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Rising threat

USS Ford joins Latin American naval buildup

By Tara Copp
The Washington Post

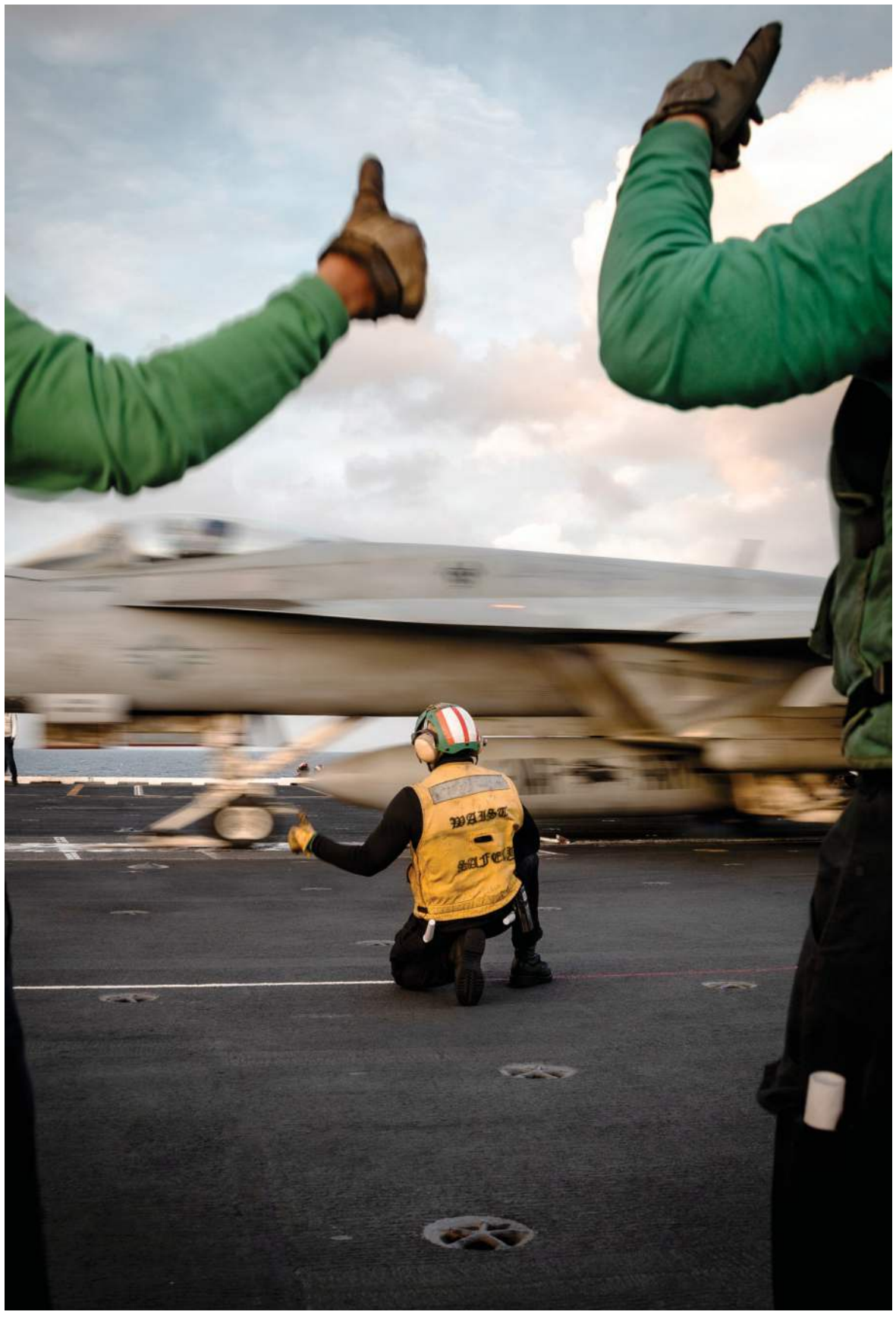
The USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier has entered waters near Latin America, joining a massive naval buildup that has fueled speculation the Trump administration intends to dramatically escalate its deadly counternarcotics campaign there, possibly through direct attacks on Venezuela.

The Ford and its three accompanying warships arrived in the region Tuesday, the Navy said in a news release. The ships were not yet in the Caribbean Sea but had crossed into the U.S. Southern Command's jurisdiction, a vast area that also includes part of the Atlantic Ocean and drug smuggling routes in the Pacific used by cartels based in Colombia and neighboring Ecuador.

"These forces will enhance and augment existing capabilities to disrupt narcotics trafficking and degrade and dismantle transnational criminal organizations," Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement.

The development, though forecast weeks ago, appeared certain to deepen the sense of unease felt in some corners of Congress since President Donald Trump began to ruminate about a potential regime change in Venezuela. Last week, administration officials hoping to

SEE BUILDUP ON PAGE 4



Tajh Payne/U.S. Navy

An F/A-18E Super Hornet, attached to Strike Fighter Squadron 87, launches from the USS Gerald R. Ford last week. The Ford and its three accompanying warships have moved into the Latin American region.

Bill to end shutdown reaches House vote

By Kevin Freking, Joey Cappelletti and Matt Brown
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers were making a long-awaited return to the nation's capital on Wednesday after nearly eight weeks away to potentially put an end to the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history.

The House was scheduled to take up a bill to reopen the government that the Senate passed on Monday night. President Donald Trump called the measure a "very big victory," and it's expected to pass the Republican-led chamber. But the prospect of travel delays due to the shutdown could complicate the vote. Speaker Mike Johnson may need nearly perfect attendance from fellow Republicans to get the measure over the finish line.



Johnson

The House has not been in legislative session since Sept. 19. That's when it passed a short-term funding patch to keep the government open when the new budget year began in October. Johnson sent lawmakers home after that vote and put the onus on the Senate to act, saying House Republicans did their job.

Democrats seized on the opportunity to cast Republicans as going on vacation while the federal workforce went without paychecks, travelers experienced airport delays and food assistance benefits expired. Johnson, R-La., said members were doing impor-

SEE BILL ON PAGE 8

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Japan's SoftBank sells shares in Nvidia for $5.8B

Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese technology giant SoftBank said Tuesday it has sold its stake in Nvidia, raising $5.8 billion to pour into other investments. It also reported its profit nearly tripled in the first half of this fiscal year from a year earlier.

Tokyo-based SoftBank Group Corp. said it sold the stake in Silicon Valley-based Nvidia in October, a move that reflects its shift in focus to OpenAI.

SoftBank reported its profit in April-September soared to about about $13 billion. Its sales for the six month period rose 7.7% year-on-year to $24 billion, it said.

The company's fortunes tend to fluctuate because it invests in a range of ventures, including through its tech-focused Vision Funds.

In February, SoftBank's chairman Masayoshi Son joined President Donald Trump, Sam Altman of OpenAI and Larry Ellison of Oracle in announcing a major investment of up to $500 billion in a project to develop artificial intelligence called Stargate.

Nvidia recently become the first $5 trillion company, just three months after it broke through the $4 trillion barrier. It plans a $100 billion investment in OpenAI as part of a partnership that will add at least 10 gigawatts of Nvidia AI data centers to ramp up OpenAI's computing power.

SoftBank and Nvidia still have strong relations since various ventures that SoftBank invests in use Nvidia technology.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Nov. 13)	0.84
British pound (Nov. 13)	$1.28
Japanese yen (Nov. 13)	150.00
South Korean won (Nov. 13)	1428.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3743
Britain (Pound)	1.3099
Canada (Dollar)	1.4016
China (Yuan)	7.1193
Denmark (Krone)	6.4493
Egypt (Pound)	47.2071
Euro	0.8637
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7712
Hungary (Forint)	332.55
Israel (Shekel)	3.2004
Japan (Yen)	154.86
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3066
Norway (Krone)	10.0892
Philippines (Peso)	59.152
Poland (Zloty)	3.6563
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7465
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3027
South Korea (Won)	1469.09
Switzerland (Franc)	0.7982
Thailand (Baht)	32.44
Turkey (NewLira)	42.2416

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

INTEREST RATES

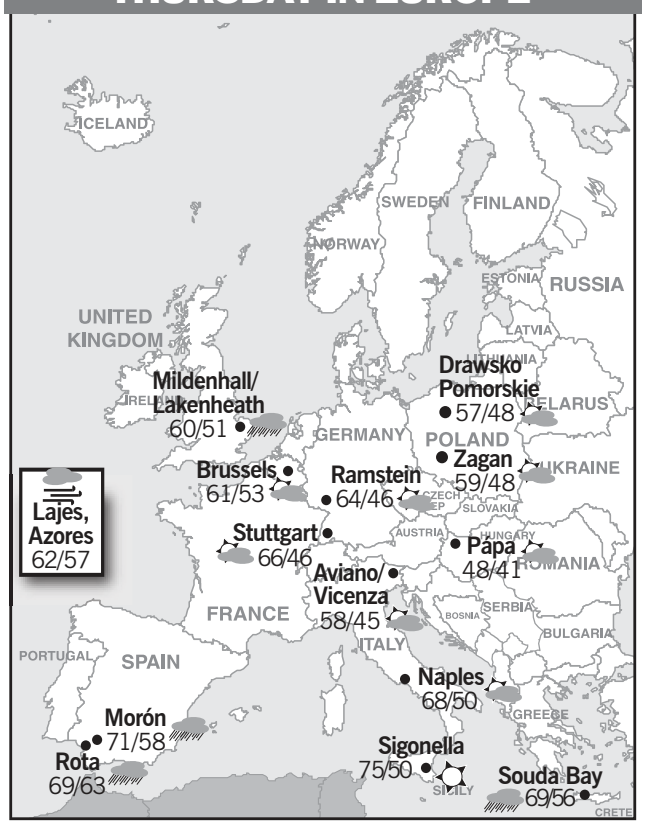
Prime rate	7.00
Interest Rates Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	3.88
3-month bill	3.88
30-year bond	4.71

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



This weather is compiled from weather.com reports.

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MILITARY

S. Korea honors UN war dead at ceremony

By Trevares Johnson
Stars and Stripes

BUSAN, South Korea — A 21-rifle salute and the sound of sirens marked the start of this year's Turn Toward Busan ceremony, which honors United Nations soldiers who fought and died in the Korean War.

More than 800 people bowed their heads at 11 a.m. Tuesday on the grounds of the United Nations Memorial Cemetery, where about 2,300 service members from 14 nations are buried, according to South Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs.

The annual ceremony commemorates the international forces that defended South Korea during the 1950-53 war. This year's attendees included U.N. veterans from all 14 countries, their families, diplomatic envoys and senior officials such as U.S. Forces Korea commander Gen. Xavier Brunson, Minister of Patriots and Veterans Affairs Kwon Oh-eul and Lee Jung-geun, chairman of the Korean Senior Citizens Association.

"Thanks to the sacrifices of U.N. veterans, our nation exists today," Lee said during the ceremony.

In his keynote address, Brunson, who also commands the United Nations Command, reflected on the unity that defined the Korean War coalition and continues to shape Indo-Pacific security.

"Each year, when we turn toward Busan, we do more than remember a war," he said. "We honor the moment the world stood shoulder to shoulder for peace."

The legacy of those who fought lives on in the U.S.-South Korea alliance and the continuing mission of the U.N. Command, Brunson said. Today the command exists to uphold the armistice that ended the war, maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and facilitate diplomatic dialogue with North Korea.

The ceremony featured performances by the South Korean Ministry of National Defense's traditional band and a song by descendants of U.N. veterans.

The event coincided with the Revisit Korea program, which invited 80 veterans and family members from 14 countries to take part in memorial observances and cultural tours in Seoul and Busan.



Trevares Johnson/Stars and Stripes

Korean War veterans from South Korea attend the Turn Toward Busan ceremony at United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Busan, South Korea, on Tuesday.

Army veteran returns to country music's biggest stage

By Kaylyn Barnhart Batista
Stars and Stripes

After being shot 10 times during a combat deployment in Afghanistan in 2011, Scotty Hasting needed to find an escape and a new sense of purpose during his years of recovery.

Hasting, a Purple Heart recipient, served in the Army as an infantryman from 2010 to 2015 and medically retired as a sergeant. As he continued his recovery after leaving the service, he searched for ways to cope and heal from his PTSD, depression and anxiety — which eventually led him to music.

He picked up a guitar for the first time in 2020, when the world shut down because of COVID-19. Hasting quickly discovered that music helped give him focus, peace and a way to express his emotions.

His new passion for making music eventually led him to some of the biggest stages in country music.

On Veterans Day, Hasting performed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., for the third time to honor veterans and service members, and hopes to reach those who are struggling to find their purpose after military service.



Scotty Hasting

Army veteran Scotty Hasting performed at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., to honor veterans and service members.

"I don't care about money, I don't care about fame," Hasting said. "All I care about is that my music and my story gets to people who need to hear it. That's all that matters."

Hasting shared the stage with other artists including Gary Sinise & The Lt. Dan Band, Vince Gill, Emmylou Harris, (Marine Corps veteran) Jamey Johnson, (Army reservist) Craig Morgan and James Taylor. For him, the performance is not just about the music — it's a chance to inspire and give hope to others.

"You don't have to be defined by the bad things that happen to you, but by what you do with them," Hasting said. "I never thought in a million years I'd be playing on the biggest stage in country music. If I can do this, anyone can do anything."

In addition to performing his own songs, including "Scars," "I'm America," and "How Do You Choose," he also planned a special tribute for his father, who died in June, with a song he co-wrote with his girlfriend, singer-songwriter McCall Chapin, inspired by his father's voicemails.

Hasting has opened for artists including Lee Brice, Dave Grohl, Jelly Roll, Craig Morgan and Tanya Tucker. Earlier this year, he performed on national television for The National Memorial Day Concert and the National Memorial Day Parade, and in 2024 he represented the U.S. in Normandy during the 80th anniversary D-Day commemorations.

He also partners with veterans organizations such as the PenFed Foundation, CreatiVets, Guitars 4 Vets and Operation Encore, continuing his mission of supporting the well-being of service members, past and present.

"If you're struggling, just keep moving forward," Hasting said. "Find something you love, do it every day, and see where it takes you. That's what music did for me, and I hope people feel that same sense of hope when I'm up there."

South Korea to halt military, civilian flights during nationwide exam

By Yoojin Lee
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Military and civilian flights across South Korea will be grounded for 35 minutes Thursday as students take the English listening portion of the nation's high-stakes university entrance exam.

All takeoffs and landings will pause from 1:05 p.m. to 1:40 p.m. during the College Scholastic Ability Test, or CSAT, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport said Tuesday in a news release.

Only emergency flights will be allowed to operate, and aircraft already in the air must maintain a minimum altitude of about 1½ miles until the suspension is lifted, according to the ministry.

A total of 140 flights — 65 domestic and 75 international — have been rescheduled because of the exam.

"For those flying on the CSAT day, please make sure to check your departure time, and cooperate with the noise restrictions," Joo Jong-wan, director general for aviation policy at the ministry, said in the release.

Military aircraft, including those operated by U.S. Forces Korea, will also be grounded per tradition, a South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff spokeswoman told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday.

Day-to-day military operations are adjusted annually for the exam, which is considered one of the most critical milestones for South Korean students. Additional restrictions will apply to training exercises, vehicle movements and base broadcasts near exam sites.

South Korean service members may report to work after 10 a.m. to ease traffic, and parents of students taking the exam are given the day off, according to the ministry.

Other nationwide accommodations include expanded subway schedules, shuttle service for late students and delayed openings of Korean stock exchanges to help reduce congestion, the Korea Herald reported Tuesday.

MILITARY

Potential targets in possible attack on Venezuela

The Washington Post

The USS Gerald R. Ford, the world's largest aircraft carrier, has arrived in Latin America, bringing thousands of U.S. troops closer to Venezuela and potentially escalating a military campaign that has already killed more than 75 people aboard speedboats and semisubmersibles.

President Donald Trump has repeatedly suggested land strikes could be next but in recent days has denied that he is considering an imminent military attack inside Venezuela.

If the Trump administration decided to pursue land strikes, U.S. forces could pursue a range of options as targets, from Venezuelan military bases to cocaine refinery labs, clandestine airstrips or guerrilla camps, according to former U.S. and Venezuelan military and anti-narcotics officials and regional defense analysts.

But the potential impact of such strikes remains uncertain.



ARIANA CUBILLOS/AP

Pedestrians walk past a mural featuring a Venezuelan warship and Sukhoi fighter jets in downtown in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday.

Potential targets

Although Trump has signaled the potential for land strikes against drug traffickers in Venezuela, it remains unclear whether he would target cocaine smuggling sites or the Maduro government itself.

Trump has alleged that President Nicolás Maduro and his top security officials are leaders of a narcotics organization, the Cartel de los Soles, sending drugs to the United States. The administration has designated the Cartel de los Soles a narcoterrorist group and could use this as justification to target the government directly, in an attempt to pressure or forcibly remove Maduro from power.

Venezuela's military has "atrophied" in more recent years, but it retains enough arms and capability that it's unlikely the Trump administration would order any significant ground incursion, said James Stavridis, a retired U.S. admiral who oversaw operations in the region from 2006 to 2009.

"Look for precision kinetic strikes against narcotics targets and military capability and, if that doesn't have the desired effect, against leadership," Stavridis said. "I think the game here is to convince Maduro that his days are numbered, but convincing him of that will take a fair amount of strikes against Venezuela's infrastructure."

In the face of such force, Maduro might hunker down, Stavridis said. That would leave the Trump administration to potentially deliberate whether to carry out strikes against Maduro's security or a Special Operations mission to capture or kill the authoritarian leader. Such an effort, Stavridis said, "would be pretty high-stakes, with a lot of potential risk."

Stavridis suggested the United States could begin with strikes on airports or seaports that it identifies as potential shipping hubs for drugs. It also could strike shipment points near Venezuela's border with Colombia, where significant quantities of cocaine originate. But the Pentagon also would want to attack Venezuelan air defenses to keep its own aircraft safe, the retired admiral said.

U.S. forces could also target clandestine airstrips, according to a former agent for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in Venezuela, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive details. Traffickers often stash cocaine near the "parking lots" where planes from Central America land and wait to load up the drugs.

U.S. forces could also target airstrips in the Catatumbo region, which has seen increased traffic amid the U.S. crackdown on drug boats, according to a former Venezuelan military captain now in exile, who spoke on the condition of anonymity out of security concerns. Large drug storage facilities can also be found in Sucre state, the former official said.

Destroying the drug supply could neutralize the economic power of corrupt military officials and politicians, the former Venezuelan military captain said.

But if the goal is to pursue Maduro security forces directly, the U.S. military could target Venezuela's powerful military counterintelligence agency, the General Directorate of Military Counterintelligence, or DGCIM.

Possible response

Venezuela's military is well-armed, with some advanced weapons it obtained under the leadership of former president Hugo Chávez, who died in office in 2013.

They are believed to include a Russian-made S-300VM air-defense system.

But this air defense system is only partially operational right now, and it was never intended to be used against the United States, said Andrei Serbin Pont of the Latin American research group CRIES.

According to Global Firepower, Venezuela has 109,000 active military personnel. But the former Venezuelan military official said it is probably fewer.

By 2018, Venezuela had fewer than five Russian Sukhois operating, the former Venezuelan military official said.

He argued Maduro does not have the military capacity or support from Venezuelans to fight a war against the U.S.

"I'm not saying there won't be any resistance," he said, but "it won't be an attack against U.S. forces."

Venezuela opposition figures, political analysts and a former regime official told U.S. diplomats in the Bogotá-based Venezuela Affairs Unit that the Maduro government is increasingly concerned by U.S. military operations but believes it can ride out the tensions and cling to power, according to internal government documents obtained by The Post. The State Department did not respond to a request for comment.

These Venezuela observers, according to the documents, largely discarded the possibility that a U.S. strike on drug trafficking sites in Venezuela could cause the military to turn against Maduro.

Buildup: Positioning in Latin America brings unease to lawmakers

FROM PAGE 1

quash bipartisan legislation aimed at restraining the president's ability to unleash military force there told lawmakers no active preparations were underway for such an attack — a declaration that persuaded enough Republicans to vote down the measure.

The breadth of firepower inherent to an aircraft carrier strike group — the Ford typically travels with dozens of fighter jets and an assortment of other lethal capabilities — would seem excessive for the type of strikes that U.S. forces have carried out on alleged drug boats since early September, experts said.

Carriers are strategic assets, and the United States uses its fleet of 11 — many of which are in scheduled maintenance and not available to sail at any given time — for power projection and deterrence in its top-tier security concerns, notably countering China in the Indo-Pacific region and maintaining a deterrent presence in the Middle East, said Mark Cancian, a senior defense adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"The only reason to move it there is to use it against Venezuela," Cancian surmised, adding that the Ford's arrival means "the shot clock has started because this is not an asset they can just keep there indefinitely. They have to use it or move it. And moving it would mean they are standing down" from a potential attack on Venezuela, he said.

The Pentagon announced Oct. 24 that Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth had ordered the Ford to relocate to Latin America from Europe. It has been deployed from its home port in Virginia since June.

The Ford, which is the Navy's most modern and largest carrier, has 4,000 sailors on board. It is accompanied by the destroyers USS Bainbridge, USS Mahan and USS Winston S. Churchill. Cancian, the analyst, said it can cost as much as $8.4 million a day to operate an aircraft carrier.

The carrier strike group's arrival pushes the number of U.S. troops in the region to about 15,000, including personnel spread across roughly a dozen warships and reinforcements sent in recent weeks to U.S. facilities in Puerto Rico — a stunning military presence in a region that historically has seen only one or two Navy vessels assisting the U.S. Coast Guard on routine drug-interdiction missions that usually ended with the suspects' detention and prosecution.

In a dramatic departure from precedent, Trump has upended that approach. His administration has directed the killing of at least 75 people in a campaign he and others say is necessary to halt the flow of illicit drugs destined for the United States.

Experts on the law of war contend that the Trump administration's approach is illegal because the small vessels being targeted are carrying civilians allegedly involved in the commercial sale of drugs, not armed hostilities against the U.S. or its citizens.

To date, the 19 military strikes disclosed by the Trump administration have destroyed small speedboats in the Caribbean Sea and eastern Pacific Ocean. The president has talked publicly, however, about expanding the campaign to include targets on land.

Trump has been particularly fixated on Venezuela and its leader, Nicolás Maduro, accusing him of sending violent criminals and drugs to the U.S. — and fueling speculation that he intends to forcibly remove Maduro from power. Trump has said publicly that Maduro's days as president are "numbered."

Democrats, appalled by the ongoing killings, have pushed unsuccessfully for Congress to assert its war-declaration authorities. Separate legislative efforts in the Senate — one aimed at halting the boat strikes and another at blocking Trump from starting a war in Venezuela — were rejected by a majority of Republicans.

VETERANS

Hundreds fight Trump policies at Vet Day rally



ERIC KAYNE/Stars and Stripes

Retired Army Lt. Col. Vince Berardini and his wife, Karen, listen to speakers Tuesday, in Washington during a rally by and for veterans near Union Station.

BY LINDA F. HERSEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Judson Wager, an Air Force veteran, said he was sitting at his home in rural North Carolina watching the news and growing angry over President Donald Trump's deployment of the National Guard to the nation's capital and cities across the U.S.

But when his daughter suggested he take a break and browse social media, Wager said he spotted right away a post from Remember Your Oath, a veteran-led group protesting the Trump administration in downtown Washington.

"That was all the encouragement I needed. I joined them that same week," said Wager, who arrived in September at the group's tent on Columbus Circle across from Union Station, where the organizers plan protests and mobilize veterans.

Wager and other veterans from Remember Your Oath joined several activist groups on Tuesday — including FLARE USA, About Face and May Day Strong — to rally against the Trump administration on Veterans Day.

Called "Vets Say No," the D.C. rally was part of a nationwide protest by veterans across several major cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Portland, Chicago, Boston and Memphis, Tenn.

The protests were held as a counterpoint to commemorations at war memorials in honor of Veterans Day. Organizers said many of the rallies were staged in locations where Trump has deployed or threatened to send troops.

About 500 people showed up at the D.C. gathering to wave signs and object to what organizers described as the "militarization of our communities." They also cited the administration's cuts to food stamps and Medicaid, the mass deportation of immigrants and the military's recent ban on transgender individuals.

"We are veterans who are against what's happening in this country," said Russell "Jolly" Ellis, founder of Remember Your Oath. The organization has been running its operations for several months from the white tent on Columbus Circle, which stays open continuously.

"We are not going to sit idly by while this administration dismantles our democracy," said Ellis, an Army veteran who spoke from a stage to cheers from the crowd.

Other veterans shared similar concerns. "The National Guard is patrolling our streets because of one man — Donald Trump — who wants to be king," said William Kelly, of Maryland, an Iraq combat veteran who served in the Army infantry from 2007 to 2011.

Kelly compared Trump's deployment of the military in U.S. cities to British troops clashing with the American colonial militia in 1775. He said the U.S. needs another large protest similar to the civil rights movement in the 1960s.

Vince Berardini, a 67-year-old retired Army lieutenant colonel, and his wife, Karen, from Arlington, Va., stood at the back of the crowd.

Vince Berardini said he is participating in protests for the first time in his life. Tuesday's rally was the third one he has attended this year.

Berardini, who served in the military for over 20 years, said he is shocked by the presence of forces on U.S. streets and the use of troops as a fear tactic against civilians.

"Something I could not have dreamed of happening in this country is occurring," Berardini said.

"My husband spent his career in the military working to help other governments prevent what is happening in our country now," said Karen Berardini.

Wager, who served in the Air Force from 2003 to 2012, said he believes the Trump administration is trying to seize control of the country.

"We are in the middle of an authoritarian takeover of our government. People are getting worried, but they don't fully realize what's going on," Wager said.

Wager recently returned briefly to his North Carolina hometown to see his wife and daughter before heading back to Washington to continue his activism.

But Wager said he noticed right away that the red political posters and placards supporting Trump that were common around town have all been taken down.

"I didn't see a single sign for Trump, and they used to be everywhere," Wager said. "Now I see anti-Trump signs. That's unheard of around here."

DODEA students pay tribute to America's WWI fallen in France

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

THIAUCOURT-REGNIEVILLE, France — Dozens of students from a Defense Department school in Germany had the chance to represent the United States at several ceremonies in France on Tuesday that commemorated the end of World War I.

Nearly 50 cadets from the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, or JROTC, at Ramstein High School donned blue uniforms and stood in formation during solemn Veterans Day and Armistice Day events. Four of the students served as color guard members, holding the American and French flags.

The day's first ceremony took place at the Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery, about 150 miles west of the students' school, in the heart of the area where U.S. forces fought one of their most important and decisive battles of the Great War, the Saint-Mihiel Offensive.

"You can feel the importance of the event and being a part of it, representing America," said Cameron McClean, a member of the color guard who held the American flag during the ceremony, which overlooked more than 4,000 white gravestones that marked the final resting place of soldiers who died more than a century ago.

In total, more than 100,000 Americans died in the war, according to U.S. government figures.

"When you're out there, you're experiencing something greater than yourself," said fellow student Lauren Meusel, who carried the French flag.

The United States entered the war in 1917, sending more than 2 million troops to France, where they played a decisive role in major battles such as Saint-Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne Offensive during the final months of fighting.

"In the United States, and really around the world, what was once called 'the war to end all wars' has become largely forgotten," said Tom Cavaness, superintendent of the Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery. "So it's encouraging when young people get involved in anything commemorating the First World War."

After the Saint-Mihiel ceremony, the students participated in a French Armistice Day event in Thiaucourt-Regnieville, where U.S. and French flags flew over the village's war memorial. Armistice Day commemorates the end of World War I.

"Usually students, especially back in the States, don't get the opportunity to help pay tribute not only to Americans who gave their lives during World War I but also to those from other countries," said JROTC group commander Sophia Pinero.

At one point during the Thiaucourt-Regnieville ceremony, the names of fallen soldiers were read out loud. After each name, the crowd responded, "Mort pour la France," or "Died for France."



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

JROTC cadets from Ramstein High School, pictured here at Saint-Mihiel American Cemetery, took part in three ceremonies in France on Tuesday, marking Veterans Day and Armistice Day.

"Being part of such a somber event really brings things into perspective," Pinero said. "A lot of the cadets here today want to join the military, and this gives us an even greater sense of patriotism."

In the late afternoon, the students attended a third ceremony at the Montsec American Monument, a circular colonnade that commemorates the U.S. First Army's reduction of the Saint-Mihiel Salient in September 1918, the U.S. Second Army's operations that November, and the combat service of other U.S. divisions in the region.

"I feel very grateful to be living here and to get these opportunities," said cadet Charles Kretz, adding that his family often visits war sites and memorials while traveling in Europe.

A high school junior, Kretz said he plans to join the military after graduating. "This would be a great legacy to be part of," he said.

MILITARY

CENTCOM: No Gaza deployment for US troops

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

American troops will not be sent to Gaza, U.S. Central Command said Wednesday, denying news reports that the Pentagon plans to establish a nearby base while its forces oversee the delicate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas.

As part of the ceasefire agreement, the U.S. has been working with partners to develop an international stabilization force in Gaza made up of foreign troops, who could secure the area as residents seek to rebuild after two years of fighting.

Reports of the establishment of a U.S. military base near Gaza are inaccurate, CENTCOM spokesman Capt. Tim Hawkins said in a statement Wednesday.

"To be clear, no U.S. troops will be deployed into Gaza," Hawkins said in the statement. "Any reporting to the contrary is false."

The U.S. currently has about 200 troops in Israel as part of the newly established Civil-Military Coordination Center, which helps facilitate international humanitarian and security assistance into Gaza and monitors the ceasefire agreement.

A nonprofit news organization in Israel, citing unidentified Israeli officials, reported this week that the U.S. was eyeing a $500 million base near the border with Gaza that would accommodate 10,000 people, including American forces.

The U.S. military is acting in a planning capacity to develop potential options for basing the international troops who will be part of the stabilization force, Hawkins said.

The U.S. Navy was looking into options for a temporary base near Gaza whose staffing does not include U.S. troops, Bloomberg News reported Tuesday, citing an internal contracting document.

The request for information, which is not a formal call for a bid, asked companies to submit cost estimates for a "temporary, self-sustaining military base of operations capable of supporting 10,000 personnel and providing 10,000 square feet of office space for a period of 12 months," according to Bloomberg.

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt told the outlet that such a plan had not been approved by the administration and should not be deemed an official plan for the Middle East.

Europe leans on anti-drone tech used in Ukraine

BY JAMES BROOKS
Associated Press

AALBORG, Denmark — In a warehouse more than 900 miles from Ukraine's capital, workers in northern Denmark painstakingly piece together anti-drone devices. Some of the devices will be exported to Kyiv in the hopes of jamming Russian technology on the battlefield, while others will be shipped across Europe in efforts to combat mysterious drone intrusions into NATO's airspace that have the entire continent on edge.

Two Danish companies whose business was predominantly defense-related now say they have a surge in new clients seeking to use their technology to protect sites like airports, military installations and critical infrastructure, all of which have been targeted by drone flyovers in recent weeks.

Weibel Scientific's radar drone detection technology was deployed ahead of a key EU summit earlier this year to Copenhagen Airport, where unidentified drone sightings closed the airspace for hours in September. Counter-drone firm MyDefence, from its warehouse in northern Denmark, builds handheld, wearable radio frequency devices that sever the connection between a drone and its pilot to neutralize the threat.

So-called "jamming" is restricted and heavily regulated in the European Union but widespread on the battlefields of Ukraine and has become so extensive there that Russia and Ukraine have started deploying drones tethered by thin fiber-optic cables that don't rely on radio frequency signals. Russia also is firing attack drones with extra antenna to foil Ukraine's jamming efforts.



JAMES BROOKS/AP

Assembled counter drone devices sit on a try at MyDefence's headquarters in Denmark, on Oct. 28.

Spike in drone incursions

Drone warfare exploded following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Russia has bombarded Ukraine with drone and missile attacks, striking railways, power facilities and cities across the country. Ukraine, in response, has launched daring strikes deep inside Russia using domestically produced drones.

But Europe as a whole is now on high alert after the drone flyovers into NATO's airspace reached an unprecedented scale in September, prompting European leaders to agree to develop a "drone wall" along their borders to better detect, track and intercept drones violating Europe's airspace. In November, NATO military officials said a new U.S. anti-drone system was deployed to the alliance's eastern flank.

Some European officials described the incidents as Moscow testing NATO's response, which raised questions about how prepared the alliance is against Russia. Key challenges include the ability to detect drones — sometimes mistaken for a bird or plane on radar systems — and take them down cheaply.

The Kremlin has brushed off allegations that Russia is behind some of the unidentified drone flights in Europe.

Andreas Graae, assistant professor at the Royal Danish Defense College, said there is a "huge drive" to rapidly deploy counter-drone systems in Europe amid Russia's aggression.

"All countries in Europe are struggling to find the right solutions to be prepared for these new drone challenges," he said. "We don't have all the things that are needed to actually be good enough to detect drones and have early warning systems."

'Machines before people'

Founded in 2013, MyDefence makes devices that can be used to protect airports, government buildings and other critical infrastructure, but chief executive Dan Hermansen called the Russia-Ukraine war a "turning point" for his company.

More than 2,000 units of its wearable "Wingman" detector have been delivered to Ukraine since Russia invaded nearly four years ago.

"For the past couple of years, we've heard in Ukraine that they want to put machines before people" to save lives, Hermansen said.

MyDefence last year doubled its earnings to roughly $18.7 million compared to 2023.

Then came the drone flyovers earlier this year. Besides Copenhagen Airport, drones flew over four smaller Danish airports, including two that serve as military bases.

Hermansen said they were an "eye-opener" for many European countries and prompted a surge of interest in their technology. MyDefence went from the vast majority of its business being defense-related to inquiries from officials representing police forces and critical infrastructure.

"Seeing suddenly that drone warfare is not just something that happens in Ukraine or on the eastern flank, but basically is something that we need to take care of in a hybrid warfare threat scenario," he added.

Radar technology

On NATO's eastern flank, Denmark, Poland and Romania are deploying a new weapons system to defend against drones. The American Merops system, which is small enough to fit in the back of a midsize pickup truck, can identify drones and close in on them using artificial intelligence to navigate when satellite and electronic communications are jammed.

The aim is to make the border with Russia so well-armed that Moscow's forces will be deterred from ever contemplating crossing the line from Norway in the north to Turkey in the south, NATO military officials told The Associated Press.

North of Copenhagen, Weibel Scientific has been making Doppler radar technology since the 1970s.

Typically used in tracking radar systems for the aerospace industry, it's now being applied to drone detection like at Copenhagen Airport.

The technology can determine the velocity of an object, such as a drone, based on the change in wavelength of a signal being bounced back.

Then it's possible to predict the direction the object is moving, Weibel Scientific chief executive Peter Røpke said.

"The Ukraine war, and especially how it has evolved over the last couple of years with drone technology, means this type of product is in high demand," Røpke said.

Earlier this year, Weibel secured a $76 million deal, which the firm said was its largest.

The drone flyovers boosted the demand even higher as discussion around the proposed "drone wall" continued. Røpke said his technology could become a "key component" of any future drone shield.



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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

Epstein email: Trump 'spent hours' with victim

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein wrote in a 2011 email that Donald Trump had "spent hours" at Epstein's house with a victim of sex trafficking and said in a separate message in 2019 that Trump "knew about the girls," according to communications released Wednesday.

The emails made public by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee add to the questions about Trump's friendship with Epstein and about any knowledge he may have had in what prosecutors call a yearslong effort by Epstein to exploit underage girls. The Republican president has consistently denied any knowledge of Epstein's alleged crimes and has said he ended their relationship years ago.

The messages are part of a batch of 23,000 documents provided by Epstein's estate to the Oversight Committee. The release resurfaces a storyline that had shadowed Trump's presidency during the summer when the FBI and the Justice Department abruptly announced that they would not be releasing additional documents that investigators had spent weeks examining, disappointing conspiracy theorists and online sleuths who had expected to see new revelations.

In an April 2, 2011, email to Ghislaine Maxwell, an Epstein girlfriend now imprisoned for conspiring to engage in sex trafficking, Epstein wrote, "I want you to realize that that dog that hasn't barked is Trump. (Redacted name) spent hours at my house with him, he has never once been mentioned. police chief. etc. im 75 % there."

Maxwell replied the same day: "I have been thinking about that."

The name of the person said to have spent time with Trump was blacked out of the email, but House Democrats identified the person as a "victim."

In a separate 2019 email to journalist Michael Wolff, who has written extensively about Trump, Epstein wrote of Trump, "Of course he knew about the girls as he asked ghislaine to stop."

White House spokeswoman Karoline Leavitt accused the Democrats of having "selectively leaked emails" to "create a fake narrative to smear President Trump."

She said in a statement that the unnamed person referenced in the emails is Virginia Giuffre, who had accused Britain's then-Prince Andrew and other influential men of sexually exploiting her as a teenager and who died by suicide



MATT MCCLAIN/The Washington Post

A poster seen along Rhode Island Avenue in Northeast Washington, D.C., in September says "Release The Epstein Files!"

in April. Andrew, who recently was stripped of his titles and evicted from his royal residence by King Charles III after weeks of pressure to act over his relationship with Epstein, has rejected Giuffre's allegations and said he didn't recall meeting her.

Leavitt said in a statement that Giuffre had "repeatedly said President Trump was not involved in any wrongdoing whatsoever and 'couldn't have been friendlier' to her in their limited interactions."

"The fact remains that President Trump kicked Jeffrey Epstein out of his club decades ago for being a creep to his female employees, including Giuffre," the statement said. "These stories are nothing more than bad-faith efforts to distract from President Trump's historic accomplishments, and any American with common sense sees right through this hoax and clear distraction from the government opening back up again."

Giuffre came forward publicly after an initial investigation ended in an 18-month Florida jail term for Epstein, who made a secret deal to avoid federal prosecution by pleading guilty instead to relatively minor state-level charges of soliciting prostitution. He was released in 2009.

In subsequent lawsuits, Giuffre said she was a teenage spa attendant at Mar-a-Lago, Trump's Palm Beach, Fla., club, when she was approached in 2000 by Maxwell.

Epstein took his own life in a New York jail in 2019 while awaiting trial on federal charges.

Lawyers for Maxwell, a British socialite, have argued that she never should have been tried or convicted for her role in luring teenage girls to be sexually abused by Epstein.

She is serving a 20-year prison term, though she was moved from a low-security federal prison in Florida to a minimum-security prison camp in Texas after she was interviewed in July by Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

Bill: Legislation reverses firings of federal workers during shutdown

FROM PAGE 1

tant work in their districts.

The vast majority of Democratic lawmakers are expected to vote against the measure because it does not include an extension of Affordable Care Act tax credits that expire at the end of this year and make coverage more affordable.

"Our strong expectation is that Democrats will be strongly opposed," Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said Tuesday night in previewing the vote.

But Johnson said of the pending legislation that "our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end, and we're grateful for that."

"After 40 days of wandering in the wilderness and making the American people suffer needlessly, some Senate Democrats finally have stepped forward to end the pain," Johnson said.

The measure that passed the Senate included buy-in from eight senators who broke ranks with the Democrats after reaching the conclusion that Republicans would not bend on using the measure to continue the expiring health care tax credits. Meanwhile, the shutdown's toll was growing by the day. Wednesday was Day 43.

The compromise measure funds three bipartisan annual



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., talks to reporters a day before a House vote to reopen the government at the Capitol in Washington, on Tuesday.

spending bills and extends the rest of government funding through Jan. 30. Republicans also promised to hold a vote to extend the health care subsidies by mid-December, but there is no guarantee of success.

"We had reached a point where I think a number of us believed that the shutdown had been very effective in raising the concern about health care," said Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire. The promise for a future vote "gives us an opportunity to continue to address that going forward," she said.

The legislation includes a reversal of the firing of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began. It also protects federal workers against further layoffs through January and guarantees they are paid once the shutdown is over. The full-year funding in the bill for the Agriculture Department means people who rely on key food assistance programs will see those benefits funded without threat of interruption through the rest of the budget year.

The package includes $203.5 million to boost security for lawmakers and an additional $28 million for the security of Supreme Court justices.

Democrats are also seizing on language that would give senators the opportunity to sue when a federal agency or employee searches their electronic records without notifying them. The language seems aimed at helping Republican lawmakers pursue damages if their phone records were analyzed by the FBI as part of an investigation into Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

"We're going to tattoo that provision, just like we're going to tattoo the Republican health care crisis, on the foreheads of every single House Republican who dares vote for this bill," Jeffries said.

Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said Democrats were being hypocritical in blaming the GOP for the expiring tax credit.

"It's a subsidy on top of a subsidy. Our friends added it during COVID," he said of Democrats. "COVID is over. They set a date certain that the subsidies would run out. They chose the date. ... By the way, they did it without any Republican votes."

Many Democrats are calling the passage of the bill a mistake. Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the government open, said he could not support the bill "because it fails to do anything of substance to fix America's health care crisis."

Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, who caucuses with the Democrats, said giving up the fight was a "horrific mistake." Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., agreed, saying that voters who overwhelmingly supported Democrats in last week's elections were urging them to "hold firm."

It's unclear whether the two parties will find any common ground on the health care subsidies before the December vote in the Senate. Johnson has said he will not commit to bringing it up in his chamber.

Some Republicans have said they are open to extending the COVID-19 pandemic-era tax credits as premiums could skyrocket for millions of people, but they also want new limits on who can receive the subsidies. Some argue that the tax dollars for the plans should be routed through individuals.

NATION

Justices extend order blocking SNAP payments

Associated Press

The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended an order blocking full SNAP payments, amid signals that the government shutdown could soon end and food aid payments resume.

The order keeps in place at least for a few more days a chaotic situation. People who depend on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program to feed their families in some states have received their full monthly allocations, while others have received nothing.

The order, which is three sentences long and comes with no explanation on the court's thinking, will expire just before midnight Thursday.

The Senate has approved a bill to end the shutdown and the House of Representatives planned to vote on it Wednesday evening. Reopening the government would restart the program that helps 42 million Americans buy groceries, but it's not clear how quickly full payments would resume.

The justices chose what is effectively the path of least resistance, anticipating the federal government shutdown will end soon while avoiding any substantive legal ruling about whether lower court orders to keep full payments flowing during the shutdown are correct.

Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson was the only one of the nine justices to say she would have revived the lower court orders immediately, but didn't otherwise explain her vote. Jackson signed the initial order temporarily freezing the payments.

The court's action doesn't do anything to settle uncertainty across the country.

Beneficiaries in some states have received their full monthly allocations while in others they have received nothing. Some states have issued partial payments.

How quickly SNAP benefits could reach recipients if the government reopens would vary by state. But states and advocates say that it's easier to make full payments quickly than partial ones.

Carolyn Vega, a policy analyst at the advocacy group Share Our Strength, also said there could be some technical challenges for states that have issued partial benefits to send out the remaining amount.

The Trump administration chose to cut off SNAP funding after October due to the shutdown. That decision sparked lawsuits and a string of swift and contradictory judicial rulings that deal with government power — and impact food access for about 1 in 8 Americans.

The administration went along with two rulings on Oct. 31 by judges who said the government must provide at least partial funding for SNAP. It eventually said recipients would get up to 65% of their regular benefits. But it balked last week when one of the judges said it must fund the program fully for November, even if that means digging into funds the government said need to be maintained in case of emergencies elsewhere.

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to pause that order in a ruling late Sunday.

An appeals court said Monday that full funding should resume, and that requirement was set to kick in Tuesday night before the top court extended the order blocking full SNAP payments.

The U.S. Senate on Monday passed legislation to reopen the federal government with a plan that would include replenishing SNAP funds. Speaker Mike Johnson told members of the House to return to Washington to consider the deal a small group of Senate Democrats made with Republicans.

President Donald Trump has not said whether he would sign it if it reaches his desk, but told reporters at the White House on Sunday that it "looks like we're getting close to the shutdown ending."

Still, the Trump administration said in a Supreme Court filing Monday that it shouldn't be up to the courts.

After Tuesday's ruling, Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on social media: "Thank you to the Court for allowing Congress to continue its swift progress."

The coalition of cities and nonprofit groups who challenged the SNAP pause said in a court filing Tuesday that the Department of Agriculture, which administers SNAP, is to blame for the confusion.

"The chaos was sown by USDA's delays and intransigence," they said, "not by the district court's efforts to mitigate that chaos and the harm it has inflicted on families who need food."



JESSIE WARDARSKI/AP

Ryan Sprankle, right, owner of the family-run grocery store Sprankle's Neighborhood Market, helps Timothy A. Mohney choose a turkey at the store Monday, in Kittanning, Pa.

Small grocers feel impact as customers go without SNAP

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

A little more than a year ago, Ryan Sprankle welcomed President Donald Trump to one of the three grocery stores his family owns near Pittsburgh. Trump was on the campaign trail; they talked about high grocery prices, and the Republican nominee picked up a bag of popcorn.

But these days, Sprankle would have a different message if Trump or any lawmakers visited his store. He wants them to know that delayed SNAP benefits during the government shutdown hurt his customers and his small, independent chain.

"You can't take away from the most needy people in the country. It's inhumane," Sprankle said. "It's a lack of empathy and it's on all their hands."

The Trump administration froze funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program at the end of October, impacting food access for some 42 million Americans. On Monday, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that would reopen the federal government and replenish SNAP funds, and the U.S. House of Representatives planned to vote Wednesday evening on the bill. It's unclear when SNAP payments might resume if the government reopens.

In 2024, SNAP recipients redeemed a little more than $96 billion in benefits, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which administers the program. The majority—74%—was spent at superstores and supermarkets, a category that includes big chains like Walmart and Kroger but also some independent stores like Sprankle's.

Around 14% was spent at smaller grocery and convenience stores, businesses often tucked into neighborhoods and more easily accessible to SNAP beneficiaries.

Etharin Cousin, a former director of the United Nations World Food Program and founder of the nonprofit Food Systems for the Future, said the cutoff of SNAP benefits had immediate impacts on grocers and convenience stores of all sizes, most of which operate on slim profit margins of 1% to 2%.

"SNAP isn't just a social safety net for families. It's also a local economic engine," Cousin said. "SNAP benefits flow directly into neighborhoods, stores, regional distributors and community jobs."

Walmart declined to comment on the impact of the SNAP funding lapse but noted that it has been lowering prices and donating to local food banks. Kroger also declined to comment.

Shoppers not receiving their food benefits affects all retailers but becomes "a big problem more quickly" at small chains, Sprankle said. His Kittanning, Pa., store gets 25% of its revenue from SNAP, but customers who don't get government assistance also are worried about the shutdown, according to Sprankle. They're spending less, trading down to cheaper goods or heading to food banks, he said.

Sprankle said lower sales cut into the overtime he can offer to the chain's 140 employees. Many are worried about losing their jobs, he said.

"They have families to feed, they have kids to buy gifts for," he said. "If I have to sell my truck, we're going to give Christmas bonuses."

Liz Abunaw, the owner and operator of Forty Acres Fresh Market in Chicago, recently saw a customer putting back a full cart of groceries because she couldn't afford them without SNAP.

Abunaw opened the supermarket in September after years spent selling produce at pop-up markets and in delivery boxes. Only about 12% of Abunaw's revenue comes from SNAP benefits right now, she said. But without it — or if SNAP recipients spend less money in her store — it will slow Forty Acres' growth and make it harder to pay the workers, suppliers and farmers who depend on her, she said.

"SNAP is currency. I get money I then use in this economy. It's not a food box," Abunaw said. "The economic impact of SNAP is larger than the dollars spent."

The suspended food aid also had an immediate impact on Kanbe's Markets, a nonprofit that stocks produce in coolers at 110 convenience stores around Kansas City, Mo. Kanbe's distributes donated food and food purchased from wholesalers to keep prices low, founder and CEO Maxfield Kaniger said.

Kanbe's also distributes free food to 50 food pantries and soup kitchens around the city.

Kaniger said some of the convenience stores he works with saw their sales drop 10% in the days after Nov. 1, when SNAP benefits weren't paid. At the same time, the food pantries he supplies asked for double or triple their usual orders.

Because it's giving away more food than usual, Kanbe's has to spend more buying produce for the coolers it stocks. It's frustrating for Kaniger, who must make decisions quickly before food spoils.

"It should be enough that people are going without food. Period, end of sentence. People going without food is wrong," he said.

NATION

Low temps shock southeast; snow covers northeast



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Pedestrians walk on the sidewalk during a cold day in Chicago, on Tuesday.

BY HANNAH FINGERHUT
Associated Press

The first major cold spell of the season plunged parts of the southeastern U.S. into record-low temperatures Tuesday, delivering a shock for 18 million people under a freeze warning across Alabama, Florida and Georgia. Meanwhile, several inches of snow blanketed areas along the eastern Great Lakes as the blast of cold air moved through.

The direct shot of Arctic air affecting the eastern two-thirds of the country migrated east — and far southeast — from the Northern Plains, which was hit with gusty chills and snow over the weekend. For much of the Southeast on Tuesday, that meant an abrupt transition into wintry temperatures after reaching well into the 70s and 80s in recent days.

Some daily records were "absolutely shattered," said meteorologist Scott Kleebauer, including a low of 28 degrees Fahrenheit at the airport in Jacksonville, Fla., on Tuesday morning. That broke the previous record low of 35 degrees set in 1977.

The southeastern U.S. will face a few more colder-than-normal days before warming up later in the week.

Iguanas begin to "freeze" and fall from trees when temperatures dip to 40 degrees or below, according to Kleebauer, a forecaster with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center.

Those temperatures were widespread upstate in Florida on Tuesday.

"Iguanas, because of their reptilian nature, they go into this kind of survival mode, and their system basically shuts down," he said. "They're not used to those types of temperatures. They only see those only a handful of times a year, if that."

Across West Virginia, a predawn coating of snow and ice contributed to dozens of accidents Tuesday before the sun came out and road conditions improved.

More than 14 inches of snow on Monday and Tuesday enabled the White Grass Ski Touring Center in the northern mountain's Canaan Valley to open for cross-country skiing.

The cold air over the Great Lakes' relatively warmer waters created ripe conditions for significant snowfall in some communities along the Great Lakes and downwind, farther inland in Pennsylvania and New York.

Forecasters said a new storm system would bring additional snowfall Wednesday.

Barbara Butch is the village clerk and librarian for the town of Ubly in the center of eastern Michigan's thumb region.

The village was socked with snow Monday, getting nearly 8 inches by Tuesday morning, according to the National Weather Service.

"It just kept coming down," Butch said.

High, gusty winds and heavy snowfall caused dangerous driving conditions late Monday, including a snow squall warning along Interstate 80 in central Pennsylvania.

Farther northeast, parts of Vermont got up to 8 inches of snow, making for a messy evening commute Monday.

Bob Ross paintings sell for over $600K to help public TV stations

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Three paintings from famously chill public television legend Bob Ross sold Tuesday for more than $600,000 at auction. The paintings were the first of 30 Ross works being sold to benefit public TV stations hurt by cuts in federal funding.

At the live auction at Bonhams in Los Angeles, a serene, snow vista called "Winter's Peace" that Ross painted entirely during a 1993 episode of "The Joy of Painting" went for $318,000 to a bidder on the phone.

"For a good cause — and you get the painting," auctioneer Aaron Bastian said during the bidding. He invoked a common sentiment of Ross, who died in 1995, during a brief lull. "Bob would remind you that this is your world, and you can do anything you want."

Another painting done on a 1993 episode, a lush, green landscape called "Home in the Valley," went for $229,100. A third, "Cliffside," sold for $114,800.

The final prices include a charge for the auction house added to the final bid known as the buyer's premium. The identities of the buyers weren't revealed.



BOB ROSS INC./AP

Bob Ross poses for a photo in front of one of his paintings.

Bids for all three paintings went well past pre-auction estimates of their value, which topped out around $50,000.

Three more Ross paintings will be up for auction at Bonhams in Marlborough, Mass., on Jan. 27, with others to follow, including one in New York.

All profits are pledged to stations that use content from distributor American Public Television.

The special sales seek to help stations in need of licensing fees that allow them to show popular programs that along with Ross' show include "America's Test Kitchen," "Julia Child's French Chef Classics," and "This Old House."

Ross died at age 52 of complications from cancer after 11 years in production with the therapeutic how-to show, "The Joy of Painting." The former Air Force drill sergeant was a sort of pioneer, known for his calm manner and encouraging words.

Suit challenges TSA's ban on trans officers pat-downs

Associated Press

A Virginia transportation security officer is accusing the U.S. Department of Homeland Security of sex discrimination over a policy that bars transgender officers from performing security screening pat-downs, according to a federal lawsuit.

The Transportation Security Administration, which operates under DHS, enacted the policy in February to comply with President Donald Trump's executive order declaring two unchangeable sexes: male and female.

According to internal documents explaining the policy change that The Associated Press obtained from four independent sources, including two current and two former TSA workers, "transgender officers will no longer engage in pat-down duties, which are conducted based on both the traveler's and officer's biological sex. In addition, transgender officers will no longer serve as a TSA-required witness when a traveler elects to have a pat-down conducted in a private screening area."

Until February, TSA assigned work consistent with officers' gender identity under a 2021 management directive.

The agency told the AP it rescinded that directive to comply with Trump's Jan. 20 executive order.

Although transgender officers "shall continue to be eligible to perform all other security screening functions consistent with their certifications," and must attend all required training, they will not be allowed to demonstrate how to conduct pat-downs as part of their training or while training others, according to the internal documents.

A transgender officer at Dulles International Airport, Danielle Mittereder, alleges in her lawsuit filed Friday that the new policy — which also bars her from using TSA facility restrooms that align with her gender identity — violates civil rights law.

"Solely because she is transgender, TSA now prohibits Plaintiff from conducting core functions of her job, impedes her advancement to higher-level positions and specialized certifications, excludes her from TSA-controlled facilities, and subjects her identity to unwanted and undue scrutiny each workday," the complaint says.

NATION

Philadelphia mint strikes its final penny

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Back in 1793, a penny could get you a biscuit, a candle or a piece of candy. These days, many sit in drawers or glass jars and are basically cast aside or collected as lucky keepsakes.

But their luck has run out.

The U.S. Mint in Philadelphia struck its last circulating penny on Wednesday as the president has canceled the 1-cent coin as the cost of making them has become more than their value.

President Donald Trump has ordered its demise as costs climb to nearly 4 cents per penny and the 1-cent valuation becomes somewhat obsolete.

The U.S. Mint has been making pennies in Philadelphia, the nation's birthplace, since 1793, a year after Congress passed the Coinage Act. Today, there are billions of them in circulation, but they are rarely essential for financial transactions in the modern economy or the digital age.

"For far too long the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents," Trump wrote in an online post in February, as costs continued to climb. "This is so wasteful!"

Still, many people have a nostalgia for them, seeing them as lucky or fun to collect.

And some retailers have voiced concerns in recent weeks as supplies ran low and the last production neared. They said the phaseout was abrupt and came with no guidance from the federal government on how to handle customer transactions.

Some rounded prices down to avoid shortchanging people, others pleaded with customers to bring exact change and the more creative among them gave out prizes, such as a free drink, in exchange for a pile of pennies.

"We have been advocating abolition of the penny for 30 years. But this is not the way we wanted it to go," Jeff Lenard of the National Association of Convenience Stores said last month.

Some banks, meanwhile, began rationing supplies, a somewhat paradoxical result of the effort to address what many see as a glut of the coins. Over the last century, about half of the coins made at U.S. Mints in Philadelphia and Denver have been pennies.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Freshly-made pennies sit in a bin at the U.S. Mint in Denver.

On Wednesday, U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach told reporters that they would auction off the final pennies printed in Philadelphia. The Treasury Department expects to save $56 million per year on materials by ceasing to make them.

But they still have a better production-cost-to-value ratio than the nickel, which costs nearly 14 cents to make.

The diminutive dime, by comparison, costs less than 6 cents to produce and the quarter nearly 15 cents.



AP

This updated photo provided by the Central Intelligence Agency shows the 1988 sculpture "Kryptos" by James Sanborn at the Central Intelligence Agency in McLean, Va.

Solution goes on auction for CIA HQ's 'Kryptos' sculpture

Associated Press

BOSTON — When Jim Sanborn was commissioned to create a sculpture at CIA headquarters, he wanted to do something that to spoke to its world of spies and secret codes.

The result was a 10-foot-tall, S-shaped copper screen called "Kryptos" that resembles a piece of paper coming out of a fax machine. One side features a series of staggered alphabets that are key for decoding the four encrypted messages on the other side. The paragraphs, he said, were "designed to unravel like a ball of string" or "nesting Russian dolls" and get increasingly difficult.

"At the time, codes and encoding was an esoteric subject," Sanborn said. "I wanted it to be less so, and I wanted it to be fun. ... Any artist's goal when they make an artwork is to have the viewer's attention for as long as possible."

Sanborn figured the first three messages on the 1990 sculpture, known as K1, K2 and K3, would be cracked relatively quickly, and they were. He came up with the texts, and a retired CIA cryptographer showed him several systems for encoding them.

But 35 years later, the fourth, K4, remains a mystery and a source of obsessive fascination among thousands of "Kryptos" fans. One person has contacted Sanborn every week for the past 20 years trying to solve K4, and the artist was getting so many inquiries that he began charging $50 per submission to make it more manageable.

Now Sanborn, who at age 79 has had a series of health scares in recent years, is auctioning off the solution to K4, anointing a new "Kryptos" keeper who he hopes will keep its secret and continue interacting with followers.

Boston-based RR Auction launched the auction last month. It runs through Nov. 20, with the top bid currently at $201,841 for the "Kryptos" archive.

The archive includes everything needed to solve K4, along with an alternate paragraph that the artist is calling K5. The original coding charts for K1, K2 and K3 will also be up for bid, along with the original scrambled texts, which Sanborn showed to the Department of Historical Intelligence to ensure the CIA understood there was nothing "untoward" on the sculpture.

US bishops select conservative to lead

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — U.S. Catholic bishops elected Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul Coakley as their new president on Tuesday, choosing a conservative culture warrior to lead during President Donald Trump's second term.

The vote serves as a barometer for the bishops' priorities. In choosing Coakley, they are doubling down on their conservative bent, even as they push for more humane immigration policies from the Trump administration.

Coakley was seen as a strong contender for the top post, having already been elected in 2022 to serve as secretary, the No. 3 conference official. In three rounds of voting, he beat out centrist candidate Bishop Daniel Flores of Brownsville, Texas, who was subsequently elected vice president.



Coakley

Coakley serves as adviser to the Napa Institute, an association for conservative Catholic powerbrokers. In 2018, he publicly supported an ardent critic of Pope Francis, Italian Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, who was later excommunicated for stances that were deemed divisive.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has often been at odds with the Vatican and the inclusive, modernizing approach of the late Pope Francis. His U.S.-born successor, Pope Leo XIV, is continuing a similar pastoral emphasis on marginalized people, poverty and the environment.

The choice of Coakley may fuel tensions with Pope Leo, said Steven Millies, professor of public theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

"In the long conflict between many U.S. bishops and Francis that Leo inherits, this is not a deescalating step," he said.

Half the 10 candidates on the ballot came from the conservative wing of the conference. The difference is more in style than substance. Most U.S. Catholic bishops are reliably conservative on social issues, but some — like Coakley — place more emphasis on opposing abortion and LGBTQ+ rights.

The candidates were nominated by their fellow bishops, and Coakley succeeds the outgoing leader, Military Services Archbishop Timothy Broglio, for a three-year term.

Coakley edged out a well-known conservative on the ballot, Bishop Robert Barron of Minnesota's Winona-Rochester diocese, whose Word on Fire ministry has made him a Catholic media star.

In defeating Flores, Coakley won over another strong contender, who some Catholic insiders thought could help unify U.S. bishops and work well with the Vatican. Flores has been the U.S. bishops' leader in the Vatican's synod process to modernize the church. As a Latino leading a diocese along the U.S.-Mexico border, he supports traditional Catholic doctrine on abortion and LGBTQ issues and is outspoken in his defense of migrants.

Flores will be eligible for the top post in three years. His election as vice president indicates that the U.S. conference "may eventually, cautiously open itself to the church's new horizons," said David Gibson, director of Fordham University's Center on Religion and Culture.

NATION

Tattoo artist in spotlight after aiding candidate

By Kimberlee Kruesi
Associated Press

Graham Platner was looking for a cover-up.

Nearly 20 years ago, the Maine Democrat drunkenly selected a skull and crossbones design while out on leave with his fellow Marines in Croatia. It wasn't until several weeks into his campaign for a key U.S. Senate seat that Platner says he discovered that the design was recognized as a Nazi symbol.

Rather than wait through multiple sessions of laser removal, Platner called a friend to help him get rid of it.

"It was a phone call like: 'Hey, I have a tattoo. I found out it's something I don't want, can you help me cover it up?'" said Mischa Ostberg, an artist based in Ellsworth, Maine.

Ostberg, a self-proclaimed "baby tattooer" who has been licensed to ink for just two years, was eager to help. For Ostberg, the request wasn't abnormal — covering up a design is a common practice in the tattoo world — and Platner's willingness to take action when learning about the image's connection to Nazis was reflective of the friend Ostberg had known for years.

It also solidified why Ostberg supported Platner's campaign, saying his past mistake reflects that "he's a regular person like all of us" and hasn't been perfectly vetted by Democratic leaders.

Platner has faced increased scrutiny surrounding now-deleted posts he made on Reddit where he dismissed military sexual assaults, questioned Black patrons' gratuity habits and criticized police officers and rural Americans. Other posts showed Platner using homophobic slurs and making anti-LGBTQ+ jokes between 2018 and 2021.

Yet Platner maintains he had never been questioned about the tattoo's connections to Nazi symbols in the 20 years he has had it. He said that after serving three tours as a Marine, he later went to enlist in the Army, which requires clearing an examination for tattoos of hate symbols.

"We all make mistakes and we don't have teams to cover it up for us," Ostberg said.

Finding a design was incredibly tricky, Ostberg said. The left side of Platner's chest is filled with lots of black ink. Ostberg sketched out a design using a Sharpie.

It took several hours to finish, resulting in a Celtic knot now covering the majority of the skull and crossbones with a dog jumping out on top of the image. Ostberg said they were inspired by Platner's Scottish heritage and love of his two dogs.

Yet Ostberg acknowledged the response to the design has not been kind. Many have ridiculed the newly covered design, while others have questioned whether Platner really covered the symbol up.

"I know a lot of people have said some honestly pretty brutal stuff. I'm trying not to look at it too much, because it just really hurts the ego and the creative part of you," Ostberg said. "But I tried. I actually put in a lot of time and effort, even if other people can't see it. I tried to make it personable to the person I know."

Platner is running to flip a U.S. Senate seat long held by Republican Susan Collins. As a first-time candidate, he must first survive the state's Democratic primary, which includes Gov. Janet Mills, who has the backing of Senate Minority leader Chuck Schumer and prominent left-leaning political groups.

"I didn't really want necessarily so many people to be talking about this," Ostberg said of the tattoo. "The important thing is that people are talking about this movement."



PHOTOS BY ROBERT F. BUKATY/AP

Tattoo artist Mischa Ostberg shows a selection of Anglo-Celtic patterns Nov. 3, in Ellsworth, Maine.



Ostberg shows a tattoo of one of her dogs.



Graham Platner, Democratic candidate for U.S. Senate, speaks to a reporter at his home in Sullivan, Maine.

Court to hear case on Planned Parenthood Medicaid fund cuts

AP/Report For America

A federal appeals court will hear arguments Wednesday about whether a spending law passed in July that ended Medicaid reimbursements for Planned Parenthood can remain in effect while legal challenges continue.

President Donald Trump's tax and spending cut bill targets organizations that both provide abortions and receive over $800,000 a year in Medicaid reimbursements. Planned Parenthood has argued the law violates the Constitution, while anti-abortion activists applauded the legislation.

The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston ruled that the law could go into effect in September while a lower court considered Planned Parenthood's claims. A three-judge panel of the appeals court was scheduled to preside over the hearing Wednesday.

In a report released ahead of the hearing, Planned Parenthood said the legislation cost $45 million in September alone as clinics across the country paid for treatment for Medicaid patients out of pocket.

Nearly half of Planned Parenthood's patients rely on Medicaid for health care aside from abortions, which was already not covered by the federal insurance program that serves millions of low-income and disabled Americans.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its member organizations in Massachusetts and Utah, as well as a major medical provider in Maine, filed lawsuits against Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in July. The Maine provider has been forced to stop its primary care services while its lawsuit works its way through the courts.

In the meantime, seven states — California, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Washington — have directed state funds to compensate for lost federal Medicaid reimbursements.

That has covered roughly $200 million of the $700 million that the organization spends annually on Medicaid patients, according to Planned Parenthood.

In light of the shortfall, some clinics will force Medicaid patients to pay out of pocket, while others will close altogether, adding to the 20 Planned Parenthood-affiliated clinics that have closed since July and the 50 total that have closed since the start of Trump's second term.

"The consequence is for patients who are going to be forced to make impossible choices between essential services," Planned Parenthood President and CEO Alexis McGill Johnson said.

Carol Tobias, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said Trump's legislation is a step in the right direction. Even though federal tax dollars aren't used for abortions directly, she said taxpayers are contributing to abortion services even if they are morally or religiously opposed, since Medicaid reimbursements help organizations that provide them stay afloat.

"To be forced to pay for that is just very objectionable," Tobias said.

She suggested Planned Parenthood could stop offering abortions if it wanted to keep providing medical care to vulnerable populations.

Planned Parenthood's president has doubled down on the organization's commitment to providing abortions.

"The government should not play a role in determining any pregnancy outcomes," Johnson said.

WORLD

Masked Israeli settlers attack 2 West Bank villages

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Dozens of masked Israeli settlers attacked a pair of Palestinian villages in the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, setting fire to vehicles and other property before clashing with Israeli soldiers sent to halt the rampage, Israeli and Palestinian officials said.

It was the latest in a series of attacks by settlers in the West Bank.

Israeli police said four Israelis were arrested in what it described as "extremist violence," while the Israeli military said four Palestinians were wounded. Police and Israel's Shin Bet security agency said they were investigating.

Videos on social media showed two charred trucks engulfed in flames, with a nearby building on fire. Settler violence has surged since the war in Gaza erupted two years ago. The attacks have intensified in recent weeks as Palestinians harvest their olive trees in an annual ritual.

The U.N. humanitarian office last week reported more Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank in October than in any other month since it began keeping track in 2006. There were over 260 attacks, the office said.

Palestinians and human rights workers accuse the Israeli army and police of failing to halt attacks by settlers. Israel's government is dominated by West Bank settlers, and the police force is overseen by Cabinet minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, a hardline settler leader.

In Tuesday's incident, the army said soldiers initially responded to settler attacks in the villages of Beit Lid and Deir Sharaf. It said the settlers fled to a nearby industrial zone and attacked soldiers sent to the scene and damaged a military vehicle.

Palestinian official Muayyad Shaaban, who heads the government's Commission against the Wall and Settlements, said the settlers set fire to four dairy trucks, farmland, tin shacks and tents belonging to a Bedouin community.

He said the attacks were part of a campaign to drive Palestinians from their land and accused Israel of giving the settlers protection and immunity. He called for sanctions against groups that "sponsor and support the colonial settlement terrorism project."



JEHAD ALSHRAFI/AP

Palestinians walk through the destruction caused by the Israeli air and ground offensive in Gaza City, Tuesday.

Top diplomats meet with Ukraine foreign minister at G7 meeting

Associated Press

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE, Ontario — Top diplomats from the Group of Seven industrialized democracies met with Ukraine's foreign minister Wednesday as Kyiv tries to fend off relentless Russian aerial attacks that have brought rolling blackouts across the country ahead of winter.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha said at the start of a meeting on Ukraine and defense cooperation, which U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his counterparts attended, that Kyiv needs to overcome what will be a "very difficult, very tough winter."

"We need the support of our partners," Sybiha said. "We have to move forward to pressure Russia, to raise the price for the aggression, for Russia, for Putin, to end this war."

Canada announced new sanctions against Russia on Wednesday, and the United Kingdom a day earlier pledged money toward Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Rubio made no announcements Wednesday about new U.S. initiatives but said on social media that the meeting delved into ways "to strengthen Ukraine's defense and find an end to this bloody conflict."

The Ukraine talks were part of the G7 meeting that Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand is hosting in southern Ontario, coming as tensions rise between the U.S. and traditional allies like Canada over defense spending, trade and uncertainty over Trump's ceasefire plan in Gaza and his Russia-Ukraine peace efforts.

Canada on Wednesday announced additional sanctions on Russia that target 13 people and 11 entities, including several involved in the development and deployment of Moscow's drone program.

Colombia stops sharing with US over boat strikes

Associated Perss

BOGOTA, Colombia — Colombian President Gustavo Petro ordered his nation's security forces Tuesday to stop sharing intelligence with the United States, until the Trump administration stops its strikes on suspected drug traffickers in the Caribbean, as relations deteriorate between the once close partners in the fight against drug trafficking.

In a message on X, Petro wrote that Colombia's military must immediately end "communications and other agreements with U.S. security agencies" until the U.S. ceases its attacks on speedboats suspected of carrying drugs, that critics have likened to extrajudicial executions.

At least 75 people have been killed by the U.S. military in strikes in international waters since August, according to figures supplied by the administration. The strikes began in the southern Caribbean, near Venezuela's shores, but have shifted recently to the eastern Pacific.

Petro has called for President Donald Trump to be investigated for war crimes over the strikes, which have affected citizens of Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia and Trinidad and Tobago.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

New council member served time for slaying

ME PORTLAND — A woman who was sworn in Monday as a city council member in Bangor, Maine, served time in prison for manslaughter.

The election of Angela Walker sparked outrage on conservative social media and concern from some Maine Republicans, such as Bobby Charles, a Republican candidate for governor.

But Walker, who is not a member of a political party, spoke openly during her campaign about how she is a changed person and believes she can bring a unique perspective to city government as someone who has been through addiction recovery and the criminal justice system.

Walker was sentenced to 10 years in prison after she and her brother, Benjamin Humphrey, pleaded guilty in the 2002 death of Derek Rogers. The Canadian tourist had allegedly called Walker a derogatory term for Native American women before a fight broke out. He was later found severely beaten and suffocated with sand.

18 sent to hospital after tram crashes at airport

VA DULLES — A vehicle transporting passengers at a Washington, D.C.-area airport hit a dock at the building Monday afternoon, sending 18 people to the hospital, according to officials.

A mobile lounge, which transports passengers between the terminal and aircraft, struck the dock at an angle at about 4:30 p.m. at Washington Dulles International Airport as it was pulling up to the building, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority said in a statement. The dock is where the vehicle stops to let people into the concourse.

The passengers who were hurt have non-life-threatening injuries and were taken to the hospital by the fire department, according to the authority.

Trump pardons man who cheated on record run

CO FORT COLLINS — President Donald Trump on Monday pardoned a trail runner who briefly took a prohibited trail on his way to a record time up and down the tallest peak in the Teton Range of western Wyoming.

The pardon for Michelino Sunseri, unlike recent pardons of Trump allies, appeared apolitical.

Sunseri, 33, ran up and down Grand Teton, the 13,775-foot centerpiece of the iconic Teton Range, in 2 hours, 50 minutes, 50 seconds in 2024.

But on the way down, Sunseri left a switchback to avoid casual hikers. Going off-trail in a national park is considered a no-no because it can cause erosion, especially when a shortcut over time becomes a popular way to go.

Sunseri got a misdemeanor conviction from a judge in September.



MIKE ROEMER/AP

Chilly cheesehead

Green Bay Packers fan Jeff Kahlow watches before an NFL football game between the Green Bay Packers and the Philadelphia Eagles, on Monday, in Green Bay, Wis. The Eagles won the game, 10-7.

Man pleads no contest to lawmaker's office arson

WI MADISON — A Wisconsin man accused of trying to burn down a congressman's office earlier this year because he was upset over the federal TikTok ban has pleaded no contest to felony arson.

Caiden Stachowicz, 20, of Menasha, entered the plea Monday in Fond du Lac County Circuit Court, online court records showed.

District Attorney Eric Toney agreed to drop burglary and property damage charges in exchange for the plea. Stachowicz faces up to 40 years in the state prison system when he's sentenced March 5.

He said he wanted to burn down Republican U.S. Rep. Glenn Grothman's Fond du Lac office because the U.S. government was shutting down TikTok in violation of his constitutional rights and peace was no longer an option. He noted that Grothman voted for the shutdown but that he didn't want to hurt anyone.

Families say Camp Mystic ignored flooding risks

TX AUSTIN — The operators of Camp Mystic in Texas, where 25 girls and two teenage counselors died in catastrophic flooding on July 4, failed to take necessary steps to protect the campers as life-threatening floodwaters approached, families of the victims allege in a lawsuit.

The lawsuit, filed Monday in state court in Austin, seeks more than $1 million in damages but does not specify an exact amount. It was filed as Camp Mystic has drawn renewed outrage over plans to reopen the camp next summer.

Among the claims in the lawsuit is that a groundskeeper was directed to spend more than an hour evacuating equipment while girls and counselors in cabins closest to the Guadalupe River were ordered to remain there, even as floodwaters overwhelmed the property.

The suit also alleges the operators of the camp chose not to make plans to safely evacuate campers, despite state rules requiring such plans, and instead ordered campers and counselors to remain in their cabins.

Inmate didn't choose between chair, injection

TN NASHVILLE — Tennessee death row inmate Harold Wayne Nichols on Monday declined to choose between the electric chair and lethal injection for his Dec. 11 execution, meaning the state will default to lethal injection.

Nichols was sentenced to death in 1990 after he was convicted of raping and murdering Karen Pulley, a 21-year-old student at Chattanooga State University, two years earlier. He has two weeks to change his mind about choosing which method will be used, Tennessee Department of Correction spokesperson Dorinda Carter said.

Although he expressed remorse at trial, he admitted that he would have continued his violent behavior had he not been arrested.

Sheriff not to be charged after turbulent town hall

ID BOISE — The Idaho Attorney General's Office has declined to file charges against a northern Idaho sheriff after investigating a turbulent legislative town hall meeting during which a woman was forcibly removed by security dressed in plainclothes.

The chaos at the February meeting in Coeur d'Alene drew widespread attention with videos posted online going viral showing the woman being pulled from the audience after heckling the speakers. The video showed Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris telling Teresa Borrenpohl to leave, and then stepping back and recording on his cellphone as multiple unidentified men approached and began grabbing her, dragging her out of the meeting. The men were security officers with LEAR Asset Management, but were not wearing any identification or uniforms, and witnesses said they repeatedly refused to identify themselves.

After the incident, Kootenai County Undersheriff Brett Nelson released a statement saying the agency will have a "complete and independent investigation of the incident conducted by an outside agency."

"The investigation did not uncover any evidence to suggest the sheriff acted in bad faith or with malice, and criminal charges would not be appropriate," the attorney general's office wrote.

Suit challenges program allowing killing of bears

AK JUNEAU — Conservation groups sued Monday over a state program in Alaska that authorizes killing brown bears and black bears as a way to increase the size of a once-significant caribou herd in the southwest part of the state. The groups allege the program lacks a scientific basis and is unconstitutional.

The lawsuit filed in state court said the program adopted by the Alaska Board of Game in July doesn't require the Department of Fish and Game to monitor bear populations to ensure their numbers remain sustainable. It also said the program — carried out by department employees and allowing them to shoot from helicopters — sets no limits on how many bears can be killed in an area that's roughly the size of Indiana.

From wire reports

Q&A

Gary Cole is in his 'NCIS' era

Self-described 'crazy uncle' of popular crime procedural talks about meeting veterans, visiting an actual NCIS office

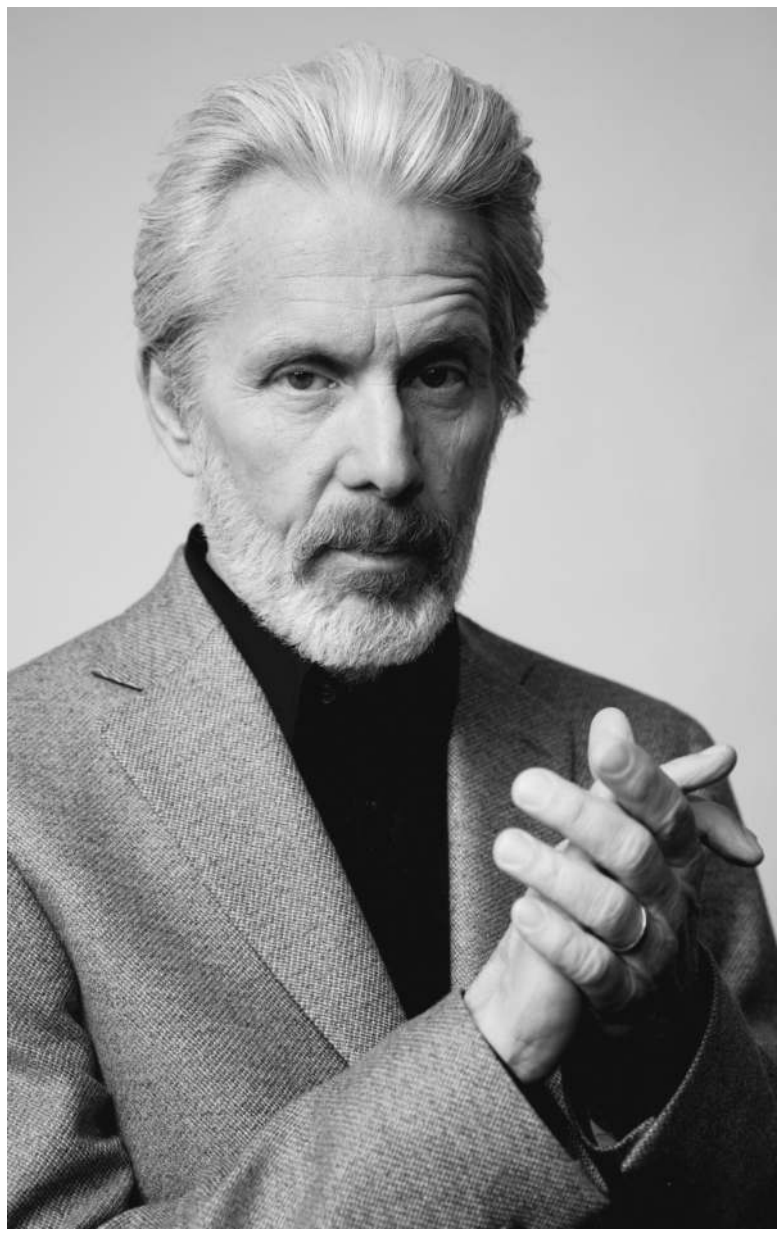
BY HILARY FOX
Associated Press

There's a Gary Cole for everyone.

Whether you know him from "The West Wing" or "Veep," "The Good Wife" or "Office Space," "Dodgeball" or "Midnight Caller," you most likely know his face.

For a while he was the "hero of the schoolyard" with his daughter's classmates for appearing in "Cadet Kelly" alongside Hilary Duff. These days, though, it's his role as Alden Parker on the long-running CBS crime procedural "NCIS" that has him stopped in the street.

Centered on the U.S. Navy's investigative unit in Washington, the show is currently airing Season 23.



TAYLOR JEWELL, INVISION/AP

Versatile actor Gary Cole, photographed Nov. 4, plays Alden Parker on the CBS crime procedural "NCIS," centered on the U.S. Navy's investigative unit in Washington and currently in its 23rd season.

"It's pretty powerful, that impact," says Cole of the program's devoted broadcast audience. "So a lot of people have followed the show and they have followed it, some of them, forever," he adds.

Cole's character was brought in during Season 19 to run the team after Leroy Jethro Gibbs (Mark Harmon) left. In a Veterans Day special, a first for the franchise, "NCIS" and "NCIS: Origins" crossed over with back-to-back episodes Tuesday. A historical mystery in "Origins" — featuring a guest appearance from Harmon on the show that follows Gibbs' early career — found its way to the modern day on "NCIS," which aired directly after.

The Associated Press spoke to Cole about the success of the show, the real service members he's met and those classic "NCIS" freeze frames. This conversation has been edited for clarity and brevity.

Associated Press: Was the popularity of "NCIS" a plus or minus when you were thinking about taking the role?

Cole: I didn't really look at the effect of how big or small the audience would be, because today things are much different. I mean, nothing has kind of the large, overwhelming impact that television shows of 25 years did in terms of their audience, where you could be swallowed up by just one image. ...

I'm old enough to say that I was on television when, here in the States, there were three channels. That was it. Those were your choices. And once they were on and then rerun once, maybe twice if you were lucky, they really were gone.

Now ... if you look hard enough, you can find pretty much anything you've done your whole career. It's being broadcast somewhere.

Is there any show you wish would disappear and never be seen again?

Not so much a show. There's probably a few network movies of the week, we used to call it, that I kind of cut my teeth on. ... By that I don't mean choice of material, although that was part of it too. But it was just kind of a laboratory to get comfortable in front of a camera without a lot of — if you're on a series and it's successful, your visibility is just there. If you're doing a lot of learning and making mistakes and correcting them, you don't want to do that on a weekly basis in front of everybody.

How have they changed Alden to be a bit more you?

They didn't want him to be similar to Gibbs. They certainly wanted, you know, they wanted somebody that you could buy as a leader. Our old producer, who has retired since, had a great line about, kind of, just an inside joke about the show, which is that: In the original "NCIS," all the kids were eager to please the father, meaning Gibbs, right? They were, like, wondering what his reaction was going to be and would they be, you know, under the gun if they made a mistake or made a wrong move? There was a little bit of, you know, apprehension around him. And so now he flipped it and said, what if the father were to leave? And the crazy uncle shows up? And how are they going to react to them? And they're not quite sure at first, like, "What is the story with this guy?" ... And I liked that.

Have you spoken to veterans since being on the show?

We've got a great tech guy with us named Mike Smith who has set up numerous field trips and interactions. Katrina (Law, co-star) and I visited an aircraft carrier about a year and a half ago and spent the day on what they call family day. ... And we actually go to sea and they proceeded to do what they do and show us literally planes landing, planes taking off. And we got to see things that normally, you know, civilians wouldn't see. And just to be with the sailors and interact with them. A lot of them knew the show. A lot knew other stuff I had done. We visited a real NCIS office out here in California.

How do agents feel in the (real) NCIS office?

They were very curious, but mostly about character stuff. They weren't even worried about procedurals because they know, you know, it's a television show, right? So, but, what I realized when I went in there, this is funny: Don't tell anybody this, but I said, I looked at them and their average age, the guy that was leading them was probably 20 years younger than me. And every agent was barely 30 years old — if. So I was like, you know, based on this, if this is the reality, I should have retired 15 years ago.

Do you ever, when you are coming to the end of a scene, freeze because you know they're going to do the fade to black and white?

No. We joke about them, they call them, what do they say? They call it a poof movement, or a poof moment. "Oh, that's definitely gonna be a poof. You're gonna get a poof." POOF. ... You know, somebody's gonna choose it. And it's certainly not gonna be me, or anybody else in the cast, that is going to be in charge of figuring out where your poof movement is. So best to leave it to higher minds.

Gadot wins Israel's Genesis Prize for wartime support

Associated Press

Israeli actor Gal Gadot has been awarded Israel's Genesis Prize in recognition of her strong support for the country at a time when many in the entertainment industry have criticized it over the war in Gaza.

Describing herself as a "proud Jew and a proud Israeli," the "Wonder Woman" star, who at times has paid a personal price for her advocacy, said she would donate the $1 million prize to organizations committed to helping Israel recover from the trauma of its two-year war against Hamas.



Gadot

"Israel has endured unimaginable pain," she said in a statement released by the prize on Tuesday. "Now we must begin to heal — to rebuild hearts, families and communities."

The Genesis Prize, nicknamed "the Jewish Nobel" by Time magazine, is granted each year to a person for their professional achievements, contributions to humanity and commitment to Jewish values. Winners have donated the award to promote causes close to their hearts, such as battling antisemitism, advancing women's rights or fighting for economic justice.

The war in Gaza erupted with Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack, in which militants killed some 1,200 people in southern Israel and took more than 250 others hostage.

Throughout the war, Gadot, who served in the Israeli military after high school, remained a fervent advocate for Israel. She campaigned for the release of hostages held by Hamas, met with hostage families and hostages after they'd been released, and helped promote the screening in Los Angeles of a graphic film documenting the Hamas attack.

Other news

■ **Ace Frehley,** the original lead guitarist and founding member of the glam rock band Kiss, died from blunt force injuries to the head suffered in a fall this year, an autopsy has determined. Frehley died Oct. 16 in Morristown, N.J., a few weeks after the fall occurred, according to his agent. The Morris County Medical Examiner's Office determined Frehley's death was an accident.

■ **Sally Kirkland,** a one-time model who became a regular on stage, film and TV, best known for sharing the screen with Paul Newman and Robert Redford in "The Sting" and her Oscar-nominated title role in the 1987 movie "Anna," died Tuesday morning at a hospice in Palm Springs, Calif. She was 84.

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OPINION

'No permanent enemies' doctrine on display

By James Hohmann
The Washington Post

It was surreal to sit down with Syrian President Ahmed al-Sharaa in his suite at the St. Regis, right next to the White House, on the eve of Veterans Day.

In 2005, U.S. forces caught him planting roadside bombs in Iraq and held him for six years. Then he led Syria's al-Qaida affiliate, the Nusra Front, before breaking away in 2016. Until December, the U.S. government had a $10 million bounty on his head. Just Friday, the State Department removed him from a list of designated terrorists.

Sipping espresso around 7 p.m. Monday, the 43-year-old reflected on a day of warm meetings that would have been unthinkable a year ago, including 90 minutes with President Donald Trump. In the Oval Office, he sat next to Vice President JD Vance, who served in Iraq. On Capitol Hill, he met with multiple veterans of the Middle East wars.

More than anyone else, al-Sharaa personifies Trump's foreign policy doctrine of "no permanent enemies." The United States has decided that the former jihadi is its best bet for stability in the heart of a volatile region and, also crucial, to help crush his former allies in Islamic State. The president acknowledged al-Sharaa's "rough past" but argued that only a "tough guy" like him could emerge as "a very strong leader" in such a dangerous neighborhood.

In an hour-long conversation with Washington Post journalists, al-Sharaa talked about his childhood passion for the NBA and Michael Jordan, his preference for baseball over soccer and his talent at playing pool. He said he's determined to disprove stereotypes about bearded Islamists preferring war to politics. He retains his military bearing but has dropped his nom de guerre (Abu Mohammed al-Jolani) and traded his turban for a tailored suit with cufflinks.

His priority in Washington was persuading lawmakers to lift sanctions they imposed on Syria in 2019 when dictator Bashar Assad was butchering civilians. Al-Sharaa led the rebel forces that toppled Assad in December and liberated Damascus. Now he's trying to rebuild.

The World Bank estimates that reconstruction after the 13-year civil war will cost $216 billion. Al-Sharaa says he prefers to do it with foreign investment rather than humanitarian aid, but the 2019 sanctions law expelled Syria from the global banking system and limited what products the country could import.

Trump suspended those sanctions in June and, on Monday, extended that order for another six months. But al-Sharaa says Congress needs to repeal the sanctions outright so that businesses have more certainty to enter his markets. A repeal will probably happen in the year-end defense reauthorization bill, though there remains some debate about whether to include snapback provisions or other conditions. It probably makes sense to lift all the sanctions for now, though, especially because the U.S. could easily impose fresh restrictions if Syria backslides.

Thousands have died in Syria this year during episodic sectarian violence. Security forces under al-Sharaa's command have been linked to multiple massacres. He has promised to hold perpetrators accountable. At the same time, he downplayed sectarian strife by saying that certain religious groups are resisting the central government simply because they want to continue their multibillion-dollar trade in Captagon, a synthetic amphetamine-type stimulant.

Al-Sharaa said he studied the failures of nation-building in Lebanon and Iraq, which is why he won't agree to quotas in parliament for the country's myriad ethnic and religious groups. He asks Americans for patience during this transitional period. The youthful president pointed out that violence continued in the American South after the North won the Civil War, and he recalled that Germany took 45 years to reunify after World War II.

He sounded other pragmatic notes. For instance, Assad fled to Moscow; asked whether he pressed Russian President Vladimir Putin to turn over the dictator during a trip to the Kremlin, al-Sharaa said that his focus was on getting Russia's vote to drop other sanctions as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. That happened last week.

It doesn't mean he's forgotten their history. Al-Sharaa noted that Russia repeatedly tried to kill him for a decade as it propped up Assad. "They announced that they killed me several times," he said through a translator.

Al-Sharaa estimates that 1 million of the 14 million refugees who fled Syria during the civil war have already returned, and he thinks economic growth would make the country a magnet for millions more to repatriate. A stable security situation is a prerequisite, and U.S. leadership can help.

Israel invaded parts of southern Syria as Assad fell and continues to occupy them. The Trump administration has been trying to broker a deal that would get the Israelis to pull back. Al-Sharaa said Trump is the only one who could do it. Adm. Brad Cooper, head of U.S. Central Command, and Tom Barrack, the president's special envoy for Syria, have visited Damascus twice in six weeks.

Al-Sharaa expressed hope that a deal will be worked out to the satisfaction of both parties. "You can't say you have a fish until you catch the fish," he said, repeating an Iraqi proverb. "We have to catch the fish."

James Hohmann is a Washington Post deputy opinion editor, with responsibilities that include overseeing the Editorial Board.

The real lessons from Democrats' election wins

By Arthur I. Cyr

Democrats effectively, successfully swept a handful of elections in different parts of the country on Nov. 4. That has provided much-needed encouragement for the party when the White House and both houses of Congress are in Republican hands.

However, some limited wins are still a long way from decisive victory in next year's midterm congressional elections, when the voters will choose the entire House of Representatives and one-third of the members of the Senate.

That election in turn will be a major indicator regarding the sweepstakes presidential and congressional elections of 2028.

The most prominent of last week's elections was for mayor of New York City, where both the personal qualities and political convictions of the ultimate winner are distinctive, to say the least. Zohran Mamdani is young at 34 years old, telegenic, quite articulate — and a socialist.

On election night, after his victory was clear, he quoted Eugene V. Debs (1855-1926), patron saint of the socialist movement, an early union organizer, and an iconic radical figure. Debs began his career as a Democrat, serving for a time in the Indiana state legislature, but quickly moved left.

Debs was a founding member of the Industrial Workers of the World as well as the Socialist Party of America, and ran for president of the United States five times. He was a principal organizer of early U.S. labor unions focused on the railroad industry. This was in the late 19th century, when federal troops were sometimes brought in to break up union activity.

Republicans starting with President Donald Trump are having a field day denouncing Mamdani. In the election, Trump endorsed former Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who ran as an independent after losing the Democratic primary. That probably boosted support for Mamdani. Polling expert Bill Schneider of George Mason University shows through hard data that in New York and elsewhere, this election was a referendum on Trump.

The other Democrats who won are Mikie Sherrill and Abigail Spanberger, elected respectively governor of New Jersey and governor of Virginia. Both states have elected Republican governors in relatively recent years, and Virginia is trending Republican.

In California, Proposition 50 passed in a landslide. Gov. Gavin Newsom, a prominent contender for the 2028 Democratic presidential nomination, staked his prestige — and to a significant extent his political future — on all-out support for the measure. The proposition takes the drawing of state legislative maps out of the hands of the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission and gives that power to the state legislature, where Democrats have a majority.

Initially, prospects of this change in the practices of a traditional "good government" state seemed uncertain. Newsom led an extremely aggressive campaign for passage with the theme that a vote for the measure would be a vote "against Trump." The effort was also promoted as a response to similar Republican gerrymandering, notably in Texas.

Lessons from these elections are limited. California's change is already facing challenge in federal court. New York City is distinctive within our nation. Likewise, New Jersey and Virginia are not nationally representative.

The elections occurred during the federal government shutdown. Trump signed an executive order that active-duty military personnel continue to be paid. This reflects public support for our military along with basic national security.

Ending the disruptive, painful shutdown ought to prove beneficial to the Democrats. The Senate pragmatists who voted this week to cooperate with Republicans, starting the reopening process, are: Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Dick Durbin of Illinois, John Fetterman of Pennsylvania, Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire, Tim Kaine of Virginia, Angus King of Maine, Jacky Rosen of Nevada, and Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

Let's hope they don't suffer in consequence.

Arthur I. Cyr is author of "After the Cold War — American Foreign Policy, Europe and Asia."

Bizarro



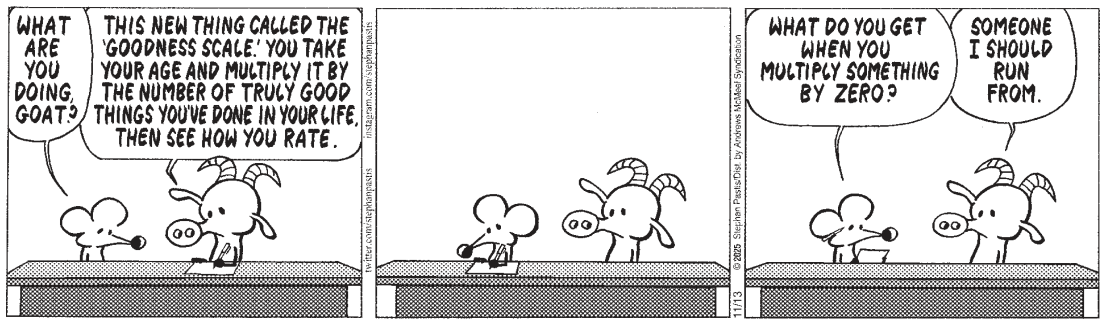
Loose Parts



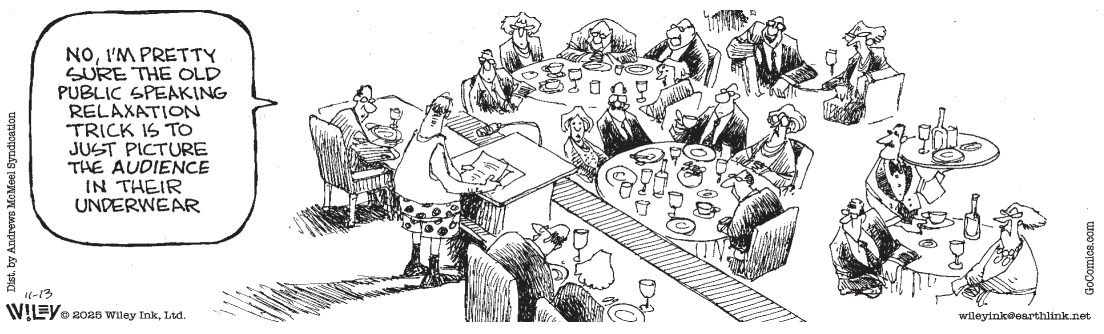
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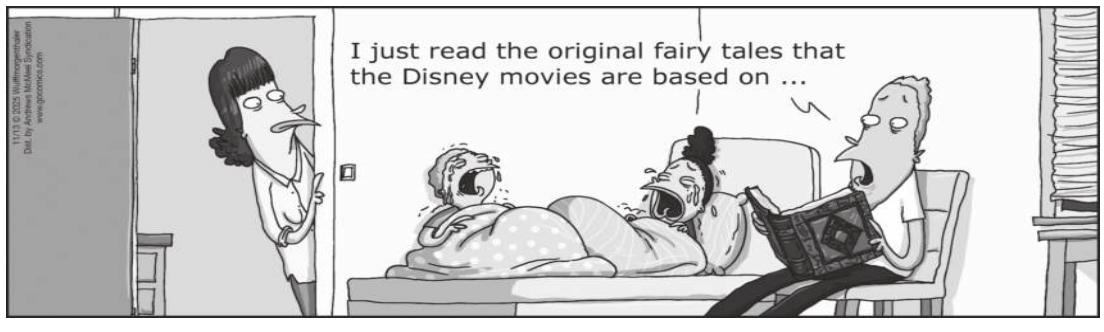
Pearls Before Swine



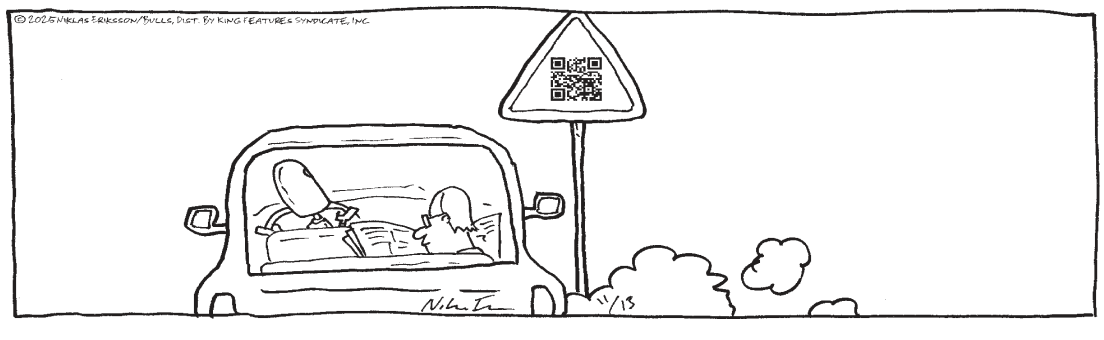
Non Sequitur



Wumo



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53				■	54			■	55			
56				■	57			■	58			

ACROSS

1 Verifiable
5 Sailor
8 Mellows
12 Rwandan people
13 "Let You Love Me" singer Rita
14 Sushi wrapper
15 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
16 Drs. that deliver
17 Forum wear
18 Support
20 Not often
22 Furry foot
23 Prefix with natal
24 Macadamize
27 Notified
32 Tennis feat
33 Fib
34 Conclusion
35 Temple headwear
38 Tech news website
39 Pro vote
40 Horror star Chaney
42 Mystery writers' awards
45 Garden figurines
49 Novelist Anita
50 One of the five W's
52 Cash drawer
53 H.S. lab class
54 Texter's "As I see it"
55 Wry Bombeck
56 Tennis champ Murray
57 Deity
58 Chimney buildup

DOWN

1 Grand
2 Kind of roast
3 Hexagonal state
4 Norway's continent
5 Benevolence
6 Globe
7 Low voice
8 Elk's horn
9 Favorable sign
10 "Cogito, — sum"
11 Thailand, once
19 "— Bohème"
21 Rock producer Brian
24 Remit
25 Fed. health law
26 "Impressive!"
28 Suffix with peace
29 Lighthearted
30 Away from WSW
31 Banned pesticide
36 Puny
37 Eg. and Syr., once
38 $100 bills
41 Atop
42 "The Wire" actor Idris
43 Slay
44 Big gulp
46 Surrealist Joan
47 Sailor's saint
48 Venetian blind part
51 Med. plan option

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

11-13

CRYPTOQUIP

QWNB UKB PJ FKBBKGU QPHFM DB YK JDBBDRO JPG MPOU BP HUK BP ZPIIHRDZNBK QDBW? BWK NGJ-NYKB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN THAT BUNCH OF FERAL CATS BECAME REALLY DISTURBED BY ARTIST MONET, THEY CLAWED CLAUDE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals G

SCOREBOARD

DEALS

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Acquired RHP Mason Black from the San Francisco Giants in exchange for RHP Logan Martin.

National League

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Hired Edwar Gonzalez as assistant hitting coach.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Hired Simon Mathews as pitching coach.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

DALLAS MAVERICKS — Fired general manager Nico Harrison.
INDIANA PACERS — Signed F Jeremiah Robinson-Earl to a 10-day contract.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

NFL — Suspended Tampa Bay Buccaneers RB Josh Williams for violating the NFL's performance-enhancing substances policy.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed DT Ben Stille to the practice squad. Released OL Raiqwon O'Neal and LS Zach Triner from the practice squad.
BUFFALO BILLS — Signed WR Mecole Hardman to the practice squad. Designated DT T.J. Sanders to return from injured reserve. Placed DE Landon Jackson on injured reserve. Released DE Kingsley Jonathan and WR Kristian Wilkerson from the practice squad.
CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed QB Mike White to the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Waived CB Tre Avery. Signed DEs K.J. Henry and Ochaun Mathis to the practice squad. Released DT Simeon Barrow Jr. from the practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Activated LB DeMarvion Overshown from the PUP list. Activated DB Shavon Revel from the NFI list.
DENVER BRONCOS — Signed OT Geron Christian to the active roster. Waived WR Michael Bandy. Placed LB Karene Reid on injured reserve. Released OT Marques Cox from the practice squad.
DETROIT LIONS — Signed TE Anthony Firkser to the practice squad. Released OL Jack Conley from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Placed C/G Elgton Jenkins on injured reserve. Signed LB Kristian Welch to the active roster.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Placed OL Jackson Powers-Johnson on injured reserve. Signed LB Jamin Davis to the active roster. Signed K Greg Joseph to the practice squad.
LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed TE Nick Muse to the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed RB Jonathan Ward to the practice squad. Released WR Brenden Rice from the practice squad.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed K Ben Sauls to the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Signed CB Tre Brown to the practice squad. Released DB JT Woods from the practice squad.
PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed CB Asante Samuel Jr. to the practice squad. Released S Darrick Forrest from the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Released DT Desmond Watson from the practice squad.
WASHINGTON COMMANDERS — Placed CB Trey Amos on injured reserve. Signed WRs Robbie Chosen and Jacoby Jones to the active roster. Signed DE DeMarcus Walker and WR River Cracraft to the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

CAROLINA HURRICANES — Placed D Charles-Alexis Legault on injured reserve. Activated D Shayne Gostisbehere from injured reserve.
COLORADO AVALANCHE — Signed F Gavin Brindley to a two-year contract extension through the 2027-28 season.
SAN JOSE SHARKS — Reassigned F/C Ethan Cardwell to San Jose (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Placed C/F Dominic James on injured reserve. Placed D Ryan McDonagh on injured reserve.

PRO SOCCER

MLS playoffs

Conference Semifinals
Eastern Conference
Sunday, Nov. 23

Philadelphia vs. New York City
Miami vs. Cincinnati

Western Conference
Saturday, Nov. 22

Vancouver vs. Los Angeles FC

Monday, Nov. 24

San Diego vs. Minnesota

NWSL playoffs

Semifinals
Sunday, Nov. 16

Washington vs. Portland
Gotham FC vs. Orlando

Championship
Saturday, Nov. 22
At San Jose, Calif.

Semifinal winners

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tuesday's men's scores

EAST

Albany 115, SUNY-Delhi 52
Central Connecticut 60, Boston College 59
Colgate 90, Drexel 83
Duke 114, Army 59
Duquesne 87, Queens 81, OT
Fordham 63, Wagner 61
Maryland 84, Alcorn State 64
Mount St. Mary's 74, St. Francis (PA) 66
NJIT 66, Loyola (Md) 64
Northeastern 77, Harvard 60
Penn State 80, Navy 71
Princeton 73, Bucknell 63
Providence 106, Pennsylvania 81
Rhode Island 80, Stonehill 57
Stony Brook 107, St. Joseph's (Long Island) 43
Temple 90, La Salle 63
Towson 101, Wilson College 62
UMBC 81, Morgan State 79
Villanova 94, Sacred Heart 60
Yale 97, Quinnipiac 60

SOUTH

Alabama State 77, UAB 74
Auburn 93, Wofford 62
Bethune-Cookman 101, Coastal Georgia 60
Clemson 83, Morehead State 56
Coastal Carolina 72, Winthrop 66
Davidson 62, Charlotte 55
Florida 78, Florida State 76
George Mason 86, Catawba 62
Georgia Southern 95, Florida Gulf Coast 94
High Point 85, Jacksonville 64
Louisville 96, Kentucky 88
North Alabama 87, Northwestern State 83, OT
North Carolina 89, Radford 74
Old Dominion 60, Norfolk State 57
Ole Miss 83, Memphis 77
Richmond 90, William & Mary 86
Tennessee State 114, Oakwood University 76
Troy 121, Pensacola Christian 56
Tulane 66, Louisiana 62
UCF 97, Florida A&M 60
UNC Asheville 69, Lipscomb 64
Virginia 91, Hampton 53

MIDWEST

Arkansas State 86, Missouri State 85
Buffalo 66, DePaul 53
Butler 98, Chicago State 66
Cincinnati 74, Dayton 62
Detroit Mercy 92, Cleary 54
IU Indianapolis 121, IU Columbus 77
Illinois 81, Texas Tech 77
Kansas 77, Texas A&M-CC 46
Michigan 85, Wake Forest 84, OT
Nebraska 69, Maryland-Eastern Shore 50
North Dakota 128, Mayville State 58
North Dakota State 90, Cal State Northridge 68
Notre Dame 78, Eastern Illinois 58
Ohio State 75, Appalachian State 53
Toledo 81, Wright State 71
UIC 98, St. Francis (IL) 55
Wisconsin 86, Ball State 55

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 104, Southwestern Adventist 63
Arkansas 93, Central Arkansas 56
Incarnate Word 109, Southwestern Christian 70
Loyola Marymount 71, UTEP 58
Oklahoma 95, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 69
SMU 102, Murray State 91
Stephen F. Austin 81, Rice 69
Tarleton State 76, Merrimack 62

FAR WEST

Arizona 84, Northern Arizona 49
BYU 85, Delaware 68
Boise State 85, Texas Rio Grande Valley 65
Cal State Bakersfield 74, Western Illinois 58
Gonzaga 90, Creighton 63
Iona 105, Kansas City 91
LIU 76, Air Force 72
Montana 102, UNLV 93
New Mexico 82, UC Riverside 68
New Mexico State 74, New Mexico Highlands 58
Pepperdine 113, Lincoln (CA) 76
Saint Mary's 90, Ohio 60
Southern Utah 118, Bethesda 60
UC Santa Barbara 92, Sacramento State 87
Wyoming 79, Austin Peay 65

Men's Top 25 schedule

Wednesday's games

No. 1 Houston (2-0) vs. Oakland (0-2)
No. 20 Tennessee (2-0) vs. North Florida (0-1)

Thursday's games

No. 2 Purdue (2-0) at No. 8 Alabama (2-0)
No. 17 Michigan State (2-0) vs. San Jose State (0-2)

Friday's games

No. 4 Duke (2-0) vs. Indiana State (2-1)
No. 5 Arizona (2-0) vs. No. 15 UCLA (3-0) at Inglewood, Calif.
No. 6 Michigan (1-0) at TCU (2-1)
No. 9 Kentucky (2-0) vs. Eastern Illinois (1-1)
No. 11 Texas Tech (2-0) vs. Milwaukee (2-1)
No. 14 Illinois (2-0) vs. Colgate (0-2)
No. 18 North Carolina (2-0) vs. North Carolina Central (0-3)
No. 19 Gonzaga (2-0) at Arizona State (2-0)
No. 21 Arkansas (1-1) vs. Samford (1-1)
No. 23 Creighton (1-0) vs. Maryland-Eastern Shore (1-2)

Saturday's games

No. 3 UConn (3-0) vs. No. 7 BYU (2-0) at Boston
No. 12 Louisville (2-0) vs. Ohio (1-1)
No. 13 St. John's (1-1) vs. William & Mary (2-0)
No. 25 Kansas (1-1) vs. Princeton (0-1)

Sunday's games

No. 1 Houston (2-0) vs. No. 22 Auburn (2-0) at Birmingham, Ala.
No. 2 Purdue (2-0) vs. Akron (2-0)
No. 10 Florida (1-1) vs. Miami (FL) (3-0) at Jacksonville, Fla.

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST

Boston University 61, Northeastern 57
Bryant 66, Marist 56
Duquesne 102, West Liberty 73
Hofstra 73, Yale 66
Howard 62, George Washington 60
LIU 89, Kean 27
La Salle 81, Lehigh 70
Maryland-Eastern Shore 71, Monmouth 66
NJIT 78, Wagner 58
Pittsburgh 56, Cornell 54
Saint Joseph's 70, Cincinnati 65
St. Bonaventure 68, Binghamton 65
St. John's 53, Quinnipiac 51
Stonehill 65, Niagara 50
Syracuse 96, Canisius 72
Towson 76, Stetson 54
UMass 68, Harvard 55
West Virginia 89, Temple 61

SOUTH

Bethune-Cookman 84, Albany State 72
East Carolina 91, Charleston Southern 62
Georgia State 75, Wofford 68
Louisiana Tech 121, Louisiana Christian 34
Louisiana-Monroe 74, Grambling State 55
Memphis 76, South Alabama 68
North Carolina State 66, Maine 47
Radford 59, Loyola (MD) 50
South Carolina 65, Clemson 37
South Carolina State 108, Trinity College of Jacksonville 42
Tennessee Tech 63, Middle Tennessee 54
Western Kentucky 73, Wichita State 71, OT

MIDWEST

Dayton 71, Xavier 66
Green Bay 67, North Dakota 43
Indiana 57, Marshall 51
Indiana State 90, Eastern Illinois 69
Minnesota 90, Marquette 47
Missouri 97, Arkansas State 75
Missouri State 67, Southeast Missouri State 57
South Dakota State 91, Murray State 60
Western Illinois 68, Northern Illinois 50

SOUTHWEST

Abilene Christian 76, UT Rio Grande Valley 58
Oklahoma State 105, Prairie View A&M 55
Rice 70, Houston 56
Santa Clara 85, Texas A&M-CC 62
UT Arlington 64, Wyoming 44
UTEP 81, Western New Mexico 56

FAR WEST

California 60, Pacific 52
Fresno State 78, Seattle 53
New Mexico State 78, New Mexico Highlands 61
Northern Arizona 100, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical (AZ) 59
Northern Colorado 84, Bethany (KS) 52
Oregon 84, Grand Canyon 66
Portland 107, Warner Pacific 26
Portland State 89, Willamette 52
Utah 75, Utah Valley 52
Utah State 68, Cal State Bakersfield 65

Women's Top 25 schedule

Wednesday's games

No. 1 UConn (2-0) vs. Loyola Chicago (1-1)
No. 5 LSU (3-0) vs. Charlotte (2-1)
No. 6 Oklahoma (1-1) vs. Kansas City (1-1)
No. 13 Ole Miss (2-0) vs. Southern University (0-2)
No. 15 Duke (1-1) vs. Norfolk State (2-1)
No. 16 Iowa State (3-0) vs. Valparaiso (0-2)
No. 17 TCU (2-0) vs. Tennessee State (0-2)
No. 18 Notre Dame (2-0) vs. Akron (0-2)
No. 19 Vanderbilt (2-0) at Austin Peay (1-0)
No. 22 Louisville (1-1) vs. Colorado (1-0)
No. 23 Kentucky (3-0) vs. USC Upstate (1-2)
No. 24 Michigan State (2-0) vs. Youngstown State (2-0)

Thursday's games

No. 3 UCLA (3-0) vs. No. 11 North Carolina (2-0) at Paradise, Nev.
No. 9 Maryland (3-0) vs. Towson (1-1)
No. 12 Tennessee (2-1) vs. Belmont (1-1)
No. 21 Iowa (2-0) vs. Drake (1-1)

Friday's games

No. 6 Oklahoma (1-1) vs. North Alabama (3-0)
No. 7 Baylor (2-0) at UNLV (2-0)
No. 15 Duke (1-1) vs. West Virginia (2-0) at White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

Saturday's games

No. 2 South Carolina (2-0) vs. No. 8 USC (2-0) at Los Angeles
No. 3 UCLA (3-0) vs. South Florida (2-0) at Paradise, Nev.
No. 11 North Carolina (2-0) vs. Fairfield (2-0) at Paradise, Nev.
No. 14 Michigan (2-0) vs. No. 18 Notre Dame (2-0) at Detroit
No. 23 Kentucky (3-0) at Marshall (2-0)
No. 25 Washington (2-0) at Utah (2-0)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Scores

Tuesday
MIDWEST

Kent State 42, Akron 35, OT
W. Michigan 17, Ohio 13

Schedule

Wednesday
EAST

Northern Illinois (2-7) at UMass (0-9)

MIDWEST

Toledo (5-4) at Miami (Ohio) (5-4)
Buffalo (5-4) at Central Michigan (5-4)

Thursday
SOUTH

Troy (6-3) at Old Dominion (6-3)

Friday
SOUTH

SC State (7-3) at North Carolina Central (7-3)
Clemson (4-5) at Louisville (7-2)

FAR WEST

Minnesota (6-3) at Oregon (8-1)

Saturday
EAST

CCSU (7-3) at Duquesne (5-5)
Penn (5-3) at Harvard (8-0)
Robert Morris (3-7) at Mercyhurst (4-6)
New Hampshire (6-4) at Bryant (3-7)
Air Force (3-6) at UConn (7-3)
LIU Brooklyn (4-6) at St. Francis (Pa.) (0-9)
Stonehill (3-7) at Wagner (4-6)
Yale (6-2) at Princeton (3-5)
Brown (3-5) at Columbia (1-7)
Davidson (2-8) at Marist (4-6)
Notre Dame (7-2) at Pittsburgh (7-2)
Merrimack (3-7) at Sacred Heart (7-3)
South Florida (7-2) at Navy (7-2)
Holy Cross (1-9) at Bucknell (5-5)
Towson (4-6) at Albany (NY) (1-9)
Cornell (4-4) at Dartmouth (6-2)
Fordham (1-9) at Georgetown (5-5)
Howard (4-6) at Delaware St. (7-3)
Lehigh (10-0) at Colgate (4-6)
Rhode Island (8-2) at Maine (6-4)
Stony Brook (5-5) at Villanova (7-2)
Georgia Tech (8-1) at Boston College (1-9)

SOUTH

Morgan St. (3-7) at Norfolk St. (1-9)
North Dakota (6-4) at Murray St. (0-10)
ETSU (5-5) at W. Carolina (6-4)
UTSA (4-5) at Charlotte (1-8)
Monmouth (NJ) (8-2) at NC A&T (2-8)
Arkansas (2-7) at LSU (5-4)
VMI (1-9) at Furman (5-5)
William & Mary (6-4) at Hampton (2-8)
Bethune-Cookman (5-5) at Jackson St. (7-2)
Tennessee Tech (10-0) at Kentucky (4-5)
North Texas (8-1) at UAB (3-6)
Elon (4-6) at Campbell (2-8)
Wofford (4-6) at The Citadel (4-6)
Charleston Southern (4-6) at UT Martin (5-5)
Lafayette (7-3) at Richmond (6-4)
Utah Tech (2-8) at West Georgia (7-3)
Marshall (4-5) at Georgia St. (1-8)
Samford (1-9) at Austin Peay (6-4)
Gardner-Webb (6-4) at Tennessee St. (2-8)
Abilene Christian (6-4) at E. Kentucky (4-6)
Texas Southern (4-5) at Southern U. (1-9)
Florida A&M (4-5) at Alabama A&M (4-6)
Chattanooga (5-5) at Mercer (8-1)
Grambling St. (7-3) at Alcorn St. (4-6)
South Alabama (2-7) at Louisiana-Monroe (3-6)
Virginia (8-2) at Duke (5-4)
Texas State (3-6) at Southern Miss. (7-2)
Appalachian St. (4-5) at James Madison (8-1)
NC State (5-4) at Miami (7-2)
Middle Tennessee (1-8) at W. Kentucky (7-2)
Oklahoma (7-2) at Alabama (8-1)
Memphis (8-2) at East Carolina (6-3)
Northwestern St. (1-9) at Nicholls (3-7)
FAU (4-5) at Tulane (7-2)
New Mexico St. (3-6) at Tennessee (6-3)
North Carolina (4-5) at Wake Forest (6-3)
Liberty (4-5) at FIU (4-5)
MVSU (1-8) vs. Alabama St. (7-2) at Mobile, Ala.
Coastal Carolina (6-3) at Georgia Southern (4-5)
Florida (3-6) at Mississippi (9-1)
UT Rio Grande Valley (7-3) at McNeese St. (4-6)
Texas (7-2) at Georgia (8-1)
Virginia Tech (3-6) at Florida St. (4-5)
Kennesaw St. (7-2) at Jacksonville St. (6-3)

MIDWEST

Drake (6-3) at Dayton (6-3)
Wisconsin (3-6) at Indiana (10-0)
Arizona (6-3) at Cincinnati (7-2)
Indiana State (3-7) at Youngstown St. (6-4)
E. Michigan (3-7) at Ball St. (4-5)
Michigan (7-2) at Northwestern (5-4)
Stetson (3-7) at Valparaiso (1-9)
South Dakota (7-4) at S. Illinois (6-4)
Presbyterian (8-2) at St. Thomas (Minn.) (7-3)
SE Missouri (3-7) at W. Illinois (3-7)
Eastern Illinois (3-7) at Lindenwood (Mo.) (4-6)
UTEP (2-7) at Missouri St. (6-3)
Illinois St. (7-3) at S. Dakota St. (7-3)
N. Iowa (3-7) at N. Dakota St. (10-0)
Maryland (4-5) at Illinois (6-3)
Penn St. (3-6) at Michigan St. (3-6)
UCLA (3-6) at Ohio St. (9-0)
Mississippi St. (5-5) at Missouri (6-3)

SOUTHWEST

Kansas St. (4-5) at Oklahoma St. (1-8)
South Carolina (3-6) at Texas A&M (9-0)
Oregon St. (2-8) at Tulsa (2-7)
Ark.-Pine Bluff (4-6) at Prairie View (7-3)
SE Louisiana (7-3) at Incarnate Word (4-6)
UCF (4-5) at Texas Tech (9-1)
Houston Christian (2-8) at East Texas A&M (2-8)
Delaware (5-4) at Sam Houston St. (1-8)
Utah (7-2) at Baylor (5-4)
North Alabama (2-8) at Tarleton State (9-1)
Lamar (8-2) at Stephen F. Austin (8-2)

FAR WEST

West Virginia (4-6) at Arizona St. (6-3)
Colorado St. (2-7) at New Mexico (6-3)
Iowa (6-3) at Southern Cal (7-2)
San Jose St. (3-6) at Nevada (1-8)
Northern Colorado (3-7) at Eastern Washington (4-6)
Cal Poly (3-7) at N. Arizona (6-4)
Butler (5-5) at San Diego (6-4)
Montana (10-0) at Portland St. (1-9)
Weber St. (3-7) at Idaho St. (4-6)
Purdue (2-8) at Washington (6-3)
Utah St. (5-4) at UNLV (7-2)
Cent. Arkansas (3-7) at S. Utah (5-5)
Idaho (4-6) at Sacramento St. (6-4)
Louisiana Tech (5-4) at Washington St. (4-5)
UC Davis (7-2) at Montana St. (8-2)
TCU (6-3) at BYU (8-1)
Wyoming (4-5) at Fresno St. (6-3)
Boise St. (6-3) at San Diego St. (7-2)

AP SPORTLIGHT

Nov. 13

1934 — Ralph Bowman of St. Louis scores the first penalty-shot goal in NHL history. Bowman's goal comes on the second penalty shot attempt in league history and is the only goal for the Eagles, who lose to the Montreal Maroons 2-1.

1949 — Chicago's Bob Nussbaumer intercepts four passes, and the Cardinals set an NFL record for points in a regular-season game with a 65-20 victory over the New York Bulldogs.

1955 — Goalies Glenn Hall and Terry Sawchuk play to a 0-0 tie at Boston Garden. Hall, a rookie goalie with the Red Wings, and Terry Sawchuk of the Bruins, played to a 0-0 tie on Oct. 22 at the Olympia in Detroit. The shutout is the 61st for Sawchuk and the fourth for Hall.

1964 — St. Louis Hawks forward Bob Pettit becomes the first NBA player to score 20,000 points, with 29 in a 123-106 loss to the Cincinnati Royals.

1971 — Colorado's Charlie Davis sets an NCAA record for a sophomore by rushing for 342 yards in a 40-6 victory over Oklahoma State.

1982 — Southern Miss beats Alabama 38-29 for the Tide's first loss in Tuscaloosa since 1963, breaking a 57-game winning streak in Bryant-Denny Stadium.

1982 — Chicago's Tony Esposito becomes the fourth NHL goaltender with 400 victories. Esposito makes 34 saves to help the Black Hawks beat the Detroit Red Wings 3-2 at Joe Louis Arena.

1984 — Bernie Nicholls of Los Angles becomes the first NHL player to get a goal in all four periods of a game. Nicholls scores once in each period and again at 2:57 of overtime to give the Kings a 5-4 victory over the Quebec Nordiques.

1992 — Riddick Bowe wins the world heavyweight championship with a unanimous decision over Evander Holyfield.

1993 — No. 2 Notre Dame runs out to a 17-point lead and hangs on to beat top-ranked Florida State 31-24 when Charlie Ward's desperation pass is knocked down on the goal line as time expires.

1999 — Lennox Lewis becomes the undisputed heavyweight champion with a unanimous decision over Evander Holyfield in Las Vegas.

2005 — In the longest play in NFL history, Chicago Bears defensive back Nathan Vasher returns a missed field goal 108 yards for a touchdown on the final play of the first half in a 17-9 win against the San Francisco 49ers.

2009 — McKendree basketball coach Harry Statham wins his 1,000th game with a 79-49 victory over East-West University. The 72-year-old Statham is 1,000-381 at the NAIA school.

2015 — Candace Brown makes a layup with 1.2 seconds left and Gardner-Webb rallies to shock No. 22 North Carolina 66-65 in the opener for both teams. The Runnin' Bulldogs had trailed by 15 points entering the fourth quarter.

2015 — Russia's track federation is suspended by the sport's international governing body and its athletes are barred from international competition for a widespread and state-sanctioned doping program. It's the first time the IAAF bans a country for doping.

2018 — Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer becomes the fifth Division I women's basketball coach to win 1,000 games when the Scarlet Knights beat Central Connecticut State 73-44. Stringer joins Pat Summitt, Geno Auriemma, Tara VanDerveer and Sylvia Hatchell.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	16	10	4	2	22	58	52
Boston	18	11	7	0	22	62	59
Ottawa	17	8	5	4	20	59	61
Tampa Bay	15	8	5	2	18	46	41
Detroit	16	9	7	0	18	46	51
Florida	16	8	7	1	17	43	48
Toronto	17	8	8	1	17	62	65
Buffalo	15	5	6	4	14	41	49

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	16	11	4	1	23	54	47
Carolina	16	11	5	0	22	60	46
Pittsburgh	17	9	5	3	21	57	48
Philadelphia	15	8	5	2	18	43	39
N.Y. Islanders	16	8	6	2	18	53	53
N.Y. Rangers	17	8	7	2	18	41	43
Washington	16	8	7	1	17	46	39
Columbus	16	8	7	1	17	50	51

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Colorado	17	11	1	5	27	68	43
Dallas	17	10	4	3	23	52	53
Winnipeg	16	10	6	0	20	52	42
Chicago	16	8	5	3	19	53	41
Utah	16	9	7	0	18	51	50
Minnesota	18	7	7	4	18	51	59
St. Louis	17	6	8	3	15	47	65
Nashville	18	5	9	4	14	47	65

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Anaheim	16	11	4	1	23	64	50
Los Angeles	17	8	5	4	20	50	52
Seattle	16	7	4	5	19	40	46
San Jose	17	8	6	3	19	55	57
Vegas	15	7	4	4	18	48	45
Edmonton	17	7	6	4	18	52	61
Vancouver	18	8	9	1	17	53	63
Calgary	18	4	12	2	10	38	58

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

Monday's games

N.Y. Islanders 3, New Jersey 2, OT
N.Y. Rangers 6, Nashville 3
Edmonton 5, Columbus 4, OT
Florida 3, Vegas 2

Tuesday's games

Boston 5, Toronto 3
Colorado 4, Anaheim 1
Dallas 3, Ottawa 2, OT
Washington 4, Carolina 1
Los Angeles 5, Montreal 1
Winnipeg 5, Vancouver 3
St. Louis 3, Calgary 2
San Jose 2, Minnesota 1, OT
Columbus 2, Seattle 1, SO

Wednesday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Tampa Bay
Edmonton at Philadelphia
Buffalo at Utah
New Jersey at Chicago

Thursday's games

Anaheim at Detroit
Boston at Ottawa
Dallas at Montreal
Los Angeles at Toronto
Washington at Florida
Edmonton at Columbus
Buffalo at Colorado
San Jose at Calgary
N.Y. Islanders at Vegas
Winnipeg at Seattle

Friday's games

Pittsburgh vs. Nashville at Avicii Arena
Vancouver at Carolina
Philadelphia at St. Louis
N.Y. Islanders at Utah

Scoring leaders

Through Tuesday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	17	14	18	32
Macklin Celebrini, SJ	17	10	16	26
Leo Carlsson, ANA	16	11	15	26
Connor Bedard, CHI	16	9	16	25
Connor McDavid, EDM	17	7	17	24
William Nylander, TOR	14	8	16	24
Cale Makar, COL	17	6	17	23
Mikko Rantanen, DAL	17	9	14	23
Jack Eichel, LV	15	8	14	22
David Pastrnak, BOS	18	10	12	22
Kirill Kaprizov, MIN	18	10	12	22
Evgeni Malkin, PIT	17	3	18	21
John Tavares, TOR	17	9	12	21
Mark Scheifele, WPG	16	9	12	21

6 tied with 20 pts

ROUNDUP

Pastrnak helps Bruins win 7th straight

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Pastrnak scored twice to move past 400 goals for his career and added an assist as the Boston Bruins won their seventh consecutive game, 5-3 over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Tuesday night.

Pavel Zacha, Hampus Lindholm and Alex Steeves also scored for the Bruins while Jeremy Swayman made 30 saves. Charlie McAvoy had a pair of assists.

Steven Lorentz had a short-handed goal for the Maple Leafs, who have lost three in a row. Bobby McMann and Oliver Ekman-Larsson also scored for Toronto.

Pastrnak's goal 49 seconds into the second period was the 400th of his career and gave Boston a 4-1 lead. He added a power-play goal at 9:48 of the third. He is the sixth player to score 400 or more goals in a Bruins jersey, and is now one goal behind fifth-place Rick Middleton.

Steeves' goal was his first for Boston after four years with the Maple Leafs.

High-scoring Toronto forward Auston Matthews did not return for the third period with a lower-body injury.

Avalanche 4, Ducks 1: Gabriel Landeskog scored his first goal of the season, Nathan MacKinnon had three assists and host Colorado beat Anaheim in a matchup of the Western Conference's points leaders.

Landeskog's second-period goal, which gave the Avalanche a 2-1 lead, was his first in the regular season since March 5, 2022. The 32-year-old left wing had missed the entire 2022-23 and 2023-24 seasons, as well as the 2024-25 regular season, after undergoing a series of knee surgeries.

Scott Wedgewood stopped 35 of the 36 Anaheim shots he faced for his NHL-leading 10th win of the season. It was the seventh time in 14 starts this season he has allowed one or fewer goals.

Artturi Lehkonen, Martin Necas and Parker Kelly also scored for Colorado.

The loss snapped the Ducks' seven-game win streak. With the win, the Avalanche are 6-0-1 in their past seven games and improved to 16-1-2 in their past 19 meetings against Anaheim.

Stars 3, Senators 2 (OT): Visiting Dallas scored three straight goals and Roope Hintz scored at 3:04 of overtime to beat Ottawa.

Linus Ullmark made a couple big saves but Hintz capped off the come-from-behind victory.

Mikko Rantanen and Jason Robertson also scored for the Stars, who outshot the Senators 16-6 in the third.

Trailing 2-1, Dallas came out pressing in the third and was rewarded on the power play when Robertson beat Ullmark glove side. Ullmark finished with 30 saves.

Ottawa played the final 40 minutes without Thomas Chabot, who suffered an upper-body injury late in the first.

Capitals 4, Hurricanes 1: Jakob Chychrun scored his 100th career goal, Alex Ovechkin got his 901st into the empty net and visiting Washington defeated Carolina.

Brandon Duhaime and Dylan Strome also scored, and Logan Thompson made 30 saves for the Capitals, who have won just two of their last eight. John Carlson added two assists to extend his points streak. He has two goals and four assists over four games.

Nikolaj Ehlers scored his third goal of the season, and Frederick Andersen stopped 24 shots for the Hurricanes.

A scrum with 5 minutes left in the first period was sparked by Nic Dowd, who ran into Andersen while chasing the puck behind the net. It resulted in 18 minutes of penalties. There were 22 minutes of penalties in the feisty first period. The game settled down after the intermission, adding just 12 more penalty minutes over the final 40 minutes.

Kings 5, Canadiens 1: Joel Edmundson and Quinton Byfield each had a goal and an assist as visiting Los Angeles scored three quick goals in the second period to beat Montreal.

Joel Armia and Kevin Fiala also scored for the Kings (8-5-4), who won their second consecutive game on the road. Warren Foegele added an empty-net goal and Darcy Kuemper stopped 21 shots.

LA won its ninth straight game against the Canadiens dating to the 2021-22 season, its longest active run against one opponent.

Josh Anderson scored for Montreal (10-4-2).

Jets 5, Canucks 3: Josh Morrissey had a goal and two assists as visiting Winnipeg beat Vancouver.

Alex Iafallo added an empty-net goal and an assist for the Jets in his 600th regular-season game. Jonathan Toews, Nino Niederreiter and Gabriel Vilardi also scored for Winnipeg.

Connor Hellebuyck stopped 30 shots to help the Jets snap a three-game skid.

The Canucks got first-period goals from Kiefer Sherwood and Jake DeBrusk before Brock Boeser scored with 90 seconds left in the game.

Blues 3, Flames 2: Nathan Walker scored the game-winning goal and Oskar Sundqvist added two assists, lifting host St. Louis to a victory over Calgary.

The Blues improved to 6-8-3, good for 15 points. The Flames fell to 4-12-2, good for 10 points.

Jordan Binnington registered 38 saves in his fourth win in 12 games. Binnington had been pulled in the second period in his previous start against Washington giving up four goals on 15 shots, including Alex Ovechkin's historic 900th career goal.

Sharks 2, Wild 1 (OT): Collin Graf scored 2:41 into overtime and surging San Jose came back to beat host Minnesota.

Macklin Celebrini fed Graf the puck in the middle near the goal mouth. Graf deked Wild goaltender Filip Gustavsson, leaving an open net to put away the winner for just his second goal of the season.

Will Smith had his seventh goal of the season and Yaroslav Askarov made 28 saves in goal for the Sharks, who have won four in a row and have points in seven straight. Celebrini had two assists in the game and has three goals and five assists during a four-game point streak.

Blue Jackets 2, Kraken 1 (SO): Charlie Coyle scored the winning goal in the shootout and visiting Columbus beat Seattle.

Kirill Marchenko also converted in the shootout as the Blue Jackets snapped their four-game losing streak in the finale of a five-game trip.

Adam Fantilli tied it for Columbus on a power-play goal late in the second period, assisted by Marchenko. Jet Greaves made his second consecutive start, following Monday's loss to Edmonton. He had 22 saves and earned his first shootout win, stopping three of four attempts.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Bruins right wing David Pastrnak celebrates after scoring on Toronto Maple Leafs goaltender Dennis Hildeby for his 400th career goal during the second period Tuesday in Boston.

NFL



JED JACOBSOHN/AP

Los Angeles Rams quarterback Matthew Stafford signals at the line of scrimmage against the San Francisco 49ers in Santa Clara, Calif., on Sunday. Stafford, 38, has emerged as the favorite for the MVP award.

Favorites: Breakout stars disrupting usual suspects for league's top honors

FROM PAGE 24

der setting an NFL record with 28 touchdowns and Tomlinson surpassing it the next season with what still is the record of 31.

New England's Maye has also shot up in the MVP odds to second-best behind Stafford after helping the Patriots get off to an 8-2 start. Maye has posted a passer rating of at least 100 in eight of his 10 starts this season and has a 113.9 mark on the season. He joined Mahomes and Dak Prescott as the only players age 23 or younger to have a rating of at least 100 eight times in his team's first 10 games.

Last season's winner, Josh Allen, has the fifth-best odds followed by another unlikely candidate in Seattle's Sam Darnold.

Darnold's 9.92 yards per attempt are on pace to be the highest for any qualifying quarterback since Norm Van Brocklin averaged 10.1 in 1954.

If Darnold won MVP after signing with the Seahawks as a free agent in March, it would be the third time a player won the award in his first season with a team. Jim Brown won as a rookie in 1957 with Cleveland and Earl Morrall won in his first season with the Baltimore Colts in 1968.

Coaching carousel

The decision by the New York Giants to fire coach Brian Daboll less than seven months after drafting quarterback Jaxson Dart in the first round is the latest entry in a trend of teams using high picks on QBs leading to quick coaching changes.

Tennessee already did it this season, firing Brian Callahan after he had just six games with No. 1 overall pick Cam Ward.

In all, there have been 35 quarterbacks taken in the first round of the past 10 drafts. With the moves by the Giants and Titans, eight of those teams fired their coach during the rookie season of the quarterback and eight more made a change before the start of the second season.

Daboll was also part of a ballyhooed class in 2022 of 10 new coaches hired. Only three of those coaches remain in the job midway through their fourth season with Tampa Bay's Todd Bowles and Minnesota's Kevin O'Connell appearing to be on solid ground at their spots, while Miami's Mike McDaniels is in a more tenuous situation after GM Chris Grier was let go last month.

The others haven't been so lucky.

Nathaniel Hackett was the first to go, not making it through only one season in Denver before being fired with a 4-11 record. Lovie Smith was out in Houston after one 3-13-1 campaign.

The Raiders fired Josh McDaniels midway through his second season, while Chicago's Matt Eberflus, New Orleans' Dennis Allen and Jacksonville's Doug Pederson all got fired either during or after their third seasons.

Double returns

It was a weekend of happy returns for both the Seahawks and New York Jets.

The Jets' Kene Nwangwu returned a kickoff 99 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter and 36 seconds later, Isaiah Williams brought back a punt 74 yards for a score in New York's 27-20 win over Cleveland.

It marked the first time in franchise history the Jets had a kickoff return and a punt return for TDs in the same game. No other team had done that since Baltimore on Oct. 15, 2017, against the Bears, and the last team to do it in the first quarter was the Los Angeles Chargers against the Colts on Nov. 11, 2007.

The return TDs helped New York win the game despite gaining only 169 yards of offense and getting no takeaways. Teams had been 0-216 in the Super Bowl era when gaining less than 175 yards and generating no takeaways in the regular season and playoffs.

Seattle also got two return touchdowns as DeMarcus Lawrence became the second player in the last 75 years to return two fumbles for TDs in the same game. Jeremy Chinn was the only other player to do it in that span in 2020 for Carolina against the Vikings.

The two defensive touchdowns helped the Seahawks score 38 points in the first half, marking the third time this season Seattle had at least 31 points before halftime.

The Seahawks became the fourth team ever with at least three games in a season with more than 30 points in the first half with the Rams the last team to do it in 1980. The Raiders did it in 1968 and the Chargers in 1961.

Seattle had scored at least 31 points in the first half three time in 331 games in the regular season and playoffs before doing it three times in the last seven games.

Weekly statistics

AFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
D.Jones, Ind	319	223	2659	15	7
Herbert, LAC	358	240	2610	19	8
Maye, NE	286	205	2555	19	5
Mahomes, KC	316	204	2349	17	5
Allen, Buf	263	185	2139	15	5
Nix, Den	350	213	2126	18	8
Flacco, Cin	333	205	2069	13	8
Lawrence, Jac	316	188	1998	10	7

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Taylor, Ind	189	1139	6.0	83t	15
Cook, Buf	166	920	5.5	64t	7
Achane, Mia	143	780	5.5	59t	5
Dobbins, Den	153	772	5.0	41	4
Henry, Bal	148	704	4.8	49	6
Hall, NYJ	138	664	4.8	35	2
Etienne, Jac	135	656	4.9	71	3
Judkins, Cle	140	561	4.0	46t	5
Jeanty, Las	143	547	3.8	64t	4
Pollard, Ten	119	480	4.0	21	2

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Chase, Cin	76	831	10.9	64t	5
Waddle, Mia	46	670	14.6	46t	5
McConkey, LAC	51	631	12.4	58	4
Flowers, Bal	50	625	12.5	56	1
Warren, Ind	50	617	12.3	41	3
Sutton, Den	41	590	14.4	52t	4
Pierce, Ind	28	585	20.9	50	1
Pittman, Ind	54	580	10.7	27t	6
Diggs, NE	50	554	11.1	33	3
Collins, Hou	40	550	13.8	54	3

Punters

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Rehkow, Cin	38	2006	70	52.8
Stout, Bal	30	1532	64	51.1

Scoring

Touchdowns

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Taylor, Ind	17	15	2	0	102
Achane, Mia	9	5	4	0	54

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Dicker, LAC	23/23	23/25	59	92
Fairbairn, Hou	12/12	22/25	57	78
Boswell, Pit	21/21	17/20	60	72

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Mostert, Las	13	421	32.4	54	0
Mims, Den	16	445	27.8	46	0

NFC individual leaders

Quarterbacks

	Att	Com	Yds	TD	Int
Stafford, LAR	310	208	2427	25	2
Prescott, Dal	329	228	2319	17	6
Darnold, Sea	228	162	2262	17	6
Love, GB	286	197	2247	13	3
Goff, Det	273	202	2235	20	3
Mayfield, TB	312	200	2192	16	2
Jones, SF	289	201	2151	13	6
Ca.Williams, Chi	293	178	2136	13	4

Rushers

	Att	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Dowdle, Car	149	788	5.3	53	5
J.Williams, Dal	139	716	5.2	66	8
Gibbs, Det	128	693	5.4	78t	8
Robinson, Atl	135	679	5.0	81t	2
K.Williams, LAR	146	659	4.5	20	5
McCaffrey, SF	180	626	3.5	16	4
Jacobs, GB	162	608	3.8	19	11
Barkley, Phi	149	579	3.9	65t	4
Swift, Chi	113	544	4.8	25	4
Walker, Sea	120	539	4.5	31	3

Receivers

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
Smith-Njigb., Sea	63	1041	16.5	61t	5
Nacua, LAR	66	775	11.7	39t	4
Pickens, Dal	49	764	15.6	45	6
St. Brown, Det	64	693	10.8	34	8
McCaffrey, SF	69	692	10.0	39	4
D.London, Atl	53	691	13.0	43	6
Jefferson, Min	51	686	13.5	50	2
Egbuka, TB	40	677	16.9	77t	6
Olave, NO	60	664	11.1	62t	4
D.Smith, Phi	48	657	13.7	79t	3

Punters

	No	Yds	Lg	Avg
Mann, Phi	39	2019	70	51.8
Whelan, GB	27	1381	65	51.1

Scoring

Touchdowns

	TD	Rush	Rec	Ret	Pts
Jacobs, GB	11	11	0	0	66
Gibbs, Det	10	8	2	0	60

Kicking

	PAT	FG	LG	Pts
Myers, Sea	32/32	17/21	56	83
Aubrey, Dal	28/29	17/18	64	79
Pineiro, SF	16/18	19/19	59	73

Kickoff Returners

	No	Yds	Avg	LG	TD
McCaffrey, Was	26	769	29.6	58	0
Shipley, Phi	13	367	28.2	41	0

AFC team statistics

Average per game

Offense

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Indianapolis	396.9	145.3	251.6
Buffalo	384.4	153.2	231.2
Kansas City	370.1	121.2	248.9
L.A. Chargers	368.5	123.1	245.4
New England	359.1	117.7	241.4
Denver	334.6	128.6	206.0
Houston	331.2	111.2	220.0
Jacksonville	324.9	120.3	204.6
Baltimore	318.8	137.3	181.4
Cincinnati	308.2	78.8	229.4
Miami	299.3	107.2	192.1
N.Y. Jets	285.6	141.8	143.8
Pittsburgh	280.7	85.7	195.0
Las Vegas	272.7	87.4	185.2
Cleveland	265.1	97.1	168.0
Tennessee	244.0	81.2	162.8

Defense

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Houston	261.3	90.3	171.0
Cleveland	264.9	97.9	167.0
Denver	270.7	91.2	179.5
L.A. Chargers	280.2	106.0	174.2
Kansas City	291.8	104.6	187.2
New England	306.2	79.2	227.0
Buffalo	317.8	147.6	170.2
Las Vegas	320.8	106.6	214.2
Indianapolis	327.6	92.3	235.3
N.Y. Jets	329.0	138.2	190.8
Jacksonville	344.6	91.7	252.9
Miami	346.9	139.7	207.2
Tennessee	356.7	141.3	215.3
Baltimore	372.7	123.2	249.4
Pittsburgh	376.0	106.6	269.4
Cincinnati	426.6	166.4	260.1

NFC team statistics

Average per game

Offense

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Chicago	379.8	147.3	232.4
Dallas	378.4	120.7	257.8
L.A. Rams	373.3	113.4	259.9
Detroit	372.4	136.3	236.1
Seattle	360.4	114.3	246.1
San Francisco	356.2	94.8	261.4
Green Bay	349.3	111.9	237.4
N.Y. Giants	332.9	123.0	209.9
Atlanta	330.8	119.3	211.4
Tampa Bay	328.3	99.8	228.6
Washington	325.3	135.2	190.1
Arizona	316.3	113.4	202.9
Philadelphia	303.2	111.6	191.7
Minnesota	299.9	102.1	197.8
New Orleans	297.2	92.8	204.4
Carolina	297.1	133.1	164.0

Defense

	Yards	Rush	Pass
Green Bay	287.2	91.8	195.4
Detroit	294.0	94.3	199.7
Seattle	307.3	90.7	216.7
Atlanta	308.8	146.4	162.3
L.A. Rams	312.9	96.9	216.0
Minnesota	317.2	125.6	191.7
New Orleans	317.5	123.8	193.7
Carolina	323.7	111.9	211.8
Philadelphia	327.9	118.6	209.3
Tampa Bay	334.0	100.8	233.2
Arizona	339.4	114.1	225.3
San Francisco	339.4	110.6	228.8
Chicago	375.7	135.3	240.3
N.Y. Giants	383.0	152.1	230.9
Washington	394.6	134.4	260.2
Dallas	397.4	143.0	254.4

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	7	3	.700	—
Philadelphia	7	4	.636	½
Toronto	6	5	.545	1½
Boston	5	7	.417	3
Brooklyn	1	10	.091	6½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	7	4	.636	—
Atlanta	6	5	.545	1
Orlando	5	6	.455	2
Charlotte	3	7	.300	3½
Washington	1	10	.091	6

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	9	2	.818	—
Cleveland	7	4	.636	2
Milwaukee	7	4	.636	2
Chicago	6	4	.600	2½
Indiana	1	10	.091	8

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	8	2	.800	—
Houston	6	3	.667	1½
Memphis	4	8	.333	5
Dallas	3	8	.273	5½
New Orleans	2	8	.200	6

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	11	1	.917	—
Denver	8	2	.800	2
Minnesota	7	4	.636	3½
Portland	5	5	.500	5
Utah	4	7	.364	6½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	8	3	.727	—
Phoenix	6	5	.545	2
Golden State	6	6	.500	2½
L.A. Clippers	3	7	.300	4½
Sacramento	3	8	.273	5

Tuesday's games

New York 133, Memphis 120
Toronto 119, Brooklyn 109
Oklahoma City 126, Golden State 102
Philadelphia 102, Boston 100
Utah 152, Indiana 128
Denver 122, Sacramento 108

Wednesday's games

Chicago at Detroit
Milwaukee at Charlotte
Orlando at New York
Cleveland at Miami
Memphis at Boston
Golden State at San Antonio
Portland at New Orleans
Washington at Houston
Phoenix at Dallas
L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City
Atlanta at Sacramento
Denver at L.A. Clippers

Thursday's games

Toronto at Cleveland
Atlanta at Utah
Indiana at Phoenix

ROUNDUP

Knicks top Grizzlies, now 7-0 at home

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jalen Brunson had 32 points and 10 assists, Karl-Anthony Towns added 21 points and 13 rebounds, and the New York Knicks continued their sizzling offensive start under new coach Mike Brown by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 133-120 on Wednesday night to improve to 7-0 at home.

Mikal Bridges scored 22 for the Knicks, who have averaged 130.2 points during a five-game winning streak, all at home. They are off to their best start at Madison Square Garden since winning their first 10 in the 2012-13 season, when they won their last Atlantic Division title.

OG Anunoby had 16 points and Jordan Clarkson came off the bench for 13. New York has scored at least 77 points in a half in three straight games.

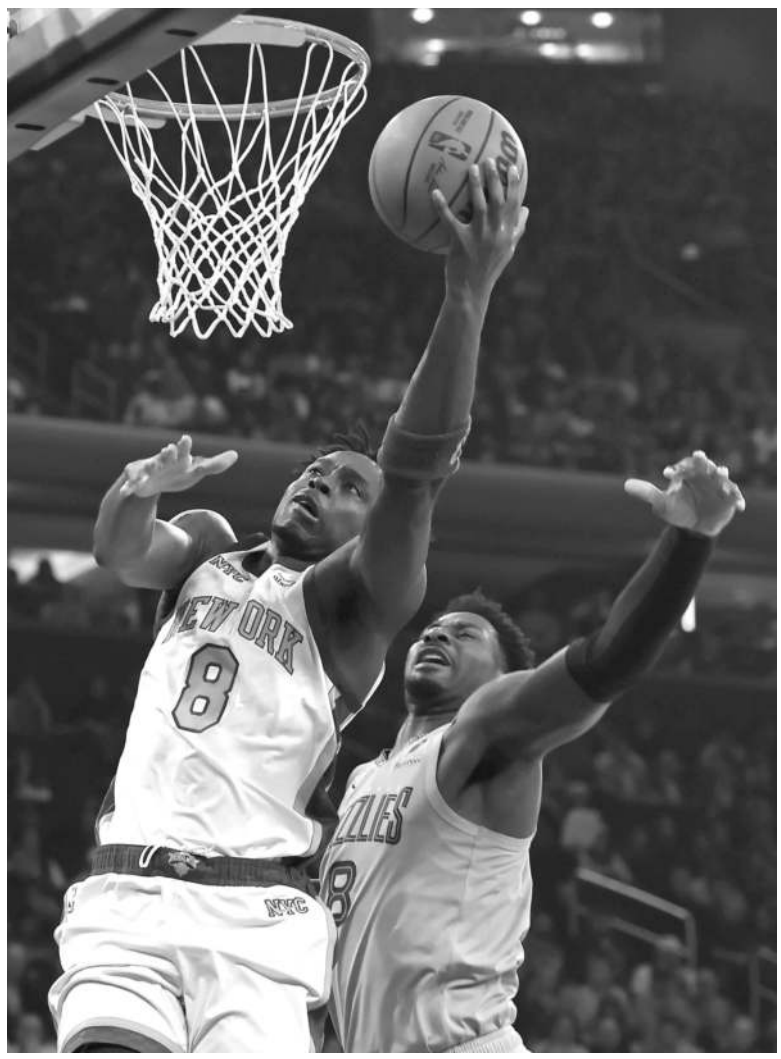
Jaren Jackson Jr. and Santi Aldama each scored 19 points for the Grizzlies, who lost for the sixth time in seven games. Ja Morant had 16 points and 10 assists, but shot 4 for 14.

The Knicks closed the first quarter with a 12-0 run, turning a 30-all tie into a 42-30 advantage on Brunson's basket with 0.5 seconds left. A 7-0 spurt to open the second extended it to 49-30 on Deuce McBride's 3-pointer.

Raptors 119, Nets 109: Brandon Ingram scored 25 points to help visiting Toronto beat Brooklyn.

Immanuel Quickley had 24 points for the Raptors, including 10 in the fourth quarter. Scottie Barnes finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds, and Jakob Poetl had 12 points and 10 boards.

Toronto won for the fifth time in six games. It shot 49.5% (45-for-91) from the field and outrebounded the Nets 50-36.



ADAM HUNGER/AP

Knicks forward OG Anunoby drives to the basket past Memphis Grizzlies forward Jaren Jackson Jr. during the first half Tuesday in New York.

Thunder 126, Warriors 102: Shai Gilgeous-Alexander had 28 points and 11 assists in three quarters, Chet Holmgren had a perfect shooting performance and league-leading Oklahoma City rolled past visiting Golden State.

Holmgren had 23 points and 11 rebounds. He made all nine of his field goals, both 3-pointers and all three of his free throw attempts.

Isaiah Joe scored 18 points and Ajay Mitchell added 17 for the defending champion Thunder, who improved to 11-1.

76ers 102, Celtics 100: Tyrese Maxey scored 21 points and Kelly Oubre Jr. secured the game-winning basket on a follow with 8.7 seconds left to lead host Philadelphia to a win over Boston.

Justin Edwards had a team-high 22 points for the 76ers, who played without Joel Embiid (right knee soreness). Edwards made 8 of 9 shots, including 5 of 6 on 3-pointers.

Jaylen Brown scored 24 points to pace the Celtics.

Jazz 152, Pacers 128: Lauri Markkanen scored 35 points, rookie Ace Bailey added 20 points and host Utah scored the most points in an NBA game this season with a win over reeling Indiana.

Bailey, the No. 5 pick in this summer's draft, started the season slowly as he recovered from illness but had his full repertoire of dunks, midrange jumpers and 3-pointers on display in his second start.

The injury-ravaged Pacers, last season's Eastern Conference champions, fell to 1-10 and matched the 1988-89 team for the worst start in franchise history. Pascal Siakam, who had 27 points, and Aaron Nesmith, who scored 17, returned after missing Indiana's last game.

The Pacers' T.J. McConnell played his first game of the season and scored 12 points, but was limited to 11 minutes as he recovers from a hamstring injury.

Nuggets 122, Kings 108: Nikola Jokic scored 35 points and had 15 rebounds, Jamal Murray added 23 points and visiting Denver won its fifth game in a row, beating Sacramento.

Aaron Gordon scored 17 points for the Nuggets and Bruce Brown added 14 off the bench.

The Kings were led by Domantas Sabonis, who finished with 19 points, eight rebounds and four assists. Drew Eubanks added 19 points and seven rebounds for Sacramento, which has lost three straight.

Next change for All-Star Game confirmed as US vs. World

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

It's happening: The United States vs. the World is finally a done deal and will be the format for this season's NBA All-Star Game.

The NBA and the National Basketball Players Association unveiled the long-awaited plan Tuesday night, after months of trying to figure out the latest way to spark renewed interest in the league's midseason contest.

The game — which will really be a round-robin tournament of games — will be played Sunday, Feb. 15, starting at 5 p.m. Eastern at Intuit Dome, the Los Angeles Clippers' arena in Inglewood, Calif. It'll be aired on NBC at just about the midway point of the Milan Cortina Winter Olympics, which will also be broadcast on NBC's family of networks.

And part of what NBA Commissioner Adam Silver and other stakeholders liked about trying the U.S. vs. the World format was how the timing coincides with those Milan Cortina Games and the surge of national pride that people around the world get during an Olympics.

"I think it's going to be exciting for people to watch," Milwaukee Bucks star Giannis Antetokounmpo said earlier this season when asked about the idea of U.S. vs. the World.

"I'm going to play hard. I've always been playing hard, but I think it's going to put a little bit more juice to the game. … All players have ego. Nobody wants to be embarrassed. Guys will play harder because they don't want to become — I don't know how you say this — they don't want to become viral. I'm excited for this format."

Players born outside of the U.S. have won each of the last seven MVP awards, each of the last four NBA scoring titles, and each of the last five rebounding titles. Canada's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander was MVP, NBA Finals MVP, the league's scoring champion and led the Oklahoma City Thunder to the NBA title last season.

While the NBA had made clear for several weeks that U.S. vs. the World was going to happen — it was even talked about at last season All-Star weekend in San Francisco — some elements of the format were a mystery until Tuesday.

There will be three teams of at least eight players. Games will be one standard NBA quarter, or 12 minutes long.

Team A will play Team B in Game 1. The winner of that game will play Team C in Game 2. The loser of Game 1 will play Team C in Game 3.

The teams with the best two records will play in the championship game. If all three teams are 1-1, point differential would be the tiebreaker.

The end result, the NBA hopes, is four standard quarters — the equivalent of a typical game.

Voting for picking teams will be basically the same as it has been in recent years, with one notable tweak — the NBA is eliminating the frontcourt and backcourt position designations for players.

Each ballot from fans will include five players from the Eastern Conference and five from the Western Conference. Positions will not matter, nor will nationalities. The fan ballots will be used as part of a formula to identify the starters. Fan votes will be weighted at 50%, with NBA player voting accounting for 25% and voting from a panel of writers and broadcasters who cover the league making up the final 25%.

From there, 10 "starters" — five East, five West — will be chosen.

The 14 reserves, seven from each conference, will be selected in balloting by the league's head coaches.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/MLB

Miami moves up CFP rankings as top 5 stands pat

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

Not surprisingly, Ohio State stayed at the top of the rankings, and there was a healthy debate about whether last weekend's action warranted keeping Indiana at No. 2, one spot ahead of Texas A&M.

But while those top three remained the same in the Week 2 rankings released Tuesday, it was a game back in August that led the College Football Playoff selection committee to its biggest shakeup.

The committee vaulted Miami to No. 15, one spot ahead of Georgia Tech, to hand the Hurricanes the Atlantic Coast Conference's only spot in this week's projected bracket.

That decision came not so much on the strength of last weekend's action, — when Miami easily handled Syracuse and the Yellow Jackets were idle — but rather, thanks to the Hurricanes' season-opening win against Notre Dame.

"Certainly, the win versus Notre Dame was a key factor for placing Miami ahead of Georgia Tech," committee chair Mack Rhoades explained. "In general, with the ACC, I think their lack of nonconference signature wins other than Miami over Notre Dame" hurts the conference.

Following the trio of undefeated teams — Ohio State, Indiana and Texas A&M — were Alabama and Georgia, who rounded out the same top five as in last week's season-opening rankings.

Texas Tech jumped two spots to No. 6 on the strength of its win over BYU, moving one notch ahead of Mississippi, which dropped to 7 despite a romp over Citadel in a nonconference game.

At No. 8 was Oregon, followed by the Fighting Irish and Texas.

No. 11 Oklahoma and No. 12 BYU would be the first two teams out in this week's bracket due to the automatic spots handed to the ACC (Miami) and the highest-ranked league leader out of the Group of 5 conferences, which is now an honor that belongs to South Florida, ranked at No. 24.

"They've always been part of (the conversation)," Rhoades said of the Bulls. "South Florida is the most consistent of the Group of 5, to date."

The final bracket comes out Dec. 7, with the 12-team playoff beginning Dec. 19 and closing a month later with the title game.

Rhoades said the decision to keep Indiana at No. 2 over Texas A&M provoked the committee's second-longest conversation.



PETER JONELEIT/AP

Hurricanes wide receiver CJ Daniels makes a one-handed catch for a touchdown against Notre Dame on Aug. 31 in Miami. The Hurricanes' 27-24 win over the Irish played a big role in them moving up the CFP rankings.

The Hoosiers needed last-second heroics to win at Penn State, while the Aggies got a romp on the road at Missouri.

"Certainly, discussion about those two games, but also discussion about body of work," Rhoades said. "There was conversation about Missouri. Missouri is a really good team but not the team they've been," due to injuries at quarterback.

The longest conversation involved moving Texas Tech a spot past Ole Miss.

"Texas Tech's win this last weekend — really convincing," Rhoades said.

Murphy, Vogt repeat as league's top managers

By Jay Cohen
Associated Press



Murphy



Vogt

Pat Murphy grew up going to minor league games at MacArthur Stadium in Syracuse, N.Y. In those days, the local team tried to retrieve all the baseballs that went over the fence during batting practice, but Murphy would pocket a souvenir or two before he was run off.

He was often chased away by Bobby Cox or a member of his staff.

That long-running connection came full circle Tuesday night when Murphy won the NL Manager of the Year award for the second straight season. The only other NL manager to take home the honor in consecutive years was Cox for Atlanta in 2004 and 2005.

Cleveland's Stephen Vogt also was a repeat winner as AL Manager of the Year, receiving 17 of 30 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Toronto's John Schneider got 10 first-place votes and finished second, followed by Seattle's Dan Wilson. Voting was conducted before the postseason.

The previous AL manager to win in consecutive seasons was Tampa Bay's Kevin Cash in 2020 and 2021.

"He's well-deserving. Does a great job with his club," Murphy said of Vogt. "He's going to be a Hall of Fame manager, I really believe that."

Murphy got 27 first-place votes. Cincinnati's Terry Francona was second, followed by Philadelphia's Rob Thomson.

The folksy Murphy, who turns 67 on Nov. 28, was coaching Arizona State University when he formally introduced himself to Cox in the early 2000s.

"I said, 'I've always wanted to meet you,' and he looked at me, and he goes, 'So now you have,'" a chuckling Murphy said. "And it was dead silent. I'm like, I don't know if this guy's messing with me or what, but I interrupted something."

The Cy Young Award winner for each league was to be announced Wednesday, and the MVPs will be revealed Thursday.

Vogt led the Guardians to a second straight AL Central title in his second year in charge. The 41-year-old played in the big leagues for 10 years, then retired after the 2022 season. He had a one-year stint as the Mariners' bullpen coach and was hired by Cleveland in November 2023.

The Guardians trailed Detroit by 15½ games in early July and by 11 games in early September before storming back to clinch the AL Central title on the final day of the season. According to the Elias Sports Bureau, it was the largest in-season comeback in MLB history.

Cleveland also became the fourth big league team to reach the playoffs despite having a losing streak of at least 10 games during the regular season, joining the 2017 Dodgers, 1982 Braves and 1951 New York Giants. Vogt's club dropped 10 in a row from June 26 to July 6.

"The messaging was, we can't control yesterday, and we can't control tomorrow," Vogt said. "We have to lean in on today. We have to win the game today and then we'll worry about tomorrow tomorrow. I think that was really a mantra that we all kind of owned."

The Guardians went on their big September run after closer Emmanuel Clase and starting pitcher Luis Ortiz were placed on non-disciplinary paid leave as part of an MLB investigation into sports betting.

Asked what he will remember when he looks back on this season, Vogt pointed to the resilience of the team.

"It's one thing to make a comeback and play well down the stretch and fall short, but we were able to come back and win the division and get in the playoffs," he said.

Murphy directed Milwaukee to a major league-best 97-65 record this year, setting a franchise record for wins. The Brewers were second in the NL Central in early July before overtaking the Chicago Cubs with a remarkable 29-4 stretch that included a 14-game win streak, another franchise record.

Milwaukee eliminated Chicago in a memorable Division Series before it was swept by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NLCS. The five-game victory over the rival Cubs was the Brewers' first postseason series win since sweeping Colorado in a 2018 NLDS.

"We had the right who," Murphy said. "We had guys that are aware and hungry, and that makes the manager look good at the end of the day."

Murphy was Milwaukee's bench coach for eight seasons before he was promoted after Craig Counsell left for Chicago in November 2023. The Brewers also won the NL Central in Murphy's first season in charge, finishing with a 93-69 record.

Murphy had a long coaching career at the college level before serving as a special assistant with San Diego for the 2010 season. He went 42-54 as interim manager of the Padres in 2015.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Brown leads Louisville's upset of Kentucky

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Freshman Mikel Brown Jr. scored 20 of his 29 points in the first half and No. 12 Louisville held on to defeat No. 9 Kentucky 96-88 on Tuesday night.

The Cardinals led 78-58 with 12:24 remaining before the Wildcats attempted a comeback.

Collin Chandler's 3-pointer made it 88-84 with 4:02 left. Brown, however, scored Louisville's next five points to keep Kentucky from drawing any closer.

The Wildcats are the highest-ranked opponent the Cardinals have beaten since a win over then-No. 3 Duke on Jan. 18, 2020.

Brown showcased the skills that made him a five-star point guard recruit, leading Louisville (3-0) to its first victory over Kentucky (2-1) since Dec. 26, 2020.

His 29 points, on 8-for-16 shooting and 10-for-11 from the foul line, were the most by a Cardinals freshman since Edgar Sosa scored 31 in a 2007 NCAA tournament game against Texas A&M.



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Louisville guard Mikel Brown Jr. drives past Kentucky guard Otega Oweh during the second half Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. Brown scored 29 points, the most by a Cardinals freshman since 2007.

No. 4 Duke 114, Army 59: Dame Sarr had 19 points and Isaiah Evans added 16 points, and the host Blue Devils beat the Black Knights.

Duke played on Veterans Day at West Point in honor of former coach Mike Krzyzewski, who was a cadet there and a basketball player under legendary coach Bobby Knight.

Patrick Ngongba added 16 points and nine rebounds and Darren Harris had 15 points on 5-for-7 3-pointers for the Blue Devils (3-0).

Freshman guard Jackson Furman led Army with 20 points, including five 3-pointers.

Sarr, who had three steals, flashed offensive potential, opening up his scoring with 3-pointer, a highlight dunk and another 3-pointer. Sarr's dunk capped an 11-3 run by Duke to open the second half and build a 60-33 lead.

No. 5 Arizona 84, Northern Arizona 49: Dwayne Aristode scored 18 points on six 3-pointers, Jaden Bradley added 13 points and the host Wildcats routed the Lumberjacks.

Arizona (3-0) was sloppy at times offensively, particularly early, but locked down Northern Arizona (1-2) to win its 36th straight game in the series.

The Wildcats held the Lumberjacks to 32% shooting, including 4-for-16 from 3-point distance, and scored 25 points off Northern Arizona's 17 turnovers.

No. 6 Michigan 85, Wake Forest 84 (OT): Elliot Cadeau scored 17 points, including a go-ahead free throw with 13.8 seconds left in overtime, and Nate Calmese missed a shot in the lane just before the buzzer that allowed the host Wolverines to hold off the Demon Deacons.

Aday Mara had 18 points, 13 rebounds, six assists and five blocks for Michigan (2-0) at Little Caesars Arena in Detroit.

Juke Harris scored 19 points and Mekhi Mason added 16 for Wake Forest (2-1). Myles Colvin had 13 points off the bench and Calmese finished with 11 on 3-for-16 shooting.

The Wolverines led by 13 at halftime, but started 0 for 12 on 3-pointers in the second half.

Preseason All-America forward Yaxel Lendeborg was held to nine points in his second game at Michigan, ending his streak of scoring in double figures at 23 games.

Roddy Gayle Jr. had 13 points off the bench and Morez Johnson Jr. finished with 10 points and eight rebounds for the Wolverines. Cadeau added eight boards and seven assists.

No. 7 BYU 85, Delaware 68: Robert Wright III and Richie Saunders each scored 26 points to lead the host Cougars to a victory over the Blue Hens.

Wright also had nine assists and nine rebounds. Saunders added 10 rebounds and went 6-for-11 from 3-point range. AJ Dybantsa chipped in with 18 points and seven boards for BYU (3-0).

The Cougars trailed by 13 in the first half before lighting up Delaware (0-3) from the perimeter after halftime. BYU went 11-for-20 from long distance in the second half.

Back-to-back dunks from Dybantsa and three 3-pointers from Saunders highlighted a 20-5 run that extended the Cougars' lead to 73-57 with 7:19 left.

No. 10 Florida 78, Florida State 76: Thomas Haugh had 20 points and 13 rebounds, Boogie Fland added 18 points and the host Gators handed the rival Seminoles their first loss under new coach Luke Loucks.

The defending national champions nearly squandered a nine-point lead in the final six-plus minutes before making enough plays down the stretch to extend their winning streak in the series to five.

Fland hit two free throws with 15.8 seconds remaining to put Florida (2-1) up 76-73, and Robert McCray V missed a 3-point attempt on the other end. Alex Condon seemingly closed it out by hitting two free throws with five seconds left.

But it wasn't over until Chauncey Wiggins' 80-foot shot came up short.

McCray scored nine consecutive points for Florida State down the stretch, but he missed the second of two free throws with 17 seconds to go. He finished with 29 points.

No. 14 Illinois 81, No. 11 Texas Tech 77: Andrej Stojakovic scored 23 points and blocked a potential tying 3-pointer in the final seconds as the host Fighting Illini defeated the Red Raiders.

Kylan Boswell had 22 points and David Mirkovich, Keaton Wagler and Zvonimir Ivisic each scored 11 for Illinois (3-0), which let a 13-point halftime lead slip away before rallying to win.

All-American and reigning Big 12 player of the year J.T. Toppin had 35 points and 11 rebounds for Texas Tech (2-1). It was his 33rd career double-double. LeJuan Watts scored 21 for the Red Raiders.

Texas Tech had an opportunity to tie the game after Watts sank two free throws with 12.5 seconds left to make it 80-77. But Stojavokic blocked Christian Anderson's 3-point try and Wagler hit a free throw to seal it.

The Red Raiders wiped out the Illini's 45-32 halftime lead by making 12 straight shots to start the second half. Texas Tech moved in front 56-55 on a three-point play by Watts with 12:49 to go.

No. 18 North Carolina 89, Radford 74: Luka Bogavac had 19 points in his first college start to help the host Tar Heels beat the Highlanders.

Henri Veesaar had added 18 points for North Carolina (3-0), while freshman Caleb Wilson had 13 points and 14 rebounds. Jarin Stevenson shook off an first-half injury scare to finish with 15 points.

The Tar Heels didn't fully take control until the latter stages of the first half in their first game since Friday's rousing home win against fellow blueblood Kansas. It also marked their first game since learning senior guard Seth Trimble would be out after surgery for a broken left arm, leading to Bogavac's start.

UNC sputtered early with a 1-for-11 start from 3-point range.

No. 19 Gonzaga 90, No. 23 Creighton 63: Graham Ike had 20 points and 10 rebounds as the host Bulldogs smothered the Bluejays in the second half.

Braden Huff added 14 points, Mario Saint-Supery scored 13 off the bench and Gonzaga (3-0) earned its fourth straight win over Creighton (1-1), tying the all-time series at 6-all.

Blake Harper and Nik Graves finished with 12 points apiece for the Bluejays, who committed 18 turnovers and shot 37% from the field — including 7-for-25 (28%) from 3-point range.

After leading by six at halftime, the Bulldogs outscored Creighton 46-25 over the final 20 minutes. The Bluejays shot 28% in the second half after connecting at a 46% clip in the first period.

No. 21 Arkansas 93, Central Arkansas 56: Darius Acuff Jr. scored 21 points, leading four Razorbacks in double figures, and host Arkansas beat the Bears.

Karter Knox added 19 points and 10 rebounds, and Meleek Thomas had 17 points.

Acuff made 3-pointers on three straight possessions and Knox added a three-point play to stretch the Razorbacks' (2-1) lead from 10 to 20 during a 12-2 run early in the second that ultimately ended Central Arkansas' comeback chances. Another 13-2 run later in the half turned things in a blowout.

No. 22 Auburn 93, Wofford 62: Keyshawn Hall had 20 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, Elyjah Freeman scored 21 and the host Tigers overwhelmed the Terriers.

Hall topped 20 points for the third time in as many games. The 6-foot-7 forward racked up 28 points in the season opener and then had 25 in Auburn's most recent outing. Freeman, however, reached double figures for the first time.

The Tigers (3-0) outrebounded Wofford 48-27, with 20 of those being offensive boards. That led to a 20-7 advantage in second-chance points.

No. 24 Wisconsin 86, Ball State 55: Nolan Winter had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the host Badgers never trailed in a blowout of the Cardinals.

Winter played only 20 minutes but was still just one point off his career high. The 7-foot junior scored 20 points in an 83-74 victory over Butler last season.

Nick Boyd and Braeden Carrington had 12 points each for Wisconsin (3-0).

The Badgers shot 50% from the floor and made 14 3-pointers to withstand their 15 turnovers.

No. 25 Kansas 77, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 46: Kohl Rosario scored 16 points to help make up for the absence of fellow freshman Darryn Peterson, and the host Jayhawks bounced back from last week's loss to North Carolina with a rout of the Islanders.

Flory Bidunga added 12 points while Bryson Tiller and Tre White had 11 apiece for Kansas (2-1), which held Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (1-3) to 32% shooting.

Peterson, the nation's No. 1 recruit, scored 21 points in his debut against Green Bay and 22 against the Tar Heels. He sat out after hurting his hamstring in a shootaround earlier in the day.

SPORTS

Seventh heaven

Pastrnak, Bruins top Maple Leafs to extend win streak ›› NHL, Page 19

NFL



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor scores the game-winning touchdown during overtime against the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in Berlin.

From long shots to favorites

Emergence of players such as Taylor, Stafford, Maye has reshaped MVP race

BY JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

As the NFL season heads deep into the second half, the MVP race has been shaken up thanks in large part to some record-threatening performances from players like Matthew Stafford and Jonathan Taylor, and the emergence of Drake Maye.

Stafford became the betting favorite to win the AP NFL MVP this week, according to BetMGM, after he threw four more touchdown passes in the Los Angeles Rams' 42-26 win over San Francisco on Sunday. He is the first player ever with at least four TD passes and no interceptions in three straight games.

More than 15 players had better opening odds at BetMGM to win the MVP award than Stafford, who now is the favorite at plus-275 after a six-game stretch with 20 touchdowns and no interceptions.

Stafford, who turns 38 in February, could become the oldest player to win his first MVP, and the third-oldest to win overall, trailing only 40-year-old Tom Brady in 2017, and Aaron Rodgers, who won in 2021 after turning 38 that season.

Taylor's candidacy is even more surprising with more than 40 players opening with better odds as he tries to become the first running back since Adrian Peterson in 2012 to take home the award.

Taylor is currently tied with two-time winner Patrick Mahomes for the third-best odds after helping Indianapolis improve to 8-2, rushing for 244 yards and three TDs in a win over Atlanta on Sunday.

That made Taylor the fourth player ever with multiple games with at least 200 yards rushing and three TD runs, joining Jim Brown, Adrian Peterson and Derrick Henry.

Taylor's 17 touchdowns overall are tied for the third-most by any player in his team's first 10 games of the season, trailing only LaDainian Tomlinson's 22 in 2006 and Shaun Alexander's 19 in 2005. Both those players went on to win MVP those seasons, with Alexan-

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