

Hamas frees first batch of hostages

Associated Press

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — Hamas on Friday released 24 hostages who had been held captive in Gaza for weeks, including 13 Israelis, 10 people from Thailand and a Filipino citizen, according to Qatar and other officials, in the first stage in a swap for Palestinian prisoners in Israel under a four-day cease-fire deal.

The hostages, women and children, were soon returned to Israel, where Israeli officials said they underwent medical checkups. They were to be accompanied by soldiers to hospitals to be reunited with their families.

Qatar was a key mediator in the hostage release. The International Committee of the Red Cross delivered the hostages from Gaza into Egypt.

The agreement brought the first respite for beleaguered

residents of Gaza and opened the way for sorely needed aid to flow in. It was also a moment of hope for families in Israel and elsewhere worried about loved ones taken captive during Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the war.

There were no reports of fighting in the hours after the truce began. Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians saw quiet after seven weeks of relentless Israeli bombardment, which has killed thousands, flattened vast swaths of the territory and driven three-quarters of the population from their homes. Rocket fire from Gaza militants into Israel went silent as well.

The release of the first Israeli hostages was to be followed in the evening by the freeing of 39 Palestinian prisoners — 24 women, including some convicted of attempted murder for attacks on Israeli forces, and 15

teenagers jailed for offenses like throwing stones.

The truce raised hopes of eventually winding down the conflict, which has fueled a surge of violence in the occupied West Bank and stirred fears of a wider conflagration across the Middle East.

Israel, however, has said it is determined to resume its massive offensive once the cease-fire ends.

Israeli media reports, citing security officials, said Hamas had handed over the group of 13 Israelis to the Red Cross, to be transported to Egypt.

The plight of around 240 people taken captive during Hamas' attack has been wrenching in Israel, raising anger among some families that the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was not doing enough to bring them home.

Under the deal, at least 50 are

to be released — bringing relief but also bitterness that not all will be freed. It was not clear if the Thai captives were included that figure. Israel is to free 150 Palestinian prisoners.

Ahead of Friday evening's release, thousands of Israelis gathered in what has been dubbed "Hostages Square" in Tel Aviv, singing songs to welcome the Jewish Sabbath.

"My emotions are mixed," said Shelli Shem Tov, the mother of 21-year-old Omer Shem Tov, told Israeli's Channel 12 at the square. "I'm excited for the families that are going to hug their loved ones, I'm jealous, and I'm sad, mostly sad that Omer is not coming home yet."

The International Committee of the Red Cross confirmed it had delivered a total of 24 hostages to the Egyptians. But it declined to provide details on their nationalities.

1st female superintendent of Naval Academy blocked

The Washington Post

Seven months ago, the Navy announced with fanfare that a trailblazing warship officer would become the first female superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy.

President Biden nominated Rear Adm. Yvette M. Davids on April 20 for promotion to vice admiral, and she was slated to take the helm over the summer at the academy in Annapolis. She would be the 64th superintendent since the academy was founded in 1845.

She and the academy are still waiting for that milestone.

The Davids nomination is one of hundreds of senior military

promotions bottled up in the Senate as Sen. Tommy Tuberville, R-Ala., prevents action on confirmation. Tuberville has said he is using his leverage to block votes as a protest of a Biden administration policy protecting abortion access for military personnel.

The blockade, begun in February, has stalled more than 350 key military appointments, forcing temporary and improvised leadership arrangements across the armed forces.

For Annapolis, that means the brigade of about 4,400 midshipmen, as well as about 2,500 faculty and staff, are under the supervision of an acting superin-

tendent. Rear Adm. Frederick W. Kacher, a 1990 graduate of the academy, was given that title in late August, filling in after Vice Adm. Sean Buck retired from the superintendency.

Many academy alumni are irate. Retired Adm. James Stavridis, of the academy's class of 1976, called the Tuberville blockade "ridiculous" and said Davids is "richly qualified" to lead at Annapolis. Stavridis is a former supreme allied commander of NATO and former dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

"It is particularly harmful to see the Academy's first female

Superintendent locked out of her office — terrible signal," Stavridis wrote in an email. Kacher, he wrote, "is doing a reasonable job holding down the fort." But, alluding to Tuberville's former career as a college football coach, Stavridis wrote: "For Coach Tuberville I'd say you've got a lineman in a quarterback's spot, and vice versa. It makes no sense."

A Tuberville spokesman, asked about the impact of the confirmation blockade on the careers of Davids and Kacher, replied in a one-sentence email: "Coach has confidence in Admiral Kacher to get the job done."

Retailers offer big Black Friday deals

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Shoppers hunting for big deals packed malls on Black Friday as retailers stepped up discounts and offered other perks to entice hesitant customers who are sticking to stricter budgets this year.

Consumers are coming under pressure as their savings dwindle and their credit card debt grows. Although they have gotten some relief from easing inflation, many goods and services like meat and rent are still far higher than they were three years ago.

Yvonne Carey, 72, was among the first shoppers at Macy's Herald Square store in Manhattan where she snapped up discounted Michael Kors slippers and Uggs boots for herself. But Carey said she plans to stick to same \$1,000 budget as last year

as she shops for gifts for her six grandchildren and her husband.

"The prices are crazy on everything food, clothes," Carey said.

Many retailers ordered fewer goods for this holiday season and pushed holiday sales earlier in October than last year to help shoppers spread out their spending. The early shopping trend accelerated during the pandemic when clogs in the supply network in 2021 made people buy early. But this year, retailers said more shoppers are focusing on deals and waiting until the last minute.

At Macy's Herald Square store, shoppers began streaming in soon after the doors opened at 6 a.m., finding discounts of between 40% and 50% on boots and shoes and hand-

bags. Diamond jewelry was discounted by 60%.

Macy's CEO Jeff Gennette told The Associated Press the crowds at Herald Square and other locations were bigger than last year, though he declined to give figures.

Facing competition from travel and restaurants, Macy's stepped up experiential shopping this season. At Herald Square, the Disney Princess shop had augmented reality allowing delighted youngsters to virtually step into one of the princess dresses.

"The customer is under pressure. You see it with what is going on in luxury. That is a recent development," Gennette said, adding that shoppers across all income levels are "more discerning about how they are spending their budget."

Best Buy said it's pushing more items at opening price points, while Kohl's has simplified its deals, promoting items under a certain price point like \$25 at its stores.

Target said shoppers are waiting longer to buy items. While consumers have been resilient, Target's CEO Brian Cornell told analysts last week that "uncertainty, caution and managing a budget are top of mind."

Gone are the Black Fridays of years ago when customers would stand in line for hours in the middle of the night, or brawls would break out over high demand items.

Still, shopping on Black Friday remains a cherished tradition for many. Macy's at Herald Square was packed by mid-morning.

Maui residents wonder if their town can be made safe

Associated Press

When Daniel Skousen scrubs at the ash and soot covering his Maui home, he worries about the smell.

What chemicals created the burning-trash-barrel scent that has lingered since a deadly wildfire tore through Lahaina in August? Should he believe government agencies' assessment of when the air, land and water will be safe enough for his family to return?

Or will political and economic pressures to rebuild and restore Maui's robust tourism industry — where visitors normally spend \$14 million per day — lead officials to look at any testing results through rose-colored glasses?

"It appears very important to them to get that tourism tax revenue back," said Skousen. "It makes you wonder if the testing will be biased."

The fire blew out Skousen's windows and filled his home with ash, but the building is still standing, and he hopes someday to move back in. The home next door burned to the ground.

Skousen wants a second opinion on any government environmental assessments, preferably from an expert with a stake in the community. But the raw data isn't easy to find, and experts say the long-term health effects from fires like the one that incinerated Lahaina are mostly unknown. There are no national standards that detail how clean is clean enough for a residential home damaged by a nearby fire.

At least 100 people died in the Aug. 8 wildfire, and thousands were displaced. Nearly 7,000 were still in short-term lodging two months later.

The rubble left behind includes electrical cables, plastic

pipes and vehicle tires that emit dangerous dioxins when burned; lead from melted vehicles or old house paint; and arsenic-laden ash from termite-resistant building materials.

After a major wildfire burned 1,000 homes in Boulder County, Colo., in 2021, health officials learned that even professionally remediated homes were often still polluted with ash, char and other toxic substances long after the fire, said Bill Hayes, the county's air quality program coordinator.

The reason? High winds — like those that plagued Maui during the wildfire this summer — forced fine particulate matter into every crevice, Hayes said. Those particulates would sit inside window panes, behind light switches, between shingles and elsewhere until the winds started up again, recontaminating the home.

"Char is a carcinogen, so we don't ever say any level of those particulates are safe," Hayes said. "That became a challenge in the cleanup — determining the level of when is it clean enough?"

State and federal agencies have released regular updates on Lahaina's relative safety. The water in much of the town is still unsafe to drink, and visitors have been advised to use protective gear in impacted areas. Officials say pregnant people and kids should stay out of the burn zone, though the Hawaii Department of Education says the schools, which are above the burned part of town, are safe.

Crews have installed air quality monitors throughout town and are spraying a soil sealant to prevent toxic ash from being washed into the ocean or blowing around.

Sea turtle nests break records in Fla.

Associated Press

INDIAN ROCKS BEACH, Fla.— Just as they have for millions of years, sea turtles by the thousands made their labored crawl from the ocean to U.S. beaches to lay their eggs over the past several months. This year, record nesting was found in Florida and elsewhere despite growing concern about threats from climate change.

In Florida, preliminary state statistics show more than 133,840 loggerhead turtle nests, breaking a record set in 2016. Same for green turtles, where the estimate of at least 76,500 nests is well above the previous mark set in 2017.

High sea turtle nest numbers also have been reported in South

Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia, although not all set records like Florida, where Justin Perrault, vice president of research at Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach, said the number of nests is remarkable this year.

“We had more nests than we had ever seen before on our local beaches,” said Perrault, whose organization monitors Palm Beach County and broke a local record by 4,000 nests. “That’s quite a bit of nesting.”

There are seven species of sea turtles: loggerhead, green, leatherback, hawksbill, Kemp’s ridley, olive ridley and flatback. All are considered either endangered or threatened. They come ashore on summer nights, dig-

ging pits in the sand and depositing dozens of eggs before covering them up and returning to the sea. Florida beaches are one of the most important hatcheries for loggerheads in the world.

Only about one in 1,000 sea turtle hatchlings live to adulthood. They face myriad natural threats, including predators on land and in the ocean, disruptions to nests and failure to make it to the water after hatching. This year along one stretch of Florida’s Gulf Coast where 75 nests had been counted, most were wiped out by the surge from Hurricane Idalia in August.

“Unfortunately, the nests pre-Idalia were almost all lost due to the high tides and flooding on

our barrier islands,” said Carly Oakley, senior turtle conservation biologist at Clearwater Marine Aquarium.

Female turtles generally lay eggs in a three-year cycle, leading to up-and-down years of nests, she said. “The nesting process is very exhausting and, in this break, females regain the energy to do the process again,” Oakley said.

Climate change has added to those challenges, reducing beaches as sea levels rise and causing more powerful tropical storms. Hotter air, water and sand and changes in the ocean currents turtles use to migrate also lower the odds of surviving, according to Oceana, an international conservation group.

NYC Mayor Eric Adams accused of sexual assault

Associated Press

NEW YORK—New York City Mayor Eric Adams has been accused of sexually assaulting a woman in 1993, according to a legal summons filed Wednesday.

The three-page filing does not contain details of the alleged assault but names Adams, the transit bureau of the New York Police Department and the New York Police Department Guardians Association as defendants.

“Plaintiff was sexually assaulted by Defendant Eric Adams in New York, New York in 1993 while they both worked for the City of New York,” the summons reads.

The filing seeks a trial and \$5 million in relief. It was filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan. The woman’s attorney did not immediately return an emailed request for comment on Thursday.

In remarks to reporters on Thursday, Adams denied sexually assaulting anyone and said he did not remember meeting the woman.

“It absolutely did not happen. I don’t recall ever meeting this person and I would never harm anyone in that magnitude. It did not happen,” Adams said, according to a video posted by a reporter to X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. “It did not happen, and that is not who I am and that is not who I’ve ever been in my professional life and, you know, it’s just something that never took place.”

Adams, a Democrat, was a New York City police officer who rose to the rank of captain before entering politics. He served as a state senator and Brooklyn borough president before becoming mayor.

The summons was filed under the Adult Survivors Act, a special New York law that created a year-long suspension of the usual time limit to sue over an alleged sexual assault. The suit against Adams was filed just before the window to bring cases under the law was scheduled to close after Thanksgiving.

Woman alleges Foxx sexually assaulted her

Associated Press

NEW YORK—A woman has alleged in a lawsuit that actor, singer and comedian Jamie Foxx sexually assaulted her at a rooftop bar in New York in 2015, an incident the actor says “never happened.”

The lawsuit filed Wednesday in state Supreme Court in Manhattan by a woman known in the documents only as Jane Doe alleges that Foxx rubbed her breasts and groped her under her pants against her will.

The suit says she and a friend were seated at a table next to Foxx’s at Catch NYC in 2015. The woman asked Foxx for a photo, and the two women took several pictures with him, the suit says. It says that afterward, he began complimenting her “supermodel body” and told her she looked like the actor Gabrielle Union.

He then grabbed her by the arm and took her to a secluded area, where he put both hands under her crop top and felt her

breasts, the suits says. She tried to pull away from Foxx as he reached into her pants with his hands and touched her genitals, the suit also alleges.

When the woman’s friend found them, he stopped and the women walked away, the suit says.

A statement in response released Thursday from a representative for the 55-year-old Foxx said the alleged incident never happened.

“In 2020, this individual filed a nearly identical lawsuit in Brooklyn. That case was dismissed shortly thereafter. The claims are no more viable today than they were then. We are confident they will be dismissed again. And once they are, Mr. Foxx intends to pursue a claim for malicious prosecution against this person and her attorneys for re-filing this frivolous action,” the statement said.

The woman is seeking damages to be determined at trial, the suit says.

Dublin sees in worst violence 'in decades' after a stabbing

The Washington Post

LONDON — Right-wing protesters angered by a stabbing attack they believed had involved someone of immigrant background rampaged through central Dublin on Thursday night, leaving behind a trail of burning destruction.

Ireland's police chief on Friday described the unrest, in which double-decker buses, trams and police cars were torched, as "scenes that we have not seen in decades."

The violence and looting through some of Dublin's most famous streets began after a stabbing attack outside a school that left five people hospitalized. They included three young children and a woman. Police detained a man who also is being treated for injuries.

Rumors spread online that the perpetrator of the attack was an immigrant or had an immigrant background. The BBC, citing unnamed sources, said the man was an Irish citizen who had lived in the country for 20 years.

People the police later described as far-right protesters disrupted the crime scene, chanting anti-immigrant slogans and took to the streets of Dublin, setting vehicles ablaze and clashing with police.

A Brazilian Deliveroo driver has spoken about intervening in the knife attack. Ciao Benicio told the Irish Times that the subsequent anti-immigration protests "[do not] make sense at all. ... I'm an immigrant myself, and I was the one who helped out."

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said that the unrest was "not who we are" and that those involved in the riots had "brought shame on Ireland."

The rioters did not do what they did "out of any sense of patriotism, however warped; they did so because they are filled with hate," he said.

"What we saw last night was an extraordinary outbreak of violence," Police Commissioner Drew Harris told reporters Friday. "These are scenes that we have not seen in decades."

He said that 34 people had been arrested.

Police blamed a "lunatic, hooligan faction driven by a far-right ideology" for the violence that broke out after a small group of anti-immigrant protesters arrived at the scene of the knife attack.

The "riotous mob" caused "huge destruction" in Dublin, police said. The rioters, some wielding metal bars, smashed windows and looted shops in the city center.

The Dublin Fire Brigade on Friday morning said firefighters were continuing to wet down smoldering vehicles.

Police said they were not looking for anyone else involved in the knife attack and were "keeping an open mind" about any motive for the assault.

Ireland has a deep housing crisis, and dissatisfaction has fueled a backlash against refugees and asylum seekers, with critics saying that foreigners are receiving preferential treatment. Protesters have held rallies chanting "Ireland is full."

EU sending officers and equipment to Finland

Associated Press

HELSINKI — The European Union's border agency said Thursday that it will send dozens of officers and equipment as reinforcements to Finland to help police its borders amid suspicion that Russia is behind an influx of migrants arriving to the country.

Frontex said that it expects a "significant reinforcement" made up of 50 border guard officers and other staff, along with patrol cars and additional equipment, to be put in place as soon as next week.

More than 800 migrants without proper visas and documentation have arrived in Finland so far since August, with more than 700 in November alone by the end of Wednesday — compared to a few dozen in September and October. They include people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Kenya, Morocco and Somalia.

Finnish Prime Minister Peteri Orpo, who addressed lawmakers at Parliament on Thursday, called the situation "a serious disruption of border security" that affects the national security of Finland, whose population is 5.6 million.

"Finland cannot be influenced, Finland cannot be destabilized," Orpo said with a decisive tone. "Russia started this, and Russia also can stop it."

The Kremlin denies the allegations.

On Wednesday, Finnish border guards and soldiers began erecting barriers, including concrete obstacles topped with barbed-wire at some crossing points on the Nordic country's lengthy border with Russia.

The government decided to close four busy Russia border crossings in southeastern Finland last week.

UN confirms 1st sexual spread of mpox in Congo amid biggest-ever outbreak

Associated Press

LONDON — The World Health Organization said it has confirmed sexual transmission of mpox in Congo for the first time as the country experiences its biggest-ever outbreak, a worrying development that African scientists warn could make it more difficult to stop the disease.

In a statement issued late Thursday, the U.N. health agency said a resident of Belgium traveled to Congo in March and tested positive for mpox, or monkeypox, shortly afterward. WHO said the individual "iden-

tified himself as a man who has sexual relations with other men" and that he had gone to several underground clubs for gay and bisexual men.

Among his sexual contacts, five later tested positive for mpox, WHO said.

"This is the first definitive proof of sexual transmission of monkeypox in Africa," Oyewale Tomori, a Nigerian virologist who sits on several WHO advisory groups, said. "The idea that this kind of transmission could not be happening here has now been debunked."

Mpox has been endemic in

parts of central and west Africa for decades, where it mostly jumped into humans from infected rodents and caused limited outbreaks. Last year, epidemics triggered mainly by sex among gay and bisexual men in Europe hit more than 100 countries. WHO declared the outbreak a global emergency, and it has caused about 91,000 cases to date.

WHO noted there were dozens of "discreet" clubs in Congo where men have sex with other men, including members who travel to other parts of Africa and Europe.

Bland, Prescott lead Cowboys to win

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott and his right guard, Zack Martin, feasted on a turkey leg together on the sideline with six minutes left in the game after the star quarterback's fourth touchdown pass.

Then, DaRon Bland really got the Thanksgiving party started for Dallas.

Bland set an NFL record with his fifth interception return for a touchdown this season, and the Cowboys extended their longest home winning streak in 42 years to 13 by pulling away for a 45-10 victory over the Washington Commanders on Thursday.

Dallas' lead going into the fourth quarter was less than two touchdowns for the first time in five home games this season, but the Cowboys (8-3) ended up tying a 55-year-old franchise record with a seventh victory by at least 20 points.

The outcome was already set-

led when Bland's fifth pick-6 punctuated a 25-point fourth quarter — and interrupted Prescott's sideline feast.

"Didn't see him initially pick it, but I just heard the crowd erupt, looked up and saw 26 had the ball in his hands," Prescott said. "At that point, I just sprinted to the sideline to get a good view."

A Dallas defense that gave up more than 200 yards for the first time in three games stiffened at key points in the second half, stopping Washington on fourth down three times.

Sam Howell threw for 300 yards and had a rushing touchdown, but was sacked at his 24-yard line on fourth down early in the fourth quarter, setting up CeeDee Lamb's touchdown and 2-point conversion catches for a 21-point Dallas lead.

The Commanders (4-8) lost for the eighth time in 10 games since a 2-0 start and dropped to 2-9 as the most common

Thanksgiving opponent for their NFC East rivals.

"We just got beat by a lot of points on Thanksgiving," receiver Terry McLaurin said. "The game was within reach. And we just didn't make the necessary plays to kind of put the ball in the end zone and do our part. So that's never a good feeling."

Prescott threw for 331 yards in his fifth consecutive game with at least two TD passes, one shy of his career best. Rico Dowdle, Brandin Cooks and Kavontae Turpin had the other scoring grabs.

The 5-foot-7 Turpin jumped into an oversized Salvation Army kettle beyond the end zone — a move made famous by Ezekiel Elliott years ago — after his 34-yard score.

Lamb had already spiked a ball into one after a 2-point catch that was initially called out of bounds in the back of the end zone before getting over-

turned on review.

All of which paled compared to the frenzy over Bland breaking a tie with three players for his record, secured when he made Howell, McLaurin and running back Brian Robinson miss on tackles inside the 20.

Bland's teammates lifted him into one of the kettles, and coach Mike McCarthy was appreciative of the officials working with him to "get control of it," which included Dallas using a timeout.

"That's a big moment. Let's be honest. The sideline erupted," McCarthy said. "It's good to celebrate and you need to. You need to smell the roses when you walk through the garden, as our guys did today. Because when you're on the other side, it's hard."

The Cowboys were the first team since the 1990 Miami Dolphins to go 10 games into the season without allowing a 100-yard rusher, 100-yard receiver and 300-yard passer.

McCaffrey's big first half lifts 49ers past Seahawks

Associated Press

SEATTLE — After running for two touchdowns and helping San Francisco beat the rival Seahawks for a fourth straight time, Christian McCaffrey was going to enjoy his celebratory meal.

The fact it was a Thanksgiving feast on Seattle's home field made it even more delicious.

"That was a satisfying turkey," McCaffrey said.

And a satisfying win.

McCaffrey rushed for 114 yards and two scores in the first half, and the 49ers built a 21-

point lead by halftime in rolling to a 31-13 victory over the Seahawks on Thursday night.

The 49ers (8-3) won their fourth straight against their division rivals and have a two-game lead in the NFC West over Seattle (6-5). San Francisco won its third in a row overall following a three-game losing streak and picked up its 10th consecutive victory against a division opponent.

McCaffrey was terrific, running through arm tackles and breaking off a handful of big plays. He rushed for touch-

downs of 8 and 1 yards as the 49ers built a 24-3 halftime lead.

Deebo Samuel ran for a 2-yard touchdown on San Francisco's opening possession and Brock Purdy completed 15 of 20 passes in a nearly flawless first half for the 49ers.

"We had advantage in the first half, but that third quarter was tough and gave them some life," Niners coach Kyle Shanahan said.

Purdy threw an interception that was returned for a touchdown by Seattle's Jordyn Brooks early in the third quar-

ter, but avoided any other major miscues and put a capper on the victory with a 28-yard scoring pass to Brandon Aiyuk with 7:51 left that sent some Seahawks fans heading for the exits.

Purdy finished 21 of 30 for 209 yards, and while he didn't have the perfect passer rating he did last week against Tampa Bay, he outplayed the quarterback on the other side.

Seattle's Geno Smith was playing banged up after last Sunday's loss to the Los Angeles Rams, in which he suffered an injury to his right arm.

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Love leads Packers to win over Lions

Associated Press

DETROIT — Jordan Love dropped back and threw deep on his first snap, taking advantage of what the Green Bay Packers thought the Detroit Lions defense would give them.

They were right.

Love set the tone with a 53-yard pass to Christian Watson on the game's first play and finished with a career-high-tying three touchdowns, leading Green Bay to a 29-22 win over the NFC North-leading Lions on Thursday.

"It was something we put in this week that we thought was going to work," said Love, who had to reassure coach Matt LaFleur to stick with the first call when he had second thoughts about it on the morning of the game. "We were confident in it."

The Packers (5-6) were in control of a game they never trailed, taking advantage of Jared Goff's

career-high three fumbles — returning one for a score in the first quarter — and Dan Campbell's aggressiveness on fourth down.

The Lions (8-3) went for it five times on fourth down and only converted once on the final touchdown drive. One of the failed attempts was a risky decision to fake a punt with a run from their 23 in the third quarter down by nine points.

"That obviously was a very critical play in the game," LaFleur said. "And, that translated into a touchdown."

Three plays after the failed fake, Love threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to Watson to give Green Bay a 29-14 lead. Campbell later lamented that decision.

"It's a bad call," Campbell said. "I shouldn't have done that to those guys."

Goff pulled Detroit within seven points with a 12-yard

touchdown pass to Josh Reynolds and 2-point conversion pass to Sam La Porta with 41 seconds left, but couldn't get closer four days after rallying from a 12-point deficit in the last few minutes in a comeback win over Chicago.

The Lions were called for an illegal formation when they attempted an onside kick, a fitting end for them on an afternoon that started poorly and didn't get much better to deflate what was a fired-up crowd.

Love was 22 of 32 for 268 yards with three touchdowns, including two in the first quarter to rookies Jayden Reed and Tucker Kraft. He had a career-long 37-yard run on a read-option play on third down late in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

Rashan Gary led Green Bay's dominant performance on defense.

He forced a career-high two

fumbles, recovering one of them, and tied a career high with three sacks and seven tackles on the same field where the former Michigan star tore a knee ligament last season.

Gary was in tears as LaFleur gave him a game ball in the locker room.

"Throughout this whole time, there's been a lot of emotion," Gary said. "I was praying, trying to keep my head cool."

Goff finished 29 of 44 for 332 yards with two touchdowns, including one on a 7-yard pass to La Porta on the Lions' first drive.

His three fumbles, though, doomed Detroit's chances.

Jonathan Owens returned one of Goff's turnovers 27 yards for a score that gave Green Bay a 20-6 lead in the opening quarter, getting some appreciation from his wife, Olympic gold-medal-winning gymnast Simone Biles, on social media.

NFC challengers make statements on Thanksgiving

Associated Press

The NFC goes through Philadelphia. The top three challengers showed where they stand on Thanksgiving Day.

Detroit took a step backward. Dallas feasted on another losing team. San Francisco was impressive again. The Eagles have a firm grip on the No. 1 seed, but the race could tighten up down the stretch.

The 49ers (8-3) geared up for an NFC championship rematch against Philadelphia (9-1) on Dec. 3 with a convincing 31-13 win at Seattle on Thursday night.

Brock Purdy, Christian McCaffrey and the rest of San Francisco's dynamic offense racked up 377 yards and the defense was dominant.

The 49ers have now won three in a row since losing three straight. They destroyed Dallas 42-10 before injuries to star

wide receiver Deebo Samuel and All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams contributed to the losing skid. They routed Jacksonville 34-3 to kick off their latest winning streak.

The Seahawks (6-5) had a chance to regain the lead in the NFC West but were no match for the 49ers after falling behind 24-3 in the first half. They cut it to 24-13, but San Francisco's defense stiffened.

If the Eagles lose at home to Buffalo (6-5) on Sunday, their matchup against the 49ers next week would be for the top spot in the conference.

The 49ers are Philadelphia's main competition because they're the most complete team. They lost Purdy to an elbow injury in the first quarter of a 31-7 loss in the NFC title game. They'll need him at his best to have a shot this time around. Purdy has thrown 18 touchdown

passes and only six interceptions, but he's prone to making dangerous throws, including one that was returned for a TD by Seattle.

After the Eagles, the 49ers face Seattle again, Arizona (2-9), Baltimore (8-3) and Washington (4-7).

The Cowboys (8-3) rocked the Commanders 45-10 for their seventh win by at least 23 points. Dak Prescott had another outstanding game, tossing four TD passes. DaRon Bland set an NFL record with his fifth pick-6 of the season and Micah Parsons added 1½ sacks to his total.

"Obviously, we feel good about what we've got," Prescott said. "We feel good about the players that we have, the plays that we're gonna call, the matchup, the film study we've had, the preparation, the game plan.

"Credit these coaches week in and week out. They're dialing up things and putting playmakers in their best position, and, yeah, it's confidence. Simple as that."

But the knock against Dallas is strength of schedule. The Cowboys haven't beaten a team that currently has a winning record. They were blown out by San Francisco, beat themselves in a 28-23 loss to Philadelphia in Week 9 and lost to the pitiful Cardinals in September.

Dallas will have a tough road to overtake Philadelphia. The Cowboys' next five games are against teams that currently are 36-17.

The Lions (8-3) began the day one game behind Philadelphia and finished it looking like a team that could lose a home playoff game to extend the NFL's longest postseason win drought.

Colorado State tops No. 8 Creighton

Associated Press

Isaiah Stevens had 20 points, seven assists and six rebounds to help Colorado State beat No. 8 Creighton 69-48 on Thursday at the Hall of Fame Classic for its first basketball win over a top-10 team in nearly 40 years.

The Rams snapped a 22-game losing streak against top-10 opponents dating to Jan. 19, 1984, when Colorado State defeated UTEP 63-51.

Rashaan Mbemba scored 13 points on 6-of-8 shooting for Colorado State (6-0).

Creighton (5-1) shot just 28% (17 of 61) from the field, including 6 of 29 (21%) from 3-point range, and went 8 for 13 (63%) at the free-throw line.

Baylor Scheierman led Creighton with 13 points and Ryan Kalkbrenner scored 12.

No. 3 Arizona 74, No. 21 Michigan State 68: Caleb Love scored 17 points and made a key steal in the closing seconds to help Arizona beat Michigan State at the Acrisure Classic in Palm Desert, Calif.

Love made 1 of 2 free throws with 24.6 seconds left to give Arizona a 72-68 lead. Tyson Walker drove into the lane at the other end before having his shot blocked by Keshad Johnson.

Michigan State inbounded the ball with 15.9 seconds left, but Love poked it away from behind and passed ahead to KJ Lewis for a fastbreak dunk.

Johnson had 13 points, 10 rebounds, four steals and two blocks for Arizona (6-0). Walker led Michigan State (3-3) with 18 points.

No. 12 Texas A&M 89, Penn State 77: Henry Coleman III scored 24 points, Wade Taylor IV had 23 and No. 12 Texas A&M beat Penn State in the opening round of the ESPN Events Invitational, in Kissimmee, Fla.

Texas A&M was to face No. 19 Florida Atlantic in a semifinal game Friday. Penn State was taking on Butler in Friday's consolation round.

Tyrece Radford added 14 points for the Aggies (5-0), who lost to the Nittany Lions 76-59 in the first-round of last year's NCAA Tournament.

Kanye Clary led Penn State (4-1) with 19 points and Puff Johnson added 15.

Villanova 83, No. 14 North Carolina 81 (OT): Justin Moore scored five of his 16 points in overtime and Eric Dixon had a career-high 34 points and 10 rebounds as Villanova beat North Carolina and advanced to the championship game of the Battle 4 Atlantis in Nassau, Bahamas.

Villanova (5-1) was to play Memphis, an 84-79 winner over No. 20 Arkansas, in the title game on Friday. North Carolina (4-1) will play the Razorbacks for third place.

North Carolina's Cormac Ryan hit a 3-pointer in the corner to tie the game at 68 with 34.4 seconds left in regulation. Moore dribbled down the clock before finding Dixon for a 3-pointer try that rattled out. With 3.3 seconds remaining, North Carolina's RJ Davis inbounded and got the ball back before his off-balance 3-point attempt hit off the back of the rim.

Moore put Villanova ahead for good in overtime on a three-point play with 2:08 left. Mark Armstrong added 10 points for Villanova.

Davis led North Carolina with 23 points. Harrison Ingram added 20 points before fouling out at the offensive end with 3:44 left in regulation. Ryan finished with 18 points.

No. 19 Florida Atlantic 91, Butler 86: Vladislav Goldin scored 19 points and Johnell Davis added 15 as Florida Atlantic beat Butler in a first-round matchup at the ESPN Events Invitational.

Jalen Gaffney added 14 points as six FAU players scored in double figures. The Owls (3-1) rebounded from a 60-51 home loss to Bryant last Saturday.

FAU was to face No. 12 Texas A&M (5-0) in the semifinals on Friday. Butler was taking on Penn State (4-1) in Friday's consolation round.

Butler (3-2) got 19 points from Jahmyl Telfort. The Bulldogs

had five player in double figures.

Memphis 84, No. 20 Arkansas 79: David Jones had a career-high 36 points and five steals to help Memphis beat Arkansas in a semifinal game at the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Memphis (5-0) was to face Villanova in the title game on Friday. Arkansas (4-2) was facing No. 14 North Carolina for third place.

Jones was 10 for 14 from the field, including 4 of 8 from 3-point range, and 12 of 14 at the line. The 36 points tops the 33 he scored against Louisville on Dec. 10, 2021, while playing for DePaul.

Nick Jourdain added 12 points for Memphis, and Jayk-won Walton scored 11.

Khalif Battle scored 21 points for Arkansas. Davonte Davis added 15 points, Trevon Brazile had 13 points and 10 rebounds, and Tramon Mark scored 12.

No. 23 Southern California 71, Seton Hall 63: Boogie Ellis scored 22 points and Joshua Morgan blocked a school-record 10 shots for Southern California, which blew most of a 20-point lead before beating Seton Hall in the Rady Children's Invitational in San Diego.

Isaiah Collier scored 15 and Kobe Johnson 13 for USC (4-1).

Kadary Richmond scored 18, Dre Davis 15 and Jaden Bediako 12 for Seton Hall (4-1).

St. Rose, Princeton roll past No. 22 Oklahoma 77-63

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Madison St. Rose matched her career-high with 26 points, Kaitlyn Chen added 20 and Princeton rolled to a 77-63 win over No. 22 Oklahoma at the Fort Myers Tip-Off on Thursday.

St. Rose opened the game with back-to-back 3-pointers and after a 3 by Oklahoma's Nevaeh Tot, the Tigers reeled off 11

points, four by Chen and the last five by Mari Bickley, for a 17-3 lead.

Skye Belker added 10 points for Princeton (4-1), which beat a ranked team for the fourth time in program history.

Aubrey Joens had 13 points and Tot 11 for Oklahoma.

The Sooners (5-1), who haven't been since 6-0 since the 2010-11 season, came in averag-

ing 89.8 points a game.

No. 3 Colorado 77, Cincinnati 60: Tameiya Sadler scored 15 points and No. 3 Colorado opened the Paradise Jam tournament by fending off Cincinnati.

Kindyll Wetta added 14 points and Aaronette Vonleh had 13 points for the Buffaloes (5-0), who shot a season-best 53.3% from the field (32 of 60) and

went 8 for 8 on free throws.

Jillian Hayes had 17 points and Mya Jackson added 11 for the Bearcats (2-2), who were held to 35.8% from the field (19 of 53) as they saw their two-game winning streak snapped.

Wetta scored eight points in the third quarter as Colorado turned a 41-28 halftime lead into a 64-39 margin after three quarters.

Ole Miss shuts down Mississippi State

Associated Press

STARKVILLE, Miss. — Quinshon Judkins rushed for 119 yards and a touchdown, and No. 12 Mississippi clamped down on defense to beat rival Mississippi State 17-7 on Thursday night in their annual Battle for the Golden Egg.

Jaxson Dart threw a 26-yard touchdown pass to Caden Prieskorn early in the fourth quarter to give the Rebels (10-2, 6-2 SEC, No. 12 CFP) a 10-point lead. Judkins scored on a 2-yard run in the third to put Ole Miss ahead 10-7.

"I'm really proud of our players," Mississippi coach Lane Kiffin said. "I thought our guys played great defense pretty much the whole night. We played really well in the second half running the football and then finished well running the football. We weren't perfect by

any means. Excited to get the trophy back."

Will Rogers passed for 207 yards and scored on a 1-yard plunge that gave the Bulldogs (5-7, 1-7) a 7-3 advantage with 8:33 left in the third. But a targeting penalty on MSU linebacker DeShawn Page kept the ensuing drive alive, and the Rebels went 75 yards in 10 plays to regain the lead.

The road team has won six of the past eight Golden Egg matchups.

Ole Miss' high-powered offense was shut out in the first quarter for the first time this season and held to just a field goal in the first half. But the Rebels led 3-0 at halftime despite a season low for points in any half.

Caden Costa kicked a 36-yard field goal for Mississippi in the second quarter to cap a 66-yard drive that took 13 plays and 6:22

off the clock.

Mississippi State drove 71 yards for a touchdown in 4:55 on its first possession of the second half.

Ole Miss finished with only 307 yards of total offense and was held below 100 yards passing as Dart finished 14 of 26 for 96 yards and a touchdown. Judkins carried 28 times and became the third Rebels running back to eclipse 1,000 yards twice in a career.

It was a tough defeat for a Mississippi State team led by interim coach Greg Knox the last two weeks after Zach Arnett was fired following a loss to Texas A&M. Knox helped spark the Bulldogs, even driving a four-wheeler onto the field Thursday.

"Great group of seniors that took control, led this team. I can't thank them enough for all

they did through the tough times," Knox said. "They did everything they could to hold this team together and I appreciate them."

The Bulldogs had 303 yards of offense. Rogers completed 25 of 39 passes and had his second career rushing touchdown.

MSU averaged just 3.4 yards per carry.

Rogers was emotional after possibly the four-year starter's final game for the Bulldogs.

"It would have been so easy to quit after everything that we've been through on and off the field. People can say what they want to, but we're not quitters," Rogers said. "Coach Knox did a really good job. I'm proud of the team and the real fighters. It would have been easy to tap out and let a really good team come here and walk all over us. I gave it my all."

Cal coach says son of an Afghan refugee called 'a terrorist' by heckling fan

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — California basketball coach Mark Madsen says Fardaws Aimaq, whose parents are Afghan refugees, was called "a terrorist" by a heckling fan after a game against UTEP this week in the SoCal Challenge.

"Throughout and after Monday's game, Fardaws Aimaq was allegedly subjected to abhorrent and offensive comments from a fan, including being called a terrorist," Madsen said Wednesday night after the Bears lost to Tulane in the tournament. "I have asked the SoCal Challenge tournament director that a formal investigation be conducted and that this fan be barred from the premises."

SoCal Challenge officials said Thursday that it has begun an internal investigation and has

briefed security to strictly enforce the policy prohibiting the use of profanity, derogatory comments or other intimidating actions by fans directed at athletes, officials or team representatives, according to ESPN.

Aimaq went into the bleachers to confront the heckling fan, hovering over him and pointing a finger at his face, in an exchange that lasted about 10 seconds after the loss to UTEP in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.

"Fardaws and I had an important conversation (Wednesday) about how he needs to maintain his composure regardless of what takes place in a game or what is said to him directly," Madsen said. "I am disturbed that Fardaws was allegedly on the receiving end of such language, and I'm disappointed that he confronted this fan."

South African Olympian Pistorius granted parole

Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — Double-amputee Olympic runner Oscar Pistorius was granted parole Friday, 10 years after shooting his girlfriend through a toilet door at his home in South Africa in a killing that jolted the world. He will be released from prison on Jan. 5, but will be constantly monitored by parole officials for five years until his sentence expires, the Department of Corrections said.

Pistorius' parole will come with other conditions, Department of Corrections spokesman Singabakho Nxumalo said outside of the prison where Pistorius has been incarcerated in the South African capital, Pretoria.

Pistorius will not be allowed to leave the area of Pretoria without permission from authorities. He will also attend a program for anger issues and another program on violence

against women. He will have to perform community service.

"Parole does not mean the end of the sentence. It is still part of the sentence. It only means the inmate will complete the sentence outside a correctional facility," Nxumalo said. "What will happen is that Mr. Pistorius will be allocated a monitoring official. This official will work with him until his sentence expires."

Nxumalo said the monitoring official would need to be notified of any major events in Pistorius' life, including if he wants to move house or get a job.

"We have to be informed of each and every activity," Nxumalo said.

Pistorius will not wear a monitoring bracelet as that is not part of South African parole procedure, Nxumalo said. Pistorius' sentence will expire on Dec. 5, 2029.