

## Navy head pick lacks defense experience

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump's nominee to be secretary of the Navy, John Phelan, has not served in the military or had a civilian leadership role in the service. While officials and defense experts said the Navy is in sore need of a disruptor, they cautioned that Phelan's lack of experience could make it more difficult for him to realize Trump's goals.

Trump late Tuesday nominated Phelan, a major donor to his campaign who founded the private investment firm Rugger Management LLC. The Trump transition team did not respond to a request for comment on his qualifications. According to his biography, Phelan's primary exposure to the military comes from an advisory position he holds on the Spirit of America, a nonprofit that supports the defense of Ukraine and the defense of Taiwan.

Not all service secretaries

come into the office with prior military experience, but he'd be the first in the Navy since 2006. Current Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth similarly does not have prior military service. She, however, has spent her career in a host of defense civilian positions.

The appointment comes at a critical moment for the Navy, which has been stretched thin with deployments around the world and must contend with a shrinking fleet even as the naval forces of its main rival, China, are growing. Trump has campaigned on expanding the Navy and would need to fight bureaucratic inertia to do so. But it's uncertain whether a secretary with no military experience — either in uniform or as a defense civilian — would be well-positioned to lead that effort.

"It will be difficult for anyone without experience in the Pentagon to take over the leadership of a service and do a good job," said Stacie Pettyjohn, a se-

nior fellow and director of the defense program at the Center for a New American Security. "Services are sprawling organizations with distinct cultures, subcultures and bureaucratic interests, and where decisions are made through many formal processes. To change a service's plans, one must understand this Byzantine landscape."

Experts said Phelan's nomination reflects that Trump is seeking service branch heads who will not push back on his ideas — but that Phelan's lack of experience is likely to create issues and delays of its own. They say the Navy can't afford to lose time. One of the Navy's biggest challenges is preparing for a potential military confrontation with China over Taiwan.

"The stakes are high," said Brad Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies. "The success or failure in addressing key problems in the

U.S. Navy over the next couple years may have a decisive effect on war and peace in the Taiwan Strait and elsewhere."

Trump has called for a 350-ship Navy since his 2016 presidential campaign, but he experienced firsthand the difficulty in realizing that goal, given the challenges to shipbuilding and the erratic and often delayed congressional budget process.

There are just under 300 battle force ships in the fleet — vessels that have a direct role in conducting combat operations.

"The Navy is stretched covering Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific. Strategists have wanted to pull back from Europe and the Middle East, but recent conflicts have prevented that," said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "So the next secretary will have a shrinking fleet, expanded overseas commitments, and an uncertain budget environment."

## White House presses Kyiv to start drafting 18-year-olds

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden's administration is urging Ukraine to quickly increase the size of its military by drafting more troops and re-vamping its mobilization laws to allow for the conscription of troops as young as 18.

A senior Biden administration official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private consultations, said Wednesday that the outgoing Democratic administration wants Ukraine to lower the mobilization age to 18 from the current age of 25 to help expand the

pool of fighting age men available to help a badly outmanned Ukraine in its nearly 3-year-old war with Russia.

The official said "the pure math" of Ukraine's situation now is that it needs more troops in the fight.

The White House has pushed more than \$56 billion in security assistance to Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion and expects to send billions more to Kyiv before Biden leaves office in less than two months.

But with time running out, the Biden White House is also sharpening its viewpoint that Uk-

raine has the weaponry it needs and now must dramatically increase its troop levels if it's going to stay in the fight with Russia.

The official said the Ukrainians believe they need about 160,000 additional troops, but the U.S. administration believes they probably will need more than that.

More than 1 million Ukrainians are now in uniform, including National Guard and other units.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has also been hearing concerns from allies in other Western capitals that Uk-

raine has a troop level problem and not an arms problem, according to European officials who requested anonymity to discuss the sensitive diplomatic conversations.

The stepped-up push on Ukraine to strengthen its fighting ranks also comes as Ukraine braces for President-elect Donald Trump to take office on Jan. 20. The Republican said he would bring about a swift end to the war and has raised uncertainty about whether his administration would continue the vital U.S. military support for Ukraine.

# Sailors get 'fur therapy' aboard some warships

By CAITLYN BURCHETT  
*Stars and Stripes*

NORFOLK, Va. — A budding Navy office is trying to sell the idea of “fur therapy” to higher echelons after more than a year of deploying four-legged, tail-wagging honorary officers aboard warships to boost sailor mental health and morale.

At sea aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower in mid-July, Capt. Demo bounded through the halls of the ship and toward a crowded eating area. A chorus of “Demo! Demo!” rang out from sailors calling the dog.

The 2-year-old yellow labrador wedged himself between two sailors seated at a table. Multiple hands reached for Demo, each giving him a pat on the head. “Good boy,” one of the sailors said before the dog moved along to another group. Trailing behind the labrador was one of his handlers, Hospital Corpsman Kindal Kidd.

Demo is one of four facility dogs that has deployed aboard East Coast-based warships since 2023 as part of a small-scale test to evaluate the feasibility of deploying dogs aboard warships across the fleet.

Dubbed the Expeditionary Facility Dog program, the test was initiated by Naval Air Force Atlantic, based at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., as part of phase two of a quality-of-life initiative the Navy launched in 2022 in the wake of a cluster of sailor suicides.

Overseeing the canine program is the Force Improvement Office, which was created in 2022 in reaction to concerns about the mental health of sailors. That year, the service recorded 71 suicides among active members. Another 69 were documented in 2023.

“[The goal of the pilot program] is so that if people start getting into a bad cycle and the domino starts falling, if we can

stop that next domino, we can interrupt the cycle,” said Terri Farricker, team lead of the pilot program and force improvement officer for Naval Air Force Atlantic.

Aside from Demo on the Eisenhower, the dog program has placed Capt. Sage and Capt. Rudder on the carriers USS Gerald R. Ford and USS Harry S. Truman, respectively, and Lt. Cmdr. Ike on the amphibious assault ship USS Wasp.

The dogs, guided by handlers, visit sailors throughout the warships to help crew members feel safe and comfortable and give them a positive mental health boost.

But dogs on ships cannot be rolled out fleet-wide without evidence that the dogs make a positive impact.

“Like anything, we have to see if the juice is worth the squeeze. All this training to put a dog onboard — is any of that moving the needle to increase sailor quality of service and quality of life?” Farricker said.

Capt. Christopher Hill, commanding officer of the Eisenhower, was first approached with the idea of deploying with a dog during a morale event where facility dogs in training came aboard the warship to interact with sailors.

Hill said he was skeptical about the idea, calling it an apparent “logistical nightmare.” His concerns were: How does the ship feed the dog when on deployment? Where does the dog urinate and defecate? How many people must take care of the dog, and how will that distract from their ordinary duties?

But those perceived challenges seemed less daunting with each puppy kiss that Hill received during the morale event, he said. That day, the captain agreed to consider the program, and in October 2023, Demo deployed aboard the Eisenhower.

The deployment, he said, solidified his belief in the program.

“I was skeptical, too, until I saw it in action on a nine-month challenging deployment and the impact that he had on people’s lives. Just to see Demo walk through a passageway and watch sailors light up — it is so hard to quantify, but it is definitely impactful,” Hill said recently.

The canines deploying on Navy warships are dogs that are owned by Mutts with a Mission, a Virginia Beach-based nonprofit. The dogs are loaned to the aircraft carriers under a memorandum of understanding between the nonprofit and the commanding officer of the warship. The memorandum of understanding is for two years or until the commanding officer is reassigned.

With the dog, comes a hefty commitment: identifying four to five sailors to act as handlers, 120 hours of training, dedicating a bathroom on the ship exclusively for the dog, and the responsibility of accommodating a dog 24/7 for the duration of the memorandum of understanding, including when the ship is in port or underway.

But the responsibility of having a dog onboard is balanced out by the “extraordinarily low” cost, the Force Improvement Office said. The only program cost for the Navy is dog food. All other costs associated with the dog are provided by Mutts with a Mission. This includes specialized goggles, ear protection and shoes for the dogs to be in and around aircraft, a harness, leash and facility dog vest, and a dog kit containing emergency medical supplies.

Handlers accompany the dogs to events, classes, and one-on-one sessions offered to sailors. Handlers are also tasked with walking the dog around the ship to expose the dog to sailors

who might not otherwise have the option of interacting with the dog. This typically takes two to four hours per day walking the dog to communal areas, such as the galley and the hangar bay where sailors congregate during their downtime. Departments across the ship can also reserve time with the dog. While sailors interact with the dog, the handler observes and extends resources to any sailors who indicate a need for a deeper level of care.

Kenneth Sausen, a psychologist with the Navy’s Force Improvement Office, visited the Eisenhower three times during its deployment to measure the program’s impact, gather observations and interact with sailors face-to-face.

“Let’s say a puppy makes you feel good — who doesn’t love a puppy? But how long does that last? 30 seconds? A few minutes? As soon as you walk out the door?” Sausen said.

To quantify this information, Sausen designed a seven-page survey for sailors to rate their overall experience and satisfaction with having a dog aboard. He began analyzing the survey results in mid-September to present the data to leaders at Naval Air Force Atlantic and U.S. Fleet Forces.

Sausen said he would like to see the dogs have a 20- to 30-minute positive impact on sailors. But gauging the impact on sailors during an unprecedented combat-paced deployment introduces variables that can be difficult to measure.

“It depends on what happens, right? So, I’m nice and chill because I got to play with the pooch, and then all sudden, a fire alarm goes off,” he said. “I don’t know that there is a really good answer for what would be considered by most psychologists to be an effective treatment in terms of length of time.”

# Trump picks targeted by bomb threats, swatting

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A number of President-elect Donald Trump's most prominent Cabinet picks and appointees have been targeted by bomb threats and "swatting attacks," Trump's transition team said Wednesday. The FBI said it was investigating.

"Last night and this morning, several of President Trump's Cabinet nominees and Administration appointees were targeted in violent, unAmerican threats to their lives and those who live with them," Trump transition spokesperson Karoline Leavitt said in a statement.

She said the attacks ranged from bomb threats to swatting, in which attackers initiate an emergency law enforcement response against a target victim under false pretenses. The tactic has become a popular one in recent years.

Leavitt said law enforcement and other authorities acted quickly to ensure the safety of those who were targeted and Trump and his transition team are grateful.

Among those targeted were New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, Trump's pick to serve as the next ambassador to the United Nations; Matt Gaetz, Trump's initial pick to serve as attorney general; and former New York Rep. Lee Zeldin, who has been tapped to lead the Environmental Protection Agency.

Law enforcement officials are also looking into whether Susie Wiles, Trump's incoming chief of staff, and Pam Bondi, the former Florida attorney general whom Trump has chosen as Gaetz's replacement, and other incoming administration officials were also victims — as well as how each was targeted, ac-

cording to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity as the investigation continues.

The FBI said in a statement that it was "aware of numerous bomb threats and swatting incidents targeting incoming administration nominees and appointees" and was investigating with its law enforcement partners.

The FBI added: "We take all potential threats seriously, and as always, encourage members of the public to immediately report anything they consider suspicious to law enforcement."

Stefanik's office said that, on Wednesday morning, she, her husband, and their 3-year-old son were driving home from Washington for Thanksgiving when they were informed of a bomb threat to their residence in Saratoga County.

The New York State Police

said a team was dispatched to sweep Stefanik's home on Wednesday morning in response to the bomb threat but did not locate any explosive devices. The agency directed further questions to the FBI.

Zeldin said in a social media post that he and his family had been threatened.

"A pipe bomb threat targeting me and my family at our home today was sent in with a pro-Palestinian themed message," he wrote on X. "My family and I were not home at the time and are safe. We are working with law enforcement to learn more as this situation develops."

Police in Suffolk County, Long Island, said emergency officers responded to a bomb threat Wednesday morning at an address listed in public records as Zeldin's home and were checking the property.

## Lebanon says Israeli troops fired on returnees after truce

Associated Press

BEIRUT — At least two people were wounded by Israeli fire in southern Lebanon on Thursday, according to state media. The Israeli military said it had fired at people trying to return to certain areas on the second day of a ceasefire with the Hezbollah militant group.

The agreement, brokered by the United States and France, includes an initial two-month cease-fire in which Hezbollah militants are to withdraw north of the Litani River and Israeli forces are to return to their side of the border. The buffer zone would be patrolled by Lebanese troops and U.N. peacekeepers.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said two people were wounded by Israeli fire in Markaba, close to the border, without providing further details. It said Israel fired artillery in three other locations near the border. There were no immedi-

ate reports of casualties.

The Israeli military said in a statement that "several suspects were identified arriving with vehicles to a number of areas in southern Lebanon, breaching the conditions of the ceasefire." It said troops "opened fire toward them" and would "actively enforce violations of the ceasefire agreement."

Israeli officials have said forces will be withdrawn gradually as it ensures that the agreement is being enforced. Israel has warned people not to return to areas where troops are deployed, and says it reserves the right to strike Hezbollah if it violates the terms of the truce.

A Lebanese military official said Lebanese troops would gradually deploy in the south as Israeli troops withdraw. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

## Russian jets intercept two US B-52s over Baltic Sea

BY CAITLYN BURCHETT

*Stars and Stripes*

Two U.S. Air Force long-range bombers were intercepted Monday by Russian aircraft over the Baltic Sea, a defense official confirmed.

The B-52H Stratofortresses were in international airspace flying a pre-planned route, the official said Wednesday.

The incident occurred the same day two long-range bombers conducted a simulated weapons drop training mission as part of integrated training with Finnish and Swedish fighter jets.

The bombers are assigned to the 20th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, based at Barksdale Air Force Base, La.

It is unclear if the pair of bombers involved in the interception were the same bombers training with Finland and Sweden.

This is not the first time U.S.

bombers have had a close call with Russian aircraft in the militarily important Arctic region. In July, two B-52H Stratofortresses were intercepted by Russian fighters over the Barents Sea on a preplanned mission that involved coordination with NATO fighter planes, the U.S. Air Force Europe and Africa said.

In Europe, encounters between allied and Russian aircraft are relatively commonplace. In most cases, intercepts occur over international airspace without incident. However, allies on occasion have accused Russia of crossing into their airspace. In June, Finland said four Russian military aircraft crossed into its airspace for several minutes.

Other confrontations have risked potential escalation, such as when a Russian fighter in March 2023 collided with a U.S. drone over the Black Sea, forcing the unmanned aircraft to crash.



# Court backs razor wire at Mexico border

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court Wednesday ruled that Border Patrol agents cannot cut razor wire that Texas installed on the U.S.-Mexico border in the town of Eagle Pass, which has become the center of the state's aggressive measures to curb migrant crossings.

The decision by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals is a victory for Texas in a long-running rift over immigration policy with the Biden administration, which has also sought to remove

floating barriers installed on the Rio Grande.

Texas has continued to install razor wire along its roughly 1,200-mile border with Mexico over the past year. In a 2-1 ruling, the court issued an injunction blocking Border Patrol agents from damaging the wire in Eagle Pass.

"We continue adding more razor wire border barrier," Republican Gov. Greg Abbott posted on the social platform X in response to the ruling.

A spokesperson for the De-

partment of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment Wednesday.

Some migrants have been injured by the sharp wire, and the Justice Department has argued the barrier impedes the U.S. government's ability to patrol the border, including coming to the aid of migrants in need of help. Texas contended in the lawsuit originally filed last year that the federal government was "undermining" the state's border security efforts by cutting

the razor wire.

The ruling comes ahead of President-elect Donald Trump returning to office and pledging a crackdown on immigration. Earlier this month, a Texas official offered a parcel of rural ranchland along the U.S.-Mexico border to use as a staging area for potential mass deportations.

Arrivals at the U.S.-Mexico border have dropped 40% from an all-time high in December. U.S. officials mostly credit Mexican vigilance around rail yards and highway checkpoints.

## Diddy denied bail by a third judge

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sean "Diddy" Combs was denied bail on Wednesday as he awaits a May sex trafficking trial by a judge who cited evidence showing him to be a "serious risk" of witness tampering and proof he has tried to hide prohibited communications with third parties while incarcerated.

U.S. District Judge Arun Subramanian ruled in a five-page order following a bail hearing last week. Lawyers for the hip-hop mogul had argued that a \$50 million bail package they proposed would be sufficient to ensure Combs doesn't flee and doesn't try to intimidate prospective trial witnesses.

Two other judges previously had agreed with prosecutors that the Bad Boy Records founder was a danger to the community if he is not behind bars. Subramanian concurred.

Combs, 55, has pleaded not guilty to charges that he coerced and abused women for years, aided by associates and employees. An indictment alleges that he silenced victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, ar-

son and physical beatings.

An appeal in the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan was put on hold while Subramanian, newly appointed to the case after an earlier judge stepped aside, considered the bail request.

Prosecutors have insisted that no bail conditions would be sufficient to protect the public and prevent Combs from fleeing. They say that even in a federal lockup in Brooklyn, Combs has orchestrated social media campaigns designed to influence prospective jurors and tried to publicly leak materials he thinks can help his case.

Subramanian cited evidence showing that Combs violated Bureau of Prisons regulations during pretrial detention at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn when he paid other inmates to use their phone code numbers so he could make calls to individuals who were not on his approved contact list.

Subramanian said his "willingness to skirt" jailhouse rules to conceal communications was "strong evidence" that any conditions of release would not prevent similar behavior.

## Jury awards man \$412M in lawsuit after medical injections ruin penis

The Charlotte (N.C.) Observer

A jury in New Mexico awarded \$412 million to a man who sued over what he said were unnecessary erectile dysfunction shots that decimated his penis, court documents and his attorneys said.

The jury awarded \$37 million in compensatory damages and \$375 million in punitive damages Monday in the case in Bernalillo County, documents said.

"Because of corporate fraud and greed, (the man) faces irreversible harm that has profoundly impacted his body and his life," Nick Rowley, one of his attorneys, said in a news release. The 72-year-old man's penis is "completely ruined," Rowley said.

The lawsuit names NuMale as well as several people involved with the company. Brad Palubicki, NuMale Medical Center president, said the company is "committed to providing safe, high-quality patient care."

The man who brought the lawsuit sought care at NuMale's Albuquerque clinic in 2017 for testosterone replacement ther-

apy and weight loss, his attorneys and court documents said.

However, he was misdiagnosed as having erectile dysfunction and sold on a \$5,000 treatment program based on that misdiagnosis, the news release said. The treatment included testosterone pellet implantation and injections in his penis, the attorneys said.

The pellets were implanted at the clinic, and "a medical assistant provided (the man) penis medication, including reversal medication, and taught him how to inject them at home," the release said.

He eventually determined the medications weren't working and returned for a follow-up, where his technique was criticized, his attorneys said.

A physician assistant "went on to 'demonstrate' the penis injection and sent (the man) home with a medically induced and medically unnecessary erection," the release said.

The erection wouldn't go away, and he eventually needed emergency surgery, which was unsuccessful, the attorneys said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Man awarded \$13M after wrongful imprisonment**

**MA** FRAMINGHAM — For the nearly three decades that he was behind bars, Michael Sullivan's mother and four siblings died, his girlfriend moved on with her life and he was badly beaten in several prison attacks.

All for a murder he long insisted he never committed.

Earlier this month, the 64-year-old Sullivan got a degree of justice when a Massachusetts jury ruled that he was innocent of the 1986 murder and robbery of Wilfred McGrath. He was awarded \$13 million — though state regulations cap rewards at \$1 million for wrongful convictions. The jury also found a state police chemist falsely testified at the trial though his testimony isn't what guaranteed Sullivan's conviction.

"The most important thing is finding me innocent of the murder, expunging it from my record," said Sullivan, speaking at the Framingham, Mass., office of his lead attorney Michael Heineman. "The money, of course, will be very helpful to me."

A spokesman for the Massachusetts attorney general said, "We respect the jury's verdict and are evaluating whether an appeal is appropriate."

**Officials: Man tried to fly with meth-caked clothing**

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A 31-year-old man was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport after trying to check two suitcases filled with clothing caked in methamphetamine — including a cow pajama onesie, federal prosecutors

announced Tuesday.

Authorities say Raj Matharu, of Northridge, checked two bags before his Nov. 6 flight to Sydney. But screening officers who X-rayed the pink and gray suitcases noticed an anomaly and flagged them for a second inspection.

Inside the suitcases, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers found "white or light-colored clothing items dried stiff and covered in a white residue," according to a criminal complaint filed in the Central District of California. The residue — which was found on items including socks, boxers, tank tops, sweatpants, jeans, hoodies, underwear and a pair of cow onesie pajamas — tested positive for methamphetamine, federal prosecutors say.

**Prosecutors: Group stole items, sold them abroad**

**NY** NEW YORK — A shoplifting ring that stole nearly \$2 million in clothes and beauty products from Macy's and other well-known stores in the U.S. and then resold them in New York City and the Dominican Republic has been busted, law enforcement officials announced Tuesday.

Five New Yorkers have been charged with felony possession of stolen property, conspiracy and other related crimes, Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said.

The group's leaders, married couple Cristopher Guzman and Yvelisse Guzman Batista, directed shoplifting crews to steal specific merchandise as they hit multiple stores in New York, New Jersey, Maryland and elsewhere along the East Coast, she said. They also paid truck driv-

ers to divert products bound for retailers from manufacturer warehouses directly to locations under their control.

The group, operating out of a home in Queens, then resold the merchandise online as well as at a brick-and-mortar boutique called Yvelisse Fashion in Santiago, a city in the Dominican Republic.

**Last 2 communities reach deals with teachers**

**MA** BOSTON — Two Massachusetts communities reached deals with their striking teachers union Tuesday, ending the last of three teachers strikes in communities north of Boston.

The Marblehead School Committee and the Marblehead Education Association announced that they reached tentative agreements and that employees would return to work and schools would reopen on Wednesday.

In Beverly, School Committee Chair Rachael Abell said Tuesday that the committee and the Beverly Teachers Association had reached a tentative agreement that allowed students to return to school on Wednesday.

The unions voted Nov. 7 to authorize the strikes. Teacher strikes are illegal in Massachusetts.

**Ruling moves state closer to legalizing medical pot**

**NE** OMAHA — Three weeks after Nebraska voters overwhelmingly approved medical marijuana the state moved a step closer to allowing it Tuesday when a judge ruled that the petitions that put the question on the ballot were

valid.

The decision by Lancaster County District Judge Susan Strong was a victory for advocates of medical marijuana, but opponents are likely to appeal it to the state Supreme Court.

"To prevail in this action, the plaintiff and Secretary had to show that more than 3,463 signatures on the Legalization Petition and 3,357 signatures on the Regulatory Petition are invalid. The Plaintiff and Secretary are well short," Strong wrote. Fewer than 1,000 signatures on each petition were shown to be invalid.

A spokesperson for the Nebraska attorney general said the office's lawyers were reviewing the ruling and considering whether to file an appeal.

More than two-thirds of Nebraska voters supported legalization at the polls Nov. 5. The results are scheduled to be certified Dec. 2.

**Confiscated-booze auction is a product of new law**

**KY** FRANKFORT — Looking for hard-to-find bottles of Kentucky bourbon to toast the holidays or add to a collection? Get your bids ready as the Bluegrass State launches its first online auction of confiscated alcohol.

The sale is the result of a new Kentucky law, which allows alcohol confiscated from closed criminal investigations by the state's alcoholic beverage control agency to be auctioned.

Online bidding opened Wednesday and closes at midnight on Dec. 11. Proceeds will support programs promoting responsible alcohol use by adults and awareness programs for youths.

— From wire reports

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# No. 4 Auburn wins Maui Invitational

*Associated Press*

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Johni Broome scored 21 points and grabbed 16 rebounds to lead No. 4 Auburn to the Maui Invitational championship with a 90-76 victory over Memphis on Wednesday.

Auburn (7-0) opened the game with a 9-0 run spurred by Broome's 3-pointer from the right wing just 22 seconds in.

Broome had 15 points and 11 rebounds by halftime and finished 8-for-15 from the field with six assists and four blocks.

Dylan Cardwell shot 8 of 8 from the field and finished with 18 points. Chad Baker-Mazara added 14 points and Denver Jones chipped in 11 points for Auburn.

PJ Haggerty led Memphis (6-1) with 27 points on 11-of-20 shooting while Dain Dainja added 15 points.

Auburn, which led 47-31 at halftime, pulled ahead by 22 points with four minutes to play.

**Dayton 85, No. 2 UConn 67:** Enoch Cheeks scored 20 points to lead the Flyers past the Huskies in the seventh-place game of the Maui Invitational.

Dayton (6-2) got 18 points from Nate Santos, 16 from Posh Alexander and 15 from Zed Key, who also led the team with nine rebounds.

Alex Karaban made four of his team's eight 3-pointers and scored 15 of his team-high 21 points in the first half to lead the Huskies (4-3), who lost all three games they played at the tournament.

Karaban hit a 3-pointer that put UConn ahead 30-27 with 4:34 left before halftime, but Dayton closed out the first half on a 15-4 run to take a 41-34 halftime lead.

**West Virginia 86, No. 3 Gonzaga 78 (OT):** Javon Small scored five of his 31 points in overtime and Tucker DeVries added key free throws late in regulation and finished with 16 points as the Mountaineers beat

the Bulldogs in the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Amani Hansberry scored a career-high 19 points and Toby Okani added 10 for West Virginia (3-2).

Braden Huff scored 19 points and Khalif Battle 16 for Gonzaga (5-1).

**No. 5 Iowa State 99, Colorado 71:** Milan Momcilovic scored 18 of his career-high 24 points in the first half and the Cyclones pulled away from the Buffaloes to claim fifth place at the Maui Invitational.

Curtis Jones had 19 points, Keshon Gilbert scored 15 and Dishon Jackson, Joshua Jefferson and Tamin Lipsey added 10 apiece for the Cyclones (5-1). Jones and Jefferson grabbed six rebounds each, Gilbert had six assists and Lipsey contributed four assists and four steals.

Julian Hammond III scored 20 points and Andrej Jakimovski added 18 to lead the Buffaloes (5-2), who were held to 41.8% shooting from the field.

Iowa State held a 45-34 advantage at halftime. It led by as many as 33 late in the game.

**No. 6 Houston 65, Notre Dame 54:** Emanuel Sharp scored 17 points and the Cougars never trailed in beating the Fighting Irish in a game that ended early Thursday morning in the Players Era Festival.

Terrance Arceneaux added 13 points for Houston (4-2), and Milos Uzan had 10 points and nine assists.

Tae Davis led the Fighting Irish (4-3) with 22 points and eight rebounds, and Braeden Shrewsbury scored 16 points.

Both teams came off overtime defeats the days before — Houston losing to No. 9 Alabama 85-80 and Notre Dame falling 85-84 to Rutgers.

The extra work and playing on consecutive nights showed in the second half. Notre Dame went from shooting 50% in the first half to 31% in the second 20 minutes, and Houston followed

a 58.6% opening half by shooting 32.3%.

**No. 7 Tennessee 78, UT Martin 35:** Chaz Lanier scored 18 and the Volunteers extended their season-opening winning streak to seven games.

Felix Okpara had 10 points and 11 rebounds for the Volunteers (7-0). Zakai Zeigler added 11 points and nine assists, and Igor Milicic had 13 rebounds and nine points.

The Skyhawks (2-5) were led by Josu Grullon's 15 points.

Lanier scored 11 points in the first half as Tennessee built a 35-20 lead at the half. Grullon had 10 for UT Martin.

**No. 9 Alabama 95, Rutgers 90:** Mark Sears scored 24 points and the Crimson Tide defeated the Scarlet Knights in the Players Era Festival at MGM Grand Garden.

Grant Nelson had 17 points and nine rebounds for Alabama (6-1), while Mouhamed Dioubate, Jarin Stevenson and Derion Reid scored 10 points apiece.

Dylan Harper led Rutgers (5-2) with a career-high 37 points.

**No. 10 Marquette 94, Stonehill 59:** David Joplin scored 27 points and Kam Jones and Damarious Owens each added 14 to lead the Golden Eagles (7-0) to a win over the Skyhawks (4-5).

Joplin made his first five shots, including three 3-pointers, and was 10 for 12 from the field. Joplin scored a career-high 29 in the Golden Eagles' previous game, an 80-69 win Saturday over Georgia in the Bahamas.

Amir Nesbitt led Stonehill with 14 points.

**Michigan State 94, No. 12 North Carolina 91 (OT):** Tre Holloman and Xavier Booker combined for eight points in overtime and the Spartans (6-2) held off the Tar Heels (4-3) for third place in the Maui Invitational.

Drake Powell scored 18

points, Elliot Cadeau 17 and RJ Davis 16 for the Tar Heels.

**Louisville 89, No. 14 Indiana 61:** Chucky Hepburn had 16 points, 10 assists and seven steals, Noah Waterman also had 16 points and the Cardinals (4-1) beat the Hoosiers (4-1) in the opening game of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Malik Reneau scored 21 points and Oumar Ballo added 11 for Indiana.

**No. 16 Cincinnati 77, Alabama State 59:** Simas Lukosius scored 16 points to lead the Bearcats (6-0) past the Hornets (3-4).

Amarr Knox scored 17 of his 24 points in the first half for Alabama State.

**No. 17 Baylor 91, New Orleans 60:** Jayden Nunn scored 23 points, including seven 3-pointers, and the Bears (5-2) led throughout in a victory over the Privateers.

Dae Dae Hunter had 18 points on six 3s for New Orleans (2-5).

**No. 20 Texas A&M 77, Creighton 73:** Wade Taylor IV scored 18 points to lead the Aggies (5-2) past the Bluejays (4-3) in the Players Era Festival.

Pop Isaacs led all scorers with 25 points with five 3-pointers as Creighton dropped its third straight game.

**Michigan 78, No. 22 Xavier 53:** Danny Wolf had 20 points and 14 rebounds, Vlad Goldin scored 18 points and the Wolverines (6-1) beat the Musketeers (6-1) in the Fort Myers Tip-Off.

Ryan Conwell led Xavier with 19 points.

**No. 24 Arizona 104, Davidson 71:** Anthony Dell'Orso hit five 3-pointers and scored 21 points, Caleb Love added three 3s and 20 points and the Wildcats (3-2) pulled away for a victory over the Wildcats (4-1) at the Battle 4 Atlantis to snap a two-game skid.

Connor Kochera scored 20 points and Bobby Durkin hit five 3s and added 15 points for Davidson.



# Young has 22 assists in win over Cavs

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Trae Young had a career-high 22 assists — the most in the NBA this season — and scored 20 points as the Atlanta Hawks handed Cleveland just its second loss this season, beating the Cavaliers 135-124 on Thursday night.

The Cavs fell to 17-2 and lost for the first time in 11 home games.

De'Andre Hunter added 26 points and Jalen Johnson 22 for the Hawks, who made all the big plays down the stretch to stun the Cavs. Rookie Zaccharie Risacher, the No. 1 overall pick in this year's draft, scored 13 of his 17 points in the first three minutes of the second half for Atlanta.

Donovan Mitchell scored 30 and Evan Mobley added 22 points and 13 rebounds for Cleveland, which was trying to become the first team to start 18-1 or better.

**Magic 133, Bulls 119:** Jalen Suggs scored a career-high 31 points and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored a season-high 24 on 6-for-10 shooting from 3-point range to help host Orlando beat Chicago.

Ayo Dosunmu led the Bulls with 21 points and Nikola Vucetic added 19 points and 11 rebounds.

The Magic raced out to an early lead and led by 13 after the first quarter and by as many as 27 points on the way to their fourth straight win and 10th in their last 11 games.

Franz Wagner had 21 points and six assists to help the Magic.

**Heat 98, Hornets 94:** Tyler Herro scored 27 points, Duncan Robinson added 22 points with six 3-pointers and visiting Miami held on to defeat Charlotte.

Bam Adebayo had 10 rebounds and 10 assists for the Heat, who bounced back from a 106-103 loss to the Milwaukee Bucks in an NBA Cup game on Tuesday night.

LaMelo Ball had 32 points and 10 rebounds for the Hornets, who have lost five of their last six. Brandon Miller had 21 points and rookie Tidjane Salaun scored a career-high 17 points.

**Pacers 121, Trail Blazers 114:** Pascal Siakam matched a season high with 29 points, Tyrese Haliburton had 28 and 10 assists and host Indiana overcame a sluggish first half to defeat Portland.

Bennedict Mathurin added 24 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana.

The Pacers led by 11 entering the final quarter and fended off a Trail Blazers rally as Haliburton scored 12 points and Siakam nine down the stretch for their third consecutive victory.

**Clippers 121, Wizards 96:** James Harden scored a season-high 43 points in 32 minutes to help visiting Los Angeles romp to a victory over Washington, handing them their 13th consecutive defeat.

Harden hit seven 3-pointers, had 23 points in the first quarter and eclipsed his previous season high of 29 by halftime. The 10-time All-Star posted his highest point total since scoring 44 at Detroit on March 26, 2021, despite exiting the game at the end of the third.

Ivica Zubac added 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Clippers, who have won six of seven.

**Rockets 122, 76ers 115 (OT):** Jalen Green scored a season-high 41 points, Alperen Senogun added 22 points and 14 rebounds and visiting Houston beat Philadelphia in overtime.

Tyrese Maxey scored 39 points, including 28 in the second half, in the loss for Philadelphia, which played without Paul George and Joel Embiid and fell to 3-14. Maxey, who tied the game with three free throws with just over 11 seconds left, was held scoreless in overtime.

**Mavericks 129, Knicks 114:** Kyrie Irving scored 23 points

and host Dallas improved to 4-1 this season without superstar Luka Doncic, beating New York.

Jalen Brunson tied his season high with 37 points for New York in his second game in Dallas against his former team.

Doncic missed his fourth consecutive game with a sprained right wrist.

**Raptors 119, Pelicans 93:** Ochai Agbaji and Jamison Battle each scored 24 points, and visiting Toronto won on the road for the first time this season over hapless New Orleans.

Djounte Murray returned from a fractured left hand that sidelined him for 17 games and looked rusty early. He finished with 14 points, but missed all seven of his first-half shots and shot 5 of 17 overall as the Pelicans lost their sixth straight game and 15th out of 17.

CJ McCollum scored 19 points in his second game since returning from an adductor strain and missing 13 contests.

**Grizzlies 131, Pistons 111:** Marcus Smart scored a season-high 25 points to lead host Memphis to a victory over Detroit.

Smart was 8-for-12 from the field, including 7-for-11 from outside the arc. Scotty Pippen Jr. and Jake LaRavia finished with 19 points apiece, Pippen adding seven rebounds while hitting 9 of 12 shots as Memphis won its fourth straight. LaRavia missed only one of his nine shots.

Marcus Sasser led the Pistons with 22 points, while Simone Fontecchio had 18. Jaden Ivey finished with 17 points.

**Kings 115, Timberwolves 104:** Malik Monk had 27 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, De'Aaron Fox added 26 points, eight assists and eight rebounds, and visiting Sacramento rode a gritty performance underneath both baskets to a victory against scuffling Minnesota.

**Lakers 119, Spurs 101:** Anthony Davis had 19 points and 14

rebounds, LeBron James finished with 16 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds visiting Los Angeles beat San Antonio.

Rookie Dalton Knecht had 20 points on 4-for-10 shooting from long distance as the Lakers snapped a three-game skid.

Victor Wembanyama had 20 points and 10 rebounds as the Spurs had their four-game winning streak ended. Harrison Barnes added 19 points and Julian Champagnie scored 18.

**Nuggets 122, Jazz 103:** Nikola Jokic had 30 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists to lead visiting Denver to a victory over Utah.

Jokic scored 19 points on 8-of-10 shooting in the first quarter alone to rally Denver from an early 12-point deficit.

Jamal Murray added 22 points, eight assists and four steals for the Nuggets. Michael Porter Jr. had 19 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Christian Braun finished with 18 points and seven boards.

**Nets 127, Suns 117:** Tyrese Martin scored a career-high 30 points, Dennis Schroder added 29 and injury-depleted visiting Brooklyn beat Phoenix.

The Nets have won four of their last five games. The Suns have lost seven of nine.

Martin shot 10-for-13 from the field, including 8 for 10 from 3-point range, in his best NBA performance by a wide margin. He had scored just 33 points in 21 career games before Wednesday.

**Thunder 105, Warriors 101:** Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 35 points, Jalen Williams exited late in the first half with a right eye injury and visiting Oklahoma City held off Curry-less Golden State.

Andrew Wiggins made it a one-point game on a 3-pointer with 11 seconds left. After Gilgeous-Alexander missed a free throw at the other end, Wiggins was blocked by Luguentz Dort on a game-tying layup.