

Fort Hood reviews patient-safety policies

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

As criminal investigators look into allegations that a Fort Hood doctor secretly recorded his exams, base officials said they are also reviewing hospital policies and systems put in place to protect patients from abuse.

A military health care policy requires that doctors accommodate a patient request for a chaperone during exams, yet women who saw Maj. Blaine McGraw, an OB-GYN at Fort Hood, in Texas, have reported he was able to take advantage of them because they were in the room alone during breast or pelvic exams, according to legal filings. Some said McGraw did not provide a medical gown and denied requests to have their spouse or partner in the room with them during exams.

Women have reported that McGraw used his phone to record their appointments without permission, groped them during exams and made inappropriate comments or after-hours phone calls that made them uncomfortable, according to a lawsuit filed in Bell County court and an administrative claim filed directly

to the Army. Both were filed on behalf of women each using the anonymous moniker “Jane Doe.”

McGraw, 47, has not been charged with a crime, but was suspended Oct. 17 from his position at Fort Hood’s Carl R. Darnall Army Medical Center as the Army Criminal Investigation Division investigates the allegations against him.

Systems, clinical processes, policies and other areas related to the situation are also being reviewed, according to a statement from Fort Hood.

“These investigations are intended to ensure that the rigorous standards in place were followed. Fort Hood recognizes the great trust and responsibility inherent in caring for our soldiers, families, and beneficiaries, and will continue to care for everyone involved throughout this process,” Fort Hood officials said.

The Defense Health Agency policy allows a patient to request a chaperone or standby during physical exams and treatments. The request can specify the chaperone’s gender and, when possible, the medical staff should honor the request or help the patient

reschedule the appointment. The policy makes an exception for emergency situations.

The American Medical Association recommends this type of policy, as well as use of appropriate gowns, draping and private facilities for undressing.

Doctors should also clearly explain components of the physical exam, according to the association.

Attorney Andrew Cobos filed a lawsuit against McGraw on behalf of a client in Bell County, where Fort Hood is located, and said he wanted to file the suit quickly to get these policies scrutinized.

“That’s the only way change is going to occur,” Cobos said.

Christine Dunn, an attorney representing five patients of McGraw’s who intend to file administrative claims, said policies meant to protect patients are only as good as their enforcement.

“How is someone supposed to know that they should ask for a chaperone if they aren’t being told what their rights are?” she said. “I think a better policy is, ‘We will ask you if you would like a chaperone, and you have the right to say yes or no.’”

One client said she thought she remembered a sign on the wall during her appointment explaining the chaperone policy, but Dunn said this again puts the burden on the patient.

An administrative claim filed with the Army last week by attorney Laurie Higginbotham on behalf of a client stated there were “systemic violations” of the chaperone policy and there were no supervisory measures in place to prevent McGraw from isolating patients or to respond to concerning behavior.

“On numerous occasions, patients requested that their husbands or partners be present during examinations, but the Army denied these requests and forced patients to be alone with Dr. McGraw” according to the lawsuit claim.

The claim further stated support staff around McGraw were not trained to recognize, report or prevent physician misconduct.

Fort Hood said that criminal investigators arrived within hours on Oct. 17, when officials received the first report from a patient describing misconduct by McGraw, and the doctor was immediately suspended.

China jams communications amid Filipino supply delivery

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine forces transported food, fuel and new personnel to a territorial outpost in a long-disputed shoal in the South China Sea, where Chinese government ships jammed communications during the hours-long supply mission as part of Beijing’s security practice in the far-flung atoll, two top officials in the Philippines said Tuesday.

The transport by the Armed

Forces of the Philippines of supplies and a fresh batch of navy personnel to the Second Thomas Shoal was successfully “conducted without any untoward incident” Friday despite the presence of Chinese Coast Guard and other ships which have been guarding the periphery of the Philippines-occupied shoal for years, the officials told The Associated Press.

They did not elaborate and spoke on condition of anonymity

because of the issue’s sensitivity.

Chinese officials did not immediately issue a statement.

They have previously claimed the fishing atoll and virtually the entire South China Sea and have repeatedly demanded the Philippines pull away a grounded warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, from the Second Thomas Shoal.

One of the officials said the Chinese Coast Guard jammed communications in and around the shoal while Philippine forces

were delivering supplies to the Sierra Madre apparently to prevent possible drone surveillance by the United States and other foreign forces which have committed to help preserve the rule of law in the South China Sea, a key global trade route.

The Philippine military has carried out 12 such deliveries of supplies and new personnel without incident to the long-grounded Sierra Madre since last year.

US troops at Israel warehouse drive bid to guard Gaza calm

BY LARA KORTE
Stars and Stripes

KIRYAT GAT, ISRAEL — Prior to last month, the central nervous system for President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan was nothing but an empty warehouse in this industrial city south of Tel Aviv.

The task of overseeing the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas has since brought about 150 American troops and scores of international staffers to the facility, which is called the Civil Military Coordination Center and is under the auspices of U.S. Central Command.

Tucked between semiconductor plants and abandoned gas stations in an industrial park, the center makes for an unlikely place for facilitating the flow of humanitarian, logistical and security assistance into Gaza.

Including the U.S. service members, the center's staff is made up of nearly 600 civilians and soldiers from more than 40 nations and international partners, including Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The center is co-led by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Patrick Frank and the American ambassador to Yemen, Steven Fagin. A British major general acts as the deputy commander of the center.

Military officials offered reporters a brief look inside the center on Monday but did not allow them to speak with anyone working there.

The space spans the length of a football field and is carpeted with artificial turf. Underneath 20-foot ceilings, clusters of

desks and conference tables are spread throughout the open warehouse, with working groups huddled around TV screens and whiteboards.

A floor-to-ceiling screen displays a map of Gaza and live updates. Propped against a concrete pillar near the center of the room are two white poster boards, detailing the president's peace plan.

CENTCOM had initially expected it would take two weeks to stand up the space, said Navy Capt. Tim Hawkins, a spokesman for the command. It took one, and by the second week, international partners had arrived and the center was up and running.

"That's a rapid pace for any large-scale multinational effort," Hawkins said.

Operating the center is a critical role for the U.S., which has the necessary expertise and a vested interest in making sure the ceasefire holds, analysts say.

But its existence and its location about 20 miles from Gaza also reflect a strategy that's aimed at preventing escalation while avoiding long-term military entanglements, according to experts.

"I think our administration is trying to make sure that we don't get caught up in mission creep here," retired Gen. Joseph Votel, who led CENTCOM from 2016 to 2019, said in an interview.

While the military has an important role to play inside the center, administration officials have been adamant that U.S. service members will not enter Gaza.

General: 'East up' shows strategic advantages

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

The commander of U.S. Forces Korea is urging military planners to rethink how they view East Asia — literally — by rotating the map.

Army Gen. Xavier Brunson argues that turning a regional map 90 degrees to place east at the top reveals overlooked strategic advantages for the United States and its allies.

He outlined the idea in an opinion piece posted Sunday on USFK's website.

"The most profound strategic insights sometimes emerge from the simplest shifts in perspective," he wrote. "In the Indo-Pacific theater, where geographic relationships determine operational possibilities and alliance effectiveness, military planners may be overlooking critical advantages simply because of how they view their maps."

An "east-up" map, Brunson

wrote, highlights how South Korea, Japan and the Philippines — all U.S. treaty allies — gain strategic depth through cooperation at a time when Washington has encouraged closer coordination in the face of challenges from China, North Korea and Russia.

Historical grievances and territorial disputes have often slowed such efforts.

In the article, titled "The East-Up Map: Revealing Hidden Strategic Advantages in the Indo-Pacific," Brunson wrote that the traditional U.S. view emphasizes the Indo-Pacific's vast distances and downplays the benefits of deployed forces.

The east-oriented perspective, he said, shows that troops on the Korean Peninsula are not "distant assets requiring reinforcement," but instead are already situated inside the "bubble perimeter" the U.S. would need to penetrate during a crisis.

Coast Guard's only heavy icebreaker is turning 50

BY GARY WARNER
Stars and Stripes

SEATTLE — The USCGC Polar Star, the only heavy icebreaker operated by the United States, is leaving this week from its homeport on Puget Sound for a four-month deployment to Antarctica, the ship's captain said late last week.

"We'll be down in Antarctica, in the Ross Sea, and if all goes well, we'll celebrate the ship's 50th birthday right off Cape Polar Star down there, which was named after the ship back in the early 1980s when it was doing a little scientific research support," said Capt. Jeff Rasnake, the ship's commander since Ju-

ly 2024.

Commissioned in 1976, the icebreaker remains the most powerful vessel in the Coast Guard. The 75,000 horsepower generated by its three gas turbines and six diesel engines can push the 13,500-ton ship through miles of ice up to 21 inches thick.

The Polar Star's annual trip to Antarctica is a key piece of Operation Deep Freeze, the effort to open ice-clogged supply routes to scientific stations in Antarctica. Each year, the ship deploys for the 16,000-mile round-trip to the tip of the frozen oceans in the Southern Hemisphere.

Saudi prince embraced at White House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump welcomed Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to Washington on Tuesday as the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia makes his first White House visit since the 2018 killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents.

Trump warmly received Prince Mohammed when he arrived at the White House Tuesday morning for a pomp-filled arrival ceremony that included a military flyover and a thundering greeting from the U.S. Marine band.

The U.S.-Saudi relationship had been sent into a tailspin by the operation targeting Khashoggi, a fierce critic of the kingdom, that U.S. intelligence agencies later determined Prince Mohammed likely directed the agents to carry out.

But seven years later, the dark clouds over the relationship have been cleared away.

And Trump has tightened his embrace of the 40-year-old crown prince he views as an indispensable player in shaping the Middle East in the decades to come. Prince Mohammed, for his part, denies involvement in the killing of Khashoggi, a Saudi citizen and Virginia resident.

Khashoggi was an afterthought as the two leaders unveil billions of dollars in deals and huddle with aides to discuss the tricky path ahead in a volatile Middle East. They planned to end their day with an evening White House soiree, organized by first lady Melania Trump, to honor the prince.

The president dismissed questions to the crown prince about the journalist's killing.

"Whether you like him or didn't like him, things happen," Trump

said of the international incident.

The crown prince for his part announced Saudi Arabia was increasing its planned investments in the U.S. to \$1 trillion, up from \$600 billion that the Saudis said they planned to invest in the United States when Trump visited the kingdom in May.

Trump's family has a strong personal interest in the kingdom. In September, London real estate developer Dar Global announced that it plans to launch Trump Plaza in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

It's Dar Global's second collaboration with the Trump Organization, the collection of companies controlled by the U.S. president's children, in Saudi Arabia. Last year, the two companies announced the launch of Trump Tower Jeddah.

Technically, it's not a state visit, because the crown prince is not the head of state. But Prince Mo-

hammed has taken charge of the day-to-day governing for his father, King Salman, 89, who has endured health problems in recent years.

Most foreign leaders who come to meet with Trump are driven up to the doors of the West Wing, where the president often greets them. But Prince Mohammed, accompanied by the Saudi prime minister, was welcomed with a formal arrival ceremony on the South Lawn.

In addition to White House pomp, the two nations are also planning an investment summit at the Kennedy Center on Wednesday that will include the heads of Salesforce, Qualcomm, Pfizer, the Cleveland Clinic, Chevron and Aramco, Saudi Arabia's national oil and natural gas company, where even more deals with the Saudis could be announced.

House heads toward vote on release of Epstein files

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House was headed toward a vote Tuesday afternoon on legislation to force the Justice Department to publicly release its files on the late financier Jeffrey Epstein, the culmination of a monthslong effort that has overcome opposition from President Donald Trump and Republican leadership.

When a small bipartisan group of House lawmakers introduced a petition in July to maneuver around House Speaker Mike Johnson's control of which bills see the House floor, it appeared a longshot effort — especially as Trump urged his supporters to dismiss the matter as a "hoax." But both Trump and Johnson failed in their efforts to prevent the vote. Now the president has bowed to the growing momentum behind the bill and even said he will sign it if it passes the Senate. His blessing ensures an over-

whelming vote to pass the bill in the House, putting further pressure on the Senate to take it up.

The vote could be a pivotal moment for long-held demands that the Justice Department release its case files on Epstein, a well-connected financier who killed himself in a New York jail while awaiting trial in 2019 on charges he sexually abused and trafficked underage girls.

A separate investigation conducted by the House Oversight Committee has released thousands of pages of emails and other documents from Epstein's estate, showing his connections to global leaders, Wall Street powerbrokers, influential political figures and Trump himself.

Trump has said he cut ties with Epstein years ago, but tried for months to move past the demands for disclosure. Still, many in the Republican base have continued to demand the release of the files.

FEMA acting chief resigns after 6 months in charge

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The acting chief of the Federal Emergency Management Agency left his job Monday after just six months, according to the Department of Homeland Security, the latest disruption in a year of mass staff departures, program cuts and policy upheaval at the agency charged with managing federal disaster response.

David Richardson, who in his brief term remained largely out of public sight, is leaving the post after he faced a wave of criticism for his handling of the deadly Texas floods earlier this year. He replaced previous acting head Cameron Hamilton in May.

DHS did not comment on the details of Richardson's departure, but a FEMA employee familiar with the matter told The Associated Press that Richardson resigned.

A former Marine Corps officer

who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and also led the DHS Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction office, Richardson had no previous emergency management experience when he assumed the role of "senior official performing the duties of administrator" in May. After replacing Hamilton, who was fired one day after telling a House appropriations committee that he did not think FEMA should be eliminated, Richardson vowed to help fulfill President Donald Trump's goal to push more disaster recovery responsibilities to the states and told FEMA employees he would "run right over" anyone who tried to obstruct that mission.

But Richardson's leadership was questioned by members of Congress and FEMA employees, particularly after remaining largely out of sight following the deadly Texas floods last July that killed at least 136 people.

Ukrainians working for Russia suspected in rail blast

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Two Ukrainian citizens working for Russia are suspected of blowing up a railway line in Poland over the weekend, Prime Minister Donald Tusk said Tuesday.

Speaking to the Sejm, the lower house of the Polish parliament, Tusk said the two suspects had been collaborating with Russian secret services for a long time. He said their identities were known but could not be revealed to the public because of ongoing investigations. The pair have already left Po-

land.

Tusk has described the explosion on a rail line linking Poland's capital, Warsaw, to the border with Ukraine as an "unprecedented act of sabotage."

In a separate incident, which Polish officials are also now confirming as sabotage, power lines over another segment further south were also damaged.

A meeting of the governmental National Security Committee had taken place earlier on Tuesday, with the participation of military commanders, heads of the intelligence services and

a representative of the president.

Patrols have been sent to check the safety of railways and other key infrastructure in the east of the country, the defense minister said.

Polish prosecutors have initiated an investigation into "acts of sabotage of a terrorist nature" directed against railway infrastructure and committed for the benefit of foreign intelligence.

"These actions brought about an immediate danger of a land traffic disaster, threatening the

lives and health of many people and property on a large scale," prosecutors said in a statement.

In the first incident, an explosion damaged the tracks near the village of Mika and, in a separate incident, power lines were destroyed in the area of Pulawy, about 30 miles from Lublin. Trains carrying passengers were forced to stop at both locations, but no one was hurt.

"The explosion was most likely intended to blow up the train," Tusk said.

The damage caused at both locations has been repaired.

Zelenskyy to visit Turkey in new bid for talks with Russia

Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that he will travel to Turkey this week in an attempt to jump-start negotiations on ending Russia's invasion, which began nearly four years ago.

U.S. special envoy Steve Witkoff will join Zelenskyy in Turkey, a senior Turkish official told The Associated Press, but the Kremlin said that Russia won't be sending anyone.

Turkey provided a setting for low-level talks between Ukraine and Russia earlier this year though the only significant progress in Istanbul was on exchanging prisoners of war.

U.S.-led international peace efforts have brought no breakthrough, either.

Zelenskyy said that he would be in Turkey on Wednesday, a day after visiting Spain where he hoped for pledges of new support on Tuesday.

"We are preparing to reinvigorate negotiations, and we have developed solutions that we will propose to our partners," Zelenskyy said on social media, without providing details. "Doing everything possible to bring the end of the war closer is Ukraine's top priority."

President Donald Trump has expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin's refusal to budge from his demands for putting an end to the invasion.

Heavy new American sanctions on Russia's all-important oil industry, devised to push Putin to the negotiating table, are due to take effect on Friday.

The sanctions against oil companies Rosneft and Lukoil seek to starve Putin's war machine of cash and to halt its grinding war of attrition, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives throughout Ukraine.

The sanctions also carry the threat of secondary penalties against anyone violating them, raising the stakes for Putin. China and India are major importers of Russian oil.

Zelenskyy said that he would meet with senior officials in his government on Thursday, as well as with the leadership of Ukraine's Parliament and his political party, called Servant of the People.

The Ukrainian leader was meeting later Tuesday in Madrid with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and King Felipe VI, with a visit planned as well to speak with Spain's parliament.

MI5 says Chinese spies using LinkedIn to reach lawmakers

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's domestic intelligence agency on Tuesday warned lawmakers that Chinese spies were actively reaching out to "recruit and cultivate" them via headhunters or cover companies.

Writing to lawmakers, House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle said a new MI5 "espionage alert" warned that Chinese nationals were "using LinkedIn profiles to conduct outreach at scale" on behalf of the Chinese Ministry of State Security.

"Their aim is to collect information and lay the groundwork for long-term relationships, using professional networking sites, recruitment agents and consultants acting on their behalf," he said.

MI5 issued the alert because the activity was "targeted and widespread," he added.

The alert named two women, Amanda Qiu and Shirley Shen, and said other similar recruiters' profiles were acting as fronts for espionage.

Home Office Minister Dan Jarvis said that apart from parliamentary staff, others including economists, think tank consultants and officials have been similarly targeted.

"This activity involves a cov-

ert and calculated attempt by a foreign power to interfere with our sovereign affairs in favor of its own interests, and this government will not tolerate it," Jarvis told Parliament.

British intelligence officials have in recent years steadily ramped up their warnings about espionage threats from China, the U.K.'s third largest trading partner.

The latest warning came after critics widely questioned how the prosecution of two men charged with spying for Beijing in Britain collapsed just before they were due to stand trial.

Academic Christopher Berry and parliamentary researcher Christopher Cash were charged last year with providing information or documents to China that could be "prejudicial to the safety or interests" of the U.K. Their case was dropped in September.

The Director of Public Prosecutions Stephen Parkinson said it was because government refused to testify under oath that China was a threat to national security at the time of the alleged offenses, between 2021 and 2023. Prime Minister Keir Starmer denied claims of government interference in the case.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man who shot two Latino men sentenced to life

VA ALEXANDRIA — A Virginia man was sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime and firearms charges Thursday, after pleading guilty to shooting two men because he suspected they were migrants from outside the United States.

Douglas Wayne Cornett, 59, had told detectives that he was angry undocumented migrants were receiving resources from the government, according to court records, and had fantasized about shooting undocumented migrants at the border from a helicopter to deter people from “attempting to cross the border.” He pleaded guilty in June.

“No one in this country should be hunted down and shot at because of who they are or where they come from,” said Assistant Attorney General Harmeet K. Dhillon of the Justice Department’s Civil Rights Division in a news release.

Cornett was already serving a life sentence at the Rappahannock Regional Jail for state hate crime and gun charges he incurred for the same shooting. While at the facility, he was diagnosed with stage-four lung cancer, a condition prosecutors and Cornett’s defense said would be best treated if he serves the rest of his time in federal custody.

Feds expand terrorism charges in ICE shooting

TX DALLAS — Federal prosecutors in Texas have charged six more people

with a new terrorism-related charge in the July shooting outside an immigration detention center near Dallas and said six others are scheduled to enter guilty pleas in the case.

The latest indictment in the case, issued Friday, expands on previous charges and relies on President Donald Trump’s recent declaration that deems the decentralized movement known as antifa a domestic terrorist organization.

The case stems from the July 4 shooting outside the Prairieland Detention Center in Alvarado, southwest of Dallas, that injured a police officer.

Prosecutors said the group threw fireworks at the facility, vandalized vehicles and then shot at responding police and correctional officers.

Patrick McClain, a lawyer for defendant Zachary Evetts, said he has seen no evidence to support the government’s view of the case. He said his client would again plead not guilty at the Dec. 3 arraignment on the new charges.

Jets cornerback critically wounded in shooting

NY NEW YORK — New York police have released surveillance images of a man sought in the shooting of New York Jets cornerback and special teams standout Kris Boyd.

Boyd remained in critical but stable condition Monday, a day after he was shot in midtown Manhattan. A motive for the shooting remains under investigation and authorities said it’s not clear if Boyd was targeted by the shooter. No other injuries were reported and no arrests have been made.

The shooting happened just after 2 a.m. Sunday outside a business on West 38th Street near 7th Avenue.

Boyd hasn’t played this season, his first with the Jets, after going on the season-ending injured reserve list on Aug. 18 with a shoulder injury that required surgery to repair.

Man charged in killing of retired football coach

CA OAKLAND — A 27-year-old man was charged Monday with murder in the shooting death of celebrated former football coach John Beam, who died Friday after being shot in the head on the junior college campus in Oakland where he worked.

Cedric Irving Jr. could face 50 years to life if convicted, said Alameda County District Attorney Ursula Jones Dickson at a Monday press conference.

Beam, 66, was a giant in the local community, a father figure who forged deep relationships with his players while fielding a team that regularly competed for championships. The Netflix docuseries “Last Chance U” focused on Beam and the Laney Eagles in its 2020 season. He’d most recently been serving as the school’s athletic director after retiring from coaching last year.

Cheetah mom gave birth during shutdown

VA FRONT ROYAL — Although the federal government was partially closed last month, a creature in its custody, apparently unaware of any restrictions, produced a litter of four little ones in a breeding milestone.

Seemingly unconcerned by

any legalities, a 5-year-old female cheetah named Amabala gave birth to the cubs Oct. 17 and 18 at the conservation facility in Front Royal, Va., operated by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Zoo.

However, the news of what gossip columns used to describe as the blessed event, became public only Saturday, in an announcement made when the zoo reopened after the government shutdown.

The staff of the zoo remained on duty throughout the shutdown, according to the zoo, to care for their cheetahs and other charges.

Amabala, the mother cheetah, is doing well, and is doing “a great job” in caring for her babies, the zoo said. The cubs “appear to be strong, active, vocal and eating well,” according to the zoo.

US students win 2026 Rhodes scholarships

DC WASHINGTON — Five students at U.S. military academies and three each from Yale University, Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology are among the 32 American winners named Sunday as 2026 Rhodes scholars.

The group includes students focused on housing, health outcomes, sustainability and prison reentry programs.

The students will attend the University of Oxford as part of the Rhodes scholar program, which awards more than 100 scholarships worldwide each year for students to pursue two to three years of graduate studies.

— From wire reports

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Cowboys honor Kneeland, defeat Raiders

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Cowboys spent 11 days mourning defensive end Marshawn Kneeland before taking the field Monday night.

Dallas then paid tribute to Kneeland by dominating the spiraling Raiders for 60 minutes.

Dak Prescott passed for 268 yards and four touchdowns in a 33-16 victory over Las Vegas, the Cowboys' first game since Kneeland's death.

The 24-year-old Kneeland was found dead on Nov. 6 of an apparent suicide. Coach Brian Schottenheimer and Dallas players wore shirts honoring Kneeland, and they bowed their heads during a moment of silence before the game.

The Cowboys (4-5-1) played one of their best games of the season to keep alive their slim playoff hopes. Dallas had lost three of four and has games coming up against Philadelphia,

Kansas City and Detroit.

"They wanted to honor him, and we're not done honoring him," Schottenheimer said. "He's a part of our family forever. But it's been tough, man. I mean, these past 11 days have been really tough. I'm proud of those guys because just the way they played today, they played with Marshawn's play style."

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't have some tears when I first put the shirt on, as you can imagine. But more than anything, I know Marshawn was looking down on us, and we wanted to make him proud, and I think we did that."

Owner Jerry Jones credited Schottenheimer's leadership through a dark time.

"In a way, a competition like this with the Raiders is good therapy to come back and get in it," Jones said. "They know how much that Marshawn loved to compete, how much he loved the Cowboys. And to me, it's just a way of saying, 'This one's for

you Marshawn.'"

Las Vegas (2-8) continued its downward slide under first-year coach Pete Carroll. The Raiders have lost four straight and eight of nine.

Prescott was precise — minus a miss of a wide-open CeeDee Lamb for an easy touchdown — completing 25 of 44 passes to snap his four-game winless streak (0-3-1) in prime-time games. His four TD passes tied a season high, matching his total from Oct. 5 against the New York Jets.

He threw primarily to George Pickens and Lamb. Pickens (nine catches, 144 yards, one touchdown) and Lamb (five receptions for 66 yards and a TD) produced big numbers despite Schottenheimer benching them for Dallas' first drive.

Javonte Williams provided the Cowboys with balance by rushing for 93 yards on 22 carries.

Las Vegas had little balance,

going with 32 called pass plays and three runs — Geno Smith also scrambled for 7 yards — in the first half alone. It became only the third team since at least 1991 with 30 or more dropbacks and four or few runs in a first half. The four rushes were also the Raiders' second-fewest in a first half since at least that year; they had three runs against the Atlanta Falcons in a 2008 game.

"It was a bunch of play-action passes, and I really wanted to see us do that," Carroll said. "There's only one person to look at. It's me because I was influencing the game plan. ... (Offensive coordinator) Chip (Kelly) and I knew what was going on, but we were trying to stay with it to see if we could continue to get the big plays, which we were getting. Then we just stalled in the red zone."

"I don't really care about pleasing people with our run-pass mix. I'm trying to move the football."

NFL suspends Bengals WR Chase 1 game for spitting

Associated Press

Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase was suspended without pay for one game Monday for spitting on Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback Jalen Ramsey.

Chase spat on Ramsey during a confrontation in the fourth quarter of Sunday's game. Ramsey grabbed Chase by the face mask and punched him, which resulted in Ramsey's ejection.

In announcing the suspension, the NFL said Chase was disciplined under a rule that applies to "any act which is contrary to the generally understood principles of sportsmanship."

Chase denied having spat after the Bengals' 34-12 loss, but a Cincinnati television station had video of the incident. Chase did not speak to reporters in the Bengals' locker room Monday.

When asked if officials saw Chase spit on Ramsey, referee Bill Vinovich told a pool reporter after the game that "we did not see anything that rose to that level at all."

Chase will miss Cincinnati's home game against the New England Patriots this week-

end. He has a right to appeal the suspension.

According to the NFL Players Association database, Chase will be docked at least \$448,333.33 in base salary as a result of the suspension.

Jets benching Fields for Taylor

Justin Fields is heading to the bench and Tyrod Taylor is replacing him as the New York Jets' starting quarterback.

Coach Aaron Glenn decided to play Taylor over the embattled Fields at Baltimore on Sunday, a person with knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press on Monday.

Glenn said last week that he would evaluate all positions over the weekend, leaving the door open for a change at quarterback. And he decided to make the switch to Taylor, according to the person who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the team didn't announce the move, which was first reported by The Athletic.

Glenn told the team of his decision during a meeting Monday morning, when the Jets returned to work after a few days off.

New York (2-8) is coming off a 27-14 loss at

New England last Thursday night. Fields' subpar play has been a major reason for the struggles of the passing offense, which ranks last in the NFL with 139.9 yards per game — 20 fewer than 31st-ranked Cleveland.

Falcons' Penix out at least 4 games

ATLANTA — Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Penix will be placed on injured reserve and will miss at least four games with a left knee injury, leaving Kirk Cousins as the starter.

Penix suffered the injury in Sunday's 30-27 overtime loss to Carolina, extending Atlanta's losing streak to five games.

The Falcons' top wide receiver, Drake London could also miss at least one week with a knee injury. Coach Raheem Morris on Monday said London's status is "week to week."

Penix left in the third quarter with Atlanta leading 21-16. He missed the Falcons' 34-10 loss to Miami on Oct. 26 with a bone bruise on his left knee. He may have suffered a more significant injury when he was hit by Panthers safety Tre'von Moehrig after throwing an incomplete pass.

Virginia Tech hires Franklin as head coach

Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — James Franklin was hired as Virginia Tech's coach Monday, a little more than a month after he was fired during his 12th season at Penn State.

The Hokies became the first Power 4 football program to fill a coaching vacancy this season. Franklin was set to be formally introduced at a news conference Wednesday morning.

He was fired by the Nittany Lions on Oct. 12, a day after they lost at home to Northwestern to fall to 3-3.

The 53-year-old Franklin went 104-45 at Penn State, winning a Big Ten championship (in the 2016 season), a Fiesta Bowl (2017) and a Rose Bowl (2022). Last season, he led the Nittany Lions to a first-round victory in the College Football Playoff.

"I'm honored and humbled to join the Hokie family," Franklin said in a statement. "My vision is simple: to restore unmatched excellence, to build something

that lasts and to serve this university, the Commonwealth of Virginia and our amazing fan base with honor, integrity and passion. I look forward to getting to work with our players, our staff and the entire Virginia Tech community."

Terms of Franklin's contract were not released. Before he was hired by the Hokies, Penn State had been on the hook for a buyout worth nearly \$50 million. But Franklin and the Nittany Lions negotiated a settlement under which he'll be paid \$9 million instead, according to multiple reports.

Franklin has a 128-60 overall record, including his three seasons at Vanderbilt. In Blacksburg, he takes over for his former Penn State defensive coordinator, Brent Pry, who was fired Sept. 14 after Virginia Tech lost its first three games by an average of 18.7 points. The Hokies started 0-3 for the first time since 1987.

Pry went 16-24, including 10-13 in Atlantic Coast Conference

play, in his three-plus seasons. Virginia Tech (3-7, 2-4 ACC) has since been led by interim coach Philip Montgomery.

Franklin was maligned at Penn State for not winning big games — he went 4-21 against teams ranked in the top 10 of the AP poll — but he brings credibility to a Hokies program that has struggled since Frank Beamer retired in 2015 after 29 years at the helm.

Athletic director Whit Babcock first hired Justin Fuente and then Pry in hopes of continuing the success enjoyed by Beamer, but both coaches floundered. That prompted Virginia Tech President Tim Sands to form a search committee to hire the next coach and limit the scope of Babcock's role.

The Hokies have just four winning seasons since Beamer's retirement and six since Babcock became the AD in 2014.

The committee landed on Franklin, whose Penn State teams won at least 10 games six

times during his tenure. Franklin also showed an ability to recruit in Virginia. In 2023, he signed six of the top 10 prospects in the state, according to various recruiting services, and one of his best players in the past five years was Tyler Warren, a tight end from the Richmond area who was a first-round NFL draft pick by the Indianapolis Colts this spring and is flourishing as a rookie.

"His experience, passion and record of success embody our commitment to compete at the highest level," Sands said of Franklin in a statement. "His selection is the result of unprecedented collaboration by our athletic administration with university leaders, esteemed alumni, including former NFL coaches and players, and our most dedicated supporters."

"James will provide the leadership and inspiration our student-athletes need, and the performance on the field that our university community, alumni and fans expect and deserve."

No. 13 Gonzaga gets 2nd-largest win in program history

Associated Press

SPOKANE — Braden Huff scored 22 points on 11-for-13 shooting and Davis Fogle had a career-high 19 points as No. 13 Gonzaga beat Southern Utah 122-50 on Monday night.

Mario Saint-Supery added 16 points, seven assists and six steals in his first career start for the Bulldogs (5-0), who secured the second-largest scoring output and margin of victory in program history. Graham Ike and Adam Miller had 13 points apiece for Gonzaga.

Elijah Duval scored 10 points to lead the Thunderbirds (1-4) as they fell to their worst start under third-year coach Rob Jeter. Southern Utah struggled offensively all night, finishing with more turnovers (23) than made field goals (18).

The Bulldogs jumped out to a 17-2 lead behind smothering defense and transition scoring. One early sequence began with Ike blocking a layup attempt from Zach Bell, nearly pinning the ball against the backboard. It ended with Adam Miller hoisting a lob to Tyon Grant-Foster for a two-handed finish.

No. 16 Iowa State 96, Stonehill 57: Joshua Jefferson and Tamin Lipsey scored 23 points apiece and the host Cyclones pulled away late in the first half of a win over the Skyhawks.

Jefferson added nine rebounds, seven assists and four steals in a terrific all-around performance that helped Iowa State (4-0) to another lopsided victory.

The Cyclones missed all seven of their 3-point attempts in the first half but went 5 of 8 to start

the second and put away the game. Iowa State reeled off a 15-0 run and held Stonehill to one field goal over eight minutes spanning halftime.

No. 20 Tennessee 91, Rice 66: Felix Okpara had 20 points and eight rebounds, Nate Ament added 19 points and 10 boards, and the host Volunteers cruised to a victory over the Owls despite an injury to forward J.P. Estrella.

The 6-foot-11 redshirt sophomore went down in a scrum of bodies in the first half and appeared to hurt his left knee. Estrella entered averaging 17.3 points and 8.7 rebounds per game this season. He missed most of last season with a foot injury.

No. 24 Wisconsin 94, SIU Edwardsville 69: John Blackwell

scored 24 points, Nick Boyd added 22 and the host Badgers closed a four-game, season-opening homestand by defeating the Cougars.

Wisconsin has scored at least 85 points in each of its first four games for the first time since the 1975-76 season. Blackwell and Boyd led the way, with Blackwell going 5-for-6 on 3-point attempts and Boyd making 4 of 7.

No. 25 NC State 85, VCU 79: Darrion Williams scored 28 points, Tre Holloman added 25 and the host Wolfpack marked their first appearance in the national rankings this season by beating the Rams.

Matt Able had 12 points off the bench and Ven-Allen Lubin provided 11 points and nine rebounds for the Wolfpack (4-0), who overcame 17 turnovers.

Panthers top Canucks on Bennett's tiebreaker

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Sam Bennett scored the tiebreaking goal at 4:02 of the third period and the Florida Panthers beat the Vancouver Canucks 8-5 on Monday night.

Seth Jones had two goals and Luke Kunin, Evan Rodrigues, Anton Lundell, A.J. Greer and Brad Marchand also scored for the two-time defending champion Panthers, who had a season-high scoring total for their third win in four games. Sam Reinhart had three assists and Carter Verhaeghe added two. Sergei Bobrovsky had 10 saves.

Elias Pettersson had two goals, and Drew O'Connor and Jake DeBrusk also scored for the Canucks, who have lost four of five (1-2-2). Quinn Hughes had three assists and Kiefer Sherwood and Evander Kane each added two, and Jiri Patera finished with 33 saves.

Bennett deflected a slap shot by Niko Mikkola to put Florida ahead 6-5 early in the third.

Jones then got his second of the night at 8:19, beating Patera from in front on a power play for a two-goal lead, and Marchand's short-handed empty-netter with 1:46 remaining capped the scoring.

Capitals 2, Kings 1: Alex Ovechkin scored his 903rd career NHL goal and host Washington beat Los Angeles.

Matt Roy also scored for the Capitals, who ended a two-game losing skid to gain some traction in the standings.

Anze Kopitar scored for lone goal for the Kings, who had won four straight. It was just their second regulation road loss of the season.

Hurricanes 3, Bruins 1: Jordan Staal outmuscled a Boston defenseman for a goal with one arm, Pyotr Kochetkov stopped 29 shots and visiting Carolina cooled off the hot Bruins.

Former Bruin Taylor Hall and Mark Jankowski also scored for the Hurricanes, who won for the sixth time in eight

games and evened the season-series after losing the first meeting on Nov. 1.

Riley Tufté spoiled the shutout with 10 seconds left and Jeremy Swayman made 29 saves for Boston, which had a six-game home-winning streak halted and lost for just the second time in 10 games overall.

Sabres 5, Oilers 1: Rookie center Noah Ostlund scored twice for his first multigoal game in the NHL, and host Buffalo beat Edmonton.

A first-round draft pick by the Sabres in 2022, Ostlund gave them a 1-0 lead late in the first period and then put away the game with his second goal of the night midway through the third.

The Oilers have lost two of three and are 2-2-0 on their eight-game trip.

Blue Jackets 4, Canadiens 3 (SO): Kirill Marchenko scored the deciding goal of the shootout, and host Columbus beat Montreal.

Zach Werenski and Dmitri Voronkov had a goal and an assist, and Adam Fantilli also scored in regulation as the Blue Jackets extended their point streak to five games (3-0-2).

Kent Johnson also scored in the tiebreaker for Columbus, and Cole Caufield tallied for the Canadiens.

Ducks 3, Mammoth 2 (OT): Olen Zellweger scored 1:50 into overtime after Troy Terry tied it with 4.1 seconds left in regulation, and Anaheim dramatically snapped its three-game skid with a home victory over Utah.

Terry forced OT when he tapped in a rebound after Chris Kreider deflected Cutter Gauthier's shot off the post with an extra attacker on the ice for the Ducks.

Lukas Dostal made 16 saves and Jackson LaCombe scored his first goal of the season for Anaheim, which moved back into first place in the Pacific Division with its first victory since winning seven in a row.

Banged-up Pistons top Pacers for 10th straight victory

Associated Press

DETROIT — Jalen Duren scored 31 points in his return from an ankle injury and Daniss Jenkins added 26 points as the short-handed Detroit Pistons won their 10th straight game, beating the NBA-worst Indiana Pacers 127-112 on Monday night.

The Pistons are on their longest winning streak since an 11-game run in 2007-08, despite playing the last three games without several key players. Cade Cunningham (hip), Tobias Harris (ankle) and Ausar Thompson (ankle) were among the players on the sidelines against Indiana.

The 1-13 Pacers, meanwhile, have lost eight straight games. The NBA finalists from a year ago are mired in their longest losing streak since the 2014-15 season.

Ten players scored for Detroit, with five reaching double figures. Javonte Green scored 20 points off the bench. Duncan Robinson had 13 points and Isaiah Stewart added 10.

Heat 115, Knicks 113: Norman Powell scored 19 points, Kel'el Ware finished with 16 points and 14 rebounds and host Miami held

off a frantic rally in the final moments to beat New York.

Davion Mitchell scored 18 points for the Heat, who got 14 from Simone Fontecchio and 13 apiece from Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Pelle Larsson.

Cavaliers 108, Bucks 106: Donovan Mitchell scored 37 points and host Cleveland rallied for a victory over Milwaukee, which saw All-Star forward Giannis Antetokounmpo leave the game due to injury.

Antetokounmpo immediately went to the locker room with 3:03 remaining in the second quarter and did not return due to a left groin strain. The 14-year veteran came into the game tied for second in the league and leading the Eastern Conference in scoring at 32.6 points per game. Coach Doc Rivers said Antetokounmpo would have further testing on Tuesday.

Timberwolves 120, Mavericks 96: Naz Reid scored a season-high 22 points and host Minnesota beat short-handed Dallas.

Reid scored 10 points in the first quarter and led all scorers with 19 points in the first half. He

hit a 3-pointer just before the end of third quarter, capping his 22-point game and sending the Timberwolves into the fourth quarter with a 32-point lead.

76ers 110, Clippers 108: Tyrese Maxey scored 39 points, Paul George had nine points and seven rebounds in his season debut, and host Philadelphia rallied for a victory over Los Angeles.

Thunder 126, Pelicans 109: Chet Holmgren scored 26 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and visiting Oklahoma City raced to an early double-digit lead it maintained throughout in a victory over New Orleans.

Bulls 130, Nuggets 127: Kevin Huerter and Nikola Vucevic hit big 3-pointers down the stretch and visiting Chicago overcame a triple-double by Nikola Jokic to hold off Denver.

Raptors 110, Hornets 108: RJ Barrett scored the tiebreaking basket with 18 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Brandon Ingram and Scottie Barnes both had pivotal blocked shots in the final moments and host Toronto won for the eighth time in nine games by beating Charlotte.