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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## **Government moves slowly toward reopening**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The longest government shutdown in U.S. history is over — on paper, at least.

But the American public isn't done with it yet: Getting everything back up and running doesn't happen all at once.

The disruption of the closure, clocking in at 43 days, varied in its impact. Some people, like unpaid federal workers, were immediately and directly affected. Others included recipients of federal funding through programs like Head Start and food aid through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Reclaiming "normal" won't be instantaneous. Here's a guide to what reopening looks like:

### The military

WHAT HAPPENED: Members of the U.S. military dealt with weeks of anxiety over whether they would get paid as they continued working. The Trump administration ultimately found ways to pay troops for the two pay periods during the closure. But the process was

fraught; the administration located the money just days before each paycheck. Pay arrived days later than usual for many service members with early direct deposit, disrupting their ability to pay bills and forcing some to pay late fees or rack up debt. Reimbursements for the cost of moving between bases, which affects roughly 400,000 military families each year, were paused during the shutdown, advocates said.

WHAT NOW: Civilians in the Defense Department began returning Thursday. An Air Force memo said civilians could take a day of administrative leave or work remotely for up to a week. Several military officials said the impacts on active-duty troops have been minimal.

### **Federal workers**

WHAT HAPPENED: About 1.25 million federal workers haven't been paid since Oct. 1, missing about \$16 billion in wages, according to official estimates. The workers were either furloughed or worked without pay in agencies across the federal government. Many strug-

gled to make ends meet during that time, and the regional economy around Washington, D.C., took a hit.

WHAT NOW: The Office of Personnel Management, which manages the civil service, posted on X that federal workers were expected to be back Thursday, saying that "employees are expected to begin the workday on time. Normal operating procedures are in effect." The pay owed to the workers will come in by Nov. 19. The money will go out in four separate payments, depending on the agency, according to a senior administration official.

### Flight disruptions

WHAT HAPPENED: The shutdown caused significant disruptions in aviation, with more and more unpaid air traffic controllers missing work as they dealt with the financial pressures and some of them picked up side jobs. Those staff shortages, combined with some troubling safety data, prompted the government to order airlines to cut some of their flights over the past week to relieve

pressure on the system.

WHAT NOW: Those cuts aren't increasing right now, but the Federal Aviation Administration won't lift the order until safety metrics improve. Airlines say they expect to resume normal operations quickly after that. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has said that controllers and other FAA employees should receive 70% of their back pay within 24-48 hours of the end of the shutdown, with the rest to come.

#### **SNAP**

WHAT HAPPENED: Among the most high-profile impacts of the shutdown was on the SNAP program, which serves around 42 million people — about 1 in 8 Americans — in lower-income households.

WHAT NOW: On Thursday, state officials said they were working quickly to get full benefits to the millions of people who missed their regular monthly payments. Some states said SNAP recipients should receive their full monthly benefits starting Thursday or Friday, though it could take up to a week.

### China starts sea trials for amphibious assault ship

Associated Press

BANGKOK — China began sea trials of its most advanced amphibious assault ship on Friday, only a week after commissioning its latest aircraft carrier as part of the rapid modernization of its navy, which is already the world's largest.

The Sichuan Type 076 vessel, which set sail from Shanghai's Hudong-Zhonghua Shipyard, combines some of the attributes of an aircraft carrier and earlier

amphibious assault ships, with the ability to launch both aircraft and landing craft loaded with troops.

It is about half the size of the Fujian, the latest aircraft carrier commissioned by China on Nov. 7, with a displacement of some 40,000 tons. Both ships were indigenously designed and built.

Exact technical specifications have not been released, but amphibious assault ships are typically faster than carriers, which gives them more operational flexibility, but they are more lightly protected against attack, and cannot carry as many or as broad a range of aircraft.

China's navy already has more ships than the U.S. Navy, but it lags behind in capabilities with fewer aircraft carriers, amphibious assault ships and other key vessels. It has embarked on a massive building program, however, as part of leader Xi Jinping's broad military modernization plan.

Xi's stated aim is to have a fully modernized force by 2035 and one that is "world class" by midcentury, which is widely interpreted as one whose capabilities rival those of the United States.

One of Xi's goals is to take the democratically self-governed island of Taiwan, and he has not ruled out the use of force.

# New prosecutor to take on election case against Trump

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A longtime prosecutor announced he will take over the Georgia election interference case against President Donald Trump and others, after Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis was removed from the case and no one else wanted the job.

The nonpartisan Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia was tasked with finding someone to lead the case after Willis was disqualified over an "appearance of impropriety" created by a romantic relationship with the special prosecutor she'd chosen to lead it. The organization's executive director, Pete Skandalakis, said Friday that he would take the case on himself.

"Several prosecutors were contacted and, while all were respectful and professional, each declined the appointment," Skandalakis said in a statement.

While it is unlikely that any action against Trump could proceed while he is the sitting president, there are 14 other people still facing charges in the case, including former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows and former New York mayor and Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani.

Trump earlier this week announced pardons for people accused of backing his efforts to overturn the results of that election — including those charged in Georgia — but Skandalakis has said that has no bearing on these state charges.

After the Georgia Supreme Court in September declined to hear Willis' appeal of her disqualification, it fell to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council to find a new prosecutor. Skandalakis can continue to follow Willis' vision for the prosecution, decide to pursue only some

charges or dismiss the case altogether.

Although Skandalakis said he could have let the deadline lapse or told the court no prosecutor was available, which would have resulted in the case's dismissal, he didn't think that was "the right course of action."

"The public has a legitimate interest in the outcome of this case," he wrote. "Accordingly, it is important that someone make an informed and transparent determination about how best to proceed."

Skandalakis said Willis' office brought him 101 boxes of documents related to the investigation on Oct. 29 and a hard drive containing the entire investigative file on Nov. 6.

Steve Sadow, Trump's lead attorney in Georgia, said he is confident that "fair and impartial review" will lead to a dismissal of the case.

## New opioid settlement draws few objections

NEW YORK — Lawyers representing OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma, branches of the Sackler family that own it, cities, states, counties, Native American tribes, people with addiction and others across the U.S. are expected to deliver a nearly unanimous message for a bankruptcy court judge Friday: approve a plan to settle thousands of opioid-related lawsuits against the company.

If U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Sean Lane abides, it will close a long chapter — and maybe the entire book — on a legal odyssey over efforts to hold the company to account for its role in an opioid crisis connected to 900,000 deaths in the U.S. since 1999, including deaths from heroin and illicit fentanyl.

Closing arguments were expected Friday in the third day of a hearing over a bankruptcy plan for the company, which filed for protection six years ago as it faced lawsuits with claims that grew to trillions of dollars.

The U.S. Supreme Court rejected a previous deal because it said it was improper for Sackler family members to receive immunity from lawsuits over opioids.

In the new arrangement, entities who don't opt into the settlement can sue them.

This time, the government groups involved have reached an even fuller consensus and there's been mostly subdued opposition from individuals. Out of more than 54,000 personal injury victims who voted on whether the plan should be accepted, just 218 said no. A larger number of people who are part of that group didn't vote.

# ACLU suit alleges appalling conditions at California's largest detention facility

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A federal lawsuit filed Wednesday alleges appalling conditions at California's largest immigration detention facility, a formerly mothballed prison in the desert where sewage bubbles up from shower drains and detainees are forced to use dirty bandages to wrap open sores.

The American Civil Liberties Union and others are representing seven men at a detention facility in California City. The complaint was filed in District Court for Northern California. "ICE is playing with people's lives, and they treat people like they're trash, like they're nothing," said one of the plaintiffs, Sokhean Keo, in a press release issued Thursday. "Some of the people I'm detained with don't even have soap — they take showers without soap — and they're losing weight because they don't have enough to eat."

Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, denied the allegations and said that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement "has higher detention standards" than most prisons:

"All detainees are provided with 3 meals a day, clean water, clothing, bedding, showers, and toiletries, and have access to phones to communicate with their family members and lawvers.

Certified dieticians evaluate meals," she said in a statement, adding that it is taxpayer-fund-

President Donald Trump's administration has aggressively sought to remove people living in the country illegally.

# **Emails: Epstein kept ties with key figures**

Associated Press

By the time Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 to soliciting prostitution from an underage girl, he had established an enormous network of wealthy and influential friends. Emails made public this week show the crime did little to diminish the desire of that network to stay connected to the financier.

Thousands of documents released by the House Oversight Committee on Wednesday offer a new glimpse into what Epstein's relationships with business executives, reporters, academics and political players looked like over a decade.

They start with messages he sent and received around the time he finished serving his Florida sentence in 2009 and continue until the months before his arrest on federal sex trafficking charges in 2019.

During that time, Epstein's network was eclectic, spanning the globe and political affiliations: from the liberal academic Noam Chomsky to Steve Bannon, the longtime ally of President Donald Trump.

Some reached out to support Epstein amid lawsuits and prosecutions, others sought introductions or advice on everything from dating to oil prices. One consulted him on how to respond to accusations of sexual harassment.

Epstein was charged with sex trafficking in 2019, and killed himself in jail a month later. Epstein's crimes, high-profile connections and jailhouse suicide have made the case a magnet for conspiracy theorists and online sleuths seeking proof of a cover-up.

The emails do not implicate his contacts in those alleged crimes. They instead paint a picture of Epstein's influence and connections over the years he was a registered sex offender.

### **Political network**

Epstein emailed current and former political figures on all sides, sending news clips and discussing strategy or gossip often in short, choppy emails laden with spelling and grammatical errors.

In several emails in 2018, Epstein advised Bannon on his political tour of Europe that year. Bannon first forwarded Epstein a news clip that described the German media as "underestimating" Bannon and that he was "As Dangerous as Ever."

"luv it," Epstein responded.

Epstein wrote that he'd just spoken to "one of the country leaders that we discussed" and that "we should lay out a strategy plan. . how much fun."

A few months earlier, Epstein

was insulting Trump — whose movement Bannon was a representative of — in emails to Kathryn Ruemmler, the former White House counsel under President Barack Obama.

Ruemmler sent a message to Epstein calling Trump "so gross." A portion of that message was redacted, but Epstein replied, "worse in real life and upclose."

In other emails with Ruemmler, Epstein detailed a whirlwind of well-known people he appears to have been meeting, hosting or speaking with that week, including an ambassador, a tech giant, foreign business people, academics and a film director.

"you are a welcome guest at any," he wrote.

#### **Social circles**

The financier emailed often with people in the upper echelons of wealth around the world, brokering introductions and chatting about politics and foreign affairs.

That included Silicon Valley investor Peter Thiel, who Epstein sent an email to in 2014 saying "that was fun, see you in 3 weeks."

Four years later, Epstein asked if Thiel was enjoying Los Angeles, and, after Thiel said he couldn't complain, replied "Dec visit me Caribbean." It's un-

clear if Thiel ever responded.

In emails with Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, an Emirati businessman, Epstein complimented Bannon, saying in 2018 that "We have become friends you will like him."

"Trump doesn't like him," Sulayem responded.

A year earlier, Sulayem asked Epstein about an event where it appeared Trump would be in attendance, asking, "Do you think it will be possible to shake hand with trump."

"Call to discuss," Epstein wrote back.

In January 2010, biotech venture capitalist Boris Nikolic was attending the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and Epstein emailed to ask, "any fun?"

Nikolic replied that he had met "your friend" Bill Clinton, as well as then-French President Nicholas Sarkozy and "your other friend," Prince Andrew, "as he has some questions re microsoft."

But then Nikolic said he was getting sick of meetings. Later, he wrote Epstein that "it would be blast that you are here." He mentioned flirting with a 22-year-old woman.

"It turns out she is with her husand. Did not have chance to check him out. But as we concluded, anything good is rented;)" Nikolic wrote.

### Blue Origin's rocket takes Mars-bound craft to space

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Blue Origin launched its huge New Glenn rocket Thursday with a pair of NASA spacecraft destined for Mars.

It was only the second flight of the rocket that Jeff Bezos' company and NASA are counting on to get people and supplies to the moon — and it was a complete success.

The 321-foot New Glenn blasted into the afternoon sky

from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, sending NASA's twin Mars orbiters on a drawnout journey to the red planet. Liftoff was stalled four days by lousy local weather as well as solar storms strong enough to paint the skies with auroras as far south as Florida.

In a remarkable first, Blue Origin recovered the booster following its separation from the upper stage and the Mars orbiters, an essential step to recy-

cle and slash costs similar to SpaceX. Company employees cheered wildly as the booster landed upright on a barge 375 miles offshore. An ecstatic Bezos watched the action from Launch Control.

"Next stop, moon!" employees chanted following the booster's bull's-eye landing. Twenty minutes later, the rocket's upper stage deployed the two Mars orbiters in space, the mission's main objective.

New Glenn's inaugural test flight in January delivered a prototype satellite to orbit, but failed to land the booster on its floating platform in the Atlantic.

The identical Mars orbiters, named Escapade, will spend a year hanging out near Earth, stationing themselves 1 million miles away. Once Earth and Mars are properly aligned next fall, the duo will get a gravity assist from Earth to head to the red planet, arriving in 2027.

# Russian drone, missile strike on Kyiv kills, wounds dozens

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Russia unleashed a major missile and drone barrage on Kyiv early Friday, killing six people, leaving gaping holes in apartment buildings and starting fires as the sound of explosions boomed across the city and lit up the night sky. A pregnant woman was among at least 35 people wounded, Ukrainian authorities said.

Russia used at least 430 drones and 18 missiles in the nighttime attack, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said.

Russia has waged a devastating aerial campaign against Ukraine since its all-out invasion of its neighbor nearly four years ago. U.S.-led diplomatic efforts this year to stop the fighting have so far come to nothing.

Friday's aerial assault, which also targeted Odesa in the south and Kharkiv in the northeast, was mostly aimed at Kyiv, where drones and missiles smashed into high-rise apartment blocks, according to Zelenskyy.

It was "a specially calculated attack to cause as much harm as possible to people and civilians," he said in a post on Telegram.

Moscow denies targeting civilian areas, with the Russian Defense Ministry saying Friday it carried out an overnight strike on Ukraine's "military-industrial and energy facilities." Ukrainian officials scoff at those claims, showing repeated damage to homes and public buildings.

The attack was the biggest on Kyiv in almost three weeks. Most recent Russian aerial attacks have aimed at electricity infrastructure around the country ahead of the bitter winter months.

Ukraine used its Americanmade Patriot air defense systems to repel the attack and shot down 14 missiles, Zelenskyy said. The Ukrainian leader has pleaded with foreign supporters to send more of the sophisticated systems.

Top European defense officials meeting in Berlin on Friday vowed to keep up their support for Ukraine. Ukrainian Defense Minister Denys Shmyhal joined the meeting remotely.

The Azerbaijan Embassy in Kyiv was damaged by debris from an Iskander missile — a development that Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev said was "unacceptable." Azerbaijan is a key transport corridor for Russia's trade with Iran and other partners in the Middle East.

In the Odesa region, Russian drones struck a busy street on market day in Chornomorsk, killing two people and wounding 11 others, including a 19-month-old girl, regional military administration chief Oleh Kiper said.

## BBC apologizes to Trump over editing

Bloomberg

The British Broadcasting Corp. issued a formal apology to Donald Trump on Thursday over the misleading edit of the president's speech in a documentary program late last year but rejected his demands for compensation.

BBC Chairman Samir Shah sent a personal letter to the White House "making clear to President Trump that he and the corporation are sorry for the edit of the President's speech on 6 January 2021, which featured in the programme," the BBC said in a statement.

Separately, lawyers for the national broadcaster have written to Trump's legal team in response to the president's threats of legal action, seeking no less than \$1 billion in damages if the BBC didn't issue an apology, retract the documentary and compensate the president appropriately for "harm caused."

"While the BBC sincerely regrets the manner in which the video clip was edited, we strongly disagree there is a basis for a defamation claim," the broadcaster said in a statement.

The BBC also said it would not rebroadcast the documentary "Trump: A Second Chance?" on any of its platforms.

The broadcaster will be hoping an apology will be enough to avoid a damaging defamation suit.

U.K. Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said the corporation was "treating this seriously."

"They are right to apologize for serious mistakes; they are right to have sought legal advice to respond robustly to that point," she told the BBC's Today program on Friday.

She added that the BBC hadn't asked the government to intervene in its dispute with Trump.

In a letter Sunday, Trump attorney Alejandro Brito said if the BBC didn't comply by Nov. 14 at 5 p.m. New York time, the president would "be left with no alternative but to enforce his legal and equitable rights," including by filing a lawsuit.

### Chinese astronauts return home after delay

Associated Press

BEIJING — Three Chinese astronauts returned from their nation's space station Friday after more than a week's delay because the return capsule they had planned to use was damaged, likely from being hit by space debris.

The team left their Shenzhou-20 spacecraft in orbit and came back using the recently arrived Shenzhou-21, which had ferried a three-person replacement crew to the station, China's Manned Space Agency said

The original return plan was scrapped because a window in the Shenzhou-20 capsule had tiny cracks, most likely caused by impact from space debris, the space agency said Friday.

They had been on a sixmonth rotation and were originally scheduled to return Nov. 5, four days after the new crew arrived. Their return was delayed for nine days, and their 204-day stay in space was the longest for any astronaut at China's space station.

Chen Dong, the mission commander, said he felt at ease after their return, calling his latest space voyage both a training opportunity and a real test

"The path of human space exploration is not smooth," he said after emerging from the capsule. "It's filled with difficulties and challenges. But that is exactly why we choose to walk this path."

Millions of pieces of space debris are circling the Earth at speeds faster than a bullet flies.

The mostly tiny fragments can come from launches and collisions and pose a risk to satellites, space stations and the astronauts who operate outside them.

## Ohtani unanimous NL's MVP for 4th time

## Judge edges Raleigh for 3rd AL accolade

Associated Press

Shohei Ohtani likes winning Most Valuable Player awards. He loves winning the World Series even more.

The two-way Japanese star did both for a second season in a row for the Los Angeles Dodgers, earning his fourth career MVP on Thursday night while unanimously earning the National League honor. He's just the second to win four MVPs after Barry Bonds with seven and the only player to win unanimously more than once.

Considering Ohtani is 31, overtaking Bonds doesn't seem out of the question. Especially if it leads to more Fall Classic opportunities.

"If I'm playing well as an individual that means I'm helping the team win, so in that sense, hopefully I can end up with a couple more MVPs," Ohtani said through an interpreter. "But at the end of the day, it's all about winning games."

In the American League, Aaron Judge became the New York Yankees' fourth threetime winner, edging Seattle's Cal Raleigh with 17 first-place votes to 13 for the switch-hitting catcher. The vote was the closest for an MVP since the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout topped Houston's Alex Bregman by 17-13 in 2019.

Judge, who won the AL award in 2022 and 2024, joined Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle as three-time MVPs with the Yankees. The 33-year-old outfielder led the majors with a .331 batting average and 1.144 OPS while hitting 53 homers.

When asked about his place in MLB and Yankees lore, Judge acknowledged he's in rare company.

"It's tough for me to wrap my head around," Judge said. "It's mind-blowing from my side of things, because I play this game to win, I play this game for my teammates, my family, all the fans in New York."

Later he added: "You've got to pinch yourself every single day. It's truly an incredible honor."

Ohtani won a MVP for the third straight year, his second in the NL with the Dodgers after two in the AL with the Angels. He became the first to win in each league twice after getting the AL honor in 2021 and 2023. Ohtani signed with the crosstown Dodgers the following offseason and won NL MVP in 2024 during his first season in Chavez Ravine. He's also won the World Series in both his seasons with the Dodgers.

Philadelphia Phillies slugger Kyle Schwarber finished second in the NL with 23 secondplace votes and New York Mets outfielder Juan Soto was third with four.

Ohtani hit .282 and led the

NL with a 1.014 OPS. He also had 55 homers, 102 RBIs and 20 stolen bases.

The right-hander returned to pitching in June after missing  $1\frac{1}{2}$  seasons on the mound because of an elbow injury. He struck out 62 batters over 47 innings, slowly increasing his workload while preparing for the postseason.

Judge is the first AL player to win back-to-back MVPs since Detroit's Miguel Cabrera did it in 2012 and 2013.

Raleigh, nicknamed "Big Dumper," led the big leagues with 60 homers, the most for a player primarily a catcher. He started 119 games behind the plate and another 38 at designated hitter.

The 28-year-old also had a career-high 125 RBIs, leading the Mariners to one of their best seasons in franchise history. Judge said he got to know Raleigh a little during the All-Star break and the catcher asked for some leadership tips.

### DeGrom, Acuña voted MLB's top comeback players

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Texas Rangers pitcher Jacob deGrom was voted American League Comeback Player of the Year and Atlanta Braves outfielder Ronald Acuña Jr. earned the National League honor Thursday night.

Edwin Díaz of the New York Mets was selected as the Trevor Hoffman NL Reliever of the Year and Aroldis Chapman of the Boston Red Sox was picked as the Mariano Rivera AL Reliever of the Year.

Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Dodgers won the Edgar

Martinez Outstanding Designated Hitter Award for the fifth straight year, matching the record Ortiz set from 2003-07, and Ohtani and the New York Yankees' Aaron Judge won their third Hank Aaron Awards as the most outstanding offensive performers.

Milwaukee general manager Matt Arnold became the first repeat winner of MLB's Executive of the Year award.

DeGrom, a 37-year-old righthander, had Tommy John surgery in June 2023, made three starts near the end of the 2024 season and went 12-8 with a 2.97 ERA and 185 strikeouts in 172  $\frac{4}{3}$  innings this year, earning his fifth All-Star selection.

Acuña, 27, tore his left ACL on May 26, 2024, and returned to the Braves this past May 23 and made his fifth All-Star team. He hit .290 with 21 home runs, 42 RBIs and nine stolen bases.

Díaz also earned the reliever award in 2018 and 2022, and he became the second three-time winner along with Josh Hader. The 31-year-old right-hander was 6-3 with a 1.63 ERA, 28 saves in 31 chances and 98 strikeouts in 661/3 innings.

The 37-year-old Chapman, an eight-time All-Star, was 5-3 with a 1.17 ERA, 32 saves in 34 chances and 85 strikeouts in 61½ innings. The left-hander did not allow a hit to 50 consecutive batters from July 23 through Sept. 7. Chapman also won the award in 2019.

Arnold's Brewers won their third straight NL Central title in the league's smallest market. The 46-year-old joined the Brewers as vice president and assistant general manager in 2015.



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## Henderson scores 3 TDs as Pats beat Jets

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The Patriots were prepared to give coach Mike Vrabel time to establish a new culture for a team that had won just four games in each of the last two seasons.

He already has New England sitting atop the league in his first year.

Rookie TreVeyon Henderson rushed for two touchdowns and made a TD catch to help Drake Maye and the Patriots win their eighth straight game, 27-14 over the New York Jets on Thursday night.

"No one feels outmatched. We're never going to feel like an underdog," linebacker Robert Spillane said. "We're going to continue to play team defense, team offense, team football and just let the chips fall where they may. ... We know the real season is ahead of us."

The Patriots (9-2) matched their longest streak since Tom Brady's final season with the team in 2019, when they won their first eight. The Patriots' 3-0 record in AFC East games is their best start in the division since 2019 (5-0).

Pending this weekend's

games, New England has the best record in the NFL; Indianapolis and Denver are 8-2. And the Patriots will have a winning season for the first time since 2021, when they last made the playoffs.

"It's a journey," Henderson said. "The NFL comes with a lot of highs and lows. I think the biggest thing is just the preparation going into the week, with the reps that we have just trying to take advantage of them."

With Rhamondre Stevenson out for the third straight game with a toe injury, Henderson logged a career-high 19 rushing attempts, totaling 62 yards. His two TD runs matched his total from Sunday's win over Tampa Bay.

"Don't fix it if it ain't broke," Maye said. "He wants to be great."

Maye was solid, completing 25 of 34 passes for 281 yards and a TD. Stefon Diggs had nine catches for 105 yards, his third 100-yard game of the season.

The Patriots thrived in damp and chilly conditions with temperatures that dipped into the high 30s, compiling 336 total yards while holding the Jets to 245.

New York's Justin Fields threw a touchdown pass to John Metchie III but was otherwise ineffective through the air, going 15 of 26 for 116 yards. He was the Jets' leading rusher with 67 yards and a touchdown on 11 carries. Fields' top receiver, Garrett Wilson, was placed on injured reserve with a knee injury earlier Thursday.

"You kind of just have to roll with it and deal with it. You can't look at your circumstances. Just got to go out there and play," Fields said. "It's tough, but at the end of the day you can't complain about it. It's the circumstances we're in right now."

Jets coach Aaron Glenn said the team shouldn't have to rely on Fields to run the ball so often.

"Can't put Justin in a situation where that's a running back and I think we all know that because we will put him in harm's way," Glenn said. "I thought he put some balls out there. We got to have some guys that make some plays for him, too."

Trailing 27-14 with just over two minutes to play, the Jets (2-8) had a fourth-and-4 on the New England 15, but Fields' pass to tight end Jeremy Ruckert was broken up.

The Jets won the pregame coin toss and took the ball, marching 72 yards over 14 plays and taking a 7-0 lead on Fields' 5-yard TD rush. It was the Jets' first opening-drive TD since Week 16 of last season.

The Patriots responded with a 69-yard drive and a 7-yard touchdown run by Henderson. The 13-play march included a fourth-down pass from Maye to DeMario Douglas.

After a New York punt, Henderson ran for his second TD, also from 7 yards out. He dragged multiple defenders into the end zone to put New England in front 14-7.

Penalties, ill-time mistakes and poor production out of the passing game again stymied the Jets.

They had a chance to get the ball back late in the half, but had a sack nullified by an illegal contact call.

On the next play, cornerback Qwan'tez Stiggers collided with safety Tony Adams, knocking a would-be interception from his hands.

Fields completed just four passes for 23 yards in the first half.

## Cowboys have Marshawn Kneeland on their minds

Associated Press

FRISCO, Texas — Dak Prescott thought of Marshawn Kneeland several times in the star quarterback's first practice with the Dallas Cowboys since their defensive lineman was found dead of an apparent suicide.

"I just countered that with running harder after a play or trying to do something to better this team to show that," Prescott said Thursday.

"It felt good. I know it was a great practice. A lot of guys were out there, good energy, beautiful weather.

"We're not forgetting, but

we're moving forward, carrying on the light."

Prescott and his teammates returned to the practice field exactly a week after getting the news that Kneeland, 24, had evaded officers who were trying to make a traffic stop and he was found dead several hours after fleeing the scene of an accident.

Dallas (3-5-1) plays at Las Vegas (2-7) on Monday night.

A locker room that's normally open to reporters for 45 minutes after most practices was off limits. Instead, several players were brought to the team's indoor practice field, which also serves as a 12,000-seat high

school stadium.

The first two were defensive lineman Solomon Thomas and Prescott. Both had siblings who died by suicide, and both tried to downplay that connection as they explained how they were trying to help their teammates grieve.

"A lot of triggering emotions for myself, not to make that more important than any of the pain that anyone else is feeling right now," said Thomas, whose sister, Ella, was the same age as Kneeland when she died. "... Live for that person. Talk to their spirit. Hold their spirit with you every day."

Kneeland's death came during the Cowboys' open week. They weren't together again as a group until Monday, then were part of a private candlelight vigil Tuesday night.

"I can tell you, my hardest days were those few days before we got to come in and be together," said Prescott, who lost his mother to cancer while at Mississippi State and whose older brother Jace died by suicide in 2020. "The ways that I've dealt with grief is just being in the presence of others who understand what that grief feels like. In this case, it was just your teammates."

## No. 2 Purdue beats No. 8 Alabama 87-80

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Braden Smith scored 29 points, including 21 in the second half, and No. 2 Purdue beat eighthranked Alabama 87-80 on Thursday night in the first matchup of top-10 teams this season.

Trey Kaufman-Renn added 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Boilermakers (3-0), who notched the program's first road win against a top-10, nonconference opponent since winning at Louisville in 1982.

Purdue dominated on the glass, outrebounding the Crimson Tide 52-28. Alabama (2-1) kept it close by hitting 16 of 44 from 3-point range.

Aden Holloway led the Tide with 21 points. Taylor Bol Bowen added 13.

Houston Mallette's 3-pointer tied the game at 80 with 1:42 remaining, but Smith took over from there.

He drove for a layup on the other end and then hit two free throws with 47 seconds left to give the Boilermakers some breathing room.

The game featured 21 lead changes. Kaufman-Renn, Purdue's leading scorer from last season, missed the first two games to injury and made his debut in Tuscaloosa. He had 17 points and eight rebounds in the first half.

No. 17 Michigan State 79,

**San Jose State 60:** Jaxon Kohler had 17 points and a careerhigh 18 rebounds, Jeremy Fears scored a career-high 15 points and had nine assists, and Michigan State beat San Jose State.

Michigan State (3-0) led by 23 points at halftime with Carson Cooper scoring 12 of his 17 points.

The home team had a lackluster start of the second half and struggled to shoot before pulling away late in the game after Fears made a pair of 3-pointers and set Coen Carr up for an alley-oop dunk.

San Jose State (0-3) scored the first eight points of the second half and later cut it to 10 points, but couldn't get closer. Garland Colby scored 14 of his 22 points in the first half, shooting 6 for 10 while the rest of San Jose State's team was 3 of 20 from the field.

Moundi Yaphet had 13 points and 11 rebounds for the visitors.

Michigan State's Kur Teng scored all of his 10 points in the first half, when he made 2 of 4 3-pointers and his teammates were 0 of 6 beyond the arc.

Tom Izzo's team finished 6 for 25 on 3-pointers, a game after missing 13 of 14 3-pointers in a win over then-No. 14 Arkansas.

Carr had eight points, five assists and provided a boost for his team and the fans with a series of dunks.

# WNBA star Thomas joins Project B as league promises higher salaries

Associated Press

WNBA MVP finalist Alyssa Thomas on Tuesday became the second player to join Project B, the new women's basketball league that is expected to begin in Europe and Asia in November 2026.

The Phoenix Mercury star announced her decision on social media a week after Nneka Ogwumike told The Associated Press that she also would play in the new league offering players high salaries and an equity stake.

"Alyssa is the kind of player and person you build around," Project B's chief basketball officer, Alana Beard, told the AP. "Her leadership, competitiveness and professionalism elevate everyone around her. As one of the most respected players in the world, she represents the new era of player partnership and global competition that Project B stands for."

Thomas led the Phoenix Mercury to the WNBA Finals this past season before the team lost to the Las Vegas Aces in four games.

The 6-foot-2 forward spent her first 11 seasons with the Connecticut Sun, twice leading them to the WNBA Finals while earning five All-Star nods.

The 33-year-old has spent previous offseasons playing overseas before joining Unrivaled for its inaugural season last year. Thomas will be back this January in the 3on-3 league that also features many top WNBA players. Project B and Unrivaled will have overlapping dates going forward.

"We're confident with what we've built in collaboration with our athletes, partners and investors," Unrivaled president Alex Bazzell said in a statement. "We remain consistent in our approach to pay players competitively, provide a meaningful stake in the business and keep them home year-round."

Project B will have 66 players divided into six teams.

Each player will receive a larger salary than those currently offered by the WNBA. They also are expected to be higher than those at Unrivaled.

While the financial specifics haven't been disclosed, the potential of more lucrative compensation comes at an important moment for women's professional basketball. As interest in the sport has soared in recent years, the WNBA and players union are locked in tense negotiations over a new collective bargaining agreement, with much of the dispute centered on salary and revenue sharing.

Project B plans to play the inaugural season through April 2027.

That would not interfere with the typical WNBA calendar.

### Kai Trump makes debut at bottom of LPGA Tour

Associated Press

BELLEAIR, Fla. — Kai Trump shot a 13-over 83 on Thursday in her LPGA Tour debut in The Annika, leaving President Donald Trump's granddaughter last in the 108-player field.

In breezy afternoon conditions at Pelican Golf Club, the high school senior bogeyed the first four holes and finished the birdie-less round with nine bogeys and two double bogeys.

"I was definitely more nervous than I expected, but I thought I hit a lot of great shots out there," she said.

"I hit a lot of good shots, just to the wrong spots."

The University of Miami recruit is playing on a sponsor exemption.

"It was pretty cool because I know I hit it far, but kind of playing with the best players in the world and being literally right there or even outdriving on some of the holes, it felt pretty good," said Trump, the daughter of Donald Trump Jr.

"Felt like my game is in a good spot, and especially only being a senior in high school."

Haeran Ryu led the tournament at 6-under 64, also playing in the afternoon.

# Marchand hits 1K points as Panthers win

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Brad Marchand reached 1,000 career points with two assists, Sam Reinhart scored twice and Florida Panthers beat the Washington Capitals 6-3 on Thursday.

Eetu Luoustarinen, Seth Jones, Cole Schwindt and Evan Rodrigues also scored for the Panthers, who began a run of 11 of 12 games at home.

Marchand assisted on Jones' goal that put Florida ahead 5-3 late in the third period and on Luostarinen's empty-netter with 1:30 remaining.

Marchand has 335 goals and 565 assists in 1,116 regular-season games. Jones and Rodrigiues each scored their 100th NHL goals.

Panthers backup goalie Daniil Tarasov stopped 37 shots for his first victory with the club.

Rasmus Sandin, Justin Sourdif and Brandon Duhaine scored for the Capitals. They were 1-3 on a four-game trip.

**Stars 7, Canadiens 0:** Jason Robertson had two goals and an assist, Casey DeSmith stopped 24 shots for his first shutout of the season, and Dallas beat Montreal.

Wyatt Johnston, Esa Lindell, Tyler Seguin, Colin Blackwell and Alexander Petrovic also scored for Dallas, which won its fourth straight game. Radek Faksa had three assists and Mikko Rantanen added two.

DeSmith had 14 saves in the first period, three in the second and seven in the third to get his 13th career shutout.

Jakub Dobes allowed five goals on 13 shots through two periods and Sam Montembeault had four saves in the third for the Canadiens.

The Stars won their seventh straight visit to the Bell Centre, dating back to Oct. 30, 2018.

The Canadiens controlled much of the first period, but Johnston opened the scoring on the power play with 5:39 left, finishing a tic-tac-toe play with Roope Hintz and Rantanen.

**Kings 4, Maple Leafs 3, OT:** Quinton Byfield scored on a one-timer 35 seconds into overtime to give Los Angeles a victory over injury-hit Toronto.

Warren Foegele, Kevin Fiala and Alex Laferriere also scored for Los Angeles. The Kings have won three in a row and four of five to improve to 9-5-4.

Darcy Kuemper made 12 saves, and Drew Doughty had two assists.

John Tavares scored twice for Toronto, Bobby McMann added a goal and Dennis Hildeby stopped 33 shots. The Maple Leafs have lost four straight to drop to 8-8-2.

Toronto played without captain Auston Matthew (lowerbody injury) and goalie Anthony Stolarz (upper-body injury) after both left Tuesday night in a 5-4 loss at Boston.

**Red Wings 6, Ducks 3:** Alex DeBrincat had two goals and an assist and Detroit beat Anaheim Ducks to end a three-game losing streak.

DeBrincat has 18 goals and 33 points in 20 career games against the Ducks.

Moritz Seider and Dylan Larkin each had a goal and an assist, and Axel Sandin-Pellikka scored his second career goal. Michael Rasmussen also scored after being deactivated for Detroit's 5-1 loss to Chicago on Sunday.

Jonatan Berggren, Patrick Kane and Lucas Raymond added two assists apiece.

Seider and DeBrincat scored on power plays, reviving a Detroit unit that had gone 1-for-20 during its previous five games.

John Gibson and Cam Talbot combined for 25 saves. Gibson departed after two periods due to an undisclosed injury.

**Blue Jackets 5, Oilers 4:** Mathieu Olivier scored two goals and had an assist, Charlie Coyle had a goal and two assists and Columbus extended its home winning streak to three games with a victory over Edmonton.

Adam Fantilli and Denton Mateychuk also had goals and Jet Greaves made 25 saves for Columbus, who flipped the script on an Edmonton team that rallied from a two-goal third-period deficit and beat them in a shootout Monday.

Leon Draisaitl scored twice and Matt Savoie and Vasily Podkolzin each added goals for the Oilers, whose two-game winning streak ended. Evan Bouchard had three assists, Connor McDavid added two and Calvin Pickard made 20 saves for Edmonton, which dropped its fifth straight at Nationwide Arena, dating to 2019.

**Senators 5, Bruins 3:** Tim Stützle scored twice in the third period and Ottawa beat Boston to end its seven-game win streak.

Dylan Cozens and Claude Giroux each had a goal and an assist for Ottawa, while Shane Pinto scored just hours after signing a four-year extension. Leevi Merilainen finished with 18 saves.

Morgan Geekie had a goal and an assist, and David Pastrnak and Mark Kastelic also scored for the Bruins. Joonas Korpisalo stopped 18 shots.

Boston lost for the first time since a 7-2 defeat against the Senators on Oct. 27.

**Flames 2, Sharks 0:** Dustin Wolf made 16 saves for his first shutout of the season and fourth overall in Calgary's victory over San Jose.

The Flames ended a threegame losing streak. At 5-12-2, they are last in the NHL with 12 points — two ahead of Buffalo and Nashville.

Blake Coleman scored at 5:46 of the second, beating goalie Yaroslav Askarov with a high shot following a turnover by defensemen Sam Dickinson and Philipp Kurashev.

Samuel Honzek added an empty-netter with five seconds remaining.

**Avalanche 6, Sabres 3:** Martin Necas had two goals and two

assists, and Colorado beat Buffalo for its fifth straight win.

Gavin Brindley had a goal and an assist, and Artturi Lehkonen, Brock Nelson and Gabriel Landeskog also scored for the Avalanche, who extended their point streak to nine games (7-0-2). Mackenzie Blackwood had 19 saves.

Tage Thompson had a goal and an assist, and Bowen Byram and Jordan Greenway also scored as the Sabres lost their fifth straight — four in a row in regulation. Alex Lyon was pulled after giving up two goals on three shots, and Ukko-Pekka Luukonen finished with 27 sayes.

**Kraken 5, Jets 3:** Jordan Eberle broke a tie at 7:21 of the third period and added an empty-netter in Seattle's victory over Winnipeg.

Kaapo Kakko, Eeli Tolvanen and Vince Dunn also scored for Seattle, and Dunn and Matty Beniers each had two assists. Phillip Grubauer stopped 23 shots in place of the injured Joey Daccord.

Mark Scheifele had a goal and assist for Winnipeg. Alex Iafallo and Kyle Connor also scored for the Jets, who dropped to 1-4 on a six-game trip. Connor Hellebuyck made 13 saves.

**Islanders 4, Golden Knights 3, OT:** Jean-Gabriel Pageau scored a short-handed goal at 3:02 of overtime, and New York beat Vegas for its third straight win.

Matthew Schaefer had a goal and an assist, and Mathew Barzal and Emil Heineman also scored for New York. Bo Horvat and Jonathan Drouin each had two assists and Ilya Sorokin stopped 26 shots as the Islanders improved to 5-1-1 in their past seven games.

Shea Theodore, Thomas Hertl and Reilly Smith scored for Vegas, which lost its fourth straight (0-2-2) and seventh in its last nine (2-4-3).

Akira Schmid finished with 20 saves.