four games in the group stage; 14 teams are already done and the other 16 teams wrapped up their group slates Tuesday. Every group winner will reach the quarterfinals, and the best second-place team from each conference will earn a wild-card spot.

There's a really good chance that tiebreakers to separate teams with 3-1 (or maybe even 2-2) records would come into play. The first tiebreaker is head-to-head, and the second is point differential — which certainly raises the possibility that a team with a lead as time is running out in an already-decided game might look for more points in the final seconds.

"We'll just focus on trying to get a win tomorrow," said Miami coach Erik Spoelstra, whose team hosted Milwaukee on Tuesday. "That's the most important thing. We know what the differential has to be. You can't go into a game thinking that. That's not how you win games against good teams."

Indiana and the Los Angeles Lakers are the only two teams that secured quarterfinal spots prior to Tuesday. Both went 4-0 in group play and are assured of having a home game for the start of the knockout round next week — either Dec. 4 or Dec. 5.

From there, 16 teams remained alive for the remaining six quarterfinal spots. The easiest things to figure out are these: if Milwaukee beat Miami and if Sacramento beat Golden State, then the Bucks and Kings would be the other two quarterfinal hosts.

Other than that, good luck figuring out all the possible tiebreakers.

"I know Tuesday is complicated," Boston forward Jayson Tatum said. "There's a million different things that can happen. So, that (stuff) is a little tricky. But I think it's been great. It gives guys something to look forward to early in the season."

The Celtics are one of the teams that could see their tournament fate decided by the point differential tiebreaker. Tatum likes the tournament in general; that tiebreaker, not so much.

"It's all about respecting the game and respecting your opponents," Tatum said. "So, that part, I'm not a fan of."

Who was still alive?

This one is easy: the Pacers and Lakers are in, and the other six quarterfinal spots went to some combination of these teams: Cleveland, Philadelphia, Atlanta, Milwaukee, New York, Miami, Charlotte, Orlando, Boston, Brooklyn, Phoenix, New Orleans, Houston, Sacramento, Minnesota and Golden State.

Who is out?

Detroit, Washington, Toronto, Chicago, Utah, Portland, Memphis, Denver, Dallas, the Los Angeles Clippers, Oklahoma City and San Antonio were already eliminated before Tuesday's games.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

ABBIE PARR/AP

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh celebrates with running back Blake Corum after Corum scored a touchdown during the first half against Minnesota on Oct. 7 in Minneapolis.

Wolverines can't wait for Harbaugh's return

BY LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan quarterback J.J. McCarthy is looking forward to taking some pregame hits in Indianapolis — friendly blows that will be delivered by his coach, Jim Harbaugh, who has completed the Big Ten's suspension stemming from a sign-stealing investigation.

"Every game and it's usually right before kickoff, he'll come and find me," McCarthy said. "He's all about getting that first hit and the butterflies just disintegrate from your body. He tries to do his best to simulate that.

"It's a nice little weekly tradition that I can't wait to get back."

Harbaugh opened his press conference Monday by hailing his assistants and players for nearly 10 minutes for their performance in a 30-24 win over Ohio State, a game he watched at home with his wife while he served the final game of his suspension.

"Who could possibly have it better than us?" Harbaugh asked reporters ahead of his return to the No. 2 Wolverines' sideline, which will come Saturday night in Indianapolis in the Big Ten championship game against the No. 18 Iowa Hawkeyes.

Offensive coordinator Sherrone Moore filled in for Harbaugh vs. the now-sixth-ranked Buckeyes. He's happy to hand the reins back.

"I can't wait for the opportunity to have him back on the field, to have the players see their leader, and the staff see their leader there. It's going to make it even more sweeter," he said.

The Wolverines started the season without Harbaugh, who was suspended by the school for three games for breaking NCAA rules, and closed it as he was banned by the Big Ten from leading them at the stadium on game days at Penn State and Maryland and against Ohio State.

> **"We've been able to take care of business, but having him back on the sideline for the Big Ten championship will mean a lot."**
>
> **Blake Corum**
> Michigan RB

Michigan fired linebackers coach Chris Partridge on Nov. 17, one day after the school and Big Ten reached an agreement in which Harbaugh would serve the suspension and the conference would end its investigation.

Partridge said Monday in a social media post he had no knowledge of the alleged in-person scouting and sign-stealing scheme for which the NCAA is still investigating the Wolverines and that he was fired for failing to abide by the school's directive to avoid discussing the inquiry with "anyone associated with the program."

Moore and players insist Harbaugh is missed on game days, despite their sustained success without him on the sideline.

"I'm super excited to have coach Harbaugh back," running back Blake Corum said. "It's been a long three games, but it's been a good three games. Just having his enthusiasm back, his pregame speeches, just having his presence on the sideline will go a long way. We've been able to take care of business, but having him back on the sideline for the Big Ten championship will mean a lot.

"It's going to be great. it's going to be like a reunion."

Kansas State, Miami QBs entering transfer portal

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

Kansas State quarterback Will Howard and Miami quarterback Tyler Van Dyke were two of the biggest names who announced their intentions to enter college football's transfer portal Monday.

In a social media post, Howard thanked Kansas State coach Chris Klieman, his teammates and the Wildcats' fanbase before concluding: "I'm looking forward to this next chapter in my life and in the possibilities that lie ahead."

Van Dyke also made his announcement on social media. "I have created lifelong friendships and memories, which I will always cherish. I am deeply appreciative of the opportunities and experiences that have shaped me during my time here," he wrote.

Howard led the Wildcats to the Big 12 title last season and another bowl game this season. Kansas State running back Treshaun Ward also announced his plans to enter the portal Monday.

Most teams wrapped up regular seasons this past weekend, leading some to declare their intent to transfer. Howard, Ward and Van Dyke are among those who are graduate transfers, meaning they could enter the portal and become immediately eligible, while players who have yet to graduate must wait until Dec. 4 to make their announcements official.

Howard emerged as the Wildcats' starter last year after injuries to Adrian Martinez, and he led them to an upset of eventual national runner-up TCU in the Big 12 title game. Howard was the clear-cut starter entering this season, though he was pushed at times by freshman Avery Johnson, and threw for 2,643 yards with 24 touchdown passes and eight interceptions.

Howard, who will have one year of eligibility left, had tears in his eyes as he walked off the field after his final game at Kansas State on Saturday. He accounted for two touchdowns in a 42-35 loss to Iowa State in a game played in heavy snow.

Howard's departure means that Johnson, one of the nation's best dual-threat quarterbacks coming out of high school, will likely start for the Wildcats (8-4, 6-3 Big 12) in their bowl game. Johnson threw for 301 yards and three touchdowns but may be even more dangerous on the ground — he took over for Howard against Texas Tech and ran for five TDs in a 38-21 victory.

Miami's situation is not as clear at quarterback for its bowl game. Van Dyke — who had 11 games of at least 300 yards in his career — lost his starting job earlier this month to freshman Emory Williams, who got hurt late in Miami's loss to Florida State. Van Dyke started the final two games of the regular season.

His departure means Miami has just one healthy scholarship quarterback on its roster, that being Jacurri Brown — who did not throw a pass this season.

The Hurricanes — who also saw running back Don Chaney Jr., defensive lineman Jahfari Harvey and linebacker Corey Flagg announce their decisions to enter the portal on Monday — will be busy in using the portal to make quick roster upgrades for 2024.

"It's the wild, wild West," Miami coach Mario Cristobal said earlier Monday in his weekly appearance on WQAM-AM. "It really is. It's like completely out of control. And the NCAA, rightfully so, has taken a hard-line stance. If people are messing around and tampering, they're going to slam you. They really are. ... But you need to be ready to upgrade right away."

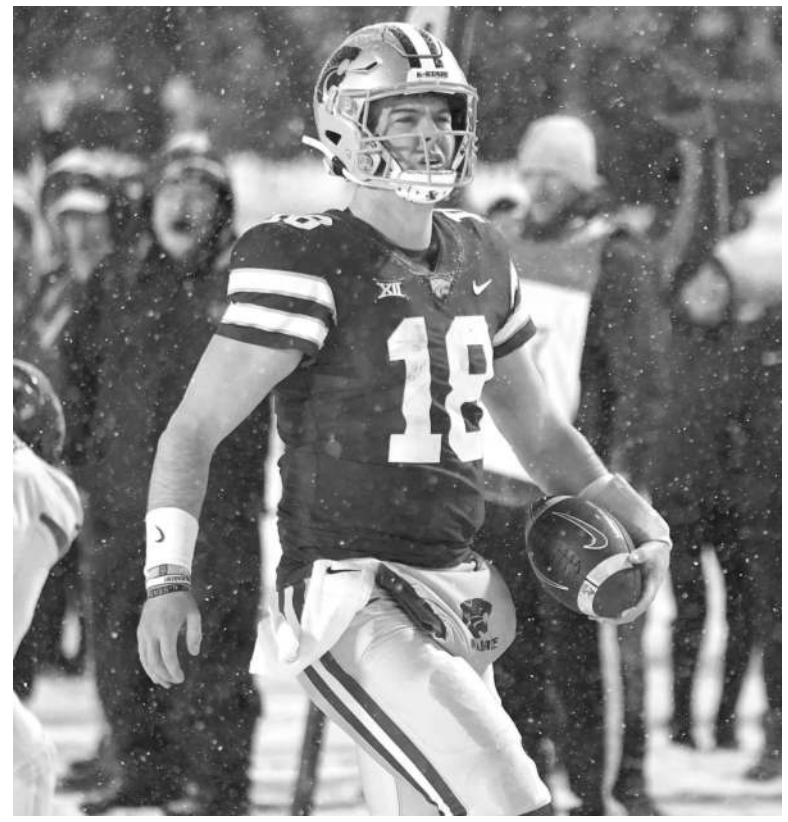
Van Dyke was the Atlantic Coast Conference's rookie of the year in 2021 under then-offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee, now the coach at SMU. He leaves Miami second on the school's all-time list in completion percentage (63.7%), fourth in touchdown passes (54), fourth in completions (581) and sixth in yards (7,469).

Ward, who arrived at Kansas State from Florida State, is transferring again after ceding playing time to D.J. Giddens throughout the season. He ran for 643 yards and five touchdowns while adding two touchdown receptions.

Another veteran QB hitting the portal Monday was Mississippi State's Will Rogers, who threw for 12,315 yards in four seasons with the Bulldogs; in three of those seasons he was running the late coach Mike Leach's Air Raid offense.

Rogers posted on social media before a season-ending loss to Ole Miss that he would transfer.

Notre Dame wide receiver and running back Chris Tyree, and offensive lineman Zeke Correll, also entered the portal. Each has played at least 40 games for the Fighting Irish.



CHARLIE RIEDEL/AP

Kansas State quarterback Will Howard announced he will transfer despite leading the Wildcats to the 2022 Sugar Bowl. Freshman Avery Johnson will likely be the starter for the Wildcats' bowl game.

COLIN HACKLEY/AP

Miami quarterback Tyler Van Dyke entered the transfer portal after losing his starting job.

ABBIE PARR/AP

Minnesota Twins pitcher Sonny Gray throws against the Toronto Blue Jays in Game 2 of an AL wild-card playoff series Oct. 4 in Minneapolis. Gray finished second in the AL Cy Young Award voting this past season.

Gray gets 3-year, $75M contract with Cardinals

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

The St. Louis Cardinals made their biggest splash yet in an attempt to revamp their lackluster rotation, agreeing with AL Cy Young runner-up Sonny Gray on a $75 million, three-year contract Monday to anchor their staff heading into next season.

Gray's deal includes a $30 million team option for 2027 with a $5 million buyout, which could make the agreement worth $100 million over four seasons.

John Mozeliak, the Cardinals' president of baseball operations, had already signed free-agent right-handers Kyle Gibson and Lance Lynn to one-year deals. But Mozeliak also said the Cardinals were not at "the finish line," and a week later, they have one of the best pitchers on the free-agent market at the front of their rotation.

"We were hoping to sign a couple of pitchers we knew we could count on for innings," Mozeliak said, "and if we could accomplish that, we were hoping we could do something a little bigger, a little longer, and obviously that's where Sonny fits in."

The 34-year-old Gray went 8-8 with a 2.79 ERA for Minnesota last season. He turned down a qualifying offer from the Twins, who will get an additional pick in next year's amateur draft as compensation for losing him, currently No. 33.

St. Louis will lose its second-highest selection. It could be a small price to pay for a big boost to its rotation.

"Where I am in my career," Gray said during a news conference at Busch Stadium, "I want to win. I'm coming to an organization like St. Louis — the tradition, just walking in here this morning, walking around seeing everything — the history is there. The feel is there. It's just a baseball town and city and a place that I'm thrilled to be able to come and be part of it."

The Cardinals went 71-91 last season for their worst record since 1995, and the biggest culprit was pitching. Their rotation had a 5.08 ERA, fifth-worst in the major leagues, and when the bullpen was added to the mix, their 4.79 ERA ranked 24th.

The Cardinals only had right-hander Miles Mikolas and left-hander Steven Matz under contract for 2024, so it made sense for them to move quickly and sign Lynn and Gibson to absorb innings at the back of the rotation.

Gray is expected to be right at the front of the rotation.

The former first-round pick of the A's spent four seasons in Oakland, struggled during the 2018 season with the Yankees, then had a breakthrough after a 2019 trade to the Reds. He went 23-20 with a 3.89 ERA over three seasons in Cincinnati.

Gray was dealt to Minnesota last year, where his season was derailed by hamstring and pectoral injuries. But he bounced back with the best season of his 11-year career, finishing second to the Yankees' Gerrit Cole in AL Cy Young voting.

"Going into the offseason we knew he was going to be someone of high interest," Mozeliak said. "The real question became the timing. How do we accomplish what we felt like we had to accomplish, and do it in an order where the music didn't stop and we were left standing? We feel good about where we are today because we were able to add these three arms."

Gray said the Cardinals were not the first team to discuss a deal this offseason. In fact, Gray and his agent, Bo McKinnis, were moving ahead with other offers and starting to imagine how he would fit in with other clubs.

"Then you do finally get a call and you get intrigued," Gray said. "You move down the road and once it becomes clear, I did tell Bo, 'This is the place. Let's make it work.' And I don't know if a lot of free agents say that but it's just who I am."

Gray said he spoke to several current and former Cardinals, including Adam Wainwright, who just wrapped up an 18-year big league career spent entirely in St. Louis. All of them spoke highly of the club, the fanbase and the culture they created.

"It's a place that every time I've come here as a visitor, I've looked at the stadium and said, 'Wow, this place is incredible,'" Gray said. "I looked around the seats and I saw the fans, and the fans continued to show up and support this team. Everyone raves about St. Louis, the Cardinals, the fans, and how the fans support you. How they are hard on you. How they expect you to win games, expect greatness, which is something as a player — as a competitor — that is something that you want."

Week 12 supports idea of lack of consistency, clarity in enforcement

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — When his teammate Kareem Jackson was suspended for a second time last week for the kind of hits the NFL is trying to get rid of, Denver Broncos star safety Justin Simmons lamented that the league lacked both consistency and clarity in its rules enforcement.

Week 12 showed Simmons was spot on.

In Buffalo's 37-34 overtime loss at Philadelphia, Bills quarterback Josh Allen was on both ends of some dubious decisions by referee Shawn Hochuli's crew.

Allen, who has a habit of throwing his head back after contact, did his best impression of a soccer player flopping on the pitch on the Bills' opening drive of overtime. It resulted in a roughing-the-passer penalty on Philadelphia linebacker Nicholas Morrow, moving the ball well within field-goal range.

Earlier in the game, Eagles linebacker Haason Reddick got away with a horse collar tackle when he corralled Allen outside the pocket and flung him violently to the ground for a sack.

"Josh Allen was out of the pocket, so there should have been a foul on this play," CBS rules analyst Gene Steratore said.

In Sunday night's primetime slot, the Chargers were driving for a touchdown on their opening possession when scrambling Los Angeles quarterback Justin Herbert was hit out of bounds by Baltimore Ravens safety Geno Stone and a yellow flag came out.

Only the penalty wasn't on Stone but on Chargers offensive lineman Jamaree Salyer, who came to his quarterback's defense and drew a 15-yard punishment. So instead of first-and-goal from the 3, the Chargers faced third-and-19 from the 21 and they settled for a field goal in what became a 20-10 loss.

After the game, pool reporter Joe Reedy of the Associated Press asked referee Alan Eck why there was no penalty on Stone. Eck said it was a judgment call that Stone committed to and began the hit before Herbert was clearly out of bounds.

"So the ruling on the field was that the quarterback was trying to gain yardage," Eck said. "While he was still in bounds, the defender committed to the tackle. And as his foot landed out of bounds, the defender made contact. So, since the defender already committed to the tackle while the quarterback was in bounds, it was deemed a legal hit."

Eck went on to say Salyer's "reaction was over the top."

And in Denver's 29-12 win over the Cleveland Browns, Simmons' teammate, outside linebacker Baron Browning, was whistled for unnecessary roughness on what looked to a lot of people like a textbook hit of Dorian Thompson-Robinson, even though it knocked Cleveland's rookie quarterback from the game with a concussion.

Browning didn't dip his head to hit with the crown of his helmet. He led with his shoulder, targeted the chest and didn't land on the quarterback.

But when Thompson-Robinson crumbled to the grass at his goal line, his lip bloody, an official ran over to check on him and only then did he throw the flag.

"I didn't think it was a dirty hit, but they called it, so what can I do?" Browning said of the hit that knocked DTR from the game. "We can't control everything, but we can control the response and we got a turnover."

BART YOUNG/AP

Denver Broncos safety Justin Simmons has publicly lamented a lack of clarity and consistency in the NFL's rules enforcement, and the outcomes of the Week 12 games may have given that idea more support.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Miami	8	3	0	.727	339	251
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	328	227
N.Y. Jets	4	7	0	.364	163	238
New England	2	9	0	.182	148	248

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Jacksonville	8	3	0	.727	254	225
Houston	6	5	0	.545	259	232
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	269	268
Tennessee	4	7	0	.364	185	224

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	324	187
Cleveland	7	4	0	.636	239	209
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	182	205
Cincinnati	5	6	0	.455	212	242

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	8	3	0	.727	256	181
Denver	6	5	0	.545	246	280
Las Vegas	5	7	0	.417	202	256
L.A. Chargers	4	7	0	.364	269	258

National Conference

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	10	1	0	.909	310	246
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	347	185
N.Y. Giants	4	8	0	.333	159	292
Washington	4	8	0	.333	246	350

South

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Atlanta	5	6	0	.455	213	232
New Orleans	5	6	0	.455	229	222
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	212	227
Carolina	1	10	0	.091	173	292

North

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Detroit	8	3	0	.727	294	258
Minnesota	6	6	0	.500	263	242
Green Bay	5	6	0	.455	231	224
Chicago	4	8	0	.333	242	296

West

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	3	0	.727	310	170
Seattle	6	5	0	.545	229	249
L.A. Rams	5	6	0	.455	232	234
Arizona	2	10	0	.167	206	321

Thursday's games

Green Bay 29, Detroit 22
Dallas 45, Washington 10
San Francisco 31, Seattle 13

Friday's game

Miami 34, N.Y. Jets 13

Sunday's games

Atlanta 24, New Orleans 15
Indianapolis 27, Tampa Bay 20
Jacksonville 24, Houston 21
N.Y. Giants 10, New England 7
Pittsburgh 16, Cincinnati 10
Tennessee 17, Carolina 10
Denver 29, Cleveland 12
L.A. Rams 37, Arizona 14
Kansas City 31, Las Vegas 17
Philadelphia 37, Buffalo 34, OT
Baltimore 20, L.A. Chargers 10

Monday's game

Chicago 12, Minnesota 10

Thursday, Nov. 30

Seattle at Dallas

Sunday, Dec. 3

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

Monday, Dec. 4

Cincinnati at Jacksonville

Calendar

Jan. 13-15 — Wild Card playoff games.
Jan. 20-21 — Division playoff games.
Jan. 28 — AFC and NFC championship games.
Feb. 4 — Pro Bowl games.
Feb. 11 — Super Bowl 58 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.
Feb. 27-March 4 — Scouting Combine at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.
April 25-27 — NFL Draft in Detroit.

Bears use 4 FGs to beat Vikings

By Dave Campbell
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The Chicago Bears finally won one of these up-for-grab games after all those painful finishes.

Cairo Santos made a 30-yard field goal with 10 seconds left, his fourth of the night after a miss on the opening drive, and the Bears had four interceptions of Joshua Dobbs in a defense-dominated 12-10 victory over the Minnesota Vikings on Monday.

"Proud of everyone for fighting to the end, no matter what," said Justin Fields, who lost two fumbles in the fourth quarter before a third-and-10 completion to D.J. Moore for 36 yards put the ball at the 13 with 55 seconds left to set up the winning kick. The Bears (4-8) stopped a 12-game NFC North losing streak, including six in a row against the Vikings (6-6).

"He came back like a true leader does — somebody on the rise as a young quarterback. They just block that out and make that throw," said Moore, who had 11 catches for 114 yards.

The Vikings, who cautiously chose to hold star wide receiver Justin Jefferson out for another game with his hamstring injury, were as helpless as ever on offense with only a field goal by Greg Joseph at the end of the first half to show for the first 54-plus minutes. Dobbs threw the go-ahead score to T.J. Hockenson with 5:54 left, but the Vikings stalled out again after that at the worst possible time.

After Fields rumbled for a first down, Josh Metellus jarred the ball loose that Anthony Barr recovered at the Chicago 43. The Vikings ran for no gain and 1 yard, before a screen pass lost 1 yard. Then Ryan Wright sailed his punt out of bounds, netting just 26 yards, and the Bears had the ball at their 22 instead of being pinned deep. Only 59 seconds came off the clock.

Abbie Parr/AP

Chicago Bears place-kicker Cairo Santos is lifted up in the air by a teammate after kicking a 30-yard field goal during the final seconds of Monday's game against the Minnesota Vikings in Minneapolis.

The Bears, who blew a 12-point lead with about three minutes left last week in defeat at Detroit, forced four turnovers for the second straight game. Jaylon Johnson, Jaquan Brisker, T.J. Edwards and Kyler Gordon had the interceptions, three off deflected balls.

Gordon's diving grab with 12:32 to go and a 9-3 lead gave the Bears the ball at the Minnesota 38. But five plays later, Danielle Hunter — whose takedown of Fields in Chicago on Oct. 15 dislocated the quarterback's thumb and sidelined him for five games — dislodged the ball during a sack that Sheldon Day recovered at the Minnesota 23.

The Vikings went the other way in eight plays for only their second drive of more than 30 yards all game, and the Bears were in danger of another late collapse. But they became just the third team in the NFL in the last 20 years to win without a touchdown, multiple turnovers and 50-plus penalty yards, according to Sportradar.

Fields test

The Bears are giving Fields, the 11th overall pick in the 2021 draft, a close look over the final month-plus of the season before determining whether to move forward with him as the quarterback with the long-term status of the coaching staff simultaneously muddied.

The game plan in the first half looked like it was devised precisely as an audition for Fields, frequently dropping him back in the pocket against the aggressive and unorthodox pressures directed by Vikings defensive coordinator Brian Flores. Fields went 12-for-12 for 100 yards in the first quarter, and while he took three sacks he never made a bad throw while finishing 27-for-37 for 217 yards.

Buffalo: Issues for Bills seem to be in small details

FROM PAGE 24

Buffalo ending a 17-year playoff drought during his first season in 2017. The Bills have qualified for the playoffs five of six times, and are three-time defending AFC East champs.

The only Bills coach to enjoy a better run was Hall of Famer Marv Levy, whose teams qualified for the playoffs eight times and lost four straight Super Bowl appearances during his tenure spanning 1986-97.

While some of the blame falls on McDermott, there remains plenty of good the coach has accomplished in keeping his team afloat — but barely — as Buffalo (6-6) enters a much-needed bye week.

In taking over the defensive play-calling duties, McDermott can be credited for keeping a patchwork unit competitive despite missing three key starters since Week 5.

It's a unit that, before the loss to the Eagles, was allowing 19 points a game. And even against Philadelphia, the Bills gave up 303 yards of offense through regulation and forced the Eagles to punt five times.

McDermott was also decisive in addressing his team's midseason offensive slump by firing coordinator Ken Dorsey. The Josh Allen-led attack has regained its dynamic identity by combining for 66 points and 898 yards in its past two outings under interim coordinator Joe Brady.

In the meantime, the issues are in the small details.

Penalties were a problem Sunday, with Buffalo flagged 11 times.

Tyler Bass had a 34-yard field-goal attempt blocked and also missed from 48.

And McDermott can be second-guessed for his time-management decisions.

He wasted a timeout in a bid to "ice" Jake Elliott before the Eagles kicker lined up for his tying attempt. That left Buffalo with just one timeout, leading to McDermott's decision to have Allen kneel with 20 seconds left in regulation rather than attempt to drive into field-goal range.

McDermott said he was concerned about the rainy conditions and the Eagles' pass rush potentially causing a late turnover.

What's working

Imaginative offensive play calling. Allen finished 29-for-51 for 339 yards by completing at least five passes to four receivers. He also let loose his running prowess with a season-best 81 yards on nine carries and two scores.

What needs help

Clutch plays. The Bills have lost their last six overtime games, including playoffs, since Allen's arrival in 2018. And they're 2-6 in games decided by six points or fewer this year.

Stock up

Davis. A week after not being targeted, the fourth-year receiver finished with six catches for a season-high 109 yards and a touchdown.

Stock down

Bass. The usually reliable fourth-year kicker has missed five of 23 field-goal attempts, one miss short of matching the season low set in his rookie season.

Key number

1-5 — Allen's record this season — and 12-18 overall — when committing a turnover in the second half.

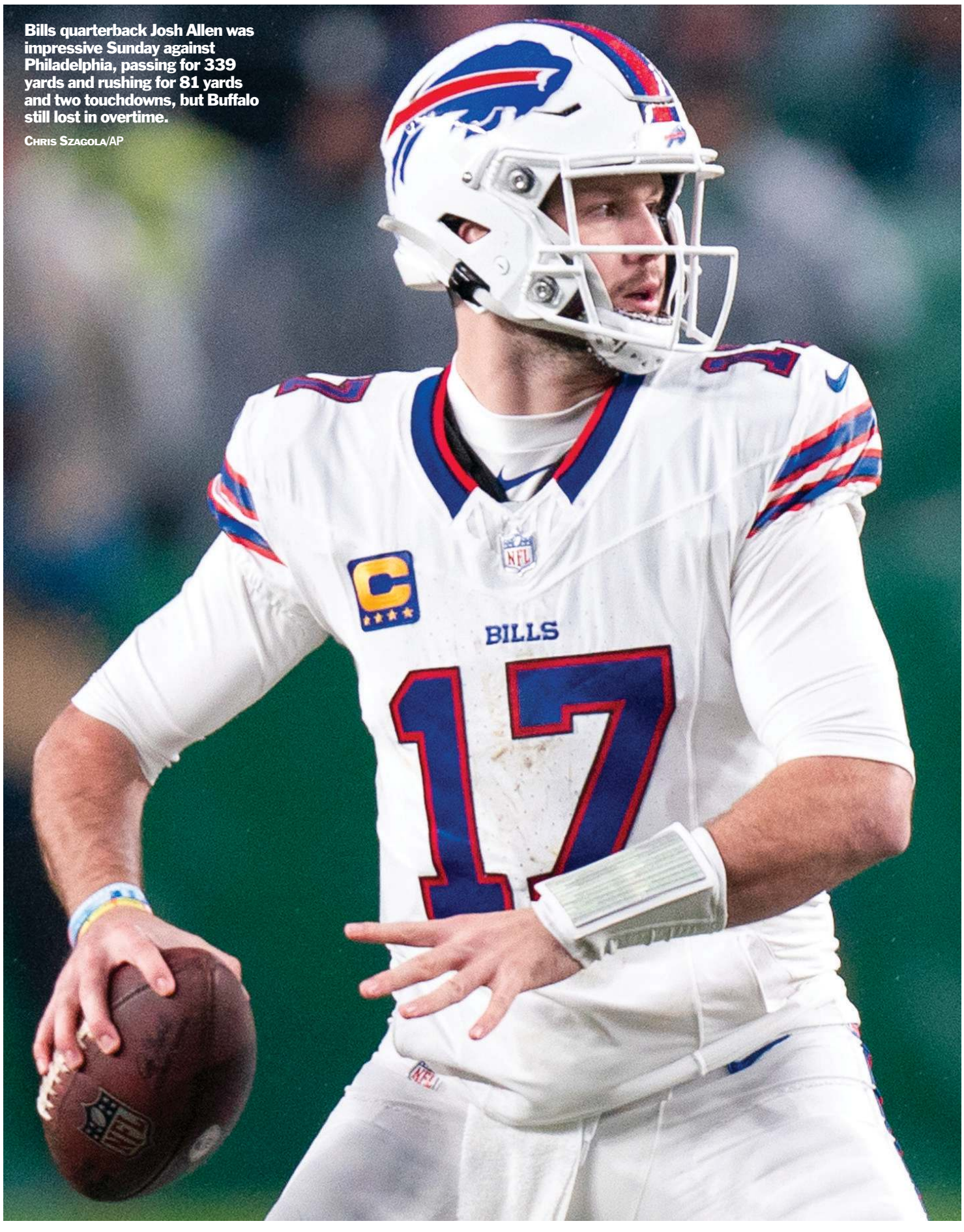
SPORTS

Sonny in St. Louis

Gray signs 3-year, $75 million deal with Cardinals » MLB, Page 22

ANALYSIS

What's going on in Buffalo?



Bills quarterback Josh Allen was impressive Sunday against Philadelphia, passing for 339 yards and rushing for 81 yards and two touchdowns, but Buffalo still lost in overtime.

CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Bills coach feeling heat after latest last-minute lapse

BY JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

There's no nickname yet for Buffalo's latest last-minute collapse. For a growing number of Bills fans, it's one too many to occur under Sean McDermott.

Whether fair or not, frustration has set in among those who turned to social media, ready to turn the page on the seventh-year coach following a 37-34 overtime loss to the NFL-leading Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday.

It was an outing in which the Bills squandered a 10-point halftime lead, surrendered a tying 59-yard field goal with 20 seconds left, and then, after settling for a field goal in OT, were unable to prevent Jalen Hurts from scampering into the end zone to cap a nine-play, 75-yard drive.

McDermott

The ending was far too predictable for a team whose losses have become easily identifiable.

There's "13 Seconds," reflecting the amount of time left in regulation for the Chiefs to set up a tying field goal in a 42-36 overtime win in a 2021 season playoff meeting.

There was the "Hail Murray," named after Kyler Murray's desperation touchdown heave to DeAndre Hopkins to seal Arizona's 32-30 win in 2020.

And don't forget this season's "12 Men," in which Denver's Wil Lutz missed a 41-yard field-goal attempt before hitting his do-over from 36 yards as time expired after the Bills were flagged for too many men in the Broncos' 24-22 win.

Each loss tarnishes what is McDermott's otherwise strong résumé that began with

SEE BUFFALO ON PAGE 23

INSIDE

Bears' only points come from field goals, but it's enough to beat Vikings
Page 23

Embiid's triple-double keys rout of Lakers » NBA, Page 20

027664 463149