

## Cyberattack cripples DOD pharmacies

By Wyatt Olson  
*Stars and Stripes*

A cyberattack Wednesday on one of America's largest health care technology companies has left U.S. military pharmacies worldwide unable to fill prescriptions, the Defense Health Agency said Thursday.

"A reported cyberattack on the nation's largest commercial prescription processor, Change Healthcare, has affected military clinics and hospitals worldwide," DHA said in a statement.

Change Healthcare disconnected its systems on Wednesday to protect patient information, according to the agency.

"This is impacting all military pharmacies worldwide and some retail pharmacies nationally," DHA said.

News reports indicated large retail chains in the U.S. like CVS and Walgreens and local pharmacies across the country were experiencing delays or in-

terruptions in their ability to fill customers' prescriptions Wednesday.

Change Healthcare is part of Optum, a health technology company acquired by UnitedHealth Group in 2022. Change Healthcare processes patient payments for many health care entities, including pharmacies, in the United States.

The firm said in a website update Thursday it had disconnected its system "in the interest of protecting our partners and patients" and to "prevent further impact."

"At this time, we believe the issue is specific to Change Healthcare and all other systems across UnitedHealth Group are operational," the update states. "The disruption is expected to last at least through the day."

DHA said that military clinics and hospitals will provide outpatient prescriptions through a manual procedure

until the problem is resolved.

"Military pharmacies will give priority to urgent prescriptions followed by routine prescriptions," DHA said in its statement. "Each military hospital and clinic will continue to offer pharmacy operations based on their local manning and resources."

Pharmacies at U.S. military bases worldwide have issued advisories asking patients to forego filling prescriptions until the system is back online.

The 374th Medical Group at Yokota Air Base in Tokyo told its population Thursday that it was temporarily unable to fill prescriptions through the recently installed MHIS Genesis online medical records system. The base pharmacy is handing out fulfilled requests but asked patients to wait on new requests or see their physicians, according to a post on the official Facebook page.

Naval Health Clinic Hawaii

said in a Facebook post Thursday its pharmacies at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Marine Corps Base Hawaii had "implemented down-time procedures and are able to fill needed prescriptions," but that patients should expect longer wait times.

"If you have remaining medication at home, we ask that you please consider waiting until the issue has been resolved," the post states.

The American Hospital Association said in an advisory Thursday that it had been communicating with the FBI, Department of Health and Human Services and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency regarding the cyberattack and outage.

The association recommended that organizations using Change Healthcare's services should prepare contingency plans in case the outage continues for an extended period.

## US, British strikes on Houthis answer Red Sea attacks

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. and Britain struck 18 Houthi targets in Yemen on Saturday, answering a recent surge in attacks by the Iran-backed militia group on ships in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, including a missile strike last week that set fire to a cargo vessel.

According to U.S. officials, American and British fighter jets hit sites in eight locations, targeting missiles, launchers, rockets, drones and air defense systems. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in order to provide early details of an on-

going military operation.

This is the fourth time that the U.S. and British militaries have conducted a combined operation against the Houthis since Jan. 12. But the U.S. has also been carrying out almost daily strikes to take out Houthi targets, including incoming missiles and drones aimed at ships, as well as weapons that were prepared to launch.

The U.S. F/A-18 fighter jets launched from the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower aircraft carrier, which is currently in the Red Sea, officials said.

"The United States will not

hesitate to take action, as needed, to defend lives and the free flow of commerce in one of the world's most critical waterways," said U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin. "We will continue to make clear to the Houthis that they will bear the consequences if they do not stop their illegal attacks."

The Houthis denounced the "US-British aggression" and vowed to keep up its military operation in response. "The Yemeni Armed Forces affirm that they will confront the U.S.-British escalation with more qualitative military operations

against all hostile targets in the Red and Arabian Seas in defense of our country, our people and our nation," it said.

The U.S., U.K., and other allies said in a statement the "necessary and proportionate strikes specifically targeted 18 Houthi targets across 8 locations in Yemen" that also included underground storage facilities, radar and a helicopter.

The Houthis have launched at least 57 attacks on commercial and military ships in the the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since Nov. 19, and the pace has picked up in recent days.

# German army gets glimpse at American armor

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**  
*Stars and Stripes*

**GRAFENWOEHR, Germany** — Dozens of German army non-commissioned officers toured Tower Barracks last week to learn more English from their American counterparts, and familiarize themselves with U.S. Army tanks and fighting vehicles.

The weeklong exchange, one of four per year, is part of a 10-week German army NCO School at Delitzsch, located approximately 15 miles north of Leipzig, said German army Capt. Marc Meissner, an operations officer at the school.

The school's top 40 enlisted

leaders, mostly sergeants and staff sergeants, on Thursday visited the base's 100-year-old landmark water tower before being hosted by U.S. soldiers from 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment.

"It's definitely a very worthwhile event," said battalion commander Lt. Col. Kyle Trotter. "It helps us understand the levels of training that each army goes through, what their professional development systems look like, so we're able to train and fight together at a higher proficiency level."

Grafenwoehr is home to the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer

Academy, the oldest in the service. The two schools have been hosting exchanges annually for 31 years, said U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Alexandra Perez, a NATO liaison assigned to the German school.

The weeklong event occurred just days after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz vowed to increase defense spending to 2% of gross domestic product, the NATO target, amid fears of Russian aggression following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

Germany on Feb. 16 signed a long-term security agreement with Ukraine that included an additional \$1.2 billion in military aid.

A light rain fell Thursday, as

German soldiers of all ages boarded a bus for a tour of Tower Barracks and the surrounding camps. After hiking to the top of the 137-foot tower, they headed to the Camp Normandy motor pool, where a Bradley Fighting Vehicle, M1A2 Abrams tank and other Army equipment awaited.

The Germans mingled with soldiers from the 37th Armored Regiment, and climbed inside and atop their vehicles.

"The German army doesn't have this," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthias Haedrech, an armored engineer, as he gazed upon an M1150 Assault Breach Vehicle. "We need this."

## 6-nation Air Force drill wraps on Guam after 3 weeks

By **ALEX WILSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

An annual multinational Air Force exercise on Guam concluded Friday after nearly three weeks of training missions, from aerial refueling to simulated air combat.

Cope North kicked off Feb. 5 at Andersen Air Force Base with an "elephant walk," a runway parade of aircraft, and wound down Thursday with a static display of eight aircraft and their crews, according to 36th Wing spokeswoman 1st Lt. Ariana Wilkinson.

"We wanted to give the opportunity to Andersen family members and anyone within the community with base access to come out and see the aircraft that took part," she said by phone Friday. "Just to let them get up close and personal and engage with our allies and partners."

Aircraft on display included two airlifters, an Australian C-27 Spartan and a French A-400 Atlas; a Japanese Mitsubishi F-2 fighter jet; and a U.S. KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueler, according to Wilkinson.

This year's Cope North focused on NATO's agile combat employment doctrine, which involves operating from major airfields and dispersed locations. More than 2,400 personnel from the United States, Australia, Canada, France, Japan and South Korea took part.

The last of them were preparing Friday to head home, Wilkinson said.

The joint force planned to fly 1,400 missions with about 85 aircraft, according to a Pacific Air Forces news release in January.

"We're working out of these airfields; we're essentially able to pick up and move out

of these spokes and hubs," Wilkinson said.

The multinational coalition flew numerous missions, including a simulated aerial battle, from six airfields on three islands: Guam, Saipan and Tinian. The various scenarios allowed the U.S. to exchange information, tactics, techniques and procedures to "further integrate allied contributions for security and stability" in the Indo-Pacific, she said.

Other scenarios involved airlift logistics, command and control operations and large force deployments, according to Lt. Col. David Overstreet, the Air Force exercise director.

"We came together as one and will continue to expand on the lessons learned to ensure a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said in a text message Friday.

## Miss. National Guard mourns 2 warrant officers killed in crash

*Stars and Stripes*

The Mississippi National Guard paid tribute Saturday to Chief Warrant Officer 4 Bryan Andrew Zemek, 36, and Chief Warrant Officer 4 Derek Joshua Abbott, 42, who were killed Friday when their AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed during a routine training flight.

The crash occurred Friday about 2 p.m. near Booneville, Miss., the Guard said.

"Today is a devastating day for the Mississippi National Guard as we mourn the loss of two of our brave brothers in arms," Maj. Gen. Janson D. Boyles, the adjutant general of Mississippi, said

in a statement.

Zemek was in Alpha Company 1st Battalion, 149th Aviation Regiment serving as an AH-64 Delta Apache Standardization Instructor Pilot in Tupelo. Abbott was in Delta Company of the 2nd Battalion, 151st Lakota Medical Evacuation unit, serving as a mainte-

nance test pilot.

Zemek, a native of Oxford, Miss., is survived by his wife of three years and their four children.

Abbott, a combat veteran who served in Iraq, is a native of Fulton, Miss. He is survived by his wife of 18 years and their three children.

# Trump cruises in South Carolina, bests Haley in her home state

*Associated Press*

CHARLESTON, S.C. — Donald Trump won South Carolina's Republican primary on Saturday, easily beating former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley in her home state and further consolidating his path to a third straight GOP nomination.

Trump has now swept every contest that counted for Republican delegates, adding to previous wins in Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Haley is facing growing pressure to leave the race but says she's not going anywhere despite losing the state where she was governor from 2011 to 2017.

A rematch between Trump and President Joe Biden is becoming increasingly inevitable.

Haley has vowed to stay in the race through at least the batch of primaries on March 5, known as Super Tuesday, but was unable to dent Trump's momentum in her home state despite holding far more campaign events and arguing that the indictments against Trump will hamstring him against Biden.

The Associated Press declared Trump the winner as polls closed statewide at 7 p.m. That race call was based on an analysis of AP VoteCast, a com-

prehensive survey of Republican South Carolina primary voters. The survey confirmed the findings of pre-Election Day polls showing Trump far outpacing Haley statewide.

"I have never seen the Republican Party so unified as it is right now," Trump declared, taking the stage for his victory speech mere moments after polls closed.

He added, "You can celebrate for about 15 minutes, but then we have to get back to work."

South Carolina's first-in-the-South primary has historically been a reliable bellwether for Republicans. In all but one primary since 1980, the Republican winner in South Carolina has gone on to be the party's nominee.

The exception was Newt Gingrich in 2012.

Trump was dominant across the state, even leading in Lexington County, which Haley represented in the state Legislature.

Many Trump-backing South Carolinians, even some who previously supported Haley during her time as governor, weren't willing to give her a home-state bump.

"She's done some good things," Davis Paul, 36, said

about Haley as he waited for Trump at a recent rally in Conway. "But I just don't think she's ready to tackle a candidate like Trump. I don't think many people can."

At Haley headquarters on Saturday night, supporters waved her signs in front of a large projection screen showing Trump's speech, blocking it from view. That, of course, didn't make the defeat any less crushing.

About an hour later, Haley took the stage and said: "What I saw today was South Carolina's frustration with our country's direction. I've seen that same frustration nationwide."

"I don't believe Donald Trump can beat Joe Biden," Haley said, later adding: "I said earlier this week that no matter what happens in South Carolina, I would continue to run. I'm a woman of my word."

She said she plans to head to Michigan for its primary on Tuesday — the last major contest before Super Tuesday.

Still, she faces questions about where she might be able to win a contest or be competitive.

Trump and Biden are already behaving like they expect to face off in November.

# Bizarre battles at the Florida Man Games

*Associated Press*

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — They rose up by the dozens from across Florida, caricatured competitors in tank tops and cutoff shorts, for a showdown that treats evading police and wrestling over beer like Olympic sports. Promoted as "the most insane athletic showdown on Earth," the Florida Man Games poke fun at the state's reputation for bizarre stories that involve brawling, drinking, gunfire, reptile wrangling and other antics carrying a risk of time in jail or intensive care.

The games kicked off Saturday with the "Star Spangled Banner" played on electric guitar. Then spectators sipping canned beers behind metal barricades cheered and frequently shouted expletives as a dozen teams battled in contests inspired by real events from America's most surreal state.

James Gordon, of DeLand, won the first event, wolfing down a plate loaded with barbecue pork and sausage a fraction of a second before his nearest competitor. He chugged a beer to celebrate.

"I've lived in Florida my whole life," Gordon said after washing sauce from his hands and beard. "They're calling these 'events.' I'm calling this (expletive) Tuesday afternoon."

One event had contenders dueling in muddy water in an inflatable pool, pummeling each other with weapons made from pool noodles and duct tape. Another was a theft-simulation relay in which competitors raced while toting a pair of bicycles, copper pipes and catalytic converters.

Spectators paid real money — \$45 per ticket or more — to watch the games in downtown St. Augustine.

# Google: AI may 'miss the mark' on diversity

*Associated Press*

Google apologized Friday for its faulty rollout of a new artificial intelligence image-generator, acknowledging that in some cases the tool would "overcompensate" in seeking a diverse range of people even when such a range didn't make sense.

The partial explanation for why its images put people of color in historical settings where they wouldn't normally be

found came a day after Google said it was temporarily stopping its Gemini chatbot from generating any images with people in them.

That was in response to a social media outcry from some users claiming the tool had an anti-white bias in the way it generated a racially diverse set of images in response to written prompts.

"It's clear that this feature

missed the mark," said a blog post Friday from Prabhakar Raghavan, a senior vice president who runs Google's search engine and other businesses.

Raghavan didn't mention specific examples but among those that drew attention on social media last week were images that depicted a Black woman as a U.S. founding father and showed Black and Asian people as Nazi-era German soldiers.

# Ukraine official: Aid delays costing lives

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Half of promised Western military support to Ukraine fails to arrive on time, complicating the task of military planners and ultimately costing the lives of soldiers in Russia's war, the Ukrainian defense minister said Sunday.

Rustan Umerov, speaking at the "Ukraine. Year 2024" forum in Kyiv, stressed that each delayed aid shipment meant Ukrainian troop losses, and underscored Russia's superior military might.

Commemorations to mark the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Saturday brought expressions of continued support, new bilateral security agreements and new aid commitments from Ukraine's Western allies. But Umerov said that they still needed to deliver on their commitments if Ukraine is to have any chance of holding out against Russia.

"We look to the enemy: their

economy is almost \$2 trillion, they use up to 15% official and unofficial budget (funds) for the war, which constitutes over \$100 billion annually. So basically whenever a commitment doesn't come on time, we lose people, we lose territory," he said.

Umerov and the Ukrainian military's commander in chief, Oleksandr Syrskiy, toured front-line combat posts earlier Sunday amid a worsening ammunition shortage and dogged Russian attacks in the east.

They heard from front-line troops and "thoroughly analyzed" the battlefield situation on their visit, Syrskiy said in a Telegram update. He didn't specify where exactly he and Umerov went, but said that "the situation is difficult" for Ukrainian troops and "needs constant control" along many stretches of the front.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday at the forum that 31,000 Ukrainian

soldiers have been killed in action in the two years since Russia launched its full-scale invasion.

Zelenskyy said that the number was far lower than estimates given by Russian President Vladimir Putin's government.

The Ukrainian leader said that he wouldn't disclose the number of troops that were wounded or missing. He also said that "tens of thousands of civilians" had been killed in occupied areas of Ukraine, but said that no exact figures would be available until the war was over.

It's the first time that Kyiv has confirmed the number of its losses since the start of Russia's full-scale war.

Meanwhile, Russian forces on Sunday appeared to be pressing on west of Avdiivka, the strategic city whose capture this month handed Moscow a major victory as fierce fighting rages on in eastern Ukraine.

Gen. Oleksandr Tarnavskiy, who leads Ukrainian forces

fighting in the area, said Sunday that his troops had retreated from much of Lastochkyne, a western suburb of Avdiivka. Some Ukrainian media on Saturday reported that Russian troops had taken Lastochkyne, but there was no official confirmation from Kyiv and the battlefield situation appeared fluid.

Speaking at the forum in Kyiv, Umerov insisted on Sunday that Ukrainian forces were doing "everything that's possible, and also what's impossible, to secure a breakthrough" this year. The defense minister also said that a "strong" military strategy is already in place for the coming months, but didn't disclose details.

Russian shelling and rocket strikes Sunday continued to pummel Ukraine's south and east, as Ukrainian officials reported that at least two civilians were killed and eight others wounded in the Zaporizhzhia and Kherson provinces.

## US, EU add sanctions against Russia at war's anniversary

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and European Union on Friday heaped hundreds of new sanctions on Russia in connection with the second anniversary of its invasion of Ukraine and in retaliation for the death of noted Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny this month in an Arctic penal colony.

The U.S. government imposed roughly 600 new sanctions on Russia and its war machine in the largest single round of penalties since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.

The EU, for its part, added sanctions on several foreign companies over allegations that they have exported dual-use goods to Russia that could be used in its war against Ukraine. The 27-nation bloc also targeted scores of Russian officials, including members of the judiciary, local politi-

cians and people it said were "responsible for the illegal deportation and military re-education of Ukrainian children."

President Joe Biden said the sanctions come in response to Russian President Vladimir Putin's "brutal war of conquest" and to Navalny's death, adding that "we in the United States are going to continue to ensure that Putin pays a price for his aggression abroad and repression at home."

But while previous sanctions have increased costs for Russia's ability to fight in Ukraine, they appear to have done little so far to deter Putin and it was unclear that the latest big round would significantly alter that.

In specific response to Navalny's death, the State Department targeted three Russian officials the U.S. says are connected to his death.

## Aide: Navalny's body has been handed over to mom

Associated Press

The body of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been handed over to his mother, a top aide to Navalny said Saturday on his social media account.

Ivan Zhdanov, the director of Navalny's Anti-Corruption Foundation, made the announcement on his Telegram account and thanked "everyone" who had called on Russian authorities to return Navalny's body to his mother. Earlier Saturday, Yulia Navalnaya, Navalny's widow, accused President Vladimir Putin of mocking Christianity by trying to force his mother to agree to a secret funeral after his death in an Arctic penal colony.

Navalny, 47, Russia's most well-known opposition politician, unexpectedly died on Feb. 16 in an Arctic penal colony and his

family has been fighting for more than a week to have his body returned to them. Prominent Russians released videos calling on authorities to release the body and Western nations have hit Russia with more sanctions as punishment for Navalny's death as well as for the second anniversary of its invasion of Ukraine.

Navalny's mother, Lyudmila Navalnaya, is still in Salekhard, Navalny's press secretary Kira Yarmysh said on X, formerly Twitter. Lyudmila Navalnaya has been in the Arctic region for more than a week, demanding that Russian authorities return the body of her son to her.

"The funeral is still pending," Yarmysh tweeted, questioning whether authorities will allow it to go ahead "as the family wants and as Alexei deserves."

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Judge rules punishment over hairstyle was legal**

**TX** ANAHUAC — A Black high school student’s monthslong punishment by his Texas school district for refusing to change his hairstyle does not violate a new state law that prohibits race-based hair discrimination, a judge ruled on Thursday.

Darryl George, 18, is a junior and has not been in his regular classes at his Houston-area high school since Aug. 31 because his school district, Barbers Hill, says he is violating its policy limiting the length of boys’ hair.

The district filed a lawsuit arguing George’s long hair, which he wears in tied and twisted locs on top of his head, violates its dress code policy because it would fall below his shirt collar, eyebrows or earlobes when let down.

The district has said other students with locs comply with the length policy.

After just a few hours of testimony in Anahuac, state District Judge Chap Cain III ruled in favor of the school district, saying its ongoing discipline of George over the length of his hair is legal under the CROWN Act.

**Passengers subdue man for his actions on flight**

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — An American Airlines flight was forced to make an emergency landing in New Mexico after a disruptive passenger allegedly tried to open an emergency exit door, authorities said.

Albuquerque International Sunport officials said Flight 1219 to Chicago returned to the

airport shortly after takeoff Tuesday afternoon “due to a disturbance in the cabin involving a disruptive customer.”

Albuquerque TV station KOAT interviewed several passengers including Emma Ritz, who said the man tried to open an emergency door while the jetliner was airborne.

“He was sitting at the emergency exit and he cracked open the window that was protecting the handle,” Ritz said. “He ripped down the handle where it exposed some of the emergency exit and all the wind came rushing down.”

KOAT reported that six other passengers on the plane wrestled the man down and restrained him in the aisle until the flight ended by duct-taping his feet and putting on flex cuffs.

**Investigators fault city after bridge collapse**

**PA** PITTSBURGH — The city of Pittsburgh did not adequately maintain or repair a bridge and failed to act on inspection reports, leading to the corrosion of the structure’s steel legs and its collapse into a ravine, federal investigators said.

The city-owned Forbes Avenue bridge fell down on Jan. 28, 2022, plunging a bus and four cars about 100 feet into the Fern Hollow Creek.

Another vehicle drove off the east bridge abutment and landed on its roof. There were injuries but no one died.

After investigators presented their findings, three members of the National Transportation Safety Board agreed that poor inspections and insufficient oversight were among the prob-

able causes of the collapse.

NTSB chair Jennifer L. Homendy last week cited extensive corrosion to the uncoated weathering steel and “repeated failures to act” on damage to the bridge that was known for years. In some areas, the steel had deteriorated to the point of visible holes in the structure.

**13 pit bulls euthanized after killing owner**

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Authorities have euthanized all 13 pit bulls that were found in a Compton man’s backyard, where he was mauled to death last week.

The dogs — five adult pit bulls and eight puppies — were all put down “due to evidence linking them to the attack,” according to a statement from Don Belton, spokesperson for the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care and Control.

The owner was identified as 35-year-old Dominic Cooper, according to KTLA -TV Channel 5.

Upon arriving, they encountered the 13 dogs. Sheriff’s investigators initially said it appeared that Cooper had been feeding them when he was attacked.

Animal control officials said he appeared to have been involved in breeding and selling pit bulls.

**Mom arrested after child helps wax adult clients**

**TN** MEMPHIS — A Tennessee woman who posted photos on Instagram that appear to show her 5-year-old daughter helping her wax adult clients for hair removal has

been charged with child neglect, according to police records.

The Memphis Police Department received multiple complaints on Feb. 15 about a post with images of a young girl appearing to apply hot wax to the pubic area of adults, the Commercial Appeal reported, citing an arrest affidavit.

The woman said in the post, which has since been deleted, that her daughter had participated in the waxing of 24 clients over a span of time that exceeded eight hours, according to the arrest affidavit.

**Police: Teen said he wanted to shoot others**

**TX** MESQUITE — A student who carried a handgun into school in Texas had meant to harm others before three police officers fired 19 times at him, leaving him with a minor leg wound, police said.

“He brought a gun to school to hurt people,” Mesquite police Lt. Brandon Ricketts said last week. “He was there to hurt people is what he was telling witnesses” who later spoke to police.

Three officers who responded to the call from an administrator found the boy alone in the office. There was no indication the teenager fired the gun, but he refused to come out before the three officers fired a total of 19 shots through an open door, Ricketts said.

The 16-year-old boy was not seriously wounded when he was either grazed in the leg by a bullet or struck by shrapnel, Ricketts said.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# Duke's Filipowski injured in court rush

*Associated Press*

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — Kyle Filipowski remembered seeing the images of Iowa women's basketball star Caitlin Clark being accidentally knocked down by a fan storming the court after her team suffered an upset loss.

Roughly a month later, Duke's 7-foot star found himself part of the same discussion on the dangers of court storming, his right leg wrapped in plastic to fasten an icebag to his kneecap. And he wasn't happy about what had just happened.

"Just like any other upset game where the fans rush the court, all hell goes crazy," Filipowski said after being hobbled in a collision with an onrushing fan after the eighth-ranked Blue Devils lost at Wake Forest on Saturday. "Just trying to get my way off the court, and you know, you've got these crazy college students just doing whatever they want. It's got to be a little more protective when things like that happen."

The Clark incident, coming Jan. 21 after then-No. 2 Iowa's loss at Ohio State, offered a reminder of the risk facing athletes and coaching staffs stuck in the path of an oncoming exuberant rush of fans eager to celebrate at midcourt.

It's long been regarded as a rite of passage and part of the fabric of college athletics, most notably in a sport that captures the national spotlight every year with its "March Madness" spectacle in the NCAA Tournament. Yet Saturday marked the latest incident of the potentially combustible combination created by fans venturing between the lines that belong to the athletes right up to that final horn — this time involving an Associated Press preseason All-American.

"When are we going to ban court storming?" Duke coach Jon Scheyer said. "Like, when are we going to ban that? How many times does a player have to get into something where they get punched or they get

pushed or they get taunted right in their face? It's a dangerous thing."

Later Saturday night, Wake Forest athletics director John Currie issued a statement saying he had expressed "regret" for the incident to Duke athletics director Nina King as well as to Atlantic Coast Conference senior associate commissioner Paul Brazeau.

"Although our event management staff and security had rehearsed postgame procedures to protect the visiting team and officials, we clearly must do better," Currie said.

The prologue came with Duke trailing by four with 1.8 seconds left, down to a single inbound heave for some type of miracle finish. Fans had already moved down to the court area as Mark Mitchell heaved a long inbound pass that was intercepted by Cam Hildreth near midcourt. And they were at full sprint once the horn sounded.

"I mean, like everyone knew

it was coming," Filipowski said. "They were up four with 2 seconds left. Everyone was just waiting for the moment. Did they do anything to stop it? They didn't do anything to stop it. That's just ridiculous."

Filipowski's collision happened as he walked from one sideline to the other toward the Duke bench, putting him in the path of what amounted to a wide oncoming rush from the baseline.

Filipowski, who had raised his arms as though to brace for a potential collision, appeared to bang his right leg into the leg of a fan running by him and spun off balance. He ended up wrapping his arms around the shoulders of a manager and walk-on teammate Stanley Borden for help getting through the locker-room tunnel amid the chaos.

Footage showed one Wake Forest fan shoving his right hand into the middle of the No. 30 on the back of Filipowski's jersey as he wobbled.

## No. 2 Houston holds off No. 11 Baylor in overtime

*Associated Press*

WACO, Texas — The only cheers Houston guard L.J. Cryer heard in his return to Baylor came when he missed a 3-pointer on the first shot of the game for the second-ranked Cougars.

Cryer, who as a freshman three years ago was part of Baylor's only national championship, made six free throws in overtime and finished with 15 points as No. 2 and Big 12-leading Houston beat the 11th-ranked Bears 82-76 on Saturday after blowing a 16-point halftime lead.

"I was expecting the boos and stuff like that, like not welcoming," said Cryer, who had no turnovers while playing nearly 43 minutes.

"Really proud of L.J.," Cougars coach Kelvin Sampson said. "L.J. was in a tough environment today. ... He showed his maturity because he just played solid."

The Cougars (24-3, 11-3 Big 12) never trailed in regulation and appeared to win the game on a long 3-pointer by Jamal Shead at the buzzer. But replay showed the ball was still in his hands when the clock ran out.

All six of Cryer's free throws came in overtime, the first two with 3:06 left to put the Cougars back ahead to stay after falling behind for the first time. After playing 70 games the past three seasons for Baylor before transferring to Houston, he got booed loudly every time he touched the ball early.

Emanuel Sharp had 18 points to lead the Cougars. J'wan Roberts had 17 points and eight rebounds, while Shead had 12 points and 10 assists.

"Everybody contributed to this win. We're all responsible for this win," Shead said. "This was a really good team win."

Ja'Kobe Walter scored a game-high 23 points for Baylor (19-8, 8-6), and RayJ Dennis had 21. Jalen Bridges had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and Jayden Nunn scored 11 points.

The Bears didn't tie the game for the first time until Yves Missi, their 7-foot freshman, made a layup while being fouled with 4.4 seconds left in regulation to make it 69-all. Roberts rebounded Missi's missed free throw, and Shead was just a tick late in

ending the game without overtime.

Baylor opened the second half with a 12-0 run while Houston missed its first eight shots. Bridges scored 14 of his 17 points in the second half, including nine in a row for the Bears in the final 5½ minutes of regulation.

The Cougars led 41-25 at halftime after scoring 13 points off 11 Baylor turnovers. They made 10 of 11 shots in one stretch, which Roberts started by assisting on consecutive baskets before ending it with a jumper that made it 27-10.

"We just felt like they brought it to us in the first half. They're easily the most physical team that we've played so far and I feel like we were a little bit taken back," Bridges said.

# No. 17 Kentucky tops No. 13 Alabama

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky coach John Calipari kept telling Justin Edwards he believed in him, even as the freshman struggled through an inconsistent season.

That belief paid off Saturday as Edwards scored a season-high 28 points, leading the No. 17 Wildcats to a 117-95 win over No. 13 Alabama.

Edwards scored his previous high against Vanderbilt on Feb. 6, when he finished with 17 points.

“I kept saying you’re going to break through. I believe in you,” Calipari said. “He said ‘Coach, I believe in you.’ And I said, you just got to stay the course.”

Against the Crimson Tide, Edwards was 10-for-10 from the field and 4-for-4 from 3-point distance. His only miss came at the free throw line, where he finished 4-for-5.

“It felt good to go out and show I can play like I did,” Edwards said. “It means a lot because (my teammates) believe in me. I knew I hadn’t missed (a shot), but I knocked on wood.”

Antonio Reeves scored 24 points, and Zvonimir Ivisic came off the bench to score 18 points for Kentucky (19-8, 9-5 SEC). The Wildcats shot 63% from the field, 54% from 3-point distance and finished a point short of its highest scoring game of the season, a 118-82 win over Marshall on Nov. 25.

Rylan Griffen scored 21 points and Mark Sears added 20 for Alabama (19-8, 11-3), which turned the ball over 16 times, leading to 29 Kentucky points.

**No. 1 UConn 78, Villanova 54:** Cam Spencer tied his season high with 25 points, Tristen Newton had 10 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for his fourth career triple-double and the host Huskies bounced back from their first loss since December.

UConn (25-3, 15-2 Big East), which lost by 19 points to Creighton earlier in the week,

leads the conference by two games in the loss column with three to play in the regular season.

Stephon Castle had 14 points for the Huskies and Donovan Clingan added 13.

**No. 4 Arizona 91, Washington 75:** Caleb Love scored 28 points to eclipse 2,000 for his career and the host Wildcats bounced back from their first home loss of the season.

Arizona (21-6, 12-4 Pac-12) lost at McKale Center for the first time this year Thursday night, falling 77-74 to No. 21 Washington State.

The Wildcats’ Oumar Ballo controlled the paint after a quiet first half, finishing with 14 points, 14 rebounds and three blocked shots as Arizona turned back every Huskies challenge.

**No. 5 Tennessee 86, Texas A&M 51:** Dalton Knecht scored 24 points and the host Volunteers beat the Aggies to tie Alabama for the Southeastern Conference lead and give coach Rick Barnes his 800th Division I victory.

Jonas Aidoo had 18 points, 14 rebounds and three blocks to help the Volunteers (21-6, 11-3) win their fourth straight game.

**No. 6 Iowa State 71, West Virginia 64:** Tamin Lipsey had 14 points and six assists to lead the host Cyclones to their 16th straight victory at home.

Curtis Jones added 12 points for Iowa State (21-6, 10-4 Big 12).

**Wake Forest 83, No. 8 Duke 79:** Hunter Sallis scored 29 points and Andrew Carr had a huge second-half performance as the host Demon Deacons beat the Blue Devils and earned a massive boost to their NCAA Tournament chances.

Sallis capped the win by hitting two free throws with 1.8 seconds left for Wake Forest (18-9, 10-6 Atlantic Coast Conference). Carr finished with 16 of his 18 points after halftime.

Kyle Filipowski had 17 points to lead Duke (21-6, 12-4).

**No. 9 Kansas 86, Texas 67:** Hunter Dickinson scored 20

points, KJ Adams had 16 and the host Jayhawks beat the Longhorns.

All five Kansas (21-6, 9-5 Big 12) starters scored in double figures. Johnny Furphy contributed 16 points, Dajuan Harris had 14 and Nicolas Timberlake scored 13.

**No. 10 North Carolina 54, Virginia 44:** Cormac Ryan scored 18 points on six 3-pointers and the visiting Tar Heels moved into first place in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

Armando Bacot added 10 points and 13 rebounds for North Carolina (21-6, 13-3).

Jordan Minor had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Cavaliers (20-8, 11-6), who could not recover from a 15-minute stretch in the first half during which they missed 22 of 23 field goal tries, leading to a 16-4 North Carolina run.

**No. 12 Illinois 95, Iowa 85:** Coleman Hawkins scored 30 points and the host Fighting Illini rallied from a seven-point deficit in the second half.

Terrance Shannon Jr. and Justin Harmon each scored 12 points and Dain Dainja had eight rebounds for Illinois (20-7, 11-5 Big Ten).

**No. 14 Auburn 97, Georgia 76:** Chad Baker-Mazara scored a career-high 25 points and the visiting Tigers stopped the Bulldogs.

Auburn big man Johni Broome had 16 points and 13 rebounds, with 13 of those points coming in the second half. Chaney Johnson added 16 points.

**No. 18 Saint Mary’s 88, San Diego 62:** Mitchell Saxen scored 20 points and the host Gaels won their 15th straight game to wrap up at least a share of the West Coast Conference regular-season title with a victory over the Toreros.

Saint Mary’s (23-6, 14-0) has the longest active winning streak in the nation.

**No. 19 San Diego State 73, Fresno State 41:** Jaedon LeDee scored 15 of his 22 points in the first half and the visiting Aztecs

routed the Bulldogs.

LeDee finished 8-for-11 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds for his 10th double-double of the season.

**No. 20 South Carolina 72, Mississippi 59:** B.J. Mack scored 17 points and the visiting Gamecocks snapped a two-game skid.

The victory helped South Carolina (22-5, 10-4 SEC) hold on to its spot among the top four teams in the conference, giving it a shot at earning the double-bye in the conference tournament. They have three regular-season games left.

**Arizona State 73, No. 21 Washington State 61:** Jose Perez scored 16 points, Frankie Collins added 14 and the host Sun Devils ended the Cougars’ eight-game winning streak.

Washington State (21-7, 12-5 Pac-12) trailed by seven at halftime, but opened the second half on a 9-0 run to take a 38-36 lead. Arizona State (14-14, 8-9) roared right back, scoring the next seven points to regain the lead and never trailed again.

**UNLV 66, No. 22 Colorado State 60:** Dedan Thomas Jr. scored 23 points and the host Runnin’ Rebels beat the Rams for their seventh win in eight games.

**UCF 75, No. 23 Texas Tech 61:** Darius Johnson had 16 points and five assists, Jaylin Sellers scored 15 points and the host Knights held the Red Raiders scoreless for more than nine minutes in the second half.

The win, keyed by a 20-3 second-half run, was the third by UCF (14-12, 5-9 Big 12) over a ranked opponent at Addition Financial Arena in its first season in the Big 12.

**No. 24 Florida 77, Vanderbilt 64:** Will Richard scored 21 points and the host Gators won for the eighth time in 10 games.

**Kansas State 84, No. 25 BYU 74:** Arthur Kaluma had a career-high 28 points and 10 rebounds as the host Wildcats beat the Cougars.

# Rangers tie team-record winning streak

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Alexis Lafrenière scored, Matt Rempe tallied his first career goal and got the Rangers going with another first-period fight and New York beat the Philadelphia Flyers 2-1 on Saturday to tie a franchise record with its 10th straight victory.

Igor Shesterkin stopped 39 shots for the Rangers, who previously won 10 in a row during the 1972-73 and 1939-40 seasons. They had a chance to set a club mark for consecutive victories Sunday at Columbus. The Metropolitan Division-leading Rangers have not lost since Jan. 26.

"It was good," Rangers coach Peter Laviolette said. "It had a little bit of everything."

Tyson Foerster scored for Philadelphia, which lost for just the third time in its last eight games. The Flyers entered in third place in the Metropolitan, 13 points behind New York. Samuel Ersson finished with 22 saves.

"We came out hard, we finished hard, needed a bounce here or there," Philadelphia's Scott Laughton said. "Take a lot of positives out of it."

Rempe, a 6-foot-7 rookie sixth-round pick playing in his fourth career game, scored the game-winner when Barclay Goodrow's

shot deflected off his right skate and past Ersson with 13:29 to play.

"He did exactly what he's supposed to do, which is go to the front of the net and stand in front of the goaltender," Laviolette said.

Just three minutes in, Philadelphia's Nicolas Deslauriers and Rempe dropped the gloves in a heavyweight duel.

Both players landed heavy punches, with Deslauriers getting cut on the forehead by one of Rempe's hard right hands. The fight ended with Deslauriers tackling Rempe to the ice.

The players jawed in the pregame warmups and it carried over to the game.

**Maple Leafs 4, Avalanche 3:** Tyler Bertuzzi scored three times, including a go-ahead, power-play goal with 2:51 remaining, for his third career hat trick to lead visiting Toronto to its seventh straight win.

**Canucks 3, Bruins 2 (OT):** Brock Boeser scored his second goal of the game on a power play at 1:34 of overtime to rally host Vancouver past Boston in a matchup of division leaders.

**Stars 2, Hurricanes 1:** Jason Robertson and Wyatt Johnston scored as visiting Dallas beat Carolina to snap a four-game losing streak.

**Devils 4, Canadiens 3:** Nico Hischier scored a power-play goal with 6:27 to play

and host New Jersey handed Montreal its fifth straight loss.

**Lightning 4, Islanders 2:** Nikita Kucherov had a goal and two assists, and visiting Tampa Bay beat New York to snap a three-game skid.

**Panthers 3, Capitals 2 (OT):** Defenseman Gustav Forsling scored at 3:41 of overtime to lift host Florida past Washington, spoiling Alex Ovechkin's 1,400th NHL game.

**Kings 3, Ducks 2 (SO):** Pierre-Luc Dubois and Trevor Moore scored in the shootout as host Los Angeles beat Anaheim.

**Senators 4, Golden Knights 3 (SO):** Tim Stutzle scored in the shootout and host Ottawa beat Vegas.

**Predators 4, Sharks 2:** Kiefer Sherwood scored twice, Filip Forsberg added his 27th of the season and visiting Nashville got its fourth straight victory.

**Wild 5, Kraken 2:** Kirill Kaprizov had two goals and an assist, Mats Zuccarello added a career-high four assists and visiting Minnesota beat Seattle.

**Flames 6, Oilers 3:** Noah Hanifin had two goals and an assist, and visiting Calgary beat Edmonton for its third straight victory.

**Red Wings 6, Blues 1:** Alex DeBrincat had two goals and an assist and host Detroit scored three times in the first six minutes to overwhelm St. Louis.

# League-leading Celtics roll to eighth straight victory

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jaylen Brown scored 30 points, Kristaps Porzingis had 22 and the NBA-leading Boston Celtics easily handled the New York Knicks 116-102 on Saturday night for their eighth consecutive victory.

Brown shot 13-for-24 from the field and had eight rebounds for the Celtics, who improved to 45-12 and sit atop the Eastern Conference with an eight-game lead over Cleveland.

The All-Star forward downplayed the big advantage in the standings with less than two months left before the start of the postseason.

"When it comes down to the playoffs, none of that stuff really matters," Brown said. "I feel like it's going to be about matchups, it's going to be about play-

ing hard. Obviously, home court (advantage) matters. So, that is key. You get into the thick of it, you've got to win basketball games."

Jayson Tatum had 19 points with six assists and six rebounds and Derrick White added 13 for Boston, which has won 10 of its last 11.

Celtics coach Joe Mazzula gushed over the performance of Tatum, who has at least five assists in seven of his last nine games and six rebounds in 16 of 17 games.

"I thought today was a beautiful display of basketball from Jayson," Mazzula said. "It won't go into the most valuable category, but his ability to control the game with his pick-and-roll pace, his pick-and-roll passing, his defense. He put himself on

(Jalen) Brunson, welcoming 2-on-1s and creating for others was great. My hat's off to him for knowing that's a way for us to win."

Brunson had 34 points on 12-for-25 shooting from the field and 4-for-9 from 3-point range and Josh Hart had 16 for the Knicks, who were swept by Boston in their four-game season series.

**Timberwolves 101, Nets 86:** Anthony Edwards scored 11 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter and host Minnesota beat Brooklyn to regain sole possession of the Western Conference lead.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 28 points to help Minnesota rebound from a loss to Milwaukee on Friday night. The Timberwolves moved a half-game

ahead of idle Oklahoma City.

The Timberwolves were without center Rudy Gobert, who missed Saturday's game with a sprained left ankle suffered in the loss to Milwaukee.

Without Gobert, Minnesota was outrebounded 56-51.

Cam Thomas led Brooklyn with 18 points.

**Magic 112, Pistons 109:** Paolo Banchero broke a tie with a three-point play with 0.8 seconds left and finished with 15 points in visiting Orlando's victory over NBA-worst Detroit.

Orlando has won three straight and eight of its last 10.

Cade Cunningham had a tying layup with 12.4 seconds to go and, with a chance to send the game to overtime, he hit the rim on 70-plus-foot shot at the buzzer. Cunningham had 26 points.