

## Navy shoots down drones over Red Sea

*Associated Press*

LONDON — A U.S. warship shot down 14 suspected attack drones over the Red Sea on Saturday, and a Royal Navy destroyer downed another drone that was targeting commercial ships, the British and American militaries said.

Houthi rebels in Yemen have launched a series of attacks on vessels in the Red Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping routes, and have launched drones and missiles targeting Israel, as the Israel-Hamas war threatens to spread.

U.S. Central Command said the destroyer USS Carney "successfully engaged 14 unmanned aerial systems" launched from Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen.

The drones "were shot down with no damage to ships in the area or reported injuries," CENTCOM posted on X, formerly Twitter.

U.K. Defense Secretary Grant Shapps said the HMS Diamond fired a Sea Viper missile and destroyed a drone that was "targeting merchant shipping." The overnight action is the first time the Royal Navy has shot down an aerial target in anger since the 1991 Gulf War.

Shapps said attacks on commercial ships in the global trade artery by Yemen's Houthi rebels "represent a direct threat to interna-

tional commerce and maritime security."

"The U.K. remains committed to repelling these attacks to protect the free flow of global trade," he said in a statement.

HMS Diamond was sent to the region two weeks ago as a deterrent, joining vessels from the United States, France and other countries.

Global shipping has become a target during the war between Israel and Hamas, which, like the Houthis, is backed by Iran.

Houthi rebels said they fired a barrage of drones Saturday toward the port city of Eilat in southern Israel.

The announcement came hours after Egypt's state-run media reported that Egyptian air defense had shot down a "flying object" off the Egyptian resort town of Dahab on the Red Sea.

Israeli-linked vessels have also been targeted, but the threat to trade has grown as container ships and oil tankers flagged to countries like Norway and Liberia have been attacked or drawn missile fire while traversing the waterway between Africa and the Arabian Peninsula.

Earlier this month, three commercial ships in the Red Sea were struck by ballistic missiles fired from Houthi-controlled Yemen. A U.S. warship shot down three drones

during the assault, the U.S. military said.

French container shipping line CMA CGM Group said Saturday that it had ordered all its vessels scheduled to pass through the Red Sea to "pause their journey in safe waters with immediate effect until further notice."

On Friday, Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, also told all its vessels planning to pass through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea to stop their journeys after a missile attack on a Liberian-flagged cargo ship. German-based shipper Hapag-Lloyd said it was pausing all of its container ship traffic through the Red Sea until Monday.

Houthi spokesman Mohammed Abdel-Salam said Saturday that the rebels have engaged in "communications and discussions" with international parties, brokered by Oman, on the Houthis' attacks on ships in the Red and Arabian seas.

He posted that the Houthis would continue targeting Israel-linked vessels "until the aggression stops" and the siege of Gaza is lifted. He added that "any genuine steps responding to the humanitarian situation in Palestine and Gaza through bringing in food and medicine would contribute to reducing the escalation."

## South Korea: North fires ballistic missile into sea

*Associated Press*

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's military said Sunday that it had detected North Korea firing at least one ballistic missile toward its eastern waters, adding to a torrent of weapons tests in recent months that has elevated tensions.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately say what type of missile it was or how far it flew.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest in years, with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un accelerating the expansion of his nuclear and missile program and flaunting an escalatory nuclear doctrine which authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons.

The United States, South Korea and Japan have responded by increasing the vis-

ibility of their trilateral partnership in the region, and strengthening their combined military exercises, which Kim has condemned as invasion rehearsals.

North Korea's latest launch followed high-level security talks between American and South Korean officials in Washington over the weekend, where they agreed on plans to incorporate nuclear operation scenarios in their combined military exercises next year to cope with the North's evolving threats, according to details announced by Seoul's presidential office.

In the face of North Korean threats, South Korea has been seeking stronger reassurances from the U.S. that it would swiftly and decisively use its nuclear capabilities to defend its ally in the event of a North Korean nuclear attack.

The North has test-fired more than 100 missiles since the start of 2022 as Kim used the distraction caused by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine to speed up the expansion of his military nuclear program, which he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival. The weapons that North Korea tested in recent months included intercontinental ballistic missiles that demonstrated a potential range to reach the U.S. mainland, and a series of launch events the North described as simulated nuclear attacks on targets in South Korea.

Last month, North Korea also launched its first military reconnaissance satellite, which Kim described as crucial for monitoring U.S. and South Korean military activities and enhancing the threat of his nuclear-capable missiles.

# Military housing allowances in US set for 5.4% bump Jan. 1

By MATTHEW ADAMS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Families of service members stationed in the United States will see more financial assistance for housing in the new year, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

The new rates take effect Jan. 1, and military families in the U.S. will see an increase to their basic allowance for housing of 5.4%, the Pentagon said. Housing allowances totaling an estimated \$27.9 billion will be paid to about 1 million service members.

“The [Defense] Department is committed to the preservation of a compensation and benefit structure that provides members with an adequate standard of living to sustain a trained, experienced, and ready force now and in the future,” the Pentagon said in a statement.

Families last year saw an average increase of 12.1% in their

basic allowance for housing, or BAH, which reflected the largest year-over-year jump to housing allowances in many years.

Many service members have faced long waiting lists for on-base housing and found themselves priced out of quality off-base housing.

Basic housing allowance rates are calculated based on a service member’s rank, location and number of dependents. The payments aim to allow service members to afford housing on par with that of civilians earning comparable incomes in the local area.

Allowance calculations also factor in the average cost of utilities, including electricity, heat, water and sewer payments.

Since 2019, service members have been expected to pay about 5% of rental or monthly mortgage costs out of pocket.

Pentagon officials base new housing rates on cost data col-

lected annually for approximately 300 military housing areas in the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Members stationed overseas are not going to see an immediate benefit from the change as the BAH and Overseas Housing Allowance are based on different market and local survey data.

In May, defense officials announced troops stationed in foreign countries or outside the contiguous United States would see two periods of decreases in their overseas cost-of-living allowance beginning May 15 and again Nov. 15. The overseas cost-of-living allowance, or OCOLA, is a program for service members to offset overseas prices for goods and services such as groceries and clothing. This program does not address housing or utilities.

Service members can calculate their BAH payment by using the basic allowance for housing calculator online.

## New study highlights risks of aid in countries

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Sending American weapons and other forms of military support to countries that lack stable governments raises the odds of armed conflict, proxy wars and terrorism in the places where those arms are sent, according to a new Army-sponsored study.

“In such cases, U.S. materiel assistance might embolden regimes in ways that ultimately prove self-defeating,” the Rand Corp. think tank said in a report released Wednesday.

The report, which looked at 65 years of overseas U.S. troop deployments, exercises and military assistance initiatives in 160 countries, revealed that some tools were more effective than others in deterring conflicts and promoting stability.

Perhaps the riskiest of the tools is sending arms to lower-income countries or those with a history of instability.

For example, Rand said it was possible that U.S. military assistance to Georgia “led to more-aggressive policies by the Tbilisi government, which ultimately set it on a collision course with Moscow that ended in the 2008 Russo-Georgian War.”

U.S. involvement during the Cold War in parts of Africa also was cited as an example of when military aid got misused.

More recently, U.S. weapons intended for the government of Somalia also have found their way into the hands of the al-Shabab terrorist group, Rand noted.

Unmentioned in the scope of the report were recent coups in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali, all of which previously had close military ties with the U.S.

## DOD orders the USS Ford to remain in Mediterranean to keep Israel presence

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier and one other warship to remain in the Mediterranean Sea for several more weeks to maintain a two-carrier presence near Israel as its war with Hamas grinds on, U.S. officials said.

It would be the third time the Ford’s deployment has been extended, underscoring the continued concerns about volatility in the region during Israel’s war in Gaza. The U.S. has two aircraft carriers in the region, a rarity in recent years.

Multiple U.S. officials confirmed the longer deployments approved last week for the Ford and the USS Normandy cruiser on condition of ano-

nymity because they have not yet been made public. Other ships in the Ford’s strike group had already had their deployments extended.

The Pentagon ramped up its military presence in the region after Hamas’ Oct. 7 attacks in Israel to deter Iran from widening the war into a regional conflict.

In the months since, Iranian-backed militants in Iraq and Syria have seized on the war to conduct regular attacks with rockets, drones and missiles on U.S. military installations there.

At the same time, U.S. warships in the Red Sea have intercepted incoming missiles fired toward Israel from areas of Yemen controlled by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels.

# Bill prevents presidents removing US from NATO

*The Washington Post*

Congress last week approved a measure aimed at preventing any U.S. president from unilaterally withdrawing the United States from NATO without congressional approval. Passage came amid long-standing concerns that Donald Trump may try to exit the alliance if he returns to office.

The provision was included in the National Defense Authorization Act, an annual bill detailing defense policy, which was passed by the House on Thursday and is awaiting the signature of President Joe Biden.

Under the measure, advocated by Sens. Tim Kaine, D-Va., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., the president would be prohibited from withdrawing from NATO without the approval of two-thirds of the Senate or separate legislation passed by Congress.

Kaine and Rubio had been trying to advance similar measures since 2021. Passage of the

defense policy bill last week marked the first time the House had embraced the tactic.

The bipartisan attempt to add checks and balances highlights the lengths to which Congress is willing to go to protect the U.S.-NATO relationship amid ongoing Russian aggression and following years of criticism of the military alliance during Trump's presidential tenure.

Biden has sought to reassert the leadership role of the U.S. in global diplomacy, helping galvanize NATO member countries in support of Ukraine following Russia's invasion and encouraging efforts to expand the alliance to include Finland and Sweden.

During his presidency, Trump frequently lambasted the alliance, accusing its members of being "delinquents" and questioning the wisdom of NATO's collective defense clause.

Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which formed the legal basis for NATO, states that an

armed attack on one member of the alliance will be viewed as an attack on all of them, and that they will defend one another.

In 2018, Trump publicly mused about why the U.S. might come to the aid of NATO member Montenegro, saying that sending troops from the alliance to defend an "aggressive" ally could result in World War III.

Former Trump aides, including former national security adviser John Bolton, have said they feared at times that Trump could pull the U.S. out of the alliance. But Trump and his allies have argued that his tough approach to NATO pushed member states to boost their defense spending obligations and strengthened the alliance.

Kaine, in a statement, said that the provision in the defense policy bill affirmed "U.S. support for this crucial alliance" and sent "a strong message to authoritarians around the world that the free world remains united."

Rubio said in a statement: "The Senate should maintain oversight on whether or not our nation withdraws from NATO. We must ensure we are protecting our national interests and protecting the security of our democratic allies."

While the defense policy bill is set to be signed into law by Biden, it's unclear how exactly a scenario might play out in which the president and Congress are at odds over NATO membership.

Michael E. O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, pointed out that there is precedent for presidents withdrawing unilaterally from treaties without consulting Congress. A chief executive conceivably could push back on efforts to restrict that — particularly if the treaty addresses America's defense posture abroad.

If a president violates the law, Congress can seek recourse in the courts, a Kaine aide said.

## \$148M damages verdict adds to Giuliani's financial woes

*Associated Press*

A criminal trial awaits Rudy Giuliani in Georgia. He is an alleged unnamed co-conspirator in a federal indictment against Donald Trump. And now he's been ordered to pay a sum he surely cannot afford.

The \$148 million verdict in a defamation case brought by two former Georgia election workers marks a new low point for the man once lauded as "America's mayor," whose advocacy of Trump's false election claims has led to criminal charges and hefty legal bills. And the jury's verdict could be a troubling sign for Giuliani as he gears up to defend himself against charges in Georgia that could land him behind bars.

"It's like everything is crashing down on him," said Nick Akerman, a New York attorney who briefly worked alongside Giuliani in the federal prosecutors' office there. "He hasn't come to grips with what he has done to his life. He has completely destroyed himself."

A defiant Giuliani vowed Friday to appeal, calling the damages award for Ruby

Freeman and her daughter, Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, "absurd." Outside Washington's federal courthouse after the verdict, he repeated his claims that the 2020 election was stolen from Trump. In a video later on X, formerly Twitter, he insisted he did nothing wrong, and suggested he will keep pressing his claims even if it means losing all his money or ending up in jail.

"If they want to put me in jail for it, if you want to shoot me for it ... you're not going to get me to lie," Giuliani said.

It's the latest chapter in a remarkable story that has taken Giuliani from the cover of Time Magazine as "Person of the Year" in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to being mocked on late night TV and facing legal and financial peril. Some who knew Giuliani when he was a young prosecutor who went on to lead the prominent U.S. attorney's office in New York's Southern District have said they hardly recognize the man they see on TV today.

"It's a shame because he had such promise," said John Flannery, another lawyer

who worked alongside Giuliani as a federal prosecutor. "He was a very smart lawyer. He was very helpful to everybody in the office."

Ted Goodman, a political adviser to Giuliani, declined to comment on Saturday on the state of the former mayor's finances. But he said Giuliani has had "a positive impact on more people than almost anyone in public service."

"The Rudy Giuliani you see today is the same man who took down the Mafia, cleaned up New York City, and comforted the nation following September 11th," Goodman said.

Giuliani has pleaded not guilty in the criminal case in Georgia, which accuses him of participating in a wide-ranging conspiracy to thwart the will of Georgia's voters who had selected Democrat Joe Biden over the Republican incumbent. He faces 13 charges, including violation of Georgia's anti-racketeering law, the federal version of which was one of his favorite tools as prosecutor in the 1980s.

# Israel faces calls for cease-fire from Europe

*Associated Press*

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — Israel's government faced calls for a cease-fire from some of its closest European allies and from protesters at home Sunday after a series of shootings, including of three hostages who waved a white flag, added to mounting concerns about its conduct in the 10-week-old war in Gaza.

The protesters urged the government to renew hostage negotiations with Gaza's Hamas rulers, whom it has vowed to destroy. Israel could also face pressure to scale back major combat operations when U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visits this week, as Washington has expressed growing unease with civilian casualties even while providing vital military and diplomatic support.

The air and ground war has flattened large parts of northern Gaza, killed thousands of civil-

ians and driven most of the population to the southern part of the besieged territory, where many are packed into crowded shelters and tent camps. Some 1.9 million Palestinians — nearly 85% of Gaza's population — have fled their homes. They have been surviving off a trickle of humanitarian aid. Israel said that starting Sunday, U.N. aid trucks would be able to enter Gaza from a second location, Kerem Shalom.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel "will continue to fight until the end," with the goal of eliminating Hamas, which triggered the war with its Oct. 7 attack into southern Israel.

Palestinian militants killed some 1,200 people that day, mostly civilians, and captured scores of hostages.

In Israel on Sunday, French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna called for an "immediate truce" aimed at releasing more

hostages, getting larger amounts of aid into Gaza and moving toward "the beginning of a political solution."

France's Foreign Ministry earlier said one of its employees was killed in an Israeli strike on a home in Rafah on Wednesday. It condemned the strike, which it said had killed several civilians, and demanded clarification from Israeli authorities.

The foreign ministers of the United Kingdom and Germany, meanwhile, called for a "sustainable" cease-fire, saying "too many civilians have been killed."

The Israeli military said Sunday that it has discovered a large tunnel shaft in Gaza close to what was once a busy crossing into Israel, raising new questions about how Israeli surveillance missed such conspicuous preparations by Hamas for the militants' deadly Oct. 7 assault. The entryway to the tunnel is just a few hundred

meters from the heavily fortified Erez crossing and a nearby Israeli military base.

Maj. Nir Dinar, a military spokesperson, said Israeli security services did not know about the tunnel before Oct. 7 because Israel's border defenses only detected tunnels meant to enter Israel.

Military officials said Saturday that the three hostages who were mistakenly shot by Israeli troops had tried to signal that they posed no harm. It was Israel's first such acknowledgment of harming hostages in a war it has said is largely aimed at rescuing them.

The three hostages, all in their 20s, were killed Friday in the Gaza City area of Shijaiyah.

An Israeli military official said the shootings were against the army's rules of engagement and were being investigated at the highest level.

## Dozens of migrants drown in capsizing off Libya coast

*Associated Press*

CAIRO — A boat carrying dozens of migrants trying to reach Europe capsized off the coast of Libya, leaving more than 60 people dead, including women and children, the U.N. migration agency said.

The shipwreck, which took place overnight between Thursday and Friday, was the latest tragedy in this part of the Mediterranean Sea, a key but dangerous route for migrants seeking a better life in Europe. Thousands have died, according to officials.

The U.N.'s International Organization for Migration said in a statement late Saturday that the boat was carrying 86 migrants when strong waves swamped it off the town of Zuwara on Libya's western coast and that 61 migrants drowned, according to survivors.

"The central Mediterranean

continues to be one of the world's most dangerous migration routes," the agency wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

The European Union's border agency said in a statement Sunday that its plane located the partially deflated rubber boat Thursday evening in Libya's search and rescue zone.

"The people were in severe danger because of adverse weather conditions, with waves reaching heights of 8.2 feet," the agency, known as Frontex, said.

Alarm Phone — a hotline for migrants in distress — said in a post that some migrants onboard reached out to the volunteer group who in turn alerted authorities including the Libyan coast guard, "who stated that they would not search for them."

A spokesman for the Libyan coast guard was not immediately available for comment.

## Russia, Ukraine launch numerous drone attacks

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia and Ukraine launched over a dozen drones at each other's territory for a second straight day Sunday, one of which apparently targeted a Russian military airport.

At least 35 Ukrainian drones were shot down overnight over three regions in southwestern Russia, the Russian Defense Ministry said in a post on the messaging app Telegram.

A Russian air base hosting bomber aircraft used in the war in Ukraine was among the targets, according to a Russian Telegram channel critical of the Kremlin. The channel posted short videos of drones flying over low-rise housing in what it claimed was the Russian town of Morozovsk, whose air base is home to Russia's 559th Bomber Aviation Regiment.

Vasily Golubev, the governor

of Russia's Rostov province, separately reported "mass drone strikes" near Morozovsk and another town farther west, but did not mention the air base. Golubev said most of the drones were shot down and there were no casualties. He did not comment on damage.

Also Sunday morning, Ukraine's air force said it shot down 20 Iranian-made Shahed drones launched overnight by Russian troops in southern and western Ukraine, as well as one X-59 cruise missile launched from the country's occupied south.

Stepped-up drone attacks over the past month have come as both sides are keen to show they aren't deadlocked as the war approaches the two-year mark. Neither side has gained much ground despite a Ukrainian counteroffensive that began in June.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Misspelling ‘Republican’ seen as disqualifier**

**IL** CRYSTAL LAKE — A county board incumbent wants election officials to disqualify his primary opponent because he misspelled “Republican” on his nomination papers.

McHenry County Board member Eric Hendricks has filed an objection to primary opponent Bob Nowak’s candidacy, the Northwest Herald reported Wednesday.

Hendricks wrote in the objection that Nowak filed to run as a member of the “Republian Party,” omitting the “c” in “Republican.” Hendricks argued such a party does not exist.

A hearing on the objection is scheduled for Tuesday.

**Court revives teacher’s lawsuit over pronouns**

**VA** RICHMOND — A lawsuit filed by a Virginia high school teacher who was fired after he refused to use a transgender student’s pronouns was reinstated Thursday by the state Supreme Court.

Peter Vlaming, a former French teacher at West Point High School, sued the school board and administrators at the school after he was fired in 2018. A judge dismissed the lawsuit before any evidence was heard in the case. But the Supreme Court overturned that ruling and said the lawsuit can proceed to trial.

Vlaming claimed in his lawsuit that he tried to accommodate a transgender student in his class by using his masculine name and avoiding the use of pronouns, but the student, his

parents and the school told him he was required to use the student’s male pronouns.

Vlaming said he could not use the student’s pronouns because of his “sincerely held religious and philosophical” beliefs “that each person’s sex is biologically fixed and cannot be changed.” Vlaming also said he would be lying if he used the student’s pronouns.

**Hasbro cuts 1,100 jobs as toy business sputters**

**RI** PAWTUCKET — Toy maker Hasbro said it is cutting about 1,100 jobs, or 20% of its workforce, as the malaise in the toy business extends through another holiday shopping season.

The nearly century-old Rhode Island-based company behind Monopoly, Play-Doh and My Little Pony toys disclosed the layoffs in a memo to employees published in a regulatory filing.

The company said the reductions are on top of 800 job cuts that have been taken so far in 2023 as part of moves announced last year to save up to \$300 million annually by 2025.

**Men charged with killing bald eagles to sell parts**

**MT** HELENA — Two men killed about 3,600 birds, including bald and golden eagles, during a “killing spree” on Montana’s Flathead Indian Reservation and elsewhere, then sold eagle parts on a black market that has been a long-running problem for U.S. wildlife officials, a federal grand jury indictment says.

The men worked with others

to hunt and kill the birds, the indictment said, and in at least one instance used a dead deer to lure in an eagle that was shot. The two defendants conspired with others who weren’t named to sell eagle feathers, tails, wings and other parts for “significant sums of cash” across the United States and elsewhere, the indictment said.

Simon Paul, 42, of St. Ignatius, Mont., and Travis John Branson, 48, of Cusick, Wash., face 13 counts of unlawful trafficking of bald and golden eagles and one count each of conspiracy and violating wildlife trafficking laws.

**Agreement: Vanity plate limits unconstitutional**

**SD** PIERRE — South Dakota officials will no longer deny applications for personalized license plates based on whether the plate’s message is deemed to be “offensive to good taste and decency,” following the state’s admission that the language is an unconstitutional violation of free speech rights.

The change is part of a settlement state officials reached in a lawsuit filed last month by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Lyndon Hart. His 2022 application to the Motor Vehicle Division for a vanity plate reading “REZWEED” was denied after state officials called it “in bad taste.”

Hart runs a business called Rez Weed Indeed, which he uses to support the legal selling and use of marijuana on Native American reservations. Hart intended for the personalized license plate to refer to his business and its mission of promoting tribal sovereignty, the

ACLU said.

The section of the law allowing for denial of personalized plates based on the decency clause is “unconstitutional on its face and as applied to the plaintiff,” said U.S. District Judge Roberto Lange in an order signed Friday. The unconstitutional clause can’t be used to issue or recall personalized plates, Lange wrote.

As part of the settlement, filed on Friday, state officials agreed to issue the “REZWEED” plate to Hart, as well as the plates “REZSMOK” and “REZBUD.”

**GOP lawmakers sink aid to Penn amid war flap**

**PA** HARRISBURG — Republican lawmakers in Pennsylvania defeated legislation to send \$33.5 million to the University of Pennsylvania’s veterinary school over criticism that the school has tolerated antisemitism, as statehouses across the U.S. eye how higher ed is handling tensions around the Israel-Hamas war.

The bill’s defeat is perhaps the starkest example of how some lawmakers and governors around the country are trying to keep universities from taking sides and to toughen the schools’ response to acts of hate and discrimination, including antisemitism and Islamophobia.

The vote came four days after Penn President Liz Magill resigned amid pressure from donors and criticism over testimony at a congressional hearing where she was questioned about whether calls on campus for the genocide of Jewish people would violate the Ivy League school’s conduct policy.

— From wire reports



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# Purdue hands top-ranked Arizona 1st loss

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue knew it could count on Zach Edey's powerful inside presence.

Once Fletcher Loyer and Braden Smith provided the outside game to go with it, the Boilermakers had all they needed to knock off No. 1 Arizona.

Loyer tied a career high with 27 points, Smith added 26 and No. 3 Purdue handed the Wildcats their first loss with a 92-84 victory Saturday.

Edey added 22 points and nine rebounds, with the 7-foot-4 All-American handling the middle while Smith and Loyer supplied the outside firepower in the Indy Classic.

"To be able to have three guys play at that level offensively, I think, really puts defenses in a bind enough to where they went to something they haven't ran all year and that 3-2 matchup zone that they were playing," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "When they are worried about Zach, we have to have that balance. (Saturday) we had that balance."

Loyer was 5-for-9 on 3-pointers and Smith was 4-for-7 while falling one point shy of his career high.

The Boilermakers (10-1) defeated a No. 1-ranked team for the first time since beating Arizona 72-69 on Nov. 25, 2000, which was also played in Indi-

anapolis.

"I'm not trying to be the No. 1-ranked team in December. (The media) decides that, not me," Wildcats coach Tommy Lloyd said. "It was two great teams going at it and thought it was a great atmosphere. It was basically a road game for the most part. I think our guys dug in and fought back. I think this is going a long way to really help our program."

Caleb Love scored 29 points and Keshad Johnson added 24 for the Wildcats (8-1). Oumar Ballo had 13 points.

The Boilermakers led 67-52 before the Wildcats answered with an 11-0 run to close the deficit to 67-63. Leading by five,

Purdue finally regained some breathing room when Smith made a 3-pointer and followed with a steal, leading to Edey's jumper that made it 83-73 with 3:21 remaining.

The Boilermakers shot 54% while the Wildcats shot 52%.

"They have a good team and they're going to beat a lot of people," Painter said. "They're going to be there at the end."

Loyer scored 18 and Smith 14 in the first half to help the Boilermakers take a 49-38 halftime lead.

"Their good players played real well," Lloyd said. "We tried some things and some worked and some didn't. I love this team we have."

# McCullar, No. 2 Kansas holds on against Indiana

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Kevin McCullar Jr. scored 21 points, including four crucial free throws in the final minute, and Hunter Dickinson had 17 points and 14 rebounds as No. 2 Kansas rallied in the second half for a 75-71 win at Indiana on Saturday.

The Jayhawks, who picked up their first victory at Assembly Hall, trailed by as many as 13 and did not take their first lead of the game until Dickinson scored in the post to make it 62-61 with 4:53 remaining.

"It's a long game," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "It was a hell of a win. A great atmosphere. The last time I came here I met John Mellencamp. That's probably my fondest memory of this place up until today. This place reminds me of KU: history, tradition. Two true bluebloods out there."

Trey Galloway scored a career-high 28 points for Indiana, Mackenzie Mgbako had 14, Malik Reneau finished with 13 and Kel'el Ware added 11 points and 15 rebounds.

After a spinning bank shot

from Dajuan Harris Jr. put Kansas in front 71-66 with 1:11 left, the Hoosiers gave themselves a chance thanks to Galloway's 3-point make on the ensuing possession. After a defensive stop, Galloway missed an off-balance 3 from the right wing that would have given Indiana the lead with 23 seconds left.

McCullar, who went 13-for-16 from the line, knocked down two free throws following a foul to make it 73-69. After Ware's putback with 9.4 seconds left got Indiana within two again, McCullar returned to the line and made two more to seal the win in Kansas' first true road game of the season.

**No. 4 Houston 70, Texas A&M 66:** Emanuel Sharp scored 21 points, L.J. Cryer added 17 and the Cougars held off the visiting Aggies.

**Michigan State 88, No. 6 Baylor 64:** At Detroit, Tyson Walker scored 18 of his 25 points in the first half to help build a huge lead and the struggling Spartans went on to hand the Bears their first loss of the season.

**No. 8 Creighton 85, Alabama 82:** Ryan Kalkbrenner came back from an early ankle injury to score 17 of his 19 points in the second half and lead the host Bluejays past the Crimson Tide.

**No. 14 Kentucky 87, No. 9 North Carolina 83:** At Atlanta, Rob Dillingham scored 17 points, including two straight baskets to swing the momentum back to his team, and the Wildcats held on down the stretch to beat the Tar Heels.

**No. 11 Oklahoma 81, Green Bay 47:** Rivaldo Soares scored 13 points and the host Sooners overcame a sluggish start to roll past the Phoenix.

**No. 12 Tennessee 79, N.C. State 70:** At San Antonio, Josiah-Jordan James had 23 points, Zakai Zeigler added 20 and the Volunteers held off the Wolfpack in the Hall of Fame Series.

**Memphis 79, No. 13 Clemson 77:** David Jones scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half, Jahvon Quinerly added 17 points and six assists, and the host Tigers held on.

**No. 15 Florida Atlantic 64, St. Bonaventure 54:** At Spring-

field, Mass., Johnell Davis scored 16 points and the Owls held off the Bonnies in the Hall of Fame Classic.

**No. 18 BYU 86, Georgia State 54:** Richie Saunders scored a career-high 20 points to help the host Cougars beat the Panthers for their second straight victory.

**No. 19 Texas 96, LSU 85:** At Houston, Max Abmas had 20 points and seven assists, Tyrese Hunter added a season-high 19 points and the Longhorns defeated the Tigers.

**No. 22 Virginia 56, Northeastern 54:** Reece Beekman scored 21 points, including the final four of the game to lift the host Cavaliers over the Huskies.

**No. 24 Miami 84, La Salle 77:** Wooga Poplar overcame a slight ankle injury and scored a career-high 25 points to help the host Hurricanes beat the Explorers.

**No. 25 Northwestern 56, DePaul 46:** Nick Martinelli scored 16 points and the visiting Wildcats bounced back from a stunning loss to beat the Blue Demons.

# Browning, Bengals edge Vikings in OT

*Associated Press*

CINCINNATI — Trailing 17-3 late in the third quarter behind an offense that had struggled to move the ball, the Bengals needed Jake Browning to be nearly perfect — and he was.

Browning led Cincinnati to three fourth-quarter touchdowns and directed the winning drive in overtime in his latest extraordinary performance since taking over for the injured Joe Burrow, and the Bengals beat the Minnesota Vikings 27-24 on Saturday to improve their position in the playoff race.

Browning won his third straight start and improved to 3-1 since Burrow suffered a season-ending right wrist injury in

a loss at Baltimore. This time, he threw for 184 yards and two touchdowns in the fourth quarter and overtime, becoming the fourth QB in the past two years to throw for at least that many yards and two or more scores after three quarters.

Tee Higgins went high over a Vikings defender to catch a 16-yard pass from Browning and make a twisting move at the goal line for the tying touchdown with 39 seconds left in regulation.

**Lions 42, Broncos 17:** Jared Goff matched a career high with five touchdown passes, three to rookie tight end Sam LaPorta, and host Detroit routed Denver.

The NFC North-leading Lions (10-4)

could clinch a spot in the postseason for the first time since the 2016 season if other results go their way this weekend. The simplest scenario would be a loss or tie by Seattle to Philadelphia on Monday night.

**Colts 30, Steelers 13:** Gardner Minshew threw three touchdown passes and host Indianapolis improved its playoff prospects, beating sagging Pittsburgh.

Minshew was 18-for-28 for 215 yards and matched his career high for TD passes while leading a Colts offense lacking its usual complement of playmakers. Leading receiver Michael Pittman Jr. and top rusher Zack Moss left the game with injuries. The Colts finished with 170 yards rushing.

# Garbers rallies UCLA past Boise State in LA Bowl

*Associated Press*

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Ethan Garbers answered the call for UCLA when it needed him the most.

The junior quarterback told coach Chip Kelly that he did not feel well enough to start Saturday's LA Bowl against Boise State, but when Collin Schlee was injured during the third quarter with the Bruins trailing, Garbers knew he had to come into the game.

Garbers threw for 152 yards and two touchdowns as the Bruins rallied for a 35-22 victory over the Broncos, giving them their first bowl victory since the Alamo Bowl to end the 2014 season.

"This whole week and before the game I wasn't feeling 100%. When I looked out there (in the second half), and the team needed me, that's my biggest priority. It was an easy call to say the least," said Garbers, who completed 9 of 12 passes and won Offensive MVP honors.

Garbers started six games for the Bruins this season, but also had his share of injuries. Kelly wasn't surprised with Garbers' performance and when he said he wasn't ready to start.

"He said I think we got to go with Collin, but I'm ready to be a backup if we have to go," Kelly said. "So when Collin went down, I asked him are we ready to go, and he said he was and played fantastic."

Garbers also gave Kelly a gift after the game when he announced he would return for one more season and UCLA's move to the Big Ten. Garbers participated in Senior

Night ceremonies and there were plenty of questions about the quarterback position after freshman Dante Moore entered the transfer portal.

## Independence Bowl

**Texas Tech 34, California 14:** Behren Morton completed 27 of 43 passes for 256 yards and three first-half touchdowns, leading the Red Raiders over the Golden Bears in Shreveport, La.

Tahj Brooks ran for 98 yards and a score as Texas Tech (7-6) shook off a terrible start. It shut out California (6-7) for the final three quarters to win the 47th edition of college football's 11th-oldest bowl game.

## New Orleans Bowl

**Jacksonville State 34, Louisiana-Lafayette 31 (OT):** Zion Webb completed a fourth-down pass to Perry Carter for an 18-yard, tying touchdown with 1:46 left in regulation, Garrison Rippha hit a 27-yard field goal in overtime, and the Gamecocks capped off their first season in the Football Bowl Subdivision by beating the Ragin' Cajuns.

Ron Wiggins rushed for 126 yards and a score for Jacksonville State (9-4), which had to overcome four turnovers — three of which were returned for touchdowns — just to force overtime.

## Myrtle Beach Bowl

**Ohio 41, Georgia Southern 21:** Freshman Rickey Hunt ran for four touchdowns and caught a fifth as the Bobcats overcame a host of transfer portal losses to win their fifth straight bowl game.

Ohio (10-3) forced five turnovers, four by

Eagles quarterback Davis Brin. It reached 10 wins in consecutive years for the first time in program history.

## Celebration Bowl

**Florida A&M 30, Howard 26:** Jeremy Moussa threw three fourth-quarter touchdown passes, including two to Kelvin Dean Jr., and the Rattlers rallied past the Bison.

Florida A&M (12-1) closed the season with 11 consecutive wins. Moussa connected with Dean on scoring passes of 21 and 53 yards as the Rattlers recovered after trailing 14-0 in the first quarter and 16-10 to open the fourth.

## Cure Bowl

**Appalachian State 13, Miami (Ohio) 9:** Joey Aguilar threw for 211 yards and scored on an 8-yard run in the third quarter to lead the Mountaineers past the Red-Hawks in rainy conditions.

Aguilar's scoring run capped an 11-play, 73-yard drive and gave Appalachian State a 13-3 lead after Michael Hughes kicked field goals of 29 and 22 yards in the first half.

## New Mexico Bowl

**Fresno State 37, New Mexico State 10:** Mikey Keene threw for a career-high 380 yards with three touchdown passes and a rushing TD, and the Bulldogs routed the Aggies.

Malik Sherrod rushed for 90 yards on 20 carries and had eight receptions for 81 yards for Fresno State (9-4), which had closed the regular season on a three-game skid. The Bulldogs won their fifth straight bowl game.

# Bucks send Pistons to 23rd straight loss

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE—Damian Lillard's fast start ensured the Detroit Pistons couldn't get any ideas they might end their lengthy skid against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Lillard scored 33 points, Bobby Portis had a season-high 31 and the Bucks trounced the Pistons 146-114 on Saturday to hand Detroit its 23rd consecutive loss. Milwaukee matched its highest point total of the season and earned its most lopsided victory.

The Bucks rolled to a 24-point lead in the first quarter and never looked back as the Pistons matched the NBA's third-longest skid within the same season. Lillard scored 13 straight Milwaukee points during one stretch late in the first period.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 22 points, eight rebounds and six assists while shooting 7-for-9 in his first game since scoring a franchise-record 64 points

Wednesday against the Pacers.

"I thought our leaders were leaders tonight," Bucks coach Adrian Griffin said. "There was no messing around. I thought that in the locker room, there was a seriousness before the game."

Detroit joined the 1995-96 Vancouver Grizzlies, 1997-98 Denver Nuggets and 2011-12 Charlotte Bobcats in losing 23 straight within the same season.

**Kings 125, Jazz 104:** Keegan Murray made 12 3-pointers, two shy of the NBA record, and scored a career-high 47 points to lead host Sacramento past Utah.

Murray scored a franchise-record 26 points in the third quarter and had Klay Thompson's NBA record of 14 3-pointers in his sights after making 12 of his first 13 attempts. But the second-year forward missed his final two attempts from behind the arc while becoming the seventh different player to make 12 or more 3s in a game.

**Thunder 118, Nuggets 117:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander hit a turnaround jumper with a second left, and visiting Oklahoma City rallied to beat Denver.

Jalen Williams scored 25 points and rookie Chet Holmgren had 17 points, 11 rebounds and a career-best nine blocks for the Thunder. His previous high in blocks was seven, which came against Cleveland in his second NBA game.

**Mavericks 131, Trail Blazers 120:** Luka Doncic had a triple-double with 40 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists to help visiting Dallas beat Portland.

**Heat 118, Bulls 116:** Jimmy Butler hit a step-back jumper as time expired to lift host Miami past Chicago.

**Clippers 144, Knicks 122:** Kawhi Leonard scored 36 points, Paul George added 25 and host Los Angeles routed New York for its NBA-best seventh straight victory.

**76ers 135, Hornets 82:** Joel Embiid had 42 points and 15 rebounds and visiting Philadelphia handed injury-depleted Charlotte its worst loss in franchise history.

**Timberwolves 127, Pacers 109:** Karl-Anthony Towns scored a season-high 40 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Anthony Edwards had 37 points and host Minnesota routed Indiana.

**Warriors 124, Nets 120:** Stephen Curry scored 12 straight fourth-quarter points on the way to 37, Klay Thompson added 24 points with back-to-back timely 3-pointers in the closing minutes and host Golden State beat Brooklyn to snap a three-game losing streak.

**Cavaliers 127, Hawks 119:** Jarrett Allen had 25 points and 14 rebounds, Donovan Mitchell added 22 points and a career-high 13 assists and host Cleveland beat Atlanta.

# Trocheck rallies Rangers to win over Bruins in OT

Associated Press

BOSTON — Vincent Trocheck scored his second goal of the game 2:03 into overtime and the New York Rangers rallied to beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 Saturday night in a matchup of the Eastern Conference's top two teams.

Igor Shesterkin made 22 saves for the Rangers, who have won three of their last four games. New York is tied with Boston with 43 points atop the conference, but the Rangers have two more wins.

"It was a really good hockey game," Rangers coach Peter Laviolette said. "Give our guys a lot of credit for just staying with it. ... We're attacking and attacking and it's just not going in. We just can't seem to find that first one. We eventually got one, got it to overtime and walked away with two points."

Trent Frederic scored for the Bruins and Jeremy Swayman stopped 31 shots. Boston had won five of its last seven games.

Boston star David Pastrnak was given a 5-minute major and a game misconduct for boarding Ryan Lindgren late in the second period.

**Coyotes 2, Sabres 0:** Karel Vejmelka had

29 saves for his first shutout of the season, Clayton Keller scored his 10th goal of the year and host Arizona beat Buffalo.

The Coyotes have won two straight after losing four in a row, and also got a bit of revenge after falling to the Sabres 5-2 on Monday in Buffalo.

**Flyers 1, Red Wings 0:** Samuel Ersson stopped 34 shots for his third career shutout and Cam York scored to lead host Philadelphia past Detroit.

Ersson was in net with starting goalie Carter Hart out with an illness. The 24-year-old goalie from Sweden had 12 saves in the second period for the suddenly streaking Flyers and held strong at the end when the Red Wings used an extra attacker.

**Blues 4, Stars 3 (OT):** Colton Parayko scored 37 seconds into overtime, lifting host St. Louis past Dallas.

**Wild 2, Canucks 1 (SO):** Mats Zuccarello scored in the shootout and host Minnesota beat Vancouver.

**Kings 3, Kraken 2 (SO):** Carl Grundstrom scored the deciding goal in the ninth round of a shootout against Seattle and visiting Los Angeles snapped a three-game losing

streak.

**Predators 3, Capitals 1:** Colton Sissons, Philip Tomasino and Yakov Trenin scored goals to help host Nashville win its fourth straight.

**Flames 4, Lightning 2:** Yegor Sharangovich scored for the fifth consecutive game as host Calgary snapped a four-game skid.

**Canadiens 5, Islanders 3:** Josh Anderson scored twice as host Montreal held on to beat New York.

**Devils 6, Blue Jackets 3:** Jack Hughes scored three goals for his second career hat trick to lead visiting New Jersey past Columbus.

**Panthers 5, Oilers 1:** Carter Verhaeghe had two goals and an assist as visiting Florida bounced back from two consecutive shutouts.

**Jets 6, Avalanche 2:** Gabriel Vilardi scored twice and Alex Iafallo broke an 18-game goal-scoring drought as host Winnipeg beat Colorado.

**Maple Leafs 7, Penguins 0:** Martin Jones stopped 38 shots for his first shutout of the season, Max Domi had a goal and two assists, and host Toronto drubbed Pittsburgh.