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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## Biden talks with Xi in attempt to avoid 'conflict'

By SEUNG MIN KIM  
AND ZEKE MILLER  
*Associated Press*

NUSA DUA, Indonesia — President Joe Biden objected to China's "coercive and increasingly aggressive actions" toward Taiwan during his first in-person meeting on Monday with President Xi Jinping, as the leaders of the two superpowers aimed to "manage" differences between their nations as they compete for global influence.

The highlight of Biden's seven-day, round-the-world trip to Asia, the nearly three hour sit-down came at a critical juncture for the two countries amid increasing economic and security tensions. Speaking at a news conference afterward, Biden said that when it comes to China the U.S. would "compete vigorously, but I'm not looking for conflict." He added: "I absolutely believe there need not be a new Cold War" with the rising Asian power.

Biden reiterated U.S. support for its long-standing "One China" policy, which recognizes the government in Beijing while allowing for informal relations and defense ties with Taipei, and its posture of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it would respond militarily if the island were attacked. He also said that despite China's recent saber rattling, he does not believe "there's any imminent attempt on the part of China to invade Taiwan."

Xi, according to the Chinese government's account of the meeting, "stressed that the Taiwan question is at the very core of China's core interests, the bedrock of the political foundation of China-U.S. relations, and the first

SEE BIDEN ON PAGE 3



## Ford focus

PHOTOS BY ALISON BATH/Stars and Stripes

An F/A-18 Super Hornet jet sits on the flight deck of the USS Gerald R. Ford, the Navy's newest aircraft carrier, in international waters off the Atlantic coast of France on Sunday.

## Navy's newest carrier joins NATO allies on deployment No. 1

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

ABOARD THE USS GERALD R. FORD — The Navy's newest aircraft carrier is testing its mettle alongside allies in the north Atlantic on its maiden deployment, as part of a mission that its leadership said sends a powerful message to adversaries who may be watching.

The USS Gerald R. Ford's deployment comes after major cost overruns, technical issues and other delays since it was commissioned into service in 2017 as the lead ship of its class.

But the sailors aboard the ship Sunday in international waters off the coast of France said the technological improvements, which include new radar, aircraft launch and propulsion systems, have



Rear Adm. D.J. Patchell, vice commander of U.S. 2nd Fleet, left, and Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, commander of Carrier Strike Group 12, speak with reporters in the hangar bay of the USS Gerald R. Ford Sunday.

made their operations faster and represent a clear upgrade from the Nimitz class of nuclear-powered carriers.

Naval officials wouldn't say whether the Russians were sizing up Ford as it launched planes alongside six NATO allied naval

forces last week, but it's not unusual for the Kremlin to do so.

"You always assume your competitors are watching what you are doing and interested in what you are doing, just as we would be with what they are doing," said Rear Adm. D. J. Patchell, vice commander of U.S. 2nd Fleet.

U.S. and NATO officials acknowledged in February that the Russians were watching the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman and other ships during a multinational exercise in the Adriatic Sea.

That isn't necessarily a bad thing in the eyes of some military officials, at a time when the U.S. and its allies are emphasizing NA-

SEE FORD ON PAGE 5



# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Flying home for holidays to cost more this year

Associated Press

People still looking to book trips home to visit family or take a vacation during the holidays need to act fast and prepare for sticker shock.

Airline executives have said based on bookings, they expect huge demand for flights over Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's. Travel experts have said the best deals for airfares and hotels are already gone.

On social media, plenty of travelers think they are being

gouged. It's an understandable sentiment when government data shows that airfares in October were up 43% from a year earlier, and U.S. airlines reported a combined profit of more than \$2.4 billion in the third quarter.

Part of the reason for high fares is that airlines are still operating fewer flights than in 2019 even though passenger numbers are nearly back to pre-pandemic levels.

"Fewer flights and more people looking to head home or take

vacation for the holidays means two things: Prices will be higher, and we will see flights sell out for both holidays," said Holly Berg, chief economist for travel-data provider Hopper.

Prices for air travel and lodging usually rise heading into the holidays, and it happened earlier this year. That is leading some travelers in Europe to book shorter trips, according to Axel Hefer, CEO of Germany-based hotel-search company Trivago.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Nov. 15)	\$1.00	Switzerland (Franc)	1,330.67
Dollar buys (Nov. 15)	0.9477	Thailand (Baht)	.9474
British pound (Nov. 15)	\$1.15	Turkey (New Lira)	35.86
Japanese yen (Nov. 15)	143.00		18.6003
South Korean won (Nov. 15)	1,282.00		
Commercial rates		<small>(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.)</small>	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769	INTEREST RATES	
Britain (Pound)	1.1736	Prime rate	7.00
Canada (Dollar)	1.3291	Interest Rates Discount rate	4.50
China (Yuan)	7.0731	Federal funds market rate	3.83
Denmark (Krone)	7.2123	3-month bill	4.19
Egypt (Pound)	24.4096	30-year bond	4.06
Euro	.9695		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8358		
Hungary (Forint)	397.06		
Israel (Shekel)	3.4331		
Japan (Yen)	140.59		
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3077		
Norway (Krone)	10.0296		
Philippines (Peso)	57.25		
Poland (Zloty)	4.56		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7580		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3750		

### WEATHER OUTLOOK

#### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



#### TUESDAY IN EUROPE



#### WEDNESDAY 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

# Congress seeks to arm Taiwan proactively

BY ELLEN NAKASHIMA  
The Washington Post

Mindful of lessons learned from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Congress is pushing to arm and train Taiwan in advance of any potential military attack by China, but whether the aid materializes could depend on President Joe Biden himself.

Deliberations on an unprecedented package of billions of dollars in military assistance to the self-governing island democracy come as Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping met in Indonesia on Monday, with maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait a top item of discussion.

The bipartisan effort would enable the U.S. military to dip immediately into its own stocks of weapons such as Javelins and Stingers — something done at this scale only for Ukraine, officials said — and provide weapons for the first time to Taiwan through the foreign military financing program, paid for by the United States.

Through these provisions, Taiwan could receive weapons and equipment such as anti-ship cruise missiles and anti-air defense sys-

tems, self-detonating drones, naval mines, command-and-control systems, and secure radios.

The idea is essentially to do for Taipei what is being done for Kyiv — but before the bullets start flying, lawmakers said.

"One of the lessons of Ukraine is that you need to arm your partners before the shooting starts, and that gives you your best chance of avoiding war in the first place," said Rep. Mike Gallagher, a Wisconsin Republican and Marine veteran who serves on the House Armed Services Committee.

National security adviser Jake Sullivan said in September on a Bloomberg show that it "remains a distinct threat that there could be a military contingency around Taiwan."

The Democratic leaders of the House and the Senate support the provisions to arm Taipei, but it is not clear that the lawmakers who control the purse strings — the appropriations committees — are convinced of the need to allocate the funds.

Currently, there is no money for this package in the 2023 budget proposal that Congress is working to pass, and if appropriators don't

find cuts to cover the weapons assistance, Biden will have to submit an emergency request to finance the spending for Taiwan and make the case for why it's necessary, congressional aides say.

Administration officials declined to say whether they would do so.

"Our engagement with Congress has been focused on ensuring that legislation that moves forward is clearly consistent with our policy framework that has helped maintain peace and stability across the [Taiwan] Strait," said a senior administration official, who like several others interviewed for this report spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity.

The assistance package, the details of which are being finalized now in the must-pass National Defense Authorization Act, has been crafted with White House input, congressional aides said. It would allow the provision annually to Taiwan of \$1 billion worth of stockpiled U.S. munitions — what's known as "presidential drawdown authority" — and up to \$2 billion worth of weapons annually for five years paid for with U.S. tax dollars. Only



SAM YEH, AFP, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

**CM-11 tanks fire their cannons during a live-fire military exercise in southern Taiwan, on Sept. 7.**

Israel gets more on an annual basis.

Congressional advocates say the aid would be consistent with the United States' obligations under the Taiwan Relations Act, which states that it is U.S. policy to provide Taiwan arms to enable its self-defense.

But skeptics question whether the assistance would further Taiwan's defensive capabilities in the near term.

## Biden: Both men entered the meeting with bolstered political standing at home

FROM PAGE 1

red line that must not be crossed in China-U.S. relations."

Biden said he and Xi discussed Russia's aggression against Ukraine and "reaffirmed our shared belief" that the threat or the use of nuclear weapons is "totally unacceptable." That was a reference to Moscow's thinly-veiled threats to use atomic weapons as its nearly nine-month invasion of Ukraine has faltered.

While there were no watershed breakthroughs, the meeting brought each side long-sought, if modest victories. In addition to the oblique condemnation of Russian nuclear threats, Biden appeared to secure from Xi the resumption of lower-level cooperation from China on a range of shared global challenges. Meanwhile, Xi, who has aimed to establish China as a geopolitical peer of the U.S., got symbolic home turf for the meeting, and Biden's forceful "One China" policy commitment.

The White House said Biden and Xi agreed to "empower key senior officials" on areas of potential cooperation, including tackling climate change, and maintaining global financial, health and food stability. It was not immediately clear whether that meant China would agree to restart climate change talks that Beijing paused in protest of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August. The two leaders agreed to have Secretary of State Antony Blinken travel to Beijing to continue the discussions.

Xi and Biden warmly greeted each other with a handshake at a luxury resort hotel in Indonesia, where they are attending the Group of 20 summit of large economies.

"As the leaders of our two nations, we share responsibility, in my view, to show that China and the United States can manage our differences, prevent competition from becoming anything ever near conflict, and to find ways to work together on urgent global issues that require our mutual cooperation," Biden said to open the meeting.

Xi called on Biden to "chart the right



ALEX BRANDON/AP

**President Joe Biden, right, stands with Chinese President Xi Jinping before a meeting on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit meeting, Monday, in Bali, Indonesia.**

course" and "elevate the relationship" between China and the U.S. He said he was ready for a "candid and in-depth exchange of views" with Biden.

Both men entered the highly anticipated meeting with bolstered political standing at home. Democrats triumphantly held onto control of the U.S. Senate, with a chance to boost their ranks by one in a runoff election in Georgia next month, while Xi was awarded a third five-year term in October by the Communist Party's national congress, a break with tradition.

White House aides have repeatedly sought to minimize any notion of conflict between the two nations and have emphasized that they believe the countries can work in tandem on shared challenges such as climate change and health security.

But relations have grown more strained under successive American administrations, as economic, trade, human rights and security differences have come to the fore.

As president, Biden has repeatedly taken China to task for human rights abuses against the Uyghur people and other ethnic minorities, crackdowns on democracy activists in Hong Kong, coercive trade practices, military provocations against self-ruled Taiwan and differences over Russia's prosecution of its war against Ukraine. Chinese officials have largely refrained from public criticism of Russia's war, although Beijing has avoided direct support, such as supplying arms.

The White House said Biden specifically mentioned U.S. concerns about China's actions in Xinjiang, Tibet and Hong Kong, and the plight of Americans it considers "wrongfully detained" or subject to exit bans in China.

Taiwan has emerged as one of the most contentious issues between Washington and Beijing. Multiple times in his presidency, Biden has said the U.S. would defend the island — which China has eyed for eventual

unification — in case of a Beijing-led invasion. But administration officials have stressed each time that the U.S.'s "One China" policy has not changed. That policy recognizes the government in Beijing while allowing for informal relations and defense ties with Taipei, and its posture of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it would respond militarily if the island were attacked.

Pelosi's trip prompted China, officially the People's Republic of China, to retaliate with military drills and the firing of ballistic missiles into nearby waters.

The White House said Biden "raised U.S. objections to the PRC's coercive and increasingly aggressive actions toward Taiwan, which undermine peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the broader region, and jeopardize global prosperity."

In the meeting, Biden said China's economic practices "harm American workers and families, and workers and families around the world," the White House said.

It came just weeks after the Biden administration blocked exports of advanced computer chips to China — a national security move that bolsters U.S. competition against Beijing.

Xi's government said he condemned such moves, saying, "Starting a trade war or a technology war, building walls and barriers, and pushing for decoupling and severing supply chains run counter to the principles of market economy and undermine international trade rules."

And though the two men have held five phone or video calls during Biden's presidency, White House officials say those encounters are no substitute for an in-person meeting. They said sitting down with Xi was all the more important after Xi strengthened his grip on power with a third term and because lower-level Chinese officials have been unable or unwilling to speak for their leader.

White House officials and their Chinese counterparts spent weeks negotiating details of the meeting, which was held at Xi's hotel.



## PACIFIC

## Expert: Threats to bases behind F-15 phaseout

By **SETH ROBSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Air Force move to replace F-15 Eagle fighters with rotating units of more advanced fighters signals awareness that Okinawan bases won't survive a conflict with China, according to a former Marine fighter pilot and diplomat.

A two-year phased withdrawal of two squadrons flying the supersonic aircraft from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, began Nov. 1, soon after the release of the new U.S. National Defense Strategy highlighting China as the American military's "pacing" challenge.

"You can look at it (removal of the F-15s) as the USAF coming to grips with the reality that nothing on the first island chain, especially not Kadena, will be survivable in a conflict with China," Steve Ganyard, a former deputy assistant secretary of state, told Stars and Stripes in an email Friday.

China's massive military buildup includes an expanding arsenal

of missiles with many of the weapons presumed to be aimed at U.S. bases in Japan. A 2017 report by Navy Cmdr. Thomas Shugart, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security, for example, includes satellite imagery of Chinese missile test sites that appear to mimic Yokota, Kadena and Misawa air bases.

Around a dozen F-22 Raptor jets arrived on Okinawa Nov. 4 from the 3rd Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, to start a six-month rotation while the F-15s head home. The Air Force described the Raptors as "backfill" for the retiring F-15s while the Defense Department decides on a long-term plan to fulfill its obligations to Japan.

"Better to have rotational forces that might preserve an option to be redeployed, at least far more easily than permanently based forces with their families," Ganyard said.

The Air Force is deployed with a

focus on potential conflict in North Korea, a scenario in which its rear bases are presumed secure, he said.

"China changes that and puts everything south of Kagoshima (in southern Japan) particularly at risk," he said. Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, south of Hiroshima, and Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo may also be targeted, he said, "if things get really tough."

The Air Force in recent years has been training to deploy aircraft, support personnel and equipment to remote locations to operate far from comfortable home bases, a doctrine called agile combat employment.

The Navy and Marines have rotated forces through the Far East for decades, Ganyard said.

"That's a change for the [Air Force] but if air capability improves then maybe they should have considered it earlier," he said.

Fighter pilots on Okinawa see themselves as "on the tip of the sword," Jay Burton, 70, of Rapid City, S.D., who flew over 1,000 hours in F-15s including at Kadena in the early 1980s, said in an email Thursday.

"We were, and had to be, prepared for combat usually associated with North Korea," he said.

The aircraft is designed for air-to-air combat using missiles and a 20mm gun. Its primary mission is to defend against intruders entering friendly air space, but the aircraft can also protect other aircraft striking enemy territory, he said.

The Chinese will welcome the F-15s' removal from Okinawa, retired Marine Col. Grant Newsham, a senior researcher with the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies in Tokyo said in a Friday email.

"There is simply a matter of perceptions," he said. "When you withdraw forces from the 'front' it

suggests weakness, confusion, etc. And sometimes just the 'suggestion' is enough."

Newsham's concerns echo those expressed by a group of Republican Party lawmakers who wrote to Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin Nov. 1 asking to be briefed on the aircraft moves.

The U.S. plan to replace the F-15s strengthens, not weakens, the deterrence quotient on Okinawa, a spokesman for the Japanese Defense Ministry said Oct. 28. Government spokespeople in Japan customarily speak to the media on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their position.

However, inwardly, the Japanese are unhappy about the F-15s removal, Newsham said. They have no plans of their own to replace them, he said.

"They don't really have the resources even if they wanted to do so," he said.

robson.seth@stripes.com

## USO honors US, Japanese troops for volunteer work

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

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USO recognized 14 people recently from U.S. and Japanese service branches for their community service in Japan the past year.

More than 40 people gathered at the Officer's Club at Yokosuka Naval Base for the USO Japan's 14th annual Salute to Service Awards.

The awards celebrate service members who not only excel in their careers, but also significantly contribute to their communities. Nominees are selected based on a variety of criteria, including professional development, personal achievement, leadership and volunteerism.

"It is a great testimony to your commitment to excellence, exceptional leadership and selfless devotion to serving others that you are here tonight with us," said Natalie Rowland, USO area coordinator, during the ceremony.

Typical among the honorees was Japan Ground Self-Defense Force Master Sgt. Takako Sasaki, 50, of Aomori. Sasaki was nominated for volunteering at various clean-up projects and working as a mental health counselor.

It was an honor to receive the award, she told Stars and Stripes after the ceremony, and she hopes that the other volunteers that have worked with her also share the credit.

Every U.S. military base in Japan, except those on Okinawa, and each branch of the Japan Self-Defense Forces were represented at the ceremony.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Jarrod



ALEX WILSON/Stars and Stripes

**The winners of USO Japan's 2022 Salute to Service Awards pose with USO area coordinator Natalie Rowland at the Officers Club at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Nov. 10, 2022. From left: Petty Officer 3rd Class Hiroki Shirakura, Cpl. Michael Burdick, Petty Officer 1st Class Monica Tomlinson, Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Payne, Rowland, Chief Petty Officer Daniel Nielson, Staff Sgt. Jarrod White, Master Sgt. Makoto Fujita, Master Sgt. Takako Sasaki and 1st Sgt. Guy Weaver.**

White and U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Daniel Nielson were nominated by Yokota Air Base, the headquarters in western Tokyo of U.S. Forces Japan. Shannon Lamberti, a civilian USO volunteer from Yokota, was also recognized.

Yokosuka Naval Base, homeport of the 7th Fleet, nominated Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Monica Tomlinson and Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher Payne.

From the Marine Corps in Japan came Cpl. Michael Burdick of the Marines' Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, and Cpl. Jasmin Davilajarez of Ma-

rine Corps Air Station Iwakuni.

Burdick, 21, of Lake Forest, Calif., was recognized for his contributions to recreational facilities at Camp Fuji, including the USO lounge and the base's chapel. A staffing shortage left both facilities without much support, so he stepped in for maintenance tasks, he said.

"I feel very honored, and I feel appreciated by command," he told Stars and Stripes after the ceremony. "And I'm very humbled that someone sees the work you put in and decides to award you."

Camp Zama, the headquarters southwest of Tokyo of U.S. Army

Japan nominated 1st Sgt. Guy Weaver; Misawa Air Base nominated Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher White.

Representing Sasebo Naval Base was Petty Officer 1st Class Regina Corpus and Petty Officer 1st Class Dennies Damaso.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force nominated Master Sgt. Makoto Fujita, the Ground Self-Defense Force nominated Sasaki and the Maritime Self-Defense Force nominated Petty Officer 3rd Class Hiroki Shirakura.

wilson.alex@stripes.com  
Twitter: @AlexMNWilson

## Marine held for alleged trespassing

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**  
**AND KEISHI KOJA**  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police arrested a Marine from Camp Kinser early Sunday on suspicion of trespassing after he allegedly smashed a car window outside a home in Naha city, according to a police spokesman.

Naha police took Lance Cpl. Julian Valenzuela, 20, of Combat Logistics Regiment 37, into custody shortly after a homeowner reported a disturbance at 3:59 a.m. in the Matsuyama district, a Naha Police Department spokesman told Stars and Stripes by phone Monday.

The homeowner, in his 60s, reported a foreigner acting violently in the parking area underneath his home. Police arrived to find Valenzuela shouting in English and bleeding from both hands, the spokesman said. A car in the garage had a smashed window and was stained with blood.

Valenzuela's blood-alcohol content, according to a Breathalyzer, measured 0.13%, more than four times Japan's legal driving limit of 0.03%, the spokesman said.

Valenzuela was being held Monday afternoon at Naha Police Station, the spokesman said. He said Valenzuela told police he doesn't remember the incident but denies the allegation.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1  
koja.keishi@stripes.com  
Twitter: @KeishiRKOja



# EUROPE

## Ford: Carrier's outing is a prequel for longer deployment in 2023

FROM PAGE 1

TO unity to reassure eastern members following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February.

Anyone watching can see that "this is not just an alliance on paper; this is an alliance matched by steel on the sea," said Capt. Paul Lanzilotta, the Ford's commanding officer, speaking to reporters on the ship's flag bridge.

That message was clear when the Ford and other NATO ships sailed into Halifax, Nova Scotia, last month and during last week's exercise with Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands, Lanzilotta and other officials said.

The Ford Carrier Strike Group left its Naval Station Norfolk, Va., homeport in early October on a two-month deployment designed to continue testing systems and train its air wing, the Navy said in an Oct. 5 statement.

The deployment is a prequel to a longer, more traditional deployment planned in 2023, USNI News reported Sept. 26.

The shorter outing allows the service to evaluate how systems like the electromagnetic aircraft launching system, or EMALS, operate in tune with allied forces, said Rear Adm. Gregory Huffman, commander of Carrier Strike Group 12.

On Sunday, storms and rough seas didn't allow for flight oper-

ations that would have highlighted EMALS, which replaces the more than 70-year-old technology behind the steam powered system used on the service's Nimitz-class carriers.

So far, the ship has seen more than 10,000 launches and recoveries using the system, which provides a smoother, more controlled launch that puts less stress on aircraft, officials said.

EMALS also offers greater flexibility in launching a range of aircraft, including aerial drones, although the ship hasn't yet launched any, Lanzilotta said.

Huffman characterized the system, once heavily criticized for its high cost and unreliability, as "absolutely performing where we need it to be."

But he also acknowledged that there is more work to do on EMALS, which the Navy says will increase sortie rates and reduce manning needs in part because of better use of space.

Ford's capabilities also include six in-deck fuel positions that allow aircraft refueling without having to drag hoses across the flight deck. Lanzilotta said it took just four minutes to refuel the E-2D Hawkeye he recently was flying.

"It's a little bit like a Formula 1 (race car) stop compared to having to pull those hoses," said Lanzilotta, who noted the fueling stations not only make easier work for crew members but also help



PHOTOS BY ALISON BATH/Stars and Stripes

**A group embarks aboard the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford in international waters off the coast of France on Sunday. The Navy's newest carrier began its maiden deployment after departing its Virginia homeport last month.**

keep the flight deck taxi area clear.

Not all of Ford's advantages are high-tech, though, sailors said Sunday.

Some quality-of-life improvements, such as private bathrooms in officers' state rooms and higher-output air conditioning, are making conditions better for the crew, he said.

"This is a really nice way to live," Lanzilotta said.

bath.alison@stripes.com  
Twitter: @alisonbath\_



**Crews work on aircraft aboard the flight deck of the USS Gerald R. Ford in the north Atlantic Ocean on Sunday.**

## Iran's Revolutionary Guard hit with EU sanctions over supplying drones to Russia

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union on Monday imposed sanctions on the chief of Iran's Revolutionary Guard, the corp's Aerospace Force and a company making drones that the bloc says have been used by Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Ukraine's Western-reinforced air defenses are making it difficult for Russian warplanes to operate, and killer drones are a cheap weapon that can seek out and destroy targets while spreading fear among both troops and civilians.

Russia stands accused of sending waves of Iranian-made drones over Ukraine to strike at power plants and other key infrastructure. The EU says it has evidence that Iran has sold drones to Russia since the war began in February. It is investigating reports that Iran

might also be supplying missiles.

In a statement, the EU said it was targeting Revolutionary Guard chief Gen. Hossein Salami because the corps "supervises the development of Iran's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) program as well as the transfer of UAVs abroad."

The bloc also slapped sanctions on the Revolutionary Guard's Aerospace Force and commanding general, saying that the Shahed-136 and Mohajer-6 drones they have allegedly supplied "are used by the Russian Federation in the war of aggression against Ukraine."

Qods Aviation Industries, which makes Mohajer-6 drones, was also listed "for supporting materially actions which undermine or threaten the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine."

## Zambia asks why student died in battle

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — A Zambian student who was serving a 9-year, six-month sentence in a Russian prison has been killed fighting alongside Russian troops in Ukraine, the Zambian government announced Monday.

Zambian Foreign Minister Stanley Kakubo says Russian officials informed the Zambian government of the death of 23-year-old Lemekhane Nyirenda, who was a government-sponsored student

before he was sentenced for unspecified crimes in April 2020.

Kakubo said the Zambian government was seeking answers from Russia about how Nyirenda ended up on the battlefield in Russia's war against Ukraine.

"In view of this very sad development, the Zambian government has requested the Russian authorities to urgently provide information on the circumstances under which a Zambia citizen, serving a prison sentence in Moscow, could

have been recruited to fight in Ukraine and subsequently lose his life," Kakubo said Monday.

He said the Zambian Embassy in the Russian capital of Moscow had established that Nyirenda died on Sept. 22 and that his remains have been transported to the Russian border town of Rostov ahead of repatriation to Zambia.

Before his prison sentence, Nyirenda was studying nuclear engineering at the Moscow Engineering Physics Institute.

## Estonia won't side against Israel in UN votes

Associated Press

HELSINKI — Estonia's foreign minister says the Baltic country has changed its policy toward Israel and will no longer vote for U.N. resolutions condemning Tel Aviv's actions in the occupied Palestinian territories including the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Instead, the European country is looking from now on to align its U.N. voting position in such matters with Washington, its closest security policy ally.

According to a report published Monday by the Estonian public broadcaster ERR, Foreign Minister Urmas Reinsalu said Estonia

— an European Union and NATO member — recently voted together with the United States against the condemnation of Israel at the U.N.

Previously, Estonia has usually voted for resolutions condemning Israel at the U.N. together with several other countries.



## EUROPE

## Zelenskyy hails 'beginning of the end of the war'

By SAM MEDNICK

Associated Press

KHERSON, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy made a triumphant visit to the newly liberated city of Kherson on Monday, hailing the Russian withdrawal as the “beginning of the end of the war” but also acknowledging the heavy price Ukrainian soldiers are paying in their grinding effort to push back the invading force.

The retaking of Kherson was one of Ukraine’s biggest successes in the nearly nine months since Moscow’s invasion. It served another stinging blow to the Kremlin and could become a springboard for further advances into occupied territory.

But large parts of eastern and southern Ukraine are still under Russian control, and the city of Kherson itself remains within reach of Moscow’s shells and missiles. Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued elsewhere in the country, with Ukraine reporting several civilian casualties.

Zelenskyy walked the streets of Kherson on Monday, awarding medals to soldiers and posing with them for selfies — and striking a defiant note.

“This is the beginning of the end of the war,” he said. “We are step by step coming to all the temporarily occupied territories.”

But he also grimly acknowledged that the fighting thus far “took the best heroes of our country.”

The end of Russia’s occupation of the city — the only provincial capital its forces have seized since the February invasion — has sparked days of celebration. But with winter approaching, residents are living without heat, wa-

ter and electricity and are short of food and medicine. Zelenskyy himself noted that the city is laced with booby traps and mines. And Ukrainian authorities say evidence of atrocities are emerging as in areas they liberated earlier.

A Washington-based think tank, the Institute for the Study of War, said that Ukraine has won “an important victory” in recapturing the city of Kherson and other areas west of the Dnieper River, but “it has by no means liberated the minimum territory essential to its future security and economic survival.”

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, during a visit to The Hague on Monday, warned that “we should not make the mistake of underestimating Russia.”

“The Russian armed forces retain significant capability as well as a large number of troops, and Russia has demonstrated their willingness to bear significant losses,” Stoltenberg said.

Zelenskyy has previously appeared unexpectedly in other front-line areas at crucial junctures of the war and his latest visit was both laden with symbolism and the common touch — clearly aimed at boosting the morale of both soldiers and civilians alike.

In video published by a presidential aide, a visibly moved Zelenskyy stood with his hand on his heart and sang the national anthem, as troops saluted and stood to attention and a soldier steadily hauled the yellow-and-blue Ukrainian flag up a flagpole.

People with flags draped around their shoulders cheered, cried and screamed out in gratitude as Zelenskyy walked by.

“It’s amazing. We’ve been waiting for him for nine months, thank



UKRAINIAN PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE/AP

Ukrainian soldiers take a selfie with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, center, during his visit to Kherson, Ukraine, on Monday. Ukraine’s retaking of Kherson was a significant setback for the Kremlin.

you,” said one resident, Danila Yuhrenko.

Another resident, Serhii Yukhmchuk, 47, said he and his wife spent the occupation mostly at home to avoid interactions with the Russians. They and others in their community silently protested by refusing to use the ruble, Russia’s currency, he said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Monday refused to comment on Zelenskyy’s visit to Kherson, saying only that “you know that it is the territory of the Russian Federation.” Russia illegally annexed the Kherson region and three others earlier this year.

After the Russian retreat, Uk-

rainian authorities say they are finding evidence of torture and other atrocities.

In his nightly video address on Sunday, Zelenskyy said without giving details that “investigators have already documented more than 400 Russian war crimes, and the bodies of both civilians and military personnel have been found.”

“In the Kherson region, the Russian army left behind the same atrocities as in other regions of our country,” he said. “We will find and bring to justice every murderer. Without a doubt.”

Residents said departing Russian troops plundered the city, carting away loot as they withdrew last week. They also wrecked key infrastructure before retreating across the wide Dnieper River to its east bank.

One Ukrainian official described the situation in Kherson as “a humanitarian catastrophe.”

Reconnecting the electricity

supply is the priority, Kherson regional governor Yaroslav Yanushkevych said.

The Russian pullout marked another triumphant milestone in Ukraine’s pushback against Moscow’s forces. In the past two months, Ukraine’s military claimed to have retaken dozens of towns and villages north of the city of Kherson.

But the grinding war continued with shelling, civilian casualties and each side reporting gains.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Monday that its forces had completely captured the village of Pavlivka in the eastern Donetsk region. Multiple Ukrainian officials have spoken of heavy battles raging in the area in recent weeks but did not confirm their loss of Pavlivka.

In Luhansk, another eastern region illegally annexed by Moscow, Kyiv’s forces have retaken 12 settlements, the Ukrainian governor of the region, Serhiy Haidai, said.



BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP

Residents gather during a visit from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kherson.



ANDRIY ANDRIYENKO/AP

A man prepares a meal next to an apartment building damaged by shelling in Sviatohirsk, Ukraine, on Monday.



NATION

# County in Florida puts damage from Nicole at \$481M

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH SHORES, Fla. — Damages are estimated at more than \$481 million in a central Florida coastal county where homes collapsed into the Atlantic Ocean following Hurricane Nicole last week.

The damages from the Category 1 storm in Volusia County, home to Daytona Beach, exceeded those from the much stronger Hurricane Ian, which caused \$377 million in the county, officials said. Hurricane

Ian, a category 3 storm, made landfall in southwest Florida in late September and tore across the state.

Moody's Investors Service estimated insured losses from Ian at between \$40 billion and \$70 billion in Florida and North Carolina.

Severe beach erosion from Ian made homes vulnerable to the impact of Nicole in Wilbur-by-the-Sea, a quaint beach community where single-family homes fell into the ocean last week. Volusia County officials said that at least 30 single-

family homes in Wilbur-by-the-Sea and seven single-family homes in nearby Ponce Inlet have been deemed unsafe following Hurricane Nicole.

In Daytona Beach Shores and New Smyrna Beach, two dozen multistory condo buildings have been evacuated and deemed unsafe by building inspectors.

Daytona Beach Shore by far had the most property damage in the county, estimated at \$370.3 million, according to the Volusia County

Property Appraiser. It was followed by New Smyrna Beach at \$51.1 million and Daytona Beach at \$50 million.

The property appraiser's office warned that those figures would likely rise as more buildings are inspected.

For storm-weary Floridians, Nicole was the first November hurricane to hit their shores since 1985 and only the third since record-keeping began in 1853.

The storm was blamed for five

deaths in Florida. A man and a woman were killed by electrocution when they touched downed power lines in the Orlando area. Also in Orange County, one man died in a vehicle crash, and a male pedestrian was struck and killed by a vehicle because of poor road conditions. Another man died as waves battered his yacht against a dock in Cocoa, despite efforts to resuscitate him by paramedics who managed to get on board as the boat broke away from its moorings.

# White House is set to host its 19th wedding

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — "Here Comes the Bride" will be heard at the White House very soon. Again.

Naomi Biden, the granddaughter of President Joe Biden, and Peter Neal are getting married on the South Lawn on Saturday in what will be the 19th wedding in White House history.

It will be the first wedding with a president's granddaughter as the bride, and the first one in that location, according to the White House Historical Association.

A mutual friend set up Naomi Biden, 28, and Neal, 25, about four years ago in New York City and the White House said they have

been together ever since. Naomi Biden is a lawyer; her father is Hunter Biden. Neal recently graduated from the University of Pennsylvania law school. The couple lives in Washington.

Nine of the 18 documented White House weddings were for a president's daughter — most recently Richard Nixon's daughter, Tricia, in 1971, and Lyndon B. Johnson's daughter, Lynda, in 1967. Nieces, a grandniece, a son and first ladies' siblings have also gotten married there. One president, Grover Cleveland, tied the knot there, too, while in office.

First lady Jill Biden said she's excited to see her granddaughter "planning her wedding, making her choices, becoming, you know, just

coming into her own, and she's just so beautiful."

"So I can't wait till all of you see her as a bride," the first lady said during a recent appearance on singer Kelly Clarkson's talk show.

Stewart McLaurin, president of the historical association, said special occasions at the White House aren't soon forgotten.

"If you were to have the privilege of celebrating a holiday there or a special occasion in your life, like a wedding, it is a very memorable occasion," he said.

Five weddings were held in the East Room, four took place in the Blue Room and two unfolded in the Rose Garden.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Naomi Biden, right, and fiancé Peter Neal attend the Ralph Lauren Fall/Winter 2022 fashion show at the Museum of Modern Art in March in New York.

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## NATION

# Congress faces leaders in flux, big to-do list

By LISA MASCARO  
AND FARNOUSH AMIRI  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Congress is returning to an extremely volatile post-election landscape, with control of the House still undecided, party leadership in flux and a potentially consequential lame-duck session with legislation on gay marriage, Ukraine and government funding.

Newly elected members of Congress arrived for Monday's orientation amid jarring disappointments for Republicans, setting up rocky internal party leadership elections for GOP leader Kevin McCarthy and Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell. Republicans suffered one of the most disappointing midterm outcomes in decades when a mighty red wave forecast for the House never hit.

Democrats performed better than expected, keeping narrow control of the Senate and pressing a long shot race for the House. But they, too, face leadership turmoil as Republicans pick up House seats toward majority control that would threaten Speaker Nancy Pelosi's gavel.

"There are all kinds of ways to exert influence," Pelosi said Sunday, deflecting questions about her future if Democrats lose control of the House. "Speaker has awesome power, but I will always have influence."

It's a changed place on Capitol Hill in the aftermath of the first election since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, with the Republican Party split over its ties to former President Donald Trump, Democrats eyeing generational leadership changes, and President Joe Biden with just weeks to accomplish goals with guaranteed Democratic control of Washington. Much of the action will be playing out behind closed doors in private caucus meetings.

Against this backdrop, McCarthy has tried to tamp down unrest as he asked his GOP colleagues for their support ahead of Tuesday's closed-door leadership elections, which would put him in line to take the House speaker's gavel from Pelosi, D-Calif., if Republicans flip majority control.

"I will be a listener every bit as much as a Speaker, striving to build consensus from the bottom-up rather than commanding the agenda from the top-down," McCarthy, R-



ANDREW HARNIK/AP

**It's unclear which party will control the House of Representatives in January. For now, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., left, is minority leader, and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., right, is House speaker. Like McCarthy and Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., center, faces a vote to keep his party post.**

Calif., wrote in a letter to his GOP colleagues.

But McCarthy enters the speaker's race a weakened leader, confronted by his party's losses and demands from his restive right flank, led by the ultra-conservative House Freedom Caucus and its ties with Trump. The former president backs McCarthy for speaker, but Freedom Caucus lawmakers are calling for elections to be postponed.

"I certainly don't think we should have elections before we have everything counted and know what our numbers are," said Freedom Caucus member Rep. Chip Roy, R-Texas.

Among the newly elected lawmakers, Republican Cory Mills, an Army combat veteran who won an open seat in Florida, said: "You've got actual races that haven't been called yet and you want to go out and have leadership votes?"

But Mike Lawler, who delivered a stunning defeat in New York to Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, the chair of the Democrats' campaign committee, said McCarthy has "my full support."

The tumult playing out on Capitol Hill comes as Trump is poised to announce his 2024 bid for the White House on Tuesday.

The GOP is torn between those remaining loyal to the former president and those who blame him for the midterm losses and prefer to move on from his "Make America Great Again" brand. Some lawmakers begged off from joining Trump at his Mar-A-Lago club for the announcement because of their own work on Capitol Hill.

"The Republican Party has a choice," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Sunday. "I say to the Republican senators and to Leader McConnell, we are willing to work with you to get things done for the American people."

Funding to keep the government running past a Dec. 16 funding deadline, aid for Ukraine and bipartisan legislation that would safeguard same-sex marriages from potential Supreme Court challenges in states where they have been legal are all top priorities in the final weeks of the year.

But McConnell faces his own intraparty turmoil ahead of Wednesday's closed-door leadership race, which his right flank also wants postponed as they review what went wrong in the midterm elections in general and the Georgia race now heading toward a Dec. 6 runoff.

"We need to have serious discussions,"

said a draft letter led by Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., and signed by a handful of other GOP senators.

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., put it more bluntly in a tweet: "The old party is dead. Time to bury it. Build something new."

Democrats have pushed their own internal elections off until after Thanksgiving, at which time Pelosi has said she will decide whether she would seek to stay on as party leader.

A younger generation of Democrats has been eager to take the reins in the House once Pelosi and top leaders Steny Hoyer, of Maryland, and Jim Clyburn, of South Carolina, decide if they will stay or go.

At the same time, lawmakers are buckling in for a final weeklong legislative sprint of this session — potentially the last chance Biden will have with Democratic control of Congress and monopoly party power in Washington.

On the agenda ahead are must-do bills — most prominently funding to keep the government running or risk a federal shutdown. Conservatives are eager to use the December funding deadline to begin to extract their policy priorities from McCarthy, particularly their promises to slash spending and refuse to raise the nation's debt limit. The fiscal showdown, also expected to include a round of disaster funding for hurricane-hit Florida and other areas, could be a preview of what's next in the new year.

The outgoing Congress is also working swiftly to ensure another round of funding for Ukraine to fight Russia, particularly after McCarthy signaled Republicans will refuse to provide a "blank check" for the overseas expenditure.

One top priority of Biden and his party is post-Jan. 6 legislation to modernize the Electoral Count Act, an update to the late 19th century law.

Also a landmark bill that would require recognition of same sex and interracial marriages in states where they are legal has gained support from both parties, amid concerns the Supreme Court could roll back marriage protections. It is promised for a Senate vote after already passing the House.

Legislation helping young immigrants known as Dreamers in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program remain in the U.S. also is under consideration.

## GOP flips Oregon congressional district redrawn to be less blue

*Associated Press*

PORTLAND, Ore. — Republican Lori Chavez-DeRemer has won the open U.S. House seat in Oregon's 5th Congressional District, flipping the district for the GOP in a hard-fought contest that drew millions in outside money to the state.

Chavez-DeRemer's victory makes her the first Latina congresswoman from Oregon, a distinction also sought by 6th District Democratic candidate Andrea Salinas. That race remained too early to call.

The district was previously held for seven terms by moderate Democrat Rep. Kurt Schrader and was targeted by the GOP, which saw the 5th as vulnerable after the longtime incumbent's primary defeat by progressive

candidate Jamie McLeod-Skinner.

McLeod-Skinner conceded the race Sunday.

The 5th was significantly redrawn following the 2020 U.S. Census to include parts of more conservative central Oregon, and trended slightly less blue this election. Democrats still hold a slight advantage in voter registration, but both campaigns focused on the roughly one-third of unaffiliated voters in the district.

Chavez-DeRemer, a small-business owner and former mayor of the Portland suburb of Happy Valley, built her campaign around concerns over homelessness and rising crime in Portland, which neighbors some of the district's suburban communities.

## Republican Lake narrows gap, but Arizona governor's race not over

*Associated Press*

PHOENIX — The nation's last undecided race for governor got even closer Sunday as Democrat Katie Hobbs' lead shrank against Republican Kari Lake in the race to lead Arizona, but it was too early to call.

Hobbs led by 26,000 votes, a 1 point margin, down about 10,000 votes from a day earlier.

Lake insists that she'll take the lead as early ballots dropped off at polling places are added to the tally. She won a majority of the 99,000 votes reported in Maricopa County on Sunday, but it's not clear if she'll be able to narrow the gap with the roughly 160,000 remaining to be counted statewide. The Associated Press has not yet called the race because there are still too many votes left to count to conclude

Hobbs' lead is insurmountable.

Democrats won the races for U.S. Senate and secretary of state in Arizona, but Lake is doing better than the Republicans in those races. A former television anchor, Lake is well known in much of the state and drew a fervent following among supporters of former President Donald Trump.

Lake's supporters have been highly critical of the protracted vote count in Arizona, but it is nothing new in a state where the overwhelming majority of people vote on ballots they receive in the mail. Maricopa County officials reported that a record number of early ballots were dropped off at the polling place on Election Day, delaying the count while officials verify they're legitimate.



## NATION

# Growing movement tries to buck rodeo

BY SUSANNE RUST

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Earlier this fall, Alameda County supervisors officially banned the practice of “wild cow milking” — a timed event in which a lactating beef cow, unused to human handling, has been wrangled from the fields and brought to an arena.

There, she is separated from her calf, tossed into a rodeo ring, and attacked by three or four men who rope her, pull her tail, wrestle her to the ground and try to hold her still while one of them grabs her teats and milks her.

The move comes three years after the county banned “mutton busting” — an event in which small children are placed on the backs of scared, unsaddled sheep and try to stay on while the sheep bucks, kicks and jumps to knock the child off.

“It’s animal abuse,” said Eric Mills, coordinator for Oakland’s Action for Animals, an animal welfare organization. “It’s unconscionable to treat animals this way. Can you imagine if they did this to dogs? No one would be OK with it. So why is it OK to do this to baby calves, horses and cows?”

For those who admire a “western lifestyle,” a good rodeo performance highlights the skill, bravery and strength of a talented cowboy or cowgirl — a rider deft with a lasso, in control of wild, bucking animals, and laser-focused on a chaotic, seemingly uncontrollable task at hand.

It’s this display of western grandeur, hard work, grit and sportsmanship that has likely made the Peacock series “Yellowstone” such a major hit.

But for others, the rodeo is a horror show in which terrified animals are chased around an arena, kicked by strangers, tossed onto the ground with potentially bone-crushing impact — all while loud music is blared and dozens, if not hundreds, of people yell, scream and clap from the nearby stands.

In California, there is a growing movement to ban — or seriously curtail — these kinds of perfor-



MADELEINE COOK, FORT WORTH (TEXAS) STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

**A girl clings on to her sheep during a mutton busting event in Stephenville, Texas. One county in California banned mutton busting in 2019, and the state is seeing a growing movement to curtail rodeo events.**

mances. And lawmakers are stepping into the fray, exposing one more hot-button issue that is seemingly emblematic of the nation’s growing cultural discord.

In Los Angeles, the City Council is poised to vote on legislation that would curtail, if not eliminate, rodeo events within the city. Instead of banning particular events, the legislation seeks to ban certain devices used on rodeo animals — spurs, flank straps and electric prods — that can cause pain or injury.

The legislation is sponsored by Bob Blumenfield, who represents the west San Fernando Valley.

He said he introduced the legislation because he “wanted to see what we could do in terms of trying to make Los Angeles a little bit more humane and live up to its name as the ‘city of angels.’”

San Francisco, San Juan Capistrano and Pasadena already have restrictions on rodeos, as do Pittsburgh, Leesburg, Va., and Fort Wayne, Ind.

Other states, towns, counties and countries have bans on specific events, such as the county of Baltimore, which prohibits calf roping — a sport in which a rider mounted on a horse chases a calf around an arena in an attempt to catch it.

At first the rider throws a rope around the neck of the small animal, stopping it mid-run with a forceful yank, which often tops the animal over. Then — after dismounting — the rider will try to restrain it by tying three legs together, in as short a time as possible.

For those concerned about animal welfare and abuse, these developments are hopeful; laying the groundwork for other counties, municipalities and eventually the state to adopt similar restrictions.

“When Los Angeles sneezes, the whole state catches a cold,” Blumenfield said.

For rodeo supporters, however, it’s just one more example of Cali-

fornia’s radical progressivism — a state so out of touch with mainstream America that it’s turning its back on a tradition as hallowed as apple pie.

And it’s L.A.’s potential for contagion that has gotten Sean Gleason, chief executive and commissioner of the Professional Bull Riders so concerned.

“Frankly, our fans across the country have said, ‘Let them have L.A. Who cares?’” Gleason said. “The sentiment from the rest of the country is that they are just out there. Why even fight this fight? And my answer to them is this is absolutely the place to fight them.”

Tim Baldwin, chairman of the Livestock Welfare Committee for the California Rodeo Salinas — the largest rodeo in California — agreed.

“I understand that emotions run high on many issues currently, and I hate to use the phrase ‘culture wars,’ but these ordinances tend to stroke that divi-

sion,” he said.

During an August hearing in Alameda County, rodeo proponents suggested that the wild cow milking ban and a proposed device-restricting ordinance were the products of extremists who sought to cancel American culture and tradition, outlaw agriculture, and embrace communism and Marxism.

“The fact that these bleeding hearts get on here and try, once again, to destroy the American way of life is pathetic,” said Jackie Cota, president of the Tri-Valley Republicans and a Livermore resident. “These are the same people who’ve made you wear those muzzles on your mouth right now. They want to control you for no reason and tell you there is a deadly virus without providing you with any proof for the last two years. They are Marxists.”

Animal activists, on the other hand, described the treatment of rodeo animals as inhumane and violent — suggesting such events are celebrations of domination and cruelty.

“Why are we allowing children to witness men and women forcefully dominate and abuse animals?” asked Kristina Verdile, a tenured history teacher who lives in Pleasanton and runs a rescue home for abused farm animals.

Baldwin and Gleason say these sports pose relatively little risk to the animals.

They say they are concerned about the safety and well-being of their animals, and point to regulations established by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association and PBR designed to ensure animals aren’t injured.

“What I’m saying is, if animal rights activists were successful in shutting down bull riding — through this argument that there’s some kind of torture that doesn’t exist — I assure you these animals have zero purpose and they’d be turned into hamburger within a week,” Gleason said. “Because nobody is going to keep them around to stand around on the farm and live a natural life.”

## 3 University of Virginia football players killed in shooting

Associated Press

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Police on Monday captured a University of Virginia student suspected of fatally shooting three members of the school’s football team as they returned to campus from a field trip.

The violence that also wounded two students erupted near a parking garage and sent the campus into a lockdown that lasted overnight while police searched for the



Jones Jr.

gunman.

“Just give me a moment to thank God, breathe a sigh of relief,” university Police Chief Ti-

Officially got word during a midmorning news briefing that the suspect, Christopher Darnell Jones Jr., 22, had been arrested.

mothy Longo Sr. said after learning Jones was in custody.

The shooting happened just after 10:15 p.m. Sunday as a charter bus full of students returned from seeing a play in Washington.

University President Jim Ryan said authorities did not have a “full understanding” of the motive or circumstances surrounding the shooting.

“The entire university community is grieving this morning,”

Ryan said. “My heart is broken for the victims and their families and for all those who knew and loved them.”

Ryan identified the three students who were killed as: Devin Chandler, Lavel Davis Jr. and D’Sean Perry. He said one of the wounded students was hospitalized in critical condition, and the other was in good condition.

Police obtained arrest warrants for Jones charging him with three

counts of second-degree murder and three counts of using a handgun in the commission of a felony, Longo said.

Jones had once played on the football team, but he had not been a member of the team for at least a year, Longo said.

Elsewhere, police in Moscow, Idaho, were investigating the deaths of four University of Idaho students found Sunday in a home near the campus.



## NATION

# Musk cuts Twitter's outsourced moderators

Associated Press

Twitter's new owner Elon Musk is further gutting the teams that battle misinformation on the social media platform as outsourced moderators learned over the weekend they were out of a job.

Twitter and other big social media firms have relied heavily on contractors to track hate and enforce rules against harmful content.

But many of those content watchdogs have now headed out the door, first when Twitter fired much of its full-time workforce by email on Nov. 4 and now as it

moves to eliminate an untold number of contract jobs.

Melissa Ingle, who worked at Twitter as a contractor for more than a year, was one of a number of contractors who said they were terminated Saturday. She said she's concerned that there's going to be an increase in abuse on Twitter with the number of workers leaving.

"I love the platform and I really enjoyed working at the company and trying to make it better. And I'm just really fearful of what's going to slip through the cracks," she said Sunday.

Ingle, a data scientist, said she worked on the data and monitoring arm of Twitter's civic integrity team. Her job involved writing algorithms to find political misinformation on the platform in countries such as the U.S., Brazil, Japan, Argentina and elsewhere.

Ingle said she was "pretty sure I was done for" when she couldn't access her work email Saturday. The notification from the contracting company she'd been hired by came two hours later.

"I'll just be putting my resumes out there and talking to people," she said. "I have two children. And

I'm worried about being able to give them a nice Christmas, you know, and just mundane things like that, that are important. I just think it's particularly heartless to do this at this time."

Content-moderation expert Sarah Roberts, an associate professor at the University of California, Los Angeles who worked as a staff researcher at Twitter earlier this year, said she believes at least 3,000 contract workers were fired Saturday night.

Twitter hasn't said how many contract workers it cut. The company hasn't responded to media

requests for information since Musk took over.

At Twitter's San Francisco headquarters and other offices, contract workers wore green badges while full-time workers wore blue badges. Contractors did a number of jobs to help keep Twitter running, including engineering and marketing, Roberts said. But it was the huge force of contracted moderators that was "mission critical" to the platform, said Roberts.

Cutting them will have a "tangible impact on the experience of the platform," she said.

## Probe of air show crash is underway

Associated Press

DALLAS — A national transportation official probing the cause of a midair crash of two historic military planes during an air show that left six people dead said Sunday that one of the key questions for investigators is why the aircraft were seemingly sharing the same space just before impact.

A World War II-era bomber and a fighter plane collided and crashed to the ground in a ball of flames on Saturday, leaving crumpled wreckage in a grassy area inside the Dallas Executive Airport perimeter, about 10 miles from the city's downtown. Several videos posted on social media showed the fighter plane flying into the bomber.

"One of the things we would probably most likely be trying to determine is why those aircraft were co-altitude in the same air space at the same time," Michael Graham, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, said at a news conference.

The Commemorative Air Force, which put on the show, on Monday identified the victims as: Terry Barker, Craig Hutain, Kevin "K5"



LARRY PETERBERG/AP

**A Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and a Bell P-63 Kingcobra collide in the midair during an air show at Dallas Executive Airport in Dallas on Saturday. The crash left six people dead.**

Michels, Dan Ragan, Leonard "Len" Root, and Curt Rowe.

The crash came three years after the crash of a bomber in Connecticut that killed seven, and amid ongoing concern about the safety of air shows involving older warplanes. The company that owned the planes flying in the Wings Over Dallas show has had other crashes in its more than 60-year history.

Armin Mizani, the mayor of Keller, Texas, said Barker, who was a retired pilot who lived in Keller, was in the B-17 bomber that crashed. Mizani said Barker's death has been difficult for his town of 50,000, where many of the residents know each other.

"It's definitely a big loss in our

community," he said. "We're grieving."

Barker was an Army veteran who flew helicopters during his military service. He later worked for American Airlines for 36 years before retiring in 2020, Mizani said.

Maj. Curtis J. Rowe, a member of the Ohio Wing Civil Air Patrol, was a crew chief on the B-17, his brother-in-law Andy Keller told The Associated Press on Sunday. Rowe, of Hilliard, Ohio, did air shows several times a year because he fell in love with WWII aircraft, Keller said.

A preliminary report from the NTSB is expected in four to six weeks, while a final report will take up to 18 months to complete.

## Methodist denomination cuts ties with Louisiana churches amid schism

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The United Methodist Church, a mainstay of the American religious landscape, has cut ties with 58 churches in its Louisiana conference amid a nationwide schism within the Protestant denomination.

The disaffiliations, approved in a virtual conference session Saturday, were the latest in a series of decisions that many Louisiana churches have made in recent weeks to leave the national congregation. Internal tensions over sexuality and theology have roiled the church.

The congregation's delegates voted 487-35 in favor of the departures. The disaffiliations required support from two-thirds of the delegates.

Six churches leaving the conference are from the New Orleans area. Another seven churches are from the Baton Rouge area. St. Timothy, which at 6,000 members is one of the largest Methodist congregations in Louisiana, voted to pursue disaffiliation on Nov. 1, The Advocate reported.

The United Methodist Church is the latest of several mainline Protestant denominations in the U.S. to begin fracturing amid debates over sexuality and theology. The flashpoints are the denomination's bans

on same-sex marriages and ordaining openly LGBTQ clergy — though many see these as symptoms of deeper differences in views on justice, theology and scriptural authority.

The denomination has repeatedly upheld these bans at legislative General Conferences, but some U.S. churches and clergy have defied them. This spring, the Church's conservative wing launched a new Global Methodist Church, where they are determined to maintain and enforce such bans.

A proposal to amicably divide the denomination and its assets, unveiled in early 2020, has lost its once-broad support after years of pandemic-related delays to the legislative General Conference, whose vote was needed to ratify it. Now the breakup and the negotiations are happening piecemeal — one regional conference at a time.

In annual regional gatherings across the U.S. earlier this year, United Methodists approved requests of about 300 congregations to quit the denomination, according to United Methodist News Service. Special meetings in the second half of the year are expected to vote on as many as 1,000 more, according to the conservative advocacy group Wesleyan Covenant Association.

## Texas teacher on leave after telling Black students his race is 'superior'

The Dallas Morning News

A white Pflugerville Independent School District teacher in Texas was placed on leave after a video posted online showed him telling Black students his race is "superior," according to KXAN-TV.

"Deep down in my heart, I am ethnocentric," the unidentified teacher told students at Bohls Middle School. "Which means I think my

race is the superior one."

The teacher appeared to direct the remark toward two Black students. Those two students sat in stunned silence, one holding his hand over his face, while other students gaped in shock and broke out into awkward laughter, the video shows.

Several students challenged the teacher. One Black student told the

teacher he liked "all types of kinds."

"Wait, so you said you are what?" another student asked. "You are racist?" The teacher said he thinks everybody is.

"You said you are racist," the student told the teacher.

"I did, I'm going to be honest with you," the teacher responded before telling the student to put his phone away. The students told the teacher

he had lost their respect.

In a letter obtained by KXAN, Bohls Middle School Principal Sharon Churchin told parents the teacher was placed on leave pending the outcome of an investigation. "This interaction does not align with our core beliefs as a district," the letter said. "The video of the conversation includes statements that we find wholly inappropriate."

The letter appeared to praise the students for speaking up for themselves.

"We always do our best to ensure the safety of all students; we encourage them to be self-advocates and let an adult know when something is wrong, as they did in this situation; this could be to a parent, a teacher, or a counselor," Churchin wrote. "If you see something, say something."



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Woman charged with bias crime in alleged attack

**OR** PORTLAND — A woman has been charged with bias crimes after allegedly spitting on and punching a TriMet transit employee in Portland, Ore.

According to the Multnomah County District Attorney, Nicole Hileman is accused of starting an argument Wednesday on a MAX light rail train, *The Oregonian/OregonLive* reported.

Hileman allegedly hurled racist slurs at a man on the train and threatened to punch him. A TriMet safety supervisor asked Hileman to exit the train and instead she stood up, spit on and punched the supervisor in the head, court documents allege.

The TriMet employee was later diagnosed with a concussion, according to Portland police.

Hileman was indicted in court Thursday on five charges: first-degree bias crime, fourth-degree assault and three counts of interfering with public transport.

## Disneyland adds dolls in wheelchairs to iconic ride

**CA** ANAHEIM — Disneyland on Friday added two new characters in wheelchairs to its iconic “It’s a Small World” attraction, saying it wanted a “more accurate representation of diversity around the world.”

The animatronic dolls are among some 300 costumed dolls representing singing children from many nations featured in the attraction. One is in the Latin American section of the boat ride and the other appears in the finale.

The dolls were unveiled on the first day of Disneyland’s Christmas season. Each year, the park adds special holiday decor and Christmas carols to the ride, which opened at the Anaheim park in 1966 after appearing at the 1964-65 World’s Fair in New York.

The new characters will remain after the seasonal decor is removed sometime in January.

## National Toy Hall of Fame inducts new trio of items

**NY** ROCHESTER — The National Toy Hall of Fame’s new honorees include an object dating to ancient times, a line of muscle-bound action figures and an iconic art set whose medium is colorful pegs. The hall on Thursday announced the top, *Masters of the Universe* and *Lite-Brite* as this year’s inductees.

The trio was chosen from a field of 12 finalists that also included *bingo*, *Breyer Horses*, *Catan*, *Nerf*, the *piñata*, *Phase 10*, *Pound Puppies*, *Rack-O* and *Spirograph*.

The Toy Hall of Fame inducts a new class of toys each year in a ceremony at The Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester, where the hall is housed.

The new inductees will be dis-



CRAIG RUTTLE/AP

## O Christmas Tree

Workers steady the 2022 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree as a crane lifts the donated tree into place Saturday.

played alongside past honorees that range from everyday objects like the stick and cardboard box to technologic entries like Nintendo’s Game Boy. American Girl Dolls, Risk and sand were inducted last year.

## Semi-trailer tips over, killing 9 dairy cattle

**WI** CHESTER — Authorities said nine dairy cows were killed when a semi-trailer hauling more than three dozen cattle slid down an embankment of a Wisconsin highway and tipped over.

The 61-year-old driver had pulled over on the shoulder of a ramp on U.S. Highway 151 in Chester township Thursday night when it began to slide on the soft ground. The driver was unable to correct the wheels to prevent the trailer from toppling over.

The Dodge County Sheriff’s Office said the trailer was carrying 38 Holsteins. Several area dairy farm workers aided in rescue and recovery.

Chester is located about 70 miles northeast of Milwaukee.

## Noose found at Obama Presidential Center site

**IL** CHICAGO — The firm building the Obama Presidential Center suspended operations Thursday after a noose was found at the site, and it offered a \$100,000 reward to help find who

was responsible.

Lakeside Alliance, a partnership of Black-owned construction firms, said it reported the incident to police and “will provide any assistance required to identify those responsible.”

The Chicago Police Department is aware of the noose and the matter is under investigation, said Sgt. Rocco Alioto, a department spokesman.

City work to prepare for construction began in spring 2021 with an official groundbreaking the following September. The foundation has said the center is slated to open in 2025. Organizers expect it to attract about 750,000 visitors a year.

## 45 arrested in drug, weapons investigation

**AR** LITTLE ROCK — Nearly four dozen people were arrested Wednesday in what federal authorities said was the culmination of three investigations into a drug and firearms operation that stretched from central Arkansas to California and Texas.

A total of 80 people have been indicted and 45 were arrested on weapons and drug trafficking charges, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Little Rock.

The statement said two FBI investigations into gang violence and drug trafficking and a separate Drug Enforcement Administration investigation uncovered

methamphetamine and fentanyl being mailed from California into Arkansas and distributed in Little Rock, Pine Bluff and Houston.

The statement said weapons, including machine guns, cash and drugs, have been seized as part of the investigation.

## EPA to consider tougher locomotive emission rules

**NE** OMAHA — The Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that it will consider adopting stricter rules on locomotive emissions in response to concerns raised by California regulators.

The EPA said it has set up a team to evaluate whether it needs to update the pollution standards for locomotives that it put in place in 2008, and to look at what the agency can do to encourage railroads to upgrade their locomotives.

The EPA said it recognizes that even though those 2008 rules set stringent standards for new locomotives, the railroad workhorses continue to be a significant source of particulate matter and nitrous oxide emissions because older locomotives often remain in use for decades. Those emissions are associated with increased cancer risks and other health problems — particularly in neighborhoods around railyards.

Diesel exhaust contains tiny particles that can penetrate deep into the lungs, carrying a variety of toxins that have been linked to

cancer, lung disease, heart attacks and other ailments.

The EPA announced the new effort in response to petitions that several California-based agencies that regulate pollution submitted in 2016 and 2017.

## Ex-student banned from campus after racist attack

**KY** LEXINGTON — A white University of Kentucky student accused of physically assaulting a Black student worker while repeatedly using racial slurs has been permanently banned from the school.

Sophia Rosing is no longer a student at the university following the Nov. 6 incident and will not be allowed to reenroll, university President Eli Capilouto said in a message to the UK community Wednesday. The school’s investigation continues.

Rosing had been set to graduate in May. She will seek help for the issues she has, her attorney, Fred Peters, said Tuesday.

Campus police charged Rosing with first and second offenses of alcohol intoxication in a public place, third-degree assault of a police officer, fourth-degree assault and second-degree disorderly conduct, according to an arrest report.

Rosing pleaded not guilty to the charges on Nov. 7 and bonded out of jail later in the day.



# WORLD

## Paris Olympics mascots tip their caps to history

Associated Press

PARIS — The mascots for the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics have been revealed — a Phrygian cap.

The soft red cap, also known as a liberty cap, is an updated version of a conical hat worn in antiquity in places such as Persia, the Balkans, Thrace, Dacia and Phrygia, a place in modern day Turkey where the name originates. It later became a symbol of the pursuit of liberty in the French Revolution — and is still worn by the figure of Marianne, the national personification of France since that time.

The Olympic cap is triangular in shape, and comes complete with

friendly smile, blue eyes, tricolor ribbon and big colored sneakers.

The Paralympic version features a prosthetic leg that goes to the knee — the first time such a mascot sports a visible disability, organizers said.

Michael Jeremiasz, gold medalist in wheelchair tennis at the 2008 Beijing Paralympics, said the prosthesis sends an inclusive message to disabled people around the world.

“That’s the key for us, because we suffer from being invisible in society,” he said. “We have to use Paris 2024 as a powerful tool to change our rights.”

Organizers said they didn’t want to choose an animal or other creature but instead wanted something



CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

**Mascots of the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, right, and Paralympics Games, a Phrygian cap, jump Thursday. The cap is an updated version of a conical hat worn in antiquity in Persia, the Balkans, Thrace, Dacia and Phrygia. It became a symbol of liberty in the French Revolution.**

that represented an “ideal.” They said they chose the cap as an “allegory of freedom.”

The two mascots will be dubbed “Les Phryges,” pronounced something like “freezh.”

## Pakistan bans film that won at Cannes

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan has reversed a previous decision to show its Oscar entry, “Joyland,” and has banned it from movie theaters, a government official said Monday.

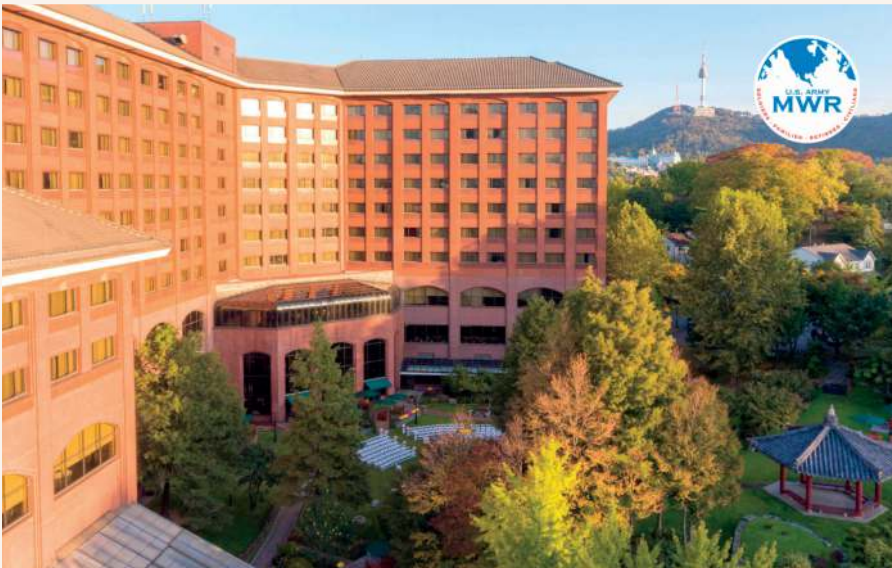
The movie, which features a love story between a married man and a transgender woman, is Pakistan’s entry for next year’s Academy Awards and was a prizewinner at this year’s Cannes Film Festival.

Mobashir Hasan, the Pakistani government’s principle information officer, said the film is “uncertified,” meaning it is barred from screening in cinemas under the jurisdiction of a central censor board.



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# WORLD

## New Zealand scientists target cow burps in efforts to help reduce global warming

*Associated Press*  
 PALMERSTON NORTH, New Zealand — A huge scientific inquiry in New Zealand is looking to see if it's possible to stop cows from burping. As humorous as the situation sounds, it's one that could have profound effects on the health of the planet.

More specifically, the question is how to stop cows, sheep and other farm animals from belching out so much methane, a gas which doesn't last as long as carbon dioxide in the atmosphere but is at least 25 times more potent when it comes to global warming.

New Zealand scientists are coming up with some surprising solutions that could put a big dent in those emissions. Among the more promising are selective breeding, genetically modified feed, methane inhibitors, and a potential game-changer — a vaccine.

Nothing is off the table, from feeding the animals more seaweed to giving them a kombucha-style probiotic called "Kowbu-cha." One British company has even developed a wearable harness for cows that oxidizes methane as it's burped out.

In New Zealand, the research has taken on a new urgency. Because farming is central to the economy, about half of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions come from farms.

As part of a push to become carbon neutral, New Zealand's government has promised to reduce methane emissions from farm animals by up to 47% by 2050.

Last month the government announced a plan to begin taxing farmers for animal burps, a world-first move that has angered many farmers. All sides are hoping they might catch a break from science.

## Turkey detains Syrian woman in bombing

*Associated Press*  
 ISTANBUL — Turkish police said Monday that they have detained a Syrian woman with suspected links to Kurdish militants and that she confessed to planting a bomb that exploded on a bustling pedestrian avenue in Istanbul, killing six people and wounding several dozen others.

Sunday's explosion occurred on Istiklal Avenue, a popular thoroughfare lined with shops and restaurants. Police identified the sus-

pect Monday as Ahlam Albashir, a Syrian national.

Police said the suspect told them that she had been trained as a "special intelligence officer" by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, as well as the Syrian Kurdish group the Democratic Union Party and its armed wing.

Both groups denied involvement in the attack.

Earlier, Interior Minister Sulayman Soyly said the attack would be avenged.

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## FACES

# Sequel's royal debut

## 'Wakanda Forever' scores huge opening with \$180M

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

The box office roared back to life with the long-awaited release of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever."

The Marvel sequel earned \$180 million in ticket sales from more than 4,396 theaters in the U.S. and Canada, according to estimates from The Walt Disney Co. on Sunday, making it the second biggest opening of the year behind "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness." Overseas, it brought in an additional \$150 million from 50 territories, bringing its worldwide total to \$330 million.

"Wakanda Forever" was eagerly anticipated by both audiences and exhibitors, who have weathered a slow spell at the box office since the summer movie season ended and there were fewer bigger budget blockbusters in the pipeline. The film got off to a mighty start a bit stronger than even the first film with an \$84 million opening day, including \$28 million from Thursday previews.

"This is the type of movie that theaters really need to drive audiences," said Paul Dergarabedian, Comscore's senior media analyst.

The first film opened to \$202 million in February 2018 and went on to gross more than \$1.4 billion worldwide, making it one of the highest grossing films of all time and a cultural phenomenon. A sequel was inevitable, and development began soon after with director Ryan Coogler returning, but everything changed after Chadwick Boseman's unexpected death in August 2020.

"Wakanda Forever" became, instead, about the death of Boseman's King T'Challa/Black Panther, and the grieving kingdom he left behind. Returning actors include Angela Bassett, Lupita Nyong'o, Letitia Wright, Winston Duke and Danai Gurira, who face off against a new foe in Tenoch Huerta's Namor. The film would face more complications too, including Wright getting injured. All told, it cost a reported \$250 million to make, not accounting for marketing and promotion.

Superhero films have fared well during the pandemic, but none yet have reached the heights of "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which opened to \$260.1 million in Dec. 2021. Other big launches include "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" (\$187.4 million in May), "Thor: Love and Thunder" (\$144.2 million in July) and "The Batman" (\$134 million in March).

"Wakanda Forever" is first film to open over \$100 million since "Thor" in July, which has been difficult for exhibitors that are already dealing with a calendar that has about 30% fewer wide releases than in a normal year.

Holdovers populated the rest of the top five. Second place went to DC superhero "Black Adam," with \$8.6 million, bringing its domestic total to \$151.1 million. "Ticket to Paradise" landed in third in its fourth weekend with \$6.1 million. The Julia Roberts and George Clooney romantic comedy has made nearly \$150 million worldwide. "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile" and "Smile" rounded out the top five with \$3.2 million and \$2.3 million, respectively.



MARVEL STUDIOS/AP

Angela Bassett plays the mourning mother of King T'Challa/Black Panther in "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," which opened with \$180 million in North America, the second biggest debut of 2022.

## Swift gets 4 wins at MTV Europe Music Awards

Taylor Swift won big at Sunday's MTV Europe Music Awards. Swift, who led the nominations along with Harry Styles with seven apiece, walked away with four wins for Best Artist, Best Video, Best Pop and Best Long-form Video.

Currently topping the charts with "Anti-Hero" from her record-breaking new album "Midnights," Swift made a surprise appearance at the awards in Dusseldorf, Germany, to collect her haul, the latest in a long line of accolades for the singer-songwriter.

An absent Nicki Minaj also came out on top with a trio of prizes for Best Song, Super Freaky Girl and Best Hip Hop. Styles, who is currently touring in the U.S., won Best Live.

Winners in fan-voted categories were announced throughout the evening.

## MS diagnosis might end Applegate's acting career

Christina Applegate might be taking her final bow soon.

The Emmy-winning actress' role as Jen Harding on "Dead to Me" could be her last following her multiple sclerosis diagnosis, she told Variety.

"Jen Harding is the one, who — who knows, quite possibly the last one I'll play," Applegate, 50, said.

Noting that filming the third and final season of the Emmy-nominated Netflix hit was "as hard as you would possibly think it would be," Applegate told Variety she was at work when she learned of her diagnosis, which she went public with in August 2021.

Applegate said she, co-star Linda Cardellini and creator Liz Feldman all wanted "Dead to Me" and its characters to have "closure," so they forged ahead with the final season, which premieres Thursday.

## 'Days of Our Lives' star John Aniston dead at 89

John Aniston, the Emmy-winning star of the daytime soap opera "Days of Our Lives" and father of Jennifer Aniston, has died at age 89.

The actor's daughter posted a tribute to him Monday on Instagram, announcing that he had died Friday, Veteran's Day. John Aniston served in the U.S. Navy.

John Aniston's acting credits included "Search for Tomorrow," "The West Wing" and "Gilmore Girls." But he was best-known for his long-running role on "Days of Our Lives" as family patriarch Victor Kiriakis, the former drug lord who goes on to found the powerful Titan Industries.

In 2017, his work on "Days of Our Lives" brought him an Emmy nomination for best supporting actor in a drama series. He was presented with a lifetime achievement Emmy this year.

From wire reports

# Songwriters Hall nominations go to a diverse group including R.E.M., Blondie, Snoop Dogg

By MARK KENNEDY  
Associated Press

Bryan Adams, R.E.M., Blondie, Snoop Dogg, Gloria Estefan, Heart and The Doobie Brothers are among the nominees for the 2023 Songwriters Hall of Fame, part of a dazzling list of talented acts who left their mark on country, pop, rap, Broadway, post-punk, Latin and New Jack Swing.

The ballot includes the musical theater duo of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, who wrote "Ragtime" and "Anastasia," as well as soul-jazz vocalist Sade, whose 1980s soft rock hits include "Smooth Operator" and "The Sweetest Taboo."

Two veteran rock stars are also nominees: Patti Smith — whose songs include "Because the Night" and "Dancing Barefoot" — and Steve Winwood, whose hits include "Higher Love" and "Roll With It." Vince Gill is once again a nominee, having first made the ballot in 2018.

Eligible voting members have until Dec. 28 to turn in ballots with their choices of three nominees from the songwriter category and three from the performing-songwriter category. The Associated



AP

From left, Clem Burke and Debbie Harry attend a screening of "Blondie: Vivir En La Habana" in New York in 2021. Blondie is among the 2023 nominees for the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Press got an early copy of the list.

Jeff Lynne of ELO, who penned "Mr. Blue Sky" and "Evil Woman," faces off against the "Losing My Religion" R.E.M. quartet led by Michael Stipe, as well as sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart, who showed women could rock hard with songs like "Barracuda" and "Crazy On You."

Debbie Harry, Chris Stein and Clem Burke are eligible for the hall as Blondie, who gave us the New Wave hits "Call Me" and

"Rapture," and Snoop Dogg would join such rappers as Missy Elliott and Jay-Z should he make the cut. Estefan is credited for popularizing Latin rhythms with such crossover smashes as "Rhythm Is Gonna Get You" and "Let's Get Loud."

Two classic rock icons compete as Adams — with radio staples like "Summer of '69" and "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman?" — contends with The Doobie Brothers and their always-in-rotation "Listen to the Music" and "Long Train Running."

Nominees who work behind the scenes include Glen Ballard, who helped write Alanis Morissette's monster 1995 album "Jagged Little Pill" and was involved in the recording and writing of Michael Jackson's albums "Thriller," "Bad" and "Dangerous."

Veteran songwriter Tom Snow, who worked with Olivia Newton-John, Barbra Streisand, Cher, The Pointer Sisters and co-wrote "Let's Hear It for the Boy" from the movie "Footloose," is also eligible.

The nominee list includes Teddy Riley, the singer, songwriter, and producer credited with creat-

ing New Jack Swing and its top anthems like Bobby Brown's "My Prerogative" and Keith Sweat's "I Want Her," and Liz Rose, who co-wrote many songs with Taylor Swift, including "You Belong with Me," "Teardrops on My Guitar" and "White Horse."

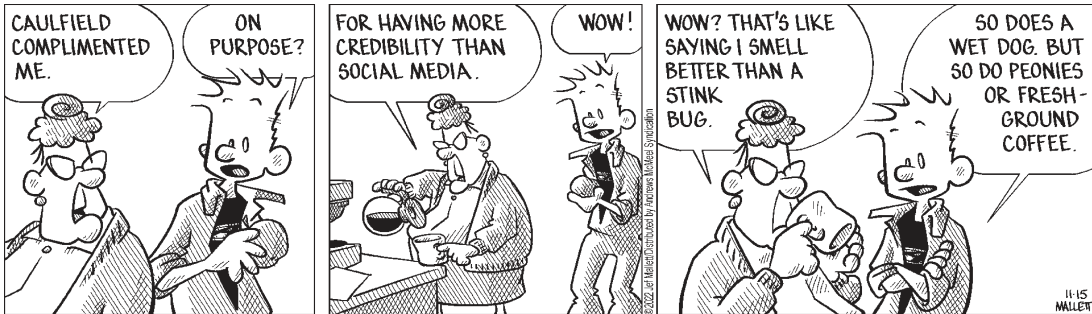
There's also country songwriter Dean Dillon, who wrote songs with Toby Keith, George Strait and Lee Ann Womack; pop songwriter Franne Golde, behind such hits as Jody Watley's "Don't You Want Me" and "Nightshift" by the Commodores; and the duo of Bobby Hart and Tommy Boyce, who penned many of The Monkees' hits.

The Songwriters Hall of Fame was established in 1969 to honor those creating the popular music. A songwriter with a notable catalog of songs qualifies for induction 20 years after the first commercial release of a song.

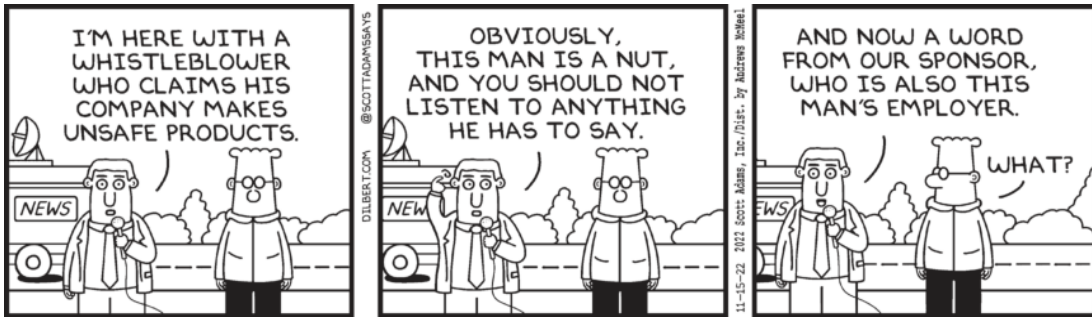
Some already in the hall include Carole King, Paul Simon, Billy Joel, Jon Bon Jovi and Richie Sambora, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, Brian Wilson, James Taylor, Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty, Lionel Richie, Bill Withers, Neil Diamond and Phil Collins.



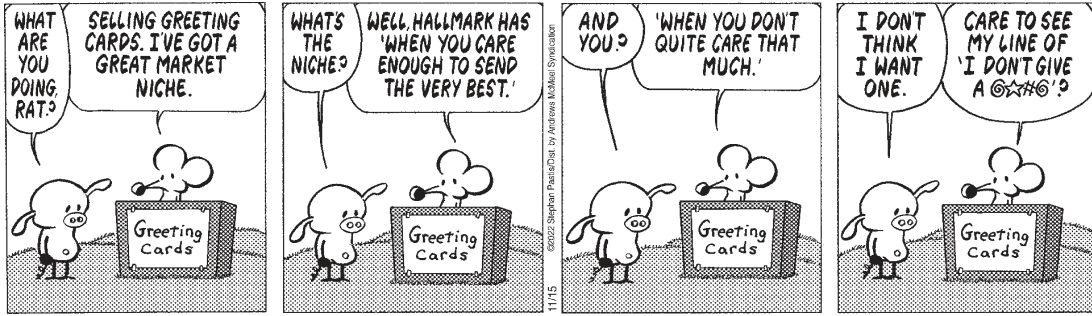
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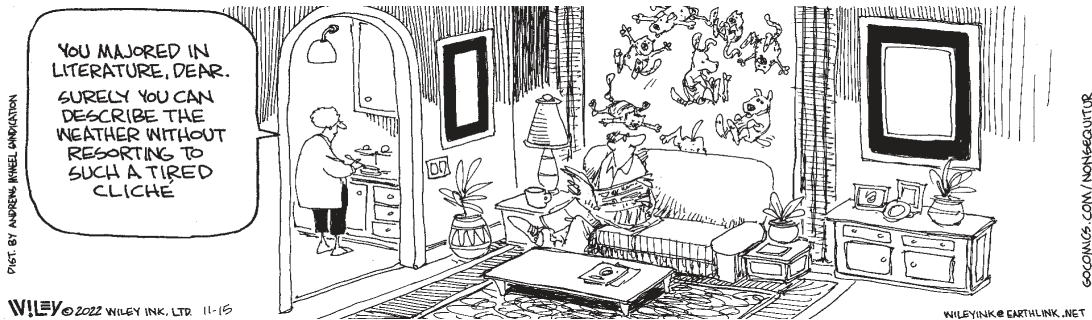
Dilbert



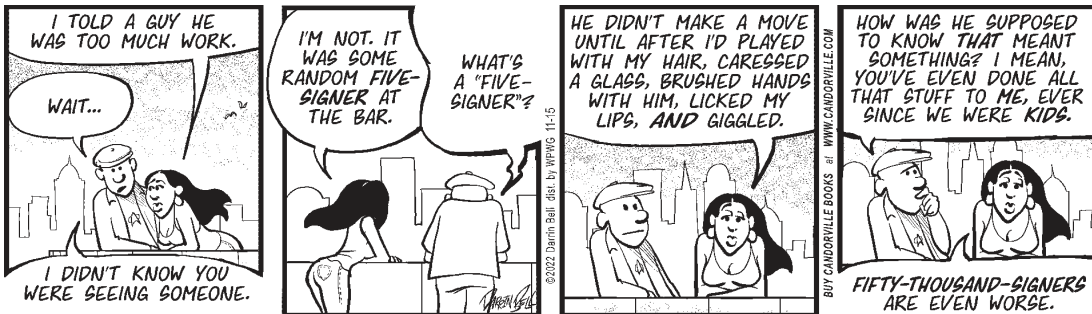
Pearls Before Swine



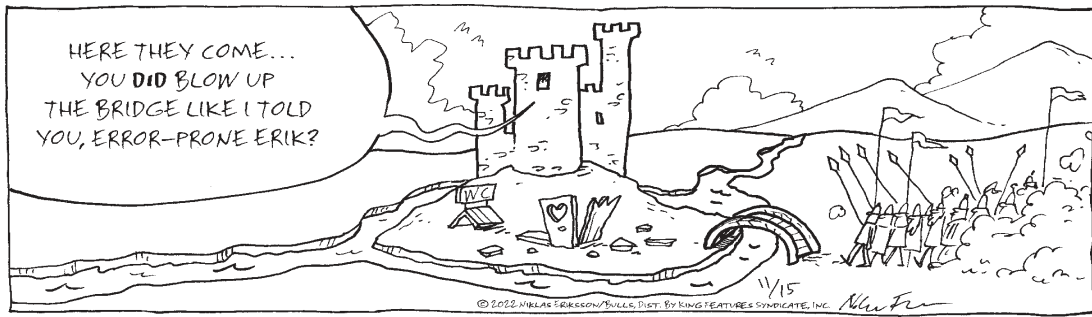
Non Sequitur



Candorville



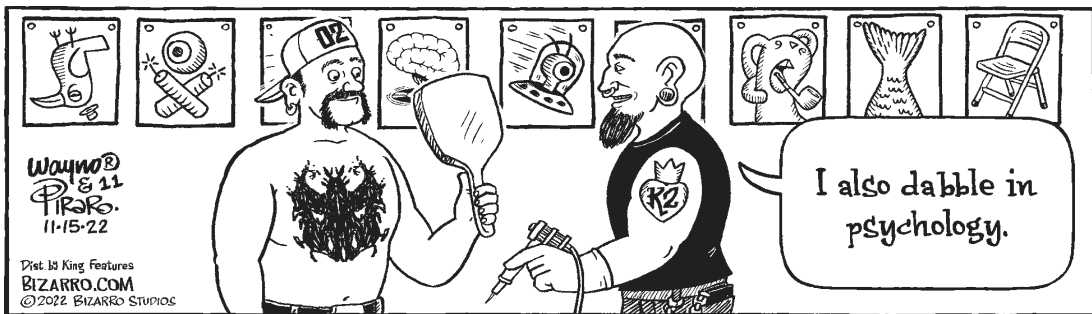
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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51					52				53			

ACROSS

- 1 Bongo, for one
- 5 Bowler, e.g.
- 8 Toy block name
- 12 Farmland unit
- 13 Ab — (from the start)
- 14 Novelist Jennifer Clarissa
- 15 Virginia Woolf's
- 17 Big wind
- 18 Lamb's dam
- 19 Hexes
- 21 Marathon stats
- 24 Envelope abbr.
- 25 Fruit drinks
- 26 New York theatre district
- 30 Actor Cariou
- 31 Active folks
- 32 Common verb
- 33 Raised road
- 35 Ledge
- 36 Right angles
- 37 "Gimme five!"
- 38 "Doctor Zhivago" star
- 41 Rap sheet letters
- 42 Sampras of tennis
- 43 On the move
- 48 Pressing need
- 49 Meadow
- 50 Fuzzy fruit
- 51 Alaskan city

- 52 Muppet eagle
- 53 Dance move

- 22 Inventor's inspiration
- 23 Diner handout
- 24 Locales
- 26 Soup servings
- 27 Sit tight
- 28 Guthrie of folk
- 29 Kennel cry
- 31 Sub shop
- 34 Tranquil Gardner
- 35 Fire starters
- 37 Guitar's kin
- 38 Whirl
- 39 Protagonist
- 40 Teensy bit
- 41 Eden evictee
- 44 PBS funder
- 45 Humorist
- 46 Shock partner
- 47 Shrill bark

DOWN

- 1 June honoree
- 2 HDTV brand
- 3 Online address
- 4 Wild scuffles
- 5 Inventor Elias
- 6 Hollywood's
- 7 Buzz Lightyear's film
- 8 Map key
- 9 Alike (Fr.)
- 10 Chutzpah
- 11 Till bills
- 16 Pained sounds
- 20 Bake sale orgs.
- 21 Body powder

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	I	M		L	A	L	A	W		M	A	T		
A	G	E		A	N	I	T	A		A	C	H		
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CRYPTOQUIP

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 R Y P U X V R A V Q V G I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SPECIAL COFFEE PRODUCED FOR FOLKS PLANNING TO CLINK THEIR CUPS TOGETHER: TOASTER'S CHOICE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals L



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Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander

John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff

Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander

Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.comRobert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.comSean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.comAnn Pinson, Digital Managing Editor  
pinson.ann@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erik@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

## Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com  
(+1)(202)886-0033Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

Kevin R. Miller, Circulation Manager  
miller.kevin@stripes.com  
xsscirculation@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9136; DSN (314)583-9136

## Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
lewis.karen@stripes.com  
memberservices@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

## Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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Ernie Gates

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## GOP's woes run deeper than candidate quality

BY DAVID A. HOPKINS

Bloomberg Opinion

Is it Dr. Mehmet Oz's fault that the "red wave" expected by many Republicans didn't materialize on Election Day? Did the Pennsylvania Senate candidate violate the physician's Hippocratic Oath — "first, do no harm" — by inflicting severe damage to his own party's electoral fortunes?

You might think so, given the tenor of many post-election analyses. One of the main storylines of this year's campaign has depicted a dramatic tension between a fundamentally favorable national climate for the Republican Party on one hand, and on the other, a weak slate of individual nominees foisted on GOP leaders by misguided primary voters.

Oz, who was easy to view as a celebrity diletante suddenly parachuting into politics — and the state of Pennsylvania — from elsewhere, became perhaps the most frequently cited example of Republicans' candidate recruitment problems. But fellow Senate nominees Herschel Walker, of Georgia; Blake Masters, of Arizona; and Don Bolduc, of New Hampshire, as well as gubernatorial candidates like Doug Mastriano in Pennsylvania and Tudor Dixon in Michigan, struck political analysts as flawed standard-bearers for the Republican Party.

While candidate shortcomings do appear to have affected the final results in several key races, Republicans' disappointing performance up and down the ballot can't be fully explained by the flaws of a few specific candidates. Instead, Republicans suffered from a blemished national image that hurt the party's nominees regardless of their political competence.

By historical standards, the most surpris-

ing outcome of the 2022 elections was the unusually modest partisan swing in the House of Representatives. Elections for Senate and governor have traditionally been less predictable, but the president's partisan allies nearly always lose House seats — sometimes dozens — in the midterms. Since World War II, the movement toward the opposition party has averaged 26 seats and 7 points in the national popular vote. When the president's approval rating is below 50%, the expected shift is even greater.

While votes are still being counted, it's clear that House Democrats experienced a small fraction of the 40-seat loss that Republicans suffered in 2018, even though President Joe Biden, whose job approval rating is hovering around 41%, is slightly less popular today than Donald Trump (42%) was at the same point in his presidency.

Yet this asymmetry can't be fully explained by pointing to a poor set of Republican House candidates. A few of this year's nominees were controversial or scandal-ridden, but many others were thoroughly typical and unobjectionable politicians who nonetheless struggled to capture battleground districts.

Republicans also failed to establish a consistent advantage on what's known as the generic ballot, a standard polling question that asks voters simply if they plan to vote Democratic or Republican, or which party they prefer to control Congress, without mentioning candidate names. If there were a significant number of Americans who were generally inclined to support the Republicans but who balked when confronted with a specific unappealing candidate, we presumably would have observed a bigger advantage for the GOP on the generic ballot

than in the actual voting results.

Instead, the final pre-election polls found a nationwide Republican advantage of 1 percentage point on the generic ballot while the national House popular vote is likely to favor Republicans by a slightly larger margin.

Republicans' inability to translate an unpopular Democratic president and unsettled economic climate into a clear electoral advantage suggests that the party was burdened by a tarnished national reputation.

Voters who expressed dissatisfaction with the condition of the nation under Democratic rule didn't necessarily believe that Republicans offered better solutions to their problems. It's very possible that the GOP's current emphasis on cultural populism left it with less credibility to address Americans' economic concerns. And the unpopular Supreme Court decision overturning *Roe v. Wade* not only energized an angry Democratic base but also worried moderate voters that Republicans would impose strict abortion bans if entrusted with power at the federal and state level.

Yes, Dr. Oz and his fellow untested neophytes weren't much help to their party this year. But it's easy to pin the unhappy outcome on individual scapegoats. Instead, they should be examining the deeper set of challenges that prevented the GOP from enjoying the out-party's usual midterm rebound.

Still, no disappointment is permanent in our highly competitive era. Both the country and the government remain closely divided — and the next campaign season is about to begin.

David A. Hopkins is an associate professor of political science at Boston College and the author of "Red Fighting Blue: How Geography and Electoral Rules Polarize American Politics."

## Republicans really do have plenty to celebrate

BY RAMESH PONNURU

Bloomberg Opinion

On election night, a lot of Republicans bypassed the champagne for brown-colored liquor, and they're still feeling surly a few days later. But they shouldn't wallow in disappointment. There's plenty of basis for conservative cheer.

That starts with the record of the Biden administration — really. Yes, conservatives disagree with a great many of the Democrats' policies, and think some the results, such as higher inflation, have been woeful. But consider all of the items on the Democratic agenda that didn't pass in two years of unified party control of Congress and the White House. There's no federal overhaul of voting laws, no expansion of taxpayer funding for abortion and no statutory changes to boost unions.

One might have thought that even a narrow Democratic majority would be able to raise the minimum wage and increase the top income-tax rate. This one hasn't. Even the corporate tax rate has stayed the same as it was under the Trump administration, although its base has broadened.

The Biden Democrats have made fewer permanent changes to the law than their predecessors in the previous two Democratic administrations, those of Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. There's no big new program such as "Obamacare." What the Democrats have done instead is spend a lot of money.

That's not great and restoring spending restraint is never easy. But it's not nearly as difficult as undoing a law.

And while Republicans did much worse than they had expected in the elections, they did well enough that Biden won't be able to enact new liberal legislation in the next two years — not, at least, without giving conservatives something in return.

The legislative picture during the remainder of Biden's term is going to look much the way it would have if the red wave of Republican dreams had materialized. More Republican senators would have meant a slower pace of confirmation for liberal judges, slightly more moderate appointees and somewhat more Republican-friendly budget deals. Wave or ripple, though, liberal initiatives are going to come via executive action. A Republican Senate would have led to more pushback against such moves, but would not have stopped them (any more than it did when Obama faced a Republican Senate in his last two years in office).

Breaking the usual midterm pattern may have a "bankshot" benefit for Republicans. Congressional Republicans won big in Clinton's first midterm, overreached and helped him win re-election two years afterward. The same thing happened, albeit on a smaller scale, under Obama. With narrow control of the House, Republicans won't be in any position to overreach next year.

And this year's losses may help them in 2024 in another way, by sobering Republican

primary voters. They may decide to pick candidates with track records of winning races — and without scandals or a compulsion to defend Donald Trump's worst behavior. And they can get into this mindset just in time for a year with an unusual number of Democratic Senate seats available to contest.

Most important, they may, just may, finally have had enough of Trump himself. Selecting a different presidential nominee would be in the interests of the country and party. Someone else would have a better chance of winning in 2024, a stronger likelihood of governing effectively and with regard for the party's fortunes, and eligibility to run again in 2028.

Sometimes election defeats leave the losing party groping in the dark for answers about what went wrong, with different factions offering clashing theories. There will be some dispute about the 2022 results — Republicans are arguing about how large a role abortion played — but those results put the party's chief political problem in neon flashing lights. Moving past Trump (which, incidentally, does not mean simply restoring the pre-Trump party) would be arduous work, but there's no intellectual puzzle to be solved.

If Republicans learn and act on the lesson voters have just given them, it will turn out to be just the failure they needed.

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is the editor of *National Review* and a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.



SCOREBOARD/SOCCER

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

USA Today Coaches Poll

The USA Today Sports AFCA Coaches Poll Top 25 with team's records through Saturday in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last week's poll and first-place votes received.

Table with 4 columns: Rank, Team, Record, Pts, Pvs. Lists top 25 teams including Georgia, Ohio State, Michigan, TCU, Tennessee, etc.

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Nov. 12, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

Table with 6 columns: Rank, Team, Record, Pts, Prv. Lists top 25 teams including Georgia, Ohio St., Michigan, TCU, Tennessee, etc.

Dropped out: No. 18 Texas (6-4); No. 19 Liberty (8-2); No. 20 Illinois (7-3); No. 24 Kentucky (6-4).

Others receiving votes: Texas (6-4) 76; Oregon State (7-3) 62; Illinois (7-3) 48; Texas-San Antonio (8-2) 40; Troy (8-2) 32; Minnesota (7-3) 30; Duke (7-3) 24; Liberty (8-2) 9; Florida (6-4) 8; Kentucky (6-4) 8; Pittsburgh (6-4) 8; Air Force (7-3) 5; Boise State (7-3) 5; Wake Forest (6-4) 3; South Alabama (8-2) 2; Toledo (7-3) 1.

Others receiving votes: NC State 77, Texas 65, UTSA 51, Troy 22, Duke 16, Liberty 15, Illinois 13, Minnesota 7, Florida 6, Boise St. 5, South Alabama 1.

Schedule

Tuesday's games

MIDWEST: Bowling Green (5-5) at Toledo (7-3) Ohio (7-3) at Ball St. (5-5)

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Sunday's men's scores

EAST

- Bridgeport 90, S. Connecticut 75 Colgate 93, Wells 60 Concord 80, Clarion 60 Dominican (NY) 87, St. Rose 86 Fairleigh Dickinson 77, Manhattan 74 Franklin Pierce 81, Jefferson 60 Hamilton 107, Old Westbury 59 Howard 108, Gallaudet 56 Ithaca 97, Centenary (NJ) 71 Lehigh 97, Misericordia 58 Loyola (Md.) 75, Brown 70 Quinnipiac 72, CCSU 70 Sacred Heart 88, Columbia 85 St. Thomas Aquinas 74, Felician 69 Stockton 72, Penn St.-Harrisburg 69 Swarthmore 79, Wesleyan (Conn.) 61 Towson 80, Penn 74 Yale 80, MVSU 51

SOUTH

- Averett 77, Methodist 52 Berry 79, Huntingdon 63 Birmingham Southern 86, Piedmont 75 Colorado 78, Tennessee 66 Davidson 75, VMI 71 Florida Gulf Coast 105, Ave Maria 61 George Mason 73, American 56 Harvard 92, Elon 77 LeMoyn-Owen 74, Christian Brothers 66 Longwood 100, Pfeiffer 68 Louisiana-Lafayette 81, ETSU 77 Mississippi St. 80, Ark.-Pine Bluff 47 UNC-Pembroke 74, Catawba 73 Virginia Tech 94, William & Mary 77 W. Carolina 112, Brescia 45 Washington & Lee 81, Penn State-Altoto 66 West Alabama 87, Albany St. (Ga.) 56 West Florida 63, Fort Valley St. 57 William Peace 77, Berea 69

MIDWEST

- Cent. Michigan 76, E. Illinois 60 Chicago 64, Mount St. Joseph 59 Cincinnati 87, E. Kentucky 69 Cornell (Iowa) 84, Eureka 62 Hillsdale 71, Saginaw Valley St. 55 Indianapolis 78, Lake Erie 65 Iowa St. 80, NC A&T 43 John Carroll 70, Ohio Wesleyan 55 Malone 66, Wayne St. (Mich.) 61 Michigan Tech 77, McKendree 67 Missouri 82, Lindenwood (Mo.) 53 Northland 89, Finlandia 75 Northwestern (Minn.) 80, Bethel (Minn.) 67

- Notre Dame 88, Youngstown St. 81 Ohio Dominican 81, Wilberforce 73 Oklahoma St. 91, Oakland 62 Omaha 79, Idaho 72 Pacific 91, N. Dakota St. 86 S. Indiana 71, S. Illinois 53 Simpson 83, Westminster (Mo.) 63 St. Thomas (MN) 84, St. Francis (NY) 48 Valparaiso 81, W. Michigan 65

SOUTHWEST

- Ozarks 76, Hendrix 56 Texas Southern 67, Arizona St. 66, OT FAR WEST Cal St.-Fullerton 94, Vermont 85, OT Hawaii 71, E. Washington 51 Montana St. 70, Long Beach St. 57 Pepperdine 91, Alabama St. 62 SE Louisiana 76, Wyoming 72 Saint Mary's (Cal.) 63, North Texas 33 San Diego 74, NJIT 64 San Francisco 88, UC Merced 71

- San Francisco St. 66, Dominican (Cal.) 56 Seattle 83, Portland St. 71

Sunday's women's scores

EAST

- Albany (NY) 64, Siena 57 Brown 75, Wagner 62 Duquesne 67, Manhattan 46 ETSU 65, Lafayette 45 Loyola (Md.) 61, UMBC 47 Maryland 83, Fordham 76 Monmouth (NJ) 77, Sacred Heart 62 New Hampshire 59, Dartmouth 56 Ohio St. 82, Boston College 64 Rider 71, St. Francis (NY) 70, OT Rutgers 87, NJIT 71 Vanderbilt 74, Columbia 63

SOUTH

- Clemson 61, Richmond 40 Coppin St. 78, Winthrop 49 E. Kentucky 64, Morehead St. 55 East Carolina 76, UNC-Wilmington 49 Elon 60, High Point 57 Florida 86, UNC-Asheville 40 Florida Gulf Coast 92, FIU 63 Florida St. 75, Georgia St. 70 Georgia 52, Jacksonville St. 44 Georgia Southern 96, Charleston Southern 65 Georgia Tech 65, Kennesaw St. 39 James Madison 89, Queens (NC) 48 Kentucky 79, Coastal Carolina 53 LSU 107, W. Carolina 34 Louisiana Tech 68, Louisiana-Monroe 33 Louisville 75, Belmont 70 Miami 81, Boston U. 46 NC State 86, Mount St. Mary's 38 Nicholls 60, Alabama A&M 55 Norfolk St. 77, Coll. of Charleston 47 North Alabama 104, La Verne 56 South Florida 70, Jacksonville 59 Virginia 72, Wake Forest 52

MIDWEST

- Akron 85, Dayton 69 Cincinnati 62, Radford 53 Detroit 70, Canisius 65 E. Michigan 71, SIU-Edwardsville 62 Fort Wayne 73, Bellarmine 62 IUPUI 67, Butler 61 Illinois 90, Alcorn St. 59 Iowa 92, Drake 86, OT Kent St. 77, N. Kentucky 54 Marquette 73, Milwaukee 47 Michigan St. 97, W. Michigan 49 Minnesota 101, Lehigh 99 Missouri 62, SE Missouri 50 N. Iowa 84, Saint Louis 64 Northwestern 63, Penn 55 Purdue 90, Murray St. 61 South Dakota 71, Bradley 53 UTEP 68, UMKC 59 Wisconsin 77, North Florida 54 Xavier 78, St. Francis (Pa.) 52

SOUTHWEST

- Mississippi 58, UALR 40 Rice 85, Abilene Christian 69 Stephen F. Austin 100, Texas Southern 63 Texas A&M 73, Army 49 FAR WEST Arizona 87, CS Northridge 47 Boise St. 63, Weber St. 52 Cal St.-Fullerton 71, San Jose St. 33 N. Arizona 87, UC San Diego 54 Pacific 76, Nevada 71 Stanford 87, Portland 47 UCLA 95, Troy 83 Utah 99, SE Louisiana 62 Washington St. 89, Prairie View 61

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Miami, Buffalo, N.Y. Jets, New England.

South

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Tennessee, Indianapolis, Jacksonville, Houston.

North

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Pittsburgh.

West

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Kansas City, L.A. Chargers, Denver, Las Vegas.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Philadelphia, N.Y. Giants, Dallas, Washington.

South

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Tampa Bay, Atlanta, Carolina, New Orleans.

North

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Minnesota, Green Bay, Detroit, Chicago.

West

Table with 7 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pct, PF, PA. Lists Seattle, San Francisco, Arizona, L.A. Rams.

Sunday's games

- Tampa Bay 21, Seattle 16 Detroit 31, Chicago 30 Kansas City 27, Jacksonville 17 Miami 39, Cleveland 17 Minnesota 33, Buffalo 30, OT N.Y. Giants 24, Houston 16 Pittsburgh 20, New Orleans 10 Tennessee 17, Denver 10 Indianapolis 25, Las Vegas 20 Arizona 27, L.A. Rams 17 Green Bay 31, Dallas 28, OT San Francisco 22, L.A. Chargers 16

- Open: Baltimore, Cincinnati, N.Y. Jets, New England

Monday's game

- Washington at Philadelphia

Thursday's game

- Tennessee at Green Bay

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association MIAMI HEAT — Waived G Dru Smith.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League ANAHEIM DUCKS — Assigned C Glenn Gawdin and D Austin Strand to San Diego (AHL). BUFFALO SABRES — Assigned D Kale Clague to Rochester (AHL). CALGARY FLAMES — Reassigned D Dennis Gilbert to Calgary (AHL). CAROLINA HURRICANES — Recalled D Max Lajoie from Chicago (AHL). COLORADO AVALANCHE — Recalled D Andreas Englund from Colorado (AHL). COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Reinstated LW Joona Luoto from the non-roster injured reserve and sent to Cleveland (AHL). LOS ANGELES KINGS — Recalled C Lias Anderson and D Jacob Moverare from Ontario (AHL). Reassigned D Brandt Clarke to Ontario. NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Assigned G Nico Daws to Utica (AHL). OTTAWA SENATORS — Recalled D Jacob Larsson from Belleville (AHL). PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Assigned D Mark Friedman to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ/AP

United States forward Alex Morgan, right, and Germany defender Kathrin Hendrich fight for possession during their international friendly Sunday in Harrison, N.J. The U.S. won 2-1.

US women outlast Germany, halt skid

Associated Press

HARRISON, N.J. — Mallory Pugh scored the go-ahead goal in the 56th minute and the U.S. women avoided a fourth straight loss with a 2-1 come-from-behind victory over Germany on Sunday.

Sophia Smith also scored for the top-ranked United States, which went into the match at Red Bull Stadium with its first three-game losing streak since 1993.

Germany defeated the United States 2-1 on Thursday in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Paula Krumbiegel scored the decisive goal in the 89th minute for the third-ranked Germans.

That loss snapped a 71-game unbeaten streak for the United States on home soil, stretching back to a loss to Australia in July 2017.

The Americans also fell to England 2-1 at Wembley Stadium on Oct. 7, then lost 2-0 to Spain in Pamplona on Oct. 11.

Jule Brand took advantage of a disorganized U.S. defense with her goal in the 18th minute. It was the fourth straight game that the US conceded the opening goal after scoring the first in the previous 21.

Smith, who won Most Valuable Player in the National Women's Soccer League this season, scored the equalizer in the 54th minute before Pugh's game-winner some two minutes later.

"I felt the whole game was they do something, we adjust, and we do something, they adjust. So it felt like a chess match and it was a great, great challenge for the players," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said.

Alex Morgan made her 200th appearance for the team, ranking her 13th all time on the team.

Germany was hurt when midfielder Lena Oberdorf had to leave the game in the first half with what appeared to be a shoulder injury.

"We had a good start to the

game, the 30-plus minutes were really good. They were really present on the pitch and made good decisions, and then we had a cut when Lena was injured, which was hard for the team," Germany coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg said through a translator.

It was the final match of the year for both the Americans and Germans, who are preparing for next summer's Women's World Cup, co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.

The United States has won the past two women's World Cups and has four titles overall. Germany is the only other team to win multiple women's World Cups, with titles in 2003 and 2007.

The United States has retooled its roster since its bronze-medal finish at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Head coach Vlatko Andonovski has brought in younger players, including Smith, 22 and Pugh, 24.

Smith has 11 goals for the United States this year and is the youngest player since Mia Hamm in 1993.

"They're inspiring to watch play and they show that at the stage of the career they're at, they're ready to compete against some of the best teams in the world," Vlatko said about his young players. "I thought that their performance was very good. And I think that they were a very good example for all those young players that were here."

The Americans also have several players out with injuries, including forward Catarina Macario and midfielder Sam Mewis. Julie Ertz is on maternity leave.

The United States heads to New Zealand in January for training camp and a pair of exhibitions against the Kiwis on Jan. 18 and Jan. 21, both in stadiums where the Americans will play during the group stage of the World Cup.



# NBA

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	10	3	.769	—
Toronto	7	7	.500	3½
Philadelphia	7	7	.500	3½
New York	6	7	.462	4
Brooklyn	6	8	.429	4½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	8	5	.615	—
Washington	8	6	.571	½
Miami	6	7	.462	2
Orlando	4	9	.308	4
Charlotte	3	11	.214	5½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	10	2	.833	—
Cleveland	8	5	.615	2½
Indiana	6	6	.500	4
Chicago	6	8	.429	5
Detroit	3	11	.214	8
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	9	5	.643	—
Dallas	7	5	.583	1
New Orleans	7	6	.538	1½
San Antonio	6	7	.462	2½
Houston	2	11	.154	6½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	9	4	.692	—
Denver	9	4	.692	—
Utah	10	5	.667	—
Oklahoma City	6	7	.462	3
Minnesota	6	8	.429	3½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	8	4	.667	—
L.A. Clippers	7	6	.538	1½
Sacramento	6	6	.500	2
Golden State	5	8	.385	3½
L.A. Lakers	3	10	.231	5½

**Saturday's games**  
 Brooklyn 110, L.A. Clippers 95  
 Washington 121, Utah 112  
 Boston 117, Detroit 108  
 Indiana 118, Toronto 104  
 Philadelphia 121, Atlanta 109  
 Miami 132, Charlotte 115  
 Dallas 117, Portland 112  
 New Orleans 119, Houston 106

**Sunday's games**  
 Oklahoma City 145, New York 135  
 Washington 102, Memphis 92  
 Minnesota 129, Cleveland 124  
 Philadelphia 105, Utah 98  
 Denver 126, Chicago 103  
 Sacramento 122, Golden State 115  
 L.A. Lakers 116, Brooklyn 103

**Monday's games**  
 Charlotte at Orlando  
 Toronto at Detroit  
 Oklahoma City at Boston  
 Phoenix at Miami  
 Atlanta at Milwaukee  
 L.A. Clippers at Houston  
 San Antonio at Golden State

**Tuesday's games**  
 Memphis at New Orleans  
 L.A. Clippers at Dallas  
 New York at Utah  
 Brooklyn at Sacramento  
 San Antonio at Portland

**Wednesday's games**  
 Indiana at Charlotte  
 Minnesota at Orlando  
 Oklahoma City at Washington  
 Boston at Atlanta  
 Miami at Toronto  
 Chicago at New Orleans  
 Cleveland at Milwaukee  
 Houston at Dallas  
 Golden State at Phoenix  
 New York at Denver

**Thursday's games**  
 Brooklyn at Portland  
 San Antonio at Sacramento  
 Detroit at L.A. Clippers

**Rebounding leaders**

Through Sunday				
	G	OFF	DEF	TOTAVG
Gobert, MIN	12	50	105	155 12.9
Antetokunmpo, MIL	9	17	93	110 12.2
Capela, ATL	13	55	101	156 12.0
Allen, CLE	12	42	96	138 11.5
Vucevic, CHI	14	37	124	161 11.5

## ROUNDUP

# Embiid powers 76ers over Jazz

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Tyrese Maxey jumped on Joel Embiid's back and pounded the big man's chest in celebration of the greatest game in the 76ers center's career. The frivolity was fitting because Embiid carried the Sixers in the fourth quarter — all while each bucket etched his name alongside the greats in NBA history.

Embiid scored a career-high 59 points and added 11 rebounds, eight assists and seven blocked shots in a historically dominant performance, powering Philadelphia to a 105-98 victory over the Utah Jazz on Sunday night.

"My teammates knew who had the hot hand, and they just had to feed me," Embiid said.

Embiid has clearly rounded back into form over the last week after recovering from an illness. The reigning NBA scoring champion dropped 42 points a night earlier in a win against Atlanta.

Embiid scored 26 of Philadelphia's 27 points in the fourth quarter, and he became the first player in NBA history with 50 points, 10 boards, five rebounds, five assists and five blocks in a game since blocks became an official stat in 1973-74.

"I've never seen a more dominating performance when you combine defense and offense," coach Doc Rivers said.

There have been few like it in Philly, even for a franchise littered with basketball Hall of Famers. Embiid scored the fifth-most points in franchise history. Wilt Chamberlain, naturally, holds the top three spots with 68 in 1967, 65 in 1966 and 62 in 1966. Allen Iverson scored 60 in 2005.

"Those are two legends that played here that I respect a lot, and to be in that company means a lot," Embiid said. "I still got a long ways to go."

With the Sixers up 101-98 and 1:19 left, Embiid blocked Collin Sexton's driving layup and then came right down and hit a little jumper that sealed the victory.

Embiid shook off nagging injuries to post his breakthrough game of his seventh season on the second night of a home back-to-back. He made 19 of 28 shots from the floor, 20 of 24 free throws and kept the Sixers from folding against the upstart Jazz. Embiid even tossed in a steal and his plus-minus was a whopping plus-25 in 37 minutes.

His 101 points this weekend made him only the third player since 1988 to score 100-plus points on a back-to-back. He combined for 21 rebounds and 14 assists. And he's done it all with James



MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid goes up for a shot during the second half against the Utah Jazz on Sunday in Philadelphia. Embiid scored a career-high 59 points in the 76ers' win over the Jazz.

Harden still out with an injured foot.

**Timberwolves 129, Cavaliers 124:** All-Star point guard Darius Garland scored 51 points in Cleveland's loss to visiting Minnesota.

Garland scored 27 of his career-best point total — and made six of his career-best 10 three-pointers — in the fourth quarter for the Cavaliers.

D'Angelo Russell had personal season highs of 30 points and 12 assists and Karl-Anthony Towns scored 29 points to help the Timberwolves overcome Garland's onslaught.

Garland's 51-point performance was briefly the NBA's season-high. Joel Embiid finished with 59 points for the Philadelphia 76ers later in the night.

**Thunder 145, Knicks 135:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 37 points, Josh Giddey had a triple-double and visiting Oklahoma City shot a season-high 62.5% from the field in a victory over New York.

Giddey had 24 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds for the Thunder, who picked up their fifth straight victory at Madison Square Garden. Giddey joined Wilt Chamberlain (1968) as the only other player in NBA history to record

triple-doubles during their first two games at MSG.

Lu Dort had 24 points for Oklahoma City and Jeremiah Robinson-Earl added 17.

**Wizards 107, Grizzlies 92:** Kristaps Porzingis scored 25 points and Deni Avdija added 21 to lead host Washington to a victory over Memphis.

The Wizards swept a weekend back-to-back against Utah and Memphis, two of the Western Conference's top teams in the early going this season. Washington did that without Bradley Beal, who is still getting back into playing shape after going through health and safety protocols.

Memphis was missing key players as well, with Ja Morant out because of left ankle soreness and Desmond Bane unavailable because of right toe soreness. Dillon Brooks scored 19 points for the Grizzlies. Steven Adams contributed 12 points and 10 rebounds.

**Nuggets 126, Bulls 103:** Michael Porter Jr. scored a season-high 31 points and Nikola Jokic had 14 assists as visiting Denver cruised past Chicago.

Porter made 11 of 16 shots, including six from three-point range, as the Nuggets won for the

fifth time in their last six games.

Zach LaVine scored 21 points to lead the Bulls, who have lost four of five.

**Kings 122, Warriors 115:** Domantas Sabonis set personal season highs with 26 points and 22 rebounds, leading host Sacramento to over Golden State.

De'Aaron Fox scored 11 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter for the Kings. They have won six of their last eight after starting 0-4. Sabonis also had eight assists.

Stephen Curry scored 27 points for the Warriors.

**Lakers 116, Nets 103:** Anthony Davis had a season-high 37 points and 18 rebounds as host Los Angeles beat Brooklyn to snap a five-game losing streak.

Davis grabbed 10 offensive rebounds, which tied a career-high in a regular-season game, as the Lakers led throughout. Lonnie Walker IV added 25 points for Los Angeles, which was missing LeBron James for the second straight game due to a left adductor strain.

Kevin Durant led the Nets with 31 points, nine rebounds and seven assists. Cam Thomas came off the bench to score 15 points and Edmond Sumner added 13.



# COLLEGE BASKETBALL/NHL

## Buffaloes knock off No. 11 Vols

By JIM DIAMOND  
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — KJ Simpson had 23 points and 10 rebounds, both career highs for the sophomore, to lead Colorado to a 78-66 upset of No. 11 Tennessee on Sunday.

Tristan de Silva added 14 points for the Buffaloes, who shot 43.5% from the field, compared with the Volunteers' 25.4%.

"Today was about Colorado, and (Simpson) was terrific," Buffaloes coach Tad Boyle said. "KJ I thought really took the game in his own hands down the stretch there and really controlled the tempo. The 23 points, he'll have other nights like that for sure, but the 10 rebounds were fantastic."

Josiah-Jordan James and Tyreke Key led Tennessee with 15 points apiece.

"We definitely didn't come into this game with the right mindset," James said. "This is a good lesson for us. It's a long basketball season. Of course I'm disappointed and upset that we lost, but I'm also excited just to see how this team responds."

The Vols (1-1) could not overcome a poor shooting performance to rally in the second half after giving up the lead for good with 18:12 to play. The Buffaloes (2-1) led by as many as 14 down the stretch as part of a dominant second half in which they outscored Tennessee 46-32.

"They deserved to win," Vols coach Rick Barnes said. "They, I thought, controlled the game pretty much from start to finish."

Simpson had 15 second-half points.

"We just wanted to focus on coming out the second half with even more energy than we did in the first," he said. "We just wanted to really dial in and focus on coming out even better than we did in the first."

Tennessee held a 34-32 lead at halftime after shooting just 23.1% from the field. Colorado trailed by as many as eight points before halftime.

Key paced the Vols in the first half with 12 points, with all but three points coming from the free-throw line.

Colorado's bench outscored Tennessee's 52-34.

The victory was the Buffaloes' first over the Vols after dropping the previous four matchups between the schools.

### Poll implications

Tennessee likely will drop dramatically when the next poll is released, as the 10 teams ahead of it all have wins in their first two games.

## NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference						
Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	16	14	2	0	28	65 35
Toronto	16	8	5	3	19	45 44
Tampa Bay	15	8	6	1	17	49 49
Florida	15	8	6	1	17	48 46
Detroit	15	7	5	3	17	44 50
Montreal	15	8	6	1	17	47 48
Buffalo	15	7	8	0	14	55 52
Ottawa	14	5	8	1	11	49 49

Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
New Jersey	15	12	3	0	24	55 38
N.Y. Islanders	16	10	6	0	20	53 41
Carolina	15	9	5	1	19	47 43
N.Y. Rangers	17	8	6	3	19	52 48
Philadelphia	15	7	6	2	16	37 43
Washington	17	7	8	2	16	49 53
Pittsburgh	15	6	6	3	15	54 52
Columbus	14	4	9	1	9	38 61

Western Conference						
Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Winnipeg	14	9	4	1	19	43 33
Dallas	15	9	5	1	19	56 38
Colorado	13	8	4	1	17	49 35
Minnesota	15	7	6	2	16	42 45
Chicago	14	6	5	3	15	38 43
Arizona	15	6	8	1	13	40 54
Nashville	15	6	8	1	13	40 51
St. Louis	13	5	8	0	10	31 48

Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vegas	16	13	3	0	26	59 37
Los Angeles	17	10	6	1	21	56 57
Seattle	16	8	5	3	19	52 45
Edmonton	16	9	7	0	18	59 58
Calgary	14	6	6	2	14	41 45
San Jose	17	5	9	3	13	47 60
Vancouver	16	4	9	3	11	53 66
Anaheim	15	4	10	1	9	42 68

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

### Sunday's games

Dallas 5, Philadelphia 1  
Boston 5, Vancouver 2  
San Jose 3, Minnesota 2, SO  
N.Y. Rangers 4, Arizona 1  
Tampa Bay 6, Washington 3  
Winnipeg 3, Seattle 2, OT

### Monday's games

N.Y. Islanders at Ottawa  
Carolina at Chicago  
Los Angeles at Calgary  
St. Louis at Colorado

### Tuesday's games

Dallas at Tampa Bay  
New Jersey at Montreal  
Toronto at Pittsburgh  
Vancouver at Buffalo  
Washington at Florida  
Philadelphia at Columbus  
Minnesota at Nashville  
Detroit at Anaheim  
San Jose at Vegas

### Wednesday's games

Buffalo at Ottawa  
St. Louis at Chicago  
Los Angeles at Edmonton

### Thursday's games

Calgary at Tampa Bay  
Colorado at Carolina  
Dallas at Florida  
Montreal at Columbus  
New Jersey at Toronto  
Philadelphia at Boston  
Anaheim at Winnipeg  
N.Y. Islanders at Nashville  
Pittsburgh at Minnesota  
Washington at St. Louis  
Arizona at Vegas  
N.Y. Rangers at Seattle  
Detroit at San Jose

### Friday's game

Los Angeles at Vancouver

### Scoring leaders

#### Through Sunday

	GP	G	A	PTS
Connor McDavid, EDM	16	15	17	32
Leon Draisaitl, EDM	16	9	19	28
David Pastrnak, BOS	16	9	16	25
Nathan MacKinnon, COL	13	4	19	23
Nikita Kucherov, TB	15	7	16	23
Jason Robertson, DAL	15	10	13	23
Mikko Rantanen, COL	13	10	13	23
Artemi Panarin, NYR	17	5	17	22
Erik Karlsson, SJ	17	10	12	22

10 tied with 19 pts.



WINSLOW TOWNSON / AP

The Bruins' Taylor Hall, right, goes for a loose puck in front of the Vancouver Canucks' Kyle Burroughs during the second period of Sunday's game in Boston. The Bruins won 5-2.

## NHL ROUNDUP

# Bergeron helps Bruins win for 11th time in 12 games

Associated Press

BOSTON — Patrice Bergeron scored his third goal in two days and the Boston Bruins won their fourth straight, beating the Vancouver Canucks 5-2 on Sunday night.

Brad Marchand got his fifth goal in just eight games this season, Connor Clifton and Pavel Zacha also scored and Tomas Nosek added an empty-net goal with 1:58 remaining as Boston won for the 11th time in its last 12 and improved to 14-2-0 on the season.

Hampus Lindholm had three assists and David Pastrnak had a pair of assists, setting up Bergeron and Marchand for one-timers as the Bruins' top line led the way.

J.T. Miller got his second goal in two games and Sheldon Dries also scored for Vancouver, which lost its third straight. Thatcher Demko stopped 27 shots as Vancouver fell to 1-3 on a five-game road trip.

**Sharks 3, Wild 2 (SO):** Alexander Barabanov scored in the fifth round of the shootout and visiting San Jose got consecutive wins for the first time this season.

Steven Lorentz and Nico Sturm scored in regulation and James Reimer made 28 saves for the Sharks, who were coming off a 5-4 win at Dallas on Friday night.

Tied at 1 after four shooters apiece, Barabanov's wrist shot from low in the left circle beat Filip Gustavsson between the pads. Nick Bonino also scored in the shootout, the first San Jose has

won in four attempts this season.

Kirill Kaprizov scored in the shootout for Minnesota, which got regulation goals from Freddy Gaudreau and Connor Dewar. Gustavsson finished with 35 saves. (backslash)

**Jets 3, Kraken 2 (OT):** Mark Scheifele scored his second goal of the game 54 seconds into overtime, lifting visiting Winnipeg over Seattle.

Blake Wheeler scored with 3.9 seconds left in the third period forced overtime, knocking in a loose puck from the top of the crease while the Jets had a 6-on-4 advantage with goalie David Rittich on the bench and Seattle's Carson Soucy sent to the penalty box for roughing with 25.2 seconds remaining. It was Wheeler's fourth goal of the season. Rittich had 16 saves.

Jordan Eberle and Brandon Tanev scored for the Kraken. Martin Jones, making his 400th NHL start, made 28 saves.

**Rangers 4, Coyotes 1:** Barclay Goodrow and Adam Fox scored late in the second period and New York ended a three-game home losing streak.

Chris Kreider and Ryan Carpenter also scored and Igor Shesterkin made 31 saves for the Rangers, who are 13-1-2 in their last 16 games against the Coyotes.

Clayton Keller scored for Arizona, which has lost consecutive games after winning the first three on their season-high 14-game road

trip. Connor Ingram had 23 saves.

**Lightning 6, Capitals 3:** Mikhail Sergachev had two goals and two assists during a four-goal first period, and host Tampa Bay beat Washington.

Sergachev is the first NHL defenseman to have a four-point period since Toronto's Morgan Rielly on Oct. 15, 2019. He tied the team record for points in a period.

Nikita Kucherov, Nick Perbix Cole Koepke and Nick Paul also scored for the Lightning, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 19 saves. Koepke's goal in the third was his first in the NHL, coming in his 13th game. Steven Stamkos had his goal drought reach 10 straight games, but picked up two assists to reach 987 career points — moving past Dave Keon (986) into 98th place on the NHL list.

Conor Sheary, Lars Eller and Garnet Hathaway scored for Washington.

**Stars 5, Flyers 1:** Joe Pavelski had a goal and two assists and Jake Oettinger stopped 37 shots to lead visiting Dallas past Philadelphia.

Matej Blumel, Esa Lindell, Luke Glendening and Jason Robertson all scored for the Stars, who snapped a two-game losing streak in the first game of a three-game Eastern Conference road swing.

Travis Konecny had his sixth goal of the season for Philadelphia, which lost its third straight and fifth in its last seven. Felix Sandstrom had 26 saves.



## WORLD CUP/NFL

# German fans call for boycott

BY CIARÁN FAHEY

Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's professional soccer leagues have been marked by widespread protests against the World Cup in Qatar, with rival fans joining forces to condemn FIFA corruption and human rights abuses in the Gulf Arab country.

On Sunday, before the last Bundesliga game ahead of the league's extended two-month winter break, Freiburg fans behind one goal held a huge banner with the words, "Boycott Qatar."

Other large banners highlighted alleged injustices in the country, while it seemed almost every supporter in the 34,700-capacity stadium held an individual sign calling for a boycott of the tournament, seven days before it was due to begin.

Mainz fans also called for a boycott during their team's draw with Eintracht Frankfurt.

They were the final protests after weeks of public displays across stadiums against the tournament controversially awarded to Qatar by FIFA amid allegations of vote-buying in 2010.

"It was wrong and it's still wrong," Bernd Beyer of the "Boycott Qatar 2022" initiative told The Associated Press on Sunday. "The fans do not identify with it and are saying they don't want to have anything to do with it, but they are actively criticizing it and not just switching off."

Beyer said the fans were partly spurred by developments across international soccer, where money is playing an increasingly important role.

"All professional soccer is becoming more and more commercial. That's just something you don't identify with," Beyer said. "And, of course, the same thing is happening in Qatar now. The decision is wrong because Qatar is a country where human rights don't apply, where migrant workers are heavily exploited, where homosexuality is forbidden."

Beyer, a Cologne and Borussia Dortmund supporter, was keen to stress that the protests were driven organically by supporter groups and had not been coordinated by his own initiative, which has been documenting the protests on Twitter and has received inquiries from supporters in Spain and France who also want to demonstrate against the tournament.

In London, just minutes after finishing the last Premier League match before the World Cup on Sunday, Manchester United duo Bruno Fernandes and Christian Eriksen both questioned the decision to stage the tournament in Qatar.

Fernandes said the World Cup "should be done in a better way,"



PHOTOS BY TOM WELLER/AP

**SC Freiburg fans display a banner as a protest against the World Cup in Qatar, ahead of the Bundesliga match against FC Union Berlin at Europa-Park Stadion in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany, Sunday.**



**A placard protesting the World Cup in Qatar can be seen in the SC Freiburg fan block before the Bundesliga match on Sunday, the last day of protests after weeks of public displays across stadiums.**

criticizing the timing of the tournament and highlighting Qatar's treatment of migrant workers.

"It's not exactly the time we want to be playing in the World Cup," Fernandes, who plays for Portugal, told Sky Sports after a 2-1 win over Fulham. "We know the surroundings of the World Cup, what has been in the past few weeks, past few months, about the people that have died on the construction of the stadiums. We are not happy about that at all. ... We want football to be for everyone, everyone has to be included and involved in a World Cup because a World Cup is the world. It's for everyone, it doesn't matter who. But for a World Cup it's more than football, it's a party for fans, players, something that's a joy to watch, (it) should be done in a better way."

Eriksen, who will play for Denmark in Qatar after recovering from suffering cardiac arrest during a game at last year's European Championship, echoed Fer-

nandes' comments.

"I totally agree with Bruno. There is a lot of focus on it, how the World Cup has happened and why it is in Qatar. Everyone agrees it hasn't been done in the right way," Eriksen said. "We are footballers, we play football — politics is about something above us to make that decision. Of course we try to say our thing and do what we can. We want to get focus on it, but the change has to come from somewhere else."

Hertha Berlin fans displayed a giant "Boycott Qatar" banner during their team's win over Cologne on Saturday, with another sign saying "No Herthener will watch the World Cup in Qatar." Individual supporters held boycott signs.

The week before, during the team's game against Bayern Munich, Hertha fans slammed the tournament's impact on the climate, Qatar's persecution of LGBTQ+ rights and disregard for human rights.

Hertha and Bayern supporters

displayed banners saying organizers should be ashamed due to the high number of migrant deaths associated with the competition.

Augsburg supporters criticized World Cup ambassador Khalid Salman for his recent homophobic comments, telling him, "Your World Cup is haram!"

Salman, a former Qatari national team player, told public broadcaster ZDF that being gay is "haram," or forbidden in Arabic, and that he has a problem with children seeing gay people.

There were general protests during second-division games between Hamburger SV and Heidenheim, and Fortuna Düsseldorf vs. Kaiserslautern, this weekend.

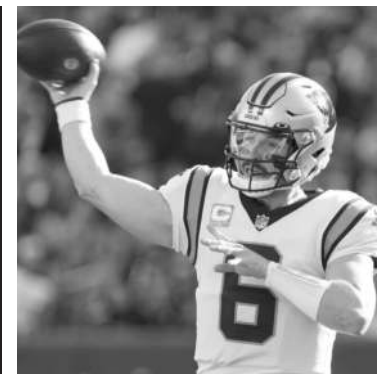
"Anyone who watches even one World Cup game is complicit in tens of thousands of deaths!" said one banner from Heidenheim fans.

Hannover supporters displayed banners calling for a boycott during their team's win over Düsseldorf on Tuesday and said Germany's national team has "blood on your cleats (boots)."

"There's a clear indication that we don't want to enjoy a World Cup like this," Beyer told the AP. "What you see in the stadiums is just the most spectacular sign from the fans, these banners and slogans. But during the World Cup many groups in many cities are putting on their own events, their own tournaments, showing old soccer films and so on ... It will show a different culture actively opposed to this commercial culture."

Greuther Fürth coach Alexander Zorniger isn't a fan of the tournament, either.

"Happy Christmas to you all, happy World Cup, nonsense World Cup," Zorniger said after his team's final game of the year on Sunday.



JOSHUA A. BICKEL/AP

**Baker Mayfield will start for the Panthers on Sunday after P.J. Walker was diagnosed with a high ankle sprain.**

## Mayfield to start for Panthers

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Baker Mayfield is back as Carolina's starting quarterback.

Mayfield, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2018 NFL draft, will start for the Panthers on Sunday against the Baltimore Ravens after P.J. Walker was diagnosed with a high ankle sprain.

The Panthers say Walker was injured in Thursday night's 25-15 victory against the Atlanta Falcons but coach Steve Wilks said Walker toughed it out and continued to play. The Panthers made no mention of the injury after the game.

Walker will not play Sunday. Sam Darnold will be Mayfield's backup. Wilks said there are no plans to put Walker on injured reserve.

"It happened during the game," Wilks said. "It wasn't something that was reported at the time. He just sucked it up. He played through it. As we evaluated him further, we realized he needed an MRI."

Wilks added: "All those guys want to play. But we have to do what's best for the team. A high ankle sprain limits his mobility, ... so we'll let him sit this week and go with Baker."

Walker is the third Carolina quarterback to suffer a high ankle sprain this year. Darnold was injured in the preseason and Mayfield in Week 5.

All three injuries have come at home on Carolina's artificial surface, which was installed prior to the 2021 season.

Mayfield started the first five games with the Panthers and struggled, going 1-4 with four touchdowns and four interceptions and a 71.9 quarterback rating.

Wilks said he wants to see Mayfield do a better job of protecting the football on Sunday.

"That increases our chances of winning when we don't turn the ball over," Wilks said.



## NFL

## ROUNDUP

# Tannehill returns, leads Titans to victory

## Banged-up QB who missed last two games helps Tennessee top Denver

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Ryan Tannehill and the rest of the banged-up Tennessee Titans know opposing defenses start game plans around stopping two-time NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry.

Turns out an aching Tannehill and a patchwork defense were more than enough against the struggling Denver Broncos.

Tannehill returned after missing the last two games with a sprained ankle by throwing two touchdown passes to Nick Westbrook-Ikhine as the Titans rallied from a 10-point deficit to beat the Broncos 17-10 on Sunday.

The Titans (6-3) won for the sixth time in seven games. Tannehill appeared rusty early as the Titans fell behind 10-0 in the second quarter and were trailing 208-53 in total yards shortly before halftime.

Denver came in rested off a bye, not that it helped as the Broncos (3-6) now have lost five of six.

Henry was held to 53 yards on 19 carries.

**Colts 25, Raiders 20:** Matt Ryan got his starting job back under TV analyst-turned-interim coach Jeff Saturday, and the veteran quarterback delivered a 35-yard touchdown pass to Parris Campbell to lead visiting Indianapolis past Las Vegas.

The touchdown with 5:07 left came shortly after the 37-year-old quarterback converted a third-and-3 with a 39-yard run to the Raiders 36-yard line.

His play helped give Saturday, who just a week ago was an ESPN analyst before being hired despite no NFL coaching experience, his first victory. It also handed the Raiders (2-7) their third loss in a

row and will increase the scrutiny on first-year coach Josh McDaniels, who took over a playoff team from a year ago. The Raiders were booed off the field.

Ryan completed 21 of 28 passes for 222 yards, and Jonathan Taylor rushed for 147 yards, including a 66-yard touchdown for the Colts (4-5-1).

**Cardinals 27, Rams 17:** Colt McCoy passed for 238 yards in his first start of the season, James Conner rushed for two touchdowns and visiting Arizona hung on to beat Los Angeles, which lost Super Bowl MVP Cooper Kupp to a possibly serious ankle injury.

Both teams played their backup quarterbacks with starters Matthew Stafford and Kyler Murray sidelined by injuries. McCoy threw a TD pass to A.J. Green and hit DeAndre Hopkins for 98 yards on 10 catches, while Los Angeles' John Wolford passed for 212 yards in a much more inconsistent performance.

The defending champion Rams (3-6) lost for the fifth time in six games, and they also lost Kupp in the fourth quarter when he went down awkwardly while being hit by Marco Wilson.

In the 34th start of his 13-year career, McCoy went 26-for-37 while patiently running a disciplined offensive game plan for the Cardinals (4-6). Murray sat out with a hamstring injury.

**Giants 24, Texans 16:** Daniel Jones threw two touchdown passes, Saquon Barkley ran for 152 yards and a TD and host New York beat Houston.

Jones, who was 13-for-17 for 197 yards, hit tight end Lawrence Cager on a 9-yard TD pass and Darius Slayton on a 54-yard catch and run



MARK ZALESKI / AP

**Tennessee Titans wide receiver Nick Westbrook-Ikhine catches a pass and turns it into a 63-yard touchdown during the second half of Sunday's game against the Denver Broncos in Nashville, Tenn.**

as the Giants (7-2) scored on their opening possession of each half to build a 14-3 lead.

Barkley, who had a career-high 35 carries, scored from 2 yards out in the third quarter after the Texans (1-7-1) closed within 14-10.

The Giants' defense preserved the win, forcing two red-zone turnovers in the fourth quarter.

**Lions 31, Bears 30:** Jamaal Williams scored on a 1-yard run in the closing minutes, Jared Goff threw for 236 yards and a touchdown, and visiting Detroit overcame another spectacular effort by Chicago's Justin Fields.

The Lions (3-6) scored 21 points in the fourth quarter on the way to their second straight win after losing five in a row. They stopped a 13-game road losing streak.

Detroit wiped out a 14-point def-

icit with two quick TDs, tying it on a 20-yard interception return by Jeff Okudah.

Fields then went 67 yards untouched for a TD to put Chicago (3-7) back on top 30-24.

**Chiefs 27, Jaguars 17:** Patrick Mahomes threw for 331 yards and four touchdowns as host Kansas City rolled past Jacksonville.

Kadarius Toney, who was acquired a couple of weeks ago from the Giants, had 33 yards rushing to go with four catches for 57 yards and his first NFL touchdown reception, helping the Chiefs (7-2) win their sixth straight over the Jaguars.

Travis Kelce, Marquez Valdes-Scantling and Noah Gray also had touchdown catches for the Chiefs.

Trevor Lawrence threw for 259 yards and two touchdowns, both to

Christian Kirk, who finished with nine catches for 105 yards for the Jaguars (3-7).

**Steelers 20, Saints 10:** Kenny Pickett and George Pickens ran for 1-yard touchdowns and host Pittsburgh pulled away from listless New Orleans.

Fueled by the return of star outside linebacker T.J. Watt, the Steelers (3-6) held the Saints to 186 yards to win for the second time in eight games. Pittsburgh sacked Andy Dalton twice and forced a pair of fourth-quarter interceptions to thwart any hope of a late rally by the Saints (3-7).

Watt hadn't played since tearing his left pectoral late in a Week 1 win over Cincinnati.

Pittsburgh ran for a season-best 217 yards and didn't turn it over for the third time this season.

## Say: Beating Bills in Buffalo solidifies Vikings as Super Bowl contender

FROM PAGE 24

The Vikings opened the season with a convincing win over the Packers but were blown out by the Philadelphia Eagles in a Monday night game in Week 2. They've won seven in a row since that loss but their only win over a team with a winning record in that span came against the Miami Dolphins minus Tua Tagovailoa last month.

Beating Allen and the Bills (6-3) on their turf solidifies Minnesota's status as a legitimate Super Bowl contender. Now, the schedule gets tougher for the Vikings. They face the Cowboys (6-3),

Patriots (5-4) and Jets (6-3) at home the next three weeks.

Rodgers and the Packers are a long way from thinking about a championship but they're not done yet. Trailing by 14 points in the fourth quarter, vintage Rodgers led the Packers back to a 31-28 overtime win against the Cowboys, one of the league's best defenses.

The Packers (4-6) snapped a five-game losing streak but are still 1½ games behind San Francisco for the third wild-card spot. However, Rodgers may have finally found his go-to receiver. Rookie Christian Watson caught

four passes for 107 yards against Dallas, including touchdowns of 58, 39 and 7 yards.

If the Packers find a way to get into the playoffs, they'll be an opponent teams don't want to face because of Rodgers.

Another No. 12 seems to have his team back on track.

A week after Brady led a game-winning drive in the final 42 seconds against the Rams, the Buccaneers showed signs of being the dominant team they've been the past two years. Rookie Rachaad White and Leonard Fournette combined for 162 yards rushing and Tampa topped Seattle 21-16 in

the first NFL regular-season game in Germany.

The defense overpowered the Seahawks, forced a turnover for the first time since Week 4 and the Buccaneers (5-5) took a one-game lead in the weak NFC South.

If the Buccaneers continue to have success running the ball and the defense keeps playing tough, Brady makes them a threat in January.

The Colts aren't going anywhere in the competitive AFC but they're not a laughingstock. A turbulent week that began with owner Jim Irsay firing coach Frank Reich and taking intense criti-

cism for hiring former All-Pro center Jeff Saturday to be the interim coach ended with Matt Ryan returning from injury to lead a 25-20 upset win at Las Vegas.

Saturday, who took plenty of heat for taking the job without paying his dues as an assistant coach, proved he's no joke. The Colts' struggling offensive line played inspired football, paving the way for 207 yards rushing and allowing just one sack.

If the Colts (4-5-1) keep improving, Saturday could end up keeping the job after the season despite all the criticism.



## NFL

# Rodgers rallies Packers past Cowboys in OT

BY STEVE MEGARGEE  
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Aaron Rodgers finally might have found a new big-play target.

And the Green Bay Packers still have a chance to rescue a season that seemed headed toward oblivion.

Rodgers threw three touchdown passes to rookie Christian Watson and led a 55-yard drive in overtime to set up Mason Crosby's game-winning 28-yard field goal, and the Packers stopped a five-game skid with a 31-28 win over former coach Mike McCarthy and the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday.

"We've seen what we can be, and we've seen it was only us getting in our own way," said Watson, a second-round pick from North Dakota State. "All we had to do was believe."

Green Bay (4-6) appeared well on its way to losing six straight games in the same season for the first time since 1988, trailing 28-14 in the fourth quarter before Rodgers led two long drives that ended with scoring passes to Watson.

Watson entered Sunday with 10 catches for 88 yards in an injury-riddled rookie season. He caught four passes for 107 yards against Dallas, including touchdowns of 58,

39 and 7 yards.

He became the first Packers rookie since Keith Woodside in 1988 to have multiple touchdown catches in a game. The TD catches were the first of his career, although he reached the end zone on a 15-yard rush against New England on Oct. 2.

Rodgers bounced back after throwing three interceptions to match a career high in a 15-9 loss at Detroit last week.

"Last week was definitely a low, rock-bottom-ish for sure," said Rodgers, who went 14-for-20 for 224 yards. "Not in a depressive, isolationism way, but more disappointment. And I felt like that was the bottom and it was only up from there. I think a lot of the battles that we face are between I and I, between the person that can go out there and dominate and knows that they can and the little voice in your head that tries to knock you out of that confident perch around you."

McCarthy coached the Packers to their most recent Super Bowl title after the 2010 season and posted a 125-77-2 record with Green Bay before getting fired in 2018. This was his first game against the Packers since he took over as Dallas' coach in 2020.

"I'm very frustrated with the end



MIKE ROEMER/AP

**Green Bay Packers wide receiver Christian Watson does a backflip after catching a long pass for a touchdown during the first half against the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.**

of the game, obviously," McCarthy said. "I think just the biggest thing for us is we need to just go out here and just learn from these games. I love these kind of games. That's what I told these (guys), 'You need these tight games to get to where you want to go.'"

Rodgers was McCarthy's quarterback for most of his time with the Packers. Their relationship grew strained in McCarthy's later seasons, but they exchanged compliments over the last week and shared hugs before and after Sunday's game.

Rodgers said they also had an extended conversation earlier in the day.

"That was really, really meaningful I think for both of us," Rodgers said.

The Cowboys (6-3) blew a 14-

point lead heading into the fourth quarter for the first time in franchise history. They entered Sunday with a 195-0 record in such games, including playoffs.

McCarthy chose to go for it on fourth-and-3 from Green Bay's 35 on the opening possession of overtime instead of trying a long field goal. Dak Prescott was pressured by Jarran Reed and threw a desperation pass to Tony Pollard that fell incomplete.

"I'm fine with the decision," McCarthy said. "Obviously, I know we didn't convert. Fourth-and-3, we just didn't convert."

The Packers had third-and-1 from their own 44 on the ensuing drive when Rodgers threw across the middle to Allen Lazard, who caught the ball just beyond midfield and raced to the 20 for a 36-yard

gain. The Packers then set things up for Crosby's game-winning kick.

Green Bay's Aaron Jones rushed for 138 yards and a touchdown.

Dallas' CeeDee Lamb finished with 11 catches for 150 yards and two touchdowns. Pollard ran for 115 yards and a score. Prescott went 27-for-46 for 265 yards, three TDs and two interceptions, both by Rudy Ford.

Watson's 58-yard touchdown in the second quarter was the Packers' longest completion of the season. He celebrated by doing a back flip in the end zone.

He delivered a couple of even bigger plays in the fourth quarter. Rodgers found Watson for a 39-yard score on fourth-and-7 with 13:23 left. They connected again on a game-tying 7-yard TD with 2:29 remaining.

## Tagovailoa stays hot with 3 TDs as Dolphins rout Browns

BY ALANIS THAMES  
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — The "MVP!" chants for Tua Tagovailoa started early in the second half, and they didn't stop until after the game ended, as Tagovailoa flashed a smile and waved on his way off the field.

Tagovailoa maintained his scorching form since his return from a concussion, throwing three touchdown passes as the Miami Dolphins beat the Cleveland Browns 39-17 on Sunday for their fourth straight win.

In a game that was a blowout by the fourth quarter, Tagovailoa connected with three receivers for his third straight three-touchdown performance.

"Tua is playing very, very high-level football," Dolphins coach Mike McDaniel said. "It's phenomenal to watch."

Since returning in Week 7, Tagovailoa has 10 TD passes and no interceptions. He finished with



DOUG MURRAY/AP

**Miami Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa, left, celebrates scoring a touchdown with wide receiver Trent Sheffield as they dance on the field against the Cleveland Browns on Sunday in Miami Gardens, Fla.**

285 yards on 25-of-32 passing Sunday.

Miami (7-3) moved into first place alone in the AFC East, overtaking Buffalo, which lost in overtime to Minnesota and dropped into a tie with the New York Jets

(6-3) in the stout division.

Tagovailoa said he was flattered by the crowd hyping him as an MVP candidate.

"It would be cool," Tagovailoa said. "But we have bigger goals and aspirations on what we want to

do as a team."

Jeff Wilson rushed for 119 yards on 17 carries as the Dolphins finished with 491 yards of offense.

The Browns (3-6) scored a touchdown on their opening drive, thanks in part to a 48-yard kickoff return by rookie Jerome Ford, but Miami tied the game on its first possession en route to scoring 24 straight points. Cleveland never got closer than 14 points the rest of the way.

"We really didn't do any of the things you need to do versus that football team," Browns coach Kevin Stefanski said.

Cleveland's Jacoby Brissett completed 22 of 35 passes for 212 yards and one touchdown against one of his former teams. Nick Chubb had 11 carries for 63 yards, including a 33-yard TD run in the fourth quarter. Tight end Harrison Bryant caught the Browns' other TD, a 1-yarder.

Wilson had a 33-yard run on the Dolphins' 10-play, 84-yard open-

ing drive, setting up Tagovailoa, who pump-faked and found full-back Alec Ingold for a 13-yard score.

"We knew they were unique in what they did, and they were going to throw a lot of different looks at us," Browns defensive end Myles Garrett said. "It really kept us on the back foot, kept us hesitant, and they capitalized on that."

Miami held the Browns to 10 points after Cleveland's opening drive, sacked Brissett three times and logged its first turnover since Week 7, a fumble by Chubb before halftime.

Bradley Chubb, the Dolphins' newest edge rusher, combined with defensive end Christian Wilkins for a sack in the first half, Chubb's first since being acquired at the trade deadline from Denver.

"It felt good," Chubb said. "It's only a half so I can't feel too good about it, but I just got to keep working. The numbers gonna come, and I'm just excited to be here."



## NFL



GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP

**49ers defensive end Nick Bosa celebrates after making a tackle against the Chargers during the second half on Sunday in Santa Clara, Calif. San Francisco shut out Los Angeles in the second half.**

## 49ers rally as stout D stymies Chargers

By **JOSH DUBOW**  
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — For all the talk of how dynamic San Francisco's offense could look with Christian McCaffrey and Deebo Samuel, it was the 49ers defense that once again led the way.

McCaffrey ran for the go-ahead touchdown with 7:54 to play, and the Niners pitched a second-half shutout to beat the Los Angeles Chargers 22-16 Sunday night in their first game back from a bye week.

"I was proud of our team today," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "I want to play better. I want to blow people out. I want to score every time we go. ... Those guys are tough to get in the end zone against and they did that to us today. But we still found a way to win."

The Niners (5-4) returned from the midseason break as healthy as they've been all season on offense and with hopes of making a second-half run. Their performance against the short-handed Chargers (5-4) was a slog at times but proved to be just enough to come out on top.

San Francisco fell behind by 10 points in the second quarter before rallying. Jimmy Garoppolo scored on a 1-yard sneak in the second quarter and then made the biggest play when he hit Brandon Aiyuk on a 24-yard pass on third-and-10 from the Chargers 26 midway through the fourth quarter.

McCaffrey ran it in on the next play and has now accounted for four touchdowns in three games since arriving from Carolina in a midseason trade.

Garoppolo went 19-for-28 for 240 yards while San Francisco relied heavily on the ground game, rushing 41 times for 157 yards, and defense.

"There's different ways to win this league," Garoppolo said. "We definitely made it hard on our-

selves, that's for sure. But a lot of resilient guys, a lot of mature guys. ... It wasn't pretty early on and they were doing some things that gave us trouble, but we stuck with it."

Justin Herbert went 21-for-35 for 196 yards with a touchdown pass for the Chargers, who were playing without both starting tackles and receivers.

After scoring a touchdown on their opening possession, the Chargers managed just three field goals — two on drives that started in Niners territory — the rest of the way against a stout San Francisco defense.

"They did a good job against the run in the second half," coach Brandon Staley said. "We couldn't get anything going in the run game, and in the passing game it was tight. The rush was coming, and there wasn't a lot of air in the second and third level to take advantage of."

The Chargers failed on two late chances. They took over at their 1 with 2:03 to play but turned it over on downs when Herbert's pass on fourth-and-3 from his own 8 went off Joshua Palmer's hands for an incompleteness.

After holding San Francisco to a field goal, Herbert got another chance with 53 seconds to go but was intercepted by Talanoa Hufanga on the first play to seal the game.

"It didn't go our way today," Herbert said. "Unfortunately we fell short."

San Francisco held the opposition scoreless in the second half for the second straight game after allowing 44 points to Kansas City in Week 8.

"We know that we're we're one of the best defenses in the league," linebacker Fred Warner said. "We've shown that throughout the season. One bad game doesn't define you."

# Vikings use 3 turnovers to stun Allen, Bills in OT

By **JOHN WAWROW**  
Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Count out the Vikings all you want. Patrick Peterson, Justin Jefferson and company keep finding ways to rally for victories in the most remarkable and improbable of ways.

Sunday's 33-30 overtime win over the previously AFC-leading Buffalo Bills might have been the most stunning so far.

Peterson intercepted Josh Allen with 1:12 left in overtime to finally end a sloppy, yet thrilling back-and-forth game between two of the NFL's best teams, in which Minnesota rallied from a 17-point second-half deficit.

"Look at us now. Look at us now. That's all I could say," Peterson said, referring to critics who pointed out the NFC North-leading Vikings' easy schedule.

"We're not trying to prove them wrong. We just want to continue to prove ourselves right each and every time we step on the field," added Peterson, who had two interceptions. "I believe the largest margin was 13, 14, 17? So if we're not a good football team, how could you come back from that deficit? Look at us now."

The Vikings took advantage of three turnovers by Allen in the fourth quarter and overtime, pulling ahead late in regulation when he mishandled a snap and fumbled in the end zone.

Greg Joseph put the Vikings ahead to stay by hitting a 33-yard field goal with 3:42 left in overtime. The game didn't end until Allen, facing second-and-10 at Minnesota's 20, forced a pass over the middle intended for Gabe Davis, only to have Peterson intercept it a few yards into the end zone. Peterson ran out and slid to the turf.

The Vikings also got a heroic performance by Jefferson — who had 10 catches for 193 yards and an incredible, game-saving one-handed grab — and overcame an officiating gaffe.

NFL senior vice president of officiating Walt Anderson said the Bills' hurry-up offense gave replay officials no time to review Davis' 20-yard catch on Buffalo's final drive of regulation, which ended with Tyler Bass tying the game with a 29-yard field goal with 2 seconds left. Replays revealed Davis didn't maintain control and the ball touched the ground on the sideline on what was ruled a catch at the Vikings 40 with 17 seconds remaining, Anderson said.

With its only loss to the unde-



JOSHUA BESSEX/AP

**Vikings cornerback Patrick Peterson runs with the ball after intercepting a pass by Bills quarterback Josh Allen in overtime. Minnesota caused three turnovers late in the game.**

feated Philadelphia Eagles, Minnesota matched its best record through nine games since 2009 and extended its winning streak to seven games — the Vikings' best since an eight-game run in 2017.

Minnesota rallied to win when trailing with 2½ minutes or less remaining in regulation for the fifth time this season.

The Bills (6-3) have lost two straight and no longer lead the conference, or even their division. They now trail Miami by a half-game in the AFC East.

And Allen's turnover problems are suddenly the biggest question surrounding the Bills' talented QB. He was questionable to play on Sunday because of an injured throwing elbow. Allen said the injury had nothing to do with the turnovers.

"Losing sucks. It sucks this way even more. Horrendous second half," Allen said. "It comes down to my shoulders and my shoulders only. Making the right decisions, making the right throws. This one's going to suck, watching it."

Allen's first interception on fourth-and-goal from Minnesota's 2 led directly to C.J. Ham scoring on a 3-yard run to cut Buffalo's lead to 27-23 with 4:34 remaining. Buffalo's defense then appeared to have the game won by stopping Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins for no gain on fourth-and-goal from the half-yard line with 49 seconds remaining.

On the very next play, Allen muffed the snap from center Mitch Morse, and Minnesota line-

backer Erik Hendricks dived into the end zone to recover it for a touchdown.

His third and final turnover came with Buffalo facing second-and-10 from Minnesota's 20 — in position for a tying field goal. Allen forced a pass over the middle intended for Davis.

"I'm going to remember this one forever," Vikings first-year coach Kevin O'Connell said. "We just had to continue to trade those blows, body blows, haymakers, and just try to be ready for the next snap, as long as they let us continue to play today."

Cousins threw for 357 yards, and Jefferson had a monster game.

He had a 22-yard touchdown catch on the Vikings' first possession. But the most amazing of his many highlights was a 32-yard grab on fourth-and-18 on Minnesota's final drive of regulation. Jefferson reached back to get one hand on the ball and rip it out of the grasp of the Bills' Cam Lewis.

"It felt like it was unreal. Like a movie," Jefferson said. "The big games, the big moments, when people are looking for you to make a play, that's what I like the most."

Failing to protect the ball has been a season-long issue for Allen. He has turnovers in eight of nine outings, with 10 interceptions — two more than he had all last season. He's also lost three fumbles, matching his total last year.

Allen finished 29-for-43 for 330 yards passing and an 11-yard touchdown pass to Davis.



# SPORTS

## Top 25 team falls

Colorado hands No. 11 Tennessee its first loss » College basketball, Page 19



### ANALYSIS



Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Justin Jefferson makes a one-handed, 32-yard reception during overtime as Buffalo Bills cornerback Cam Lewis brings him down Sunday in Orchard Park, N.Y.

JERRY HOLT, STAR TRIBUNE/AP

# Something to say

## Vikings, Bucs, Packers, Colts make big statements

By ROB MAADDI  
Associated Press

**B**ust out the victory chains. The Minnesota Vikings proved they're for real.

After piling up wins against losing teams and backup quarterbacks, the Vikings earned a signature victory on the road against the Buffalo Bills.

Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers, Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Jeff Saturday and the Indianapolis Colts also made big statements on Sunday.

The Vikings overcame a 17-point, second-half deficit in a difficult environment to improve to 8-1 with a

thrilling, improbable 33-30 overtime win over Josh Allen and the Bills.

There's no doubting Kirk Cousins anymore. He rallied the Vikings to their fifth win this season when trailing with 2½ minutes or less remaining. Cousins threw for 357 yards, including a 32-yarder on fourth-and-18 to Justin Jefferson, who made an incredible, one-handed snag to keep Minnesota's final drive of regulation going.

Patrick Peterson sealed the win with an interception in the end zone, and took the gold chains from Cousins for the celebration on the flight home.

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MATT LUDTKE/AP

Packers wide receiver Christian Watson celebrates with fans after catching a touchdown pass during the second half of Sunday's game against the Dallas Cowboys in Green Bay, Wis.

# German fans press for boycott of World Cup » Page 20

