

## GAO: Osprey safety info sharing needed

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The military services that fly V-22 Osprey variants must work more closely to share safety and maintenance concerns and best practices after an uptick in recent years of deadly crashes involving the tilt-rotor aircraft, a government watchdog report found.

The Government Accountability Office found rates of the most serious, non-combat incidents involving Osprey aircraft in fiscal 2023 and 2024 were between 36% and 88% higher than each of the prior eight fiscal years in a Dec. 8 report. Four fatal Osprey crashes since 2022 have killed 20 U.S. service members and led to a three-month grounding of the Pentagon's entire fleet of V-22s at the end of 2023.

GAO analysts found the most

"serious accidents related to materiel failure of airframe or engine components and human error during aircraft operations or maintenance." But they warned that the three military branches that fly Ospreys—and the Pentagon's joint office which oversees the program — "have not routinely shared information" with each other including "hazard and accident reports," emergency procedures and general knowledge about the aircraft, and maintenance data for components and parts shared by the three versions of the aircraft.

V-22 Ospreys are tiltrotor aircraft that combine the vertical takeoff and landing capabilities of a helicopter with the speed and long range of a turboprop airplane, according to its manufacturer, Boeing. The Pentagon's Osprey inventory includes the MV-22 flown by the Marines, the

CV-22 flown by the Air Force and the CMV-22B flown by the Navy.

The Marines own the vast majority of the Defense Department's Osprey fleet with some 348 aircraft, as of June 2025. The Air Force owns 52 Ospreys, and the Navy has 29. The Marine Corps has flown the aircraft since 2007, the Air Force has had them since 2009 and the Navy first began flying Ospreys in 2021.

Though the Osprey program has faced past concerns about safety, the uptick of fatal incidents in the last two years — including the 2023 crash of an Air Force CV-22 Osprey near Japan that killed eight airmen — led the House Armed Services Committee's readiness subpanel to request the new GAO probe.

The GAO probe did not explore the reasons behind the Osprey crashes, but it found that the

Osprey's troubles could be partially attributed to its status as the military's first generation of tilt-rotor aircraft, its "complex engineering" and its "complex and expensive components" that are maintenance intensive.

GAO also found that the services that fly Ospreys have no formal method of sharing timely safety information and no clear oversight structure to ensure such materials are shared broadly across the Osprey community.

"Without refining the joint program's process for identifying, analyzing and responding to Osprey safety risks to incorporate and prioritize system and non-system safety risks, program stakeholders cannot adequately mitigate risks that can contribute to death, injury, or loss of mission capability and resources," GAO analysts wrote.

## Report finds delays hurt health care at DOD facilities

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The average wait for urgent medical appointments at U.S. military bases outside the continental United States was as long as three weeks in some locations and even longer for routine appointments in 2024, a Pentagon watchdog agency said in a new report.

Treatment delays that service members and their families face while stationed outside the United States increased the risk for negative outcomes and preventable complications and decreased patient satisfaction, according to a Defense Department Office of Inspector General audit published last week.

The report also found that

personnel working in military medical clinics and hospitals overseas experienced burnout and low morale and were at risk of decreased readiness.

The agency reviewed 15 out of 79 military treatment facilities in overseas locations as well as Hawaii and Alaska, looking at 2024 data and conducting employee interviews.

The evaluation sought to assess how effectively the Defense Health Agency was managing care for its overseas patients, following the agency's transition in 2022 to assuming full control of the Pentagon's health care system.

Auditors highlighted several shortcomings, including wait times for medical appointments that exceed the federal and De-

fense Department guidelines, the IG said.

Between February and July 2024, service members and their families faced delays in access to care ranging on average from 1.2 days to 21.1 days for urgent appointments and from 7.2 days to 36.8 days for future routine appointments, the report said.

Federal and DOD guidance requires the military health care system to see patients within 24 hours for urgent appointments and seven days for routine care, according to the inspector general report.

While the guidelines allow for patients to be referred to a Tri-care-approved civilian provider within the allotted time frame, finding care outside the military

network overseas can be challenging due to language barriers, cultural differences and denial of U.S. health insurance claims, the report said.

DHA's management of staffing at overseas locations is one area that needs to be improved to reduce appointment delays, the audit team determined.

Medical personnel told the team that clinics were not always fully staffed, particularly with nurses, who receive and prioritize messages that patients send to providers.

They also said that they had difficulty managing the volume of messages received from the online patient portal and that sometimes messages could be missed, putting patient safety at risk.

# Work on 31st Virginia-class attack submarine underway

BY GARY WARNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The keel was laid last week for the future USS Barb, the 31st Virginia-class nuclear-powered attack submarine, as the Navy continues to transition away from dependence on the Cold War-era Los Angeles-class attack submarines.

During a ceremony at Huntington Ingalls Industries' shipbuilding division in Newport News, Va., Tuesday, the first weld was watched over by Pamela Bove, the boat's sponsor.

Bove is married to Thomas Bove, the grandson of Rear Adm. Eugene "Lucky" Fluckey, who served as commander of the first USS Barb, a highly decorated World War II submarine.

Bove's initials were etched onto a metal plate, signifying the keel as being "truly and fairly laid."

"It is an honor to serve as sponsor for Barb and see the legacy of this historic submarine carried forward to a new generation," Bove said. "I am grateful for the shipbuilders who are working diligently to construct this mighty vessel and all the sailors who will selflessly serve aboard her for decades to come."

The Barb is the namesake for the Gato-class attack submarine that earned four Presidential Unit Citations during World War II, according to Naval History and Heritage Command, sinking the aircraft carrier Un-

yo and 16 other enemy vessels. It was loaned to Italy as the Enrico Tazzoli before being scrapped in the 1970s.

A second Barb, a Permit-class attack submarine, served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1989.

The basic version of the Virginia-class submarine has a crew of 140 and a 377-foot-long hull equipped with advanced sensors that eliminate the need for a traditional periscope.

Its 7,800-ton displacement can move through the ocean at over 25 knots, and its nuclear reactor generates 40,000 shaft horsepower through a pump-jet propulsion system. It carries MK 48 torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles.

## Navy team in Djibouti takes aim at diarrhea

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

The runs couldn't hide from a medical research team that visited the U.S. military's Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti in search of ways to bolster troop combat readiness in Djibouti through better diarrhea treatment.

Navy personnel are working with Defense Department partners in the African country on methods related to the surveillance of infectious diarrheal diseases, a persistent threat to the health of forces in combat, the Naval Medical Research Command said in a statement Thursday.

During their stop, the researchers investigated a more streamlined approach for helping troops get their intestines back on track.

Typically, traveler's diarrhea involves a five-day antibiotic regimen. But Navy researchers said the old-school approach runs up against the military's priority of lighter loads for troops.

The traditional treatment requires "service members to carry a large amount of medication" and creates "logistical challenges for deployed units," Naval Medical Research Command said.

In collaboration with other military researchers, the naval team is now focused on developing a single, low-dose treatment alternative, Navy Medical Research Command said.

The intent is to reduce the logistical burden of carrying treatments and cut down on the number of duty days lost due to diarrheal illness, the command's statement said.

## US commander, Japanese mayor lead patrol

BY JANIQUEA ROBINSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

IWAKUNI, Japan — Leaders from Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni and local governments walked through two districts of this city Friday night in a joint patrol aimed at promoting public safety and strengthening ties.

MCAS Iwakuni commander Col. Kenneth Rossman and Iwakuni Mayor Yoshihiko Fukudo opened the evening with remarks at city hall's Kawashita Branch Office before beginning the two-hour patrol.

"I'm honored to join you today under the noble motto of making a safe town," Rossman said. "Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni is proud of our steadfast partnership with the city and with Japan. Together we build trust, strength and safety and safeguard peace for future

generations."

An Iwakuni city news release said the patrol aimed to "promote the creation of a safe and secure community where all residents of Iwakuni can live comfortably," adding that residents, government officials and base personnel would work together on crime-prevention efforts.

The group first walked through the Kawashita district, stopping at local restaurants, thrift shops and bars.

They later drove to the Marifu district, meeting at the YMCA before patrolling Nakadori Shopping Street, a spot known among service members as the Yellow Brick Road.

Speaking to reporters after the patrol, Rossman said the event underscored the importance of base personnel engaging responsibly with the local

community.

"It's wonderful to see so many SOFA members interacting with local businesses and with the local citizens here in Iwakuni," he said. "We're truly concerned about ensuring the safety of Iwakuni and Japan and the defense of Japan."

Asked about measures taken to prevent misconduct by service members, Rossman said the base emphasizes respectful behavior.

"We're very concerned for our SOFA members acting respectfully off base so that they're not a danger to themselves or others," he said.

Rossman said newcomers receive briefings on local expectations and that the base conducts training, courtesy patrols and outbound gate monitoring to prevent drinking and driving.

# Latest round of US-Ukraine talks conclude

*Associated Press*

BERLIN — Russia has indicated it's open to Ukraine joining the European Union as part of a potential peace deal to end the war, U.S. officials said Monday.

The U.S. officials who briefed reporters after U.S. envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as well as British, French and German officials in Berlin over the last two days said that such an offer would be a major concession by Moscow. But Russia has previously said it does not object to Ukraine joining the EU.

The U.S. officials, who were not authorized to comment publicly by the White House and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said that the U.S. has al-

so agreed to provide unspecified security guarantees to Kyiv as part of the deal but that such an offer won't be on the table "forever."

The latest round of talks between Zelenskyy and U.S. envoys ended Monday as Kyiv faces Washington's pressure to swiftly accept a U.S.-brokered peace deal while confronting an increasingly assertive Moscow.

Ukraine's lead negotiator, Rustem Umerov, said on social media that "real progress" had been achieved at the talks in Berlin with President Donald Trump's special envoy Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Kushner as well as European officials. The talks lasted roughly 90 minutes, after a five-hour session Sunday.

The U.S. government said in a

social media post on Witkoff's account after Sunday's meeting that "a lot of progress was made."

The search for possible compromises has run into major obstacles, including control of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, which is mostly occupied by Russian forces.

Zelenskyy has expressed readiness to drop Ukraine's bid to join the NATO military alliance if the U.S. and other Western nations give Kyiv security guarantees similar to those offered to NATO members.

But Ukraine's preference remains NATO membership as the best security guarantee to prevent further Russian aggression. However, this option doesn't currently have full backing from all allies.

Still, Ukraine has continued to reject the U.S. push for ceding territory to Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin wants Ukraine to withdraw its forces from the part of Donetsk region still under its control as one of the key conditions for peace.

Zelenskyy's itinerary on Monday also included meetings with German and other European leaders. French President Emmanuel Macron's office confirmed he would travel to Berlin later Monday.

"The issue of security in particular will ultimately determine whether this war actually comes to a standstill and whether it flares up again," a spokesperson for German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, Stefan Kornelius, told reporters.

## Iowa National Guard identifies 2 soldiers killed by gunman

**BY LARA KORTE**

*Stars and Stripes*

The police chief of a small Iowa community identified his stepson as one of the three Americans who died following an ambush in Syria on Saturday.

Sgt. William Nathan Howard, 29, was one of two members of the Iowa National Guard killed when a gunman attacked U.S. and Syrian forces who were conducting a joint field tour near the city of Palmyra, according to Jeffrey Bunn, police chief of the Meskwaki Nation, a tribal community about an hour outside of Des Moines.

On Monday, the Iowa National Guard confirmed that Howard had been killed and identified the other deceased soldier as Sgt. Edgar Brian Torrestovar, 25, of Grimes, Iowa. The gunman also killed a civilian interpreter and injured three other members of the state's National Guard and three members of Syria's security forces.

The deceased soldiers and

the wounded were all members of the 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, the National Guard said, which is part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, and is currently deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve — the U.S.'s anti-ISIS mission.

The Pentagon has not yet released the name of the deceased interpreter.

In a post Sunday, Bunn described Howard as "a dedicated soldier through and through" and said he had wanted to be a soldier since he was young.

He was a man of faith, he added, and a dedicated husband to his wife, Arianna Howard.

"He loved what he was doing and would be the first in and last out," Bunn wrote. "No one left behind."

Bunn's wife, Misty, and the soldier's father, Brian Howard of Colorado, were devastated to learn of their son's death, Bunn wrote.

## Australia tightening gun laws after Hanukkah shooting

*Associated Press*

SYDNEY — Australian federal and state government leaders on Monday agreed to immediately overhaul already tough national gun control laws after a mass shooting targeted a Hanukkah celebration on Sydney's Bondi Beach, leaving at least 15 people dead.

The action would include renegotiating the landmark national firearms agreement that virtually banned rapid-fire rifles after a lone gunman killed 35 people in Tasmania in 1996, leaders said.

The violence erupted at the end of a summer day when thousands had flocked to Bondi Beach, an icon of Australia's cultural life. They included hundreds gathered for the "Chanukah by the Sea" event celebrating the start of Hanukkah with food, face painting and a petting zoo.

At least 38 people, including two police officers, were being treated in hospitals after the

massacre, when the two suspected shooters fired on the beachfront festivities. Those killed included a 10-year-old girl, a rabbi and a Holocaust survivor.

None of the dead or wounded victims have been formally named by the authorities. Identities of those killed, who ranged in age from 10 to 87, began to emerge in news reports Monday.

Police shot the two suspected shooters, a father and son. The 50-year-old father died at the scene. His 24-year-old son remained in a coma in hospital on Monday, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

On Monday, hundreds arrived near the scene to lay flowers at a growing pile of floral tributes. There were words of pride, too, for a man who was captured on video appearing to tackle and disarm one gunman, before pointing the man's weapon at him, then setting the gun on the ground.



# Reiner's son held after parents found dead

*Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — Rob Reiner's younger son, Nick Reiner, was in police custody Monday for what investigators believe was the fatal stabbing of the director-actor and his wife at their Los Angeles home a day earlier, police said.

Police Chief Jim McDonnell said Nick Reiner, 32, has been "booked for murder" and is being held on \$4 million bail in connection with the deaths of his parents. McDonnell said the department's robbery and homicide division is handling the investigation.

"They worked throughout the night on this case and were able to take into custody Nick Reiner, a suspect in this case," McDonnell said. He was held on \$4 million bail.

Representatives for Reiner's family did not immediately re-

spond to a request for comment.

Nick Reiner has spoken publicly of his struggles with addiction. By 18, he had cycled in and out of treatment facilities with bouts of homelessness and relapses in between. Rob and Nick Reiner explored their difficult relationship and Nick Reiner's struggles with drugs in a semi-autobiographical 2016 film, "Being Charlie."

Rob and Michele Singer Reiner were found dead Sunday at their home in Los Angeles, and investigators believe they suffered stab wounds, the law enforcement official said.

The Los Angeles Fire Department said it responded to a medical aid request shortly after 3:30 p.m. and found a 78-year-old man and 68-year-old woman dead inside. Reiner turned 78 in March.

Detectives with the Robbery Homicide Division were investi-

gating an "apparent homicide" at Reiner's home, said Capt. Mike Bland with the Los Angeles Police Department.

Los Angeles authorities have not confirmed the identities of the people found dead at the residence in the upscale Brentwood neighborhood on the city's west side.

Reiner was long one of the most prolific directors in Hollywood, and his work included some of the most memorable movies of the 1980s and '90s, including "This is Spinal Tap," "A Few Good Men," "When Harry Met Sally ..." and "The Princess Bride."

His role as Meathead in Norman Lear's 1970s TV classic "All in the Family," as a liberal foil to O'Connor's Archie Bunker, catapulted him to fame and won him two Emmy Awards.

The son of comedy legend Carl

Reiner, Rob Reiner was married to photographer Singer Reiner since 1989. The two met while he was directing "When Harry Met Sally ..." and had three children together: Nick, Jake and Romy.

Reiner was previously married to actor-director Penny Marshall from 1971 to 1981. He adopted her daughter, Tracy Reiner. Carl Reiner died in 2020 at age 98 and Marshall died in 2018.

On Monday, President Donald Trump blamed Reiner's outspoken opposition to the president for the actor-director's killing.

Trump, in a post on his social media network, said that Reiner and his wife were killed "reportedly due to the anger he caused others through his massive, unyielding, and incurable affliction with a mind crippling disease known as TRUMP DERANGEMENT SYNDROME."

## Authorities release person in Brown campus shooting

*Associated Press*

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Police renewed their search Monday for the gunman who killed two Brown University students and wounded nine others, a day after they released a person of interest after determining the evidence pointed "in a different direction."

Authorities announced the man's release at news conference late Sunday, marking a setback in the investigation into Saturday's attack on the Ivy League school's campus.

It unraveled progress authorities thought they had made at the start of the day when they announced they had detained him at a Rhode Island hotel in connection with the attack and lifted a campus lockdown.

Providence Mayor Brett Smiley said he understands that the community is anxious, but that there have been no credible threats of further violence since

the shooting.

The release of the person of interest left law enforcement without any known suspect, with officials pledging to redouble their efforts by canvassing for video surveillance that could help pinpoint the killer's identity.

"We have a murderer out there," said Attorney General Peter Neronha.

On Sunday morning, officials took into custody a person of interest at a Hampton Inn in Coventry, R.I., about 20 miles from Providence. Two people familiar with the matter identified that individual as a 24-year-old man from Wisconsin, though authorities never released his name.

"I've been around long enough to know that sometimes you head in one direction and then you have to regroup and go in another, and that's exactly what has happened over the last 24 hours or so," Neronha said.

## Northeast US sees heavy snow; Pacific Northwest braces for more rain

*Associated Press*

A weekend storm sent temperatures plunging well below zero in the Midwest and dumped heavy snow on parts of the Northeast on Sunday, creating many airport delays and slick roads as the Pacific Northwest braced for more rain after days of flooding and mudslides.

The storm began Saturday and brought up to several inches of snow in the New York-New Jersey metro area. The storm was expected to weaken by Sunday night, followed by arctic conditions with overnight windchill temperatures at or plummeting below zero degrees Fahrenheit.

Crews and contractors were out plowing and treating roads in New Jersey, where the state Department of Transportation advised people to avoid unnecessary travel. Salt spreaders and

plows worked overnight to clear snow from roads and bike lanes, the New York City Department of Sanitation posted online. Pennsylvania temporarily reduced speed limits on interstates to 45 mph.

There were over 1,000 flights delayed and more than 100 cancellations at U.S. airports due to the weather, according to the flight tracking site FlightAware.

Meanwhile, a blast of arctic air swept south from Canada and into parts of the northern U.S. It was -10 degrees at Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport, with temperatures as low as -22 in some communities.

In the Pacific Northwest, which has seen catastrophic flooding that has forced thousands of people to evacuate, more rain and wind was expected in the region as early as late Sunday, forecasters said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman sues cruise ship over her fiancé's death

**CA** LOS ANGELES — The fiancée of a man who died on a cruise ship in December 2024 has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Royal Caribbean, alleging it negligently served him at least 33 alcoholic drinks and was liable for his death after crew members tackled him to the ground and stood on him with their full body weight.

Connie Aguilar's lawsuit for the death of Michael Virgil, 35, seeks unspecified damages and a jury trial.

Crew members on board Navigator of the Seas served Virgil more than two dozen drinks, after which he got lost and became agitated trying to find his room, it said.

That's when crew members tackled him and stood on him with their full weight, the lawsuit charges. They subjected him to prolonged prone restraint, compressed his back and torso, and impaired his breathing, the lawsuit said.

At the captain's request, crew members administered a sedative and sprayed him with pepper spray, the lawsuit said.

This treatment led to respiratory failure, cardiac arrest and Virgil's death, it continued.

## MyPillow founder running for governor in 2026

**MN** SHAKOPEE — Mike Lindell, the fervent supporter of President Donald Trump known as the "MyPillow Guy," officially entered the race for Minnesota governor Thursday in hopes of winning the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic

Gov. Tim Walz in 2026.

Lindell made the announcement at a news conference at his MyPillow factory in the Minneapolis suburb of Shakopee that he streamed live on his Lindell TV conservative news platform. He said his political opponents had tried to shut him and his company down because of his support for Trump's claim that the 2020 election was stolen from him.

"Well, it didn't work. I'm still standing. MyPillow is still standing," Lindell said. "And now I want you to know that I will stand for you as governor of the state of Minnesota."

## State to roll back certain vaccine orders for schools

**FL** PANAMA CITY BEACH — Florida officials are plowing ahead with a proposal to roll back certain vaccine mandates for the state's schoolchildren, after Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis called for the state to become the first in the nation to eliminate all school vaccination requirements.

Pediatricians, infectious disease physicians and teachers have decried the push to undermine vaccines, which for generations have been a cornerstone of public health policy for keeping children and adults safe from potentially deadly — but preventable — diseases.

Experts have warned that doing away with the mandates could allow for a dangerous resurgence of preventable childhood diseases and deaths, amounting to a reversal of one of the greatest advancements in public health history.

The rule change proposed by the Florida Department of

Health would eliminate requirements that Florida children receive the hepatitis B, varicella and Haemophilus influenzae type b or Hib vaccines in order to attend public or private K-12 schools. The proposal also does away with a requirement for the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine for children attending child care facilities.

## \$30M deal approved for family of teen killed by cop

**CA** SAN DIEGO — The San Diego City Council approved a \$30 million payment to the family of a 16-year-old killed by police in one of the largest such settlements in U.S. history. The settlement exceeds the \$27 million the city of Minneapolis agreed to pay the family of George Floyd.

Surveillance and body-worn camera footage from Jan. 28 showed Konoa Wilson running away from someone who pulled a gun and fired at him in a downtown train station. As he exited the station, Wilson encountered San Diego Police Officer Daniel Gold.

In the lawsuit against the city and Gold, the family alleged the officer "instantly, without any warning," fired two shots at Wilson as he ran by, striking him in the upper body. The lawsuit identified Wilson as Black.

## 8th state wrongly gave licenses to immigrants

**NY** NEW YORK — New York is the eighth state found to routinely issue commercial driver's licenses to immigrants that are valid long after they are no longer legally authorized to be in the country, U.S. Transportation Secretary

Sean Duffy said Friday, and he threatened to withhold \$73 million in highway funds unless the system is fixed and any flawed licenses are revoked.

New York was the fourth state run by a Democratic governor called out publicly by Duffy in his effort to make sure truck and bus drivers are qualified to either haul passengers or 80,000 pounds of cargo down the highway.

In addition to finding licenses that remained valid longer than they should have, these federal audits have also discovered instances where the states may not have even checked a driver's immigration status before issuing a license. Investigators check a small sample of licenses in each state.

## More loons filling lakes with their ghostlike calls

**ME** PORTLAND — Loons are on the mend in Maine, filling more of the state's lakes and ponds with their haunting calls, although conservationists said the birds aren't out of the woods yet.

Maine is home to a few thousand of the distinctive black-and-white waterbirds — the East Coast's largest loon population — and conservationists said efforts to protect them from threats helped grow the population. An annual count of common loons found more adults and chicks this year than last, Maine Audubon said.

The group said it estimated a population for the southern half of Maine of 3,174 adult loons and 568 chicks. The count is more than twice the number when they started counting in 1983, and the count of adults has increased 13% from 10 years ago.

— From wire reports

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# Bills overcome 21-point deficit to beat Pats

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots are still in good position to win the AFC East. But the Buffalo Bills made sure it would have to happen on another day, against a different opponent.

Josh Allen threw three touchdown passes, and James Cook ran for two TDs and caught another as Buffalo rallied from a 21-0 deficit to beat New England 35-31 on Sunday, preventing the Patriots from clinching the division title.

Allen finished 19 of 28 for 193 yards. Cook ran 22 times for 107 yards, and Dawson Knox had two TD catches for the Bills (10-4), who

avoided being swept by a division opponent for the first time since 2019 and moved within one game of New England. Buffalo reached 10 wins for the seventh consecutive season.

"No matter what the score is, if it's in the third quarter, in the fourth quarter, whatever it is, if we've got a chance and we've got the ball, we feel like we like our chances," Allen said.

With his two TD catches, Knox has 26 for his career, surpassing Pete Metzelaars for the most by a tight end in Bills history.

Buffalo overcame a double-digit deficit for the third time this year after previously rallying in its opener against Baltimore (down 15

points in the fourth quarter) and last week against Cincinnati (down 10).

The Patriots (11-3) lost their first division game of the season and their 10-game win streak ended. They haven't won the AFC East since 2019.

Quarterback Drake Maye had a pair of touchdown runs, and TreVeyon Henderson ran for scores of 52 and 65 yards. Henderson finished with 14 carries for 148 yards.

Henderson has four TD runs of at least 50 yards this season. He is only the second player in NFL history to have multiple games in a season with two rushing TDs of 50-plus yards, joining Chris Johnson (2009).

## Saints rally late to slow Panthers' playoff momentum

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Charlie Smyth kicked a 47-yard field goal in the final seconds of regulation, lifting the New Orleans Saints to a comeback victory 20-17 over the playoff-hopeful Carolina Panthers on Sunday.

The winning kick by the former Gaelic football player from Northern Ireland prevented Carolina (7-7) from seizing sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

It also capped another encouraging performance by rookie quarterback Tyler Shough, who won for the third time in six starts for New Orleans (4-10). Shough was 24 of 32 for 272 yards, including a 12-yard, tying touchdown pass to Chris Olave with 2:29 left in regulation.

**Rams 41, Lions 34:** Matthew Stafford passed for 368 yards and hit Colby Parkinson for two touchdowns, and NFC-leading Los Angeles clinched a playoff berth with a furious second-half rally over visiting Detroit.

Kyren Williams rushed for two scores and Blake Corum added another TD for the Rams (11-3), who came back from a double-digit deficit shortly before halftime with 20 consecutive points to secure their eighth victory in nine games.

**Seahawks 18, Colts 16:** Jason Myers kicked a franchise-

record six field goals, including a 56-yarder with 29 seconds left, and host Seattle outlasted 44-year-old quarterback Philip Rivers and Indianapolis.

With 47 seconds left after the Colts kicked a field goal to go ahead, Seahawks quarterback Sam Darnold connected with Rashid Shaheed twice for 25 yards to set up Myers.

**Chargers 16, Chiefs 13:** Visiting Los Angeles eliminated Kansas City from playoff contention when Derwin James picked off a pass by Gardner Minshew — who had just taken over for the injured Patrick Mahomes — in the closing seconds to preserve a victory over the reigning AFC champions.

Justin Herbert, playing through a broken left hand, threw for 210 yards and a touchdown, and the Chargers (10-4) ensured consecutive 10-win seasons for the first time since 2006-07 by completing a rare regular-season sweep of the Chiefs.

**Broncos 34, Packers 26:** Bo Nix tied his career high with four touchdown throws and host Denver's defense stifled Jordan Love in the second half of its win over Green Bay, which lost star Micah Parsons to a knee injury.

With their NFL-best 11th consecutive victory, the Broncos (12-2) clinched a playoff berth

and moved a game ahead of New England for the No. 1 seed in the AFC.

**49ers 37, Titans 24:** Brock Purdy threw three touchdown passes and host San Francisco started its stretch run by beating Tennessee.

The 49ers (10-4) came back from a bye week and looked extremely sharp on offense against the overmatched Titans (2-12) by scoring on their first five possessions of a game for the first time since the 2021 season.

**Jaguars 48, Jets 20:** Trevor Lawrence accounted for six touchdowns, including a career-high five passing, and host Jacksonville overwhelmed New York from start to finish.

The Jaguars (10-4) scored touchdowns on their first three possessions for the first time since 1998 and topped 40 points through three quarters for the first time since 2005.

**Bears 31, Browns 3:** Caleb Williams threw two touchdown passes and host Chicago beat Cleveland in one of the coldest games ever at Soldier Field at just 8 degrees.

Browns defensive end Myles Garrett had 1½ sacks, giving him 21½ on the season and leaving him one shy of the record shared by New York Giants Hall of Famer Michael Strahan

(2001) and Pittsburgh's T.J. Watt (2021).

**Vikings 34, Cowboys 26:** J.J. McCarthy threw for two touchdowns and ran for a score, C.J. Ham had the go-ahead TD on his first carry of the season and visiting Minnesota won, severely damage Dallas' playoff hopes.

**Ravens 24, Bengals 0:** Lamar Jackson threw for two touchdowns, Kyle Van Noy and Alohi Gilman teamed up for a 95-yard pick-6 and visiting Baltimore blanked Cincinnati, the first time Joe Burrow was shut out in his six-year career.

**Eagles 31, Raiders 0:** Jalen Hurts rebounded from his worst NFL game to throw three touchdown passes, Saquon Barkley had a 2-yard touchdown run and host Philadelphia snapped a three-game losing streak with a win over Las Vegas.

**Texans 40, Cardinals 20:** C.J. Stroud threw for 260 yards and three touchdowns and host Houston jumped out to a big early lead and cruised over slumping Arizona.

**Commanders 29, Giants 21:** Jacory Croskey-Merritt ran for a touchdown, fellow rookie Jaylin Lane returned a punt 63 yards to the end zone and visiting Washington ended its season-derailing skid at eight games by beating similarly woe-filled New York.



# Knueppel, Hornets beat Cavs in OT

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Rookie Kon Knueppel scored 29 points, Brandon Miller added 25 and the Charlotte Hornets shut out Cleveland in overtime on their way to a rare road victory, 119-111 over the Cavaliers on Sunday.

Knueppel, the No. 4 overall selection this year in the NBA draft, had his second straight strong performance after scoring a season-high 33 in a loss to Chicago on Friday night. Miller added a career-high 13 rebounds and six assists.

Miles Bridges had 20 points, 10 rebounds and six assists as Charlotte improved to 3-10 away from home.

The Cavaliers missed all 10 shots in the five-minute overtime and Cleveland suffered another troubling loss for a team expected to contend for the Eastern Conference title.

Darius Garland scored 26 points and Donovan Mitchell added 17 for the Cavs, who have been plagued by inconsistency in the season's first two months.

Jaylon Tyson had 16 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland, which has lost six of nine.

The Cavs were down 17 in the third but rallied to tie it in the final seconds of regulation. Mitchell had a chance to win it in the last second, but the All-Star guard, coming off a 48-

point game at Washington on Friday, missed a 12-foot jumper.

**Trail Blazers 136, Warriors 131:** Jerami Grant and Shaedon Sharpe scored 35 points apiece and host Portland snapped a three-game losing streak by beating Golden State.

Stephen Curry had 48 points for the Warriors. He hit a season-high 12 3-pointers, his NBA-best 28th time with 10 or more in a game.

**Wizards 108, Pacers 89:** Marvin Bagley III scored a season-high 23 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, and CJ McCollum scored 18 points as Washington beat Indiana for its first road win in nearly two months.

The Wizards snapped a four-game skid and improved to 2-11 on the road this season; their only other away win was at Dallas.

Bennedict Mathurin had 15 points to lead Indiana, which has lost four of six.

**Nets 127, Bucks 82:** Egor Demin scored 17 points, Noah Clowney added 16 and host Brooklyn matched the franchise record for margin of victory, never trailing against short-handed Milwaukee.

The 45-point victory tied the team record set Jan. 9, 1993, against Washington while the team was playing in New Jersey. The Nets have won four of six after opening 3-13. At home, they have won three of four af-

ter starting 0-9.

Gary Trent Jr. scored 20 points and Kyle Kuzma added 13 for the struggling Bucks.

**Hawks 120, 76ers 117:** Dyson Daniels had 27 points and 10 rebounds, Onyeka Okongwu added 20 points and 15 rebounds and host Atlanta held off Philadelphia.

Quentin Grimes had a chance to force overtime, but his 3-point attempt at the buzzer went in and out to dramatically give the Hawks their 15th win of the season. Daniels was 13 of 19 from the field. Vít Krejci added 19 points, and Zaccharie Risacher had 15.

Paul George led the Sixers with 35 points, VJ Edgecombe had 26 and Joel Embiid finished with 22 points and 14 rebounds. They led only once, at 47-46 in the second quarter.

**Timberwolves 117, Kings 103:** Julius Randle had 24 points and nine rebounds to lead host Minnesota past Sacramento in the Timberwolves' second straight game without star Anthony Edwards.

Jaden McDaniels scored 21 points and Naz Reid added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Timberwolves (17-9).

DeMar DeRozan, Dennis Schroder and Precious Achiuwa each had 17 points for the Kings (6-20). They have lost 15 of their past 18 and have their

worst winning percentage since the 2008-09 season, when they finished 17-65.

**Pelicans 114, Bulls 104:** Trey Murphy III scored 20 points with 10 rebounds, rookie Jeremiah Fears added 20 points and visiting New Orleans topped Chicago.

The last-place Pelicans won their second straight following a seven-game losing streak to improve to 5-22. They've beaten the Bulls twice this season.

Zion Williamson scored 18 points in his return to the lineup to help the Pelicans pull away late. Jordan Poole had 16 for New Orleans, who outrebounded Chicago 53-43 and outscored the Bulls 60-46 in the paint.

**Lakers 116, Suns 114:** LeBron James made two free throws with 3.9 seconds left, Luka Doncic scored 29 points and visiting Los Angeles recovered from blowing a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter to top Phoenix.

Phoenix trailed 99-79 with 7:48 left, but took a 114-113 lead with 12.2 seconds left on Dillon Brooks' 3-pointer over James, who made contact with Brooks after the shot.

Brooks bumped James on the way back down the court, earning his second technical foul and an ejection. More importantly, it gave the Lakers a free throw, but James missed it.

## No. 4 Iowa St. routs Eastern Illinois, rolling to 11-0

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Milan Momcilovic scored 18 points to lead four players in double figures, and No. 4 Iowa State opened a season 11-0 for the third time in program history with a 78-53 victory over Eastern Illinois on Sunday.

Blake Buchanan had three dunks while scoring all 14 of his points in the first half, and Joshua Jefferson had 11 points

and nine rebounds for the Cyclones.

Iowa State has won its first 11 games for the first time since 2021-22. The only other time was in 2014-15.

The Cyclones outscored the Panthers 26-9 the last 10 minutes of the first half to take control and held a fourth opponent under 60 points. They are now 23-0 against opponents from the Ohio Valley Conference.

Iowa State has won 33 straight games and is 56-3 under coach T.J. Otzelberger when holding an opponent under 60 points.

Eastern Illinois (2-8) played its second game against a top-five opponent this season, losing 109-62 to then-No. 1 Purdue on Nov. 28.

The Panthers used their seventh different starting lineup in 10 games because of a run of

injuries. Kooper Jacobi and Zion Fruster scored 11 points each.

EIU shot 46.7% in the first half but was just 9 of 31 from the floor in the second.

Iowa State was just 4 of 17 on 3s (17.4%), missing all 11 attempts in the second half. It was the Cyclones' worst 3-point shooting game since they were 3 of 21 (14.3%) in a loss to Kansas in February.

# Bussi lifts Hurricanes, ties franchise mark

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Andrei Svechnikov scored in the shootout as the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the Philadelphia Flyers 3-2 on Sunday.

William Carrier and Taylor Hall scored in regulation for the Hurricanes, who have won four straight — three via shootout. Brandon Bussi made 24 saves — all in regulation — for his ninth straight win, matching a Hurricanes/Hartford Whalers franchise record set by Cam Ward during the 2008-09 season.

Trevor Zegras and Jamie Drysdale scored in regulation for Philadelphia and Dan Vladar stopped 31 shots.

Svechnikov was the only skater to score in the shootout, with Bussi stopping all three attempts by the Flyers.

Carolina outshot Philadelphia 3-0 in the overtime period.

Zegras scored with 1:52 left in

regulation to tie the score 2-2. Travis Konecny found Zegras alone at the far post after Bussi couldn't control a rebound with Philadelphia pressing with an extra skater.

**Canucks 2, Devils 1:** Zeev Buium scored in his first game since being traded to Vancouver, Thatcher Demko stopped 25 of the 26 shots he faced and the Canucks beat host New Jersey.

Jake DeBrusk scored the Canucks' opening goal 61 seconds in, continuing a recent problem for New Jersey goaltender Jacob Markstrom, who allowed three goals on the first seven shots he faced Thursday night, when he was pulled eight minutes in from an 8-4 home loss to the Tampa Bay Lightning.

**Mammoth 5, Penguins 4 (OT):** Dylan Guenther scored 42 seconds into overtime as visiting Utah rallied to beat Pittsburgh.

Guenther, who has five goals

in his past four games, beat Sergei Murashov with a wrist shot from the slot. Utah won its second straight following a three-game losing streak.

Michael Carcone scored twice for Utah, while Nate Schmidt and Sean Durzi also added third-period goals, as the Mammoth briefly pulled ahead, 4-3, after trailing 3-0 entering the final 20 minutes.

Justin Brazeau scored twice for Pittsburgh and Bryan Rust scored in his third straight game. Ben Kindel also scored on a breakaway and added two assists.

**Wild 6, Bruins 2:** Quinn Hughes scored in his Wild debut and host Minnesota beat Boston for its fourth straight win.

Kirill Kaprizov had two goals and an assist for the Wild, who improved to 16-3-2 since Nov. 1, including 10-0-2 at home.

**Canadiens 4, Oilers 1:** Jakub

Dobes stopped 27 shots and host Montreal beat Edmonton, preventing Leon Draisaitl from reaching 1,000 points.

Ivan Demidov, Joe Veleno, Nick Suzuki and Alexandre Texier scored for Montreal. The Canadiens rebounded after squandering a 3-0 lead to the New York Rangers in a 6-5 overtime loss Saturday night.

Dobes played his first game since the Canadiens lost 6-1 to Tampa Bay on Tuesday night, sparking the call-up of up-and-coming netminder Jacob Fowler, who started the two previous games.

**Sabres 3, Kraken 1:** Noah Oslund, Tage Thompson and Zach Benson all scored and visiting Buffalo won its third straight.

Chandler Stephenson scored for Seattle, and Joey Daccord stopped 20 shots. The Kraken have lost eight of their past nine games (1-7-1).

## Edwards' career night lifts No. 3 South Carolina women

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Joyce Edwards had a career-high 29 points and four blocks as No. 3 South Carolina used a strong third quarter to beat Penn State 95-55 on Sunday.

The Gamecocks (10-1) had just eight players and were missing 6-foot-6 starter Madina Okot and reserve freshman Agot Makeer. But behind Edwards' scoring inside, South Carolina started 19-3 after the break to take control over the Lady Lions (6-4).

Ta'Niya Latson added 18 points while two other starters, Raven Johnson and Tessa Johnson, scored 15 points apiece.

**No. 2 Texas 89, No. 13 Baylor 54:** Preseason AP All-America forward Madison Booker had 27 points and eight rebounds as the host Longhorns stayed undefeated with a victory over the turnover-plagued Bears in a matchup of former

conference rivals.

Texas (12-0) took control of the game with a 16-0 run in the first quarter when six different Longhorns players scored and Baylor had six turnovers in that span of just over 4½ minutes. The Bears finished with a season-high 30 turnovers, their most since Nov. 9, 2008, which led to 42 points for Texas.

**No. 8 TCU 89, Jacksonville 49:** Olivia Miles had 15 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists for her second consecutive triple-double and the Horned Frogs stretched their school-record home winning streak to 32 games with a win over the Dolphins.

Miles now has her first two triple-doubles for TCU (11-0), and her eight overall are the most for an active player.

**No. 10 Iowa St. 81, Northern Iowa 53:** Addy Brown had 21 of her season-high 28 points in the first half, and the host Cyclones

routed the in-state rival Panthers with national scoring leader Audi Crooks sitting out with an injury.

**No. 22 Louisville 76, No. 12 North Carolina 66 (OT):** Laura Ziegler had 17 points, Elif Istanbuluoglu scored 16 and the visiting Cardinals shut out the Tar Heels in overtime, winning in North Carolina's Atlantic Coast Conference opener.

**No. 15 Kentucky 77, Belmont 69:** Amelia Hassett had 19 points with five 3-pointers and grabbed 10 rebounds to help the visiting Wildcats prevail over the Bruins.

**No. 17 Mississippi 91, South Carolina St. 32:** Latasha Lattimore scored 18 points, Tianna Thompson added 16 off the bench and the host Rebels blew out the Bulldogs.

**No. 18 Tennessee 112, Winthrop 40:** Janiah Barker scored 20 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, Mia Pauldo also had a

double-double and the host Volunteers routed the Eagles.

**No. 19 Notre Dame 78, James Madison 65:** Cassandre Prosper scored 24 points, Malaya Cowles added a season-high 17 and the visiting Fighting Irish defeated the Dukes.

**No. 21 Ohio State 85, Toledo 60:** Kennedy Cambridge scored 23 points and the host Buckeyes pulled away in the second half to beat the Rockets for their sixth straight win.

**No. 24 Nebraska 85, Illinois St. 44:** Petra Bozan scored 14 points, Britt Prince added 13 and the host Cornhuskers outscored the Redbirds 21-2 in the opening quarter in cruising to a win to remain unbeaten.

**No. 25 Michigan St. 90, DePaul 46:** Kennedy Blair scored 16 points on 6-of-6 shooting, Isaline Alexander made 6 of 8 from the field and finished with 15 points, and the visiting Spartans beat the Blue Demons.