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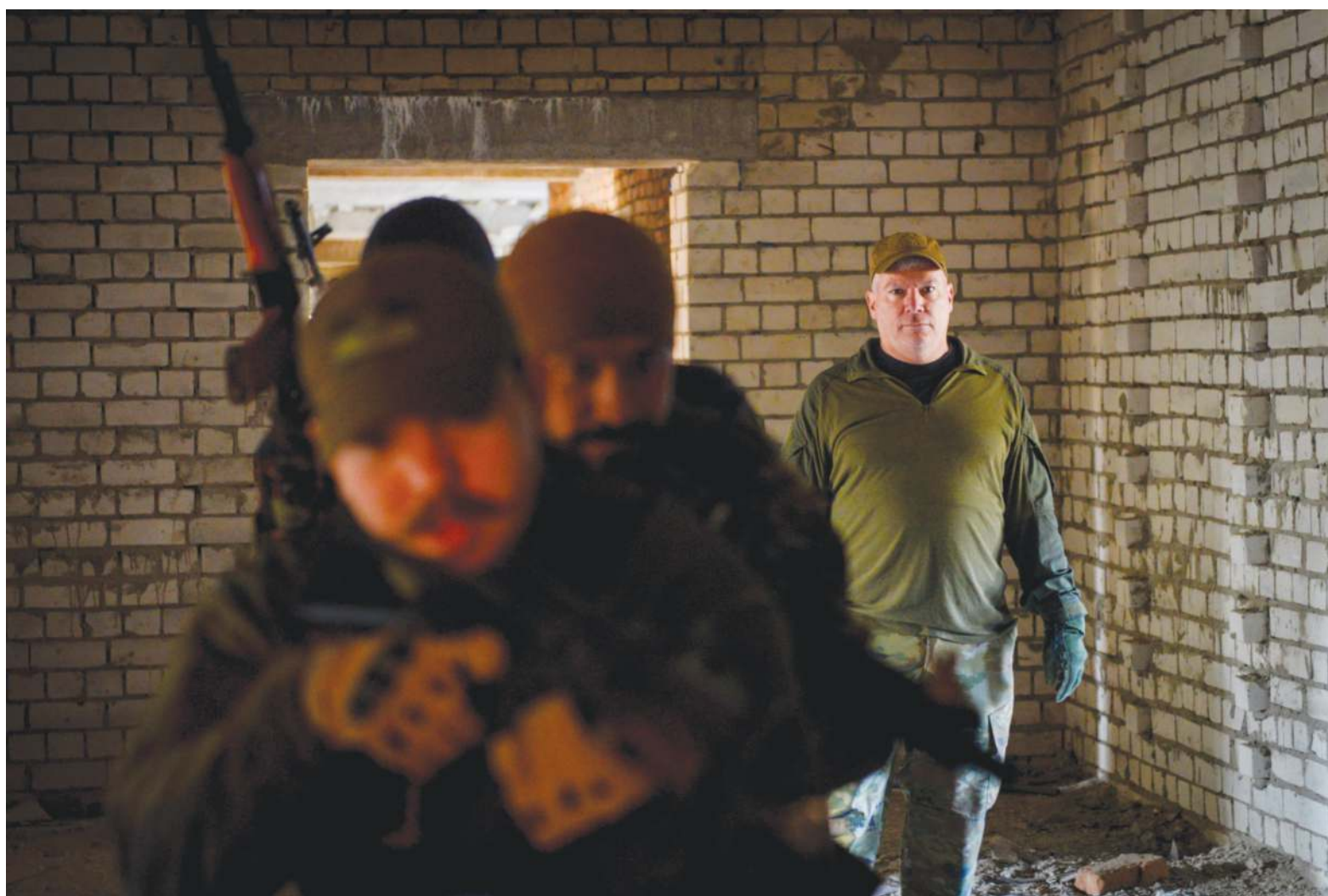
STARS AND STRIPES

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J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Patrick Creed, a retired U.S. Army major, evaluates members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces as they rush through the hallway of an abandoned building and clear potentially dangerous rooms as part of training outside Kyiv, Ukraine, on Nov. 2.

'Making a difference'

US vets race to train Ukrainian soldiers as war with Russia sweeps more troops into battle

BY SVETLANA SHKOLNIKOVA
Stars and Stripes

KYIV, Ukraine — On the last day of February, four days after the start of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, former U.S. Army Ranger Patrick Creed walked up to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, D.C., and knocked on the door.

He said he felt nervous and stupid and didn't quite know what to

say, but when a woman behind bulletproof glass asked what he wanted, Creed responded, "I'm here to volunteer for the army."

A Ukrainian colonel at the time warned the five other Americans filling out paperwork at the embassy with Creed to enlist in a new international legion for foreign fighters that they were signing up for something they had never experienced in the U.S. military, the

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former major remembered.

"You're not going to fight in an American war," the colonel told

them. "The Russians have control of the air, we don't. The Russians have 10 times as much artillery."

"You will get hit with Russian rocket artillery," the colonel emphasized.

Creed, 54, was unfazed.

"I didn't join the army for the dental benefits," he said. "I like the zing."

SEE TRAIN ON PAGE 4

Program helps Marines retain top talent, hit recruiting goal

BY ERIKA I. RITCHIE
The Orange County Register

Cpl. Alexandria McFadden walked around a motor pool at Camp Pendleton recently, pointing out her favorite vehicles.

At the top of the list was the newer Joint Light Tactical Vehicle, which is replacing the Humvee.

"It's fun to drive, it's easier to maneuver than a 7-ton and has more visibility," the 22-year-old Marine said, adding that driving military vehicles has been quite the learning curve from the truck she drove around her small hometown of Potsdam, N.Y. "At first, it was definitely hard; it's an oversized vehicle."

McFadden will be leaving Motor Transport to become a drill instructor at Marine Recruit Depot San Diego. And, if the Marines are willing to keep her after another four years, she hopes to be back in the motor pool doing logistics planning.

"I love what I do," she said.

McFadden — one of only three women in her 40-person platoon — is one of the thousands of Marines who signed up this year for another four-year contract with the service branch as part of a new "talent management" program.

The program focuses on maturing the force by retaining Marines who excel in their jobs and assigning or promoting them to roles where they can build on previously learned skills. Typically, the Marine Corps has skewed the youngest among the service branches, with recruitment "overly focused" and "dependent" on first-time Marines. Of those, only 25% stayed on after their contract expired, meaning another round of training up their replacements.

SEE PROGRAM ON PAGE 9

BUSINESS/WEATHER

DOJ announces seizure of \$3.4B in stolen bitcoin

The Washington Post

The Justice Department recovered bitcoin once worth \$3.4 billion, now valued around \$1 billion, that a Georgia real estate developer stole a decade ago from the dark web marketplace Silk Road, the department announced Monday.

James Zhong, the 32-year-old behind the theft, pleaded guilty Friday to a single count of wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years. Federal agents tracked down the stolen digital loot a year ago, when they searched Zhong's house

in Gainesville, Ga., and found devices storing the bitcoin in an underground floor safe and under blankets in a popcorn tin stashed in his bathroom closet, prosecutors said in an affidavit.

The haul of nearly 52,000 bitcoin, the world's most popular digital asset, has lost two-thirds of its value over the past year.

"Thanks to state-of-the-art cryptocurrency tracing and good old-fashioned police work, law enforcement located and recovered this impressive cache of crime proceeds,"

Damian Williams, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York, said in a statement. "This case shows that we won't stop following the money, no matter how expertly hidden, even to a circuit board in the bottom of a popcorn tin."

Michael Bachner, an attorney authorized to speak on Zhong's behalf, said in a statement that his client is "extremely remorseful for his conduct that occurred over 10 years ago when he was just 22 years old." He said Zhong returned "virtually all of the bitcoin" he stole.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Nov. 9)	\$0.98	Switzerland (Franc)	0.9891
Dollar buys (Nov. 9)	0.9748	Thailand (Baht)	37.19
British pound (Nov. 9)	\$1.12	Turkey (New Lira)	18.6003
Japanese yen (Nov. 9)	143.00		
South Korean won (Nov. 9)	1,352.00		
Commercial rates		(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377	INTEREST RATES	
Britain (Pound)	1.1472	Prime rate	7.00
Canada (Dollar)	1.3491	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.00
China (Yuan)	7.2525	Federal funds market rate	3.83
Denmark (Krone)	7.4298	3-month bill	4.22
Egypt (Pound)	24.3510	30-year bond	4.33
Euro	0.9988		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8499		
Hungary (Forint)	400.88		
Israel (Shekel)	3.5512		
Japan (Yen)	145.92		
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3092		
Norway (Krone)	10.2755		
Philippines (Peso)	58.13		
Poland (Zloty)	4.68		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7597		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4018		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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PACIFIC

S. Korea officials defend joint drills with US

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Military exercises involving U.S. and South Korean forces are a necessary consequence of the constant security threat from North Korea, the South's national defense minister told lawmakers Monday.

Suspending exercises with the U.S. military "is impossible" in light of threats from North Korea, Minister of National Defense Lee Jong-sup told lawmakers at a parliamentary hearing Monday.

Rep. Cho Sujin, a conservative lawmaker and member of the ruling People Power Party, during the hearing described relations with North Korea as a "fraught situation" that requires people to be "highly attentive."

Cho called on Lee to answer opposition critics who question whether the increased tempo of exercises is the correct response to North Korea's record-breaking spate of ballistic missile tests this year. Several progressive South Korean non-governmental organizations and independent party lawmakers have been critical of the joint exercises and allege they fuel the division between Seoul and Pyongyang.

"There are some lawmakers who insist, 'We should not deprive ourselves of peace,' and call for the suspension of [South Korea]-U.S. joint military drills. What do you think of it?" she asked Lee.



CHAD MCNEELEY/U.S. Defense Department

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and South Korean National Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup visit the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington on Nov. 3.

"(I)t is impossible that we will stop [joint military drills] due to North Korea's threats," Lee told Cho. "Exercises are just one of our military's primary missions."

Lee met last week with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in Washington, where the two agreed to have U.S. "strategic assets to the level equivalent to constant deployment" in and around the Korean Peninsula.

"Both leaders also reaffirmed the commitment of the U.S. to deploy United States strategic assets to the Korean Peninsula in a timely and coordinated manner as necessary, to enhance such measures, and identify new steps to reinforce deterrence in the face of the [North Korea's] destabilizing activities," the Defense Department said in a press release on Nov. 3.

U.S. and South Korean officials have characterized the drills as defensive measures meant to address provocations by North Korea.

The U.S. and South Korea in May resumed large-scale military drills after a five-year pause. The two countries on Saturday concluded their largest-ever aerial exercise, Vigilant Storm, in which approximately 240 aircraft

flew 1,600 sorties.

U.S. military assets have made several displays of force against North Korea this year. In September, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan arrived in South Korea's largest port for the first time since 2017 for maritime drills with Seoul's navy.

After those drills ended and North Korea fired an intermediate-range ballistic missile over Japan on Oct. 4, the Ronald Reagan was redeployed to South Korea's eastern coast to demonstrate "the determined will" of the South Korea-U.S. alliance, according to a statement from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

North Korea, which frequently describes the joint drills as rehearsal for an invasion, lashed out at Seoul and Washington over their Vigilant Storm exercise.

"Intolerable and unpardonable are all the recent challenging moves of the U.S. and South Korea staging military drills for aggression on a large scale," the state-run Korean Central News Agency reported Monday, citing a senior North Korean military official.

North Korea fired over 65 missiles in 30 days of testing so far this year. The communist regime last fired four ballistic missiles into the West Sea, or the Yellow Sea, on Saturday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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Surgeries on hold at air base in Japan due to temperature issue

By KELLY AGEE
Stars and Stripes

Routine surgeries at Misawa Air Base in northeastern Japan are on hold indefinitely thanks to a mechanical failure at the base hospital last week, a base spokesman said Tuesday.

A medical technician with the 35th Medical Group discovered the failure on Nov. 2 in the medical supply and processing area, spokesman Lt. Col. Cody Chiles told Stars and Stripes via email Tuesday. The base posted a notice about the problem on its Facebook page Friday.

The failure caused temperature fluctuations in the medical supply area, which means materials in storage must be inspected to ensure their safety, Chiles said.

"Out of an abundance of caution, all non-emergent surgical services and dental procedures have been paused until 35th Med-

ical Group staff can determine whether there is an infection prevention and control risk," he said.

Many medical supplies require specific storage conditions, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Sterilizing agents and disinfectants, for instance, must be stored below 86° Fahrenheit; storage above that temperature could jeopardize their stability.

For example, storing materials used for restorative dental work at temperatures from 80 to 90 degrees F can soon render them unusable, according to the FDA.

The Misawa medical staff must inspect all the affected surgical supplies before the hospital can provide further surgical services, Chiles said.

Labor and delivery and in-patient units will continue to operate 24 hours a day and urgent care services are being prioritized due



JOAO MARCUS COSTA/U.S. Air Force

Capt. Jennifer Fielding, a nurse anesthetist, pushes a simulated patient to the surgical theater during a trauma care exercise at Misawa Air Base, Japan, in 2021.

to the temporary limited capacity.

Only a small number of elective surgeries and procedures have been affected by the incident, Chiles said.

He said the medical group has already contacted those patients. So far, no surgical patients have

been directed elsewhere for their procedures.

Chiles provided no estimate of when the hospital would resume surgical procedures.

"We have set no timeline for patient safety," Chiles said. "The 35th Medical Group staff is work-

ing diligently with the appropriate agencies to ensure that all of Misawa's surgical facilities and equipment are safe and operational as soon as possible."

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EUROPE

Train: Vets teach as much as possible in little time

FROM PAGE 1

For two months in the spring, Creed found that rush on battlefields around the Black Sea, where he mainly fought in a “static trench warfare kind of situation.”

Today, Creed said he finds it in the remains of a half-constructed, Soviet-era sanatorium in a village outside Ukraine’s capital city Kyiv, where he trains Ukrainian soldiers for urban combat.

Nine members of the Territorial Defense Forces, Ukraine’s equivalent of a local militia, milled around the abandoned property on a November afternoon. They ran up and down cement stairs with no railings, broken glass crunching under their feet, as they practiced clearing rooms, securing areas and throwing grenades.

On breaks, trainees share the outdoors with a flock of geese and a tabby nicknamed Combat Cat. Sometimes the neighbor’s goats get to their lunch before they do.

Creed and Fred, a former Marine Corps sergeant who declined to provide his last name, have been teaching this group — almost all of them related through blood or marriage — for a couple weeks.

Their efforts are part of a broader crash-course training program created by the Mozart Group, a U.S. veteran-led private security company founded in March by retired Marine Col. Andrew Milburn. Named as a dig at the Russian mercenary organization the Wagner Group, the Mozart Group also performs evacuations at the front lines and has grown its staff to nearly 30 personnel of highly experienced trainers made up of mostly former American service members.

“We give them what we can as fast as we can but they really need six months,” Fred, 44, said of the training. “There’s only so much you can do and that’s the real struggle.”

The last four units that he taught went to the front lines just three days later. The Territorial Defense Forces are meant to guard checkpoints and provide other local security but a June law made it possible for them to be sent into battle, said Erik, director of training for the Mozart Group and a 54-year-old retired Army Special Forces lieutenant colonel.

“These [Ukrainian trainees] are the guys who were pharmacists yesterday,” he said, also declining to provide his last name for security reasons. “This is the most underfunded, under-resourced and undertrained organization.”

This particular group of trainees might have had a more close-up view of the war than many in Ukraine. They reside about five miles from Irpin and Bucha, towns that have become synonymous with Russian atrocities com-



PHOTOS BY J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Patrick Creed, a retired U.S. Army major, guides members of the Ukrainian Territorial Defence Forces as they clear a stairwell at a training site outside Kyiv, Ukraine, on Nov. 2.

American vets training Ukrainian soldiers

Members of the Mozart Group, a U.S. veteran-led private security company founded in March, provide combat training to Ukrainian soldiers throughout the country. The map shows the cities where instructors have traveled to teach a variety of Ukrainian service members, including those pulled from the front lines.



NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

mitted in the early days of the invasion.

Andrey Kashlakov, 25, said he evacuated more than 1,000 people, including about 20 National Guard soldiers and hundreds who were injured, from neighboring towns as Russian forces advanced on Kyiv in March. Blood pooled in the bus that he once used to transport construction supplies, he said.

Later, Kashlakov drove out to villages up to 90 miles away and delivered bread and other food to grateful grandmothers. He said he was running on adrenaline and never scared, finding some security in the gun he carried and a stint five years ago in the Ukrainian army.

He had kept all his military-issued clothes and equipment knowing that a larger war was coming. Today, he patrols his

home village Horenka for marauders but waits for something worse.

“Maybe the Belarusians will attack so it’s best to be prepared,” Kashlakov said, pointing to a renewed military buildup in Ukraine’s northern neighbor. He happily volunteered to throw a blue training grenade when Fred offered the opportunity.

The Ukrainian trainees reveled in the loud bang of the dummy weapons.

“They went boom!” they said, laughing.

Creed said instructors try to keep the mood light and do their best to instill confidence. Some of the soldiers trained by the Mozart Group have been killed fighting the Russians and the burden is heavy, he said.

“We want to leave them feeling not like Superman but maybe like

Batman or Robin,” said Erik, who teaches military decision-making procedures.

At a National Guard military base 15 miles away, two American veterans instructed soldiers on how to move as a team and react to gunfire as they inched toward a low-slung building painted in camouflage. The sound of soldiers shooting rocket-propelled grenades echoed in the background.

Every morning at the training site begins with basic weapons handling and medical drills so the act of reloading a gun or using a tourniquet becomes muscle memory, said Chris, a 27-year-old former Army specialist from Ohio who served as a medic and arrived in Ukraine a month ago.

“I feel like it’s making a difference,” he said, declining to provide his last name. “Every day these guys show up they’re motivated to learn and every day you see some semblance of improvement from previous days.”

Ukraine’s National Guard is operated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, not the Ministry of Defense, and as a result receives a fraction of the Western support that flows to the regular army, Erik said.

The Mozart Group has trained every branch of Ukraine’s armed forces but its strongest relationship is with the guard members, especially the National Guard’s 1st Presidential Brigade, he said. A Russian missile hit the unit’s headquarters within the first 24 hours of the February invasion, killing a staff duty officer, Erik said.

A crew continued working on repairs to the building’s damaged cafeteria in early November.

Soldiers here are taught by U.S.

veterans and Ukrainian instructors who interpret and adjust American tactics to fit a Ukrainian fighting force that is still shedding its Soviet past.

A 27-year-old Ukrainian soldier and instructor who goes by the call sign “Legion” said his country is waging war on the battlefield and within its own ranks, constantly hunting for saboteurs and informants for Russia. The communication methods championed by the American veterans are not very employable when there are enemies within the ranks, he said.

“You cut off one head and two more grow in its place,” Legion said.

Other incongruities also crop up, including some techniques that seem geared for younger and more experienced soldiers and most guard members and Territorial Defense soldiers are neither, he said. Americans are also offering input on a type of war that they have not fought in many years, he said.

“Fighting against terrorists is easier than fighting against those lobbing artillery,” Legion said. “Americans have never encountered an enemy willing to level towns and forests. This opponent is different...he will use civilians and civilian infrastructure to fight.”

The nature of this conflict, one that is reminiscent of World War II, has been one of the main draws for American veterans working in Ukraine.

“I think for a lot of us, it’s kind of like the good war we’ve been waiting for,” said Roman, a 46-year-old former Army infantry captain who declined to provide his last name. “Afghanistan and Iraq were a lot more ambiguous — whether we should’ve been there, or as long as we were, and we were always living among people we were not sure wanted us there. This is very morally unambiguous. I wouldn’t say it’s good versus evil but it’s normal people with all their problems and complexities against evil.”

Roman deployed twice to Afghanistan and once to Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division before moving 10 years ago from his native New York to Ukraine, the birthplace of his parents. He was in the process of returning to the U.S. when war broke out and briefly thought of staying to fight.

A desire to stay out of danger for the sake of his wife and two young children ultimately kept Roman out of the fight. After settling them in the U.S., Roman joined the Mozart Group last month and is now teaching planning, patrolling and command and control.

“This training opportunity was about the right size for me,” he said, looking around at the dozens

SEE TRAIN ON PAGE 5

EUROPE

Train: Citizens look to defend their homes

FROM PAGE 4

of guard members performing exercises in front of him. “Even though you don’t get the immediate satisfaction that you might from doing an operation on the front, you are influencing a lot of people.”

Creed also wrestled with the pull of the battlefield. He left Ukraine in late May and spent the summer at his home just outside Philadelphia fighting the urge to go back. A fellow American volunteer he knew — Marine Corps veteran Willy Joseph Cancel — was killed in southern Ukraine and another — retired Marine and Iraq War veteran Grady Kurpasi — went missing. His survivor’s guilt was strong.

“You want to go back and keep fighting,” Creed said. “After three weeks in Ukraine, I have and will probably always have such a deep and visceral hate for the Russians.”

In a compromise with his family, Creed agreed to return to Ukraine as a trainer in September.

It doesn’t have the thrill of combat, but he finds fulfillment in it for other reasons: the fun of swapping dark military jokes with Fred and other vets as they ride in a van and the novelty of teaching in a strange, graffitied building with unfinished windows and Ukrainian school books strewn on the floor.

“I like working with soldiers who are enthusiastic like this, even though I don’t speak the language,” Creed said.

Alla Golumbiivska, 28, followed Creed as he showed Territorial Defense members how to carefully move up a stairwell and cover each other as they cleared floors of the building.



J.P. LAWRENCE/Stars and Stripes

Alla Golumbiivska, a member of the Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces, prepares for training on how to clear potentially dangerous rooms as part of instruction provided by U.S. military veterans at a location outside Kyiv, Ukraine, on Nov. 2.

“Nyet,” Creed told her in Russian when she forgot to conceal herself at the cutout of a window.

Golumbiivska worked as a dog groomer before dressing in fatigues and carrying an Airsoft rifle. She fled to Poland with her 8-year-old daughter in early March, leaving behind her husband, the commander of a local defense unit, to patrol their village.

Ten homes were destroyed on their street, Golumbiivska said, but the town of Horenka was spared the worst of Russia’s spring offensive in the north as invading forces sought to capture Kyiv.

She returned to Ukraine after six months, fearless and with a hunger to learn how to protect her loved ones.

“I don’t want war, I don’t want to fight but I want to defend my home, my land, my child and my husband,” she said. “I want to be ready.”

Training with the Mozart Group has become a family affair and

Golumbiivska was joined on recent sessions by extended relatives, including Kashlakov’s father and mother.

“Whenever there are tough moments in life, we come together,” Golumbiivska said.

Kashlakov said it can be difficult, and weird, to learn alongside his elderly parents “but they have the will, and that’s important.”

Fred, one of the U.S. trainers, peered out at the odd group as another day of training got underway recently and asked what they wanted to learn.

“Do you have specific things that you want to be trained on today, related to any topics?” he asked. “Shooting and fighting around vehicles? Procedures for using grenades? How to secure a building? Anything at all?”

“All of them,” the trainees replied. “All the topics you mentioned are interesting for us.”

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Zelenskyy open to Russia talks, on Kyiv’s terms

BY ANDREW MELDRUM
AND YURAS KARMANAU
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukraine’s president has suggested he’s open to peace talks with Russia, softening his refusal to negotiate with Moscow as long as President Vladimir Putin is in power while sticking to Kyiv’s core demands.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s appeal to the international community to “force Russia into real peace talks” reflected a change in rhetoric. In late September, after Russia illegally annexed four Ukrainian regions, he signed a decree stating “the impossibility of holding talks” with Putin.

But the preconditions the Ukrainian leader listed late Monday appear to be non-starters for Moscow, so it’s hard to see how Zelenskyy’s latest comments would advance any talks.

Zelenskyy reiterated that his conditions for dialogue were the return of all of Ukraine’s occupied lands, compensation for war damage and the prosecution of war crimes. He didn’t specify how world leaders should coerce Russia into talks.

Western weapons and aid have been key to Ukraine’s ability to fight off Russia’s invasion, which some initially expected would tear through the country with relative ease. That means Kyiv cannot ignore how the war is seen in the U.S. and the European Union, according to political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko.

“Zelenskyy is trying to maneuver because the promise of negotiations does not oblige Kyiv to anything, but it makes it possible

to maintain the support of Western partners,” Fesenko, head of the Kyiv-based Penta Center independent think tank, said.

While support for Ukraine has garnered strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress, a growing conservative opposition could complicate that next year if Republicans take control of the House in Tuesday’s elections.

Russia and Ukraine held several rounds of talks in Belarus and Turkey early in the war, which is now nearing its nine-month mark, and Zelenskyy repeatedly called for a personal meeting with Putin — which the Kremlin brushed off.

Zelenskyy said Monday that Kyiv has “repeatedly proposed (talks) and to which we always received crazy Russian responses with new terrorist attacks, shellings or blackmail.”

Russia resumed calls for talks after it started losing ground to a Ukrainian counteroffensive in the east and the south in September. Zelenskyy rejected the possibility of negotiating with Putin later that month after the Russian leader illegally claimed four regions of Ukraine as Russian territory.

Zelenskyy said Monday that Ukraine’s conditions for dialogue included the “restoration of (Ukraine’s) territorial integrity ... compensation for all war damage, punishment for every war criminal and guarantees that it will not happen again.”

Russia’s deputy foreign minister, Andrei Rudenko, said Tuesday that Moscow was not setting any conditions for the resumption of talks. He accused Kyiv of lacking “good will.”

N. Korea denies US claims it sent artillery shells to Russia

BY HYUNG-JIN KIM
AND KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has denied American claims that it’s shipping artillery shells and ammunition to Russia for use in its war against Ukraine, and on Tuesday accused the United States of lying.

The denial follows dozens of weapons tests by North Korea, including short-range missiles that are likely nuclear-capable and an intercontinental ballistic missile that could target the U.S. mainland. Pyongyang said it was testing

the missiles and artillery so it could “mercilessly” strike key South Korean and U.S. targets if it chose to.

North Korea has been cozying up to traditional ally Russia in recent years and even hinted at sending workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in Ukraine. The United States has accused North Korea, one of the most weaponized countries in the world, of supplying Soviet-era ammunition such as artillery shells, to replenish Russian stockpiles that have been depleted in the Ukraine.

Last week, Russia sent North

Korean leader Kim Jong Un a trainload of 30 thoroughbred horses, opening the border with its neighbor for the first time in 2½ years. Kim is an avid horseman and state media have often pictured him galloping on snowy mountain trails astride a white charger. The horses, Orlov trotters, are prized in Russia.

Spokespeople of Russia’s Far Eastern Railway told the state-run news agency Nov. 2 that the first train headed to North Korea with the 30 horses and said the next train was to carry medicine.

Experts say North Korea may be

seeking Russian fuel and also technology transfers and supplies needed to advance its military capabilities as it pursues more sophisticated weapons systems.

In September, North Korea restarted its freight train service with China, its biggest trading partner, ending a five-month hiatus.

Last week, U.S. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby accused North Korea of covertly supplying a “significant number” of ammunition shipments to Russia. He said the United States believes North Korea was trying to

obscure the transfer route by making it appear the weapons were being sent to countries in the Middle East or North Africa.

“We regard such moves of the U.S. as part of its hostile attempt to tarnish the image of (North Korea) in the international arena,” an unidentified vice director at the North Korean ministry’s military foreign affairs office said in a statement carried by state media.

“We once again make clear that we have never had ‘arms dealings’ with Russia and that we have no plan to do so in the future,” the vice director said.

MILITARY

3-star to lead ongoing push to arm Ukraine

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A three-star general will lead a new Army headquarters in Germany that will include about 300 U.S. service members responsible for coordinating security assistance for Ukraine, a senior U.S. military official said this week.

Formation of the Security Assistance Group Ukraine, or SAGU, which will be based out of U.S. Army Europe and Africa headquarters in Wiesbaden, was announced Friday.

Now, a lieutenant general will need to be nominated and confirmed as the new headquarters takes shape, the official said Monday. The aim is to have the unit running by early 2023.

On Sunday, The New York Times reported that Lt. Gen. Antonio Aguto Jr., head of the First U.S. Army headquarters at Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois, was regarded as a leading candidate for the new job.

The assistance group is intended to continue the work of the Army's 18th Airborne Corps, which recently redeployed to North Car-

olina after arriving in Germany and Poland at the time of Russia's late-February invasion of Ukraine.

In the meantime, 18th Airborne Corps boss Lt. Gen. Christopher Donahue will remain in Wiesbaden to continue organizing the training and equipping of Ukrainian forces as the SAGU takes shape.

By establishing a dedicated headquarters focused on Ukraine support, the Pentagon is putting in place an organization to carry out what is expected to be a long-term mission.

The Wiesbaden headquarters is slated to be manned with personnel from across the military branches, making it a joint service operation. Tours are initially planned to last between six months and a year, but longer accompanied tours are also possible.

"It depends on service and individual," the U.S. military official said. "It's going to be on a case-by-case basis and not one size fits all."

U.S. Army Europe and Africa personnel are carrying out the Ukraine support mission in the interim.



ALEX J. ELLIOT/U.S. Army

Army Lt. Gen. Antonio Aguto Jr. is reported to be a top candidate to lead a new Army headquarters tasked with coordinating security assistance for Ukraine.

Training Ukraine's military is nothing new for the U.S., which had rotated conventional and special operations troops into Ukraine for years as part of an effort to modernize the country's military.

But U.S. forces were withdrawn from Ukraine ahead of the full-scale Russian invasion. Since then, American and other allied troops have trained Ukrainian personnel in Germany and elsewhere.

Wiesbaden has emerged as key to the ongoing efforts to get bil-

ions of dollars in weaponry into Ukraine, including the mobile rocket system known as HIMARS.

In August, a weapons logistics cell was relocated to Wiesbaden from U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart.

That organization, consisting of dozens of nations, arranges the logistics of getting everything from Stinger missiles and howitzers to drones and long-range artillery to secret locations in Ukraine.

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Americans who helped Nissan exec back in US

By YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO — An American father and son convicted in Japan on charges of helping Nissan former Chairman Carlos Ghosn escape to Lebanon, hiding in a box, have been returned to the U.S., their lawyer said Tuesday.

Michael Taylor, a former Green Beret, was sentenced in July last year in Tokyo District Court to two years in prison, while his son Peter Taylor was sentenced to one year and eight months.

They were convicted of helping a criminal for their involvement in the December 2019 escape of Ghosn,

who had been awaiting trial on various financial misconduct charges, including under-reporting his compensation.



Michael Taylor

The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in May 2020, and extradited to Japan in March 2021, though they fought against deportation to Japan.

The U.S. and Japan have an extradition treaty, while Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan. Ghosn is French-Brazilian of Lebanese ancestry.



Ghosn

The U.S. Federal Bureau of Prisons online site lists Michael Taylor as at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Los Angeles and set for release Jan. 1, 2023.

Paul V. Kelly, the lawyer for the Taylors, said by email that he was in talks with parole officials about an earlier release. Peter Taylor has already been released, and is back with his family in Massachusetts, said Kelly, whose office is based in Boston.

The Japanese Justice Ministry declined to comment. Nissan had no comment.

During their trial in Tokyo, Michael and Peter Taylor apologized and acknowledged guilt, saying they had been misled by Ghosn. They denied they had benefited monetarily because the payment just covered expenses.

Ghosn, who led Nissan Motor Co. for two decades, says he is innocent. He says he fled because he could not expect a fair trial in Japan.

Ex-Army pilot sentenced after spying for China

By PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

A retired Army pilot who sold sensitive aviation-related information to China has been sentenced to over a year and a half in prison, the Justice Department said.

Shapour Moinian, 67, pleaded guilty in June to accepting tens of thousands of dollars from Beijing representatives in exchange for information related to assorted aircraft designed and manufactured in the United States.

He had faced over a decade in prison and hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines.

At sentencing in San Diego on Monday, U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Miller described Moinian's actions as "industrial espionage bordering on military espionage," according to a statement by the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Diego.

In addition to acting as an agent for a foreign government, Moinian was charged with lying about his Chinese contacts during se-

curity clearance background checks in 2017 and 2020, which he acknowledged, according to court documents.

Neither the DOJ nor the U.S. Attorney's Office specified how much, if any, of Moinian's sentence resulted from the false statements.

"This crime was committed by a former member of the U.S. military who chose cash over his company and country," U.S. Attorney Randy Grossman said during sentencing, as quoted in his office's statement.

After retiring from the Army in 2000, Moinian worked for defense contractors privy to classified information and was involved with several projects used by the military and U.S. intelligence agencies, Justice Department officials said.

A Chinese operative first contacted him several years ago, according to the statement.

Most of the information and materials Moinian gave the Chinese were collected from open sources on the internet, and only a small

amount of it was older, proprietary information from his former American employers, the San Diego Union-Tribune reported, quoting the defense at sentencing.

"None of the information or materials contained classified information," attorney Nathan Feneis was quoted as saying.

Moinian served from 1977 to 2000, which included tours in Germany and South Korea, according to court documents.

Chinese intelligence agents first contacted the San Diego resident in 2015 through an online employment service. Two years later, he traveled to Hong Kong, where he accepted between \$7,000 and \$10,000 to provide aviation-related information, knowing that the recipients were employed or directed by the Chinese government, prosecutors said.

Upon returning to the U.S., he started collecting the information on a thumb drive, which he gave to Chinese agents during a stopover at Shanghai airport several months later.

At the time, he also arranged for his payments to be made through a South Korean bank account belonging to his stepdaughter, and thousands of dollars was deposited into the account in subsequent months, the Justice Department said.

In 2019, Chinese agents met Moinian in Hong Kong paid him \$22,000 in cash, which he and his wife smuggled aboard their flight back to the United States, the statement added.

Moinian's sentencing comes on the heels of the arrest of another former American military pilot, Daniel Edmund Duggan.

He ran an aviation consultancy in China and was arrested in Australia last month at the request of the United States, The Associated Press reported on Oct. 26.

The reason for the arrest and the potential charges against Duggan were not disclosed, the AP report said.

The British and Australian governments have complained that Beijing is poaching retired pilots to train Chinese air forces.

MILITARY

USAF squad demonstrates drones at new home

By **SETH ROBSON**
AND **HANA KUSUMOTO**
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force unit recently deployed to southern Japan demonstrated an MQ-9 Reaper drone for Japanese government officials over the weekend, partly to ease community concerns about the newcomer aircraft, officials said.

Eight Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drones and more than 150 airmen in the newly formed 319th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron began a yearlong deployment to Kanoya Air Base last month. Kanoya is a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force base near the southern tip of Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands.

Kanoya Mayor Shigeru Nakanishi, who signed off on the deployment in July, and Kagoshima prefecture Gov. Koichi Shiota were among about 40 local dignitaries who watched a Reaper fly from the base for about 15 minutes on Saturday, a Kyushu Defense Bureau spokesman said Monday. Japanese government officials typically speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

The drone took off from the base and flew over Kanoya city during the demonstration flight, he said. The reconnaissance squadron operated the drone at takeoff and landing but a mission-control unit



U.S. Air Force

Air Force Airman 1st Class Bradlee Paraska of 319th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron fuels an MQ-9 Reaper drone for a demonstration flight at Kanoya Air Base, Japan, on Saturday.

in the United States handled the Reaper in-flight, the defense bureau spokesman said.

The local leaders had asked to see the drones fly before operations begin so as to allay community concerns, said a Kanoya city official who deals with base affairs.

"It was good that we were able to see the actual aircraft and it actually flying," Nakanishi told reporters Monday.

The drones seemed quieter than other aircraft stationed at Kanoya, Nakanishi said.

"We will continue to take measures for safety and security of the residents by working with the related organizations including Kyushu Defense Bureau so there will not be any accidents or incidents," Nakanishi told the reporters, according to the city official.

Drones are expected to start regular operations sometime this month, the defense bureau spokesman said.

Video released Wednesday by the Air Force shows one of the unmanned aircraft taxiing, lifting off and buzzing overhead during an

earlier test flight.

The Reapers, deployed by U.S. Pacific Air Forces, will make reconnaissance flights in "close coordination" with the Japan Ministry of Defense, according to an Air Force statement with the video. PACAF describes the Reaper as a medium-altitude, long-endurance, remotely piloted aircraft.

The Reaper is primarily a surveillance aircraft but can carry an inventory of weapons, including Hellfire missiles and Paveway laser-guided bombs, according to the Air Force.

The Reapers at Kanoya will be configured for surveillance "and can't be equipped with weapons," according to a document from Japan's Ministry of Defense posted on the Kanoya city website.

Kanoya is already home to P-3C Orion maritime surveillance planes and UH-60J Black Hawk and SH-60K Seahawk helicopters of the Maritime Self-Defense Force. U.S. aircraft such as Marine Corps KC-130 tankers and Osprey tiltrotor aircraft visit the base during training.

The Reapers, made by General Atomics of San Diego, can carry 3,000 pounds of ordnance and first saw combat in Afghanistan in 2007 and in Iraq the following year. The U.S. has employed them on numerous missions throughout the Middle East and Africa.

The Air Force began deploying RQ-4 Global Hawk surveillance drones to Misawa Air Base in northern Japan in 2014, and has flown them out of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo in recent years. The Navy deployed its MQ-4C Triton maritime surveillance drones to Misawa last year and to Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, south of Hiroshima, this year.

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MILITARY

Pilot ejects from USAF training jet before crash

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force training jet crashed Monday afternoon near Columbus Air Force Base, officials at the Mississippi base said.

The pilot of the T-38C Talon experienced an “in-flight emergency” about 20 miles south of Columbus AFB before safely ejecting from the aircraft, according to a statement from base officials. The cause of the incident was under investigation as of Monday afternoon, officials said.

The pilot was transported to a lo-

cal hospital for evaluation, they said.

“We continuously train our pilots to react appropriately for all emergency situations such as the incident that occurred today,” Col. Jeremy Bergin, the vice commander of the Columbus AFB-based 14th Flying Training Wing, said in a statement. “We’re thankful the pilot ejected safely, and we appreciate the continued support of the Columbus community and our community partners.”

Columbus Air Force Base is in eastern Mississippi, about 150

miles northeast of the state’s capital of Jackson. The pilot-training base falls under the Air Force’s Air Education and Training Command, and student-pilots assigned to the base’s 14th Flying Training Wing fly the T-38, T-6A Texan II and the T-1A Jayhawk aircraft, according to the service.

The T-38 is a twin-engine, high-altitude, supersonic jet trainer that the Air Force uses to train pilots to fly its front-line fighter and bomber aircraft including F-15, F-16, F-22 and F-35 fighters, A-10 attack jets and B-1 bombers, according to the

Air Force.

Air Force flight students have flown the T-38 since the 1960s. The service in 2019 announced the jet’s replacement, the T-7A Red Hawk, would begin replacing the antiquated T-38 in 2023.

Air Force officials have said the T-38 lacks the modern capabilities of the newest Air Force jets such as the F-35. Top service officials said such problems will be fixed with the more modern trainers being sent to flight schools.

The service’s T-38 fleets have been plagued by crashes in recent

years. A student pilot was killed in November 2021 when two T-38s from Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas crashed into each other. Two Columbus AFB-based pilots — an American instructor and a Japanese student — were killed in a T-38 crash earlier that year, when their jet crash landed at Montgomery Regional Airport in Alabama.

Air Force officials have reported at least six other T-38s had crashed since November 2017.

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Marines renew natural disaster agreement with Okinawa mayors

By FRANK ANDREWS
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marine Corps renewed agreements Monday with local mayors to provide a refuge to Okinawans fleeing a natural disaster, such as a tsunami of the force that wiped out portions of eastern Japan’s coast in 2011.

The local implementation agreement allows four designated U.S. bases to open their gates to Okinawans seeking shelter or higher ground immediately before, during or after a natural disaster, according to a statement emailed Nov. 2 to Stars and Stripes by Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

“This agreement has initially been concluded between U.S. Marine Corps and our town in 2014 and re-signed in 2017,” Kin Town Mayor Hajime Nakama said at the signing ceremony at Camp Foster. “It was first implemented given our experiences from the Great East Japan Earthquake strike in March 2011. Precious lives and properties were lost instantly in the disaster, and this agreement was concluded with the aim to enable people living in coastal areas to immediately evacuate to higher ground.”

Maj. Gen. Stephen Liszewski, commander of Marine Corps In-

stallations Pacific and the complex of Okinawa bases called Marine Corps Base Smedley D. Butler, hosted the signing ceremony.

“Disaster preparedness is a shared responsibility,” Liszewski said at the ceremony. “This is one of the lessons we took from the historic March 11, 2011, earthquake that resulted in a tsunami that really forever changed how we view our installations and our presence here in Japan.”

Nearly 16,000 people died as a result of the earthquake and tsunami that struck the Tohoku region of Honshu, the largest of Japan’s four main islands.

Marine Corps installations on Okinawa can also be used as platforms for providing humanitarian assistance and emergency relief, he said.

“You can be sure the Marine Corps is ready to respond in the event of a natural disaster or other crises in the region. We are committed to maintaining a high degree of readiness now and into the future,” Liszewski said.

Thirty-one U.S. military installations are scattered throughout Okinawa Island, accounting for 70% of all U.S. military installations in Japan and 8.1% of Okinawa’s total area, according to Okinawa government records online.

The local implementation



FRANK ANDREWS/Stars and Stripes

From left, Mayor Hajime Nakama of Kin and Vice Mayor Akira Nakamatsu of Chatan, Marine Maj. Gen. Stephen Liszewski of Camp Butler, Mayor Masanori Matsugawa of Ginowan and Vice Mayor Chiemi Oshiro of Urasoe sign a disaster preparedness agreement at Camp Foster, Okinawa, on Monday.

agreement allows residents from Ginowan city, Chatan town, Kin town and Urasoe city, which are adjacent to Marine Corps bases Camp Foster, Camp Hansen and Camp Kinser, to access the bases’ higher ground in the event of a natural disaster.

“The Marine bases are located in high areas, meaning you can run onto it when a tsunami happens,” Chatan Vice Mayor Akira Nakamatsu said to Stars and Stripes at

the ceremony.

Liszewski, Nakama and Nakamatsu joined Mayor Masanori Matsugawa of Ginowan and Vice Mayor Chiemi Oshiro of Urasoe for the ceremony. The agreements also spell out procedures for evacuating Okinawans through the Marine bases closest to their communities.

The local implementation agreements last five years and can be reaffirmed in 2027, LaDonna

Davis, a spokeswoman for Marine Corps Installations Pacific, told Stars and Stripes on Saturday.

“It is difficult for us to sign an agreement to deal with that level of disaster,” Matsugawa told Stars and Stripes, “but if a man-made disaster occurs, we would like to cooperate with U.S. bases.”

Stars and Stripes reporter Keishi Koja contributed to this report.
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VA to prioritize claims under PACT Act for vets suffering from cancer

By SARA SAMORA
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs will prioritize claims from veterans suffering with cancers that stem from exposure to burn pits and other toxins by handling their cases immediately to get them access to care and benefits as quickly as possible, agency officials said Monday.

“This work is a part of President [Joe] Biden’s vision for the Cancer Moonshot, and it’s a part of his broader efforts to end cancer as

we know it,” VA Secretary Denis McDonough said Monday at a National Press Club luncheon. “So, we will expedite veterans’ claims if they have been diagnosed with melanoma, brain cancer, neck cancer, pancreatic cancer, kidney cancer, glioblastoma, head cancer of any type, respiratory cancer of any type, reproductive cancer of any type, gastrointestinal cancer of any type, lymphoma of any type and lymphomatic cancer of any type.”

The VA said nearly 14,000 claims by veterans for treatment

to battle cancers have been submitted under The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, since President Joe Biden signed it into law on Aug. 10.

“We are working hard to get benefits to all veterans who qualify under the PACT ACT as soon as possible, and veterans living with cancer are at particular risk,” McDonough said. “Expediting claims for these vets will ensure they get the care and benefits they need and so rightly deserve.”

The PACT Act seeks to provide an easier path to health care and benefits for veterans who served near open-air burn pits, which were used throughout the 1990s and the post-9/11 wars to burn garbage, jet fuel and other materials. Veterans diagnosed with cancer, respiratory issues and lung disease at young ages have blamed exposure to the toxic fumes from these pits, but the VA contended for years that there wasn’t sufficient evidence to support their claims.

The new law also improves the

VA’s workforce and its claims processing to speed up efforts to meet the needs of veterans and establish 31 new VA health care facilities in 19 states. The VA said it will begin processing all PACT Act-related claims on Jan. 1 and anticipates a surge of new claims. Thus, the VA announced it is hiring at 56 regional offices and 39 special processing and call centers within the United States and Puerto Rico.

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MILITARY

Program: 'Keeping the motivated ones in will benefit the Corps'

FROM PAGE 1

Gen. David Berger, the Corps' commandant, introduced his Talent Management 2030 plan last year as part of his effort to modernize the service branch. Berger said he recognized that while keeping high-performing, highly trained Marines could cost more initially, he believed it would pay off in the future with more mature and skilled Marines in a warfare space that is becoming more challenging and complex.

"Our processes and approach to personnel and talent management are no longer suited to today's needs," Berger wrote in his report. The Marines' past framework, he said, treated every Marine like a round peg and every job like a round hole. A talent management system "recognizes that Marines and billets (jobs) come in different shapes and sizes."

The Marines' idea of warfare "places a premium on individual judgment and action," he said. "We must bring into the service the right people with the right skill sets, measure their talents, and then match their skills to the duties they desire and are suited to perform. Once we invest in these individuals, we need to incentivize the retention of the right numbers of the most capable among them so they can continue to add value to our organization."

Starting in October 2021, leaders sought out those Marines who excelled and by July, the Corps had hit its recruiting goals with the help of retention efforts — months early.

And the number of Marines choosing to stay meant fewer fresh recruits needed to be signed up and trained — about 2,400 fewer.

The Marines recruited about 28,600 active-duty Marines and filled the 4,602 Reserves it needed, officials said.

This fiscal year was the first in a decade where Marines exceeded



MINDY SCHAUER / TNS

Cpl. Marvin Fuentes, left, decided to stay on in the Marines, where he is a Motor Transport mechanic. So did Cpl. Alexandria McFadden, right, who is in Motor Transport but will become a drill instructor. They are shown in a Humvee at Camp Pendleton, Calif., last month.

retention goals; in previous years it averaged about 97% of its mission.

Instead of waiting for a Marine to show an interest in reenlisting, the leadership retention team screened 24,680 Marines and pre-approved nearly 2,500 for reenlistment, said Yvonne Carlock, a Marine spokeswoman for Manpower & Reserve Affairs, the division that oversees Marine retention.

Marines who were pre-approved had an abbreviated submission process and Marine leaders plan to capitalize on the success of the program for the next year's retention campaign, she said.

The retention efforts are also crucial as the overall pool of candidates for recruitment shrinks and the nation's service branches compete for their interest. Officials estimate the pool the branches are recruiting from is about 400,000 people.

And the coronavirus pandemic is still affecting recruiting. There has been less access to high school students, and after remote learn-

ing at least 11% are out of shape and in some cases test scores have fallen.

Before the pandemic, many candidates delayed their entry by months.

"It gave them time to understand our culture and to get physically prepared," said Capt. Joshua Collins, a spokesperson with Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. "Now we have direct shippers that leave for boot camp in 30 days. We're dwindling in our depth. Recruiting is difficult because we don't have people on standby."

Since the end of the Afghanistan War, there has also been a decrease in public confidence in the military and a growing civilian and military divide, which affects recruiting, Collins said.

To help with retention, the Marines are offering those who are qualified incentives, such as options for early moves from one base to another or an opportunity to move into a more desired job, and have made it so they can reenlist on the spot without having to fill out paperwork that could take

months and in the past led to some Marines losing interest, officials said.

At Camp Pendleton, the 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, which is the West Coast command that trains and deploys troops around the world, this year averaged an overall retention of 71%. Some of the jobs where the retention mission hit 100% included ordnance repair, military police, aircraft mechanics and tactical data systems administrators.

"We look for Marines that are the most competent," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Jesse Hernandez, a career planner who makes sure jobs in the command aren't left vacant. "We look for the ones with the highest rifle and pistol scores, where the education is complete, the highest PT (physical training), and the best work ethic."

Hernandez said the commandant's program helped identify those Marines.

"When you identify Marines as the cream of the crop, they'll reenlist and that trickles down to others who will stay in," he said.

One of the Marines identified was Cpl. Stephany Nolasco, 21, who enlisted in 2019 and just recently signed up for another four years. She works as an administrative specialist for the command, doing legal work and assisting limited-duty Marines and sailors who need help doing their paperwork and getting their documentation in order. Her job now, she said, is the perfect steppingstone to becoming a Marine Judge Advocate.

"I think there is a lot I can offer the Marine Corps and a lot I can take out of it with education, life experiences and travel," the Seattle native said.

Nolasco joined the Marines after she graduated high school — the opportunity for travel, education and adventure was more enticing than going to a local college.

"I'm very competitive," she

said, adding that the moment she hit the fleet, she started college, which is "not something many people do."

Nolasco said she gets her motivation from her parents, who are Mexican immigrants.

"They put a lot of emphasis on the power of education," she said. "When I complete that, I'll fulfill their dream and set a good example for my little sisters."

"I'm fortunate to be a legal clerk; that's a small head start," she added. "I dropped hints (about wanting to re-enlist) and they ended up choosing me. I think it will be a better experience doing law inside the Marine Corps."

Similarly, Cpl. Marvin Fuentes wants to make the Marines his career. Like McFadden, he's been a standout in Motor Transport, where he works as a technician while overseeing a platoon of 30 to 40 Marines.

Fuentes, who grew up in Virginia, said he's always loved fixing engines, even as a kid when he helped his father on some of the equipment for his lawn service. Fuentes first became impressed with the Marines when he was in middle school and later in high school when he joined ROTC. In just over three years since joining, Fuentes, 21, has earned a reputation of "working on trucks that don't break down."

"Me and my corporal, we work on trucks and do it fast and proficiently," he said. "At the end of the day, the trucks are your product. You either do it by the book and with integrity, or you don't."

McFadden, whose father, brother and grandfather served, said she is proud she is among those chosen for another service contract. She sees the value in the program for the young Marines she mentors.

"Keeping the motivated ones in will benefit the Corps," she said. "I feel like otherwise, all this knowledge goes to waste."

Vets groups sue DOD, DOJ to obtain sex assault prosecution records

BY DOUG G. WARE

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two veterans advocacy groups have filed a lawsuit against the Defense Department to obtain records on criminal prosecutions that they say have been illegally withheld from the public and which they expect could show disparities in how some serious crimes, particularly sexual assault, are punished in the military.

"The withheld records are expected to confirm that the military justice system fails victims of servicemember crimes by under-prosecuting serious offenses," the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School, which represents both groups, said in a statement.

The advocacy groups — Protect Our Defenders and the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center — filed the complaint Thursday in Connecticut's U.S. district court. The suit claims that attempts by both groups to obtain these records and data from the Defense Department under the Freedom of Information Act have been unlawfully "ignored" for six months.

Specifically, the four main military branches were petitioned separately to produce the records. The suit says the Marine Corps "was the only entity to substantively respond" to the FOIA request. All the requests sought prosecution records going back 15 years at various military installations in California,

Texas and New York, according to the court document.

The suit also names the Justice Department as a defendant and says it has similarly not responded appropriately to the FOIA request.

Both groups said they are seeking the records in the interest of transparency and the belief among the American public that continued reforms in the way the military delivers justice is essential and necessary for equality under the law.

Of particular interest to the advocacy groups are the differences in punishment for service members by military and civilian prosecutions given the different protocols that exist between the two. For decades, military commanders had al-

most absolute authority over prosecutions in dealing with major crimes. That was changed by the Uniform Code of Military Justice when it was passed by Congress and took effect in the 1950s. But while the UCMJ has brought some improvements, advocates say it was only a first step forward.

When Congress passed the National Defense Authorization Act for 2022, which sets policy and spending priorities for the Pentagon, it contained further reforms that removed military commanders from the decision-making process for certain crimes, including sexual assault and murder. Originally, the proposal sought to remove commanders from decisions involving

all criminal prosecutions, but opposition from Republicans in Congress led to a compromise that applied to only certain crimes.

Under the change in the NDAA, decisions about whether to prosecute about a dozen specific crimes shifted from military commanders to independent special trial prosecutors.

The FOIA requests for the records were made in May and the suit says neither the Defense Department nor Justice Department has complied.

The Defense Department declined to comment on the lawsuit, citing the pending litigation.

NATION

Some midterm election results may be delayed

By DANIELLE PAQUETTE
The Washington Post

Across the country, counting the midterm ballots could take longer than usual, experts have warned, particularly in swing states with competitive races. The result: Americans might not know which party controls either chamber of Congress by the end of election night.

Several factors could contribute to a delay in calling races: the length of time it will take for election officials in many states to tabulate mail and absentee ballots, the potential for runoffs in close contests, caution by media organizations about declaring winners and possible litigation that could draw out the process.

Officials nationwide have urged patience, saying the post-pandemic rise in mail voting, along with a shifting road map of disparate rules, continues to slow vote tallies. Add that to the traditional snags of human error and technical difficulties, and naming winners in the showdowns for 35 Senate seats and 435 House seats, along with 36 governors' contests and a batch of state legislative races, could be a week-plus journey.

"It doesn't mean anything nefarious is happening," acting Pennsylvania secretary of state Leigh M. Chapman said of the potential wait.

Mail voting surged during the pandemic as Americans, particularly Democrats, opted to skip crowded polling sites. Voters have applied for fewer absentee ballots than they did two years ago as coronavirus guards have collectively lowered, experts have said, but requests are still outpacing 2018.

States enforce varying due dates

for those envelopes, along with different procedures for when they can be vetted and tallied. That leads to quick answers in places like Delaware, which counted 90% of its 2020 votes in about two hours, and extended uncertainty in places like California, where ballots post-marked by Election Day can be tallied until Nov. 15.

In some states, such as Pennsylvania, election officials are not permitted to begin processing mail ballots until Election Day. The results of the Alaska congressional races may not be known until Nov. 23, the date the state's ranked choice voting tabulations will take place (and the deadline for ballots mailed from overseas).

Normalizing vote-by-mail and the ballot dropbox in recent years has made democracy more convenient, advocates have said: Turnout for the 2020 election skyrocketed to the highest levels in decades. But it also unleashed logistical hurdles and spurred false claims by then-President Donald Trump and his allies, who seized on early returns showing him in the lead in key states before mail ballots were counted.

Election officials have warned that early returns could create a "red mirage," based on the initial tabulation of in-person ballots cast largely by Republican voters—only to be overtaken by a "blue shift," when mail ballots cast by Democratic voters are tallied later.

The uncertainty of how voters of each party cast their ballots this year in different states will make races trickier to call, said David Scott, head of news strategy and operations at the Associated Press,



CHRIS LANDSBERGER, TULSA (OKLA.) WORLD/AP

Voters cast their ballots for the general election at United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd in Yukon, Okla., on Tuesday.

which analyzes raw vote totals before naming winners.

"In Arizona, for example, votes counted after Election Day in 2018 were slightly more Democratic than those counted before," he said. "But in 2020, votes counted after Election Day in Arizona were slightly more Republican than those counted before."

The last ballots tallied could bring "unexpected shifts" for a candidate, he added, especially in contests where just a few hundred votes could deliver victory.

Because of this, Scott said the AP could delay some of its calls, particularly in close races. "That volatility makes it a challenge to know if the trend [of] the votes counted first will continue throughout the tabulation," he said. "That will lead to cau-

tion."

Several news outlets, including The Washington Post, said they'll review data more rigorously this year before reporting the winners of the tightest races. And with all the fierce contests playing out, legal challenges and recounts are likely to trigger even more slowdowns.

In a Wednesday speech, President Joe Biden told Americans to expect delays, saying "it takes time to count all legitimate ballots in a legal and orderly manner."

Most states allow election workers to start opening and vetting mail ballots before Election Day, but Republicans have opposed that speed-enhancing step in the battlegrounds of Wisconsin and Pennsylvania. Granting a head start would provide "an extra day to cheat," one GOP

lawmaker in Wisconsin said.

In reality, such restrictions just slow the vote count, said Timothy Benyo, the elections director in Pennsylvania's Lehigh County, a registered Republican.

In Michigan, lawmakers passed a bill that enabled workers to start processing mail votes two days earlier, but the measure landed so late that several jurisdictions didn't have time to switch plans. The secretary of state's office predicted Michigan's tally will be finished within 24 hours of the polls closing Tuesday at 8 p.m.

"There is a reality that the workflow of counting absentee ballots is really time-intensive," said one county clerk at a news briefing. "Beyond the speed, we want to make sure that it's right."

Oath Keepers leader: No plan to attack the Capitol on Jan. 6

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Oath Keepers leader Stewart Rhodes told jurors there was no plan for his band of extremists to attack the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, as he tried Monday to clear his name in his seditious conspiracy trial.

Taking the stand in his defense for a second day, Rhodes testified that he had no idea his followers were going to join the pro-Donald Trump mob to storm the Capitol and that he was upset after he found out that some did. "There was no plan to enter the building for

any purpose," Rhodes said.

Rhodes said he believed it was stupid for any Oath Keepers to go into the Capitol. He insisted that was not their "mission."

In text messages on the day of the attack, though, Rhodes struck a different note, referring to Trump supporters who entered the Capitol as "actual patriots." Rather than telling his followers to stay away from the riot, he called them to the area. Rhodes maintained that was simply a meet-up point to leave, but prosecutor Kathryn Rakoczy pointed out Rhodes never con-

demned the insurrection. Hours after it ended, he wrote a message saying "you ain't seen nothing yet."

She also showed multiple messages where Rhodes referred to "us and our rifles" or "boots on the ground" ahead of Jan. 6. Rhodes had been "saying for weeks, if not months, that when the president didn't act, your supporters would take things into their own hands," she said.

Rhodes said Monday that he was talking about what he thought could happen after Jan. 6.

Rhodes is on trial with four oth-

ers for what prosecutors have alleged was a plan to stage an armed rebellion to stop the transfer of presidential power from Republican Trump to Democrat Joe Biden. Prosecutors have tried to show that for the Oath Keepers, the riot was not a spur-of-the-moment protest but part of a serious, weeklong plot.

Rhodes' defense is focused largely on the idea that his rhetoric was aimed at persuading Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act, which gives the president wide discretion to decide when military force is

necessary and what qualifies as military force. Rhodes told jurors he believed it would have been legal for Trump to invoke that act and call up a militia in response to what he believed was an "unconstitutional" and "invalid" election.

"All of my effort was on what Trump could do," Rhodes said.

It was not entirely clear what Rhodes would have wanted the militia to do after being called up by Trump. But he insisted that disrupting the certification of the vote was not one of his goals and expected it would be certified.

Winter storm brings rain, snow and flood fears to California

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A major winter storm pounded California on Tuesday, bringing rain and snow to the drought-stricken state along with possible flash flooding in areas recently scarred by wildfires, meteorologists said.

The storm is predicted to last into midweek. It arrived Monday, bringing hopes that the precipitation could blunt an already moderate wildfire season in California.

But in some areas, the rain posed its own problems. The city of Duarte, in the Southern California

foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, issued mandatory evacuation orders late Monday night for about 25 homes in the Fish Fire burn scar area.

In Northern California, meteorologists issued a flash flood watch through 5 p.m. Tuesday, warning

that heavy rainfall could lead to debris flows and flash flooding in the burn scars of the Colorado and River wildfires.

National Weather Service meteorologists expect between 1 and 3 inches of rainfall through Wednesday in the Los Angeles area's coast

and valleys. The foothills and mountains could see up to 5 inches. Thunderstorms are expected to last Tuesday afternoon into the evening.

Meteorologists have said mountain peaks above 6,000 feet elevation could get 6 to 12 inches of snowfall, with 20 inches possible locally.

NATION



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Dressed as Lotto balls, California Lottery employees Marina Maldonado, right, and Liza Solis, left, dance past people waiting to buy Powerball tickets at Lichine's Liquor & Deli in Sacramento, on Monday.

Powerball ticket sold in Calif. snags a record \$2.04B win

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Someone who bought a Powerball ticket in Southern California has won a record \$2.04 billion Powerball jackpot after more than three months without anyone hitting the top prize.

The winning numbers drawn Tuesday morning at the Florida Lottery draw studio in Tallahassee were: white balls 10, 33, 41, 47 and 56, and the red Powerball was 10.

The jackpot ticket was sold at Joe's Service Center in Altadena, an unincorporated community in the foothills northeast of Los Angeles. A voicemail left for Joe's Service Center was not immediately returned.

The jackpot was by far the largest lottery prize ever won, topping the previous record \$1.586 billion prize won by three Powerball ticketholders in 2016. Only four previous jackpots have topped \$1 billion, but none of those are close to the current prize, which started at \$20 million back on Aug. 6 and over three winless months has grown massive. No one has won the jackpot since Aug.

3. The jackpot was initially reported as an estimated \$1.9 billion on Monday, but the prize was increased to \$2.04 billion Tuesday morning after updated calculations.

The Multi-State Lottery Association said Monday night's scheduled drawing was delayed by nearly 10 hours until Tuesday because a participating lottery had issues processing sales.

The problems in holding a drawing Monday night were blamed on one participating lottery's inability to process its sales data. After the lottery, which wasn't identified, completed its pre-draw procedures, the drawing was able to go ahead.

"Protecting the integrity of the draw is of utmost importance, and we were able to do that during this historic drawing with the cooperation of all participating lotteries," said Drew Svitko, the chairman of the Powerball Product Group and executive director of the Pennsylvania Lottery.

Terry Rich, a former director of the Iowa Lottery who also served on the Powerball board, said the delay was likely due to a two-part verification system of ticket sales that makes use of an outside vendor to ensure all is in order before the game's numbers are drawn.

"Each state must verify through a dual process that all of the sales and dollars match before the Multi-State Lottery Association can do the draw," said Rich, who headed the Iowa Lottery for 10 years and was president of the North American Lottery Association. "This is a state-by-state procedure, which separates the whole process and has been very effective."

The \$2.04 billion prize is for a winner who chooses an annuity, paid annually over 29 years. Nearly all winners instead opt for cash, which was valued at \$997.6 million.

The odds of winning the jackpot are 1 in 292.2 million.

The game is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Solar panel trouble on space cargo capsule

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A Northrop Grumman cargo capsule ran into trouble with a solar panel after Monday's liftoff to the International Space Station.

Only one of the two solar panels on the Cygnus capsule opened successfully following the predawn liftoff from Virginia.

Northrop Grumman officials assured NASA that there's enough power from the solar

panel for Wednesday's planned space station rendezvous, but the space agency was still assessing the situation.

It's too early to know whether the capsule would be stable enough to be captured by the space station's robot arm, if the problem persists, said NASA's Dina Contella, a space station manager.

Northrop Grumman launched the capsule from coastal Wallops Island with more than 8,200

pounds of equipment and experiments, including brackets needed for upcoming spacewalks to upgrade the space station's power grid. It's dubbed the S.S. Sally Ride after the first American woman in space who died a decade ago.

The Virginia-based company has been sending shipments to the space station since 2013. There's been only one failure in its previous 18 supply runs, a launch explosion in 2014.

Nicole strengthens, threatens Bahamas and Florida coast

Associated Press

MIAMI — Subtropical Storm Nicole began strengthening and transitioning into a tropical storm early Tuesday as it churned toward the northwestern Bahamas and Florida's Atlantic coastline, forecasters said.

"There are indications in the satellite imagery and reconnaissance aircraft that the system may be trying to evolve into a more classic tropical cyclone and could become a full-blown tropical storm later today," Jack Bevin, a senior hurricane specialist at the Miami-based National Hurricane Center, told The Associated Press on Tuesday morning.

A range of warnings and watches remain in place. Many areas are still reeling from damage caused by Hurricane Ian, which hit Florida's southwestern Gulf Coast as a Category 4 storm in late September, before dumping heavy amounts of rain across much of central part of the state.

Hurricane warnings were in effect for the Abacos, Berry Islands, Bimini and Grand Bahama Island, the advisory said. Other areas of

the Bahamas, including Andros Island, New Providence and Eleuthera remained under a tropical storm warning.

The hurricane center said the storm's track shifted slightly north overnight, but the exact path remains uncertain. It was expected to make landfall along Florida's coast as a Category 1 hurricane late Wednesday or early Thursday.

In the United States, tropical storm warnings and hurricane watches were issued for much of Florida's Atlantic coastline north of Miami, to Altamaha Sound, Ga. The warning area stretches inland, covering Florida's Lake Okeechobee, with tropical storm watches in effect on the state's Gulf Coast—from Bonita Beach in southwest Florida to the Ochlockonee River in the Panhandle.

Bevin said the storm has a "very large cyclonic envelope," meaning that even if it makes landfall along the central Florida coastline, the effects will be felt into Georgia.

The storm was not expected to have any impact on voting in Florida on Tuesday, Bevin said.

Tyson Foods CFO charged with public intoxication

Associated Press

Tyson Foods' Chief Financial Officer John R. Tyson — a great-grandson of the company's founder — has been charged with public intoxication and criminal trespassing after allegedly entering a stranger's home and falling asleep on her bed.

According to an incident report provided by the Fayetteville, Ark., police department, officers received a call early Sunday morning from a woman who had returned home to find a man she didn't know sleeping in her bed.

When officers arrived, they tried to wake Tyson, but said his movements were "sluggish and uncoordinated" and there was an odor of intoxicants on his breath and body, according to the police report. His clothes were found on the floor by the bed.

Tyson was charged with public intoxication and criminal trespassing, and released late Sunday on a \$415 bond. He is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 1.

Tyson, 32, is the son of Tyson Foods Chairman John H. Tyson. After working as an investment banker at J.P. Morgan, Tyson



Tyson

joined Tyson Foods in 2019 and led its sustainability and enterprise strategy teams. On Sept. 27, the company based in Springdale, Ark., promoted him to executive vice president and chief financial officer.

Tyson Foods spokesman Derek Bureson said Monday that the company is aware of the incident but considers it a personal matter and has no additional comment.

Tyson is the second high-profile food-industry executive arrested in Fayetteville in the last two months. In September, Beyond Meat Chief Operations Officer Doug Ramsey was arrested and charged with felony battery and making a terroristic threat after biting a man's nose during an argument in a parking garage at the University of Arkansas.

Ramsey had spent more than 30 years at Tyson Foods before joining Beyond Meat last year. Beyond Meat suspended Ramsey after the incident. He left the company in mid-October.

WORLD

Leaders push for climate action, fossil tax

By FRANK JORDANS AND WANJOHI KABUKURU
Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — The world should confront climate change the way it does nuclear weapons, by agreeing to a non-proliferation treaty that stops further production of fossil fuels, a small island nation leader proposed Tuesday as vulnerable nations pushed for more action and money at international climate talks.

“We all know that the leading cause of climate crisis is fossil fuels,” Tuvalu Prime Minister Kau-sea Natano told his fellow leaders. So

his country has “joined Vanuatu and other nations calling for a fossil fuels non-proliferation treaty. ... It’s getting too hot and there is very (little) time to slow and reverse the increasing temperature. Therefore, it is essential to prioritize fast acting strategies that avoids the most warming.”

Vanuatu and Tuvalu, along with other vulnerable nations, have been flexing their moral authority in negotiations, especially in light of mega climate disasters. The idea of a non-proliferation treaty for coal, oil and natural gas has been advanced by churches, including the

Vatican, and some scientists, but Natano’s speech gives it a bigger boost in front of a global audience.

A year ago at climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland, a proposal to call for a “phase out” coal was changed at the last minute to “phase down” by a demand from India, earning the wrath of small island nations and some vulnerable countries.

Small island nation leaders also called for a global tax on the profits of fossil fuel corporations that are making billions of dollars a day during a global energy crisis triggered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Malawi’s President Lazarus

Chakwera said any agreements forged at the two-week meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh should recognize the different abilities of developed nations like the U.S. and high-productivity countries such as China on the one hand, and developing nations like his own on the other.

So far, China has insisted that it cannot be held to the same standards as developed economies such as the United States or Europe because it is still lifting millions of its citizens out of poverty. But there is growing pressure on Beijing to step up its climate efforts given its massive economic clout.

Officials: US aid worker killed in Iraq

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Assaultants fatally shot an American aid worker Monday in a rare killing of a foreigner in the Iraqi capital in recent years, two police officials said.

The man was shot in his car as he entered the street where he lived in Baghdad’s central Karrada district on the east bank of the Tigris River but the reason for the killing was not immediately clear, they said. They said the man’s wife and child were in the car with him but were not hurt.

The officials said as the man drove through his street, a car cut him off and assaultants in another car shot him dead. It was not immediately clear if the assaultants were trying to kidnap the man, they said.

State Department spokesman Ned Price told reporters the department is aware of the reports of the killing of a U.S. aid worker in Baghdad and is looking into them.

Haitian gang members charged in kidnapping of Americans

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The U.S. Department of Justice on Monday announced criminal charges against seven Haitian gang leaders for the kidnappings of numerous U.S. citizens, including Christian missionaries and children.

The missionaries were part of a group of 16 U.S. citizens, most of

whom were held captive for 61 days before escaping. The group included five children, the Justice Department said in a news release.

The Department of State announced a \$1 million reward Monday for each of the three gang members who they say were responsible for that kidnap-

ping: Lanmo Sanjou, aka Joseph Wilson; and Jermaine Stephenson, aka Gaspiyay, both current leaders of the 400 Mawozo gang; and Vitel’homme Innocent, leader of the Kraze Barye gang. All three have been charged with conspiracy to commit hostage-taking and hostage-taking.

The missionaries, who were

serving near Port-au-Prince, were abducted on Oct. 16, 2021, the Justice Department said. Two of the hostages were released in late November and three more were released in early December. The remaining hostages escaped captivity in mid-December, the department said in the news release.

STARS AND STRIPES

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market




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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Principal suspended over goose-stepping student

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago high school principal has been suspended after a student in a German military uniform goose-stepped during a Halloween costume event.

Joseph Powers told staff at Jones College Prep that the student was dressed as a Cold War-era East German soldier. But he said the boy also may have told others that “it was from the 1940s,” the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

“Let me say clearly and plainly that intolerance, bigotry, and bias-based behaviors have no place in our school,” Powers said in a subsequent email to parents.

Chicago schools chief executive Pedro Martinez suspended Powers while the matter is investigated.

Suburb unveils statue of first lady Abigail Adams

MA BOSTON — Abigail Adams, one of the most influential and important women in the history of the U.S., was honored with a new statue in the community just south of Boston where she and husband President John Adams lived.

The 7-foot-tall bronze statue of the woman who was not only the wife of the nation’s second president but also the mother of the nation’s sixth president, John Quincy Adams, will be placed not far from a statue of her husband on the Hancock Adams Common in Quincy.

“If John Adams was a Founding Father, then Abigail Adams was a founding mother,” current Quincy Mayor Thomas Koch said in a recent telephone interview.

The statue, paid for with about \$350,000 in city money, according to Koch, was sculpted by Sergey Eylanbekov, who also sculpted the statues of John Adams and John Hancock already on the common.

Officials warn of ‘slick smelly’ chicken offal spill

KY PADUCAH — Kentucky officials warned motorists to avoid a portion U.S. Highway 62 where chicken offal spilled along the roadway.

“The Calvert City Fire Department is attempting to wash the waste material off the roadway,” the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet wrote in a Facebook post. “KYTC Marshall County Maintenance will apply salt to the roadway to enhance traction and cut through the slick smelly coating on the pavement.”

“To avoid the smell and getting chicken waste on your vehicle, you should avoid this area,” the post reads.

2 arrested after woman killed with a sword

NM SANTA FE — A woman and her boyfriend have been arrested in connection with a death in Santa Fe in which



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Going poll dancing

Zedrina Hardemon Jones dances with a Junkanoo band during a Souls to the Polls event organized by faith leaders and labor groups at an early voting location, on Sunday, in Miami.

the victim was stabbed with a three-foot metal sword, according to authorities.

Police said Kiara McCulley, 19, and Isaac Apodaca, 25, were taken into custody and both remain jailed on open counts of murder.

According to a criminal complaint, McCulley is accused of fatally stabbing Grace Jennings, 19, and also may have tried to decapitate her after allegedly being encouraged to do so by Apodaca. Police said they found text messages between Apodaca and McCulley allegedly conspiring to kill Jennings.

McCulley said she has multiple personality disorder and doesn’t remember fatally stabbing the victim, according to authorities.

Police said Jennings’ body was found in an detached garage at the home of McCulley’s mother.

Police said McCulley told them she became upset after Apodaca invited Jennings, a former girlfriend, to spend Friday night with the couple.

Sickness affecting 48 at school still unexplained

PA HANOVER — Authorities said they still don’t know what caused several dozen children and adults to fall ill at an eastern Pennsylvania school, prompting an evacuation.

Chief Scott Van Why of the Hanover Township Volunteer Fire Department told The (Allentown) Morning Call that tests of the air turned up nothing to explain what

affected 48 children and adults at Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School.

Emergency responders were sent to the school after nearly a dozen people were reported sick in one of the three buildings. Officials said that the building, which houses seventh- through 12th-grade students, was evacuated “out of an abundance of caution,” but normal operations continued at other buildings where younger students are taught.

Susan Mauer, CEO of the Lehigh Valley Academy Regional Charter School, said most of those taken to hospitals for evaluation had been released, LehighValley-Live.com reported.

Military medals returned to WWII vet’s children

TN NASHVILLE — Four missing World War II military medals found in a Tennessee safe-deposit box have been returned to the soldier’s family.

The Tennessee Department of Treasury Division of Unclaimed Property located Joseph R. Foster’s family with the help of a social media campaign launched about a year ago, the agency said in a news release.

Foster, who died in 2010, served in the U.S. Army in Germany during the war and was awarded the medals. He stored them in a safe-deposit box in a Nashville-area bank, and the medals were discovered in the abandoned box after his

death and turned over to Unclaimed Property.

Foster’s children, Melisa Foster Washington and David Foster, were given the medals during a ceremony at the state Capitol.

Vintage Christmas exhibit has ‘Brady Bunch’ theme

OH LANCASTER — An exhibit in Ohio is evoking Christmas memories with a display of historic storybooks, vintage toys and costumes from the sets of the “Brady Bunch” of TV and movies.

The show, “A Storybook Christmas Featuring a Very Brady Holiday,” opened at the Decorative Arts Center of Ohio and runs through Dec. 31.

The exhibition marks the opening of the holiday season at the historic Reese-Peters House that houses the museum. Across five rooms trimmed for the holidays, visitors will be invited to step into the pages of classic Christmas storybooks including “The Night Before Christmas,” “The Polar Express” and “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.”

Some children’s board books and pop-up books will be arranged with pages open for visitors to read, while others will be positioned along with toys under Christmas trees as gifts, replicating what Christmas morning may have looked like for the Bradys and other families in the 1960s and ’70s.

Several costumes and props

from the “Brady Bunch” sets have been incorporated into the display by co-curator Randall Thropp, who manages the Paramount Pictures Costume Archive. They include a two-piece pantsuit Florence Henderson wore in the episode where the Bradys travel to the Grand Canyon and a horse sculpture that appeared at the base of the Bradys’ staircase.

Man surrenders to police after 3-day standoff

CT MILFORD — A Connecticut man believed to be armed who had barricaded himself in his apartment surrendered to police after a three-day standoff.

In a Facebook post, police in Milford said the man, who was not identified, was safely taken into custody.

The man had claimed his landlord locked him into his apartment overnight and that he had tried to shoot the lock off.

Police remained at the scene in varying numbers for the duration of the standoff, and even cut off gas and electricity to the apartment to try and get him to come out.

Hearst Connecticut reported officers believed they saw the man with a shotgun or other long gun but hadn’t been able to confirm whether a shot was fired in the apartment. Police said the man didn’t threaten to harm himself or others.

FACES

Evans named People's Sexiest Man Alive

Associated Press

Chris Evans may have put down Captain America's shield, but he's got a new badge of honor: he's been named People magazine's Sexiest Man Alive.

People's selection was announced Monday night on Stephen Colbert's late night show and on the magazine's website. Evans, 41, who for nearly a decade played Captain America in Marvel's sprawling superhero films, takes the baton from another Avenger, Paul Rudd.

"My mom will be so happy," he told the magazine for its cover story, which hits newsstands on Friday. "She's proud of everything I do, but this is something she can really brag about."

He also knows that he's likely to be teased by close friends. "Really, this will just be a

point of bullying," he joked in an interview. "It's ripe for harassment."

Among those likely to heckle him are co-stars and previous Sexiest Man Alive winners like Rudd, Ryan Reynolds and Chris Hemsworth. (Hemsworth, who plays Thor in the Marvel films, was the first Avenger to win People's annual honor, which was first handed out to Mel Gibson in 1985.)

Other past honorees include John Legend, Dwayne Johnson, Idris Elba, Richard Gere, Channing Tatum and David Beckham.

Evans played superhero Johnny Storm in two "Fantastic Four" films released in 2005 and 2007. But he gained widespread fame in 2011 with the release of "Captain America: The First Avenger."

Since then, he's played the wholesome superhero in 10 Marvel films, laying down his

shield after "Avengers: Endgame" in 2019.

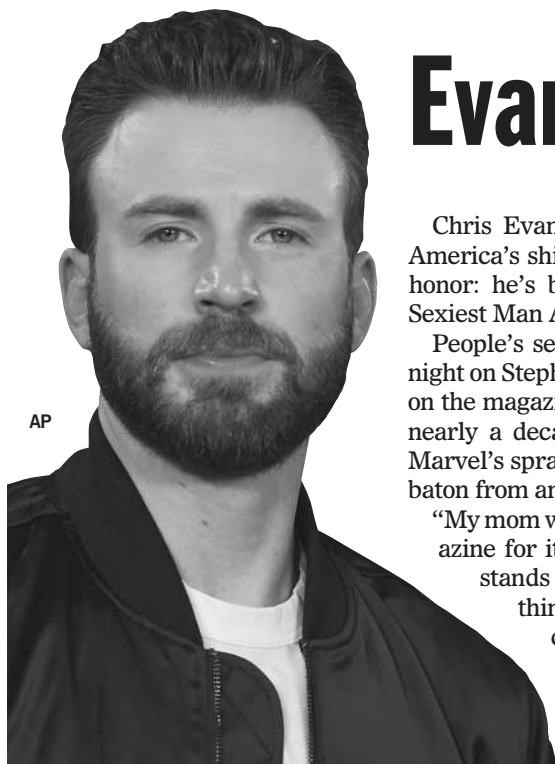
Evans has become a highly bankable star, voicing the Buzz Lightyear character in Pixar's "Lightyear" film and playing a sadistic assassin trying to kill Reynolds in Netflix's "The Gray Man" — both released this year.

The actor told People he's thinking about marriage and having a family, saying, "That's absolutely something I want."

The Boston native also continues his involvement with the civic engagement site A Starting Point, which he co-founded in 2020.

As he charts the next part of his life and career, Evans fully expects that People's honor will be a milestone.

"It's something that as I become old and saggy I can look back on and say 'I remember then...'" Evans said. "I'm lucky to be in the discussion in any capacity."



AP

New this week: Springsteen, 'The Big Brunch'

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music and video game platforms this week.

Movies

■ Did you follow all the "Don't Worry Darling" fuss and forget to watch the film? Well, don't worry, darling, Olivia Wilde's mid-century-styled psychological thriller is now streaming on HBO Max. For those who've stayed blissfully unaware of spit-gate and salad dressing and "Miss Flo," Wilde's film takes us into a planned community in the desert, where the martinis flow, the women clean and the men go off to work during the day. But Alice (Florence Pugh) starts seeing cracks in her seemingly perfect life with Jack (Harry Styles) and starts asking questions about the mysterious company he works for, run by an enigmatic leader played by Chris Pine.

■ Film critic and historian Elvis Mitchell looks at the history of Black cinema and "a group of artists who changed the culture forever" with the landmark films of the 1970s in a new Netflix documentary, "Is That Black Enough For You!?", streaming Friday. Using clips from more than 100 films and new interviews from the likes of Harry Belafonte, Samuel L. Jackson, Laurence Fishburne, Whoopi Goldberg and Zendaya, Mitchell looks at the impact of Black voices, creators and actors on cinema and makes the case that blaxploitation wasn't just a niche moment, but as influential and important as what the new generation of white, male filmmakers were making in the '70s. Also arriving on Netflix on Saturday is the adaptation of "Where the Crawdads Sing" and, on Thursday, the Lindsay Lohan rom-com "Falling for Christmas."

■ Disney+ gets one of the best



MDE-BUNGALO-UMG, COLUMBIA, SONY/AP

From left: The new albums "Last Call" by Morris Day, "Only the Strong Survive" by Bruce Springsteen and "Faith in the Future" by Louis Tomlinson all will be released on Friday.

documentaries of the year starting Friday in "Fire of Love" about Katia and Maurice Krafft, French celebrity volcanologists who died on Japan's Mount Unzen in 1991. Sara Dosa's experimental documentary about a strange love triangle between man, woman and volcano is compiled from hundreds of hours of the Krafft's wildly cinematic footage of their explorations. Dosa drew on the aesthetics of French New Wave films for the tone and style of the film, including playful split screens and zooms. They leaned into the absurdity and profundity of the story with a "deadpan curious" narration by Miranda July and a "retro-futuristic" score from Nicolas Godin of the French music duo Air.

— AP Film Writer
Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ Bruce Springsteen takes on the Four Tops, Temptations, Supremes, Frankie Wilson, Jimmy Ruffin and other soul legends in an album of cover songs due out Friday. "Only the Strong Survive" is named for the Jimmy Butler song, among the 15 other covers. Among the songs he tackles are the Commodores' "Nightshift," The Walker Brothers' "The Sun Ain't Gonna Shine Anymore" and the Four Tops' "When She Was My Girl." The album arrives three

months before the beginning of his tour with the E Street Band.

■ Louis Tomlinson seems to be in an optimistic mood judging from the title of his sophomore album, "Faith in the Future." It's the former One Direction member's first album since 2020's "Walls," and the first single "Bigger Than Me" has a massive pop hook. Tomlinson says the goal is "to produce a collection of songs befitting an anthemic live show."

■ Morris Day, lead singer of The Time, is calling time. His fifth solo album, "Last Call," will be his last, he says, and he's brought some friends along to say goodbye. ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons appears on "Too Much Girl 4 Me," "Grown Man" features Big Daddy Kane and "Use to Be the Playa" has Snoop Dogg aboard. Other guests include E40, Flo-Rida, Tech N9ne and Trinidad James.

— AP Entertainment Writer
Mark Kennedy

Television

■ Road trip! The proprietors of the World Famous Gold & Silver Pawn Shop are heading out from their "Pawn Stars" Las Vegas home base for The History Channel's "Pawn Stars Do America." Father-son shop owners Rick Harrison and Corey Harrison and pal Austin "Chumlee" Russell visit eight states in the eight-part se-

ries debuting Wednesday. Among the finds: a letter from George Washington, shield of French King Henry II and a signed Yusuf Karsh photo of Ernest Hemingway.

■ Dan Levy, of Emmy-winning "Schitt's Creek," is serving a change of pace with "The Big Brunch," a cooking competition he created and hosts. The HBO Max series, debuting with three of its eight episodes on Thursday, aims to tout "inspiring and undiscovered culinary voices" from across the country. Ten chefs vying for a \$300,000 prize will be judged by Levy — who calls brunch "the ultimate connector" — along with chef Sohla El-Waylyl and restaurateur Will Guidara.

■ In Netflix's "The English," aristocratic foreigner Lady Cornelia Locke and Eli Whipp, a Native American ex-cavalry scout, join forces in a perilous trek across 1890 America to reach a fledgling Wyoming town that's no safe haven — it's beset by murders. Emily Blunt and Chaske Spencer star in what's described both as an epic chase Western and a "parable on race, power and love." The series, with an ensemble cast including Stephen Rea, Valerie Pachner, Toby Jones and Ciarán Hinds, debuts Friday.

— AP Television Writer
Lynn Elber



RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

Fresh off his Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction, Lionel Richie will receive recognition from the American Music Awards.

Richie to be given 'Icon' honor at AMAs

Lionel Richie can now say hello to another illustrious award.

The chart-topping singer-songwriter on Nov. 20 will receive the "Icon" honor at the American Music Awards to recognize his decades of influence, organizers announced Monday.

The award will be the 18th that Richie has received from the AMAs, with previous honors including favorite pop/rock male artist in 1985 and 1987.

Richie, 73, has released 10 studio albums and earned a dozen No. 1 hits, including "Hello," "All Night Long (All Night)" and "Dancing on the Ceiling." He has starred as a judge on the ABC singing competition "American Idol" since 2018.

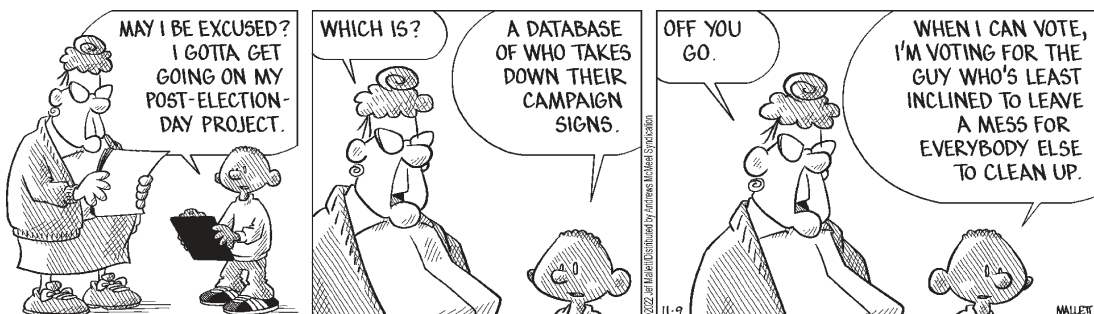
The AMAs introduced the "Icon" award in 2013, naming Rihanna the first recipient. The honor is designed to recognize a body of work that's had "a global influence over the music industry," organizers say.

Other news

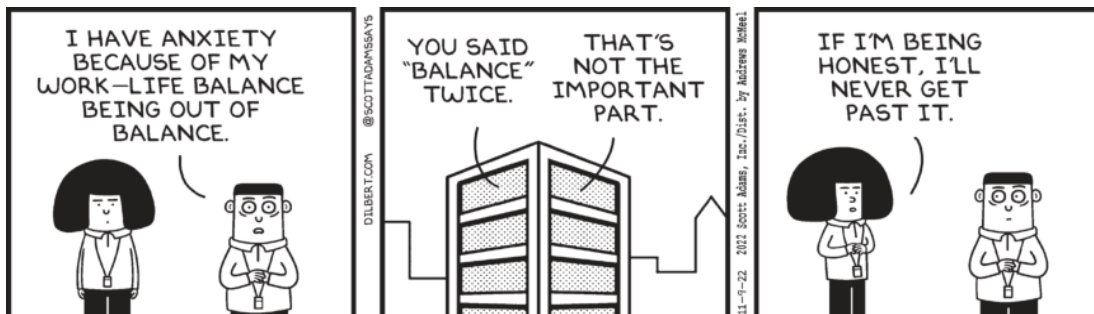
■ Mimi Parker, whose soothing vocals helped propel the indie band Low to critical acclaim, has died at 55, nearly two years after revealing that she had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

From wire reports

Frazz



Dilbert



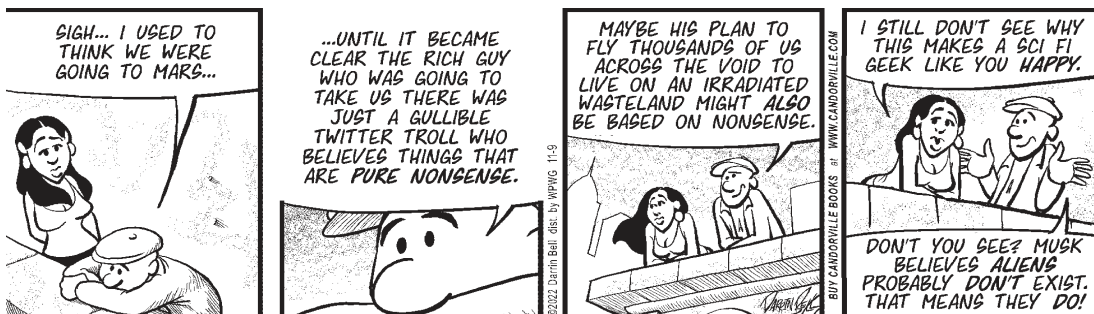
Pearls Before Swine



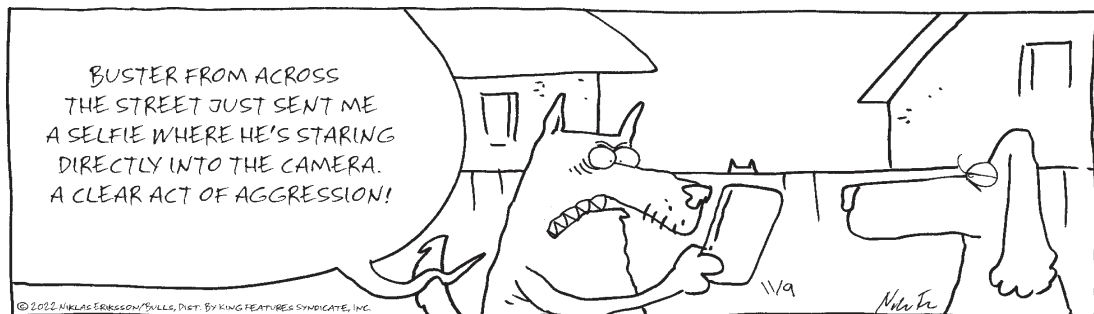
Non Sequitur



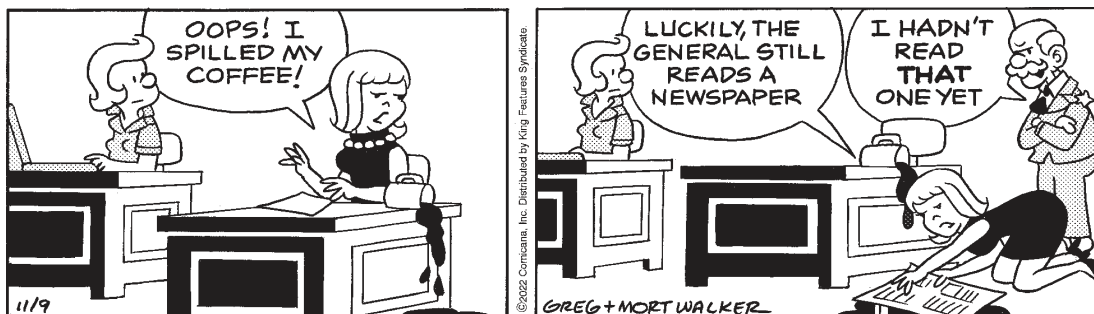
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				
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18			19				20						
			21		22	23			24		25	26	27
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50	51	52					53	54			55		
56					57						58		
59					60						61		

ACROSS

- 1 At once
- 4 Activist Parks
- 8 Missile shelter
- 12 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 13 Historic periods
- 14 Notion
- 15 Zero-star review
- 16 Seedy nightclub
- 18 Aquarium growth
- 20 Pouch
- 21 Gentle soul
- 24 Sacred song
- 28 Chamomile drinks
- 32 Butte's kin
- 33 Multipurpose truck
- 34 Eyelid woes
- 36 — de mer
- 37 Flower part
- 39 Current Twitter subject
- 41 Luau dances
- 43 "Oops!"
- 44 Game caller
- 46 Reflection
- 50 Men's styling aid
- 55 Actor Holbrook
- 56 Exceptional
- 57 Costa —
- 58 In the manner of
- 59 Molt
- 60 Texter's sign-off
- 61 Its cap. is Brussels

DOWN

- 1 Wine valley
- 2 Ellipse
- 3 Dress designer Vera
- 4 Warms up, as leftovers
- 5 Acapulco gold
- 6 — Diego
- 7 Requests
- 8 "Cheers," for one
- 9 Altar affirmative
- 10 Novelist Deighton
- 11 Wainscot wood
- 17 Orange tuber
- 19 Priestly garment
- 22 "Breaking Bad" drug
- 23 Louisiana waterway
- 25 Office part-timer

- 26 Morales of "Ozark"
- 27 Body powder
- 28 "Be quiet!"
- 29 Words to Brutus
- 30 Film spool
- 31 Late-night host Meyers
- 35 Im-passive
- 38 Defaced
- 40 Resistance unit
- 42 Tennis match division
- 45 Garrison
- 47 Melville captain
- 48 Powerful wind
- 49 Israeli carrier
- 50 Day divs.
- 51 "Feels so good!"
- 52 Anger
- 53 Little louse
- 54 Glacial

Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	T	A	L	T	H	E	A	S	B	A	
L	A	N	A	B	E	S	T	E	O	N	
F	R	I	C	A	S	S	E	E	R	N	
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11-9

CRYPTOQUIP

HQ H OYC WYJZ FROJZ QJKT
 RKC OYCCHRO MKTYCBHRO
 H'T HCDBHRO QKJ, H'V MFZ
 H'T DJFWHRO TFV.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CELEBRATED DISCO SINGING GROUP WHOSE MEMBERS ALL WEAR FARMERS' OUTFITS: THE TILLAGE PEOPLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals G

STARS AND STRIPES

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Data suggests plant-based meat is all hat, no cattle

By **HELAINÉ OLEN**
The Washington Post

The future of plant-based meat was supposed to be cooked to perfection. In recent years, corporate and venture capital funds poured into the space. Fast-food giants such as KFC and Burger King raced to roll out offerings. The meme stock crowd rallied around Beyond Meat. Sales were growing. It would appeal to vegans missing meat! Even better, it would find a following with meat-eaters looking to cut back!

It's now clear that the hype got ahead of a sometimes less than tasty reality. Sales of plant-based meats in the United States are down by more than 10% from this time last year. The issue is basic: The problems fake meat were meant to solve — from the climate impact of industrial farming to the health impacts of meat — are all too real, but the solution it offers appeals to far fewer consumers than expected.

The truth, of course, is that we eat not simply for nutrition, but for enjoyment. Meat offers up a sinewy, gamy, savory experience that is, to date, impossible to reproduce.

When I asked around over a period of weeks, I discovered few fans of processed meat substitutes. "Too chewy," one friend said. "Mushy," said another. My older son made a face. The only person I could find who claimed it tasted like the real thing admitted, actually, she hadn't tasted the real thing in more than 20 years. Some people with vegetarian-leaning diets told me they didn't mind it and were happy to have it as an option on fast-food menus, and others told me that they enjoyed it as a substitute for breakfast meat like sausage and bacon. But few people seemed to

find plant-based meat really delectable.

On the expert side, everyone from Wall Street short sellers to market researchers said that, at least for now, many fake meat sales appeared to be to people giving it a test drive. "I think a lot of the demand was people trying it once," said noted short seller Jim Chanos, when I called him up to ask how once-promising Beyond Meat ended up as one of the most popular shorts out there. He pointed out the company is "unprofitable." When I asked him what he himself thought of the offerings, he replied, "Put me in the category of people who tried it once."

And when it came to health, yes, these "meats" cuts back significantly on saturated fat compared to the real thing — but they also contain more sodium. They're a highly processed offering. "These are not your mother's veggie burgers made with beans and other whole plant ingredients," warns a report issued this year by the advocacy group Food & Water Watch. The industrial food complex is a huge player, with companies such as Tyson Foods and Cargill dominating the space.

Those facts mean that many people well-informed about health have remained skeptical about adding these artificial meats to their diets. "It has the same feel as much else in the industrial landscape, where we think we can outsmart nature," says Kristin Lawless, the author of "Formerly Known As Food."

The data shows the new offering doesn't seem to result in major meat cutbacks — it's more of a supermarket add-on. As a study published this year in the journal *Nature* dryly observed, "Interestingly, after a household's first PBMA [plant-based meat alternatives] purchase, ground meat consumption did not fall."

In a moment of rising food costs, such novel-ties become all too easy to dispense with. Of the people who told me they both enjoyed plant-based meat and dined on it regularly (often as a substitute for breakfast meats), several said they'd cut back when inflation kicked up. That points to a significant problem — artificial meat is often more expensive than at least the budget version of the real thing. In other words, people want to do right by the environment and their health — but not with a significant cost to their taste buds or wallet.

It's hard not to think about margarine. Back in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, margarine was rapidly supplanting butter in cooking. One commercial proclaimed the stuff was so good it could "fool mother nature." This wasn't true, and consumers knew it. They just thought it was a healthier choice. When it became clear in the '90s that wasn't so, sales melted away. That's not to say margarine is not still with us, but few talk about it as a butter replacement.

It could be that what we're seeing is a brief pause, and the meat-imitation market will pick back up as the product and the economy improves. One reason for optimism: plant-based meat consumers are, overall, younger than other shoppers, meaning there is more room for growth.

But there is already a viable protein option for those who want to maintain a vegan diet or cut back on meat. Like the doctor says, eat your peas... and other legumes such as lentils and beans. True, they don't taste like a sausage or chicken. Then again, if you ask me, neither do the imitators.

Helaine Olen is a contributor to Post Opinions and the author of "Pound Foolish: Exposing the Dark Side of the Personal Finance Industry."

Democrats have alienated the voters they need most

By **CLIVE CROOK**
Bloomberg Opinion

Whatever the outcome of this week's midterm elections — whether it's a red wave or a red ripple — one thing is already clear: Democrats have fought a pitifully poor campaign. They face a Republican Party that has no platform, an array of conspicuously flawed candidates and a patently unfit leader. Democrats should be looking forward to sweeping victories. As things stand, their best hope is to limit their losses.

Not only have they failed to connect with the persuadable center of the electorate, they haven't actually tried. The party has settled on a catastrophizing, fundamentalist narrative that delights its true believers and repels the ordinary voter.

President Joe Biden's most important job was to detach his party from this alienating conception of the country's challenges. Instead, he became its leading spokesman. This compounded the party's difficulties by merging the president's defects as a politician with an implausibly alarmist worldview. His feeble and meandering speech last week summed things up: Vote for Democrats — not for better government but to save democracy.

I agree with Biden that American democracy is being tested. Donald Trump is an alarming aberration, and Republican politicians have disgraced themselves by allowing him to capture their party. But I also see Trump as a symptom of what ails America more than a cause, and blame Democrats no less than Republicans for enabling him.

Democrats' most obvious failure this year has been to sideline, ignore or simply deny the issues that polls have repeatedly said voters care most about. Inflation is attacking living standards in the most visible way: Voters see it every time they buy groceries, put gas in the car or pay their rent.

Yet according to the president, the economy is "strong as hell." More to the point, how can people complain about rising prices — or crime, or border security, or their children's schools — when democracy itself is at stake?

This Democratic lurch toward catastrophism isn't confined to the imminent threat of dictatorship. The existential threat of climate change must also be addressed. If you ask about the costs and benefits of carbon abatement, let alone the scope for adaptation, you're a climate denier. Wholesale transformation of the economy is required. Then there is the issue of racial justice. American society is systemically broken and has been since the founding of the country. It needs to be rebuilt from the ground up.

There is room for spirited debate on all these issues. Yet each of these positions is hysterical. It's remarkable that any mainstream political party — in America of all places — should align itself with them and expect to command a controlling majority.

How can a party that frames issues in such fundamentalist terms plausibly advocate for democracy, let alone purport to be its savior? Polls say Trump could beat Biden in 2024. Democrats know that too few Americans care enough about climate change or racial justice to let those questions drive their votes.

In other words, when Democrats look at the wavering middle of the electorate, they see ignorance and bigotry. And their cure for this is... democracy?

Republicans have a point when they accuse Democrats of hypocrisy about democratic principles. Democrats uphold these norms when convenient and subvert them when they're not. According to Democrats, elections aren't always on the level. (Sometimes, they're just stolen.) A Republican administration ought to face not just opposition but #Resistance. A conservative Supreme Court may need to be reconstituted. A broken Senate allows the minority party too much control, so the filibuster should go (that one might be revised this week). A president is within his rights to ignore Congress and spend hundreds of billions on whatever he deems a good cause, such as forgiving student debt.

Again and again, the norms of America's constitutional order get between Democrats and what they think is needed to save the country. When that happens, they press on regardless. Thus is the party's devotion to democracy — both its purpose and its processes — exposed as merely expedient.

In the end, Democrats face a choice: They can be democrats or fundamentalists, but not both. The minimum requirement for a party purporting to champion democracy is a willingness to listen to voters — and fundamentalists don't listen.

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and member of the editorial board covering economics. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	7	3	.700	—
Toronto	6	5	.545	1½
New York	5	5	.500	2
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	2½
Brooklyn	4	7	.364	3½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	7	3	.700	—
Washington	5	6	.455	2½
Miami	4	7	.364	3½
Charlotte	3	8	.273	4½
Orlando	2	9	.182	5½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	9	1	.900	—
Cleveland	8	2	.800	1
Chicago	6	6	.500	4
Indiana	5	5	.500	4
Detroit	3	8	.273	6½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	6	3	.667	—
Memphis	7	4	.636	—
New Orleans	5	5	.500	1½
San Antonio	5	6	.455	2
Houston	2	9	.182	5
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	9	3	.750	—
Portland	7	3	.700	1
Denver	7	3	.700	1
Minnesota	5	6	.455	3½
Oklahoma City	4	6	.400	4
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	7	3	.700	—
L.A. Clippers	6	5	.545	1½
Golden State	4	7	.364	3½
Sacramento	3	6	.333	3½
L.A. Lakers	2	8	.200	5

Sunday's games				
Cleveland 114, L.A. Lakers 100	Toronto 113, Chicago 104	Memphis 103, Washington 97	Utah 110, L.A. Clippers 102	
Monday's games				
Washington 108, Charlotte 100	Houston 134, Orlando 127	Detroit 112, Oklahoma City 103	Indiana 129, New Orleans 122	Philadelphia 100, Phoenix 88
Atlanta 117, Milwaukee 98	Portland 110, Miami 107	Chicago 111, Toronto 97	Boston 109, Memphis 106	New York 120, Minnesota 107
Denver 115, San Antonio 109	Dallas 96, Brooklyn 94	Golden State 116, Sacramento 113	Utah 139, L.A. Lakers 116	L.A. Clippers 119, Cleveland 117
Tuesday's games				
No games scheduled.				
Wednesday's games				
Dallas at Orlando	Denver at Indiana	Portland at Charlotte	Detroit at Boston	Houston at Toronto
New York at Brooklyn	Utah at Atlanta	Memphis at San Antonio	Milwaukee at Oklahoma City	New Orleans at Chicago
Phoenix at Minnesota	Cleveland at Sacramento	L.A. Lakers at L.A. Clippers		
Thursday's games				
Dallas at Washington	Charlotte at Miami	Philadelphia at Atlanta	Portland at New Orleans	

Scoring leaders				
Through Monday				
	G	FG	FT	PTS
Doncic, DAL	9	110	82	324
Curry, GS	10	108	57	326
Antetokounmpo, MIL	9	103	72	286
Mitchell, CLE	9	97	50	281
Tatum, BOS	10	100	78	312
Durant, BKN	11	115	93	341
Gil-Alex., OKC	9	104	62	277
Morant, MEM	10	96	72	285
Young, ATL	9	78	76	254
Booker, PHO	10	95	60	271

ROUNDUP

Murray, Hawks hand Bucks 1st loss

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dejounte Murray scored 25 points, rookie A.J. Griffin came off the bench in Trae Young's absence to add a career-high 24 and the Atlanta Hawks snapped the Milwaukee Bucks' season-opening, nine-game winning streak with a 117-98 victory on Monday night.

Giannis Antetokounmpo returned from a one-game absence with a sore left knee to score 25 points for the Bucks, who were attempting to become the first team to begin a season 10-0 since the 2014-15 Golden State Warriors got off to a 24-0 start.

"We got more aggressive in the third and fourth quarter and were able to beat the best team in the league tonight," Hawks coach Nate McMillan said. "Offensively, I thought we had really good movement, made them work and were patient and we didn't settle for the quick shots like we did in the first game against them."

Young, Atlanta's leader in points and assists, missed the game with right shin soreness. Griffin filled in admirably, logging 31 minutes and going 10-for-15 from the field.

"Coach told me to be ready early," Griffin said. "Just to have that mindset, rise to the occasion, take the challenge. You know you put in the work. Credit to the coaches and my teammates to support me. Feeling like family."

The Bucks committed a season-high 19 turnovers, leading to 22 Atlanta points.

Warriors 116, Kings 113: Stephen Curry scored a season-high 47 points, knocking down seven three-pointers, and host Golden State beat Sacramento to snap a five-game losing streak.

Andrew Wiggins had 25 points and Klay Thompson added 16 for the Warriors before Curry made two free throws with 1.3 seconds left to secure the win.

Clippers 119, Cavaliers 117: Paul George scored 26 points and made the tiebreaking three-point play with 37 seconds left, and host Los Angeles rallied from a 13-point deficit in the final five minutes to snap Cleveland's eight-game winning streak.

Norman Powell scored 10 of his 17 points during the frantic final rally by the Clippers, who finished the game on a 21-6 run. Cleveland led 112-100 before the Clippers scored 15 straight points while the Cavs missed seven consecutive shots and committed three turnovers.

Donovan Mitchell hit eight three-pointers while scoring 30 points.

Jazz 139, Lakers 116: Lauri Markkanen scored 23 points, Jor-



HAKIM WRIGHT SR./AP

The Hawks' Dejounte Murray shoots over the Bucks' Brook Lopez on Monday. Atlanta ended Milwaukee's nine-game winning streak.

dan Clarkson added 22 and host Utah beat short-handed Los Angeles for the second time in four days.

LeBron James was sidelined along with Lonnie Walker IV, and Patrick Beverley, leaving Los Angeles with only 11 players.

Anthony Davis scored a season-high 29 points and Russell Westbrook added 22 points off the bench as Los Angeles fell to 2-8.

Mavericks 96, Nets 94: Luka Doncic scored 36 points, becoming only the second NBA player ever with nine consecutive games of at least 30 to begin the season, and visiting Dallas beat Brooklyn.

Kevin Durant had 26 points for the Nets, who led by 14 points eight minutes in.

Doncic joined Wilt Chamberlain as the only players to score 30 or more points in the first nine games of a season. Chamberlain did it in the first 23 games of 1962-63.

76ers 100, Suns 88: Joel Embiid had 33 points and 10 rebounds in his return after missing three games with the flu, Georges Niang scored 21 points on 7-for-10 shooting on three-pointers, and host Philadelphia beat Phoenix.

Devin Booker scored 28 points for the Suns, who have lost two of

three after winning seven of their first eight games.

Trail Blazers 110, Heat 107: Josh Hart's three-pointer as time expired gave visiting Portland the victory over Miami.

Max Strus made a three-point-er for Miami with 6.2 seconds remaining to tie the game. The Trail Blazers opted not to call timeout and Damian Lillard dribbled most of the way downcourt before finding Hart in the left corner near the Heat bench.

Anfernee Simons scored 25 for Portland, Jerami Grant added 23 and Lillard finished with 19 points in his first game back after a four-game absence with a right calf strain.

Celtics 109, Grizzlies 106: Jayson Tatum scored 39 points, including a pair of free throws with 2.2 seconds left, and visiting Boston held on to beat Memphis.

The Grizzlies inbounded the ball after Tatum's free throws, but Ja Morant slipped in the backcourt and never got off a shot. Morant finished with 30 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

Pacers 129, Pelicans 122: Myles Turner had season highs of 37 points and 12 rebounds, and host Indiana beat New Orleans for its fourth win in five games.

Tyrese Haliburton added 20 points and 13 assists for the Pacers, making six three-pointers.

Brandon Ingram scored 29 points and Zion Williamson had 26 for the Pelicans, who have lost two in a row for the first time.

Rockets 134, Magic 127: Jalen Green scored 34 points, K.J. Martin came off the bench to add 21 and visiting Houston snapped a six-game losing streak.

The Rockets came into the game as the NBA's poorest shooting team, but they shot 52.9%, including 24-for-48 from behind the arc.

Wizards 108, Hornets 100: Kyle Kuzma scored 20 points and visiting Washington handed slumping Charlotte its fifth straight loss.

Kristaps Porzingis had 19 points and eight rebounds for the Wizards, who had lost five of their previous six games.

P.J. Washington had 25 points for the Hornets, who have not won since upsetting the defending NBA champion Golden State Warriors.

Pistons 112, Thunder 103: Saddiq Bey scored 25 points, Cade Cunningham had 21 points and 11 rebounds, and host Detroit beat Oklahoma City.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 33 points for the Thunder, but none of the other starters reached double figures.

Nuggets 115, Spurs 109: Nikola Jokic had 26 points and 10 assists, Michael Porter Jr. added 24 points and visiting Denver beat San Antonio for its third straight victory.

Keldon Johnson had 30 points, Josh Richardson added 22 and Tre Jones had a career-high 20 points for the Spurs, who have lost four straight following a 5-2 start.

Knicks 120, Timberwolves 107: Julius Randle scored 31 points and had eight of New York's season-high 19 three-pointers, and the visiting Knicks cruised past Minnesota.

Jalen Brunson pitched in 23 points and eight assists for the Knicks, who built a lead as big as 27 points in the second quarter and never encountered any resistance.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 25 points on 9-for-12 shooting with 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Timberwolves.

Bulls 111, Raptors 97: Zach LaVine scored a season-high 30 points as host Chicago coasted past Toronto.

LaVine, who didn't play in Sunday's nine-point loss at Toronto because of injury management on his knee, scored the Bulls' first nine points of the fourth quarter.

WORLD CUP/NHL

Blatter: Picking Qatar a 'mistake'

Former FIFA chief repeated claim that Platini swayed key votes for Qatar after his meeting with Sarkozy

BY GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

GENEVA — Picking Qatar to host the World Cup was a mistake 12 years ago, FIFA's president at the time Sepp Blatter said Tuesday, again citing a meeting between Nicolas Sarkozy and Michel Platini for swaying key votes.

The 86-year-old Blatter spoke with the Swiss newspaper group Tamedia in his first major interview since being acquitted with Platini in July of financial misconduct at FIFA after a trial at federal criminal court.

"It's a country that's too small," Blatter said of Qatar, the smallest host by size since the 1954 tournament in Switzerland. "Football and the World Cup are too big for that."

The 32 teams will play 64 games in eight stadiums in and around the city of Doha which has been transformed since 2010 by massive construction projects to prepare for the World Cup.

Games start on Nov. 20 with about 1.2 million international visitors expected to arrive in Qatar during the World Cup. With limited places to stay in the host nation, some will commute in from neighboring states.

"It was a bad choice. And I was responsible for that as president at the time," said Blatter, who has long said he voted for the United States. Its bid was beaten by Qatar in the final round of a five-candidate contest to be 2022 host.

It became part of FIFA lore that an expected U.S. victory swung toward Qatar at a meeting Sarkozy hosted in Paris in the week before the Dec. 2, 2010 vote by FIFA's executive committee.

French soccer great Platini, then president of European soccer body UEFA and a vice president of

FIFA, was invited by then-state president Sarkozy to his official residence. The crown prince of Qatar, now the Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, was also there.

Blatter on Tuesday repeated his claim that Sarkozy put pressure on Platini, and again gave his version of a telephone call Platini made to him after the Paris meeting that the World Cup voting plan had changed.

"Thanks to the four votes of Platini and his (UEFA) team, the World Cup went to Qatar rather than the United States. It's the truth," Blatter said of the 14-8 voting result.

In comments to the Associated Press in 2015, Platini broadly confirmed the significance of that meeting in Paris.

"Sarkozy never asked me to vote for Qatar, but I knew what would be good," Platini told an AP reporter in Zurich seven years ago. He acknowledged that he "might have told" American officials that he would be voting for their 2022 bid.

Blatter did not specifically refer to criticism of Qatar on labor and human rights issues since 2010.

However, he did question why his successor as FIFA president, Gianni Infantino, has moved to live in Qatar for at least the past year.

Blatter noted growing calls, by rights groups and several FIFA member federations including the U.S. and England, to create a compensation fund for families of workers who died or were injured.

"What can FIFA say if its president is in the same boat as Qatar?" Blatter said of Infantino choosing to live in Doha.

FIFA did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the interview.



PATRICK SEMANSKY / AP

Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin, left, skates with the puck past Oilers defenseman Darnell Nurse in the third period on Monday. Ovechkin scored for the third straight game and assisted on the winning goal.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	13	11	2	0	22	54	31
Detroit	12	7	3	2	16	37	35
Toronto	13	7	4	2	16	37	34
Tampa Bay	12	7	4	1	15	40	38
Florida	13	7	5	1	15	43	42
Buffalo	12	7	5	0	14	49	38
Montreal	12	5	6	1	11	34	40
Ottawa	11	4	7	0	8	38	38

Metropolitan Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	12	9	3	0	18	44	31
Carolina	12	8	3	1	17	39	34
N.Y. Islanders	13	8	5	0	16	45	33
N.Y. Rangers	13	6	4	3	15	36	39
Philadelphia	11	6	3	2	14	28	28
Washington	14	6	6	2	14	44	44
Pittsburgh	12	4	6	2	10	42	44
Columbus	12	3	9	0	6	30	55

Western Conference							
Central Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	12	8	3	1	17	46	27
Winnipeg	11	7	3	1	15	33	27
Colorado	11	6	4	1	13	40	31
Chicago	12	5	5	2	12	34	39
Minnesota	11	5	5	1	11	35	40
Nashville	12	5	6	1	11	34	40
Arizona	11	4	6	1	9	31	45
St. Louis	10	3	7	0	6	22	38

Pacific Division							
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	13	11	2	0	22	46	27
Seattle	13	7	4	2	16	45	40
Los Angeles	14	7	6	1	15	49	53
Edmonton	13	7	6	0	14	52	51
Calgary	11	5	4	2	12	35	37
Vancouver	12	3	6	3	9	41	49
Anaheim	13	4	8	1	9	39	61
San Jose	14	3	8	3	9	36	49

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

- Monday's games**
 Boston 3, St. Louis 1
 N.Y. Islanders 4, Calgary 3, OT
 Washington 5, Edmonton 4
- Tuesday's games**
 Arizona at Buffalo
 Calgary at New Jersey
 Montreal at Detroit
 N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers
 St. Louis at Philadelphia
 Vancouver at Ottawa
 Vegas at Toronto
 Edmonton at Tampa Bay
 Dallas at Winnipeg
 Nashville at Seattle
 Minnesota at Los Angeles
- Wednesday's games**
 Carolina at Florida
 Pittsburgh at Washington
 Vancouver at Montreal
 Minnesota at Anaheim
- Thursday's games**
 Calgary at Boston
 Edmonton at Carolina
 N.Y. Rangers at Detroit
 Ottawa at New Jersey
 Philadelphia at Columbus
 Vegas at Buffalo
 Arizona at N.Y. Islanders
 San Jose at St. Louis
 Nashville at Colorado
 Chicago at Los Angeles

NHL ROUNDUP

Ovechkin scores, helps Caps end skid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With less than 2 minutes left and the Washington Capitals hoping to avoid blowing another third-period lead, Alex Ovechkin skated toward the net and, instead of shooting, passed the puck between his legs to Evgeny Kuznetsov, who knew it was coming.

"For sure I knew he's going to pass," Kuznetsov said.

After scoring again, Ovechkin's most important contribution Monday night was a timely assist on Kuznetsov's goal that allowed Washington to hold on and beat the Edmonton Oilers 5-4, snapping a four-game losing streak. It turned out to be the game-winner after Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored 45 seconds later, but the Capitals will take a hard-earned victory without several key players.

"I'm hoping that we're going to build after this game for sure because that's a pretty good team and I felt like even when we give up goal we was never giving up," said Kuznetsov, who had two goals and two assists for his eighth career four-point game. "We were always positive on the bench, we always support each other because we're missing a lot of guys, a lot of D guys, and they stepped up today."

Ovechkin scored for a third consecutive game, beating Stuart Skinner on the power play in the second period and making him the 163rd different NHL goaltender he has scored against. It's also the third game in a row he has scored on a new goalie after Detroit's Ville Husso and Arizona's Karel Vejmelka became Nos. 161 and 162.

Goal No. 788 of Ovechkin's career put him 13 back of Gordie Howe for second on the career list and 106 shy of Wayne Gretzky's record that long seemed unap-

proachable. Ovechkin has heated up recently with five goals and two assists during a six-game point streak.

"Ovi, Kuzy and (Conor Sheary) were really good offensively," coach Peter Laviolette said. "I thought everybody played well, but you need your best players to be your best players."

Capitals newcomer Dylan Strome had two goals and an assist in his latest showdown with former junior hockey teammate Connor McDavid, who was playing his 500th regular-season NHL game. He stole the puck from Oilers forward Warren Foegele and scored late in the first period, added a second on the power play early in the second and, with Washington skating 5-on-3, delivered a perfect cross-crease pass to Kuznetsov for his first goal of the season.

Defenseman Erik Gustafsson also had three points — all on the power play, where Washington went 4-for-5.

Islanders 4, Flames 3 (OT): Noah Dobson scored a power-play goal 4:02 into overtime and host New York won for the sixth time in seven games.

Sebastian Aho, Anders Lee and Kyle Palmieri also scored as New York came back from a 3-1 deficit in the third period.

Mikael Backlund had two goals and Elias Lindholm also scored as Calgary lost its fifth straight game (0-3-2) — the second straight in overtime.

Bruins 3, Blues 1: Patrice Bergeron scored a power-play goal with 7:15 remaining and host Boston handed St. Louis its seventh straight loss.

Trent Frederic and Jake DeBrusk also scored for Boston, which improved to 7-0-0 at home and won for the eighth time in nine games overall.



WALTER BIERI/AP

Then-FIFA president Sepp Blatter announces that Qatar will be hosting the 2022 World Cup, on Dec. 2, 2010. Blatter said on Tuesday that picking Qatar as host 12 years ago was a mistake.

MLB/NFL

DeGrom, Correa, others hit free agency

RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Jacob deGrom, Carlos Correa, Xander Bogaerts and Carlos Rodón turned down player options Monday, joining a free-agent market that includes Aaron Judge, Trea Turner and Dansby Swanson.

DeGrom, a two-time NL Cy Young Award winner, gave up a \$30.5 million salary for next season, ending his contract with the New York Mets at \$107 million for four years. The 34-year-old right-hander, a four-time All-Star, was limited to 15 starts last year and 11 this season because of injuries.

Correa left the Houston Astros after the 2021 season and signed a \$105.3 million, three-year deal with the Minnesota Twins that gave him the right to opt out after one season. The 28-year-old shortstop, a two-time All-Star, gives up \$35.1 million salaries in each of the next two seasons after hitting .291 with 22 homers and 64 RBIs.

Bogaerts, 30, agreed to a \$120 million, six-year deal with Boston that gave the shortstop the right to terminate the contract after 2022. The four-time All-Star forfeits salaries of \$20 million in each of the next three seasons after hitting .307 with 15 homers and 73 RBIs.

Rodón, a 29-year-old left-hander, left the Chicago White Sox after the 2021 season and agreed to a \$44 million, two-year contract with the San Francisco Giants that gave him the right to opt out after one season and give up a \$22.5 million salary for next year. An All-Star in each of the last two seasons, he was 14-8 with a 2.88 ERA for the Giants.

Washington designated hitter Nelson Cruz turned down a \$16 million mutual option in favor of a \$3 million buyout, making his deal with the Nationals worth \$15 million for one season. The 42-year-old hit .234 with 10 homers and 64 RBIs.

Mets pitcher Taijuan Walker turned down a \$7.5 million player option in favor of a \$3 million buyout, making his deal worth \$17 million over two seasons. The 30-year-old right-hander was 12-5 with a 3.49 ERA in 29 starts.

Philadelphia exercised pitcher Aaron Nola's \$16 million option, making his contract worth \$59 million over five years, and declined a \$17 million option on second baseman Jean Segura, who gets a \$1 million buyout. Right-hander Zach Eflin declined a \$15 million mutual option, making his deal worth \$5.7 million for one year.

San Diego outfielder Jurickson Profar turned down a \$6.5 million option for a \$1 million buyout, making his deal worth \$13.5 million over two years. He hit .243 with 15 homers and 58 RBIs. Padres right-hander Robert Suarez turned down a \$5 million option for a \$1 million buyout, ending his contract after one year and \$6 million. He had a 2.27 ERA in 45 relief appearances after joining the Padres from the Japan Central League's Hanshin Tigers.

A total of 140 players have become free agents since the World Series ended and about 40 more are eligible.



BUTCH DILL/AP

Ravens running back Kenyan Drake, center, finds a hole to run through against the Saints on Monday in New Orleans. Drake ran for 93 yards and two touchdowns.

Drake, Houston lead Ravens past Saints

BY BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Lamar Jackson and the Baltimore Ravens didn't need their full complement of key contributors to stifle the Saints and silence the Superdome.

Kenyan Drake rushed for 93 yards and two touchdowns, Justin Houston had an interception to go with his third straight multiple-sack game, and the Ravens beat New Orleans 27-13 on Monday night.

Jackson passed for a touchdown and frustrated New Orleans (3-6) with his mobility, rushing for 82 yards and exhibiting an array of jump cuts and spin moves while helping Baltimore (6-3) win its third straight and remain atop the AFC North, one game ahead of Cincinnati.

"The human will can only take so much. It was just pounding down in and down out," Drake said. "That's just what this team is all about — just continuing to wear teams down and grind them out with four quarters of football."

"If you can stand up to that, more power to you, but more times than not we're going to win that battle," Drake said.

The Saints entered the game with a chance to pull into a three-way tie atop the anemic NFC South with Atlanta and Tampa Bay. Instead, they were outclassed by a Baltimore team missing several offensive starters, including tight end Mark Andrews and running back Gus Edwards.

The Ravens converted nine of 15 third downs and had 319 total yards. The Saints were 3-for-11 on third down and finished with a season lows of 243 yards and 13 first downs. Baltimore possessed the ball for 37:47.

"They beat us in a lot of different areas," Saints coach Dennis Allen said. "Time of possession is a factor of all phases of the game. And so we did not do a good job on third down in either aspect, offensively or defensively."

Andy Dalton passed for 210 yards and

New Orleans' lone touchdown to tight end Juwan Johnson, which came when the game was virtually out of reach in the fourth quarter. Alvin Kamara was limited to 62 yards from scrimmage, his lowest output in five games.

"We got just got beat," Dalton said, adding that Baltimore "deserved to win this one. They got after us."

Dalton was sacked four times and his interception came on a pass tipped by Brent Urban. The play set up Drake's second TD.

Baltimore's defense was stifling on New Orleans' first four possessions, limiting the Saints to 13 combined plays.

Consequently, the stamina of New Orleans' defense was tested as the unit contended with the elusive Jackson for 19:31 of the first half. Baltimore's star QB didn't let that time go to waste.

"Traditionally you cover for 3 to 4 seconds and the play is over," Saints safety Tyrann Matheiu said. "But a guy like that is a 7-, 8-, 9-second cover."

While rolling right, Jackson found tight end Isaiah Likely running a flag pattern for a 24-yard score to make it 7-0 in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Jackson orchestrated a 12-play, 81-yard drive during which he ran for gains of 7, 16 and 12 yards. Drake capped it off by running into the end zone virtually untouched from a yard out for a 14-0 lead.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh recalled shaking his head on the sideline in awe of Jackson's displays of explosiveness and agility.

"I do not take it for granted," Harbaugh said. "I think I said, 'Wow,' a couple of times. Lamar plays on a different level. You can't just look at the passing stats."

The Saints did not get on the board until Wil Lutz's field goal as time expired in the half — a couple of plays after Dalton overthrew open receiver Marquez Callaway in the end zone.

QB Allen uncertain for next Bills game

BY JOHN WAWROW
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Josh Allen is nursing a sore right throwing elbow, leaving cause for concern over the Buffalo Bills starter's status against the NFC North-leading Minnesota Vikings this weekend.

Coach Sean McDermott on Monday would only say he's awaiting the results of tests to determine the severity of the injury sustained a day earlier in a 20-17 loss to the New York Jets.

He said it was premature to say whether Allen could practice this week or play.

"The one definite thing I can tell you is we all know how competitive he is, and I would never count him out," McDermott said. "We're just taking it one day at a time."

Allen played down the injury following the game by saying: "There's some slight pain, but we'll get through it."

If Allen is unavailable for this weekend, the Bills (6-2) would turn to veteran backup Case Keenum to face the Vikings (7-1), one of the 10-year journeyman's former teams. Acquired in a trade with Cleveland in March, Keenum has appeared in two games this season in mop-up duty.

Allen was hurt two plays into Buffalo's desperation final drive when Jets defensive lineman Bryce Huff knocked the ball loose as the quarterback had his arm ready to pass.

Huff burst in from Allen's right and got both hands down on the quarterback's arm to bend his elbow awkwardly.

The fumble was recovered by Bills lineman Ryan Bates for a 19-yard loss, and left Allen flexing his right hand afterward. On the next play, Allen bounced a pass short intended for Stefon Diggs, but then showed no limitations in launching a deep pass up the left sideline, where Gabe Davis couldn't bring the ball in on fourth down.

McDermott did announce starting defensive tackle Greg Rousseau sustained a high ankle sprain and will be listed as week to week.

Allen is in his fifth season and hasn't missed a start since his rookie year when he was sidelined for four games because of a sprained elbow. The 2018 first-round pick out of Wyoming entered Monday ranking fourth in the NFL with 2,403 yards passing with 19 touchdowns and eight interceptions, and also leads the team with 392 yards rushing and four touchdowns.

He holds the Bills single-season records in almost every passing and scoring category.

Keenum last started in the Browns' 2021 season-ending 21-16 win over Cincinnati in which he finished 17-for-24 for 176 yards with two touchdowns and an interception.

Keenum's best season came with the Vikings in 2017, when he finished 11-3, and was most remembered for his 61-yard touchdown pass to now-Bills teammate Stefon Diggs as time expired to secure a 29-24 win over New Orleans in the NFC divisional round of the playoffs.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



CHRIS SEWARD/AP

North Carolina forward Armando Bacot grabs a rebound over UNC Wilmington forward Amari Kelly during the second half of Monday's season opener in Chapel Hill, N.C. Bacot finished with nine rebounds.

No. 1 Heels rusty in win against UNC Wilmington

By BOB SUTTON
Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Players for No. 1 North Carolina provided reminders that this was just the beginning Monday night.

Caleb Love and RJ Davis scored 17 points apiece and the Tar Heels started a season of grand expectations by pulling away from UNC Wilmington with a 69-56 victory Monday night.

"I think we all came out a little rusty," senior forward Armando Bacot said. "It's not easy winning game. I'm glad it's the first game and not later on in the season."

Bacot added 16 points and nine rebounds for the Tar Heels, who were perhaps most impressive at the defensive end. UNCW shot just 29.8% from the field.

The Tar Heels, who were the NCAA Tournament runner-up in April, began the new season with the top ranking for the first time in seven years. It's a record 10th time that North Carolina has been ranked No. 1 to start a season — one more than rival Duke.

"We didn't hit our stride last year 'til January, February," forward Leaky Black said. "It's a win. It's Day 1, literally. I'm excited for the potential that we have. Rome wasn't built in a day."

Trazarien White scored 19 points for UNCW, which faced a top-ranked team for the first time in program history. Skykeim Phillips had 11 points and Donovan Newby added 10. The Seahawks went 4-for-16 on three-pointers.

DID YOU KNOW?

North Carolina, last season's NCAA Tournament runner-up, began the new season with the No. 1 ranking for the first time in seven years. It's a record 10th time that North Carolina has been ranked No. 1 to start a season — one more than rival Duke.

SOURCE: Associated Press

"For us to stick to the process is important," UNCW coach Takayo Siddle said. "I think that's something to build on."

After an incredible NCAA tournament run for the Tar Heels last spring, second-year coach Hubert Davis knows it will take time to return to that level.

"It gives us a really good baseline on what we need to work on and improve at," Davis said. "My hope is that it was first-game anxiety and nervousness."

North Carolina led 32-21 at halftime behind Davis' 11 points, but it wasn't easy.

"We were rushing and taking bad shots," Bacot said. "It's a marathon, not a sprint. It's the first game."

It was tied 17-17 with six minutes to go in the first half before a 12-2 run for the Tar Heels, who missed 10 of their first 14 shots prior to that spurt.

The Tar Heels have won their first game of a season for 18 years in a row. North Carolina has won 21 consecutive Smith Center openers.

North Carolina reserves man-

aged only six points. UNCW held a 37-32 rebounding edge.

"They held me to nine rebounds," said Bacot, a preseason All-American. "I would say that's probably a bad game for me."

Please pass

North Carolina was credited with four assists, matching its lowest total since a double-overtime loss to Texas A&M in the 1980 NCAA Tournament.

"One of the things that we pride ourselves on is passing up good shots to get great shots," coach Davis said. "That just wasn't there."

On the flip side, UNCW's three assists were the fewest for a North Carolina opponent since December 1975 vs. Kentucky.

Big picture

UNCW: The Seahawks were competitive for most of the game and provided a good deal of the physicality in the game. They pulled in 16 offensive rebounds, though they had lots of opportunities for those considering their horrid shooting touch. It was probably a good barometer for the Seahawks while they fell to 0-6 all-time vs. North Carolina.

North Carolina: This wasn't the smoothest performance for the Tar Heels, but they'll have time to address glitches as they'll play their first four games at home. With four starters returning from last season's team, there's plenty of experience in the lineup.

Taking: Scheyer takes time to revel in moment

FROM PAGE 24

He had even filled in for Krzyzewski due to health concerns for two full games and half of another in the past two seasons.

This time, though, the win goes on Scheyer's record as the future of the Duke program.

"Obviously we all wanted things to go good, just with it being Coach Scheyer's first game," said freshman Kyle Filipowski, who had 10 points and 12 rebounds. "So of course there were some expectations we had. Just being able to play all 40 minutes battling against them and pulling away and just being all-in with each other, it was a great feeling for us and Coach Scheyer as well."

Scheyer seemed to appreciate the moment, even as much of everything felt largely routine with another rowdy crowd of fans. Sporting an all-black athletics outfit, Scheyer stopped to give a double high-five to a security staffer as he emerged from the locker-room tunnel and made his way to the court.

Once on the bench, he slid over one spot to his left to fill the chair Krzyzewski sat in for the March home farewell against rival North Carolina.

Freshman Mark Mitchell had a team-high 18 points for the Blue Devils, who used a 25-4 run spanning halftime to blow the game open. The Blue Devils turned a 28-24 lead to a 16-point margin by halftime behind Jeremy Roach's 16 first-half points, then pushed that margin to 25 midway through the second half.

Mike Marsh scored 15 points to lead the Dolphins, who shot just

34% and missed 18 of 19 three-pointers before making two meaningless threes late. Jacksonville also couldn't keep Duke off the glass, with the Blue Devils taking a 44-25 rebounding advantage with 18 second-chance points.

"They capitalized on a couple of our turnovers, they got us in foul trouble," Jacksonville coach Jordan Mincy said. "It obviously hurt our rebounding. I told our team in the locker room: in my time here at Jacksonville, no matter who we play, rarely do we get outrebounded."

When it was over, Scheyer did a postgame TV interview before making his way across the court to start giving high-fives to the front row of cheering "Cameron Cra-zies."

As he made his way along the bleachers toward the tunnel, he noticed a child sporting a blue Duke T-shirt standing on the front row as he started to pass by. Scheyer paused, then leaned over.

"I love it," Scheyer told the child.

Once he made it to the locker room, the team doused him with cold water in an impromptu celebration that he said left him in a mild bit of shock.

No matter, he figured. It was a moment to remember.

"Again it goes back to going through this experience, trying to enjoy the wins, enjoy these moments," Scheyer said. "And then I promise, tomorrow morning we'll be back at it and there will be a lot we could've done better. And then we'll clean it up and build on."

"But to share that with them was a special thing for me."



BEN MCKEOWN/AP

Duke head coach Jon Scheyer high-fives "Cameron Cra-zies" in the Duke student section after earning his first victory as head coach of the Blue Devils on Monday in Durham, N.C.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Self-less Jayhawks crush Omaha



REED HOFFMANN/AP

Kansas assistant Norm Roberts filled in for head coach Bill Self, who is serving a school-imposed four-game suspension.

By Dave Skretta
Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — There was a moment just before halftime Monday night when Kansas forward Jalen Wilson watched an Omaha player bury a three-pointer at the buzzer, and he looked over at the bench expecting to catch Bill Self's wrath.

Only the Jayhawks' coach wasn't there.

Self was serving the first game in a school-imposed four-game suspension, along with assistant Kurtis Townsend, so Wilson and the rest of the Jayhawks got a reprieve from one of their coach's pet peeves. The buzzer-beater hardly mattered in the end, however, as No. 5 Kansas began its national title defense with an 89-64 rout of the Mavericks.

"One thing about our team, no matter what year it's been, we always step up no matter when we have adversity," said Wilson, who had 19 points and 11 rebounds. "We came together. We wanted to set the tone for the year. And we

have the greatest coaching staff in America. It doesn't matter who is out there leading us."

In this case it was Norm Roberts, one of Self's longtime assistants and the former St. John's head coach, calling the shots.

Self and Townsend were suspended last week as part of the fallout from a 2017 federal investigation into college basketball corruption. The case against Kansas has been mired in an independent review process for years, so the school self-imposed the penalties rather than continue waiting for a resolution.

"It was a lot of fun. The arena has a lot of energy," Roberts said. "Our guys felt that energy and pushed us forward."

Despite returning only two starters from the team that rallied to beat North Carolina in the national championship game, the new-look Jayhawks built a double-digit lead by the midway point of the first half and never looked back.

Gradey Dick poured in 23 points in his debut. Bobby Pettiford Jr. added 13 points, Dajuan

Harris had 11 points and eight assists, and Texas Tech transfer Kevin McCullar Jr. scored 10 as the Jayhawks won their 50th straight home opener.

Jaeden Marshall scored 13 points and Luke Jungers had 12 for the Mavericks.

"We're a young basketball team in a place like this, and it kind of caught up to us," first-year Omaha coach Chris Crutchfield said. "The pace caught up to us and no doubt the physicality caught up to us."

Wilson, who declared for the NBA Draft before returning to school, showed he can go from being a talented role player to an unequivocal leader. He drained three early three-pointers, kept getting easy baskets by cutting to the rim, and was just as good at the defensive end, where he made every shot difficult for the undersized Mavericks.

"We always take care of business at home," Wilson said. "Just trying to set the tone for the year."

ROUNDUP

Villanova wins first game without Wright as coach

Associated Press

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Caleb Daniels scored 24 points to make coach Kyle Neptune a winner in his Villanova debut in the program's first game since Hall of Fame coach Jay Wright's sudden retirement, and the No. 16 Wildcats beat La Salle 81-68 on Monday night.

With Wright watching, the Wildcats played in the opener a lot like the team coming off the retired coach's last Final Four season. The Wildcats returned three starters (a fourth, Justin Moore, was injured) from the team that lost a national semifinal game to Kansas.

Daniels made his first five three-pointers and the Wildcats used an early 10-0 run to put away their city rival and spoiled 74-year-old coach Fran Dunphy's return to the bench. Dunphy, who had successful coaching stints at Penn and Temple, was coaxed out of retirement to coach the program where he served as co-captain and helped the Explorers to a 23-1 record in 1969 under coach Tom Gola.

Josh Nickelberry scored 22 points to lead the Explorers, who trailed by as many as 21 points.

No. 2 Gonzaga 104, North Florida 63: Drew Timme scored 22 points, Julian Strawther added 16 and the host Bulldogs used a big first-half run to beat the Ospreys.

No. 3 Houston 83, Northern Colorado 36: Marcus Sasser scored 21 points, J'Wan Roberts added 12 points and six rebounds, and the host Cougars opened the season by beating the Bears.

No. 4 Kentucky 95, Howard 63: Antonio Reeves scored 22 points, CJ Fredrick had 20 and the

Scoreboard

Top 25 schedule

Thursday's games

- No. 5 Kansas vs. N. Dakota St.
- No. 9 Creighton vs. North Dakota
- No. 12 Texas vs. Houston Christian
- No. 13 Indiana vs. Bethune-Cookman
- No. 25 Texas Tech vs. Texas Southern

Friday's games

- No. 1 North Carolina vs. Coll. of Charleston
- No. 2 Gonzaga vs. Michigan St. at San Diego
- No. 3 Houston vs. Saint Joseph's at Annapolis, Md.
- No. 4 Kentucky vs. Duquesne
- No. 5 Baylor vs. Norfolk St.
- No. 7 Duke vs. SC-Upstate
- No. 8 UCLA vs. Long Beach St.
- No. 10 Arkansas vs. Fordham
- No. 14 TCU vs. Lamar
- No. 15 Auburn vs. South Florida
- No. 16 Villanova at Temple
- No. 17 Arizona vs. Southern U.
- No. 18 Virginia vs. Monmouth (NJ)
- No. 19 San Diego St. vs. BYU
- No. 20 Alabama vs. Liberty
- No. 21 Oregon vs. UC Irvine
- No. 22 Michigan vs. E. Michigan at Detroit
- No. 23 Illinois vs. UMKC
- No. 24 Dayton vs. SMU



LAURENCE KESTERSON/AP

Villanova's Caleb Daniels, right, moves around La Salle's Josh Nickelberry during the second half of Monday's game in Villanova, Pa.

host Wildcats beat the Bison with All-American Oscar Tshiebwe and two other players sidelined.

No. 5 Baylor 117, Mississippi Valley State 53: Adam Flagler scored 21 points to lead six players in double figures as the host Bears won the opener of their 20th season with coach Scott Drew.

No. 8 UCLA 76, Sacramento State 50: Jaylen Clark scored 17 points, Jaime Jaquez and Tyger Campbell added 14 apiece and the host Bruins rolled against the Hornets.

No. 9 Creighton 72, St. Thomas 60: Baylor Scheierman made back-to-back three-pointers midway through the second half to give the host Bluejays the lead for good.

No. 10 Arkansas 76, North Dakota State 58: Trevon Brazile had 21 points and 12 rebounds in

his debut as the host Razorbacks won their season opener.

No. 11 Tennessee 75, Tennessee Tech 43: Tyreke Key came off the bench to score 17 points and the host Volunteers beat the Golden Eagles.

No. 12 Texas 72, UTEP 57: Tyrese Hunter scored 18 points to lead the host Longhorns past the Miners in the debut of their new \$375 million arena.

No. 13 Indiana 88, Morehead State 53: Preseason All-American Trayce Jackson-Davis and freshman Malik Reneau each scored 15 points, helping the host Hoosiers beat the Eagles.

No. 14 TCU 73, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 72: Mike Miles hit a three-pointer with 51 seconds remaining to finally put the host Horned Frogs ahead to stay against the Golden Lions, who built an early 20-point lead.

No. 15 Auburn 70, George Mason 52: Wendell Green Jr. scored 16 points while K.D. Johnson and Johni Broome each had 12 to lead the host Tigers to a win over the Patriots.

No. 17 Arizona 117, Nicholls State 75: Azuolas Tubelis scored 23 points and the host Wildcats went on a massive opening run to begin their second season under coach Tommy Lloyd with a rout.

No. 18 Virginia 73, North Carolina Central 61: Kihei Clark and Reece Beekman sparked a 15-2 second-half run, and the host Cavaliers beat the Eagles after blowing a 16-point first-half lead.

No. 19 San Diego State 80, Cal State Fullerton 57: Darrion Trammell hit three three-pointers during a 29-10 run to open the second half and finished with 18 points as the host Aztecs beat the Titans.

No. 20 Alabama 75, Longwood

54: Freshman Brandon Miller had 14 points and 13 rebounds in his debut as the host Crimson Tide beat the Lancers.

No. 21 Oregon 80, Florida A&M 45: N'Faly Dante had 16 points and 10 rebounds as the host Ducks opened with an easy win over the Rattlers.

No. 22 Michigan 75, Purdue Fort Wayne 56: Hunter Dickinson had 22 points and 12 rebounds, and freshman Jett Howard added 21 points in the host Wolverines' season-opening win.

No. 23 Illinois 87, Eastern Illinois 57: Terrence Shannon Jr. scored 24 points and Coleman Hawkins had 23 points and 12 rebounds as the host Illini cruised past the Panthers.

No. 24 Dayton 73, Lindenwood 46: Mustapha Amzil scored 14 points, DaRon Holmes II and R.J. Blakney each had 13 and the host Flyers beat the Lions.

No. 25 Texas Tech 73, Northwestern State 49: Daniel Batcho had 12 points and 10 rebounds as the host Red Raiders rolled past the Demons.

Navy 74, William & Mary 59: Tyler Nelson had 16 points in the visiting Midshipmen's victory over the Tribe in the season opener for both teams.

Nelson shot 6-for-9, including 4-for-6 from beyond the arc for Navy. Sean Yoder added 14 points and nine rebounds.

Bowling Green 62, Air Force 58: Leon Ayers III had 16 points in host Bowling Green's win against Air Force.

Air Force was led in scoring by Camden Vander Zwaag, who finished with 14 points. Jake Heibredner added 12 points.

SPORTS

Three in a row

Drake helps Ravens beat Saints, stretch winning streak » **NFL, Page 21**



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Taking over



Duke head coach Jon Scheyer directs his team during the first half of Monday's season opener against Jacksonville in Durham, N.C.

PHOTOS BY BEN MCKEOWN/AP

After succeeding Coach K, Blue Devils' Scheyer focuses on enjoying moment in coaching debut

BY AARON BEARD
Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Jon Scheyer didn't want to make Duke's season opener all about his first game as the successor to retired Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Instead, he wanted to make sure to enjoy a moment that has rarely come around in Cameron Indoor Stadium.

The 35-year-old former Blue Devils player and coach has his first win, 71-44 over Jacksonville on Monday night. He looked calm and in control on the sideline, yet also took moments on the way to the court and then off it to appreciate the scene, too.

Scheyer said he got several text messages from friends in the coaching ranks telling him to "try to enjoy it." But he said he didn't talk to his players about it being his first game.

"For myself, I just took a moment before going out there," Scheyer said.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Mike Krzyzewski coached the Blue Devils to 1,202 victories and five national titles over 42 seasons.

"What an opportunity. What a moment. This is a place I've grown up in, playing, coaching. And to be here as the head coach, I was not going to be anywhere other than this moment right now."

Scheyer and his players tried to treat it like a normal season opener. But it represented a seismic change for the Blue Devils program that Krzyzewski had spent decades building into a standard of the sport, one that Scheyer — who was designated as Coach K's successor in June 2021 — acknowledged was a "pivotal" moment last spring.

He's leading a seventh-ranked team with 11 new players, including the nation's No. 1-ranked recruiting class and a pair of power-conference transfers.

This marked the first coaching debut for the Blue Devils since Krzyzewski won his opener against Stetson on Nov. 29, 1980, one of a record 1,202 victories in a career that included five NCAA championships.

Scheyer was the leading scorer on Coach K's fourth title team in 2010, then spent nine seasons on the Duke bench.

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Duke freshman Kyle Filipowski shoots over Jacksonville's Dylan O'Hearn. Filipowski had 10 points and 12 rebounds in Duke's 71-44 victory.

Murray, Atlanta hand Milwaukee first defeat »

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