

## President Biden pardons son Hunter

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden pardoned his son, Hunter, sparing the younger Biden a possible prison sentence for federal felony gun and tax convictions and reversing his past promises not to use the extraordinary powers of the presidency for the benefit of his family.

The Democratic president had previously said he would not pardon his son or commute his sentence after convictions in the two cases in Delaware and California. The move on Sunday night comes weeks before Hunter Biden was set to receive his punishment after his trial conviction in the gun case and guilty plea on tax charges, and less than two months before President-elect Donald Trump is set to return to the White House.

It caps a long-running legal saga for the younger Biden, who publicly disclosed he was under federal investigation in December 2020 — a month after his father's 2020 victory — and casts a pall over the elder Biden's legacy.

Biden, who time and again pledged to Americans that he would restore norms and respect for the rule of law after Trump's first term in office, ultimately used his position to help

his son, breaking his public pledge to Americans that he would do no such thing.

In a statement released Sunday evening, Biden said, "I believe in the justice system, but as I have wrestled with this, I also believe raw politics has infected this process and it led to a miscarriage of justice."

The president's sweeping pardon covers not just the gun and tax offenses against the younger Biden, but also any other "offenses against the United States which he has committed or may have committed or taken part in during the period from January 1, 2014 through December 1, 2024."

In June, Biden categorically ruled out a pardon or commutation for his son, telling reporters as his son faced trial in the Delaware gun case, "I abide by the jury decision. I will do that and I will not pardon him."

As recently as Nov. 8, days after Trump's victory, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre ruled out a pardon or clemency for the younger Biden, saying, "We've been asked that question multiple times. Our answer stands, which is no."

The elder Biden has publicly stood by his only living son as Hunter descended into serious

drug addiction and threw his family life into turmoil before getting back on track in recent years. The president's political rivals have long used Hunter Biden's myriad mistakes as a political cudgel against his father: In one hearing, lawmakers displayed photos of the drug-addled president's son half-naked in a seedy hotel.

House Republicans also sought to use the younger Biden's years of questionable overseas business ventures in a since-abandoned attempt to impeach his father, who has long denied involvement in his son's dealings or benefiting from them in any way.

"The charges in his cases came about only after several of my political opponents in Congress instigated them to attack me and oppose my election," Biden said in his statement. "No reasonable person who looks at the facts of Hunter's cases can reach any other conclusion than Hunter was singled out only because he is my son."

"I hope Americans will understand why a father and a President would come to this decision," Biden added, claiming he made the decision this weekend.

The president had spent the Thanksgiving holiday in Nan-

tucket, Mass., with Hunter and his family, and departed for Angola later Sunday on what may be his last foreign trip as president before leaving office on Jan. 20.

Hunter Biden was convicted in June in Delaware federal court of three felonies for purchasing a gun in 2018 when, prosecutors said, he lied on a federal form by claiming he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

He had been set to stand trial in September in the California case accusing him of failing to pay at least \$1.4 million in taxes. But he agreed to plead guilty to misdemeanor and felony charges in a surprise move hours after jury selection was set to begin.

David Weiss, the Trump-appointed U.S. attorney in Delaware who negotiated the plea deal, was subsequently named a special counsel by Attorney General Merrick Garland to have more autonomy over the prosecution of the president's son.

Hunter Biden said he was pleading guilty in that case to spare his family more pain and embarrassment after the gun trial aired salacious details about his struggles with a crack cocaine addiction.

## Navy repels Houthi attacks on US warships, vessels

*Associated Press*

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — U.S. Navy destroyers shot down seven missiles and drones fired by Yemen's Houthi rebels at the warships and three American merchant vessels they were escorting through the Gulf of Aden. No damage or in-

juries were reported.

U.S. Central Command said late Sunday that the destroyers USS Stockdale and USS O'Kane shot down and destroyed three anti-ship ballistic missiles, three drones and one anti-ship cruise missile. The merchant ships were not identified.

The Houthis claimed the attack in a statement and said they had targeted the U.S. destroyers and "three supply ships belonging to the American army in the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden."

Houthi attacks for months have targeted shipping through

a waterway where \$1 trillion in goods pass annually over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and Israel's ground offensive in Lebanon. A ceasefire was announced in the latter last week.

The USS Stockdale was involved in a similar attack on Nov. 12.

# German leader visits Ukraine, vows more aid

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — German Chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Ukraine on Monday and vowed to keep supporting Kyiv in the war, just weeks after he was rebuked by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for having a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The conflict is approaching a pivotal new phase, with the new U.S. administration of Donald Trump taking office next month and potentially determining the trajectory of the war after the president-elect's pledge to end the fighting.

Ukraine is sensitive to whether cracks might be appearing in the unity of its Western allies to

keep helping it against Russia, as Putin banks on outlasting the West's commitment to Ukraine.

With the war soon to enter its fourth year, Zelenskyy said he disagreed with Scholz's call with Putin. Zelenskyy said it could prompt phone calls with other leaders, possibly reducing Putin's international isolation and legitimizing his full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Scholz, meanwhile, defended the call, explaining he wanted to remind Putin that Ukraine is a sovereign and independent state that should be able to decide its own future. He also stressed that he conveyed to Putin that Ukraine is not alone and that its partners

will continue their support.

Germany is Ukraine's second-largest backer after the United States, and a vociferous supporter, but Scholz has refused to budge on two of Zelenskyy's key requests: supplying German- and Swedish-made Taurus long-range missiles to Ukraine and inviting it to join NATO quickly.

Scholz, who faces an early election in February, has cast his refusal to send Taurus missiles as part of a "prudent" approach to the conflict that assures Ukraine of strong support without taking the risk of the war escalating into a conflict between NATO and Russia.

"This doesn't lessen our sup-

port, which is very wide-ranging and — it is important for me to say — will remain wide-ranging," Scholz said in Kyiv.

In a major shift, Zelenskyy signaled Friday that an offer of NATO membership to territory under Kyiv's control could end "the hot stage of the war" in Ukraine.

Germany, a leader in providing Ukraine with air defense systems, has already supplied five IRIS-T systems, three Patriot systems, and over 50 Gepard self-propelled anti-aircraft guns, Scholz said. Another batch of military aid being delivered this month will include another IRIS-T system and more Gepards, he added.

## Philippines eyes Russian sub in South China Sea

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine military deployed a navy ship and air force planes to shadow a Russian submarine, which passed through the South China Sea off the country's western coast last week, a security official said Monday.

The Russian submarine identified itself in response to a Philippine navy two-way radio inquiry, saying it was en route home to Russia's eastern city of Vladivostok after joining an exercise with the Malaysian navy, Jonathan Malaya, assistant director-general of the National Security Council, said.

The submarine, like other foreign ships, has the right of "innocent passage" in the country's exclusive economic zone, but it still sparked concern when it was spotted Thursday about 80 nautical miles off the Philippine province of Mindoro, Malaya said.

The submarine was sighted after it surfaced due to weather-related conditions, Malaya said.

"All of that is very concerning," President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. told reporters when asked about the submarine. "Any intrusion into the West Philippine Sea, of our EEZ, of our baselines is very worrisome. So, yes, it's just another one."

Marcos used the Philippine name for the South China Sea, where his country plus Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and other coastal states have faced an increasingly aggressive China, which claims the busy waterway virtually in its entirety.

An alarming spike in territorial confrontations, particularly between Chinese and Philippine coast guard and naval forces, starting last year has prompted closer surveillance by the United States and other Western governments of the key global trade route.

## Germany begins first Patriot missile plant built outside US

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Construction has begun on a facility in southern Germany that will produce upward of 1,000 Patriot missiles for NATO allies, as member nations act to boost munitions stockpiles depleted in the defense of Ukraine.

German government officials broke ground last month on an assembly line facility in Schrobenhausen, approximately 85 miles southwest of Tower Barracks in Grafenwoehr.

The site, a joint venture between European missile conglomerate MBDA and U.S.-based Raytheon, will be the first Patriot production facility outside the United States.

Russia's war on Ukraine "shows the great importance of ground-based air defense and the high consumption of ammunition in a symmetrical, high-intensity conflict," MBDA spokesman Guenter Abel said Friday. "The

limiting factor for NATO for numerous missile systems remains the ammunition supply. The challenge is to ramp up production quickly."

Missile deliveries are scheduled to begin in 2027, Abel said.

The new facilities will feature several thousand square feet of added production space, a large bunker and storage space, the German Defense Ministry has said. MBDA plans to increase its workforce at the site by 25%, to over 1,700 employees, by the end of next year.

The missiles produced at Schrobenhausen will be sent to U.S. allies Germany, the Netherlands, Romania and Spain, and will replace stocks donated to Ukraine, according to NATO statements.

They can be sold to other countries like Ukraine within the rules of U.S. export regulations, said a German Defense Ministry official, who spoke on condition of anonymity due to agency rules.

# Great Lakes sees more snow after big travel weekend

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Parts of the Great Lakes region saw new snow Monday and faced the prospect of even more this week after U.S. travelers battled harsh weather to get home after Thanksgiving, forecasters said.

Snow showers fell in western Michigan overnight, and heavier, persistent snow of up to a foot was expected to follow Monday, the National Weather Service said. More snow is expected Wednesday and Thursday, along with gusty winds and freezing temperatures.

"Bands of lake effect snowfall will impact mainly lakeshore locations through the morning commute. This will lead to sudden changes in the visibility and snow covered roadways," the weather service's office in Grand Rapids, Mich., posted online early Monday.

Lake-effect snow warnings

were in effect through Tuesday night in parts of Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania.

Nearly 4 feet of lake-effect snow — caused by warm, moist air blowing across the Great Lakes — fell over the weekend on upstate New York and parts of Pennsylvania and Michigan.

Flinty fans scoffed at the flurries and numbing temperatures during Sunday's nighttime NFL game in Buffalo, N.Y., between the Bills and the San Francisco 49ers.

The lake-effect storm began hitting the area Saturday near the Bills' stadium in Orchard Park, N.Y. Though the storm shifted south of the stadium by noon Sunday, snow continued to fall off and on through the day. Flurries began to fall more heavily just before kickoff.

The game was played in chilly conditions, with the temperature at 27 degrees Fahrenheit, with the wind chill making it feel

like 17. The Bills often play in such conditions at home late in the season.

Tim LoTemple, a Bills season ticket holder from Rochester, N.Y., and part of the team's rabid fan base known as "Bills Mafia," said the freezing temperatures and snow energize the players and fans. Still, the 49ers game was practically temperate compared to previous matchups at Highmark Stadium.

A blast of Arctic air last week brought bitter temperatures of 10 to 20 degrees below average to the northern Plains, the weather service said. Frigid air was expected to move over the eastern third of the United States by Monday.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro signed a disaster emergency proclamation Saturday and said parts of Erie County in the northwest received nearly 2 feet of snow. City Hall was closed to the public Monday and Tuesday.

# Trump picks daughter's in-law for Mideast post

Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — President-elect Donald Trump on Sunday named Masad Boulos, a Lebanese American businessman who is the father-in-law of Trump's daughter Tiffany, as a senior adviser on Arab and Middle Eastern affairs.

Boulos arranged Trump campaign efforts to engage the Arab American community in Michigan, organizing dozens of meetings in areas with large Arab American populations angered by Democratic President Joe Biden's backing of Israel's offensives in Gaza and Lebanon. Trump won the majority Arab American city of Dearborn Heights on his way to sweeping Michigan and other swing states.

"He has been a longtime proponent of Republican and Conservative values, an asset to my Campaign, and was instrumental in building tremendous new coalitions with the Arab American Community," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

Trump and Boulos said the president-elect would bring peace to the Middle East, but neither has publicly offered concrete details on Trump's plans for the region.

Boulos has previously sought office in Lebanon and has longstanding ties to political figures in the country.

Boulos helped capitalize on dissension within the Democratic base over support for the Israeli offensive in Gaza.

Trump has long installed family members and their relatives in key positions. On Saturday, he announced that he intends to nominate real estate developer Charles Kushner, father of Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, to serve as ambassador to France.

# Cyber Monday consumers expected to set US record for online shopping

Associated Press

Consumers in the United States scoured the internet for online deals, taking advantage of the post-Thanksgiving shopping marathon with Cyber Monday.

Even though e-commerce is now part of many people's regular routines, Cyber Monday has become the biggest online shopping day of the year, thanks to the deals and the hype the industry has created to fuel it.

Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping, expected consumers to spend a record \$13.2 billion Monday, 6.1% more than last year.

That would make it the year's biggest shopping day for e-commerce.

merce.

Consumer spending for Cyber Week — the five major shopping days between Thanksgiving and Cyber Monday — provides a strong indication of how much shoppers are willing to spend for the holidays.

The National Retail Federation expects holiday shoppers to spend more this year both in stores and online than last year. But the pace of spending growth will slow slightly, the trade group said, growing 2.5% to 3.5% — compared to 3.9% in 2023.

A clear sense of consumer spending patterns during the holiday season won't emerge until the government releases

sales data for the period.

U.S. shoppers spent \$10.8 billion online on Black Friday, a 10.2% increase over last year, according to Adobe Analytics. That's also more than double what consumers spent in 2017, when Black Friday pulled in roughly \$5 billion in online sales.

Consumers also spent a record \$6.1 billion online on Thanksgiving Day, Adobe said.

Other data showed physical stores saw fewer customers on Black Friday, underscoring how the huge crowds that were once synonymous with the day after Thanksgiving are now more than happy to shop from the comfort of their homes.



# Iraqi militias in Syria to battle insurgents

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Iranian-backed Iraqi militias have deployed in Syria to back the government's counteroffensive against a surprise advance by insurgents who seized the largest city of Aleppo last week, a militia official and a war monitor said Monday.

Insurgents led by jihadi group Hayat Tahrir al-Sham launched a two-pronged attack on Aleppo and moved into the countryside around Idlib and neighboring Hama province. The push is among the rebels' strongest in years and raised the prospect of another violent front reopening in the Middle East, at a time when U.S.-backed Israel is fighting Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both Iranian-allied groups.

It also risks drawing Russia and Turkey — each with its own interests to protect in Syria — into

direct confrontation.

Government troops built a fortified defensive line in northern Hama in an attempt to stall the insurgents' momentum while jets on Sunday pounded rebel-held lines. On Monday, Syria's military said that their airstrikes alongside Russia's killed 400 insurgents over the past 24 hours. It said that government forces were mobilizing to encircle the rebels in the Aleppo, Hama and Idlib countryside.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call with Syrian President Bashar Assad on Monday said Tehran was willing to provide all the support needed to push back the insurgency. He echoed comments from Iran's top diplomat Abbas Araghchi, who visited Assad on Sunday before traveling to Ankara, Turkey, one of the rebels' main backers.

Neither official further elabo-

rated but Iran has been one of Assad's principal political and military supporters and has deployed military advisers and forces after 2011 protests against Assad's rule turned into an all-out war.

Tehran-backed Iraqi militias already in Syria mobilized and additional forces crossed the border to support Assad's government and army, said the Iraqi militia official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

According to Britain-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, some 200 Iraqi militiamen on pickups crossed into Syria overnight through the strategic Bou Kamal crossing. They were expected to deploy in Aleppo to support the Syrian army's pushback against the insurgents, the monitor said.

The rebel offensive in Syria has caused concern among neighboring countries that the conflict could spill over. In Iraq, Interior Ministry spokesperson Brig. Gen. Miqdad Miri said that security forces have deployed in greater numbers to protect their large border with Syria.

The advance by the insurgents is a huge embarrassment for Assad, and it comes at a time when his allies — Iran and groups it backs and Russia — are preoccupied with their own conflicts.

Russia, whose intervention in Syria's civil war on behalf of Assad was crucial in turning the conflict in his favor, has said it will continue to support him.

"We, of course, continue to support Bashar Assad, we continue our contacts at the appropriate level and analyze the situation," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Monday.

## Oxford University Press' word of year is 'brain rot'

Associated Press

LONDON — Many of us have felt it, and now it's official: "brain rot" is the Oxford dictionaries' word of the year.

Oxford University Press said Monday that the phrase "gained new prominence in 2024," with its frequency of use increasing 230% from the year before.

Oxford defines brain rot as "the supposed deterioration of a person's mental or intellectual state, especially viewed as the result of overconsumption of material (now particularly online content) considered to be trivial or unchallenging."

The word of the year is intended to be "a word or expression that reflects a defining theme from the past 12 months."

"Brain rot" was chosen by a combination of public vote and language analysis by Oxford lexicographers. It beat five other finalists: demure, slop, dynamic

pricing, romantasy and lore.

While it may seem a modern phenomenon, the first recorded use of "brain rot" was by Henry David Thoreau in his 1854 ode to the natural world, "Walden."

Oxford Languages President Casper Grathwohl said that in its modern sense, "'brain rot' speaks to one of the perceived dangers of virtual life, and how we are using our free time."

"It feels like a rightful next chapter in the cultural conversation about humanity and technology. It's not surprising that so many voters embraced the term, endorsing it as our choice this year," he said.

Last year's Oxford word of the year was "rizz," a riff on charisma, used to describe someone's ability to attract or seduce another person. Collins Dictionary's 2024 word of the year is "brat" — the album title that became a summer-living ideal.

## Belgium law gives rights, benefits to sex workers

Associated Press

PARIS — Starting Sunday, sex workers in Belgium will be able to sign formal employment contracts and gain labor rights on par with those in other professions in a legal breakthrough some call a "revolution."

The new law also establishes fundamental rights for sex workers including the right to refuse clients, choose their practices and stop an act at any moment.

The move follows the country's 2022 decision to decriminalize sex work.

Under the new regulations, sex workers will have access to health insurance, paid leave, maternity benefits, unemployment support and pensions. The legislation also establishes rules on working hours, pay and safety measures, addressing a long-standing gap in legal protections for those in the industry.

"This is an incredible step for-

ward," said Isabelle Jaramillo, coordinator of Espace P, an advocacy group involved in drafting the legislation. "It means their profession can finally be recognized as legitimate by the Belgian state."

"From the employer's perspective, this will also be a revolution. They'll have to apply for a state authorization to hire sex workers," Jaramillo said.

"Under the previous legislation, hiring someone for sex work automatically made you a pimp, even if the arrangement was consensual," said Jaramillo.

Employers must now obtain authorization, adhere to strict safety protocols, and meet background requirements, including no prior convictions for sexual assault or human trafficking. They must provide clean linens, condoms, and hygiene products, and install emergency buttons in workspaces.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Power restored at airport after more than 16 hours

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — A 16½-hour power outage at Philadelphia International Airport's Terminal D delayed flights, inconvenienced travelers and disrupted airport operations during the busy Thanksgiving travel weekend before ending Saturday afternoon.

Power was restored to Terminal D around 1:30 p.m., PHL spokesperson Heather Redfern said. The cause of the outage remained under investigation Saturday evening, Redfern said.

As of 5 p.m., 42 flights had been delayed because of the power outage, which began around 9 p.m. Friday, including 28 departure flights and 14 arrivals on Delta, United, Alaska Air and Air Canada, according to Redfern. No flights had been canceled due to the outage, Redfern said.

The outage affected every concession and electronic display in Terminal D. While airlines' computer systems had been restored by late morning, the ticketing system along with the system that delivers baggage from the ticket counters to planes remained down, Redfern said.

### Siblings sentenced in plot to have stepfather killed

**MS** JACKSON — A Mississippi man and his sister were sentenced to prison for their roles in a murder-for-hire plot targeting their stepfather, federal prosecutors said.

Joshua Bryan, 29, and his sister, Regan Bryan, 30, both of

Clinton, Miss., sought to hire a hitman to kill their stepfather in order to obtain life insurance proceeds, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi said in a news release last week.

Regan Bryan, who pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit murder for hire, was sentenced to five years and five months in prison. Joshua Bryan was sentenced to 10 years in prison after being found guilty of conspiracy to commit murder for hire and murder for hire following a trial that ended last December.

### Over 3K fake Gibson guitars seized at port

**CA** LOS ANGELES — More than 3,000 fake Gibson electric guitars shipped from Asia were seized by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at the Los Angeles-Long Beach Seaport, authorities said.

Had the guitars been authentic, they would have been worth \$18 million, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement. The agency said Gibson confirmed the guitars that were intercepted were counterfeit.

Gibson, founded in 1894 and based in Nashville, Tenn., has the top market share in premium electric guitars and all its guitars are handcrafted in Nashville and Bozeman, Mont.

Gibson guitars have been such a fixture in music history that rock-and-roll visionary Chuck Berry was laid to rest with his instrument, blues musician B.B. King affectionately named his "Lucille," and rock guitarist Eric Clapton borrowed

one from George Harrison to play the solo on the Beatles' song "While My Guitar Gently Weeps."

Authorities announced the seizure Tuesday but didn't say when the guitars were taken, which country they came from or who made them.

### Firefighters rescue dog stranded on bridge pier

**TX** HOUSTON — A dog has been reunited with its owner after being rescued by firefighters from the chilly waters of a Houston bayou.

The little dog was spotted Friday stranded on a bridge pier in the Sims Bayou in southwest Houston by an employee of the Houston Botanic Garden. Houston firefighters were called, and a member of the department's swift-water rescue team made his way to the pier.

Video of the rescue shows that as the firefighter approached, the dog barked at him and nipped at his hands before jumping in the water. The firefighter eventually caught the dog and brought him safely to shore.

Television station KHOU-11 reports the dog named Burbie was reunited with its owner on Saturday.

### 6 people hurt, 3 critically, after house explosion

**MO** JEFFERSON CITY — A house exploded early Saturday in Missouri's capital city, injuring six people, including three critically, fire officials said.

The explosion happened at

2:44 a.m., according to a statement from the Jefferson City Fire Department. The cause of the explosion was under investigation.

The home was so damaged that it took more than three hours for the fire department's Special Operations Rescue Team to reach all the victims in the debris, the statement said.

Three of the home's occupants were listed in critical condition, and three were in stable condition. Two pets also were rescued from the home, the department said.

### Stowaway on Paris flight will be sent back to US

**NY** NEW YORK — Authorities are investigating after a Russian national who did not have a ticket boarded a Paris-bound Delta flight at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport last week and was arrested when the plane touched down.

Delta Flight 264 took off Tuesday night from Kennedy and landed at Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris the next day with a stowaway who had somehow bypassed security, authorities said.

Police boarded the plane at the Paris airport, according to a video from a passenger that was shared on social media. "This is the captain. We're just waiting for the police to come on board," the pilot can be heard saying.

Daniel Velez, a spokesperson for the Transportation Security Administration, said "an individual without a boarding pass" was screened at Kennedy and was not carrying any prohibited items.

— From wire reports

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# Allen makes history as Bills clinch

QB has TDs passing, rushing and receiving as Buffalo routs 49ers to wrap up AFC East

*Associated Press*

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Josh Allen's memorable week began with singer and actress Hailey Steinfeld accepting his marriage proposal and ended with the Buffalo Bills quarterback celebrating his three-TD outing in an AFC East-clinching 35-10 victory over the San Francisco 49ers by making snow angels alongside coach Sean McDermott on Sunday night.

"He's the one that got me to do it," Allen said of interrupting McDermott's television interview to lay backwards into a snow pile. "I'm not the biggest snow angel fan, because you get cold down there, my toes are freezing right now ... but it was fun."

As for Steinfeld saying "Yes," during his bye week proposal, Allen said: "Felt good. Felt free."

He could just as well have been referring to his performance by braving bone-chilling temperatures and a persistent

snowfall in becoming the NFL's first quarterback and seventh player in the Super Bowl era to score a touchdown passing, rushing and receiving. Sandwiched between his 7-yard TD pass to Mack Hollins and an 8-yard scoring run, Allen scored a receiving touchdown on a pass he threw in his latest do-everything performance.

With Amari Cooper corralling a short pass with a one-handed catch, the receiver was in the midst of being wrapped up by two defenders when he pitched the ball back to Allen. The QB sprinted to the left corner of the end zone and dived past for the pylon for the score.

"It's got to be up there. I wish he got credited for something there, an assist or a passing touchdown," Allen said of Cooper. "I just kind of chased the ball to be there and we made eye contact. ... It was dope."

Cooper said he acted on instinct in a play that could well have been drawn up in the snow

on the sideline.

"I was wondering what he was doing over there," he said. "I figured he was over there because he wanted the ball, so I gave it to him."

Snow flew like confetti in celebration from the packed stands as the Bills (10-2) scored on four of five possessions spanning halftime to build a 28-3 lead, starting with Ray Davis' 5-yard run. James Cook scored on a career-high 65-yard run and finished with 107 yards rushing.

The defending NFC champion 49ers (5-7) unraveled as they dropped their third straight and lost running back Christian McCaffrey to what coach Kyle Shanahan said was a potential season-ending injury to the posterior cruciate ligament in his knee.

Very little went right for the 49ers in an outing they lost three fumbles and Jake Moody missed two of three field-goal attempts. San Francisco was also missing five starters due to

injury and is now in jeopardy of missing the playoffs a season after losing the Super Bowl to Kansas City.

Moody opened the scoring with a 33-yard field goal and Isaac Guerendo scored on a 15-yard run. Brock Purdy, coming back after missing one game with a sore throwing shoulder, finished 11 of 18 for 94 yards.

Allen finished 13-for-17 passing for 148 yards and two touchdowns, three rushes for 18 yards and a score, and zero catches for 7 yards and a TD. He was serenaded by fans with chants of "MVP!" and sat out most of the fourth quarter.

Allen has scored 247 career TDs (186 passing, 59 rushing and two receiving) to break Hall of Famer Jim Kelly's franchise record of 244.

Buffalo has won seven straight since back-to-back losses to Baltimore and Houston, and is 10-2 or better for the fifth time in team history and first since 1991.

## Defense leads Eagles past Ravens for 8th straight

*Associated Press*

BALTIMORE — Saquon Barkley vs. Derrick Henry was never supposed to be a head-to-head matchup.

"It ain't basketball. It ain't like I go out there and tackle Derrick Henry," Barkley said. "To be honest, I don't know if I really want to tackle Derrick Henry."

Fortunately for Barkley, the Philadelphia Eagles have a whole squad of defensive players assigned the task of tackling Henry, and they did a good enough job of that Sunday. They also kept Lamar Jackson under control in a 24-19 victory over the Baltimore Ravens, the Eagles' eighth win in a row.

The much-anticipated rush-

ing battle between Barkley and Henry didn't quite live up to expectations. A good fourth quarter pushed Barkley to 107 yards rushing, including a 25-yard TD with 7:56 remaining. Henry produced 82 yards along with three catches for 29 yards.

Barkley may have passed Jackson in the MVP race, but the Philadelphia defense was the story. The Eagles' approach was exemplified by coach Nick Sirianni's response when someone asked how he thought his team did matching Baltimore's physicality.

"They had to match ours," Sirianni said.

"That was our message going in — that they got to match our physicality. Again, that's a very

physical team, that's a well-coached team, that's a team with a lot of good players. But yeah, I'd like that question rephrased a little bit."

Justin Tucker's nightmarish season continued for Baltimore. The star kicker missed two field goals and an extra point as the Ravens (8-5) fell 1½ games behind first-place Pittsburgh in the AFC North. The NFC East-leading Eagles (10-2) rallied from an early 9-0 deficit with two second-quarter TDs, and although Tucker did make a 50-yard kick shortly before halftime, the Ravens didn't manage a point after that until the final seconds of the game.

Down 14-12, the Ravens had the ball for most of the third

quarter but couldn't score because Tucker — an all-time great at his position who has slipped badly this year — missed kicks of 47 and 53 yards.

"We're just going to rally around him," Baltimore safety Ar'Darius Washington said. "We know he's a great kicker. He's probably the greatest of all time. Whatever he's going through, we're going to be there for him. He's our guy."

Barkley's touchdown finally put Philadelphia ahead 21-12. After a field goal pushed the lead to 12, Jackson threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to Isaiah Likely with 3 seconds left.

Jackson fell to 23-2 against the NFC as a starter. He threw for 237 yards and ran for 79.



# Williams, Charbonnet rescue Seahawks

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Zach Charbonnet ran for a go-ahead 8-yard touchdown with 5:31 remaining, Leonard Williams returned an interception 92 yards for a momentum-turning score and the Seattle Seahawks held on to beat the New York Jets 26-21 on a chilly, windy Sunday for their third straight victory.

Geno Smith threw a touchdown pass to AJ Barner for the Seahawks (7-5), who were sloppy early but took over sole possession of first place in the NFC West with Arizona losing to Minnesota.

Aaron Rodgers and the Jets (3-9) led most of the way and appeared energized early in their first game coming out of their bye-week break. But they were held scoreless in the second half.

Charbonnet's score came on a drive helped by four penalties on New York, which finished with 12 of them.

All that came after a wacky first half that featured a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by the Jets' Kene Nwangwu, Williams' interception return and three fumbled kickoffs by Seattle, with two recovered by New York.

**Vikings 23, Cardinals 22:** Sam Darnold's second touchdown pass of the second half went to Aaron Jones for Minnesota's first lead with 1:13 left, and

the host Vikings rallied from 13 points down to beat Arizona for their fifth straight victory.

Darnold went 21 for 31 for 235 yards while being sacked five times by the blitz-heavy Cardinals, who kept Minnesota (10-2) out of the end zone until Darnold hit Johnny Mundt with 1:17 remaining in the third quarter.

Kyler Murray threw two interceptions in the fourth quarter to spoil what had been a stellar performance by Arizona (6-6), which fell into second place in the NFC West behind Seattle.

**Steelers 44, Bengals 38:** Russell Wilson threw for a season-high 414 yards and three touchdowns, and visiting Pittsburgh outlasted Joe Burrow and Cincinnati.

Wilson logged the third 400-yard game of his career. He finished 29-for-38 as the Steelers (9-3) rebounded from losing to the Browns 24-19 in a Nov. 21 game in the snow in Cleveland.

**Chargers 17, Falcons 13:** Rookie Tarheeb Still returned an interception 61 yards for a touchdown, his second pick of the game and one of four thrown by Atlanta quarterback Kirk Cousins as visiting Los Angeles handed the first-place Falcons their third straight loss.

In a game that neither team seemed eager to win, the Chargers (8-4) overcame five sacks, a fumble deep in their own territory, a fake punt that didn't work

and a largely listless offense.

**Buccaneers 26, Panthers 23 (OT):** Chase McLaughlin kicked a 30-yard field goal in overtime, Baker Mayfield overcame an ankle injury to lead four scoring drives in the fourth quarter and the extra period, and visiting Tampa Bay beat Carolina to move into a tie for first place in the NFC South.

Bucky Irving ran for a career-high 152 yards and a touchdown for the Buccaneers (6-6), who caught Atlanta atop the division. Mayfield finished 21-for-33 for 235 yards with a touchdown and two interceptions to improve to 4-0 against the Panthers, who cut him in 2022.

**Texans 23, Jaguars 20:** Joe Mixon ran for 101 yards and a touchdown, Nico Collins caught eight passes for 119 yards and visiting Houston beat Jacksonville after knocking quarterback Trevor Lawrence out of the game with a concussion.

Lawrence was carted off the field after taking a violent blow to the facemask from Texans linebacker Azeez Al-Shaair, a hit that prompted a sideline-clearing brawl and a secondary scuffle.

**Commanders 42, Titans 19:** Jayden Daniels threw two of his three touchdown passes to Terry McLaurin and also scored one rushing, and host Washington got its groove back by beating Tennessee to end its losing

streak at three.

Daniels completed 25 of 30 passes for 206 yards and the TD passes to McLaurin and Zach Ertz. Brian Robinson Jr. returned from a sprained ankle to run for 103 yards and a TD, and the defense and special teams each forced a fumble in a game the Commanders (8-5) had well in hand before halftime.

**Rams 21, Saints 14:** Matthew Stafford passed for two fourth-quarter touchdowns, Kyren Williams rushed for 104 yards and a score, and visiting Los Angeles beat New Orleans to hand interim Saints coach Darren Rizzi his first loss.

New Orleans drove inside the Rams 10-yard line in the final minutes, but Derek Carr's pass on fourth-and-3 was deflected from behind by Jared Verse and fell incomplete.

**Colts 25, Patriots 24:** Anthony Richardson threw a 3-yard touchdown pass to Alec Pierce with 12 seconds left and ran for the go-ahead 2-point conversion, and visiting Indianapolis beat New England when the Patriots' Joey Slye missed a 68-yard field goal attempt as time expired.

Richardson finished 12-for-24 for 109 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions to help the Colts (6-7) keep their playoff hopes alive. Three of Indianapolis' final four opponents have losing records.

## Big Ten fines Michigan, Ohio State \$100K each for fighting

Associated Press

ROSEMONT, Ill. — The Big Ten Conference announced it fined Michigan and Ohio State \$100,000 each for violating the conference's sportsmanship policy for the on-field melee at the end of the Wolverines' win in Columbus on Saturday.

"Not only did the actions of both teams violate fundamental elements of sportsmanship such as respect and civility, the nature of the incident also jeopardized the safety of participants and bystanders," the Big Ten said in a statement Sunday.

A fight broke out at midfield after the Wolverines' 13-10 victory when several Michigan players tried to plant their flag on the OSU logo and were confronted by the Buckeyes.

Police used pepper spray to break up the players, who threw punches and shoves. One officer suffered a head injury when he was "knocked down and trampled while trying to separate players fighting," a police union official said. The officer was taken to a hospital and has since been released.

After the Ohio State players confronted their rivals at midfield, defensive end Jack

Sawyer grabbed the top of the Wolverines' flag and ripped it off the pole as the brawl moved toward the Michigan bench.

"We respect the Big Ten Conference's decision in this matter," Ohio State said in a statement. "What happened post-game yesterday was unfortunate. Good sportsmanship is always important in everything we do at Ohio State. Moving forward, we will continue to examine and address our post-game protocols to ensure our student-athletes, coaches, visiting teams and staff safely exit the field."

# Harden second to reach 3K 3s; Clippers win

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — James Harden scored 39 points — making all 13 of his free throws — and the Los Angeles Clippers overcame Nikola Jokic's triple-double to beat the Denver Nuggets 126-122 on Sunday night.

Harden joined Golden State's Stephen Curry as the only NBA players to reach 3,000 career 3-pointers, with three in the first half and three more in the second half.

"Another one of those accomplishments that you never take for granted," Harden said. "The amount of work that I've put in — countless days and nights where I put the work in — a lot of people don't see it but the results happen, so I'm just thankful."

Harden just missed a triple-double, with nine rebounds and 11 assists.

Jokic finished with 28 points, 14 rebounds and 11 assists for his eighth triple-double of the season.

**Magic 100, Nets 92:** Franz Wagner had 20 points, nine rebounds, eight assists and two blocks, and visiting Orlando claimed its sixth straight win,

and second in three days over Brooklyn.

Goga Bitadze added 12 points and 13 rebounds, Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16 points and Wendell Carter Jr. had 14 points and seven rebounds to help the Magic claim their 12th win in their past 13 games despite committing a season-high 22 turnovers.

**Grizzlies 136, Pacers 121:** Jaren Jackson Jr. had 25 points, eight rebounds and three blocks as host Memphis erased a 19-point first-half deficit and defeated Indiana.

Ja Morant finished with 19 points and eight assists, and Marcus Smart and Desmond Bane added 16 points each as the Grizzlies won their sixth straight.

**Cavaliers 115, Celtics 111:** Donovan Mitchell scored 20 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter as host Cleveland ended Boston's seven-game winning streak with a victory over the Celtics in the second intense matchup between the Eastern Conference's top teams this season.

Mitchell made all six field-goal attempts — including four

3-pointers — in the fourth as the Cavaliers overcame a 12-point deficit. The All-Star guard scored 30 points in the second half after going just 2-for-8 from the floor in the first.

**Knicks 118, Pelicans 85:** Mikal Bridges scored 31 points, Karl-Anthony Towns had 14 points and 19 rebounds, and host New York beat injury-depleted New Orleans.

Bridges, who was benched in the fourth quarter of Friday's victory at Charlotte, rebounded by shooting 12-for-19 from the field for the Knicks, who have won seven of their last 10 games.

**Raptors 119, Heat 116:** RJ Barrett scored 37 points, Scottie Barnes had 23 points and 10 rebounds, and host Toronto beat Miami.

Jakob Poeltl had 17 points and 11 rebounds and rookie Ja'Kobe Walter scored 12 points as the Raptors improved to 5-4 at home.

**Rockets 119, Thunder 116:** Fred VanVleet had a season-high 38 points and Dillon Brooks made a go-ahead jump shot late to help host Houston to a win over Oklahoma City.

The game was tied at 113 when

Brooks hit the short jumper in the lane just before the shot clock expired to put the Rockets on top with 33.1 seconds to go.

**Lakers 105, Jazz 104:** Anthony Davis had 33 points and 11 rebounds, LeBron James added 27 points and 14 assists, and short-handed Los Angeles beat host Utah.

After James missed a 3-pointer — his 10th attempt of the night — in the closing seconds, the Jazz had a chance to win the game but Collin Sexton fumbled the inbounds pass and couldn't get a shot off before the buzzer.

**Mavericks 137, Trail Blazers 131:** Luka Dončić returned from a wrist injury and had 36 points in visiting Dallas' victory over Portland.

Dončić, who missed five games, also had 13 assists in the Mavericks' fourth straight win.

**Spurs 127, Kings 125:** Victor Wembanyama had 34 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists for his first triple-double of the season, and visiting San Antonio beat Sacramento for its fifth win in six games.

DeRozan had 28 points to lead the Kings, who led by 17 points in the first quarter.

## DeBrusk hat trick leads Canucks past Red Wings in OT

Associated Press

DETROIT — Jake DeBrusk scored a hat trick, including the game-winner in overtime, and goaltender Kevin Lankinen set an NHL record for most consecutive road wins to start a season as the Vancouver Canucks beat the Detroit Red Wings 5-4 on Sunday.

DeBrusk scored two power-play goals in a 43-second span early in the second period and assisted on Erik Brannstrom's goal that tied the game with 3:20 left in regulation. Pi-us Suter also scored for Vancouver.

Lankinen is 10-0-0 on the road this season, surpassing previous record-holders Glenn Hall (1965-66) and Cam Talbot (2023-24). Talbot, Detroit's starting goaltender Sunday, played for Los Angeles last season.

Jonatan Berggren had a goal and an assist, while Alex DeBrincat, Michael Rasmussen and Vladimir Tarasenko also scored for the Red Wings.

**Bruins 6, Canadiens 3:** Charlie McAvoy scored two goals — one coming when host Boston scored three times in 70 seconds during the opening period — and the Bruins celebrated the 100th anniversary of their first NHL game with a victory over Montreal.

Charlie Coyle also had two goals — one during the outburst — for Boston, which posted a 2-1 victory over the Montreal Maroons in its initial NHL game on Dec. 1, 1924, at the then-Boston Arena.

**Blue Jackets 6, Blackhawks 3:** Sean Monahan had a goal and assist, and visiting Columbus extended its points streak to six games with a win over Chicago.

Kent Johnson scored for the second straight game to run his points streak to nine games, and Ivan Provorov, Dante Fabbro, Kirill Marchenko and Dmitri Voronkov also connected for the Blue Jackets. Zach Werenski's two assists extended his points streak to

eight games.

**Stars 3, Jets 1:** Mason Marchment scored the winning goal on a spinning backhand with 7:37 to play with an assist from Jake Oettinger, who made 26 saves, as host Dallas beat Winnipeg.

Marchment took a slow-rolling pass made by Thomas Harley from near the Stars' goal line at the opposite blue line, skated on net while closely defended by Josh Morrissey, spun to his left and shot with his back to goaltender Connor Hellebuyck to break a 1-1 tie.

**Ducks 4, Senators 3 (SO):** Troy Terry tied a career high with three assists and scored the go-ahead goal in the shootout as host Anaheim beat Ottawa.

Terry scored in the second round of the shootout to put the Ducks in front. Trevor Zegras added another goal in the third round after Lukas Dostal stopped the Senators' Tim Stützle and Josh Norris.