

New Orleans inches toward normalcy

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Street performers and football fans returned to New Orleans streets as the city inched back toward normalcy while mourning victims of the deadly New Year's rampage in which an Army veteran plowed a pickup truck into revelers.

Fourteen people were killed in the attack along Bourbon Street that officials said was inspired by the Islamic State militant group. The driver, Shamsud-Din Jabbar, was fatally shot in a firefight with police after steering his speeding truck around a barricade and slamming into the crowd. About 30 people were injured.

Authorities finished processing the scene Thursday morning, removing the last of the bodies. Bourbon Street — famous worldwide for music, open-air drinking and festive vibes — re-

opened for business by early afternoon.

The Sugar Bowl college football game between Notre Dame and Georgia, which was postponed by a day in the interest of national security, was played Thursday evening.

Meanwhile, the FBI continued to hunt for clues about Jabbar but, a day into its investigation, the agency said it was confident he was not aided by anyone else in the attack, which killed an 18-year-old aspiring nurse, a single mother, a father of two and a former Princeton University football star, among others.

The FBI said that hours before the attack, Jabbar, a 42-year-old American citizen from Texas, posted five videos on his Facebook account in which he proclaimed his support for ISIS and previewed the violence that he would soon unleash in the

famed French Quarter district.

The New Orleans attack plans also included the placement of crude bombs in the neighborhood in an apparent attempt to cause more carnage, officials said. Two improvised explosive devices left in coolers several blocks apart were rendered safe at the scene. Other devices were determined to be nonfunctional.

Investigators also were trying to understand more about Jabbar's path to radicalization, which they say culminated with him picking up a rented truck in Houston on Dec. 30 and driving it to New Orleans the following night.

The FBI recovered a black ISIS flag from Jabbar's rented pickup and reviewed five videos posted to Facebook, including one in which he said he originally planned to harm his family and friends but was concerned news headlines would not focus

on the "war between the believers and the disbelievers," Christopher Raia, the deputy assistant director of the FBI's counterterrorism division, said.

Jabbar also stated he joined ISIS before last summer and provided a last will and testament, the FBI said.

Jabbar joined the Army in 2007, serving on active duty in human resources and information technology and deploying to Afghanistan from 2009 to 2010, the service said. He transferred to the Army Reserve in 2015 and left in 2020 with the rank of staff sergeant.

A U.S. government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Jabbar traveled to Egypt in 2023, staying in Cairo for a week, before returning to the U.S. and then traveling to Toronto for three days.

It was not immediately clear what he did during those travels.

Soldier shot self in head before Cybertruck exploded

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Army Green Beret inside a Tesla Cybertruck packed with fireworks that exploded outside Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas shot himself in the head just before detonation, authorities said Thursday.

The explosion caused minor injuries to seven people but virtually no damage to the hotel. Clark County Sheriff Kevin McMahon said Matthew Livelsberger, 37, likely planned a more damaging attack but the steel-sided vehicle absorbed much of the force from the crudely built explosive.

Damage from the blast was

mostly limited to the interior of the truck because the explosion "vented out and up" and didn't hit the Trump hotel doors just a few feet away, the sheriff said.

"The level of sophistication is not what we would expect from an individual with this type of military experience," said Kenny Cooper, a special agent in charge for the the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Authorities are still working to determine a motive.

"It's not lost on us that it's in front of the Trump building, that it's a Tesla vehicle, but we don't have information at this point that definitively tells us or

suggests it was because of this particular ideology," said Spencer Evans, the Las Vegas FBI's special agent in charge.

Livelsberger had recently returned from an overseas assignment in Germany and was on approved leave when he died, according to a U.S. official.

A law enforcement official said investigators learned through interviews that he may have gotten into a fight with his wife about relationship issues shortly before he rented the Tesla and bought the guns.

Among the charred items found inside the truck were a handgun at Livelsberger's feet,

another firearm, a number of fireworks, a passport, a military ID, credit cards, an iPhone and a smartwatch, McMahon said.

The cause of death was suicide by gunshot, according to the Clark County coroner.

Livelsberger served in the Green Berets. He had served in the Army since 2006, deploying twice to Afghanistan and serving in Ukraine, Tajikistan, Georgia and Congo, the Army said.

He was awarded a total of five Bronze Stars, including one with a valor device for courage under fire, a combat infantry badge and an Army Commendation Medal with valor.

South Korea's president defies warrant

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean investigators left the official residence of impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol after a near-six-hour standoff on Friday during which he defied their attempt to detain him.

It was the latest confrontation in a political crisis that has paralyzed South Korean politics and seen two heads of state impeached in under a month.

The country's anti-corruption agency said it withdrew its investigators after the presidential security service blocked them from entering Yoon's residence for hours, due to concerns about their safety.

The agency said its outnumbered investigators had several

scuffles with presidential security forces and expressed "serious regret about the attitude of the suspect, who did not comply with the legal process."

It said detaining Yoon would be "virtually impossible" as long as he is protected by the presidential security service. The agency plans to "strongly demand" that the country's acting leader, Deputy Prime Minister Choi Sang-mok, instruct the service to comply with their execution of the detention warrant.

Outside the residence, a large group of pro-Yoon protesters braved freezing temperatures for hours, waving South Korean and American flags while chanting slogans vowing to protect him.

The National Police Agency said it planned to investigate the chief and deputy chiefs of the presidential security service on suspicion of obstructing official duty and summoned them for questioning on Saturday.

Yoon, a former prosecutor, has resisted investigators' attempts to question him for weeks.

The last time he is known to have left the residence was on Dec. 12, when he went to the nearby presidential office to make a televised statement to the nation, making a defiant statement that he will fight efforts to oust him.

Investigators from the country's anti-corruption agency are weighing charges of rebellion

after Yoon, apparently frustrated that his policies were blocked by an opposition-dominated parliament, declared martial law on Dec. 3 and dispatched troops to surround the National Assembly.

Parliament overturned the declaration within hours in an unanimous vote and impeached Yoon on Dec. 14, accusing him of rebellion, while South Korean anti-corruption authorities and public prosecutors opened separate investigations into the events.

A Seoul court issued a warrant to detain Yoon and a separate warrant to search his residence on Tuesday, but enforcing them is complicated as long as he remains in his official residence.

Zelenskyy: Trump strength, unpredictability can help

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — U.S. President-elect Donald Trump is "strong and unpredictable," and those qualities can be a decisive factor in his policy approach to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

However, Zelenskyy said it won't be possible to end the almost three years of war in one day, as Trump claimed during his election campaign he could do.

"The 'hot' stage of the war can end quite quickly, if Trump is strong in his position," Zelenskyy said in a Ukrainian television interview Thursday, referring to fighting on the battlefield.

Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, hasn't publicly fleshed out his policy on Ukraine but his previous comments have

put a question mark over whether the United States will continue to be Ukraine's biggest — and most important — military backer.

Zelenskyy is eager to guarantee that Washington's support keeps coming, and he met with Trump in New York even before last November's U.S. presidential election.

With the war about to enter its fourth year next month, and with Trump coming to power, the question of how and when Europe's biggest conflict since World War II might end has come to the fore.

Trump responded favorably to the possibility raised by French President Emmanuel Macron of Western peacekeepers being deployed in Ukraine to oversee an agreement that stops the fighting, Zelenskyy said. He met with Trump and Macron in Paris last month.

At least 30 people killed by Israeli strikes in Gaza

Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip — At least 30 people were killed in Gaza by Israeli strikes overnight and into Friday morning, hospital staff said, as sirens also sounded across Israel and stalled ceasefire talks were set to resume.

Staff at the Al Aqsa Martyrs hospital said more than a dozen women and children were killed in strikes that hit various places in Central Gaza, including Nuseirat, Zawaida, Maghazi and Deir al Balah. Dozens of people were also killed across the enclave the previous day, bringing the total of people killed in the past 24 hours to 56.

The Israeli army did not comment on the latest strikes. However, in a statement Friday, it said during the past day it had struck dozens of Hamas gathering points and command and control centers throughout Ga-

za, areas where Hamas had planned and executed attacks. The army said measures were taken to mitigate civilian harm, such as using precise munitions and aerial surveillance.

As the attacks were underway, efforts at ceasefire negotiations were expected to resume Friday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said he had authorized a delegation from the Mossad intelligence agency, the Shin Bet internal security agency and the military to continue negotiations in Qatar. The delegation is leaving for Qatar on Friday.

The U.S.-led talks have repeatedly stalled during 15 months of war, which was sparked by Hamas-led militants' Oct. 7, 2023 attack into Israel. The militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducted around 250.

House speaker struggles to keep position

From wire reports

Rep. Mike Johnson fell short Friday in the first round of voting for House speaker.

Three fellow Republicans voted against the Louisiana lawmaker in a chamber in which Republicans hold one of the slimmest majorities in congressional history.

Johnson needs 218 votes to become speaker if all members are present and vote for a named candidate.

Despite opposition from his own GOP colleagues, Johnson arrived with outward confidence after working into the night to sway hard-line hold-

outs.

A flop by Johnson could throw Monday's congressional certification of Trump's 2024 election victory into turmoil without a House speaker.

Even backing from Trump himself, usually a sure bet for Republicans, was no guarantee Johnson would stay in power.

"We don't have time for drama," Johnson said as he walked into the Capitol.

The Louisiana Republican received a renewed nod of support from Trump.

"A win for Mike today will be a big win for the Republican Party," Trump posted on social

media.

What was once a ceremonial day with newly elected lawmakers arriving to be sworn into office, often with family, friends and children in tow, has evolved into a high-stakes vote for the office of House speaker, among the most powerful elected positions in Washington.

While the Senate is able to convene on its own and has already elected party leaders — Sen. John Thune as the Republican majority leader and Sen. Chuck Schumer for the Democratic minority — the House must first elect its speaker, a role required by the Constitu-

tion, second in the line of succession to the president.

Congress has been here before, when it took Republicans nearly a week and 15 rounds of voting to elect Kevin McCarthy as speaker in 2023, a spectacle unseen in modern times. McCarthy was then dumped by his party, a historic first, but he was also part of a long list of GOP speakers chased to early exits.

The stakes are higher this year as Trump prepares to return to the White House with the House and Senate in GOP control, and promising to deliver big on a 100-day agenda.

Surgeon general wants cancer warning on alcohol

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Alcohol is a leading cause of cancer, a risk that should be clearly labeled on drinks Americans consume, U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy proposed on Friday.

Murthy's advisory comes as research and evidence mounts about the bad effects that alcohol has on human health, but his proposal for a label would require a rare approval from the U.S. Congress.

Americans should be better informed about the link between alcohol and cancer, in particular, Murthy argues in his

advisory, noting alcohol consumption is to blame for nearly one million preventable cancer cases in the U.S. over the last decade. About 20,000 people die every year from those alcohol-related cancer cases, according to his advisory.

Bottles of beer, wine and liquor already carry warning labels that say pregnant women should not drink and that alcohol consumption can impair someone's ability to drive a car. But Murthy's proposed label would go even further, raising awareness about the risk for cancer, too.

"It's pretty crazy that there's a lot more information on a can of peas than on a bottle of whiskey," said Dr. Timothy Naimi, who directs the Canadian Institute for Substance Use Research at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. "Consumers have the right to basic information about health risks, serving size and drinks per container."

Consuming alcohol raises the risk of developing at least seven types of cancer diseases, including liver, breast and throat cancer, research has found. His advisory also notes that as a per-

son's alcohol consumption goes up, so does the risk for developing those illnesses.

"For individuals, be aware that cancer risk increases as you drink more alcohol," Murthy wrote Friday on social media. "As you consider whether or how much to drink, keep in mind that less is better when it comes to cancer risk."

Even with the surgeon general's advisory and new research that shows the dangers of drinking, it's unlikely Congress would act swiftly to enact a new surgeon general's warning on alcohol products.

Federal courts decline to refer Thomas over ethics

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal courts will not refer allegations that Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas may have violated ethics laws to the Justice Department, the judiciary's policymaking body said Thursday.

Thomas has agreed to follow updated requirements on reporting trips and gifts, including clearer guidelines on hospitali-

ty from friends, the U.S. Judicial Conference wrote to Democratic senators who had called for an investigation into undisclosed acceptance of luxury trips.

Thomas has previously said he wasn't required to disclose the many trips he and his wife took that were paid for by wealthy benefactors like Republican megadonor Harlan Crow because they are close personal

friends. The court didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Thursday.

The Supreme Court adopted its first code of ethics in 2023 in the face of sustained criticism, though the new code still lacks a means of enforcement.

It's unclear whether the law allows the U.S. Judicial Conference to make a criminal referral regarding a Supreme Court justice, U.S. District Judge Rob-

ert Conrad wrote. He serves as secretary for the conference, which sets policy for the federal court system and is led by Chief Justice John Roberts.

A referral in this case isn't necessary, Conrad said, because two Democratic senators called on Attorney General Merrick Garland to appoint a special counsel over the summer. No such appointment has been publicly made.

Biden rejects Nippon Steel's proposed deal for US Steel

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has rejected the nearly \$15 billion proposed deal for Nippon Steel of Japan to purchase Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel — affirming his vow in March to block the acquisition.

“We need major U.S. companies representing the major share of US steelmaking capacity to keep leading the fight on behalf of America’s national interests,” Biden said in a Friday morning statement.

His decision comes after the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, known as CFIUS, failed to reach consensus on the possible national security risks of the deal last month, and sent a long-awaited report on the merger to Biden who had 15 days to reach a final decision.

The committee, chaired by Treasury Secretary Janet Yel-

len and made up of other Cabinet members, can recommend that the president block a transaction, and federal law gives the president that power.

A U.S. official familiar with the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said last month that some federal agencies represented on the panel were skeptical that allowing a Japanese company to buy an American-owned steelmaker would create national security risks.

The decision, which comes just weeks before the Democratic president is set to leave office, could potentially damage relations between the U.S. and Japan, which is America’s biggest ally in Asia. Japan is also the largest foreign holder of U.S. debt.

Biden previously came out against the deal last March — and was backed by the United

Steelworkers, concerned over whether the company would honor existing labor agreements or slash jobs as well as the firm’s financial transparency.

“It is important that we maintain strong American steel companies powered by American steel workers,” Biden said in a March statement, while he was still seeking reelection to the presidency before dropping out of the race. “U.S. Steel has been an iconic American steel company for more than a century, and it is vital for it to remain an American steel company that is domestically owned and operated.”

President-elect Donald Trump has also opposed the acquisition and vowed in December on his Truth Social platform to block the deal and to use tax incentives and tariffs to grow the company.

Apple will pay \$95M to settle Siri lawsuit

Associated Press

Apple has agreed to pay \$95 million to settle a lawsuit accusing the company of deploying its virtual assistant Siri to eavesdrop on people using its iPhone and other devices.

The proposed settlement filed Tuesday in an Oakland, Calif., federal court would resolve a 5-year-old lawsuit over allegations that Apple surreptitiously activated Siri to record conversations through iPhones and other devices equipped with the virtual assistant for more than a decade.

The alleged recordings occurred even when people didn’t seek to activate the virtual assistant with the trigger words, “Hey, Siri.” Some of the recorded conversations were then shared with advertisers in an attempt to sell their products to consumers more likely to be interested in the goods and services, the lawsuit asserted.

The allegations about a snoopery Siri contradicted Apple’s long-running commitment to protect the privacy of its customers — a crusade that CEO Tim Cook has often framed as a fight to preserve “a fundamental human right.”

Apple isn’t acknowledging any wrongdoing in the settlement, which still must be approved by U.S. District Judge Jeffrey White. Lawyers in the case have proposed scheduling a Feb. 14 hearing to review the terms.

If the settlement is approved, tens of millions of consumers who owned iPhones and other Apple devices from Sept. 17, 2014, through the end of last year could file claims. Each consumer could receive up to \$20 per Siri-equipped device covered by the settlement.

Jimmy Carter helped repair damaged nuclear reactor as young Navy officer

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Former President Jimmy Carter played a key role in repairing one of North America’s early nuclear reactor disasters.

He was a young Navy officer in the nation’s nascent nuclear-powered submarine program in 1952 when a Canadian experimental reactor near Ottawa overheated, resulting in a partial melting of fuel rods, followed by explosions which damaged the reactor.

Carter, who earned a Bachelor’s of Science from the Naval Academy in 1946, had done graduate work in nuclear physics and reactor technology at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., as part of his naval train-

ing, the Carter Center said.

“There were few people at the time who were as knowledgeable as we were about this new technology,” Carter wrote in his 2016 book “A Full Life: Reflections at 90.”

Then-director of the Naval Reactors Branch Hyman Rickover assigned Carter and his crew to assist the Canadians with the disassembly and repair of the Chalk River facility.

The disaster left an extremely high amount of radioactivity in the reactor facility. A person could spend only 90 seconds working on it before being overexposed. A detailed mock-up of the device was put together on a nearby tennis court so Carter

and his crew could practice removing and replacing parts as quickly and efficiently as possible. His crew and their Canadian counterparts all took their turns, getting high doses of radiation, but helping avert further disaster.

“We returned to Schenectady after all of us had exhausted our permissible time in the radioactive site,” Carter wrote. “There were a lot of jokes about the effects of radioactivity, mostly about the prospect of being sterilized, and we had to monitor our urine until all our bodies returned to the normal range.”

The reactor was repaired and continued to operate for years afterward.

Notre Dame ousts Georgia from playoffs

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman and the Fighting Irish found the right balance of family and football to produce a memorable performance under unprecedented, emotionally trying circumstances.

Riley Leonard passed for a touchdown, Jayden Harrison returned a kickoff 98 yards for a score, and Notre Dame's defense made it hold up in a 23-10 victory over No. 2 Georgia in the Sugar Bowl on Thursday that sent the third-ranked Fighting Irish into the semifinals of the College Football Playoff.

The triumph came in the wake of a deadly terror attack in the host city early Wednesday — the day the game was supposed to have been played. The first postponement of a Sugar Bowl in the event's 91-year history followed hours later.

"We spent some time together, and I think that's what you do in tough moments," Freeman said in recounting how the Irish handled their unexpected down time on Wednesday. "You want to spend time with family, and that's what we are."

Notre Dame (13-1, CFP No. 5) came through with enough big plays, avoided major mistakes and all but sealed it with a clever move by Freeman.

"Our coaches called the game aggressive. Our players executed, put everything on the line," Freeman said. "I'm really proud of them. Proud of the way they handled the events of the last 24 hours."

Georgia (11-3, CFP No. 2) was in position to close within one score when Notre Dame stopped the Bulldogs on fourth-and-5 from the Irish 9-yard line with 9:29 to go.

Minutes later, Notre Dame had a fourth-and-short deep in his own territory when Freeman sent the punt team out before running all 11 players off the field and sending the offense back out. Georgia raced to match up and then jumped offside as the play clock ticked down, giving the Irish a first down with 7:17 to go.

"They were going to hard-count us. We prepare for that. We do it every week," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "We jumped offsides."

By the time the Bulldogs got

the ball back, just 1:49 remained, and Notre Dame was on its way to a 12th straight victory and a date with No. 5 Penn State (13-2, CFP No. 6 seed) in a semifinal at the Orange Bowl in Miami next Thursday.

"That's the aggressiveness in terms of our preparation that I want our program to have," Freeman said. "That's got to be one of our edges, that we are going to be an aggressive group and not fear making mistakes."

Georgia played without starting quarterback Carson Beck, who injured his elbow in the Southeastern Conference championship game. He was replaced by Gunner Stockton, who was 20 of 32 for 234 yards and one touchdown.

The Bulldogs outgained Notre Dame 296 yards to 244, but Georgia was stopped on all three of its fourth-down attempts and lost two fumbles — one deep in Notre Dame territory and one inside its own 20.

"The turnovers are the difference in the game, guys," Smart said. "I mean, you should know when you turn it over twice and they return a kickoff for a touchdown, you're not going to have a

lot of success."

Leonard finished with 90 yards passing and a team-high 80 yards rushing, including a late first-down run in which he was sent head over heels as he tried to leap over a defender.

"We're in the playoffs," Leonard said. "Everybody else can put their body on the line, I'm going to do it right there with them."

The game had been set for Wednesday night as part of a New Year's Day playoff tripleheader, but it was postponed after an Army veteran inspired by the Islamic State group drove a pickup truck into a crowd on Bourbon Street early Wednesday morning, killing 14 revelers. Security was increased at the Superdome and arriving fans said they felt safe.

With some fans unable to alter their travel plans, attendance in the 70,000-seat stadium was announced at 68,400. There were patches of empty seats in the upper levels, but passionate supporters made no shortage of noise trying to will their teams into the next round of college football's first 12-team playoff.

Big 12 head calls for 'national standards' for targeting

Associated Press

DALLAS — Big 12 commissioner Brett Yormark is calling for more consistency in determining what constitutes a targeting penalty after no call was made on Texas safety Michael Taaffe's high hit on Arizona State receiver Melquan Stovall late in the College Football Playoff quarterfinal at the Peach Bowl.

Taaffe struck Stovall with a helmet-to-helmet hit as Stovall caught a pass near midfield with 1:15 left in regulation and the game tied Wednesday.

No flag was thrown, but referee Larry Smith of the Big Ten halted play to check the replay for possible targeting. As Stovall was being helped off the field, Smith announced there was no penalty.

Had a 15-yard penalty been called, ASU would have been in range to attempt a tiebreaking field goal.

Instead, the Sun Devils punted and Texas won 39-31 in two overtimes.

Yormark said in a statement Thursday he was proud of how ASU represented the Big 12 and that the Sun Devils proved they were one of the most talented

teams in the nation.

He then addressed the no-call.

"Moving forward, we need to address CFP officiating to ensure national standards are developed," Yormark said. "These standards will be crucial to the CFP's future, and I look forward to discussing them with my fellow committee members when we meet next."

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Dart ends Ole Miss career with 4 TD passes in Gator Bowl win

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jaxson Dart's final college pass was a 69-yard touchdown that got him chewed out by coach Lane Kiffin on the sideline.

It's one the quarterback will never forget.

Dart threw for 404 yards and four touchdowns in his final start for Ole Miss, leading the 16th-ranked Rebels to a 52-20 romp over Duke in the Gator Bowl on Thursday night.

Dart connected with Jordan Watkins seven times for 180 yards and two scores, including the longest pass play of the night with 1:27 to play. Kiffin ripped him for it afterward.

"I love him except for the last play when he checks to a pass play he's not supposed to do," Kiffin said. "He's got to learn a little better class there."

Dart added 43 yards rushing, leaving EverBank Stadium with grass and dirt stains all over his red and white uniform.

The senior never considered opting out of the bowl game. Instead, he helped the Rebels (10-3) make history. With the victory, Ole Miss notched double-digit wins in consecutive years for the second time in program history and the first since 1959-60.

"This place changed my life," Dart said. "It was the best decision that I made. Just the relationships that I built with everybody here will last a lifetime."

Ulysses Bentley IV, another senior playing his last college game, ran for 70 yards and two scores for the Rebels. Isaiah Hamilton returned an interception 50 yards for a touchdown early in the third quarter. All of them got to celebrate with sideline dunks on a portable basketball hoop with Duke logos.

This ACC-SEC postseason matchup was never close. It wasn't expected to be, either. Ole Miss was a 17 1/2-point favorite, according to BetMGM,

mostly because the Blue Devils (9-4) were without quarterback Maalik Murphy and running back Star Thomas. Both entered the transfer portal after Duke's regular-season finale.

Third-year sophomore Henry Belin IV made his second career start and was harassed all night. Belin completed 25 of 44 passes for 236 yards, with two touchdowns and the interception. He was sacked three times.

Belin's TD passes were two of the team's few highlights. Sahmir Hagans' 99-yard kickoff return — off a cross-field lateral, no less — was another.

One of Ole Miss' few miscues came when Kiffin called for a trick play on fourth down. Kicker Caden Davis' pass got picked off in the end zone, and Dart took nearly every snap the rest of the way.

"I think the thing that jumped out today is a special quarterback who played special," Duke coach Manny Diaz said.

Bama QB, LB opt for NFL draft

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama quarterback Jalen Milroe and linebacker Jihaad Campbell are entering the NFL draft.

Milroe and Campbell announced decisions to skip their final seasons Thursday on social media, two days after the Crimson Tide fell to Michigan 19-13 in the ReliaQuest Bowl.

"Football has always been my passion, and since I was a kid, I dreamed of competing at the highest level," Milroe posted. "Through every win, every tough loss, and any criticism along the way, my love and dedication to this game has never wavered. Every day, my gratitude for the opportunity to play this sport I love only grows stronger."

"With that said, I am declaring for the 2025 NFL Draft."

Milroe passed for 2,844 yards with 16 touchdowns and 11 interceptions last season. He also rushed for 726 yards and 20 touchdowns. But the Tide finished 9-4 and failed to make the playoffs.

In his Alabama finale, Milroe fumbled twice, took a fourth-down sack and threw an interception on the Crimson Tide's first four drives. But he will finish his Alabama career with 6,016 passing yards and 45 touchdowns against 20 interceptions. He also ran for 1,579 yards and 33 scores.

Campbell took over as a starting linebacker last season, finishing with 117 tackles. He also had 11 1/2 tackles for loss, five sacks and two forced fumbles.

"These last three years in Tuscaloosa have molded me into a better player and a better man," Campbell said on social media. "And this experience has been special and something that I will never forget."

"I feel like I am ready now to take the next step in my career."

Mayo Bowl to end in mayonnaise bath

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Imagine having 5 gallons of mayonnaise dumped over your head.

Well, that's exactly what the winning head coach of the annual Duke's Mayo Bowl receives as a "reward" for winning the game at Bank of America Stadium, a tradition born in 2021 as Duke's Mayo looked to carve out its unique niche in the college football bowl world.

Each year, the mayo dump trends on social media — and college football fans just can't seem to look away, no matter how disgusting the idea is to some observers.

"I think with my bald head, the mayo should just slide right off," joked Minnesota head

coach P.J. Fleck, whose team will play Virginia Tech on Friday night in the bowl game. "I might have to do a little pre-dumping of the mayo just to make sure it does slide off. I have my own strategy just in case, but I can't let my secret out."

Staff members begin by pouring five 1-gallon containers of mayonnaise into a large cooler around the start of the fourth quarter. Then, they take turns briskly stirring the mayo for more than 25 minutes with a large wooden stick.

"That changes the consistency just a little bit so it's more pourable," said Duke's Mayo brand director Rebecca Lupesco. "Some people think we add

water. There's no water added, it's just straight mayonnaise. We just stir it up. It can be a workout."

As tradition has it, the winning coach is seated on a chair on the field after the game and two workers will raise the cooler and pour the mayo over his head.

It's a process that needed to be refined over time.

In 2021, one of the handles on the cooler shifted, causing South Carolina head coach Shane Beamer to get bopped over the head with the bucket after being doused in mayo. That issue has since been addressed and the handles have been fortified to make them immovable.

Tatum sparks Celtics win over Timberwolves

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Jayson Tatum had 33 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, and the Boston Celtics beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 118-115 on Thursday night.

Derrick White scored 26 points for Boston, while Sam Hauser — filling in for the injured Jaylen Brown — hit five 3-pointers and scored 15 points.

Julius Randle led Minnesota with 27 points, eight rebounds and seven assists. Naz Reid added 20 points off the bench, while Jaden McDaniels had 19 points and eight boards.

■ **Pacers 128, Heat 115:** Tyrese Haliburton scored 33 points and handed out 15 assists, Myles Turner added 21 points and Indiana rolled past Miami.

Pascal Siakam had 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers, who shot 53% and led by as many as 28.

Kel'el Ware led the Heat with 25 points. Bam Adebayo scored 20, Tyler Herro added 17 and Terry Rozier had 16 for Miami.

Jimmy Butler scored nine points, and didn't play in the fourth quarter for a second consecutive night. He also had nine points in Wednesday's win over New Orleans.

■ **Thunder 116, Clippers 98:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 29 points and Oklahoma City won their franchise-record 13th consecutive regular-season game by beating Los Angeles.

The Thunder trailed by 16 in the first half before cutting it to 52-48 just before halftime. Shaking off a cold shooting first half, the Thunder exploded for 42 third-quarter points and led by 18 heading into the fourth quarter.

Gilgeous-Alexander also had a game-high eight assists for the Thunder, who are 28-5 and have won 17 of their past 18 regular-season games. He did not play in the fourth quarter.

Jalen Williams scored 18 points and Isaiah Hartenstein added 11 points and nine rebounds for Oklahoma City.

Amir Coffey led the Clippers with 26 points.

■ **Nets 113, Bucks 110:** Cam Johnson scored 26 points, Cam Thomas had 24 and Brooklyn withstood a frantic Milwaukee comeback attempt down the stretch to win.

Brooklyn led by as many as 24 and still owned a 111-90 advantage with less than seven minutes left before the Bucks

scored 20 straight points. The Bucks had the ball with a chance to take the lead, but Giannis Antetokounmpo couldn't finish on his drive to the basket.

Brooklyn's Ziaire Williams got the rebound and hit two free throws with 6.1 seconds left.

Damian Lillard missed two potential tying 3-point attempts in the last 4.1 seconds.

Antetokounmpo had 27 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists while shooting 12 of 24 from the floor.

Milwaukee's Andre Jackson Jr. was ejected from the game with 9.9 seconds left in the first half for making unnecessary and excessive contact with Brooklyn's Nic Claxton.

■ **Warriors 139, 76ers 105:** Stephen Curry had 30 points and made all eight of his 3-point attempts, and Golden State beat Philadelphia.

Golden State led 35-19 after the first quarter and extended a 16-point halftime lead to 25 at the end of the third quarter.

Curry had 24 points by the end of the third quarter after going 6 of 6 from 3-point range. He made consecutive 3-pointers early in the fourth to put the Warriors up by 30 and left the

game as both coaches emptied their benches minutes later.

Jonathan Kuminga added 20 points off the bench.

Joel Embiid led the Sixers with 28 points and 14 rebounds.

Curry played through a right thumb sprain with tape on his right hand, and Embiid played through a left foot sprain after missing Wednesday's loss to the Kings.

■ **Lakers 114, Blazers 106:** LeBron James scored 38 points, Max Christie had a career-high 28 and Los Angeles overcame Anthony Davis' absence for a win over Portland.

James hit a season-high seven 3-pointers and Christie added five for the Lakers, who have won six of eight. Austin Reaves contributed 15 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds as Los Angeles hung on to beat Portland for the fifth straight time.

Davis sat out for only the second time this season to rest his sprained left ankle, which the star big man hurt on Christmas. Point guard Gabe Vincent also sat with a hip injury.

Anfernee Simons scored 11 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter for the Blazers. Shaedon Sharpe and Deni Avdija added 19 points apiece.

White leads No. 22 Illinois in thrashing of No. 9 Oregon

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Tre White had 20 points and 11 rebounds as No. 22 Illinois made a resounding statement on the road with a 109-77 blowout of ninth-ranked Oregon on Thursday night.

Ben Humrichous shot 4 of 7 from 3-point range and scored 18 points on a night when Illinois went 16 for 29 behind the arc. Kylan Boswell also made four 3s and finished with 15 points for the Fighting Illini (10-3, 2-1 Big Ten).

Kasparas Jakucionis added 16 points, six rebounds and six assists. Jake Davis scored 12.

Supreme Cook scored 20 to lead the Ducks (12-2, 1-2), while Nate Bittle added 13 points and five rebounds.

Illinois built a seven-point lead at halftime before opening the second half on a 22-6 run to pull away.

■ **No. 19 Gonzaga 81, Portland 50:** Nolan Hickman had 13 points and No. 19 Gonzaga cruised to a victory over Portland.

Ryan Nembhard added 10 points and nine assists for the Bulldogs (11-4, 2-0 West Coast Conference). Dusty Stromer scored 12, Braden Huff had 10

points and Michael Ajayi pulled down 15 rebounds.

Redshirt freshman Vincent Delano was the only player in double figures for the Pilots (5-11, 0-3) with 12 points. Delano shot 6 for 16 from the field and Portland was held to 33.3% overall, including 4 of 25 (16%) from 3-point range.

■ **No. 20 Purdue 81, Minnesota 61:** Fletcher Loyer scored 24 points on 8-for-10 shooting and Braden Smith had 20 points, 10 assists and six rebounds as No. 20 Purdue pulled away from Minnesota.

Trey Kaufman-Renn added

17 points for the Boilermakers (10-4, 2-1 Big Ten), who notched their first road win of the season after losing at Marquette and Penn State.

Purdue, the two-time defending regular-season Big Ten champion, has the best cumulative road record in conference play over the last three seasons at 15-7.

Dawson Garcia scored 20 points for the Gophers (8-6, 0-3), who had a one-point lead early in the second half before the Boilermakers got hot. Loyer and Smith each hit four 3-pointers after halftime.

Slavin powers Hurricanes to win over Panthers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jaccob Slavin scored the go-ahead goal to lift the Carolina Hurricanes over the Florida Panthers 3-1 on Thursday night.

Florida's Anton Lundell tied it at the beginning of the second before Slavin got one past Sergei Bobrovsky with about seven minutes left in the third.

Pyotr Kochetkov made 26 saves, and Slavin also had an assist. Martin Necas added an empty-netter.

Brent Burns gave Carolina a 1-0 lead 35 seconds into the game with a shot that bounced off Florida's Aleksander Barkov and into the net. Bobrovsky stopped 37 shots.

■ **Wild 4, Capitals 3, SO:** Marco Rossi tied it in the third period, Matt Boldy scored the shootout winner and Minnesota rallied to beat Washington after Alex Ovechkin moved one step closer to breaking Wayne Gretzky's NHL career goals record.

Rossi scored with 8:41 left in regulation, 15 seconds after a would-be goal by Washington's Tom Wilson was disallowed for directing the puck into the net with a high stick. Boldy had the lone shootout goal.

Yakov Trenin scored short-handed, Ryan Hartman had his first goal since Nov. 19 and Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves in regulation and overtime.

Ovechkin beat Fleury for his 871st career goal.

■ **Rangers 2, Bruins 1:** Mika Zibanejad and Brett Berard scored in the first period, and Jonathan Quick made 32 saves as New York beat Boston to snap a four-game losing streak.

The Rangers won at home for the first time since Dec. 6 as Quick was steady in place of injured starter Igor Shesterkin to get his 399th career victory.

Zibanejad tapped a loose puck past Swayman at 9:48 of the first. Berard made it 2-0 with 7:07 remaining in the peri-

od with his third.

Lindholm scored at 7:57 of the second to get the Bruins on the scoreboard.

■ **Red Wings 5, Blue Jackets 4:** Jonatan Berggren scored with 36 seconds left in the third period and Detroit extended their winning streak to three games with a win over Columbus.

Alex DeBrincat scored and had two assists, Dylan Larkin and Patrick Kane each had a goal and an assist, and Erik Gustafsson added a goal for Detroit.

James van Riemsdyk had two goals and an assist, Zach Werenski added a goal and two assists, and Sean Monahan also scored for Columbus, which was 4-1-1 in its previous six games.

Van Riemsdyk scored his second of the game at 17:19 of third, pulling Columbus into a 4-all tie after Larkin scored on the power play at 4:54 of the period to give Detroit a 4-3 lead.

■ **Maple Leafs 2, Islanders 1:** Bobby McMann scored twice, including the tiebreaking goal late in the third period, and Toronto beat New York.

Joseph Woll stopped 32 shots as the Maple Leafs topped the Islanders for the second time this week.

Scott Mayfield scored for New York and Ilya Sorokin made 29 saves in the Islanders' third straight loss.

Islanders defenseman Adam Pelech was called for a tripping penalty that set up the power play that McMann and Toronto capitalized on to get the winning goal with 2:59 remaining.

The Islanders poured on the pressure in the final minutes, but Woll preserved the Maple Leafs' win.

■ **Stars 4, Senators 2:** Roope Hintz scored two goals for the second time in the last eight games, giving him a team-high 18 goals as Dallas beat Ottawa.

Jamie Benn and Matt Duchene also scored, and Jason Robertson and Wyatt Johnston

had two assists each for the Stars, who have points in five consecutive games for the first time this season. Jake Oettinger made 11 saves.

Benn and Hintz scored 1:08 apart midway through the second period putting Dallas ahead 3-2.

■ **Ducks 4, Jets 3, OT:** Troy Terry scored his second goal of the game at 3:34 of overtime to give Anaheim a victory over Winnipeg.

Terry added an assist in a three-point night, Radko Gudas and Leo Carlsson also scored and John Gibson stopped 27 shots for Anaheim. The Ducks improved to 16-17-4.

Gudas forced overtime when his screened shot from the point beat Connor Hellebuyck with 1:10 left in regulation.

Alex Iafallo gave Winnipeg a 3-2 lead with a wraparound with 2:44 left. Adam Lowry and Mark Scheifele also scored for Winnipeg.

■ **Utah 5, Flames 3:** Lawson Crouse scored twice and Utah rallied to beat Calgary to end a five-game winless streak.

Logan Cooley, Clayton Keller and Kevin Stenlund — into an empty net — also scored to help Utah improve to 17-15-6.

Blake Coleman, Connor Zary and Brayden Pachal scored for Calgary, and Dan Vladar made 21 saves.

Down 3-2 after 40 minutes, Utah scored twice early in the third with goals less than two minutes apart. Keller steered in Olli Maatta's point shot to tie it at 47 seconds. Crouse gave Utah the lead at 2:35 when he took a pass from Nick Bjugstad and beat Vladar.

■ **Avalanche 6, Sabres 5, OT:** Devon Toews scored 48 seconds into overtime and Colorado overcame a three-goal deficit to beat Buffalo and extend their winning streak to six games.

After trailing 3-0 in the second period, the Avalanche regrouped and tied it with eight

seconds remaining on a shot from Jonathan Drouin. That set the stage for Toews, who stole the puck and scored on a breakaway.

Cale Makar had two goals, while Ross Colton and Mikko Rantanen also scored.

Jason Zucker scored three times for Buffalo and Bowen Byram added a goal against his former team. Zach Benson knocked in a contentious goal in the third period after being pushed into Scott Wedgewood and landing on the goaltender's right leg. Benson got back up, gained possession of the puck and scored as Wedgewood remained down on the ice. It gave the Sabres a 4-2 lead.

■ **Golden Knights 5, Flyers 2:** Mark Stone, Nicolas Hague and Pavel Dorofeyev scored in Vegas' three-goal second period as they beat Philadelphia.

Alexander Holtz and Tanner Pearson also scored for Vegas, which has won 11 of 13. Ilya Samsonov stopped 23 shots.

Tyson Foester and Travis Konecny scored for the Flyers.

■ **Sharks 2, Lightning 1:** Tyler Toffoli and Mario Ferraro scored and San Jose snapped an eight-game winless streak by beating Tampa Bay.

Toffoli used a nifty toe drag to score his 15th goal of the season midway through the first and Ferraro added a goal in the second to give the Sharks their first home win since Nov. 29.

Anthony Cirelli scored for the Lightning.

■ **Canucks 4, Kraken 3, SO:** J.T. Miller scored in the shootout and Vancouver beat Seattle.

Conor Garland, Tyler Myers and Max Sasson scored in regulation for the Canucks. Thatcher Demko started and stopped 11 of 12 shots before leaving with back spasms in the second period.

Vince Dunn and Matty Beniers each had a goal and an assist, Chandler Stephenson also scored and Andre Burakovsky had two assists for Seattle.