

USAID facing shutdown; staff barred from HQ

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Staffers of the U.S. Agency for International Development were instructed to stay out of the agency's Washington headquarters, and yellow police tape and officers blocked the agency's lobby Monday, after billionaire Elon Musk announced President Donald Trump had agreed with him to shut down the agency.

USAID staffers also said more than 600 additional employees had reported being locked out of the agency's computer systems overnight. Those still in the system received emails saying that "at the direction of Agency leadership" the headquarters building "will be closed to Agency personnel on Monday, Feb. 3." The agency's website vanished Saturday without explanation.

The fast-moving developments come after thousands of USAID employees have already been laid off and programs shut down in the two weeks since Trump took office and show the extraordinary power of Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, in

the Trump administration. Musk announced closing of the agency Monday, as Trump's secretary of state, Marco Rubio, was out of the country on a trip to Central America.

Trump, a Republican, has also ordered a freeze on foreign assistance that has had widespread effects on programs around the world. The moves by the United States, the world's largest provider of humanitarian aid, have upended decades of policy that put humanitarian, development and security assistance in the center of efforts to build alliances and counter adversaries including China and Russia.

Democratic lawmakers have protested the moves, saying Trump lacks constitutional authority to shut down USAID without congressional approval and decrying Musk's accessing sensitive government-held information through his Trump-sanctioned inspections of federal government agencies and programs.

On Monday, two State Department employees who tried to

gain access to the USAID offices in the building said they were turned away by security guards, who told them the offices were open but people could not go in. Later in the morning, uniformed Department of Homeland Security officers and security officers blocked the lobby of the USAID's headquarters using yellow tape with the words "do not cross."

The white USAID flag still flew on the empty plaza in front of the agency headquarters Monday morning. A State Department staffer stood in front, and he said he just wanted to pay his respects. Staffers said employees earlier Monday had been able to reach other parts of the agency to clear personal belongings from their offices.

The developments come after Musk, who's leading an extraordinary civilian review of the federal government with Trump's agreement, said early Monday that he had spoken with Trump about the six-decade U.S. aid and development agency and "he agreed we should shut it down."

"It became apparent that it's not an apple with a worm in it," Musk said in a live session on X Spaces. "What we have is just a ball of worms. You've got to basically get rid of the whole thing. It's beyond repair."

"We're shutting it down," he said.

Musk, Trump and some Republican lawmakers have targeted the U.S. aid and development agency, which oversees humanitarian, development and security programs in some 120 countries, in increasingly strident terms, accusing it of promoting liberal causes.

Over the weekend, the Trump administration placed two top security chiefs at USAID on leave after they refused to turn over classified material in restricted areas to Musk's government-inspection teams, a current and a former U.S. official said.

USAID has been one of the federal agencies most targeted by the Trump administration in an escalating crackdown on the federal government and many of its programs.

EU ponders 'paradox' of US threats of tariffs, land grab

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — After three years spent trying to deter Russia from destroying Ukraine, European Union leaders grappled Monday with possible responses to a major ally who appears determined to start a trade war or perhaps even seize part of their territory.

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said that it would "be a cruel paradox, if during the time of this direct Russian threat and Chinese expansion"

that the EU and the United States might end up in a "conflict among allies."

Since taking office in the White House last month, President Donald Trump has threatened to impose tariffs on EU imports and refused to rule out the use of military force to take control of Greenland, an autonomous territory of Denmark.

Trump has also mystified the Europeans by showing little sign of how he intends to end the war in Ukraine within six

months as promised, let alone in a day, as he boasted during the election campaign last year.

Tusk, whose country currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, said that Trump's threats amount to "a serious test" of European unity, and "in a very strange context, because it's the first time where we have such a problem among allies."

"We have to do everything to avoid this totally unnecessary and stupid tariff war or trade war," Tusk told reporters in

Brussels, where EU leaders were meeting for talks on boosting and improving military spending, and ramping up Europe's defense industry.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the EU is "a power that stands its ground" and that if hit with tariffs, the bloc "would have to make itself respected." He said Trump's threats are "pushing Europeans to be more united, more active in addressing their collective security challenges."

Troops, vets urge restart of Afghan evacuations

By LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

Veterans groups are urging President Donald Trump to make exceptions for Afghan allies who are now barred from entering the United States under executive orders, including the families of active-duty service members left behind following the 2021 withdrawal from Afghanistan.

At least 200 service members' families are among thousands more in limbo following the suspension of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, according to #AfghanEvac, a nonprofit, veteran-led coalition that has worked to evacuate Afghans who assisted U.S. forces during the 20-year war.

Another executive order barring the distribution of foreign aid has halted services for Afghans seeking special immi-

grant visas, which provide a path for legal entry.

One paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division told Stars and Stripes that he has been struggling to find a solution for his sister, who has spent more than three years trying to escape Afghanistan as a refugee.

The paratrooper, who was granted anonymity for fear of his family's safety, worked as an interpreter with the U.S. military in Afghanistan for three years — often accompanying Army Special Forces on counterterrorism operations, including night raids, he said.

When the Taliban seized control in August 2021, he was able to evacuate along with several of his family members. His sister, lacking the necessary paperwork and being too far from the Kabul airport, had to stay behind.

Over the past three years, while serving in the Army, he has helped move her refugee case forward.

"She was almost done," he said. "If this wouldn't have happened, she would be out of the country within a month or two."

"I think serving this country is one of the best things that happened in my life and I will continue to serve," he added. "But this decision to leave U.S. service members' families behind is totally unfair."

The Defense Department did not respond to questions about whether it is seeking to create exceptions for service members' Afghan families or provide resources for those who have been impacted.

The paratrooper said that he has been reaching out to lawmakers and federal officials in the Pentagon in the hope of be-

ing reunited with his sister. But he worries that little will be done without presidential action.

"He is my commander," the service member said of Trump. "Who is now going to help if he's not?"

Shawn VanDiver, veteran and president of the coalition #AfghanEvac, said he believes this is an unintended consequence and expects the administration will take steps to amend the order.

"We're not laying any blame at anyone's feet," he said. "We know that in the early days of an administration it can be chaotic — growing pains. But we want to influence their decision-making process by making sure they know the impact."

At least 40,000 Afghans have been impacted by the suspension of the refugee program, according to #AfghanEvac.

USS Vinson group leaves Thailand after hull scrape

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The USS Carl Vinson and its strike group recently steamed out of Thailand, where two of the aircraft carrier's escorts scraped hulls.

Prior to their departure, the guided-missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence and the guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton were involved in an allision — meaning the struck vessel was not moving — according to U.S. 7th Fleet spokeswoman Lt. j.g. Sarah Merrill.

The incident occurred Jan. 27, the same day the carrier strike group pulled into Laem Chabang, Thailand, she said by email.

"No injuries occurred, and a full analysis of the damage is in progress," Merrill wrote. "We are unable to provide further details

at this time due to the ongoing investigation."

The William P. Lawrence struck the Princeton, USNI News reported Friday. Both ships appeared to depart Friday with the Carl Vinson and a third escort, the guided-missile destroyer USS Sterett, USNI reported.

The strike group's five-day stopover primarily included cultural exchanges, community relations events and tours, according to a Friday news release from Carrier Strike Group One.

"Port visits like this are a testament to the vital importance of the U.S.-Thailand Alliance and Partnership that contributes to peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region," Rear Adm. Michael Wosje, the carrier strike group commander, said in the release.

Mount Whitney passes command to fighter pilot

By ALISON BATH
Stars and Stripes

GAETA, Italy — A Navy ship in service for 53 years that has been a symbol of NATO strength for nearly two decades has a new commander.

Capt. Colin Price took over command of the amphibious command ship USS Mount Whitney from Capt. Matthew Kiser during a change of command ceremony Friday in the Mediterranean Sea port city north of Naples where the ship is homeported.

A fighter pilot who most recently served as executive officer of the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, Price now is in charge of a vessel that the Navy potentially seeks to decommission next year.

Retired Navy leaders have

panned the idea, saying that Mount Whitney is necessary to keep Russia in check and that the plan ignored lessons learned from the war in Ukraine.

Mount Whitney is the Navy's fourth-oldest commissioned active ship and also the flagship of U.S. 6th Fleet.

It wasn't clear Friday whether the decommissioning plans are still in place, but shipboard officials noted the vessel's upcoming full schedule.

"It is the multi-use capabilities of our naval vessels to wage war as well as deliver precious cargo and then bring lasting peace that makes the maritime environment so special," Vice Adm. Jeffrey Anderson, commander of 6th Fleet and Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO, said during the ceremony.

US orders Panama to limit Chinese sway on canal

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY — U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio brought a warning to Panamanian leader José Raúl Mulino on Sunday: Immediately reduce what President Donald Trump says is Chinese influence over the Panama Canal area or face potential retaliation from the United States.

Rubio, traveling to the Central American country and touring the Panama Canal on his first foreign trip as top U.S. diplomat, held face-to-face talks with Mulino, who has resisted pressure from the new U.S. government over management of a waterway that is vital to global trade.

Mulino told reporters after the meeting that Rubio made “no real threat of retaking the canal or the use of force.”

Speaking on behalf of Trump, who has demanded that the canal be returned to U.S. control, Rubio told Mulino that Trump believed that China’s presence in the canal area may violate a

treaty that led the United States to turn the waterway over to Panama in 1999. That treaty calls for the permanent neutrality of the American-built canal.

“Secretary Rubio made clear that this status quo is unacceptable and that absent immediate changes, it would require the United States to take measures necessary to protect its rights under the treaty,” the State Department said in a summary of the meeting.

The statement was unusually blunt in diplomatic terms, but in keeping with the tenor and tone Trump has set for foreign policy.

Trump has been increasing pressure on Washington’s neighbors and allies, including the canal demand and announcing Saturday that he was imposing major tariffs on Canada and Mexico. That launched a trade war by prompting retaliation from those close allies.

Mulino, meanwhile, called his talks with Rubio “respectful” and “positive” and said he

did not “feel like there’s a real threat against the treaty and its validity.”

The president did say Panama would not be renewing its agreement with China’s Belt and Road Initiative when it expires. Panama joined the initiative, which promotes and funds infrastructure and development projects that critics say leave poor member countries heavily indebted to China, after dropping diplomatic recognition of Taiwan and recognizing Beijing.

Rubio later toured the canal at sunset with its administrator, Ricaurte Vásquez, who has said the waterway will remain in Panama’s hands and open to all countries. Rubio crossed the lock and visited the control tower, looking down over the water below, where a red tanker was passing through.

Earlier, about 200 people marched in the capital, carrying Panamanian flags and shouting “Marco Rubio out of Panama,” “Long live national sovereign-

ty” and “One territory, one flag” while the meeting was going on. Some burned a banner with images of Trump and Rubio after being stopped short of the presidential palace by riot police.

Rubio also pressed Trump’s top focus — curbing illegal immigration — telling Panama’s president that it was important to collaborate on the work and thanked him for taking back migrants.

On Monday, Rubio viewed a deportation flight carrying 43 migrants before it took off from Panama.

Rubio was on the tarmac for the departure of the flight, which was carrying 32 men and 11 women back to Colombia after they had crossed the Darien Gap and were stopped in Panama.

The State Department said such deportations send a strong message of deterrence and that the U.S. has provided Panama with financial assistance to the tune of almost \$2.7 million in flights and tickets.

Crews return to Potomac River to get wreckage

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Va. — Salvage crews have removed a large portion of a commercial jet from the Potomac River near Washington’s Reagan National Airport on Monday, five days after a midair collision last week that killed 67 people.

Authorities have said the operation to remove the plane will take several days and they will then work to remove the military helicopter involved in the crash.

Authorities have recovered and identified 55 of the 67 people killed in the crash and Washington, D.C., Fire and EMS Chief John Donnelly has said they are confident all will be found.

Crews were expected to begin the work of lifting the

wreckage on Monday and at daybreak they could be seen aboard a vessel with a crane.

More than 300 responders were taking part in the recovery effort at a given time, officials said. Two Navy barges were also deployed to lift heavy wreckage.

Divers and salvage workers are adhering to strict protocols and will stop moving debris if a body is found, Col. Francis B. Pera of the Army Corps of Engineers said Sunday. The “dignified recovery” of remains takes precedence over all else, he said.

Portions of the two aircraft that collided over the river Wednesday night near Reagan Washington National Airport — an American Airlines jet with 64 people aboard and an Army

Black Hawk helicopter with 3 aboard — will be loaded onto flatbed trucks and taken to a hangar for investigation.

The crash occurred when the jet, en route from Wichita, Kan., was about to land. The Black Hawk was on a training mission. There were no survivors.

On Sunday, family members were taken in buses with a police escort to the Potomac River bank near where the two aircraft came to rest after colliding.

The plane’s passengers included figure skaters returning from the 2025 U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Wichita and a group of hunters returning from a guided trip. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan Austin O’Hara, 28, of Lilburn, Ga.; Chief Warrant Officer 2 Andrew Loyd

Eaves, 39, of Great Mills, Md.; and Capt. Rebecca M. Lobach, of Durham, N.C., were in the helicopter.

Federal investigators were working to piece together the events that led to the collision. Full investigations typically take a year or more. Investigators hope to have a preliminary report within 30 days.

Wednesday’s crash was the deadliest in the U.S. since Nov. 12, 2001, when a jet slammed into a New York City neighborhood just after takeoff, killing all 260 people on board and five on the ground.

Experts stress that plane travel is overwhelmingly safe, but the crowded airspace around Reagan Airport can challenge even experienced pilots.

Trump agrees to pause tariffs on Mexico

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum put their planned tariffs on hold Monday for a month to give time for further negotiations, and Mexico said it planned to deploy 10,000 members of its national guard to address drug trafficking.

As of early Monday afternoon, Trump's tariffs against Canada and China were still slated to go into effect Tuesday, but uncertainty remained about the durability of any deals and whether the tariffs were a harbinger of a broader trade war, as Trump has promised more import taxes to come.

The U.S. and Mexican leaders announced the pause after what Trump described on social media as a "very friendly conversation," and he said he looked forward to the upcoming talks.

Trump said the talks would be headed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of Treasury Scott Bessent and Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick and high-level representatives of Mexico. As a condition ahead of the talks, Sheinbaum laid out changes in border policies, and Trump confirmed Mexico's deployment of troops.

"Mexico will reinforce the northern border with 10,000 members of the National Guard immediately, to stop drug traf-

ficking from Mexico to the United States, in particular fentanyl," Sheinbaum posted on X. "The United States commits to work to stop the trafficking of high-powered weapons to Mexico."

Trump posted earlier on social media that he spoke Monday morning with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and would speak with him again at 3 p.m. Both Canada and Mexico had plans to levy their own tariffs in response to U.S. actions, but Mexico is holding off for the moment.

Trump used his social media post to repeat his complaints that Canada has been uncooperative, despite decades of friendship

and partnerships that range from World War II to the response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the U.S.

Financial markets, businesses and consumers are trying to prepare for the possibility of the new tariffs. Stock markets opened with a modest selloff, suggesting some hope that the import taxes that could push up inflation and disrupt global trade and growth would be short-lived.

But the outlook reflected a deep uncertainty about a Republican president who has talked with adoration about tariffs, even saying the U.S. government made a mistake in 1913 by switching to income taxes as its primary revenue source.

Dozens put on paid leave over Trump anti-DEI order

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dozens of employees at the U.S. Education Department were put on paid administrative leave in response to President Donald Trump's order banning diversity, equity and inclusion programs in the federal government, according to a labor union that represents hundreds of workers in the agency.

It's unclear how many workers were put on leave or for what reasons, said Sheria Smith, president of American Federation of

Government Employees Local 252. The majority of employees placed on leave do not work in DEI initiatives and span all branches of the agency, she said, from an office that sends billions of dollars to K-12 schools to an investigative office that enforces civil rights laws.

The shakeup comes as Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency pushes to cut programs and federal workers at departments across the government, including the U.S. Agency for International Development.

At least 55 Education Department workers received an email Friday saying they were being put on paid leave effective immediately pursuant to Trump's executive order. It wasn't being done for "any disciplinary purpose," according to a copy of the email obtained by The Associated Press.

Those placed on leave lost access to their government email accounts and were told not to go to the office. They include a range of staff members and managers across the depart-

ment, which employs more than 4,000 workers in Washington and regional offices across the country.

A department spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment.

A common factor among those put on leave is that most appear to have taken a voluntary diversity training course offered by the department, Smith said. The Diversity Change Agent program has been promoted by the agency for years, including during Trump's first term in office.

Anti-deportation protests in LA block major freeway

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Thousands of people protesting mass deportations planned by President Donald Trump marched in Southern California on Sunday, including in downtown Los Angeles where demonstrators blocked a major freeway for several hours.

Protesters gathered in the morning on LA's historic Olvera Street, which dates to Spanish

and Mexican rule, before marching to City Hall. They called for immigration reform and carried banners with slogans like "Nobody is illegal."

By the afternoon, marchers had blocked all lanes of U.S. 101, causing traffic to back up in both directions and on surface streets. The demonstrators sat down in lanes, while a cordon of California Highway Patrol officers stood by. It took more than

five hours for the freeway to fully reopen, CHP Lt. Matt Gutierrez said Sunday evening.

The CHP and the Los Angeles Police Department said there were no reports of arrests.

To the east, hundreds of people protested in the city of Riverside. Passing motorists honked and yelled out in support of demonstrators waving flags at an intersection, the Southern California News

Group reported.

And in San Diego, hundreds rallied near the city's convention center on Sunday.

In Texas, demonstrators gathered in downtown Dallas on Sunday in a pair of protests against recent arrests by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Dallas police told The Associated Press that approximately 1,600 people gathered between the two rallies.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ex-Fed official arrested for alleged espionage

DC WASHINGTON — Federal authorities have arrested a former Federal Reserve senior adviser for allegedly giving inside economic information to China.

A grand jury indictment accuses John Harold Rogers, 63, of Vienna, Va., of stealing Federal Reserve trade secrets and selling them to Chinese intelligence officials for at least \$450,000 by posing as a university professor in China. He is also accused of lying to Federal Reserve investigators and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau officials.

“As alleged in the indictment, Rogers betrayed his country while employed at the Federal Reserve by providing restricted U.S. financial and economic information to Chinese government intelligence officers,” said Assistant Director Kevin Vorn-dran of the FBI Counterintelligence Division in an announcement of Rogers’ indictment and arrest.

Boy dies in hyperbaric oxygen chamber blast

MI ROYAL OAK — A 5-year-old boy from Michigan died after a hyperbaric chamber exploded while he was inside, police have confirmed.

The explosion happened at the Oxford Center medical facility in Troy.

The boy, who was from Royal Oak, north of Detroit, was found dead inside the chamber when emergency services arrived, the Troy police and fire departments said in a statement.

His mother, who was stand-

ing next to the chamber when it ignited, suffered injuries to her arms, police Lt. Ben Hancock said at a news conference. “We don’t know exactly what the child was being treated for at the center today,” he added.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy is used to speed up the healing of wounds or in the case of infections where tissues are in need of oxygen, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine.

Governor bans Jan. 6 rioters from state jobs

IL SPRINGFIELD — Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker has directed the state’s hiring authority to block all those who participated in the deadly Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol from state employment.

The order would apply to more than 50 people from Illinois who were given pardons or commutations by President Donald Trump in one of the earliest acts of his second term and marks the latest effort by the blue state governor to push back against Trump.

In a letter addressed to Raven A. DeVaughn, director of the Department of Central Management Services, which is responsible for hiring state personnel, Pritzker said people who participated in the attack should be disqualified from state employment. The governor called their behavior “infamous and disgraceful conduct that is antithetical to the mission of the State.”

Beloved turkey went missing during cold snap

KS WICHITA — Everyone wanted to know if Tom was OK.

The subzero conditions last

week in Wichita were the coldest January temperatures since 1988, according to the National Weather Service.

Schools shut down, residents were staying inside — and East Wichita’s beloved wild turkey was nowhere to be found.

The bird had resided at a busy intersection for more than a year before the Arctic chill hit.

“The community was worried,” said Samantha Vohs, a teacher who moonlights as the creator of the turkey’s Facebook page, which has nearly 8,000 followers. “People were messaging me, asking me if I’ve seen him, or if people have sent in videos or pictures, and we hadn’t.”

As anxieties and messages grew, Vohs went out to find the turkey. There he was, at his usual spot, huddling for warmth. A picture was promptly shared by a local television station, sparking joy across East Wichita.

3 board members resign amid crematory scandal

MD BALTIMORE — Three members of Maryland’s Board of Morticians and Funeral Directors resigned after Gov. Wes Moore requested board leadership step down following outcry over the handling of abysmal conditions at a crematory.

Former board president Michele P. Kutta, who was appointed to the board by then-Gov. Larry Hogan and would have ended her term this year, said Moore approached four members of the board’s executive team and offered them the choice to resign or be removed.

“We really weren’t given much of a choice,” she said. “I

chose to resign.”

Kutta confirmed that the first and second vice presidents of the board, Brandon Wylie and Patrick Thompson, also resigned.

Heaven Bound was shut down by the board on Jan. 17 after an inspection found that the facility’s cremation chamber had stopped working and bodies had piled up until they blocked a refrigeration unit door from closing, according to disciplinary documents. The inspector also found 18 bodies that had been stored in too-warm temperatures. Three bodies, according to the documents, were “visibly decomposing.”

Last big-city cattle stockyard up for sale

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — On the edge of a thriving downtown dotted with luxury hotels and trendy restaurants is a more than 100-year-old relic of Oklahoma City’s western heritage: One of the world’s largest cattle stockyards.

But maybe not for much longer.

The Oklahoma National Stockyards — the last big-city stockyard in the U.S. — is for sale. The \$27 million price tag includes 100 acres of prime property along the Oklahoma River in a growing city of roughly 700,000 residents, where a state-of-the-art NBA arena is set to break ground and a developer is pushing plans for the country’s tallest skyscraper.

Although the stockyard’s owners are hopeful a buyer will keep the cattle coming, they acknowledge the land is attractive for redevelopment.

— From wire reports

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Sources: Spurs get Fox in 3-team trade

Associated Press

Victor Wembanyama has a new point guard: De'Aaron Fox is on his way out of Sacramento and headed to San Antonio.

Fox is one of the centerpieces of a trade agreed to by three teams, one that sends two-time All-Star Zach LaVine from Chicago to the Kings, Zach Collins from the Spurs to the Bulls and Kevin Huerter from Sacramento to Chicago, two people with knowledge of the discussions said Sunday night.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the trade has not gone through the league approval process and cannot be finalized until that happens.

Also in the trade, according to the people who spoke to AP: Jordan McLaughlin goes from the Kings to San Antonio, Sidy Cissoko goes from the Spurs to Sacramento and Tre Jones leaves

San Antonio for the Bulls. There is also a slew of draft capital in the agreement, with the Kings set to get at least three first-round picks, one of the people said.

The NBA's trade deadline is Thursday afternoon. This three-team deal was agreed upon on the same day that the stunning deal sending Luka Doncic from the Mavericks to the Lakers in exchange for Anthony Davis was announced.

Fox's addition is huge for the Spurs. Wembanyama — the reigning rookie of the year — is continuing his climb toward superstardom. He's set to make his All-Star Game debut later this month, is among the favorites to win defensive player of the year and will probably get MVP votes.

It's no surprise that Fox, who is extension-eligible this summer, wanted to come to San An-

tonio: Playing alongside one of the game's best centers, a 7-foot-4 force that most defenses don't have an answer for, would appeal to any point guard in the game.

Fox is averaging 25 points, 6.1 assists and five rebounds per game this season for Sacramento. He's been an All-Star and an All-NBA player, and now in his eighth season gets to start anew alongside Wembanyama.

And the Spurs made that happen without giving up much of their copious stash of draft picks or the keys to their young core — players like rookie Stephon Castle, Jeremy Sochan and Keldon Johnson. San Antonio also held on to veterans Chris Paul and Harrison Barnes, both of whom are in their first year with the Spurs.

It's a new start for LaVine as well — sort of. He goes to the Kings, where he'll be reunited

with former Chicago teammate DeMar DeRozan and is set to play alongside a perennial All-NBA candidate in Domantas Sabonis.

LaVine is averaging 24 points per game this season, putting him on pace to average at least that many points for the fifth time. He's a 20.7-point-per-game scorer for his career after stints with the Timberwolves and Bulls.

Huerter has averaged 11.5 points in his career, first with Atlanta and then with Sacramento. He'll also benefit from a fresh start after coming off the bench 28 times in 43 appearances with the Kings this season.

Collins averaged 4.6 points for San Antonio, Jones averaged 4.4 points and Cissoko 1.3 points in 17 appearances with the Spurs. McLaughlin averaged 1.9 points in 28 games for Sacramento.

Cavs score franchise-record 91 in first half to rout Mavs

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Evan Mobley scored 22 points and Cleveland set a franchise record with 91 in the first half as the Cavaliers romped to a 144-101 win on Sunday over Dallas just hours after the Mavericks traded superstar Luka Doncic to the Lakers for Anthony Davis.

Darius Garland added 17 points and 10 assists as Cleveland improved the league's best record to 40-9.

Sam Merrill made nine 3-pointers and the Cavs set a franchise record with 26 3s.

"Everyone was just locked in even with the trade and everything that was going on today," said All-Star forward Mobley, who added 11 rebounds in 23 minutes. "We started hot and kept our foot on the gas."

Their 91 points tied for the third-most in a first half in league history.

Jaden Hardy paced Dallas with 21 points.

Pistons 127, Bulls 119: Cade Cunningham had 22 points and 15 assists as host Detroit defeated Chicago.

The Pistons overcame a triple-double from Nikola Vucevic, who finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists.

Jalen Duren added 21 points and 13 re-

bounds for Detroit, while sixth-man Malik Beasley scored 19. The Pistons finished with seven players in double figures.

Coby White led the Bulls with 22 points, while Josh Giddey added 20 points and 11 rebounds.

Raptors 115, Clippers 108: RJ Barrett scored 20 points, Jakob Poeltl had 10 points and 10 rebounds and host Toronto beat Los Angeles for its eighth win in the past 10 games.

Gradey Dick scored 18 points and Scottie Barnes had 15 as the Raptors snapped a five-game losing streak against the Clippers.

Ochai Agbaji had 12 points, Immanuel Quickley scored 11 and Ja'Kobe Walter scored 10 as seven Toronto players reached double digits.

James Harden had 25 points and Ivica Zubac scored 18 for the Clippers, who lost for the first time in three games.

Celtics 118, 76ers 110: Jayson Tatum scored 13 of his 35 points in the fourth quarter and visiting Boston rallied from a 26-point deficit to beat Philadelphia.

Tatum added 11 assists and seven rebounds. Jaylen Brown scored 21 points and

had 10 rebounds and six assists. Kristaps Porzingis scored 18 points and Derrick White added 17.

Tyrese Maxey scored 23 points in the first half to help put the 76ers up by 23 at the break. Maxey finished with 34 points, his fifth straight 30-point game and 14th consecutive game of 28 or more.

Kelly Oubre had 18 points and 13 rebounds for Philadelphia, Guerschon Yabusele scored 21 points and Ricky Council IV added 11 points, eight assists and seven rebounds.

Grizzlies 132, Bucks 119: Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 37 points and visiting Memphis continued its recent mastery of Milwaukee with a victory.

The Grizzlies have won their last seven meetings with the Bucks, who last beat Memphis 126-114 in Milwaukee on Jan. 19, 2022. The Grizzlies won this one without star guard Ja Morant, who missed a second straight game due to a sore right shoulder.

The Bucks lost for the fourth time in five games despite getting 30 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists from Giannis Antetokounmpo. Khris Middleton added 20 points.

Rangers top Knights; Quick gets 400th win

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Defenseman K'Andre Miller scored the go-ahead goal and Jonathan Quick stopped 34 shots to get his 400th career win as the New York Rangers beat the Vegas Golden Knights 4-2 on Sunday night.

Artemi Panarin and Mika Zibanejad each had a goal and two assists, Alexis Lafreniere also scored and J.T. Miller had two assists in his first home game since returning to the Rangers in a trade with Vancouver. New York snapped a three-game losing streak.

Quick had 13 saves in the first period, 14 in the second and seven in the third to become the first U.S.-born goalie to reach the 400-win mark.

Following the victory, Quick immediately credited his teammates.

"Great effort up and down the lineup," the 39-year-old goaltender said. "Everybody competed. ... That was a gutsy effort."

Quick, who grew up as a Rangers fan in Connecticut and recorded 370 wins for the Los Angeles Kings and is in his second season in New York, was asked what personal meaning the win represented.

"It means I have been lucky enough to play with a lot of great hockey players who value winning and put that above all else," he said. "I'm just grateful that I have been on some great teams over the course of my career, this one included here."

Quick is the 15th goalie in NHL history to reach the 400-win mark, and the third active — joining Marc-Andre Fleury (572) and Sergei Bobrovsky (418). He is the fourth to have played for New York — joining Henrik Lundqvist, Terry Sawchuk and Jacques Plante.

Jack Eichel scored two goals for Vegas, which lost its third straight. Adin Hill had 24 saves.

Panthers 6, Islanders 3: Carter Verhaeghe had his fourth career hat trick, Sam Reinhart

scored his 31st goal and host Florida beat New York to end the Islanders' winning streak at seven games.

Verhaeghe added an assist on Matthew Tkachuk's empty-netter for a four-point night. Reinhart also had an assist.

Evan Rodrigues also scored for the Panthers, and Spencer Knight made 31 saves. Aleksander Barkov had three assists, and Gustav Forsling added two assists.

Kyle MacLean, Jean-Gabriel Pageau and Marc Gatcomb scored for New York. Jakub Skarek stopped 27 shots.

Sabres 4, Devils 3: Tage Thompson had a goal and two assists before leaving the game in the third period after taking a check to the head, and host Buffalo held on to beat New Jersey.

JJ Peterka, Ryan McLeod and Jason Zucker also scored for the Sabres, who won their third in a row. Ukko-Pekka Luukkonen made 21 saves.

Devils forward Stefan Noesen received a game misconduct penalty when he elbowed Thompson's face at 5:11 into the third period. Thompson was lunging for the puck near the blue line when Noesen knocked it away and continued charging into Thompson. The hit knocked Thompson's helmet off and spun him around. Buffalo's top scorer was down on the ice for a moment before rising to one knee and skating off the ice on his way to the dressing room.

Paul Cotter scored two goals for New Jersey in the opener of a two-game trip. Jack Hughes had a short-handed goal 21 seconds after Noesen's penalty to get the Devils within a goal. Jake Allen stopped 23 of 27 shots before getting pulled late in the second period. Nico Dawes made seven saves.

Avalanche 2, Flyers 0: Mackenzie Blackwood made 24 saves for his second straight shutout, Nathan MacKinnon scored to extend his NHL points lead and host Colorado beat Philadelphia

to push the Flyers' scoreless streak to just over three games.

Philadelphia has been shut out in three straight games and hasn't scored since Scott Laughton's empty-netter against New Jersey on Monday night. The Flyers have gone 180 minutes, 15 seconds without a goal.

MacKinnon has 20 goals and a league-high 60 assists for 80 points, three more than Edmonton's Leon Draisaitl. Sam Girard also scored.

Blackwood had consecutive shutouts for the third time in his career. He has three shutouts this season and 13 overall.

Stars 5, Blue Jackets 3: Evgenii Dadonov scored two goals in the final 8:38 as host Dallas beat Columbus.

Dadonov's tie-breaking deflection was confirmed via video review for not having his stick above the crossbar. He added a wraparound goal with 4:13 left.

Wyatt Johnston had a goal and an assist while Mason Marchment and Logan Stankoven also scored for the Stars, who have won five consecutive games. Casey DeSmith made 27 saves.

Cole Sillinger, Adam Fantilli and Ivan Provorov scored for the Blue Jackets, who had three one-goal leads. They lost after winning their three previous games — all in overtime. Elvis Merzlikins stopped 34 shots.

Blues 2, Utah 1: Jordan Kyrou broke a tie on a slap shot at 7:13 of the third period, Jordan Binnington made 24 saves and visiting St. Louis beat Utah to end a four-game losing streak.

Alexandre Texier opened the scoring for the Blues late in the first period. St. Louis beat Utah for the first time this season after losing two previous meetings.

Michael Kesselring tied it for Utah early in the third. Connor Ingram made 27 saves as Utah dropped its third straight at home.

Texier threaded the puck be-

tween Ingram's legs off a wrist shot with 2:19 left in the first. Kesselring tied it at 3:27 of the third on a long-distance slap shot.

Ducks 3, Canadiens 2: Alex Killorn scored the tiebreaking goal with 8:49 to play, and host Anaheim rallied from a two-goal deficit for a victory over Montreal.

Mason McTavish and Frank Vatrano scored 40 seconds apart in the second period for the Ducks, who have won four of five. Killorn had a goal and an assist, while Lukas Dostal made 21 saves.

Joel Armia scored a short-handed goal and Christian Dvorak added a power-play goal in the first period for the Canadiens, who have lost five straight. Sam Montembeault stopped 19 shots in the opener of Montreal's three-game California road trip.

Red Wings 3, Canucks 2 (OT): Alex DeBrincat scored his second goal of the night with 4:18 into overtime and visiting Detroit edged Vancouver.

DeBrincat and Ben Chiarot scored for the Red Wings in regulation, helping Detroit extend its win streak to six straight. Alex Lyon stopped 25 shots.

Pius Suter opened the scoring for the Canucks with his 14th goal of the season and Filip Chytil forced overtime midway through the third period when he buried his first in a Vancouver jersey.

Flames 3, Kraken 2: Yegor Sharangovich and Jonathan Huberdeau each scored on the power play in visiting Calgary's three-goal first period as it held on to beat Seattle.

Morgan Frost also scored and Dan Vladar stopped 27 shots as the Flames retained possession of the second wild card in the Western Conference.

Kaapo Kakko and Brandon Tanev scored for the Kraken, who lost for the fourth time in six games. Joey Daccord finished with 32 saves.

Elliott wins Clash, awaits Daytona 500

Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — NASCAR returned to its roots with a fight-free preseason exhibition at Bowman Gray Stadium and a popular victory with Chase Elliott winning The Clash on Sunday night.

Elliott won his heat Saturday night to start from the pole and essentially dominate on the quarter-mile track where NASCAR's Cup Series last raced in 1971.

NASCAR's reigning most popular driver won The Clash for the first time in his career and joined his father, Bill, as winners of the unofficial season-opener. Bill Elliott won The Clash in 1987 and then parlayed that victory into a win in the Daytona 500 one week later.

Chase Elliott gets his chance to repeat his father's dominance when NASCAR's season officially opens Feb. 16 at Daytona International Speedway.

"Excited to get to Daytona. It's a great way to start the season," Elliott said. "I know it's not a points race, but it is nice to win, for sure. Just really proud of our team for just continuing to keep our heads down and

push forward, for sure."

The Clash is a non-points event that was held at Daytona International Speedway from 1979 to 2021 as the warm-up act to the Daytona 500. NASCAR stepped outside the box in 2022 and moved it across the country to Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

NASCAR this year moved it to Bowman Gray in a throwback to grassroots racing. The Cup Series ran at Bowman Gray from 1958 to 1971 and the stadium is now used for weekly local racing and is the football field for Winston-Salem State University.

The track is notorious for flared tempers and fighting, but made it through two days of NASCAR racing without a single brawl.

"This environment is special. This is a place that has had deep history in NASCAR," Elliott said. "I think they deserve this event, truthfully. I hope we didn't disappoint. It was fun for me, at least. We'll hopefully come back here one day."

Elliott led 172 of the 200 laps in his Chevrolet from Hendrick Motorsports to win the event in

front of an adoring sold-out crowd of 17,000 fans. Most spectators were on their feet every time Elliott picked off a lapped car while battling door-to-door with Denny Hamlin and then holding off Ryan Blaney at the end.

"Thanks everybody for coming out," Elliott told the crowd. "Y'all made for a really cool environment for us. We don't race in stadiums like this, so this is just really cool and appreciate you making the moment special for me and my team. I hope it was a good show for you."

"Had a tough race. Ryan kept me honest there at the end," he continued. "Denny was really good at the second half of that break. I just felt like he was kind of riding, and I was afraid to lose control of the race and not be able to get it back. Fortunately it worked out. Great way to start the season."

Kyle Larson and Josh Berry raced their way into The Clash earlier Sunday night by going 1-2 in the crash-filled last chance qualifying, and Blaney earned a spot based on points scored last season to complete

the 23-driver field.

This year's race marked the Cup Series' first race at the "Mecca of Madhouse" but didn't produce the off-track temper tantrums the Bowman Gray regulars are used to watching during weekly grassroots racing.

But the event was still special.

Richard Childress hails from just 15 minutes away and as a youngster the Hall of Fame team owner sold peanuts in the grandstands. He was in the stands Sunday night watching and before the race began, he stopped by the Fox Sports booth to deliver peanuts and popcorn to the broadcast crew.

"As a kid we jumped the fence and come in and sell peanuts and popcorn, then I'd hang out with all the race drivers, and we had a heck of a time," Childress said. "I said 'Man, as much fun as they are having, I've got to be a race driver.' We'd come over here for a fight and a race would break out."

Blaney finished second in a Ford for Team Penske and was followed by Hamlin in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing.

Williams leads Nebraska to upset of No. 16 Oregon

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Senior guard Brice Williams scored 28 points as Nebraska defeated No. 16 Oregon 77-71 on Sunday night.

Williams was 10 for 18 from the field and added seven rebounds and six assists as the Cornhuskers (14-8, 4-7 Big Ten) won their fourth game of the season over a Top 25 opponent. Juwan Gary added 23 points for Nebraska while Rollie Worster scored 11.

Jackson Shelstad scored 16 points to pace the Ducks (16-6, 5-6), who have lost three games in a row for the first time all sea-

son. Brandon Angel scored 15 points and TJ Bamba added 13 points and six rebounds for Oregon.

Shelstad made a 3-pointer to get the Ducks within 58-53 with 6:02 left to play before the Cornhuskers followed with five straight points. Bamba cut the margin to 70-66 on a three-point play with 56 seconds remaining, but Gary and Williams each hit two free throws to put Nebraska back up 74-66.

No. 18 Illinois 87, Ohio State 79: Will Riley scored 20 of his 24 points in the second half and the Illini rallied from an 11-point deficit to beat the visiting Buck-

eyes.

Morez Johnson Jr. had 14 points and 15 rebounds, Kylan Boswell had 14 points, Tomislav Ivisic had 12 points and 10 rebounds and Dra Gibbs-Lawhorn had 10 points for Illinois (15-7, 7-5 Big Ten), which went on a 15-point run over a five-minute stretch late in the second half.

Devin Royal scored 29 points — 19 in the first half — for Ohio State (13-9, 5-6), which had a three-game winning streak snapped. Bruce Thornton had 22 points and John Mobley Jr. had 18 points.

Ivisic, Illinois' No. 2 scorer

and leading rebounder, returned to action after missing three games with mononucleosis. He played 29 minutes.

No. 19 Memphis 86, Rice 83: PJ Haggerty had 26 points and eight rebounds, Tyrese Hunter added 19 points and the visiting Tigers held on to beat the Owls.

Haggerty scored 14 points in the first half as Memphis (18-4, 8-1 American Athletic Conference) won a fifth straight game.

PJ Carter scored 19 points for the Tigers, who shot 55% and were 11 of 21 on 3-pointers.

Rice shot 45% and were 10-for-25 on 3-pointers.