

## Race on to find earthquake survivors

*Associated Press*

NURDAGI, Turkey — Search teams and international aid poured into Turkey and Syria on Tuesday as rescuers working in freezing temperatures and sometimes using their bare hands dug through the remains of buildings flattened by a powerful earthquake. The death toll soared above 7,200 and was still expected to rise.

But with the damage spread over a wide area, the massive relief operation often struggled to reach devastated towns, and voices that had been crying out from the rubble fell silent.

“We could hear their voices, they were calling for help,” said Ali Silo, whose two relatives could not be saved in the Turkish town of Nurdagi.

In the end, it was left to Silo, a Syrian who arrived a decade ago, and other residents to recover the bodies and those of two other victims.

Monday’s magnitude 7.8 quake and a cascade of strong aftershocks cut a swath of destruction that stretched hundreds of miles across southeastern Turkey and neighboring Syria. The shaking toppled thousands of buildings and heaped more misery on a region shaped by Syria’s 12-year civil war and

refugee crisis. One temblor that followed the first registered at magnitude 7.5, powerful in its own right.

Unstable piles of metal and concrete made the search efforts perilous, while freezing temperatures made them ever more urgent, as worries grew about how long trapped survivors could last in the cold.

The scale of the suffering — and the accompanying rescue effort — were staggering.

More than 8,000 people have been pulled from the debris in Turkey alone, and some 380,000 have taken refuge in government shelters or hotels, said Turkish Vice President Fuat Oktay. They huddled in shopping malls, stadiums, mosques and community centers, while others spent the night outside in blankets gathering around fires.

Many took to social media to plead for assistance for loved ones believed to be trapped under the rubble. Turkey’s state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Interior Ministry officials as saying all calls were being “collected meticulously” and the information was then relayed to search teams.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said 13 million of the country’s 85 mil-

lion people were affected, and he declared a state of emergency in 10 provinces.

For the entire quake-hit area, that number could be as high as 23 million people, according to Adelheid Marschang, a senior emergencies officer with the World Health Organization.

“This is a crisis on top of multiple crises in the affected region,” Marschang said in Geneva.

Turkey is home to millions of refugees from the Syrian civil war.

The affected area in Syria is divided between government-controlled territory and the country’s last opposition-held enclave, where millions live in extreme poverty and rely on humanitarian aid to survive.

The Palestinian Authority said that 57 Palestinian refugees were among the dead — 14 in Turkey and 43 in Syria, a country that for decades has hosted nearly a half-million Palestinians in large refugee camps.

Teams from nearly 30 countries around the world are headed for Turkey or Syria.

As promises of help flooded in, Turkey sought to accelerate the effort by allowing only vehicles carrying aid to enter the worst-hit provinces of Kahramanmaraş, Adiyaman and Hatay.

## 1st US ship near Black Sea since Ukraine war departs

**BY ALISON BATH**  
*Stars and Stripes*

A Navy destroyer that visited Turkey, bringing it closer to the Black Sea than any other U.S. warship since Russia invaded Ukraine, has left the region, Navy officials said Tuesday.

USS Nitze left the Golcuk Naval Base on the east coast of the Sea of Marmara on Monday and is heading back to the Mediterranean Sea, Lt. Taija Griffin, a U.S. 6th Fleet spokeswoman, said Tuesday.

The visit came in advance of Monday’s devastating earthquake that has left at least 6,200 dead, mainly in southeastern Turkey and neighboring Syria. The epicenter of the 7.8 magnitude quake occurred near Gaziantep, about 600 miles southeast of the port visit.

Nitze, operating as part of the George

H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group, arrived at Golcuk on Friday after a stop in Istanbul to host U.S. diplomats, 6th Fleet said in a statement Sunday.

That visit put the vessel near the Bosphorus, a strategic waterway leading from the Sea of Marmara into the Black Sea.

Turkey closed the Bosphorus to most warships in February 2022 after Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, USNI News reported Feb. 28, 2022.

Only warships whose homeport is in the Black Sea — those from Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine — may use the strait to enter or leave the sea, according to Turkish policy invoked at the time. Merchant ships are not restricted.

The destroyer USS Arleigh Burke was the last U.S. warship to transit the Bosphorus, leaving the Black Sea in December 2021, ac-

ording to the ship watching website turkishnavy.net.

U.S. and other NATO warships have regularly patrolled the Black Sea in previous years, participating in maritime exercises such as Sea Breeze. The annual multinational exercise jointly led by the U.S. and Ukraine was canceled last year.

Nitze’s visit to Turkey makes it at least the third U.S. warship to visit the country since war broke out in Ukraine.

The destroyer USS Bainbridge visited Aksaz, which is nearer to the Dardanelles waterway, in July 2022. Another destroyer, USS Mitscher, also visited Aksaz in March 2022.

On Friday, the George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group remained in the eastern Mediterranean visiting Piraeus, Greece, 6th Fleet said in a separate statement the same day.

# Vaccine litigation lingers after mandate is lifted

*Associated Press*

NEW ORLEANS — Federal appeals court judges closely questioned a Biden administration attorney Monday on the consequences military personnel might face for refusing COVID-19 vaccinations, even though Biden's vaccine mandate for military personnel has been rescinded.

Lawyers for a group of Navy SEALs and other Navy personnel who refuse to be vaccinated for religious reasons told a 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel that federal court injunctions against the mandate are still needed, in part because decisions on deployments and assignments can still be made based on vaccination status.

"Is there any assurance on the record, that there will be no deployment decisions based on vaccination?" Judge James Ho, one of three judges hearing the case, asked Department of Justice lawyer Casen Ross.

Ross said such questions were speculative and not at issue in the case before the court.

Ho and Judge Kyle Duncan noted that the administration had only reluctantly ended the military mandate after December congressional action, but Ross assured the panel that there are no plans to bring back the re-

quirement.

"Given the prevailing public health guidelines and the state of the virus, there is currently no intention to require universal vaccination of all service members," Ross said.

The Pentagon formally dropped the requirement in January following a December vote in Congress to end the mandate. However, vaccine opponents note that commanders can still make decisions on how and whether to deploy unvaccinated troops, under a memo signed last month by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Military leaders have long argued that to maintain unit health and troop readiness, troops have for decades been required to get as many as 17 vaccines, particularly those who are deploying overseas.

Attorneys for the unvaccinated Navy personnel argued in briefs to the 5th Circuit that Austin's memo and other Defense Department actions show that the Navy still intends to treat unvaccinated personnel "like second-class citizens because of their religious beliefs."

Government lawyers argue the policy is in line with "well-established principles of judicial noninterference with core military decision making," in their briefs.

# Navy captain accused of creating fake accounts with images of woman

*Stars and Stripes*

A San Diego-based Navy officer with more than 30 years service is charged with stalking a woman online by setting up fake social media accounts under her name and posting sexually explicit photos and video to one of them.

Capt. Theodore Essinfeld, 51, was arraigned Monday in federal court on a charge of cyberstalking, according to a statement issued the same day by the office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of California.

If convicted, Essinfeld, of Chula Vista, Calif., faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

"The indictment alleges a disturbing

campaign of betrayed trust, harassment and intimidation," U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman said in the statement.

Prosecutors say that over 18 months, he created fake Facebook, LinkedIn, email and cellphone accounts under the civilian woman's name without her knowledge or consent.

Erotic photos and videos of the woman that she had privately shared with him were posted to the fake Facebook account, according to the statement.

Essinfeld is also accused of using the fictitious account to connect with Facebook's dating services to make it appear that the woman was seeking dates, according to the statement.

# China says it will protect interests over balloon event

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — China said Tuesday it will "resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests" over the shooting down of a suspected Chinese spy balloon by the United States, as relations between the two countries deteriorate further.

The balloon prompted U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken to cancel a highly-anticipated visit to Beijing this week that had offered slight hopes for an improvement in relations.

China claims it was a civilian balloon used for meteorological research but has refused to say to which government department or company it belongs.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning on Tuesday reiterated that the "unmanned airship" posed no threat and entered U.S. airspace accidentally.

Mao again criticized the U.S. for overreacting rather than adopting a "calm, professional" manner, and for using force in bringing the balloon down Saturday in the Atlantic Ocean just off the U.S. coast.

Asked if China wanted the debris returned, she only reasserted the balloon "belongs to China."

"The balloon does not belong to the U.S. The Chinese government will continue to resolutely safeguard its legitimate rights and interests," Mao said at a daily briefing without giving further details.

Beijing's attitude has hardened considerably following a surprisingly mild initial response on Friday, in which it described the balloon's presence as an accident and expressed "regret" for the balloon having entered the U.S.

Subsequent statements have grown firmer, in the same tone used to confront the U.S. over issues from Taiwan to trade, technology restrictions and China's claim to the South China Sea. China says it lodged a formal complaint with the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, accusing Washington of having "obviously overreacted and seriously violated the spirit of international law and international practice."

Recent developments have laid bare the extremely fragile nature of what many had hoped could be a manageable economic, political and military rivalry.

# Controlled burn underway for derailed train

*Associated Press*

EAST PALESTINE, Ohio — It's unclear when evacuated residents might be able to return home to the area where officials released and burned toxic chemicals from the wreckage of a derailed train, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday.

Residents near the site in East Palestine, close to the Pennsylvania line, had been ordered beforehand to leave because of the risk of death or serious injury from toxic fumes. Flames and black smoke billowed into the sky Monday evening when crews released and burned vinyl chloride from five derailed tanker cars that were in danger

of exploding.

DeWine said on "Fox & Friends" on Tuesday morning that officials are closely monitoring the air quality outside the immediate area and that it's "so far, so good." Ohio National Guard members wearing protective gear are expected to be sent into the area closer to the site with sensors to check the air, he said.

Residents just outside the evacuation zone in East Palestine and in neighboring Beaver County, Pa., were urged to stay indoors as a precaution.

Authorities believed most, if not all, residents in the danger zone had left. They went through

the area three times trying to get people out before releasing the vinyl chloride, DeWine said.

Officials warned the controlled burn would send phosgene and hydrogen chloride into the air. Phosgene is a highly toxic gas that can cause vomiting and breathing trouble and was used as a weapon in World War I.

Doing the release during the daytime allowed the fumes to disperse more quickly and prevented the rail cars from exploding and sending shrapnel and other debris flying through the neighborhood, said Scott Deutsch, of rail operator Norfolk Southern Railway.

"We can't control where that

goes," he said.

Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro said the evacuation zone included about 20 Pennsylvania residences, and that he was told residents within a mile of the controlled burn had left.

About 50 cars, including 10 carrying hazardous materials, derailed in a fiery crash Friday night while traveling from Madison, Ill., to Conway, Pa., according to Norfolk Southern and the National Transportation Safety Board. No injuries to crew members, residents or first responders were reported.

Federal investigators said a mechanical issue with a rail car axle caused the derailment.

## Slow electricity repairs in Texas capital spark anger

*Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — Like thousands of other Austin residents, Darin Murphy began a sixth day Monday with no power in his home, wrapping his head around the city's latest demoralizing update: Getting the lights fully back on may take another week.

"We are planning for worst-case scenario," he said.

Making any plans has been difficult — and downright infuriating — for nearly 20,000 customers who still had no electricity Monday nearly a week after a deadly ice storm crippled the Texas capital and brought down power lines under the weight of fallen and frozen tree limbs. Schools finally reopened, but noisy generators rattled before dawn and outdoor extension cords running 100 feet or longer became lifelines between neighbors who had power and those who didn't.

The boiling frustration over the slow pace of restoring power, and officials repeatedly saying that they could not offer timetables for repairs, escalated Monday as the future of Austin's top

city executive plunged into jeopardy even as the number of outages continued falling. Austin Mayor Kirk Watson, a Democrat, called a meeting for Thursday that will put City Manager Spencer Cronk's job on the line. The move reflected the rising discontent in America's 11th-largest city, where Sunday night, Austin Energy issued a statement in the face of growing criticism that full power restoration may not happen until Feb. 12 — nearly two weeks after outages began.

"To all our Austin citizens who are furious about the ongoing power outage, you're right," Watson tweeted. "There must be accountability."

At the peak of the outages, about 170,000 homes and businesses — nearly a third of utility customers in Austin — had no electricity, and in many cases, no heat. By Monday, the outages were down to about 4% of all customers.

Austin Energy has described the remaining outages as the most complicated and time-consuming.

## Fla. mass shooting suspect killed during police pursuit

*Associated Press*

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — A man suspected in a mass shooting in central Florida last month was fatally shot by a police officer following a long chase and a carjacking, authorities said.

The car driven by Alex Greene, 21, eventually crashed into a business in Winter Haven. That's a short distance from Lakeland, where 11 people were injured in the Jan. 30 shooting, Lakeland Police Chief Sammy Taylor said.

"We are very confident he was in fact involved; to what extent we don't know yet," Taylor said.

Taylor said detectives sought to bring Greene in on an outstanding burglary warrant to talk to him about the shooting on Jan. 30 near downtown Lakeland, about 30 miles east of Tampa.

As investigators from the Lakeland Police Department, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Florida Department of Law Enforcement conducted surveillance, Greene got into a pickup truck and started to drive away, Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said during a news conference.

Lakeland police went in pursuit along a heavily traveled road.

Police Capt. Eric Harper was driving an unmarked vehicle and tried to stop Greene "so that we don't have this pursuit on a very busy road," Judd said.

He did a successful pit maneuver, and Greene exited the vehicle and began running into traffic.

When Greene realized he couldn't get away, he ran toward a restaurant where a woman was standing outside her car with the doors open, Judd said. The woman saw Greene, slammed the passenger door and tried to shut the driver's side door.

Greene pushed the woman away and got into the car, Judd said. Harper approached with his gun drawn.

"The suspect takes off in her car, drives toward Capt. Harper, who shoots six times," Judd said. The car continues down a road, weaves through flower beds and crashes into a building."

Law enforcement officials pulled Greene from the car and started performing CPR. He was taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead.

# Russians hit civilian targets in Ukraine

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — Russian shelling damaged a hospital and apartment buildings in Ukraine, local officials said Tuesday, while military analysts expressed skepticism about the potential impact of what Kyiv has said is a brewing Moscow offensive around the anniversary of its invasion.

The shelling in the northeastern town of Vovchansk caused multiple fires late Monday, including at its two-story municipal hospital, the regional State Emergency Service said in an online statement.

Emergency crews evacuated eight civilians from the site before putting out the blaze, which caused no casualties, authorities said.

Vovchansk is in the Kharkiv region, which was occupied by Russia after its full-scale invasion began on Feb. 24 and subsequently retaken by Ukraine during a late summer counteroffensive.

The anticipated Russian push may seek to recapture territory Moscow lost in that counteroffensive.

Battlefield setbacks in Ukraine have embarrassed the Kremlin, and Russian President Vladimir Putin is keen to cement public support for the war.

Ukrainian officials have said they expect Russian forces to make a new drive in eastern and southern Ukraine, as the Kremlin strives to secure territory it illegally annexed in late September and where it claims its rule is welcomed.

Some Western military analysts were skeptical, however, of Russia's ability to mount a large new offensive in coming weeks, particularly in time for the Feb. 24 anniversary, that might alter the course of the war. Ukraine and Russia are both still training their new troops and amassing weapons.

The U.K. Ministry of Defense said in an assessment Tuesday that Russia is "requiring undermanned, inexperienced units to achieve unrealistic objectives due to political and professional pressure."

"Russian leaders will likely continue to demand sweeping advances," it added. "It remains unlikely that Russia can build up the forces needed to substantially affect the outcome of the war within the coming weeks."

Michael Kofman, an American military analyst and director of Russia Studies at the CAN research organization in Arlington, Va., tweeted on Monday that it was unclear

how big an offensive Russia is able to mount.

He added, "but I suspect it may prove underwhelming, focused largely on the Donbas."

Michael Clarke, visiting professor of war studies at King's College London, said he would be "amazed, I mean, truly amazed, if (the Russians) are in any shape to launch a strategic offensive on the 24th."

He acknowledged Moscow has been scaling up its troop deployment in Ukraine and said Russia could also launch local offensives or major air attacks. But he recalled that Russian commanders are still smarting from their failed attempt early in the war to take Kyiv and topple the Ukrainian government.

He said "military planners in Russia will be aware that when they start this new offensive, they've got to get it right."

"After the fiasco of the first (offensive), it would be better to leave it and go late than go early and make a mess of it again," Clarke told The Associated Press.

Russian forces are "regrouping" as they try to break Ukrainian lines in five areas in the country's east and northeast, the Ukrainian military reported Tuesday.

## Winning Powerball ticket sold in Washington

*Associated Press*

DES MOINES, Iowa — Someone in Washington state overcame steep odds to win a \$754.6 million Powerball jackpot.

The winning numbers Monday night were 05, 11, 22, 23, 69 and the Powerball 07.

Lottery officials said in a statement early Tuesday that a single ticket matched all six numbers and that ticket sales pushed the

jackpot higher than an earlier \$747 million estimate. The full jackpot is for a winner opting for an annuity distributed in one immediate but partial payout followed by additional payments over 29 years that increase by 5% annually.

The winner also can opt for a one-time cash payment of \$407.2 million.

Both prizes available are the amounts be-

fore taxes, Powerball said.

The jackpot for the next drawing scheduled for Wednesday is \$20 million, according to the lottery's website.

Monday night's win was the first Powerball jackpot win since Nov. 19. That winless streak allowed the prize to grow larger and larger until it stood as the ninth-largest in U.S. history.

## Licking things at sushi restaurants is latest trend

*The Washington Post*

TOKYO — They lick communal soy sauce bottles and spit on other people's sushi rolls. They slurp from spoons in communal bowls. They laugh into the camera.

These pranksters, looking to go viral online at conveyor belt sushi restaurants, have become the buzziest topic on Japanese social media.

Their videos have generated millions of views and have sparked so much outrage and disgust that a new term is trending:

"sushi tero," short for sushi terrorism.

Such scenes would elicit disgust anywhere. But they have set off a national wave of revulsion in Japan, known for its exacting standards of both hygiene and politeness.

Last week, Sushiro, a conveyor belt sushi restaurant chain where one of the most-viewed recent videos was filmed, took the rare step of submitting a complaint to the police about a boy who licked unused cups and soy sauce bottles and touched other people's sushi after licking his fingers. The

video, taken in an outlet in the central province of Gifu, has generated tens of millions of views since it hit the internet.

Sushiro's decision to pursue civil and criminal actions came as a surprise: The boy, whose age was not disclosed, and his parents apologized to the restaurant. But the restaurant claimed it has suffered reputational and financial damage; its stock fell by 5%, or nearly \$125 million, after those videos went viral, reported TV Asahi, a Japanese news outlet.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### 2 abducted children found in supermarket

**FL** HIGH SPRINGS — Two abducted children who had been missing from Missouri for almost a year were found in a central Florida grocery store with their non-custodial mother, who was taken into police custody, authorities said.

Kristi Gilley was arrested on an out-of-state fugitive warrant. Court records showed Gilley, 36, remained in jail.

High Springs police officers found Gilley and the two children in a Winn-Dixie supermarket after running a routine vehicle tag check that indicated the vehicle's owner was a fugitive, the High Springs Police Department said in a news release.

The children had been missing from Clay County, Mo., a suburb of Kansas City, since last March.

### 2 moved into ailing man's home, stole millions

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Two people have been charged with stealing nearly \$3 million from a wealthy ailing investor, moving into his Malibu beach house, claiming to befriend him and giving him drugs, before attempting to steal another \$20 million after his death, federal prosecutors said.

Anthony Flores, 46, of Fresno, was arrested and pleaded not guilty to felony charges, while Anna Moore, 39, who lives in Monterrey, Mexico, was arrested in Houston, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office for the Central District of California.

Beginning in 2017, Flores, a

hairstylist who owned a window cleaning business in Fresno, and Moore, a former yoga studio owner, met an ophthalmologist who was a successful investor but suffered from a mental illness that had gradually left him unable to care for himself, according to prosecutors.

"Within days of meeting the victim, Flores and Moore moved into the victim's beachfront Malibu home — rent free — and slowly took control of his life by pretending to be his new 'best friends' and caregivers," the statement said.

For months, Flores and Moore diverted the victim's money into their own bank accounts, "isolated the victim from his family and longtime friends and provided the victim with drugs, including marijuana and LSD," the U.S. attorney's office statement said.

### Off-duty cop buying car shot and critically injured

**NY** NEW YORK — A manhunt was underway for a gunman who critically wounded an off-duty New York Police Department officer who arranged on social media to meet at a Brooklyn street address to buy a car, authorities said.

When the officer arrived with a relative in the borough's East New York neighborhood, the gunman announced a robbery and displayed a gun, leading to an exchange of gunfire that wounded the officer, according to Michael Baldassano, assistant chief of the NYPD Detectives Bureau.

Baldassano told a news conference the gunman fled the scene and the officer was taken to Brookdale Hospital.

Baldassano, responding to a question, said there was no reason to believe that the gunman knew that the officer worked for the police department, but it was a question that remained under investigation.

### Fire in airport locker room delays some flights

**TX** HOUSTON — A fire at Houston's largest airport delayed flights and forced passengers and employees to temporarily evacuate a terminal, officials said. No injuries were reported.

Houston firefighters were called to Bush Intercontinental Airport after a fire was reported in an employee locker room in Terminal C, according to a statement from United Airlines.

Customers and employees were evacuated from the terminal and United's inbound flights were halted from 5:32 a.m. to 7 a.m.

The airline said 23 of its inbound flights were delayed. Operations have since returned to normal.

### Legislation advances that would ban guns at polls

**NM** SANTA FE — A bill that would prohibit firearms at New Mexico polling places during elections with exceptions for police officers cleared its first hurdle at the Legislature.

A Senate panel voted 6-3 along party lines, with Republicans in opposition, to advance the bill from Democratic Senate Majority Leader Peter Wirth, of Santa Fe. A second committee endorsement could send the bill to a full Senate vote.

New Mexico already prohibits its guns on school grounds,

where many election polls are located. But firearms can be carried at many other polling locations, openly or with a concealed-handgun permit.

Under the proposed changes, New Mexico would join at least 12 other states that prohibit guns and weapons at polling places, including neighboring Texas and Arizona.

### Updated permit must label bedrooms at Twitter

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco building inspectors have given Twitter's construction contractor two weeks to submit a corrected building use permit if the social media company wants to keep using two conference rooms as bedrooms at its headquarters.

The correction notice from San Francisco's Department of Building Inspection to Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Co. asked the contractor to correctly label conference rooms as sleeping areas in a floor plan, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

The city launched an investigation after Forbes reported on the beds, prompting owner Elon Musk to lash out at San Francisco Mayor London Breed, even though there is no evidence she was involved in the inspection.

"So city of SF attacks companies providing beds for tired employees instead of making sure kids are safe from fentanyl. Where are your priorities @LondonBreed!?" Musk posted on Twitter, referring to a story about a baby's reported fentanyl overdose.

The other option is for Twitter to restore the conference rooms to their original use.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Kelces set for Super Bowl showdown

Associated Press

Donna Kelce is going to have to pull out that now-familiar custom jersey — the one with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce's front stitched to Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce's back — one more time this season.

At least this time she'll get to see her boys in person.

For the first time in Super Bowl history, a pair of siblings will play each other on the NFL's grandest stage. Travis Kelce helped the Chiefs return to their third championship game in four seasons on Jan. 29 when they beat the Bengals for the AFC title, while Jason has the Eagles back for the second time in six years after their NFC title win over the 49ers.

"Cool scenario to be in, you know?" Travis Kelce said. "My mom can't lose."

Or maybe can't win.

Indeed, there have been plenty of famous NFL siblings over the years, and many had some memorable matchups: Peyton

and Eli Manning, Tiki and Ronde Barber. But they never reached the same Super Bowl, or had to put their dear old mom in such a predicament, where one will be hoisting the Lombardi Trophy at the other one's expense.

"It's going to be an amazing feeling playing against him," added Travis, whose team has gotten the better of big brother's Eagles in the last three matchups. "I respect everyone over there in the Eagles organization. You won't see me talk too much trash because of how much I love my brother. But it's going to be an emotional game, for sure."

Jason Kelce was even ever-so-briefly a Chiefs fan last Sunday night, pulling on a Kansas City sweatshirt for about the three hours between the end of the Eagles' 31-7 rout of San Francisco and the finish of his little brother's 23-20 win over Cincinnati.

"That's it for the rest of the year," Jason said with a smile.

"I am done being a Chiefs fan."

He'll leave that to his mom and dad.

While her husband, Ed, has mostly kept private over the years, Donna has been a fixture as she crisscrosses the country to watch her boys. During wild-card weekend last year, she started in Tampa Bay watching the Eagles against the Buccaneers, then hopped a plane to Kansas City in time to watch the Chiefs play the Steelers at night.

She's already seen both of her sons win Super Bowls, too: The Eagles beat the Patriots in 2018 in Minneapolis, and the Chiefs rallied to beat the 49ers in Miami two years later.

She hasn't seen much of them lately, though. The way the playoff schedule worked out for the divisional round and the conference championship games, it was impossible for Donna to make it to see both of her boys in person.

In any case, they've come a long way from their solidly middle-class upbringing in Cleve-

land Heights, Ohio.

Jason blazed the trail as the star offensive lineman who earned a scholarship to Cincinnati, and Travis soon followed suit. Both caught the eyes of NFL scouts during their college careers, and of one coach in particular: Andy Reid.

It was Big Red who, while coaching the Eagles, used a sixth-round pick on Jason during the 2011 draft. And two years later, after Reid had gotten a fresh start in Kansas City, the Chiefs used a third-rounder to bring Travis into the fold.

"Big brother probably protected Travis from doing some crazy things. He probably talked him from dropping off a ladder into raked-up leaves once or twice," Reid said. "Listen, they're both at heart very competitive and compassionate, is the biggest thing. They care and they care about people and they care about their game."

They also happen to be very good at it.

# Mahomes, Hurts aware of significance of QB duel

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Philadelphia Eagles coach Nick Sirianni is thrilled young aspiring football players all over the world will get to watch two Black quarterbacks face each other for the first time in the Super Bowl.

He's also pleased they get to watch two really, really good quarterbacks.

"I'm really excited for both quarterbacks, what they can represent to a ton of kids," Sirianni said at Monday's Super Bowl media night. "Not only are they two African-American quarterbacks, but they're the two best quarterbacks in the NFL this year. First-team All-Pro, second-team All-Pro.

"They both play at the highest level."

There are many storylines for this Super Bowl, but the duel between Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts and Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes is right at the top of the list.

The significance of Sunday's matchup in Glendale, Ariz., isn't lost on Mahomes.

"I think about it a lot," Mahomes said. "The quarterbacks that came before me — Shack Harris, Doug Williams — that laid the foundation for me to be in this position. It goes across all sports. If you think about Jackie Robinson and the people who broke the color barrier in baseball, I wouldn't be standing here today if it wasn't for them.

"To be lucky enough to be in this position — and play against another great guy like Jalen — it will be a special moment. I'm glad we're here today, but how can we keep moving forward? How can we motivate kids who are younger, who want to follow their dreams to be a quarterback?"

It's not just the quarterbacks who are relishing the groundbreaking matchup. Chiefs running back Jerick McKinnon said players are well aware of what they're witnessing.

"There's history being made," McKinnon said. "That's a beautiful thing. Something I can look back and tell my kids that, 'I was a part of that, I experienced that.' So it's a blessing. This whole ex-

perience is a blessing.

"To have that on top just adds to it."

In addition to being good, both quarterbacks are also tough.

Hurts missed two games late in the season with a shoulder injury that's still bothering him. The Eagles haven't had to lean on him in two lopsided playoff wins. He has 275 yards passing and two TDs along with 73 yards rushing and two scores — pedestrian numbers by his standards.

Mahomes hobbled around on a badly sprained ankle to help the Chiefs beat the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 and advance to their third Super Bowl appearance in four years.

# Clippers top Nets despite Thomas' 47 points

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Paul George scored 29 points, Kawhi Leonard added 24 and the Los Angeles Clippers overcame a career-high 47 points from Cam Thomas in his first start to beat the short-handed Brooklyn Nets 124-116 on Monday night.

Ivica Zubac added 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who won for the eighth time in 10 games and finished 4-2 on their six-game Eastern Conference road trip.

"I'm happy with the road trip we had," Leonard said. "We came out 4-2, and that's a pretty good road trip for us."

Thomas, who scored 44 to rally the Nets past Washington on Saturday, was even better on the day the Nets completed the trade that sent Kyrie Irving to Dallas. But Los Angeles outscored Brooklyn 25-9 over the final 6:20.

"Their objective (was) to come in and play hard and go hard, and they did that," George said. "I

thought it was a good experience for us to get good possessions down the stretch."

Thomas almost single-handedly kept Brooklyn within striking distance. He had 22 in the first half, then electrified the crowd with a combination of three-pointers and mid-range jumpers, helping Brooklyn lead by 107-99 midway through the fourth.

"I came out hot early," Thomas said. "I didn't know it'd be another 40, but I knew I'd probably have a great game again. Kudos to the guys for believing in me and letting me make decisions down the stretch."

**Warriors 141, Thunder 114:** Klay Thompson scored 42 points with a season-high 12 three-pointers, Jordan Poole added 21 points and 12 assists starting in Stephen Curry's place, and host Golden State beat Oklahoma City.

Thompson sat down for the night to a roaring ovation with 4:41 left to finish 15-for-22 from the floor and 12-for-16 on threes.

Thompson now has eight games with 10 or more three-pointers, second in NBA history behind Curry's 22.

**Mavericks 124, Jazz 111:** Josh Green and Jaden Hardy each scored career highs of 29 points and short-handed Dallas, playing without Luka Doncic, stunned host Utah after completing a trade for Kyrie Irving.

The Mavericks acquired the eight-time All-Star along with Markieff Morris from the Brooklyn Nets in exchange for Spencer Dinwiddie, Dorian Finney-Smith, a 2029 first-round pick and two future second-round picks.

**Celtics 111, Pistons 99:** Jayson Tatum started slow and finished strong with 34 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, leading visiting Boston over Detroit.

The All-Star forward missed his first five shots and had as many fouls (three) as field goals after missing 10 shots in the first half. Tatum made three three-pointers and an array of driving

layups in the third, scoring 18 points in the quarter to turn a seven-point halftime lead into an 18-point cushion.

**Cavaliers 114, Wizards 91:** Darius Garland and Jarrett Allen scored 23 points apiece and Donovan Mitchell added 21 to lead visiting Cleveland to a rout of Washington.

**Bucks 127, Trail Blazers 108:** Brook Lopez scored 27 points and visiting Milwaukee stretched its winning streak to eight games with a victory over Portland.

**Bulls 128, Spurs 104:** Nikola Vucevic had 22 points and 12 rebounds, Andre Drummond set season highs with 21 points and 15 rebounds, and host Chicago handed San Antonio its ninth straight loss.

**Kings 140, Rockets 120:** Keegan Murray had a career-high 30 points and set a franchise rookie record with eight three-pointers to help visiting Sacramento snap a two-game skid with a win over Houston.

## LeBron passing Kareem is historic for league, debates

Associated Press

It's about to happen. LeBron James is finally on the brink of passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the NBA's career scoring record, the torch getting passed from one member of the Los Angeles Lakers to another.

James is 35 points away from Abdul-Jabbar's total of 38,387. The record-breaker was set to be as early as Tuesday when the Lakers hosted the Oklahoma City Thunder, or Thursday in Los Angeles against the Milwaukee Bucks.

James is on pace to eclipse the 40,000-point mark next season and is under contract for one more season after that as well. And even then there's no guarantee that he won't continue playing; he has said many times he would like to stay in the NBA long enough for his son, LeBron James Jr. — he goes by "Bronny" — to get to the league, something that won't happen until 2024-25 at the earliest.

The closest player currently in the NBA to James on the all-time list is Brooklyn's Kevin Durant, who has 26,684 points. Durant would probably have to play at least another six or seven seasons just to catch Abdul-Jabbar's

mark — and who knows how far James will raise the bar by then.

Philadelphia's James Harden and the Lakers' Russell Westbrook are just over 24,000 points apiece. Both of them are all-time greats, but they're not going to catch James. Dallas' Luka Doncic is averaging 27.4 points per game so far in his career. But he'll need to average that many points for another 14 seasons before he gets to the 38,000-point mark.

So unless the NBA adds a 10-point shot, the record won't be broken for a very, very, very long time.

Then there's the matter of whether this settles the Greatest Of All Time debate. James may very well be the GOAT, based on his longevity, his accomplishments, how no one in NBA history has been so hard to stop for 20 years and counting. Abdul-Jabbar should be in the conversation as well; his sky hook — a one-handed shot released high over his head, impossible for any defender to stop without the use of a stepladder — is one of the most dominant weapons basketball has ever seen.

Michael Jordan won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls on his way to be-

coming a global icon and might have been the greatest competitor in the sport's history. Golden State's Stephen Curry is the most prolific three-point shooter the game has ever seen and still going strong. The Lakers' Magic Johnson and Boston's Larry Bird had a rivalry that brought them both multiple championships and might have saved the NBA in the 1980s. San Antonio's Tim Duncan was maybe the most fundamentally solid player ever. Wilt Chamberlain scored 100 points in a game and once averaged 50 for an entire season. Kobe Bryant had an 81-point game and finished with five championships. And Bill Russell won 11 championships with the Boston Celtics.

This record doesn't even settle the debate on greatest scorer ever. James is passing Abdul-Jabbar for the most points — but Jordan still averaged the most, his 30.12 per game pace over the entirety of his career ranking just ahead of Chamberlain's 30.07. James averages around 27 per game; Abdul-Jabbar averaged around 25.

The answer to the GOAT debate is there isn't one. There are many. Personal preference prevails.

# Dick, No. 9 Kansas outlast No. 5 Texas

Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Dajuan Harris Jr. was willing to acknowledge that Kansas was facing something rare when fifth-ranked and Big 12-leading Texas arrived at Allen Fieldhouse on Monday night: a must-win game.

The defending national champs played like it.

Gradey Dick scored 21 points, Harris had 17 points, six rebounds and five assists, and the ninth-ranked Jayhawks held on after blowing a 14-point first-half lead to beat the Longhorns 88-80 and tighten the league race.

Kevin McCullar Jr. added 16 points, Joseph Yesufu scored 14 off the bench and KJ Adams finished with 10, helping the Jayhawks (19-5, 7-4) overcome an off night from Jalen Wilson. The league's leading scorer at 21.5 points per game battled foul trouble and was held to just two,

ending his streak of 25 straight double-figure games.

"We knew we had to come in here and get a win," said Dick, who had the Jayhawks' only two three-pointers. "The big thing, just in preparation for the week, was coming out with energy. When we do that, we're a scary team."

The Jayhawks needed everyone's help holding off the Longhorns' Marcus Carr.

The Minnesota transfer, who had a game-high 29 points, kept answering Kansas baskets down the stretch. His three-pointer got the Longhorns within 77-68 with 2:25 left, three free throws made it 78-71 with 1:31 to go, and his three-point play got the Longhorns (19-5, 8-3) within 86-80 with 23.5 seconds remaining.

Texas quickly fouled Dick at the other end, and his free throw with 18 seconds left helped put

the game away.

"It was as close to a must-win as you could have this early in the season to win the league," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "You go down three games with seven left, you'd have to win out and get a lot of help from others. Now, we still have as hard a schedule as everybody, but we can kind of control our own destiny where if we play well, we have a shot."

Timmy Allen finished with 18 points for the Longhorns. Sir' Jabari Rice had 12 before fouling out.

"It was their night tonight in terms of what they got done," Texas interim coach Rodney Terry said.

The Longhorns have made a habit of overcoming double-digit deficits: 18 down to beat TCU, 12 down to beat Texas Tech and 14 down to beat No. 12 Kansas State last Saturday in a

game played just down the road.

**No. 19 Miami 81, Duke 59:** Norchad Omier had 17 points and 10 rebounds, Jordan Miller added 16 points and the host Hurricanes had little trouble with the Blue Devils.

Wooga Poplar scored 14 and Isaiah Wong scored 11 for Miami (19-5, 10-4 Atlantic Coast Conference). The Hurricanes led by as many as 26 and improved to 13-0 at home.

Ryan Young and Dereck Lively II each scored 11 points for Duke (17-7, 8-5), which saw its three-game winning streak snapped. Jeremy Roach added 10 points for the Blue Devils, who were outrebounded 38-31 and committed 21 turnovers.

It was the second-biggest Miami victory margin in the series between the schools, topped only by the Hurricanes' 90-63 rout of then-No. 1 Duke on Jan. 23, 2013.

# Islanders edge Flyers in Horvat's first game

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bo Horvat had a new look in his first game with his new team. Yes, of course, the Islanders jersey took some getting used to, but so did New York's ban on facial hair.

So he made sure to pack his gear — and his razor. Horvat had to say goodbye to his scruff.

"My face looks like a little boy right now," he said.

The Islanders just hope he continues to look like an All-Star.

Kyle Palmieri and Mathew Barzal scored for the Islanders in their first game since they acquired Horvat in a trade, leading them to a 2-1 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Monday night.

"The guys made me feel really comfortable and they were great," Horvat said. "It feels even better to get that win and

get my legs under me."

Coach Lane Lambert said Horvat can only help as the Islanders make a playoff push in a crowded bottom half of the Eastern Conference. The Islanders matched idle Pittsburgh for eighth in the East.

"In terms of how it changes moving forward, it gives us more options," Lambert said. "We know what we have to do as a group. We've got to string together some wins. That's the focus right now."

**Panthers 7, Lightning 1:** Matthew Tkachuk had two goals and three assists, powering host Florida to the win.

Tkachuk had a hand in the first three goals for the Panthers. It was his first game after being named MVP of the NHL All-Star Game on home ice Saturday.

Carter Verhaeghe had two goals and two assists for Flor-

ida, and Sam Bennett had a goal and two assists. Florida goalie Sergei Bobrovsky made 32 saves after being out since Jan. 19 after he was hurt in Montreal.

All-Star Nikita Kucherov scored for Tampa Bay. Andrei Vasilevskiy had 42 saves.

**Devils 5, Canucks 4 (OT):** Jesper Bratt scored on a power play 4:18 into overtime, and host New Jersey beat Vancouver after squandering a three-goal lead.

New Jersey improved to 9-1-1 in its past 11 games. Jack Hughes and Ondrej Palat scored two goals apiece, and Vitek Vanecek made 26 saves in winning his 10th straight game.

Andrei Kuzmenko, Luke Schenn, Curtis Lazar and Phillip Di Giuseppe scored for the Canucks.

**Rangers 5, Flames 4 (OT):** Alexis Lafreniere scored 1:37 into overtime and Jaroslav Ha-

lak made 28 saves, sending host New York to the victory.

Lafreniere beat Flames goalie Jacob Markstrom for his seventh goal of the season, finishing a frenzied game that featured several fights. Mika Zibanejad and Filip Chytil each had two goals for New York.

**Stars 3, Ducks 2 (SO):** Tyler Seguin scored Dallas' second shootout goal, lifting the host Stars to the win.

Troy Terry, Anaheim's All-Star forward, left with an upper-body injury after only three shifts.

**Coyotes 3, Wild 2:** Jakob Chychrun had two goals for host Arizona, and Jack McBain snapped a tie on a breakaway with seven minutes remaining.

McBain put a backhander past Minnesota's Marc-Andre Fleury moments after the Coyotes killed off an abbreviated 55-second power play.