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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Financing the future

Biden signs 2022 defense policy bill boosting weaponry development, troops' pay into law

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act includes \$117.8 billion for Pentagon research, development, testing and evaluation in new technologies including hypersonic missiles like the one seen in this illustration.

By **ROSE L. THAYER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

President Joe Biden signed into law Monday the \$768 billion defense policy bill that includes a pay raise for troops, reforms of the military justice system and billions to spend on research and development deemed

critical for the U.S. military to remain competitive with Russia and China.

The 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets policy and priorities for the Defense Department and includes some funding for the Department of Energy, passed through Congress earlier

this month with bipartisan support from 363 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and 88 senators.

"It addresses a broad range of pressing issues, from strategic competition with China and Russia, to disruptive technologies like hypersonics, AI and quantum

computing," Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said in a statement. "It provides our forces with the resources and support they need to defend our nation, makes historic reforms to help improve the lives of our service members, and takes impor-

tant steps to care for their families."

After signing the bill, known as the NDAA, Biden released a statement thanking the committee's leadership, as well as the House Armed Services Committee lead-

**SEE NDAA ON PAGE 5**

## US health officials recommend shorter COVID isolation and quarantine

By **MIKE STOBBE**  
*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — U.S. health officials on Monday cut isolation restrictions for asymptomatic Americans who catch the coronavirus from 10 to five days, and similarly shortened the time that

close contacts need to quarantine.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials said the guidance is in keeping with growing evidence that people with the coronavirus are most infectious in the two days before and three days after symptoms develop.

The decision also was driven by a recent surge in COVID-19 cases, propelled by the omicron variant.

Early research suggests omicron may cause milder illnesses than earlier versions of the coronavirus. But the sheer number of people becoming infected — and

therefore having to isolate or quarantine — threatens to crush the ability of hospitals, airlines and other businesses to stay open, experts have said.

Last week, the CDC loosened

**SEE COVID ON PAGE 7**

**RELATED**

Fauci: Vaccine mandate for US air travel a possibility  
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# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Polish president nixes bill targeting US company

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Poland's president on Monday vetoed a media bill that would have forced U.S. company Discovery to give up its controlling share in Polish television network TVN.

For many, it was a victory for freedom of speech and media independence in a country where democratic norms are being challenged by the nationalist government. The veto was also expected to be welcomed by Washington, which had been seeking to defend the largest

U.S. investment in Poland.

President Andrzej Duda noted that the bill was unpopular with many Poles and would have dealt a blow to Poland's reputation as a place to do business.

"Contracts have to be kept," Duda said at a news conference in Warsaw to announce his veto. "For us Poles, it is a matter of honor."

The bill, recently passed by the lower house of parliament, would have prevented any non-European entity from owning more than a 49% stake in television or radio broad-

casters in Poland.

Its practical effect would have targeted only one existing company, Discovery Inc., forcing the U.S. owner of Poland's largest private television network, TVN, to sell the majority or even all of its Polish holdings.

The ruling party, Law and Justice, pushed the legislation and argued that it was important for national security and sovereignty to ensure that no company outside of Europe can control companies that help form public opinion.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 29)	\$1.11
Dollar buys (Dec. 29)	0.8604
British pound (Dec. 29)	\$1.31
Japanese yen (Dec. 29)	112.00
South Korean won (Dec. 29)	1,156.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.3447
Canada (Dollar)	1.2800
China (Yuan)	6.3682
Denmark (Krone)	6.5775
Egypt (Pound)	15.7105
Euro	.8845
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8000
Hungary (Forint)	326.26
Israel (Shekel)	3.1009
Japan (Yen)	114.82
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3025
Norway (Krone)	8.8088
Philippines (Peso)	50.54
Poland (Zloty)	4.07
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7558
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3547

South Korea (Won)	1,187.65
Switzerland (Franc)	.9178
Thailand (Baht)	33.50
Turkey (New Lira)	11,8443

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.06
30-year bond	1.89

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



### THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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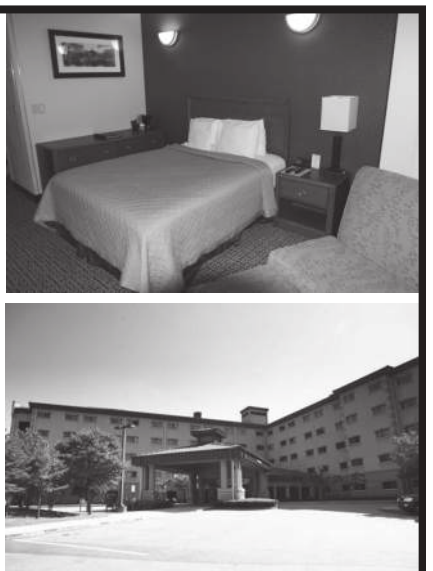
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## EUROPE

# Analysts: Black Sea part of Russia equation

By ALISON BATH  
*Stars and Stripes*

Any new Russian invasion of Ukraine that might be in the works would likely include a land grab in the south designed to give the Kremlin a greater stranglehold on the Black Sea, some analysts are warning.

As the world eyes the buildup of troops and military equipment along Ukraine's eastern border, Russian President Vladimir Putin could take advantage of the distraction to position forces needed to seize additional Ukrainian coastline along the Sea of Azov, said Jim Townsend, a fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

But that slice of littoral territory, which includes the port city of Mariupol, might not be enough for Putin, Townsend and others have said. The southern port of Odessa, Ukraine's biggest and one of the largest on the Black Sea, also could be on the list.

Analysts including Townsend aren't convinced that Moscow's recent actions and demands are just about bringing the United States to the negotiating table to exact certain promises, among them a guarantee that Ukraine will never join NATO.

Putin knows that won't happen, Townsend said.

"He's not going to have any other choice but to go in (to Ukraine), and if he goes in, he's going to make sure he gets what he wants," said Townsend, a former U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for European and NATO policy. "And I think (the Sea of Azov and Odessa) are some of the things he wants."

But recent developments seem to be making an invasion less of a certainty.

The U.S. and Russia have agreed to security talks in Geneva on Jan. 10, and a top Russian government official said Monday that the country has never had any intention of invading Ukraine, the Russian news agency Tass reported.

Over the weekend, Moscow announced the withdrawal of more than 10,000 troops involved in monthlong military exercises near Ukraine.

Another strategist, James R. Holmes, said nothing can be ruled



U.S. Navy

Ensign Crystal Barnes stands on the USS Arleigh Burke as it returns to Rota, Spain, on Thursday.



DAMON GROSVENOR/U.S. Navy

The USS Ross sails in the Black Sea on July 9.

out when it comes to determining Putin's intentions, but he thinks it's unlikely that taking additional Ukrainian land is a serious objective.

Russia's need to ensure a power position in the Black Sea was accomplished with its annexation of Crimea in 2014, he said.

"Moscow probably just covets deference if not subservience

from Kyiv, much as it wants the dominant say-so in the 'near abroad,' or former Soviet Union," said Holmes, a professor at the Naval War College in Newport, R.I. "Influence need not demand ownership."

While it wouldn't be front and center, the Black Sea would play an important role in any Russian military campaign, Holmes and

others said.

The Russian Black Sea Fleet and ground forces from Crimea would offer critical protection of the campaign's rear and flank and prevent the Ukrainian navy or NATO countries' ships from interfering in the land campaign. Blockading the Sea of Azov also is a possibility, analysts say.

"Holding off hostile navies would isolate the battlefield while simplifying the problem for Russian ground commanders," Holmes said. "After all, the more they can fend off outsiders, the easier time they will have defeating an outmatched Ukrainian army."

It's also likely that the Russians would have multiple invasion routes, said Townsend, adding that Russia's air defense web in the Black Sea would come into play as well.

Staking a claim to additional Ukrainian coastline along the Sea of Azov would give Russia a highly desired land bridge connecting it to Crimea, said James G. Foggo III, dean of the Arlington, Va.-based Center for Maritime Strategy.

Russia already harasses ships in the Sea of Azov and has closed

off 70% of the sea to shipping.

In a Dec. 7 commentary published in Defense News, authors Hans Binnendijk and Barry Pavel said actions to control the Sea of Azov are the second-likeliest of four possible objectives of a new Russian invasion of Ukraine.

"The West would probably be less likely to send in military force to support the Ukrainian military directly since the activity is not near NATO's borders and is primarily in Russian-speaking areas," Binnendijk and Pavel wrote. "Massive Western sanctions and arms shipments to Kyiv would be likely."

Foggo, who led U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa and Allied Joint Forces Command, Naples, believes a more robust U.S. and NATO presence in the Black Sea is needed. Responsibility for coordinating and achieving a nearly constant presence there shouldn't fall solely on the U.S., he said.

Other countries with strong navies, such as France and the Netherlands, should send warships to the region, he said. "The strategy would be that ... we maintain a steady drumbeat and a steady presence there to show solidarity, not just with the NATO allies but the partners in the region, and that includes Georgia and Ukraine."

But Holmes said that if Russia invades, the use of NATO ships would be limited given the aggressiveness of the Black Sea Fleet and the shore-based antiship weaponry that overshadows the theater.

The most likely primary weapon, should NATO intervene, would be the U.S. Air Force, Holmes said.

"If air power could make the theater relatively safe for surface warships, then you might see NATO navies play a bigger part," he said.

Foggo said Russia's actions can't be explained away as simply an intimidation tactic. Russia's methodical, visible preparation is reminiscent of the American buildup outside Kuwait in 2003 in advance of the invasion into Iraq, he said.

"Nobody has a crystal ball into Vladimir Putin's head, but he is biased toward action," he said.

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## NATO jets scrambled 290 times to meet Russians in 2021

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — NATO fighter jets were scrambled hundreds of times this year to intercept aircraft, most of them being Russian warplanes in northwestern Europe that were flying too close to the airspace of its member countries, the military organization

said Tuesday.

NATO said that 290 of around 370 total missions were flown in 2021 in response to the activities of Russian aircraft. Most of those took place in the Baltic region around Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, where the organization has an air-policing operation.

"Generally, intercepts occurred without incident as NATO planes take off to identify the approaching aircraft and escort it out of the area. Very few intercepted flights entered allied airspace," a statement from the 30-country U.S.-led alliance said.

NATO intercept flights are a

routine occurrence. But despite high tensions between NATO and Moscow over the activities of Russian armed forces near Ukraine's borders in recent months, the number of Russia-linked intercepts decreased this year.

In 2020, NATO jets scrambled around 350 times in response to

Russian planes.

More than 60 NATO jets are on round-the-clock alert across Europe to respond to things like unannounced military flights or civilian planes losing communication with air-traffic controllers for any reason, which could range from technical problems to hijacking.

## MILITARY

# Marcinko, SEAL Team 6 founder, dies at age 81

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

Richard Marcinko, who founded the Navy's SEAL Team 6 after earning accolades as a SEAL leader during two tours in Vietnam, died Christmas Day at age 81, the National Navy SEAL Museum has announced.

With the Navy needing an elite unit dedicated to counterterrorism after the Pentagon's failure to rescue American hostages in Iran in 1980, Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Thomas B. Hayward hand-picked Marcinko to stand up the new SEAL team, according to the Fort Pierce, Fla., museum. Marcinko, known as "Demo Dick," commanded SEAL Team 6 for about three years, retired from the Navy in 1989 as a commander and went on to write a series of nonfiction and fiction books based on the Navy SEALs.

"Dick Marcinko played a very unique part in SEAL history, leaving a legacy like no other," the SEAL Museum wrote in a Facebook post Sunday announcing his death. "'Demo Dick' is considered the United States' premier counterterrorism operator. We send our deepest sympathies to his family, teammates, and friends."

His family confirmed his death at his home in Fauquier County, Va., in a message on Twitter.

Marcinko, the son of Pennsylvania coal miner, enlisted in the Navy in 1958 after dropping out of high school, according to his 1992 bestselling autobiography "Rogue Warrior." He completed underwater demolition training as an enlisted sailor before commission via Officer Candidate School in 1965. He deployed less than two years later to Vietnam with SEAL Team 2.

In Vietnam, Marcinko became known for leading successful SEAL assaults, including a May 1967 raid on Ilo Ilo Hon, which the SEAL Museum described as the Navy's most successful SEAL operation in the Mekong Delta.

"Because of his strong leadership and great success, the North Vietnamese Army placed a bounty on his head, payable to anyone who could capture and kill him," according to the SEAL Museum. "Marcinko was never caught."

He led a SEAL platoon in a second Vietnam deployment, eventually earning the Silver Star and four Bronze Star Medals with combat "V" for valor, according to the museum.



Richard Marcinko

Marcinko was serving at the Pentagon during the April 1980 rescue attempt by U.S. special operators to free 52 American diplomats and citizens taken hostage five months earlier by Iranian college students supporting the Iranian Revolution. Operation Eagle Claw's failure — including the deaths of eight American service members — prompted the Pentagon to rethink how it responded to crises around the globe.

"It was embarrassing to think this almighty nation couldn't get 50-some of their own people out of Iran," Marcinko said in a 2019 interview with the special operations-focused online publication SOFREP. "Everybody got egg on their face ... and it was some retired admirals and generals went and looked at all the things that screwed up and basically came out and said we should ... have a standing dedicated force for counterterrorism."

Hayward, the CNO, charged Marcinko with designing the unit, selecting its members, training them and serving as its initial commander. He picked the best SEALs and underwater demolition specialists to build what would become the Navy's most elite and famous unit. He told SOFREP he even used the opportunity to mess with the Soviet Union — naming the unit Team Six even though only two SEAL teams existed at the time.

"We didn't have a [SEAL Team] three, four or five," he said. "I picked six as a lucky number — let the Soviets figure out where the rest of them are."

After leaving the Navy, Marcinko went to work in business, did motivational speaking and authored some 20 books, including multiple best-sellers. After writing about his Navy career in his autobiography, Marcinko wrote a series of novels, in which he was the protagonist.

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ALEXANDRIA CRAW/U.S. Air Force

U.S. Army Gen. Robert B. Abrams, then U.S. Forces Korea commander, is seen in November 2018.

## Abrams' remarks on China challenge 'very surprising' to S. Korea military

By DAVID CHOI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — South Korea's Ministry of National Defense on Monday pushed back against remarks by a former commander of U.S. Forces Korea who said wartime plans against North Korea must account for China's militaristic influence in the region.

North Korea's weapons testing demonstrates that it persists as a threat, but the Chinese military also has "to be accounted for in the war plan," retired Gen. Robert Abrams, who led USFK and U.N. Command until July, said on Voice of America on Saturday.

"It's not a secret that they have increased their presence in and around the Korean Peninsula since 2010," Abrams said, referring to China's military.

"These are indications of things that have to be accounted for in the war plan that the current [guidance] does not contain," he said.

Abrams was talking about the next version of the Strategic Planning Guidance, a joint U.S.-South Korean military plan for a potential

war with North Korea.

However, South Korean Ministry of Defense spokesman Boo Seung-chan on Monday described Abrams' remarks as his "personal opinion" and his reference to China as "very surprising."

During a news conference, Boo recalled that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Defense Minister Suh Wook agreed to update the decade-old war plan to address emerging threats and situational changes.

In his VOA interview, Abrams referenced the many times in which Chinese aircraft entered South Korea's air defense identification zone — a buffer between a country's airspace and international airspace in which approaching aircraft are expected to identify themselves.

Two Chinese and seven Russian military aircraft flew into the South Korean zone on Nov. 19, prompting South Korea to scramble fighter jets and a refueling tanker, according to a statement from the country's Joint Chiefs of Staff at the time.

The Defense Department has described China as its "pacing chal-

lenge" and in February launched a 15-member China Task Force to assess the U.S.'s current strategy.

"China is seeking to overturn the current rules-based structure, which has benefitted all nations in the Indo-Pacific region," the Defense Department said in a news release Feb. 10. "The United States and its allies seek to continue the free and open environment in the region. China is using all elements of national power to bend the nations to its will."

South Korea continues to balance its diplomatic relationship with neighboring China and its longtime ally in Washington, D.C. Envoys from South Korea are still in discussions with China, North Korea and the U.S. over a possible declaration to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Dec. 13 said the three countries have agreed "in principle" to formally end the war and that he hoped it would generate "significant dialogue momentum."

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## Official: Navy must remove fuel from tanks

Associated Press

HONOLULU — A Hawaii state official on Monday agreed that the Navy should be required to remove fuel from massive fuel tanks it owns near Pearl Harbor, saying they pose "a metaphorical ticking time bomb" threatening the water supply of the state's most populous island.

Deputy Attorney General David Day led two days of hearings for the Department of Health last week before making his recommendation.

The Navy had appealed an earlier order from Gov. David Ige to defuel the tanks.

"The evidence shows that the Red Hill Facility is simply too old, too poorly designed, too difficult to maintain, too difficult to inspect, along with being too large to prevent future releases," wrote Day in his recommendation.

Department of Health Deputy Director Marian Tsuji will consider Day's recommendation when mak-

ing a final decision. The Navy, the Sierra Club of Hawaii and Honolulu's water utility have until Wednesday to object to Day's recommendations.

The Navy didn't immediately comment on the substance of Day's findings.

"We are aware of the proposed decision and have no further statement at this time," said Rear Adm. Charlie Brown, the Navy's chief of information.

## MILITARY

# Marine saves man trapped in overturned car

By J.P. LAWRENCE

*Stars and Stripes*

A barefoot Marine rescued a crash victim by kicking out the windshield of the man's car, which was overturned in the middle of a highway in Orange County, Calif.

Staff Sgt. Joseph Maldonado, a recruiter, was on his way to work in Fullerton on Dec. 6 when he came across a three-car pileup, according to a Marine Corps statement issued Monday.

Maldonado had his windows rolled down and heard a man calling for help from an overturned red Mercedes, it said. According to the statement, the man was having a diabetic seizure.

"Us Marines always run to the call of help," Maldonado said in a Facebook message Tuesday.

Maldonado borrowed a knife from a bystander and crawled into the car to cut the trapped man out of his seat belt. The Marine had been wearing flip-flops while driving, and he used his bare feet to break the front windshield in an attempt to free the man, the statement said.

But Maldonado realized it



JOSEPH MALDONADO

**A U.S. Marine pulled a man out of an overturned vehicle that was part of this three-car pileup on a highway in Orange County, Calif., on Dec. 6. The man apparently was having a diabetic seizure.**

would be too hazardous to pull the crash victim out through the windshield, so he asked bystanders to help pull him through the driver's side door.

"I told him, 'Hey, I'm going to use my body and get you out of here,'" Maldonado said, according to the Marines' statement.

After the rescue, Maldonado

retrieved the man's personal belongings, which included insulin and diabetes medication. He told police officers at the scene that the man may be in the middle of a



Maldonado

diabetic seizure.

Based on that information, police gave the man medication to keep him stable, the statement said.

At least one other person involved in the collision was injured, Maldonado said Tuesday.

"I saw where I could help and simply did something about it," he was quoted as saying in the Marines' statement.

However, service members' rescue efforts after traffic accidents haven't always ended so favorably.

The outcome for a 20-year-old Marine who tried to be a Good Samaritan on a California freeway in early December shows the inherent danger of what Maldonado did.

That Marine died after being struck by a vehicle while rendering help in a crash near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, the Los Angeles Times reported.

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## Study of spouse unemployment included in 2022 NDAA

By ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

The Defense Department will begin an in-depth study into military spouse employment next year, which advocates say can help explain why the population's unemployment rate has sat at about 22% for the past decade.

The study was included in the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, which President Joe Biden signed into law Monday, and will be the first comprehensive review of the subject in several years, said Sue Hoppin, founder and president of the National Military Spouse Network, an organization that supports spouses' professional and personal

development.

She has been a longtime advocate for research of this kind, because uncovering the root causes of unemployment can help build more effective programs, she said.

In fiscal year 2021, the Pentagon directed \$65.9 million toward spouse employment programs, which range from career counselors and workshops to developing partnerships with private companies to helping develop state partnerships that ease state licensing requirements for certain careers.

"We look forward to continuing our work with [the Defense Department] to encourage military spouse participation in the study and en-

sure that the resulting policy recommendations reflect the needs of today's military families," Hoppin said.

The Pentagon must provide the study to Congress within one year, along with any policy change recommendations.

The new law calls on the Pentagon to study employment barriers by looking at three specific areas: military spouses who are currently employed and if they have children, those spouses who are underemployed and whether their military connection is the cause of that, and if spouses have experienced discrimination by civilian employers because of their military affiliation.

The study also will look at other barriers to military spouse employment, including state licensure requirements, child care availability, broadband access, job availability in military communities and housing access.

"We applaud the United States Congress for their hard work in championing this new study and taking this important step in supporting our military spouses," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, CEO and board president of Blue Star Families, a military family advocacy organization. "Our mission is not only to provide resources and support directly to military families, but to make sure their voices are heard

and concrete actions are taken by decision makers."

Members who advocated for including the study in the NDAA were Sens. Raphael Warnock, D-Ga., and Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and Rep. Marilyn Strickland, D-Wash.

"As the daughter of a veteran, I know that when a person answers the call to serve, their entire family steps up with them in service and sacrifice," Strickland said in a statement. "For military spouses, that sacrifice shouldn't mean facing discrimination in the workforce and losing job opportunities as a result."

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## NDAA: Measure provides 2-week bereavement leave for service members

FROM PAGE 1

ership, for their work on the annual legislation.

Next, Congress will need to pass an appropriations bill, which will pave the way for the spending authorized in the NDAA. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, has warned that operating under a continuing resolution, which keeps spending at the previous year's levels, would compromise \$35 billion from the NDAA.

"We can all stand up here on the Senate floor and back at home, declaring our unwavering support

for our troops and their families, and claiming to support a strong national defense, but until we put our money where our mouth is and provide the funding we say we support, those words ring hollow," Leahy said in a statement.

The NDAA includes \$740 billion for the Pentagon budget — about \$24 billion more than Biden's administration requested. Of that, an unprecedented \$117.8 billion goes toward Pentagon research, development, testing and evaluation in new technologies, which officials have deemed critical in a high-end fight against power competitors

such as China and Russia.

Among many reforms and new policies, the NDAA gives troops and civilian employees a 2.7% pay raise that begins in January, as well as a "basic needs allowance" for service members with an income that's not enough to support their family. Service members also gain parental leave for up to 12 weeks for the birth, adoption or foster care placement of a child and two-week bereavement leave, a benefit that is also available to civilian employees.

The NDAA reforms the military justice system, in particular the

way it handles sexual assault and harassment cases. It creates a standalone crime for sexual harassment and overhauls how the military investigates and prosecutes 11 crimes, including sexual assault, murder, manslaughter and kidnapping. It also moves the decision to prosecute those crimes from the chain of command to an independent prosecutor. Commanders do retain oversight of courts-martial under the new law.

"Empowering independent military prosecutors is key to tackling the military's sexual assault crisis and it's also key to boosting mili-

tary readiness and retention," retired Col. Don Christensen, the former chief prosecutor of the Air Force and president of Protect Our Defenders, a military justice advocacy group, said in a statement. "If you care about the health and well-being of those who serve our nation and the military as a whole, then today's reforms — which also include significant sentencing reform, enhanced victim's rights, and the criminalization of sexual harassment — are a big win."

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## MILITARY

# Officials: Roughly 25% of Navy ship crew has COVID-19

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About two dozen sailors on a U.S. Navy warship — or roughly 25% of the crew — have now tested positive for COVID-19, keeping the ship sidelined in port at Naval Station Guantánamo Bay in Cuba Monday, according to U.S. defense officials.

The USS Milwaukee has a crew of a bit more than 100, and it was forced to pause its deployment late last week because of the coronavirus outbreak. The defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the outbreak, said the number of infected sailors is staying relatively constant at this point.

The USS Milwaukee, a smaller, stealthier combat ship, is the first Navy ship this year to have to interrupt its deployment at sea.

It began its deployment from Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Fla., on Dec. 14, and had stopped for a scheduled port visit. The ship was heading into the U.S. Southern Command region.

Another warship, meanwhile, had to postpone its movement out to sea earlier this month due to a separate outbreak. Navy Cmdr. Sean Robertson, spokesman for 3rd Fleet, said the USS Halsey, a destroyer, delayed its homeport move from Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, to San Diego because a significant number of the crew became infected with COVID-19. The ship was finally able to leave Hawaii on Sunday. The move is not a deployment, but a transfer to a new home station for the crew.

A Navy official said roughly one-third of the Halsey crew tested positive for the virus, and most had only mild symptoms or none at all. A destroyer has about 300 crew

members. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details on the crew impact.

Robertson said the crew was nearly 100% vaccinated and no one was taken to the hospital. Vaccine booster shots were made available for the crew. Robertson also said some of the samples have been tested and all were of the omicron variant.

The Navy said in a statement Friday that the USS Milwaukee's crew was "100% immunized" and that all of those who tested positive for COVID-19 were being isolated on the ship away from other crew members.

The U.S. officials said Monday that the Navy believes the total vaccination of the crew is the key factor in controlling the outbreak.

According to the Navy's statement, "a portion" of those infected are having mild symptoms, and the specific variant is not yet known. COVID-19 cases have surged across the country as a result of the highly contagious omicron variant.

Other Navy ships were sidelined during the early months of the virus outbreak last year.

The first major military outbreak of the virus happened early last year on a Navy warship, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier that was operating in the Pacific. The Roosevelt was sidelined in Guam for nearly two months, and more than 1,000 of the 4,800 crew members tested positive. One sailor died, and the entire crew went through weeks of quarantine in a rotation that kept enough sailors on the ship to keep it safe and running.

According to the latest data released by the Navy, more than 98% of all active-duty sailors have been fully vaccinated.



Wiesbaden Fire Department

German and American crews extinguish a fire in Delkenheim, Germany, early Tuesday.

## US Army crew joins Germans to put out fire in giant dung heap

By **MARCUS KLOECKNER**  
AND **CHAD GARLAND**  
Stars and Stripes

A blaze in a manure pile the size of an Olympic swimming pool was extinguished Tuesday in Wiesbaden, Germany, with help from a U.S. Army fire crew.

The fire broke out about 5 a.m. at an agricultural company's depot in Delkenheim, a part of Wiesbaden, said Fabian Kiefer at the city fire station headquarters. The burning dung heap measured 2,750 cubic yards.

Kiefer did not have a damage estimate. The fire did not appear to have been set intentionally and was likely caused by the pile's own heat, a Wiesbaden police spokesman said.

The military sent a special truck usually used on fires at airfields because of its large capacity

water tank, the fire station said. The truck was "very helpful at the beginning," as up to 45 firefighters battled the blaze at its peak, fire officials said.

The scene was near the military airfield at Clay Kaserne and the American crew arrived quickly, Kiefer said.

U.S. and local German fire crews train together frequently, Kiefer said. The fire station has a good idea of what equipment the military operates and what to request, though the base is not required to send it.

Hours later, the Wiesbaden fire brigade was still pulling apart the huge pile of dung to make it easier to extinguish, but Kiefer said the fire was under control, and only a few firefighters remained by the afternoon.

The Wiesbaden garrison did

not immediately respond to phone calls and emails about the blaze.

The fire department at Clay Kaserne is staffed by some Germans, such as Karin Morrell, who the garrison said last year became the first woman in Europe to earn the title of assistant fire chief for prevention.

The Americans build relationships with local fire departments because they're likely to be the first on the scene if military aircraft have off-base emergencies, Fire Chief Daniel Corzelius said in a 2019 statement.

"We rely on each other," he said.

Stars and Stripes reporter David Edge in Wiesbaden contributed to this report.  
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## Coronavirus found in victim's body after death at Sasebo

By **JOSEPH DITZLER**  
Stars and Stripes

A person from Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, who died in the past week of unknown causes was afterward confirmed positive for the coronavirus, according to a base spokesman on Tuesday.

The deceased was affiliated with the Navy, but the base did not specify in what capacity.

That person was tested before receiving care at a Japanese hospital and subsequently died there, base spokesman Aki Nichols said Tuesday. The test

came back positive after the person's death.

"The cause is unknown," Nichols said. "It's circumstantial as far as we're concerned that the person was positive, we found that out after his death."

Nichols said no further information about the cause of death is forthcoming. He said he could not confirm any details about the person.

Another 16 people tested positive in the same period, eight after showing symptoms of COVID-19 and eight during medical

screening, according to a base announcement Tuesday on its Facebook page. Sasebo Naval Base has 17 active cases.

The spike in new cases comes after three months of relative quiet at Sasebo, where a U.S. expeditionary strike group is located on the southern island of Kyushu. The 16 cases reported Tuesday are the most Sasebo has confirmed since 14 on Sept. 14.

Other bases in Japan are experiencing similar COVID-19 spurts after months of relatively few or no confirmed cases.

So far in December, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni near Hiroshima has reported 16 new cases of COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, 13 of them since Friday, according to news releases from the base.

On Okinawa, a cluster of cases at Camp Hansen, a Marine Corps base, increased from 260 on Monday to 277 on Tuesday, according to Okinawa prefecture. The Marine Corps has not stated whether any of those cases, which arose in a recently arrived Marine rotational unit, are of the omicron

variant.

Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, the headquarters of U.S. Forces Japan, reported 14 active cases on Dec. 22.

Yokosuka Naval Base, homeport of the U.S. 7th Fleet south of Tokyo, confirmed 10 cases so far in December, six of them on Thursday, according to base news releases.

Stars and Stripes reporters Jonathan Snyder, Alex Wilson, Hana Kusumoto and Matthew M. Burke contributed to this report.  
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# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Fauci: US should consider vaccines for air travel

By Zeke Miller  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top U.S. infectious disease expert, said the nation should consider a vaccination mandate for domestic air travel, signaling a potential embrace of an idea the Biden administration has previously eschewed, as COVID-19 cases spike.

Fauci, President Joe Biden's chief science adviser on the pandemic response, said that such a mandate might drive up the nation's lagging vaccination rate as well as confer stronger protection on flights, for which federal regulations require all those age 2 and older to wear a mask.

"When you make vaccination a requirement, that's another incentive to get more people vaccinated," Fauci told MSNBC on Monday. "If you want to do that with domestic flights, I think that's something that seriously should be considered."



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Dr. Anthony Fauci and Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, arrive at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House Campus on Monday in Washington.

The Biden administration has thus far balked at imposing a vaccination requirement for domestic air travel. Two officials said Bi-

den's science advisers have yet to make a formal recommendation for such a requirement to the president.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations, said a vaccine mandate on planes could trigger a host of logistical and legal concerns.

The United States currently mandates that most foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, though citizens and permanent residents only need to show proof of a negative test taken within a day of boarding.

Federal rules don't require people traveling by air within the U.S. to show a negative test. Hawaii requires travelers to test or show proof of vaccination to avoid a mandatory quarantine.

Biden did not respond to questions on whether he was considering implementing a domestic air travel vaccination requirement, but he told reporters the subject was discussed on a call with the nation's governors Monday morning.

"They asked Dr. Fauci some more questions about everything from whether or not he thought he was going to move to test at home — I mean, on air flights and that kind of thing," Biden said of the call before departing the White House for his home in Rehoboth Beach, Del.

During the virtual meeting with governors, Biden pledged the full support of the federal government to states facing surges in COVID-19 cases from the more-transmissible omicron variant and a run on at-home tests that dominated headlines over the holiday season.

"My message is: If you need something, say something, and we're going to have your back any way we can," Biden said. He acknowledged long lines and chaotic scenes as Americans sought out testing amid the case surge and as they looked to safely gather with family and friends over the holiday.

## COVID: CDC now saying infected people can quarantine for 5 days

FROM PAGE 1

rules that previously called on health care workers to stay out of work for 10 days if they test positive. The new recommendations said workers could go back to work after seven days if they test negative and don't have symptoms. And the agency said isolation time could be cut to five days, or even fewer, if there are severe staffing shortages.

Now, the CDC is changing the isolation and quarantine guidance for the general public to be even less stringent.

The change is aimed at people who are not experiencing symptoms. People with symptoms during isolation, or who develop symptoms during quarantine, are encouraged to stay home.

The CDC's isolation and quarantine guidance has confused the public, and the new recommendations are "happening at a time when more people are testing positive for the first time and looking for guidance," said Lindsay Wiley, an American University public health law expert.

Nevertheless, the guidance con-

tinues to be complex.

### Isolation

The isolation rules are for people who are infected. They are the same for people who are unvaccinated, partly vaccinated, fully vaccinated or boosted.

They say:

■ The clock starts the day you test positive.

■ An infected person should go into isolation for five days, instead of the previously recommended 10.

■ At the end of five days, if you have no symptoms, you can return to normal activities but must wear a mask everywhere — even at home around others — for at least five more days.

■ If you still have symptoms after isolating for five days, stay home until you feel better and then start your five days of wearing a mask at all times.

### Quarantine

The quarantine rules are for people who were in close contact with an infected person but not infected themselves.

For quarantine, the clock starts the day someone is alerted they may have been exposed to the virus.

Previously, the CDC said people who were not fully vaccinated and who came in close contact with an infected person should stay home for at least 10 days.

Now the agency is saying only people who got booster shots can skip quarantine if they wear masks in all settings for at least 10 days.

### Five days

Suspending both isolation and quarantine after five days is not without risk.

A lot of people get tested when they first feel symptoms, but many Americans get tested for others reasons, like to see if they can visit family or for work. That means a positive test result may not reveal exactly when a person was infected or give a clear picture of when they are most contagious, experts have said.

When people get infected, the risk of spread drops substantially after five days, but it does not com-

pletely disappear for everyone, said Dr. Aaron Glatt, a New York physician who is a spokesman for the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

"If you decrease it to five days,

you're still going to have a small but significant number of people who are contagious," he said.

That's why wearing masks is a critical part of the CDC guidance, Walensky said.



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# DESTINATION PARADISE

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## NATION

# Flu is making comeback in US after year off

Associated Press

The U.S. flu season has arrived on schedule after taking a year off, with flu hospitalizations rising and two child deaths reported.

Last year's flu season was the lowest on record, likely because COVID-19 measures — school closures, distancing, masks and canceled travel — prevented the spread of influenza, or because the coronavirus somehow pushed aside other viruses.

"This is setting itself up to be

more of a normal flu season," said Lynnette Brammer, who tracks flu-like illnesses for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The childhood deaths, Brammer said, are "unfortunately what we would expect when flu activity picks up. It's a sad reminder of how severe flu can be."

During last year's unusually light flu season, one child died. In contrast, 199 children died from flu two years ago, and 144 the year before that.

In the newest data, the most intense flu activity was in the nation's capital, Washington, D.C., and the number of states with high flu activity rose from three to seven. In CDC figures released Monday, states with high flu activity are New Mexico, Kansas, Indiana, New Jersey, Tennessee, Georgia and North Dakota.

The type of virus circulating this year tends to cause the largest amount of severe disease, especially in the elderly and the very young, Brammer said.

Last year's break from the flu made it more challenging to plan for this year's flu vaccine. So far, it looks like what's circulating is in a slightly different subgroup from what the vaccine targets, but it's "really too early to know" whether that will blunt the vaccine's effectiveness, Brammer said.

"We'll have to see what the impact of these little changes" will be, Brammer said. "Flu vaccine is your best way to protect yourself against flu."

There are early signs that fewer people are getting flu shots compared with last year. With hospitals already stretched by COVID-19, it's more important than ever to get a flu shot and take other precautions, Brammer said.

"Cover your cough. Wash your hands. Stay home if you're sick," Brammer said. "If you do get flu, there are antivirals you can talk to your doctor about that can prevent severe illness and help you stay out of the hospital."

## Northwest cold forces some into shelters

By MANUEL VALDES

Associated Press

SEATTLE — With temperatures in normally mild Seattle dropping well below freezing, Kaety West walked a short distance in the snow from the tent where she usually stays to find refuge at a small warming center at an American Legion hall.

"I'm not even willing to stay in it right now. It's just so difficult," she said of her tent on Monday.

Severe weather sweeping parts of the U.S. brought frigid temperatures to the Pacific Northwest and heavy snow to mountains in Northern California and Nevada.

Across western Washington and Oregon officials and private groups opened emergency spaces for people to find refuge as forecasters said the extreme cold from an arctic blast could last until the weekend.

Snow showers blew into the Pacific Northwest on Sunday from the Gulf of Alaska, dumping up to 6 inches across the Seattle area and snarling traffic throughout the greater Seattle and Portland areas.

The National Weather Service said Seattle's low Sunday was 20 degrees F, breaking a mark set in 1948. Bellingham, Wash., was 9 degrees F, 3 degrees colder than the previous record set in 1971.

State officials in Oregon have declared an emergency. In Multnomah County — home to Portland — about a half dozen weather shelters were open. Seattle city

leaders also opened at least six severe weather shelters and the mayor declared an emergency.

Utilities reported about 5,000 customers without power Monday in western Washington and Oregon.

Farther south blowing snow in the mountains of Northern California and Nevada closed key highways, with forecasters warning that travel in the Sierra Nevada could be difficult for several days.

At Donner Pass in the Sierra, officials with the University of California, Berkeley's Central Sierra Snow Laboratory on Monday said recent snowfall has smashed the snowiest December record of 179 inches, set in 1970. The record is now 193.7 inches as more snow is expected.

The Northstar California Resort in Truckee closed its mountain operations on Monday amid blizzard conditions. The ski resort has received more than 6 feet of snow over the last 48 hours, according to the resort's Facebook post.

The snowpack in the Sierra was at dangerously low levels after recent weeks of dry weather but the state Department of Water Resources reported on Monday that the snowpack was between 145% and 161% of normal across the range with more snow expected.

In Nevada, freezing air and blinding snow blasted across the northern part of the state on Monday, affecting travel and business, closing Sierra Nevada highway



ELIAS FUNEZ, THE UNION/AP

**Stuck motorists are seen along Brunswick Road as heavy snow continues to fall early Monday in Grass Valley, Calif.**

passes, delaying airport flights and shutting state offices.

Nevada Gov. Steve Sisolak ordered nonessential state workers other than public safety and corrections personnel to remain home due to the storm.

The storms that have been pummeling California and Nevada in recent days also brought rain and snow to Arizona. A record inch of rain in one day was reported at the airport in Phoenix on Friday when 11 inches of snow fell at the Arizona Snowbowl ski resort just outside Flagstaff.

More storms were expected to hit the desert state starting Monday afternoon and continuing throughout the week and snow was again expected in the greater Portland area through Tuesday morning.

With temperatures in western Washington and Oregon not forecast to rise above freezing for days, officials were planning on keeping emergency shelters for longer than initially expected.

Seattle leaders said city shelters will remain open through the new year. Nearly 200 people stayed at

the shelters overnight on Sunday, officials said, and they were expecting the numbers to grow.

At the shelter where West went to get warm, American Legion Hall Post 160, there was room for about a dozen people.

Keith Hughes of the American Legion said the capacity is limited by lack of volunteer staff.

"Volunteers, this is a problem for myself as well as everyone else in town, it's really hard to get with COVID going on," he said, adding there were plans to keep the space open for about 10 days.

## Death toll from devastating Kentucky tornadoes rises to 77

Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky — Kentucky's death toll from devastating tornadoes rose earlier this month by one as Gov. Andy Beshear announced Monday that an infant died last week. The state's revised death toll from the storms is now 77.

The infant, from Graves County in the western part of the state, died last week, the governor said. Mayfield, the county seat, was hit especially hard by the storms, with hundreds of buildings destroyed.

"This is one that rips at the very fabric of who we are," Beshear said during a news briefing. He

was joined by Kentucky first lady Britanny Beshear.

"Britanny and I ask everyone to join us in lifting up this family and their friends and the community in prayer," he added.

Debris removal in affected areas is "starting to ramp up," Beshear added. While around 26% of

Graves County is still without power, outages in other counties are down to less than 1%. Meanwhile, some 11,600 insurance claims have been filed.

"Rebuilding these homes and structures and lives is going to take years and we've got to make sure when support is needed down the

road that we have it ... and we can deploy it there to help these families," Beshear said.

All together, the storms killed more than 90 people in five states. The National Weather Service recorded at least 41 tornadoes on Dec. 10 and 11, including 16 in Tennessee and eight in Kentucky.

NATION



Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP

A police officer comforts a woman at the scene where two people were struck by gunfire in a shooting at a Burlington store in North Hollywood, Calif., on Thursday.

# LA police video shows officer shooting that killed bystander

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Video released Monday showed Los Angeles police firing at a man suspected of assaulting customers last week at a clothing store, a shooting that also killed a 14-year-old girl hiding in a dressing room who was struck by a bullet that went through a wall.

The Los Angeles Police Department posted an edited video package online that included 911 calls, radio transmissions, body camera footage and surveillance video from the Thursday shooting at a Burlington store crowded with holiday shoppers. The department's policy is to release video from critical incidents, such as police shootings, within 45 days.

Surveillance video showed the suspect attacking two women, including one who fell to the floor before he dragged her by her feet through the store's aisles as she tried to crawl away.

Multiple people including store employees called police to report a man striking customers with a bike lock at the store in the North Hollywood area of the San Fer-

nando Valley. One caller told a 911 dispatcher that the man had a gun. No firearm — only the bike lock — was recovered at the scene.

The early surveillance footage showed a man in a tank top and shorts carrying a bicycle up the store's escalator to the second floor, where he wandered around, seemingly disoriented, clutching a cable-style bike lock. At times he stood motionless, staring into the distance.

The footage later showed the man on the down escalator attacking a woman, who managed to escape his grip and run out of the store.

The man then left the store for a minute and a half, police said. After he returned, according to the video, he repeatedly beat a woman with a bike lock while she cowered on the floor. As she tried to escape, he dragged her through the aisle toward the dressing rooms.

In bodycam video, armed officers entered the store and approached the suspect.

"She's bleeding!" an officer shouts as the victim crawled on the blood-stained floor and the

suspect was on the other side of the aisle. At least one officer opened fire, striking the man.

The 24-year-old suspect, Daniel Elena Lopez, died at the scene. Also killed was Valentina Orellana-Peralta, 14, who was hiding with her mother inside a dressing room.

"At this preliminary phase of the investigation, it is believed that the victim was struck by one of the rounds fired by an officer at the suspect," police Capt. Stacy Spell said in the posted video. Police believe the bullet skipped off the floor and struck the dressing room wall.

The investigation is just beginning and it could take up to a year or more to complete, Spell said. The California Department of Justice is also investigating.

"We at the LAPD would like to express our most heartfelt condolences and profound regret for the loss of this innocent victim, Valentina Orellana-Peralta. There are no words that can describe the depth of the sorrow we feel at this tragic outcome," Spell said in the video.

# US home prices surge 18.4% in October

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. home prices surged again in October as the housing market continues to boom in the wake of last year's coronavirus recession.

The S&P CoreLogic Case-Shiller 20-city home price index, out Tuesday, climbed 18.4% in October from a year earlier. The gain marked a slight deceleration from a 19.1% year-over-year increase in September but was about in line

with what economists had been expecting.

All 20 cities posted double-digit annual gains. The hottest markets were Phoenix (up 32.3%), Tampa (28.1%) and Miami (25.7%). Minneapolis and Chicago posted the smallest increases, 11.5% each.

The housing market has been strong thanks to rock-bottom mortgage rates, a limited supply of homes on the market, and pent-up demand from consumers

locked in last year by the pandemic. Many Americans, tired of being cooped up at home during the pandemic, are looking to trade up from apartments to homes or to bigger houses.

Last week, mortgage rates fell — to 3.05% for the benchmark 30-year, fixed-rate and 2.66% for the 15-year fixed-rate home loan. The persistently low rates signal that credit markets appear more concerned about the omicron variant.

# Hit-and-run driver kills at least 2 kids and injures 4 more

South Florida Sun Sentinel

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — A hit-and-run driver killed two children Monday afternoon in Wilton Manors and injured four others before fleeing, authorities said.

Witnesses said a car attempted to swerve around a bus that had stopped to let off passengers, and the car hit the children. Detectives from the Broward Sheriff's Office are seeking the driver.

Two of the injured are in critical condition and two have non-life-threatening injuries, according to Fort Lauderdale Fire Rescue Battalion Chief Stephen Gollan. All six were between the ages of one and 10.

The car, which appeared to be a gray Nissan, drove up on the sidewalk to get around a bus, said Shaunta Adams, who had just driven away from her apartment.

"By the time I looked up, I saw him going around the bus and I see him hit the damn kids," Adams, 51, said. "I jumped out my car, my car was still running, I ran up and saw the first girl on the ground. I knew she was dead. I go to the second kid and I see him dead."

She said other people shouted that there were more kids, so she turned and saw several more near

another car.

"There were four of them, and the oldest one, he was holding a baby, who was maybe about 2, and he was holding — I guess they're all sisters and brothers — and he was saying, 'Ow, my leg.' And I said, 'Hold on, the ambulance is coming.' And I just started crying because the little girl's head was bleeding, and it was just awful."

When the children were hit, residents of an apartment building across the street heard screaming.

Wallene Johnson, 64, came outside and saw two bodies in the parking lot behind the wheels of a parked car. She saw another child lying on the ground down the road.

"How can you sleep?" she asked. "And they're babies. They won't be going back to school."

It happened around 2417 N.W. Ninth Avenue, on a busy four-lane road lined with two-story apartment buildings. The call to police came at 2:50 p.m.

Anyone with information about what happened was asked to call Broward County Crime Stoppers at 954-493-TIPS.

The identities of the children were not released. Officials haven't yet given additional details about the circumstances.

# Police: At least 5 people killed, including gunman, in Denver area shootings

Associated Press

DENVER — A gunman killed four people and injured an officer in the Denver area, police said Monday.

The suspect also died Monday, Lakewood police said. Officers had exchanged gunfire with the suspect, KDVR reported.

The shootings started shortly after 5 p.m. in central Denver, where two women were killed and a man was injured, Denver Police Chief Paul Pazen said at a news conference.

A short time later, a man was fatally shot several blocks away, Pazen said. During that pursuit, police officers exchanged gunfire with a suspect. The suspect then fled to the nearby city of Lakewood, Pazen said.

Just before 6 p.m., the Lakewood Police Department received a report of shots fired at a business said John Romero, a spokesman for that department said.

A gunshot victim was later found and pronounced dead at the scene, Romero said. Police officers identified the car and the shooting suspect, Romero said. The suspect was not identified at the joint news conference.

Romero said that when the officers found the car, the gunman opened fire and officers shot back. The gunman then fled on foot to a Hyatt hotel, where he is believed to have shot a clerk. He also shot and wounded a Lakewood police officer after he left the hotel.

The wounded officer was undergoing surgery Monday night and his condition was not immediately known, a spokesman for the Lakewood Police Department said. The hotel clerk's condition was not known.

The suspect was later shot in Lakewood and pronounced dead at the scene, Romero said. It was not immediately clear if police officers had shot him.

## NATION

# States poised to act on abortion rights

By WILSON RING  
Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — Early in the new year, the Vermont House of Representatives is due to begin debate on an amendment that would enshrine the right to abortion in the state constitution and send the question to voters in the fall.

Because the process began two years ago, it's a coincidence that Vermont lawmakers will be considering the Reproductive Liberty Amendment while the U.S. Supreme Court is considering a case that could severely erode a right that has stood for half a century.

The pending decision in that case, expected in mid-2022, means it's not just Vermont with abortion on the legislative agenda. State legislatures across the country will be responding to the possibility of seismic change to the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* ruling that legalized abortion across the U.S. Republican-led legislatures are ready to further restrict or ban abortions outright while Democratic-led ones are seeking to ensure access to abortion in their state law.

Supporters of the proposed Vermont amendment had the possible loss of *Roe* in mind when they began the process in 2019 to enshrine "reproductive autonomy," including abortion, in the state constitution.

"In my mind, there should be no question where Vermont stands with regard to its core values and fundamental rights," said Democratic state Rep. Ann Pugh, who chairs the committee that will hold hearings on the proposal as early as January. "And for those rights and



STEPHEN SPILLMAN/AP

**The Women's March ATX rally at the Texas State Capitol in Austin on Oct. 2 was a response to a state law that effectively bans abortion about six weeks after conception. An expected U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2022 to restrict abortion rights is setting off a renewed round of abortion battles in state legislatures.**

responsibilities and values to be protected more definitively, they need to be enshrined in our state constitution."

A far different approach is being considered in Kansas. Republican state lawmakers have placed on the state's August 2022 primary ballot a proposed constitutional amendment that would overturn a 2019 state Supreme Court decision. That ruling declared abortion access a "fundamental right" and part of a woman's inherent right to bodily autonomy. The amendment would say that the state constitution provides

no right to abortion and that the Legislature can regulate it however lawmakers see fit — which means if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, Kansas lawmakers could ban abortion completely.

In California, lawmakers are expected to consider a plan in the coming year to make the state a "sanctuary" for those seeking reproductive care. That could include paying for travel, lodging and procedures for people from other states where abortions have been restricted or perhaps outlawed.

"Abortion has always been con-

tentious," said Mary Hahn Beerworth, of the Vermont Right to Life Committee, which is opposing Vermont's abortion-rights amendment. "In every state legislature across the country, in every political election, abortion rises to the top. It's one of the most identifying issues of our time."

At least 20 states, mostly across the South and Midwest, already have laws that would severely restrict or ban abortion if the high court overturns *Roe* and leaves the issue up to the states, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a repro-

ductive rights think tank.

Earlier this year, Republican lawmakers in at least half a dozen states said they planned to introduce legislation modeled after a new Texas law that effectively bans abortion about six weeks after conception. The law is written in a way that is intended to circumvent the federal courts by leaving enforcement up to individuals rather than the state. They hope it provides a pathway to enacting the kind of abortion crackdown they have sought for years.

In Mississippi, Republican state Sen. Chris McDaniel said earlier this year he would "absolutely" consider filing legislation to match the Texas law after a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court let that law stand, at least for now.

"I think most conservative states in the South will look at this inaction by the court and will see that as perhaps a chance to move on that issue," he said.

More than a dozen states, plus the District of Columbia, have statutory protections in place for abortion rights, said Elizabeth Nash, a state policy analyst with the Guttmacher Institute. Nash said a handful of states have interpreted their state constitutions as protecting abortion rights, but Democrats in Vermont want to be certain.

The proposed amendment does not contain the word "abortion." Proponents say that's because it is not meant to authorize only abortion, but also would guarantee other reproductive rights such as someone's right to get pregnant or have access to birth control.

## Again, crews find apparent time capsule at Lee statue site

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Crews wrapping up the removal of a giant pedestal that once held a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond found what appeared to be a second and long-sought-after time capsule, Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam said Monday.

The governor tweeted photos of a box being removed from the site and said conservators were studying the artifact.

"They found it! This is likely the time capsule everyone was looking for," he tweeted.

The box was expected to be opened Tuesday afternoon. It wasn't immediately clear what kind of condition any contents might be in.

The development marked the latest turn in a monthslong search for the capsule, which contemporaneous news accounts indicate was placed during a cornerstone-laying ceremony in 1887 attended by thousands of people. News accounts described its dozens of do-

nated artifacts, including Confederate memorabilia. Based on historical records, some have also speculated the capsule might contain a rare photo of deceased President Abraham Lincoln.

Earlier this month, crews dismantling the pedestal found a time capsule embedded in a granite block that some initially thought might have been the one placed in 1887. But after state conservators spent hours last week gingerly prying the box open, they didn't find the expected trove of objects related to the Confederacy. Instead, conservators pulled out a few waterlogged books, a silver coin and an envelope with some papers.

The prevailing theory last week was that the lead box was left by a person — or persons — who oversaw the monument's construction.

The search for the 1887 time capsule resumed Monday.

Devon Henry, the contractor whose company was overseeing the removal, said the box was found inside a granite enclosure

basically at ground level, surrounded by fill and other construction material. Workers pulled off the top of the granite enclosure to find the box, which appeared to be made of copper, sitting in water, Henry said.

The box was then covered in bubble wrap and transported by vehicle from the site for further study, he said.

The governor's office said in a news release that the box, which matches the size of the capsule listed in historical records, had been X-rayed. The resulting images showed it appeared to include books, coins, buttons and perhaps a type of Civil War-era ammunition, the news release said.

It was scheduled to be opened Tuesday afternoon at a state lab.

The Lee statue, which depicted the general atop a horse, was erected on the soaring pedestal in 1890 in the former capital of the Confederacy. Its removal in September came more than a year after Northam ordered it in the wake of protests that erupted after the



EVA RUSSO, RICHMOND (VA.)  
TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

**State archaeological conservator Katherine Ridgway prepares to remove a box believed to be the 1887 time capsule that was put under the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee statue's pedestal, on Monday, in Richmond, Va.**

police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

The statue was one of five enormous Confederate tributes along Monument Avenue, and the only

one that belonged to the state. The four city-owned statues were taken down in 2020, but the Lee statue's removal was blocked by two lawsuits until a ruling from the Supreme Court of Virginia in September cleared the way for it to be dismantled.

Crews searched for the time capsule then, digging and removing some massive stones, but were unable to locate it.

Henry said it was found Monday in the northeast corner of the pedestal, about 4 feet below the area initially searched.

Northam's administration initially planned to leave the pedestal in place but announced in early December that contractors would remove the behemoth, now covered in graffiti, and transfer the grassy traffic circle it inhabited to the city of Richmond. The administration has said it will be stored until "next steps" have been determined.

Finalizing the removal work at the site will likely take another week, Henry said.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police chase stolen truck, find human remains

**NV** LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas police announced the start of a homicide investigation after human remains were discovered inside a stolen truck.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department said in a statement that they found the remains after recovering two previously stolen trucks in the aftermath of a police chase.

Agency officers arrested Eric Holland, 57, in connection with the chase, pending arrest warrants and subsequent investigation into an apparent homicide. They said in a news release that Holland fled when officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop, switching from one stolen vehicle to another before being arrested at an apartment complex in central Las Vegas.

## Brothers regift same hard candy for decades

**NH** MANCHESTER — Two New Hampshire brothers have gotten their holiday regifting skills down to an art — they've been passing the same hard candy back and forth for over 30 years.

It started in 1987, when Ryan Wasson gave a 10-roll Frankford "Santa's Candy Book" with assorted fruit flavors to his brother, Eric Wasson, as a joke for Christmas, knowing that Eric wouldn't like it.

"I didn't eat them," Eric Wasson told WMUR-TV. "And so the next year I thought, 'Hey, I think I'm going to give it back to him. He'll never remember.'"

But Ryan immediately recognized it. They've been taking turns ever since, keeping a log of their exchanges. They've gotten creative about it.

Ryan Wasson told the station the candy has been frozen in a block of ice and put in Jell-O, adding, "He one time sewed it into a teddy bear."

The tradition has also involved family members, co-workers and even a sheriff's department. Last year, it was presented to Ryan Wasson on a silver platter at a restaurant.

## Food firm sues over bacon that spoiled in warehouse

**NE** LINCOLN — A Nebraska food company and its insurer want a warehouse company to pay them more than \$400,000 because a shipment of bacon was destroyed inside one of its warehouses in Lincoln.

Omaha food manufacturer Westin Inc. and Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Co. filed a lawsuit against warehousing company Universal Pure over the August 2020 incident. They said Universal Pure should have maintained its warehouse better to avoid the problem.

The Lincoln Journal Star reported that the bacon was de-



ROBIN RUDD, CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

## Team building

Scarlett Sethman, right, drives screws as her brother, Everett, checks the alignment of the metal roofing, as the Sethman Family, of East Brainerd, in Chattanooga, Tenn., work to complete the roof of their barn, on Monday.

stroyed when water accumulated and froze in a wall cavity of the warehouse, which led the wall to bow, pushing on pallet racking and causing a collapse.

## Man arrested, accused of trying to dig up grave

**MS** MERIDIAN — A man has been arrested for allegedly digging up a grave at a cemetery in Mississippi.

Meridian Police Sgt. Heather Luebbers said officers responded Christmas Eve to a call about two men walking around a cemetery with metal detectors, WLBT-TV reported. When officers arrived, they found one person, Shamus Burcham, digging up a gravesite.

Luebbers said Burcham did not get far in his effort before he was caught. He was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of desecration of cemeteries or corpses.

## Guests, workers at facility receive \$100 bills

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — Staff members and guests at a homeless and transitional facility in South Dakota each received \$100 bills for Christmas, thanks to an anonymous donor.

The St. Francis House in Sioux Falls has 90 residents, one of whom is recovering from cancer and suffering from Parkinson's disease. Darrin Stringfellow said

## THE CENSUS

**\$1M** The approximate total value of the more than a dozen one-of-a-kind Hermes handbags that were stolen in a smash-and-grab burglary from a boutique store in South Florida, the store owner said. The luxury bags were taken when the window where they were on display was smashed in the middle of the night earlier this month in the luxury shopping district of Worth Avenue in Palm Beach, according to television station WPTV. Virgil Rogers, the owner of the handbags shop, Only Authentics, said the incident happened the night of Dec. 14. Over the past two months, there have been a series of smash-and-grab burglaries at luxury stores around the U.S.

he was "overwhelmed" by the donation.

"I have saved a year's worth of rent in four and a half months, working the two jobs, and they've given so much more, a sense of worth, though, not just the monetary things and a warm bed," Stringfellow said. "I feel like a complete human again."

Nichole Barry, one of 30 employees at the house, said she "teared up a little bit" when she received the present.

St. Francis House Executive Director Julie Becker said it was humbling to be selected by the donor and delivered a message when handing out the bills, KELO-TV reported.

## Town pushing year's last paycheck to 2022

**IN** PORTAGE — Local government employees in an Indiana city will have to wait until next year to get their last paycheck for 2021.

Portage officials said they can't

cover payroll on Dec. 31. The money won't be available until Jan. 3, the (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

Portage typically has 26 paydays a year but has 27 in 2021.

Former Mayor John Cannon is offering interest-free loans to city workers until Jan. 4, especially if they need money for automatic deductions from their bank.

## Dog pound sued over lost dog adopted out

**IL** CHICAGO — A Chicago woman said her dog ran away and was adopted by a new owner, despite having his name and her phone number on his collar.

Zeus, a golden retriever, ended up at a dog pound and was transferred to Fetching Tails Foundation before he was placed in a new home, Karly Moran-West said, a day after filing a lawsuit against Chicago Animal Care and Control.

Moran-West, 20, also made a plea to the new owner: Please re-

turn Zeus.

Animal Care and Control declined to comment, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

Moran-West was visiting her sister in Los Angeles in January 2020 when Zeus escaped from her father's yard.

Animal Care and Control told Moran-West there was no phone number on Zeus' collar, according to the lawsuit, but a public records request showed the dog was wearing his collar with the number when he was processed.

## New horse campground coming to state park

**WV** CHARLESTON — A new equestrian campground with a covered corral and 20 stalls is being developed at North Bend State Park, the Charleston Gazette-Mail reported.

Department of Resources Director Stephen McDaniel announced the project, which he said was prompted by a surge of interest in trail riding, during a recent meeting of the Shiloh Trail Riders. When the project is completed, McDaniel said, it will be the largest of three equestrian campgrounds in West Virginia.

The new campground will include a loop of 12 pull-in campsites large enough to accommodate campers and trailers with power and water hookups.

## FACES

New this week:  
'Lost Daughter,'  
Boba Fett series

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

## Movies

■ Maggie Gyllenhaal's feature directing debut, "The Lost Daughter," scintillatingly adapts the 2008 Elena Ferrante novel about maternal ambivalence and a holiday in Greece. The film, which begins streaming Friday on Netflix, stars Olivia Colman as a vacationing professor whose interactions with a boisterous, distracting clan (including a young mother in their midst played by Dakota Johnson), recall her own parenting history, seen in flashbacks with Jessie Buckley. "The Lost Daughter" cleaned up last month at the Gotham Awards, which honor independent film, and topped AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr's best-of list for 2021. In her review, the AP's Jocelyn Noveck praised Colman's "blazing" performance as "a veritable onion shedding layers as she plays Leda, a prickly yet exceedingly vulnerable 48-year-old academic."

■ In the year-end rush of new movies, it's been easy to miss Mike Mills' tender, shaggy indie gem "C'mon C'mon." The film, which became available Dec. 23 for digital rental and video-on-demand, stars Joaquin Phoenix as a radio journalist who temporarily takes care of his 9-year-old nephew (Woody Norman). Shot in black-and-white and featuring interviews with real kids throughout, "C'mon C'mon" is an open-hearted movie about parenting with personal resonances for Mills, Phoenix and Norman. In her review, Bahr wrote that Mills "has a unique way of blending everyday banalities with cosmic questions and ideas to create lovely symphonies of humanity."

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

## Television

■ A looming figure in the "Star Wars" canon is coming into his own. "The Book of Boba Fett," starting Wednesday on Disney+, tracks the bounty hunter and mercenary Fennec Shand as they attempt to claim Tatooine land once controlled by Jabba the Hutt and his criminal syndicate. Temuera Morrison stars as Fett opposite Ming-Na Wen's Shand, with Jon Favreau and Robert Rodriguez among the seven-episode series' producers and directors. A trailer offers insight into Fett's viewpoint: Declaring he will rule with respect, he makes an offer to Jabba's former captains that has a "The Godfather" ring to it.

■ Richard Gere is the narrator for "Earth Emergency," about a less-prominent aspect of climate change. According to scientists interviewed for the documentary, human-caused global warming activates a natural response from the Earth that releases further greenhouse gases — and makes the planet even hotter. Activist Greta Thunberg and the Dalai Lama are among those featured in the film, which uses illustrations, graphics and video to examine what's termed a "crucial piece of the climate puzzle" and the urgency of addressing it. The hourlong documentary debuts Wednesday on PBS and on PBS.org.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber



LUCASFILM LTD., DISNEY+/TNS

"The Book of Boba Fett" stars Temuera Morrison, left, as the titular bounty hunter and Ming-Na Wen as Fennec Shand. The series, premiering Wednesday on Disney+, is the third in which Wen has portrayed the mercenary.

## Across the universe

## Ming-Na Wen continues magical Disney run with 'The Book of Boba Fett'

BY JOSHUA AXELROD  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

**N**o matter how many "Star Wars" shows Ming-Na Wen stars in, her mother will never quite grasp what all the fuss is about.

"She was a very practical woman who has gone through so many struggles in her life and ran a restaurant and raised kids," Wen said over Zoom while wearing a Baby Yoda sweatshirt. "She's an incredible woman, but she doesn't understand 'Star Wars.'"

Wen, 58, is one of the leads of "The Book of Boba Fett," a new Disney+ series premiering Wednesday. She stars as mercenary Fennec Shand, a character she has now played across three separate Disney+ "Star Wars" series, alongside Temuera Morrison's titular bounty hunter.

Many may find that to be a pretty cool accomplishment, but when Wen showed her mother a trailer for "The Book of Boba Fett," her response was: "Huh, you like this. Why?"

It's pretty clear why Wen would be

excited about continuing her long and prosperous journey with Disney, which has included voicing the princess in 1998's "Mulan," playing Agent Melinda May on ABC's Marvel series "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." and continuing to portray Fennec on shows created by Dave Filoni.

For her and the rest of the "Book of Boba Fett" team, Filoni — who also created multiple animated "Star Wars" series and worked on the first two seasons of Disney+'s "The Mandalorian" — "is the encyclopedia of 'Star Wars,'" Wen said.

Wen has played high-profile television roles throughout her career, including her long-running role as Jing-Mei "Deb" Chen on NBC's "ER" and the tough-as-nails Agent May on "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." Marvel recently started folding characters from its Netflix series into its larger cinematic universe, and Wen would love to see the "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." gang get the same treatment.

Her priority now, of course, is continuing on with her role as Fennec Shand across the "Star Wars" TV universe. That character made her debut in Season 1 of "The Mandalorian," came back for Season 2, appeared in animated form during the first season of Filoni's "Star Wars: The Bad Batch" series and will be stepping into a more central role for the first time in "The

Book of Boba Fett."

For a character that was originally only supposed to appear in that one episode of "The Mandalorian," Wen considers playing Fennec "an out-of-body experience half the time," and she can't wait for audiences to watch her and Boba Fett navigate the "Star Wars" universe's criminal underbelly.

"There's a lot they have in common, but they also complement each other because she's more street smart and has had to live on her own," Wen said. "He sort of needs Fennec's street smarts. It's an exploration of how they're able to handle this underworld of 'Star Wars' that has never been explored before."

Wen is looking forward to finding out how Fennec gained her tools of the trade, as well as showing audiences that while Fennec and Agent May may seem similar due to their stoic natures, Fennec's "morals can fluctuate very quickly depending on what serves her," as opposed to May's more loyal tendencies.

As Wen sees it, her life has been "altered tremendously" by her relationship with Disney. She used to love going to pop-culture conventions and now enjoys engaging with her fans on social media because "it makes me so happy to be able to brighten their day for a few minutes."

## Rep confirms 'Big Little Lies' director died of heart attack

From wire reports

"Big Little Lies" and "Dallas Buyers Club" director Jean-Marc Vallée died from a heart attack, his representative Bumble Ward confirmed to the Los Angeles Times on Monday. He was 58.

The Emmy-winning director died over the holiday weekend while at his cabin outside of Quebec City in Canada.

Deadline reported Monday that the director — who didn't drink and practiced the Wim Hof fitness method, which involves



Vallée

cold exposure and heightened oxygen levels attained through specialized breathing — is believed to have died on Christmas Day. He was found the next morning.

Vallée found acclaim with projects such as the Oscar-nominated 2013 drama "Dallas Buyers Club," 2013's "Wild" starring Reese Witherspoon and the HBO miniseries "Big

Little Lies" and "Sharp Objects."

## Other news

■ Season 2 of Netflix's soapy period piece "Bridgerton" will premiere March 25, the streaming service has announced. Based on the second book of Julia Quinn's bestselling series, "The Viscount Who Loved Me," the second season will follow eldest son Anthony Bridgerton (Jonathan Bailey) in his quest for a wife to keep his family afloat and in good standing.

# WORLD

## Russian court orders shutdown of renowned rights group Memorial

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that one of the country's oldest and most prominent human rights organizations should be shut down, a move that stirred up much public outrage and is the latest step in a monthslong crackdown on rights activists, independent media and opposition supporters.

The Prosecutor General's Office last month petitioned the Supreme Court to revoke the legal status of Memorial — an international human rights group that rose to prominence for its studies of political repression in the Soviet Union and currently encompasses more than 50 smaller groups in Russia and abroad.

The court on Tuesday ruled in favor of the prosecution, which

charged at the hearing that Memorial "creates a false image of the USSR as a terrorist state, whitewashes and rehabilitates Nazi criminals."

A video tweeted by the independent Mediazona news outlet showed a large crowd of people in front of the courthouse chanting "Shame!" in response to the ruling.

Memorial was declared a "foreign agent" in 2016 — a label that implies additional government scrutiny and carries strong pejorative connotations that can discredit the targeted organization. In their lawsuit to shut it down, prosecutors alleged that the group repeatedly violated regulations obliging it to mark itself as a foreign agent, and tried to conceal the designation.

Memorial and its supporters



Police officers detain a demonstrator as people gather in front of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation in Moscow on Tuesday.

have maintained the accusations are politically motivated, and the organization's leaders have vowed to continue their work even if the court shuts it down.

Pressure on the group has sparked public outrage, with many prominent figures speaking out in its support this month. Several people were reported detained Tuesday for picketing the courthouse.

Russian authorities in recent months have mounted pressure on rights groups, media outlets and individual journalists, naming dozens as foreign agents. Some were declared "undesirable" — a label that outlaws organizations in Russia — or accused of links to "undesirable" groups, while several were forced to shut down or disband themselves to prevent further prosecution.

## 2 charged in sister's killing

Associated Press

BERLIN — German prosecutors said Tuesday that they have charged two Afghan brothers with murder over the July killing of their sister, whom they allegedly wanted to punish for her Western way of life.

The men, aged 26 and 22 and identified only as Sayed H. and Seyed H. in line with German privacy rules, are accused of luring their 34-year-old sister to a meeting in Berlin on July 13, then choking and strangling her and cutting her throat.

Prosecutors in the capital charged that they took a taxi to a station later that day with her body in a suitcase, then traveled to Bavaria by train and drove to a site near the elder brother's home, where they buried her.

The indictment states that the men wanted to punish their sister "for her Western-oriented way of life, which did not correspond to their archaic ideas of honor and morals and their image of women," prosecutors said in a statement.

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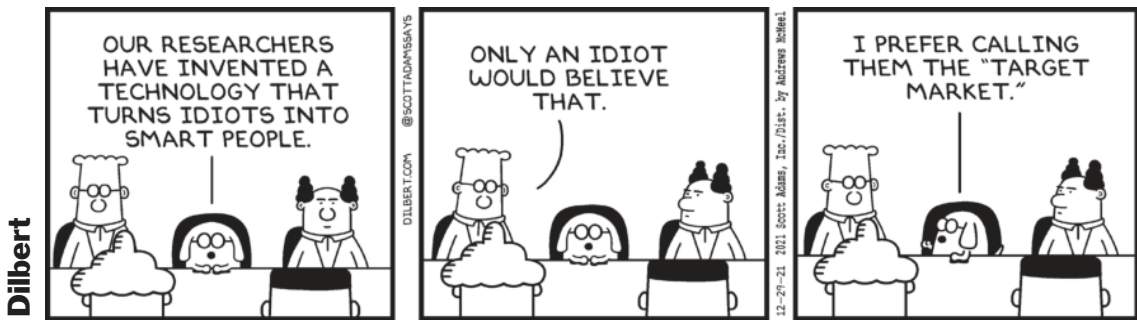
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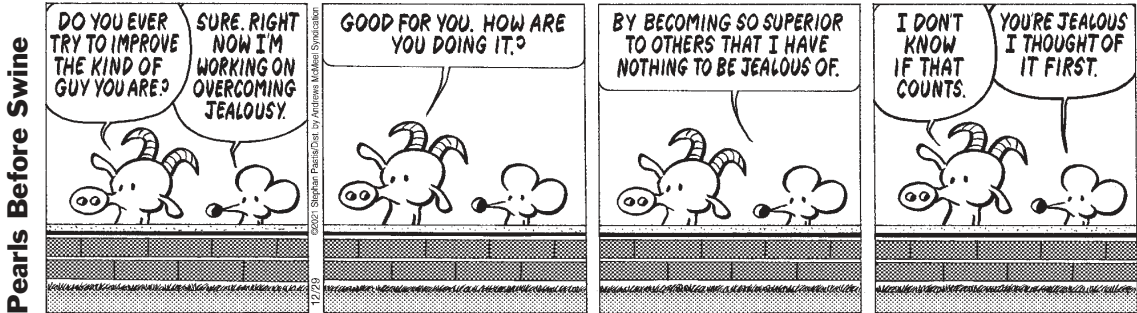
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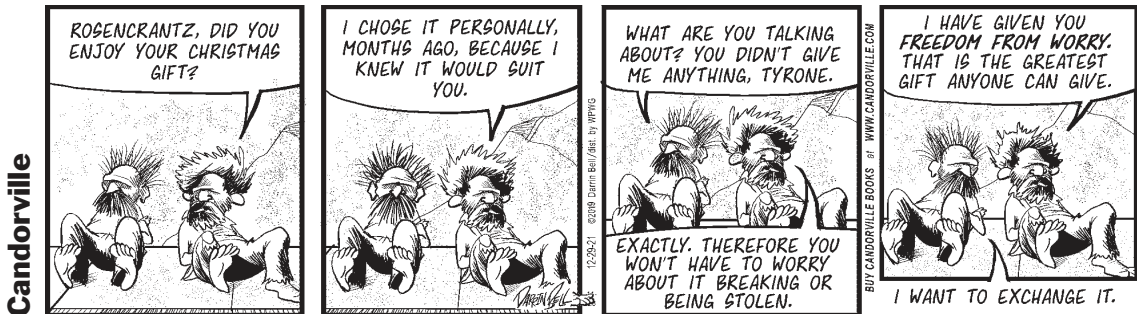
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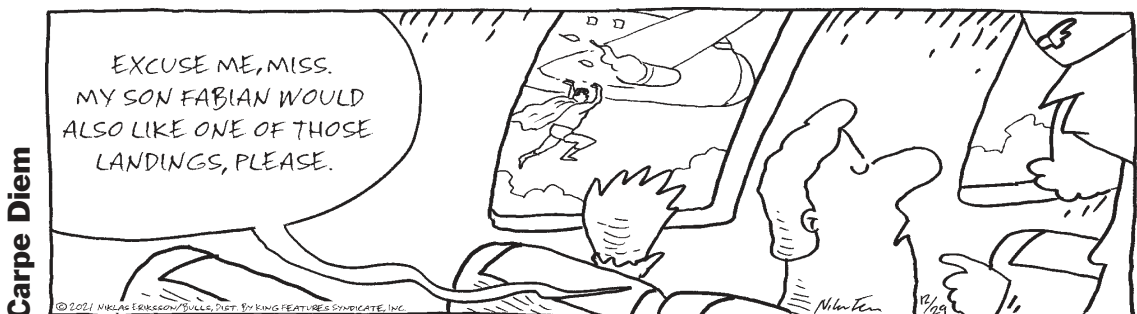
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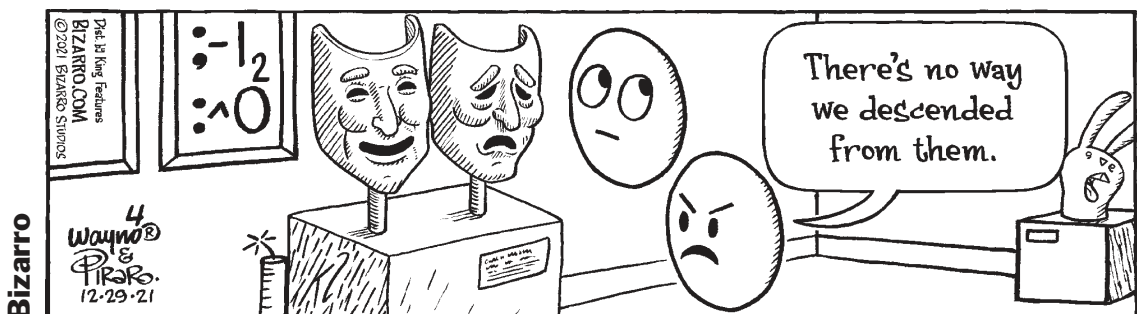
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Carpe Diem

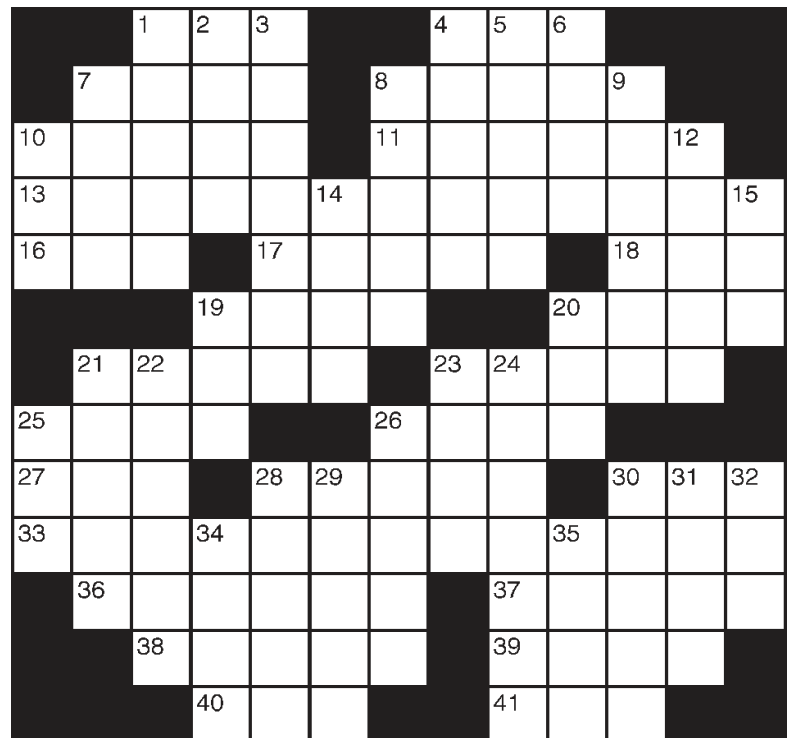


Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Stickum
- 4 Canine greeting
- 7 Karate level
- 8 Zodiac ram
- 10 Singer Washington
- 11 Costumes
- 13 "Agreed!"
- 16 Curvy letter
- 17 Entices
- 18 Longoria of TV
- 19 Radius neighbor
- 20 Citrus drinks
- 21 Playwright Chekhov
- 23 Greetings at sea
- 25 Parisian girlfriend
- 26 Harsh criticism
- 27 Signing need
- 28 "Vive —!"
- 30 Transcript no.
- 33 "Bon appétit!"
- 36 Riyadh residents
- 37 Sweet treats
- 38 Service period
- 39 "Topaz" author
- 40 Droop
- 41 Casual shirt

DOWN

- 1 Category
- 2 Norwegian saint
- 3 Shakespeare tragedy
- 4 Mountain crest
- 5 Moreno and Hayworth
- 6 Family fight
- 7 Life stories
- 8 Old marketplace
- 9 Swift
- 10 Use henna
- 12 Rescues
- 14 "Breaking Bad" actress Anna
- 15 Vegas opener?
- 19 Salt Lake athlete
- 20 Fine, to NASA
- 21 Church cries
- 22 Japanese warriors
- 23 Slugger Moises
- 24 Coiffure
- 25 Chest-beating beast
- 26 Window coating
- 28 Debbie's "Fame" role
- 29 Gawking at
- 30 Wish granter
- 31 Cushions — Raisman
- 32 Olympic gymnast
- 34 Inning enders
- 35 Stallion's mate

Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	N	U	B	A	D	S	A	I	D	A
P	A	R	A	S	R	I	M	R	I	S
E	D	I	T	C	A	S	H	B	A	C
C	A	S	H	C	O	W	O	U	S	T
				E	N	T	P	G	S	
A	C	O	R	N	C	A	S	H	E	W
R	I	B		S	P	Y		R	H	O
C	A	S	H	B	A	R	B	A	R	O
				Y	E	P	C	U	B	
A	G	A	P	E	C	A	S	H	I	E
C	A	S	H	F	L	O	W	O	K	R
A	L	I	E	A	C	E	R	E	I	N
D	E	A	N	B	O	D	S	A	N	K

12-29

CRYPTOQUIP

GRPUC R'L JRWWRPO D  
 KBPUJ IE JIQQRKZC GJIWG  
 FBQRPO WJRG OIZE WIBQDLCPW,  
 DL R FBEERPO RW IBW?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A GUY HAS AN ENCYCLOPEDIA KNOWLEDGE OF HOW PRECIPITATION WORKS, I GUESS HE'S A RAIN-IAC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals S

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## Honor Tutu's global struggle for justice

BY REDI TLHABI

Special to The Washington Post

Archbishop Desmond Mpilo Tutu, one of South Africa's greatest citizens, has gone to his eternal rest at age 90. I grew up in the township of Soweto, in Johannesburg, home to another global icon, Nelson Mandela. Tutu and Mandela were neighbors, and it was a source of much inspiration to have two Nobel laureates in the area.

But it wasn't always like this. To understand Archbishop Tutu, we must return to the dark period of South African apartheid. Fear and despair hung like an albatross around our necks. It was a time of unprecedented bloodshed. The townships, where Black people lived, were on fire, and the police and army ruled the streets through the barrel of a gun, killing and maiming many.

That's when a diminutive clergyman came into the scene. He walked through the streets of the burning townships, confronting the police, calming angry crowds, trying to quell the inferno with his authoritative voice. He spoke at mass funerals, condemning the apartheid state whilst risking his credibility among Black youths who were fired up and thirsty for revenge.

What distinguished Tutu from the rest? Perhaps the answer lies in his African name, Mpi- lo, meaning "life" in the isiXhosa language. Tutu's parents had lost an infant shortly before his birth, and this name was an expression of comfort and hope for a meaningful long life. Tutu lived up to his name and lived a long, rich life.

Archbishop Tutu's weapon of choice was the truth. He spoke it in all circumstances. He campaigned fiercely against apartheid and

took his message to the world. This earned him the Nobel Prize in 1984.

His service to South Africa did not end with the fall of apartheid. He chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The TRC, despite its limitations, unearthed the atrocities of the past in shocking detail. Families got to hear how their loved ones were tortured and killed by apartheid's machinery. It was raw and Tutu would often bow his head and weep during the hearings.

Some anti-apartheid activists became too comfortable once they reached power. Tutu was consistent and chastised the same African National Congress leaders he supported during apartheid. Their corruption and lack of accountability were anathema to him.

Former President Thabo Mbeki earned Tutu's wrath for his denialism of the AIDS epidemic, which cost hundreds of thousands of lives, according to some estimates.

Tutu was coherent and demanded the same from all of us. There was no course too difficult or too dangerous. His quest for justice went beyond South Africa. The power of his moral clarity was undeniable. Mandela was correct when he said his voice "will always be the voice of the voiceless."

A few years ago, he refused to participate in a summit in Johannesburg because former British Prime Minister Tony Blair would be a speaker. He was unsparing in his criticism of Blair and President George W. Bush. On Iraq, he wrote: "Those responsible for this suffering and loss of life should be treading the same path as some of their African and Asian peers who have been made to answer for their actions in the Hague."

In 2017, he called on the Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi to speak out against attacks

on the Rohingya people. Tutu was emphatic in an open letter: "If the political price of your ascension to the highest office in Myanmar is your silence, the price is surely too steep."

He drew parallels between the fight against apartheid and the urgent need to tackle climate change. "Just as we argued in the 1980s that those who conducted business with apartheid South Africa were aiding and abetting an immoral system, we can say that nobody should profit from the rising temperatures, seas and human suffering caused by the burning of fossil fuels," he wrote.

But it was perhaps his support for Palestinians and his criticism of Israel that got him in trouble with many who wanted to preserve him in amber, a sort of living monument to a past struggle. "When you go to the Holy Land and see what's being done to the Palestinians at checkpoints, for us, it's the kind of thing we experienced in South Africa," he told The Washington Post in 2013. Many around the world have reached the inevitable conclusion that Israel is an apartheid state, including leading human rights organizations.

Archbishop Tutu believed in forgiveness as an important step to healing a broken nation. His version of forgiveness was not devoid of accountability and reparations. His abiding source of disappointment was that reparations were not paid to victims of apartheid and those who committed atrocities, yet shunned the TRC process, were not prosecuted as recommended.

The world has lost a towering figure, whose imprint on the soul of our humanity can never be erased.

Redi Tlhabi is a South African journalist and presenter of "The Big Debate" on ENews Channel Africa.

## Democrats and Republicans will be tested in 2022

BY HENRY OLSEN

Special to The Washington Post

2022 is likely to pose difficult tests for both parties. Here are three of the biggest challenges each will face in the new year.

For Democrats, the onus will be on President Joe Biden to navigating these three issues:

■ Tamping down inflation. Steadily rising prices hurts both the economy and the national psyche. It interferes with price signals, which distort investment decisions and hurts families' pocketbooks if their wages don't keep pace. It damages the national soul, too, by giving rise to negativity and hopelessness. Presidents who preside over periods of high inflation, such as Harry S. Truman and Jimmy Carter, are inevitably hammered for it either in midterms (1946) or for reelection (1980). It is in the interest of Biden and the nation for inflation to come under control and trend downward by midyear.

■ Reestablishing a national global defense strategy in the face of Russian, Chinese and Iranian provocation. This Eurasian axis has been gaining strength all year and increasingly looks poised to strike. None of their apparent immediate objectives, such as gaining control over Ukraine or Taiwan, immediately threatens the survival of the United States. But the same could be said of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain's decision to permit Nazi Germany's annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland in 1938, which inevitably led to World War II just a year later. Only a new global strategy

akin to the Cold War's containment plans will suffice to both stave off conflict and prevent the steady desertion of the United States' allies.

■ Managing the shift from pandemic to endemic. People will only submit to government restrictions for so long. Americans typically give their leaders two years to manage hardships; after that, they will become frustrated if they don't see progress or feel hope. We are fast approaching the pandemic's second anniversary. If we are still stuck in a seemingly endless cycle of misery and despair by the middle of year three, Democrats will pay a heavy price in the midterms.

Republicans surely look at these challenges and think their future is bright. But it doesn't mean they are home free. They should recall the lessons of the 2010-2012 period and make sure not to repeat the same mistakes. For example:

■ Stay sane. In 2010, extreme and often wacky tea party Republicans such as Delaware's Christine O'Donnell won party primaries in winnable Senate seats, only to go down to inglorious defeat in the general election. There's a risk this could happen again, as voluble MAGA enthusiasts such as Arizona's Kari Lake could win primaries in some key swing states. Party leaders need to get involved early in these races and try to ensure that the party is represented by conservatives who look more like Florida's Ron DeSantis than the failed 2010 Senate Republican candidate in Nevada, Sharron Angle.

■ Make sure Republican-led states are well-governed. That means striking the right

balance between economic growth and public spending, and between protecting public health and safety and individual rights. The more Republican governors such as DeSantis, Texas's Greg Abbott and Iowa's Kim Reynolds can do this, the better the contrast the GOP can draw with national Democrats if Biden does not right his ship.

■ Remember that the GOP failed to take the White House just two years after enjoying an tsunami of success in the 2010 midterms. This came about largely because of complacency. Party leaders thought victory was assured and concluded they did not need to present a candidate with a strong alternative vision. Instead, they nominated Mitt Romney, the least offensive candidate in the field, much as the GOP selected Thomas Dewey in 1948 and Bob Dole in 1996. In all of these races, the party's leader offered no new ideas and primarily banked on dissatisfaction with the incumbent. GOP leaders should learn from these failures and foster intraparty dialogue to craft a new agenda that responds to the new problems of our times. Republicans have tried beating something with nothing before; they should resolve to instead beat the fire of one vision with the fire of another.

How the two parties manage these issues in the new year will determine not only their standing at the end of 2022, but for years to come. Let's hope they're both up to the challenges.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

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# SCOREBOARD/OLYMPICS

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

### Bowl schedule

**Saturday, Dec. 18**  
**Boca Raton Bowl**  
 W. Kentucky 59, Appalachian St. 38  
**Celebration Bowl**  
 SC State 31, Jackson St. 10  
**New Mexico Bowl**  
 Fresno St. 31, UTEP 24  
**Independence Bowl**  
 UAB 31, No. 12 BYU 28  
**LendingTree Bowl**  
 Liberty 56, E. Michigan 20  
**LA Bowl**  
 Utah St. 24, Oregon St. 13  
**New Orleans Bowl**  
 No. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette 36, Marshall 21  
**Monday, Dec. 20**  
**Myrtle Beach Bowl**  
**Conway, S.C.**  
 Tulsa 30, Old Dominion 17  
**Tuesday, Dec. 21**  
**Famous Idaho Potato Bowl**  
**Boise, Idaho**  
 Wyoming 52, Kent State 38  
**Frisco Bowl**  
**Frisco, Texas**  
 San Diego St. 38, UTSA 24  
**Wednesday, Dec. 22**  
**Armed Forces Bowl**  
**Fort Worth, Texas**  
 Army 24, Missouri 22  
**Thursday, Dec. 23**  
**Frisco Football Classic**  
**Frisco, Texas**  
 Miami (Ohio) 27, North Texas 14  
**Gasparilla Bowl**  
**Tampa, Fla.**  
 UCF 29, Florida 17  
**Friday, Dec. 24**  
**Hawaii Bowl**  
**Honolulu**  
 Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), canceled  
**Saturday, Dec. 25**  
**Camellia Bowl**  
**Montgomery, Ala.**  
 Georgia St. 51, Ball St. 20  
**Monday's games**  
**Quick Lane Bowl**  
**Detroit**  
 W. Michigan 52, Nevada 24  
**Military Bowl**  
**Annapolis, Md.**  
 Boston College (6-6) vs. East Carolina (7-5), canceled  
**Tuesday's games**  
**Birmingham Bowl**  
**Birmingham, Ala.**  
 No. 21 Houston (11-2) vs. Auburn (6-6)  
**SERVPRO First Responder Bowl**  
**Dallas**  
 Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6)  
**Liberty Bowl**  
**Memphis, Tenn.**  
 Mississippi St. (7-5) vs. Texas Tech (6-6)  
**Holiday Bowl**  
**San Diego**  
 UCLA (8-4) vs. No. 18 NC State (9-3)  
**Guaranteed Rate Bowl**  
**Phoenix**  
 Minnesota (8-4) vs. West Virginia (6-6)  
**Wednesday's games**  
**Fenway Bowl**  
**Boston**  
 Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), canceled  
**Pinstripe Bowl**  
**New York**  
 Virginia Tech (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6)  
**Cheez-It Bowl**  
**Orlando, Fla.**  
 No. 19 Clemson (9-3) vs. Iowa St. (7-5)  
**Alamo Bowl**  
**San Antonio**  
 No. 14 Oklahoma (10-2) vs. No. 15 Oregon (10-3)  
**Thursday's games**  
**Duke's Mayo Bowl**  
**Charlotte, N.C.**  
 South Carolina (6-6) vs. North Carolina (6-6)  
**Music City Bowl**  
**Nashville**  
 Purdue (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5)  
**Peach Bowl**  
**Atlanta**  
 No. 11 Michigan St. (10-2) vs. No. 13 Pittsburgh (11-2)  
**Las Vegas Bowl**  
**Las Vegas**  
 Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Arizona St. (8-4)  
**Friday's games**  
**College Football Playoff Semifinal**  
**Orange Bowl**  
**Miami Gardens, Fla.**  
 No. 2 Michigan (12-1) vs. No. 3 Georgia (12-1)  
**College Football Playoff Semifinal**  
**Cotton Bowl Classic**  
**Arlington, Texas**  
 No. 1 Alabama (12-1) vs. No. 4 Cincinnati (13-0)  
**Gator Bowl**  
**Jacksonville, Fla.**  
 No. 20 Wake Forest (10-3) vs. Rutgers (5-7)  
**Sun Bowl**  
**El Paso, Texas**  
 Washington St. (7-5) vs. TBD  
**Arizona Bowl**  
**Tucson, Ariz.**  
 Cent. Michigan (8-4) vs. Boise St. (7-5)  
**Saturday's games**  
**Outback Bowl**  
**Tampa, Fla.**  
 No. 22 Arkansas (8-4) vs. Penn St. (7-5)  
**Citrus Bowl**  
**Orlando, Fla.**  
 No. 17 Iowa (10-3) vs. No. 25 Kentucky (9-3)  
**Fiesta Bowl**  
**Glendale, Ariz.**  
 No. 5 Notre Dame (11-1) vs. No. 9 Oklahoma St. (11-2)  
**Rose Bowl**  
**Pasadena, Calif.**  
 No. 7 Ohio St. (10-2) vs. No. 10 Utah (10-3)  
**Sugar Bowl**  
**New Orleans**  
 No. 6 Baylor (11-2) vs. No. 8 Mississippi (10-2)

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

### AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Baylor (61)	11-0	1525	1
2. Duke	11-1	1448	2
3. Purdue	11-1	1371	3
4. Gonzaga	10-2	1335	4
5. UCLA	8-1	1296	5
6. Kansas	9-1	1233	7
7. Southern Cal	12-0	994	8
8. Iowa St.	12-0	985	9
9. Arizona	11-1	973	6
10. Michigan St.	10-2	901	11
11. Auburn	11-1	826	12
12. Houston	11-3	801	13
13. Ohio St.	8-2	787	14
14. Tennessee	9-2	729	19
15. Seton Hall	9-1	716	15
16. LSU	12-0	609	17
17. Texas	9-2	567	16
18. Kentucky	9-2	459	20
19. Alabama	9-3	426	10
20. Colorado St.	10-0	366	21
21. Providence	11-1	315	22
22. Villanova	8-4	312	23
23. Xavier	11-2	237	18
24. Wisconsin	9-2	207	24
25. Texas Tech	9-2	121	25

**Others receiving votes:** Illinois 72, Oklahoma 62, West Virginia 52, Loyola Chicago 39, UConn 34, Michigan 7, Colorado 5, San Francisco 4, Wake Forest 4, Iowa 2, Davidson 2, Minnesota 1, Creighton 1, Memphis 1.

### Monday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 Syracuse 93, Brown 62  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Texas A&M 102, Dallas Christian 52

### AP Men's Top 25 schedule

**Wednesday**  
 No. 3 Purdue vs. Nicholls  
 No. 6 Kansas vs. TBD  
 No. 10 Michigan St. vs. High Point  
 No. 11 Auburn vs. No. 16 LSU  
 No. 14 Tennessee vs. No. 19 Alabama  
 No. 15 Seton Hall at No. 21 Providence  
 No. 18 Kentucky vs. Missouri  
 No. 22 Villanova vs. Temple  
 No. 24 Wisconsin vs. Illinois St.  
**Thursday**  
 No. 4 Gonzaga at San Diego  
**Friday**  
 No. 18 Kentucky vs. High Point

### AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Dec. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. South Carolina (30)	12-0	750	1
2. Stanford	8-3	688	2
3. Louisville	10-1	676	3
4. Arizona	10-0	671	4
5. NC State	11-2	637	5
6. Maryland	10-3	545	6
7. Tennessee	10-1	534	7
8. Indiana	10-2	525	8
9. Michigan	11-1	517	9
10. Baylor	9-2	485	10
11. UConn	6-3	463	11
12. Texas	9-1	453	12
13. Georgia	11-1	402	13
14. Iowa St.	11-1	391	13
15. Duke	9-1	303	16
16. Georgia Tech	10-2	262	17
17. Notre Dame	11-2	197	20
18. BYU	10-1	180	19
19. LSU	11-1	170	21
20. Kentucky	7-3	127	22
21. Iowa	6-3	121	15
22. South Florida	9-4	117	18
23. Texas A&M	10-2	103	23
24. North Carolina	11-0	85	25
25. Ohio St.	9-2	84	24

**Others receiving votes:** Oklahoma 78, Colorado 59, Florida Gulf Coast 55, Nebraska 45, DePaul 22, Mississippi 3, Missouri 3, 2.

### Monday's women's scores

**SOUTH**  
 LSU 83, Samford 47  
 Tennessee 91, Chattanooga 41

### AP Women's Top 25 schedule

**Wednesday**  
 No. 10 Baylor vs. North Texas  
 No. 12 Texas vs. Alcorn St.  
 No. 22 South Florida vs. Jacksonville

## DEALS

### Monday's transactions

**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**ATLANTA HAWKS** — Signed G Chaundee Brown Jr. to a 10-day contract.  
**BROOKLYN NETS** — Signed G Langston Galloway to a 10-day contract.  
**INDIANA PACERS** — Signed G Keifer Sykes to a rest of season contract.  
**MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES** — Signed F Xavier Sneed to a 10-day contract.  
**MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES** — Signed F Greg Monroe to a 10-day contract.  
**ORLANDO MAGIC** — Signed G Hassani Gravett and F Admiral Schofield to 20-day contracts.  
**PHOENIX SUNS** — Signed F Emanuel Terry to a 10-day contract.  
**WASHINGTON WIZARDS** — Signed G Jordan Goodwin to a 10-day contract.  
**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Activated OL Rodney Hudson from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Re-signed DL Matt Dickerson to the practice squad. Placed OLB Markus Golden and G Sean Harlow on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Signed CB Bashaud Breeland.  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Placed LBs Brandon Copeland, Dorian Etheridge, WR Tajae Sharpe, DT Tyeler Davison and OLB James Vauters on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**BALTIMORE RAVENS** — Activated CB Jimmy Smith, OLB Pernell McPhee and OL Jaylon Moore from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed S Tony Jefferson on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list. Released OL Adrian Ealy from the practice squad.  
**BUFFALO BILLS** — Placed OL Ike Boettger on injured reserve. Signed OT Bobby Hart to the active roster. Released DE Breeland Speaks from the practice squad. Placed CB Cam Lewis on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Placed DEs Brian Burns, Marquis Haynes, LB Shaq Thompson, DTs Daviyon Nix, Phil Hoskins, WR Brandon Zylstra and DB Matt Paradis on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Activated QB Matt Barkley from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Waived K Alex Kessman from the practice squad.  
**CHICAGO BEARS** — Activated WR Allen Robinson, CB Jaylon Johnson, S Tashaun Gipson, TE Jesse James and RB Ryan Nall from the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**CINCINNATI BENGALS** — Placed QB Brandon Allen and CB Darius Phillips on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Signed LB Austin Calitro to the active roster.  
**CLEVELAND BROWNS** — Activated DE Jadeveon Clowney, DB Nate Meadors, G Drew Forbes, S Ronnie Harrison Jr., CB Troy Hill, RB Kareem Hunt, DT Malik McDowell, T Jedrick Willis Jr. and LB Mack Wilson from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed LB Elijah Lee and OT Alex Taylor on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**DALLAS COWBOYS** — Placed T Isaac Alarcon, OT Aviante Collins, WR Brandon Smith and LB Francis Bernard on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**DENVER BRONCOS** — Placed DL Mike Purcell and OLB Andre Mintze on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed DE Jonathan Harris on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list. Released C Javon Patterson from the practice squad.  
**DETROIT LIONS** — Activated QB Jared Goff from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed WR Josh Reynolds on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed QB Steven Montez to the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed TE Shane Zylstra on the practice squad injured reserve.  
**GREEN BAY PACKERS** — Placed G Ben Braden, LBs Tita Galeai, Ty Summers and WR Amari Rodgers on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed DL R.J. McIntosh on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**HOUSTON TEXANS** — Placed RB David Johnson and LB Neville Hewitt on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Paul Quessenberry on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Placed S Jahleel Addae, CB T.J. Carrie, LB Malik Jefferson, RB Marlon Mack and T Braden Smith on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed CB Chris Wilcox on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS** — Placed RB James Robinson on injured reserve. Placed TE Dan Arnold, Luke Farrell, Chris Manhertz, DTs Malcolm Brown, DaVon Hamilton, DE/OLBs K'Lavon Chaisson, Leren-tee McCray, DL Jihad Ward and OLBs Andrew Norwell, Brandon Linder and Jared Hocker on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Claimed LB Jamir Jones and RB Mekhi Sargent off waivers from Los Angeles Rams.  
**KANSAS CITY CHIEFS** — Activated G Kyle Long and WR Gehrig Dieter from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released P Joseph Charlton from the practice squad.  
**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS** — Placed CB Casey Hayward, LBs Cory Littleton, Patrick Onwuasor, K.J. Wright, Denzel Perryman, DT Darius Philon, WR Bryan Edwards and QB Marcus Mariota on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Promoted QB Nathan Peterman, and WR Dillon Stoner from the practice squad to the active roster.  
**LOS ANGELES CHARGERS** — Placed DB Chris Harris Jr., CB Michael Davis, Ss Nasir Adderley, Aloh Gilman, EDGE Emeke Egbule, OL Senio Kelemete and DL Andrew Brown on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Activated RB Austin Ekeler, LB Tevaughn Campbell and DL Joe Gaziano from the re-

serve/COVID-19 list.  
**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Promoted Ts Roderick Johnson, Adam Pankey and RB Jordan Scarlett from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed WRs Albert Wilson and Allen Hurns and G Solomon Kindley on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**MINNESOTA VIKINGS** — Placed G Olisemekha Udoh, QB Sean Mannion and OT Rashod Hill on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Placed OLB Matt Judon and LB Ja'Whaun Bentley on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** — Signed DL Ethan Westbrook, LB Justin March-Lillard, DT Braxton Hoyett and T Kyle Murphy to the practice squad and promoted them to the active roster. Promoted QB Blake Bortles, WRs Easop Winston Jr., Kawaan Baker, G/C Will Clapp, OL Forrest Lamp, DBs Bryce Thompson, Jordan Miller, LB Chase Hansen and TE Ethan Wolf from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed LB Kwon Alexander and OT Landon Young on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Placed OL Matt Peart on injured reserve. Placed DB Julian Love on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released C Evan Boehm from the practice squad. Placed DB Ka'dar Hollman on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**NEW YORK JETS** — Placed LB LaRoy Reynolds, DL Quinnen Williams, TE Tyler Croft and DB Bryce Hall on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Promoted DL Freedom Akinmolede from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed OL Connor McGovern and TE Trevon Wesco on injured reserve.  
**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — Placed DE Derek Barnett, CB Andre Chachere and DE Tarron Jackson on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed TE Noah Togiai on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**PITTSBURGH STEELERS** — Placed S Karl Joseph on the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed WR Anthony Miller on the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Placed P Mitch Wisnowsky on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Signed LB Tyrell Adams to the practice squad.  
**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS** — Placed DE L.J. Collier on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Activated TE Ryan Izzo from the practice squad reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS** — Activated WR Breshad Perriman from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed WR Mike Evans on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Reassigned Gs Maxime Legace, Hugo Alnefeld and D Sean Day from Syracuse (AHL) to the taxi squad.  
**TENNESSEE TITANS** — Activated G Rodger Saffold and DB Elijah Molden from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed OLB Bud Dupree, CB Caleb Farley, WR Julio Jones, DB Buster Skrine and WR Nick Westbrook-Ikhine on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Signed OL Cedric Ogbuehi to the practice squad. Released DB Nate Brooks from the practice squad.  
**WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM** — Activated LB Cole Holcomb, C Tyler Larsen and G Brandon Scherff from the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**HOCKEY**  
**National Hockey League**  
**ARIZONA COYOTES** — Recalled F Jan Jenik from Tucson (AHL). Designated C Blake Speers, G Josef Korenar, Ds Vladislav Kolyonok, Cam Crotty and LWs Michael Carcone and Bokondji Imama for assignment with taxi squad.  
**CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS** — Recalled G Collin Delia from Rockford (AHL). Designated RW Brett Connolly for assignment with taxi squad.  
**COLORADO AVALANCHE** — Reassigned G Hunter Miska, LW Mikhail Maltsev, G Trent Miner and RW Callahan Burke from Colorado (AHL) to the taxi squad. Returned D Jordan Gross to Colorado.  
**COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS** — Designated Cs Tyler Sikura and Josh Cunniff for assignment with taxi squad.  
**DALLAS STARS** — Placed F Roope Hintz and D Esa Lindell on COVID-19 protocol.  
**DETROIT RED WINGS** — Reassigned F Riley Barber, Ds Dan Renouf, Luke Witkowski and G Victor Brattstrom from Grand Rapids to the taxi squad.  
**FLORIDA PANTHERS** — Recalled G Spencer Knight from Charlotte (AHL).  
**VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS** — Recalled G Jiri Patera from Fort Wayne (ECHL) to Henderson (AHL).  
**LOS ANGELES KINGS** — Reassigned RW Martin Frk and D Jacob Moverare from Ontario (AHL) to the taxi squad.  
**MONTREAL CANADIENS** — Reassigned LW Brandon, D Gianni Fairbrother, C Cameron Hillis and G Michael McNiven from Laval (AHL) to the taxi squad. Recalled G Cayden Primeau and D Corey Schueneman from Laval. Recalled G Kevin Poulin from Trois-Rivieres (ECHL).  
**NEW YORK RANGERS** — Recalled G Keith Kinkaid from Hartford (AHL). Recalled F Jake Elmer from Jacksonville (ECHL).  
**PHILADELPHIA FLYERS** — Reassigned Cs Jackson Cates and Gerry Mayhew from Lehigh Valley to the taxi squad.  
**TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING** — Reassigned Ds Andrej Sustr and Darren Raddysh from Syracuse (AHL) to the taxi squad.  
**WASHINGTON CAPITALS** — Recalled G Pheonix Copley and D Michal Kempny from Hershey (AHL). Reassigned D Lucas Johansen, Alex Alexeyev and F Brett Leason from Hershey to the taxi squad.  
**WINNIPEG JETS** — Designated D Ville Heinola for assignment with the taxi squad.

## MEN'S HOCKEY

# US turns to Quinn as coach

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
*Associated Press*

David Quinn was supposed to be an assistant on Mike Sullivan's coaching staff for the U.S. men's hockey team at the upcoming Winter Olympics.

After the NHL decided not to send players to Beijing, Quinn is now in charge as U.S. coach and John Vanbiesbrouck is the latest general manager in USA Hockey's first shift to plan B for another Olympics without the best hockey players in the world.



Quinn

"To be named the head coach under these circumstances, it's bittersweet in some ways," Quinn said on a video call Monday. "We all were hoping that the NHL guys were going to go, but to be named the head coach for the 2022 Olympic team is an incredible honor."

Quinn, 55, was the only member of the initial coaching staff not currently working in the NHL. He coached the New York Rangers the past three seasons after five years at Boston University.

Internationally, Quinn most recently coached for the U.S. as an assistant at the 2016 world championships and was also on staff for that tournament in 2007 and 2012.

"All those opportunities for me have prepared me for this," Quinn said.

Instead of a U.S. roster featuring the likes of Auston Matthews, Patrick Kane and Seth Jones, Vanbiesbrouck will be tasked with drawing from the college ranks and European professional leagues, similar to 2018.

"He certainly has the greatest handle on the overall player pool of American players," USA Hockey executive director Pat Kelleher said of Vanbiesbrouck. "He's been involved with the NHL and our NHL people involved for the 2022 Olympic team, so no one better to serve as the GM of our team than John Vanbiesbrouck, who can take what we've been doing so far to move forward."

Former Montreal Canadiens coach Claude Julien is expected to be behind the bench for Canada, replacing back-to-back Stanley Cup winner Jon Cooper of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

## AP SPORTLIGHT

### Dec. 29

**1963** — Chuck McKinley and Dennis Ralston give the United States a 3-2 victory over Australia for the Davis Cup title.

**1979** — Safety Vernon Perry sets an NFL playoff record with four interceptions to lead the Houston Oilers to a 17-14 victory over the San Diego Chargers.

# NBA

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Brooklyn	23	9	.719	—
Philadelphia	17	16	.515	6½
Boston	16	18	.471	8
Toronto	14	16	.467	8
New York	15	18	.455	8½
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	21	13	.618	—
Washington	17	16	.515	3½
Charlotte	18	17	.514	3½
Atlanta	15	18	.455	5½
Orlando	7	27	.206	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	21	10	.677	—
Milwaukee	22	13	.629	1
Cleveland	20	13	.606	2
Indiana	14	20	.412	8½
Detroit	5	27	.156	16½
Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	21	14	.600	—
Dallas	16	17	.485	4
San Antonio	14	19	.424	6
New Orleans	12	22	.353	8½
Houston	10	24	.294	10½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	24	9	.727	—
Denver	16	16	.500	7½
Minnesota	16	17	.485	8
Portland	13	20	.394	11
Oklahoma City	12	20	.375	11½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	27	6	.818	—
Phoenix	26	7	.788	1
L.A. Clippers	17	17	.500	10½
L.A. Lakers	16	18	.471	11½
Sacramento	13	21	.382	14½

**Monday's games**  
 Charlotte 123, Houston 99  
 Chicago 130, Atlanta 118  
 Minnesota 108, Boston 103  
 Utah 110, San Antonio 104  
 Memphis 114, Phoenix 113  
 Dallas 132, Portland 117  
 Brooklyn 124, L.A. Clippers 108

**Tuesday's games**  
 Milwaukee at Orlando  
 Philadelphia at Toronto  
 Washington at Miami  
 Cleveland at New Orleans  
 L.A. Lakers at Houston  
 New York at Minnesota  
 Denver at Golden State  
 Oklahoma City at Sacramento

**Wednesday's games**  
 Charlotte at Indiana  
 New York at Detroit  
 L.A. Clippers at Boston  
 Atlanta at Chicago  
 L.A. Lakers at Memphis  
 Miami at San Antonio  
 Oklahoma City at Phoenix  
 Utah at Portland  
 Dallas at Sacramento

**Thursday's games**  
 Cleveland at Washington  
 Milwaukee at Orlando  
 Philadelphia at Brooklyn  
 Golden State at Denver

**Friday's games**  
 Phoenix at Boston  
 Chicago at Indiana  
 Dallas at Sacramento  
 Miami at Houston  
 Atlanta at Cleveland  
 L.A. Clippers at Toronto  
 New York at Oklahoma City  
 San Antonio at Memphis  
 Minnesota at Utah  
 Portland at L.A. Lakers

Leaders					
Through Monday Scoring					
	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, BKN	27	291	171	803	29.7
Curry, GS	31	280	137	864	27.9
FG Percentage					
	FG	FGA	PCT		
Gobert, UTA	179	251	.713		
Allen, CLE	191	272	.702		
Rebounds					
	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Gobert, UTA	33	110	381	491	14.9
Jokic, DEN	27	69	304	373	13.8

# DeRozan, LaVine, Vucevic drive Bulls

## Chicago takes 130-118 win over short-handed Atlanta for fourth straight

By **GEORGE HENRY**  
*Associated Press*

ATLANTA — DeMar DeRozan scored 35 points, Zach LaVine added 30 and the Chicago Bulls won their fourth straight game, beating the short-handed Atlanta Hawks 130-118 on Monday night.

Cam Reddish finished with 33 points and Trae Young, cleared from health and safety protocols about 90 minutes before tipoff, returned to the starting lineup and scored 29 for Atlanta in the first game of a home-and-home set with Chicago.

DeRozan was 14-for-20 from the field. LaVine, in his second game back after missing 15 days in protocols, went 11-for-21, including 5-for-8 from three-point range. Nikola Vucevic got his 14th double-double with 24 points and 17 rebounds.

“We’re the veteran leaders of this team,” DeRozan said. “That’s our job. We’ve got a couple of key guys out, and it was up to us to step up and play big, especially against an Atlanta Hawks team that was going to come out and play hard. The three main guys did what they were supposed to do and everybody else fell in line.”

Vucevic banked in a three with 3:15 remaining to make it a 10-point lead and essentially put the game out of reach after DeRozan’s 15-foot fadeaway jumper padded the lead at 126-116. Coby White’s three from the left corner ended it with 1:19 left.



HAKIM WRIGHT SR./AP

**Atlanta Hawks forward Cam Reddish defends against Chicago Bulls forward DeMar DeRozan (11). DeRozan had 35 points to lead the Bulls to a 130-118 defeat of the Hawks on Monday in Atlanta.**

Matt Thomas’ three gave the Bulls their biggest lead at 16 points in the closing minutes of the third, and the Hawks never really threatened the rest of the way, though two threes by Reddish twice cut it to five early in the fourth. Reddish buried a three from the left wing to make it 108-105 before Vucevic hit consecutive threes to push the lead to seven.

“Their big three, it seemed like everything they threw up went in,” Atlanta coach Nate McMillan said. “They do a good job of executing, spacing the floor out and making

plays. It seemed like every time we would get close they would stop that momentum with a made bucket.”

Young, who ranks fourth in the NBA with a 27.3 scoring average and third with 9.3 assists per game, returned two negative tests to be eligible to return. He missed the last three games after a positive COVID-19 test, and the Hawks went 1-2 without him.

Chicago improved to 21-10, second-best in the Eastern Conference. It began the day 10 games over .500 for the first time since Ja-

nuary 2016. Atlanta began the day tied for 10th in the East and dropped to 15-18, losing its eighth in a row at home.

White’s straightaway three gave the Bulls their first double-digit lead with 9:10 to go in the third. Vucevic’s layup against Clint Capela made it 80-70, and the Hawks called a full timeout.

Young and Reddish combined for 23 points as Atlanta led 36-31 at the end of the first. DeRozan scored 15 in the period on 5-for-6 shooting.

## ROUNDUP

# Morant’s late layup lifts Grizzlies past Suns

*Associated Press*

PHOENIX — Ja Morant scored 33 points, including a layup with 0.5 seconds to play that gave the Memphis Grizzlies a 114-113 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Monday.

Morant’s basket came after Devin Booker’s three-pointer with 5 seconds to play gave the Suns their first lead since early in the game. After a timeout, Morant drove the left side of the lane and banked it in. Phoenix’s final shot from the corner was off the mark.

Desmond Bane scored 32 points, 19 in the first half when the Grizzlies built a 60-48 lead. Steven Adams had 13 points and 16 rebounds as Memphis dominated the boards, 50-35.

Booker led the Suns with 30 points. Deandre Ayton and Jae Crowder, as well as coach Monty Williams, were placed in the COVID-19 protocols. Phoenix lost its second straight at home following the Christmas defeat to Golden State.

**Jazz 110, Spurs 104:** Jordan Clarkson scored 23 points, Rudy Gobert had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and Utah won at San Antonio for its fourth straight victory.

Bojan Bogdanovic had 19 points and Joe Ingles added 17 for Utah, which has won 12 of 14.

Derrick White scored 21 points and Doug



RICK SCUTERI/AP

**Grizzlies guard Ja Morant (12) leans back for a game-winning bank shot against Phoenix Suns guard Devin Booker. Morant had 33 points in a 114-113 win Monday in Phoenix.**

McDermott added 17 for San Antonio, which had its season-high, three-game winning streak snapped.

**Timberwolves 108, Celtics 103:** Jaylen Nowell scored 29 points and Nathan Knight added 20 points and 11 rebounds, leading short-handed

Minnesota over visiting Boston.

Jaden McDaniels scored 17 points and Malik Beasley added 15 points and eight rebounds for the Wolves, who were playing without all five of their regular starters due to COVID-19 protocols.

**Hornets 123, Rockets 99:** Terry Rozier scored 27 points and made seven three-pointers, and host Charlotte routed Houston for its second straight win.

Kelly Oubre chipped in with 18 points, while LaMelo Ball and Jalen McDaniels had 16. Mason Plumlee finished with a season-high 15 points and nine rebounds for the Hornets.

**Nets 124, Clippers 108:** James Harden tied his season high with 39 points and had a season-best 15 assists, and Brooklyn won at Los Angeles in a matchup of short-handed teams.

The Nets improved their NBA-best road mark to 13-3 with a sweep in Los Angeles.

**Mavericks 132, Trail Blazers 117:** Kristaps Porzingis had a season-high 34 points and nine rebounds, leading Dallas to a win at Portland.

Both teams were short-handed. The Mavericks were missing six players, including star Luka Doncic, in the NBA’s health and safety protocols. Portland had seven players in the protocols, as well as head coach Chauncey Billups.

## NBA/NHL



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Phoenix Suns head coach Monty Williams, right, entered the NBA's COVID-19 protocols on Monday, bringing the total of NBA head coaches in protocols to four, counting Portland's Chauncey Billups, the Los Angeles Lakers' Frank Vogel and Chicago's Billy Donovan.

# NBA changes protocols, shortens path to return

BY TIM REYNOLDS  
Associated Press

NBA players who test positive for COVID-19 now have a quicker path to return to play, after the league completed a significant update to its health and safety protocols on Monday.

The biggest change: Isolation periods for players who test positive may now be significantly shortened — down to six days from what has been the customary 10 — provided those players are asymptomatic and meet other testing standards. Teams were told of the new protocols Monday in a memo sent by the league.

That memo was sent on the same day the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cut isolation restrictions for Americans who catch the coronavirus from 10 to five days. CDC officials made that move saying that evidence shows people with the coronavirus are most infectious in the two days before and three days after symptoms develop.

The NBA also relied on data, telling teams the updated protocols “reflects analysis of testing data that the league and its infectious disease experts and epidemiologists have gathered throughout the pandemic.” The changes were made in agreement with the National Basketball Players Association.

The NBA has seen coronavirus numbers soar in recent days, even with 97% of players vaccinated and at least 65% of eligible players boosted against the virus. A pair of

15

Players in Monday's Boston Celtics-Minnesota Timberwolves game who were out for virus-related reasons, including eight Celtics and seven Timberwolves.

SOURCE: Associated Press

coaches — Phoenix's Monty Williams and Portland's Chauncey Billups — entered the NBA's health and safety protocols Monday.

“In the league, everyone's kind of going through the same thing,” said Suns assistant Kevin Young, who is taking over in Williams' absence. “We had a slogan going back to last year — navigating uncertainty — and here we are.”

More proof of the uncertainty: The Suns had been listing Elfrid Payton as out and in the protocols throughout the day on Monday, then declared him available about 90 minutes before game time.

The Blazers said the team will be coached by assistant Scott Brooks, a longtime head coach, during Billups' absence.

Phoenix was hosting Memphis on Monday, while Portland — with seven players in the protocols as well — was hosting Dallas. The Trail Blazers had been off since Dec. 21; their game that had been scheduled for Dec. 23 against Brooklyn was postponed because of virus issues decimating the Nets' roster. That was one of nine games postponed by the NBA so far this season.

Williams and Billups being off

the sideline raises the total of head coaches in the NBA currently sidelined by virus issues to four, including the Los Angeles Lakers' Frank Vogel and Chicago's Billy Donovan. Vogel has missed the Lakers' last four games, and Donovan is missing his second consecutive game when the Bulls visit Atlanta on Monday.

“With Frank right now, it's a matter of testing and getting those negative tests in,” said Lakers assistant coach David Fizdale, who is running the team in Vogel's absence. “But he's doing well health-wise. His spirit's right. Obviously, he's chomping at the bit to get back and start competing.”

The count of players in the NBA's protocols remained around 120 on Monday evening. Among the new notable additions to the list: Olympic gold medalist Jayson Tatum, placed into protocols by the Boston Celtics.

Atlanta listed 12 players as out — 10 for virus reasons, two for injuries — for its game against Chicago, but the Hawks said guard Trae Young was cleared to return, making that announcement about 90 minutes before tip-off.

Teams that have been hit particularly hard by virus-related issues have been able to cobble together rosters over the last couple of weeks primarily by signing players to 10-day hardship deals.

Tatum was one of 15 players — eight Celtics, seven Timberwolves — ruled out of the Boston-Minnesota game for virus-related reasons alone.

# NHL returns after 6-day break, eyes new CDC guidance

BY STEPHEN WHYNO  
Associated Press

Tampa Bay Lightning officials pulled a player out of a meeting because he tested positive for the coronavirus and no one in the room flinched.

As Anthony Cirelli went into the now-familiar COVID-19 protocol, the two-time defending champions practiced with their goaltending coach and an emergency backup in net and prepared to play Montreal on Tuesday night in a Stanley Cup Final rematch without either of their NHL goalies or their coach on hand.

“It's just the norm,” assistant Derek Lalonde said Monday. “Not trying to downplay it, but I just think it's a reality of today's world and today's NHL.”

Hockey returned Tuesday after the league took an extended holiday break in the hope that virus cases will not continue to disrupt the season. While three more games this week were postponed — bringing the total to 70 this season — the NHL like other leagues, will try to power through the latest twist in the pandemic with a possible boost on the way in the form of shorter absences for players and coaches who test positive.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday cut the recommended isolation period from 10 days to five, and other North American professional sports leagues have already moved in that direction. NHL Deputy Commissioner Bill Daly said, “Obviously it will spur a review of the protocol” currently in place, which includes 10 days away for those who contract the virus and experience symptoms.

While many of the cases across hockey have been asymptomatic or mild, the spread of the highly contagious omicron variant has led to a rash of positive COVID-19 test results across the league's 32 teams. Dozens more players entered virus protocol Monday, with minor leaguers taking their place and taxi squads added to keep the NHL season going amid concerns about the quality of the on-ice product.

Stankos and his teammates were preparing to play without reigning playoff MVP goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy, five other players and coach Jon Cooper. Montreal will also be without several players for the start of a three-game U.S. trip; back home, Quebec has banned fans and all eyes are on virus restrictions in Canada that could further upend the season for a league with seven teams based north of the border.

The virus continues to play a role on either side of it. Pittsburgh and Washington each added six players to the COVID-19 protocol list, and

## NHL scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	30	20	6	4	44	98	80
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101
Montreal	31	7	21	3	17	67	109

#### Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	29	21	7	1	43	95	62
Washington	31	18	6	7	43	108	81
N.Y. Rangers	30	19	7	4	42	86	77
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76
Columbus	28	14	13	1	29	91	95
Philadelphia	29	12	12	5	29	77	95
New Jersey	30	10	15	5	25	82	105
N.Y. Islanders	26	8	12	6	22	57	77

### Western Conference

#### Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56	109

#### Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vegas	32	20	12	0	40	114	98
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108

### Tuesday's games

Montreal at Tampa Bay  
Columbus at Chicago  
Arizona at San Jose  
Vegas at Los Angeles

### Wednesday's games

N.Y. Rangers at Florida  
Nashville at Washington  
New Jersey at Buffalo  
Boston at Ottawa  
Chicago at Winnipeg  
Detroit at N.Y. Islanders  
Pittsburgh at Toronto  
Edmonton at St. Louis  
Dallas at Colorado  
Philadelphia at Seattle  
Vancouver at Anaheim

the Vegas Golden Knights found out they won't have coach Peter DeBoer behind the bench for their game Tuesday night at Los Angeles.

Washington is set to play again Wednesday against the Nashville Predators, who are dealing with their own virus absences, but the game is scheduled to go on as planned.

Not every game will be played on time. Chicago's game at Winnipeg scheduled for Wednesday and a home-and-home series Wednesday and Friday between Dallas and Colorado are the latest to be postponed because of coronavirus concerns.

AP hockey writer John Wawrow and AP sports writer Teresa M. Walker contributed.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BRANDON WADE/AP

Cincinnati offensive coordinator Mike Denbrock coaches his players during practice Monday for the Cotton Bowl in Arlington, Texas. The game, a College Football Playoff semifinal, will be played Friday.

# CFP games arrive in middle of raging pandemic, again

Bowls taking precautions with pared-down schedules, more virtual events

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — They are trying to have as many fun events as they can at the Orange Bowl for Georgia and Michigan, as always taking advantage of the tropical lifestyle that the Miami area has to offer. Dinner cruises. Beach days. Water toys.

It's just like normal.

Or, more accurately, the new normal.

College Football Playoff week is here with a pair of semifinal games on Friday: Alabama vs. Cincinnati at the Cotton Bowl followed by Georgia vs. Michigan at the Orange Bowl. For the second consecutive season, college football is going to try to get across the finish line amid a raging pandemic, with numbers soaring all over the country and some other bowl games getting canceled after teams determined they simply aren't healthy enough to play.

"The key is just to make sure that we put every protocol in place that focuses on their health and safety," said Jack Seiler, the president and chairman of the Orange Bowl Committee. "We've been able to do that. We're just focusing on the health and safety of the players and making sure we have an incredible game on Friday night."

The people facilitating the games in both areas — the Orange Bowl in South Florida, the Cotton Bowl in North Texas — are doing all they can to ensure the four teams are healthy and able to play. Staffs are constantly reminded

about all the best practices that have become part of everyday life since March 2020, such as mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing.

The calendars for all four teams have been pared down. Media sessions are virtual, and events where in pre-pandemic times there might have seen fan interaction are basically nonexistent.

"We've got to constantly remind ourselves we're here for a reason," Michigan offensive coordinator Josh Gattis said. "This is purely a business trip. We're afforded the luxury of being in Miami in such a great hotel and have all the hospitality around us, but it doesn't matter if we're playing this game in Ann Arbor, Athens or Miami, we're here for a reason, and the College Football Playoffs is that reason."

Gattis played in the Orange Bowl for Wake Forest 15 years ago. It was a big game, but not one that was sending the winner into the national championship game so he thinks players understand why they might have to curb the fun and frolic a bit this week.

"It's getting really crazy out here," Georgia safety Chris Smith said, when asked about virus numbers rising just about everywhere. "They're just reiterating the fact that you need to be safe, wear a mask, wash your hands, stuff like that, to make sure we don't have a breakout or anything like that."

Bowl games tend to have some sort of element of community involvement, and the Cotton Bowl is

no exception. Alabama and Cincinnati were both assigned a hospital to visit in an effort to boost spirits for patients.

This week, those visits are happening virtually. Just in case.

"I think that everybody's ability to stay focused on the task and manage their business the right way and do everything that they can from a protocol standpoint to not put themselves at risk so that they can stay safe," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

Teams are also acutely aware that an outbreak right now would all but doom their title chances. If a team has an outbreak and cannot play Friday in their semifinal game, its opponent — assuming that team has enough players available — gets a bye to the national title game Jan. 10 in Indianapolis. A handful of games in the NBA, NHL and NFL have been postponed in recent weeks, but the CFP schedule doesn't allow for that.

"You've worked so hard to provide yourself this opportunity," Cincinnati offensive coordinator Mike Denbrock said, discussing his message to players right now. "The last thing we need to do is compromise that by doing something out of character."

All the Crimson Tide, Bearcats, Wolverines and Bulldogs can do is make smart decisions and hope for the best.

"We've never lost sight of the fact that health and safety is important, and bringing people back together is important," Seiler said.

# COVID concerns lead to changes in Rose Bowl plans

By DAN GREENSPAN

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — During Ohio State's visit to Disneyland celebrating its appearance in the Rose Bowl, quarterback C.J. Stroud was looking forward to visiting Tomorrowland.

"I rode Space Mountain in eighth grade and I want to get back on there," he said.

But tomorrows aren't guaranteed in a college football postseason still wrestling with the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving the Buckeyes, Pac-12 champion Utah and the Tournament of Roses to take precautions in an attempt to ensure "The Granddaddy of Them All" can be played on New Year's Day.

"We're healthy, and we're gonna be smart," Ohio State coach Ryan Day said Monday. "Obviously, we know what's going on right now with the spike going on across the country and in Southern California, so we've talked to our team about that we're gonna do everything we can to make sure we're healthy."

The visit to the Orange County theme parks will be the only official event held in the buildup to Saturday's game after organizers announced Monday night that the traditional "Beef Bowl" dinners would not be staged because of concerns about the omicron variant. Instead, Lawry's The Prime Rib steakhouse will put together takeout meals for both teams.

Thursday's media day had already been canceled because there was not enough space at the stadium in Pasadena to accommodate social distancing between reporters, players and coaches.

Those changes at a bowl so devoted to its customs come after the

**Rose Bowl**  
No. 7 Ohio St. (10-2)  
vs. No. 10 Utah (10-3)  
AFN-Sports  
11:10 p.m. Saturday CET  
7:10 a.m. Sunday JKT

Hawaii, Fenway, Military and Arizona bowls were canceled because of COVID-19 issues among participants. The Sun and Gator bowls will be staged with new matchups cobbled together after teams had to drop out.

"We've definitely been paying attention to it," Ohio State safety Bryson Shaw said. "Just really emphasizing everyone doing their part to stay healthy, stay safe, and protect others."

Day and Utes coach Kyle Whittingham were hopeful that vaccinations, masks and other precautions would keep their teams from being disrupted by the virus. According to Whittingham, there is only one unvaccinated person among Utah's players and coaches. Day said many players have been receiving booster shots.

Despite the optimism there will be no absences because of COVID-19, the No. 7 Buckeyes (No. 6 CFP) will be without four starters after Day said wide receivers Garrett Wilson and Chris Olave, defensive tackle Haskell Garrett, and offensive tackle Nicholas Petit-Frere had opted out.

Olave led the team with 13 touchdown receptions, while Wilson was second in catches (70), yards receiving (1,058) and touchdowns (12).

Wilson, a junior, said on Twitter he was entering the NFL Draft.

"I'm just happy for those guys, them taking that next step," wide receiver Jaxon Smith-Njigba said.



RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

Utah fans celebrate at Disneyland Resort in Anaheim, Calif., on Monday. The Rose Bowl schedule is smaller due to COVID concerns.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Central Michigan shifts to Sun; Arizona Bowl off

Chippewas replace Miami; Boise State latest to pull out because of COVID-19

Associated Press

The Arizona Bowl was canceled on Monday night after Boise State pulled out and shut down all team activities due to COVID-19 issues within the program.

The Broncos were scheduled to play Central Michigan at Arizona Stadium on Friday but instead joined numerous college basketball programs that have been hit with coronavirus issues coming out of the Christmas break.

"We feel for the young men in our program who were very much looking forward to closing out their season, and for some, their football careers," Boise State athletic director Jeramiah Dickey said Monday in a statement. "I would personally like to thank Kym Adair and her team at the Arizona Bowl for putting together a first-class student-athlete and fan experience that we are extremely disappointed to miss."

Barstool Sports, the sponsor of the Arizona Bowl, tweeted that it made the "difficult decision" to cancel the game, which would have been streamed on its platforms. It becomes the fourth bowl canceled this season after the Hawaii, Fenway and Military bowls.

Central Michigan will instead play Washington State in the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas, replacing Miami in a game that will be broadcast on CBS.

College basketball also will have a notably lighter schedule this week after the pandemic caused numerous games to get canceled or postponed.

The Atlantic Coast Conference and Big East announced Monday they were scrapping three and four games, respectively, scheduled to take place over the next several days.

That included No. 2 Duke's game Wednesday night at Clemson. Other ACC matchups that won't take place as scheduled Wednesday include Florida State at Boston College and Virginia Tech at North Carolina. The Georgia Tech-Syracuse game scheduled for Wednesday was postponed earlier.

UConn's game against No. 23 Xavier scheduled for Tuesday was scrapped because of COVID-19 issues involving the Huskies.

Illinois also had its game on Wednesday against Florida A&M wiped out because of positive tests within the Illini's program.

The Big East cited COVID-19 issues within the Georgetown and St. John's programs in canceling their game scheduled for Satur-



AL GOLDIS/AP

**Central Michigan running back Lew Nichols III, right, rushes against Eastern Michigan on Nov. 26. The Chippewas were in Tucson, Ariz., to play in the Arizona Bowl but will replace Miami in the Sun Bowl.**

## Bowls on AFN

**Alamo Bowl**  
Oregon vs. Oklahoma  
AFN-Sports

3:15 a.m. Thursday CET  
11:15 a.m. Thursday JKT

**Peach Bowl**  
Pittsburgh vs. Michigan State  
AFN-Sports

1 a.m. Friday CET  
9 a.m. Friday JKT

**Gator Bowl**  
Wake Forest vs. Rutgers  
AFN-Sports

5 p.m. Friday CET  
1 a.m. Saturday JKT

day. Marquette's game at St. John's on Wednesday and Xavier's Jan. 4 game at Georgetown also have been called off.

Big East officials said they would attempt to reschedule the games in accordance with the conference's game cancellation policy.

Most major college conferences, including the Big East, Atlantic Coast Conference, Southeastern Conference, Big 12 and Pac-12, have changed their policies recently to say that games that can't be played because of COVID-19 will be rescheduled — and if they can't be rescheduled, they'll be considered a no contest.

The Big Ten said last week it is re-evaluating its forfeiture policy from August, which gives a sick team a loss if they cancel against a healthy team; if both teams have COVID-19 issues and the game

can't be rescheduled, it's a no contest.

Since Dec. 15, more than 120 men's college basketball games and 100 women's games have been canceled or postponed.

The number of people a men's or women's basketball team needs for a game ranges from than six scholarship players and a coach in the Big 12 to a minimum of seven in the ACC, Pac-12 and Big East. The SEC requires teams to play if they have seven, while an ACC team can choose not to play even if they have the minimum number of players, though it would be a forfeit.

It wasn't just on the men's side that the Big East had to cancel games. Four women's games were wiped out over the next week as well, with Providence losing its contests at Xavier and Butler. Georgetown lost games against St. John's and Seton Hall.

Other women's games canceled this week include No. 21 Iowa's scheduled Thursday game at Penn State, which was called off due to positive COVID-19 tests within Penn State's program. Fourth-ranked Arizona also saw both its games scheduled for this weekend get wiped out because of COVID-19 issues at Southern Cal and UCLA.

Arizona had been dealing with its own coronavirus problems and hasn't played since Dec. 17.

No. 2 Stanford and sixth-ranked Maryland also had games canceled this week, with the Cardinal's contest on Friday against Washington postponed and the Terrapins' game at Illinois on Thursday wiped out.



BRAD TOLLEFSON/AP

**Iowa State quarterback Brock Purdy enters his final college game with 11,966 passing yards with 80 career touchdowns. The Cyclones play Clemson in the Cheez-It Bowl on Wednesday.**

## Clemson, Iowa State close rough seasons

By JOHN DENTON

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — When Iowa State and Clemson meet in Wednesday's Cheez-It Bowl, it'll be out with the old for the Cyclones and in with the new for the Tigers.

Iowa State, a disappointing 7-5 after starting the season ranked No. 7, will say goodbye to 17 players who have made at least 21 starts under head coach Matt Campbell. The group includes record-setting running back Breece Hall, who is planning to attend the game but won't play as he prepares for the NFL draft.

Clemson similarly fell short of expectations after opening the season at No. 3 and seeing a six-year streak of reaching the College Football Playoff come to an end. For the Tigers, Brandon Streeter will make his debut in the Cheez-It Bowl as Clemson's offensive coordinator, while co-defensive coordinators Wes Goodwin and Mickey Conn will call the shots on the other side of the ball.

Tigers long-time defensive and offensive coordinators Brent Venables and Tony Elliott — key cogs in Clemson's runs to national titles in 2016 and '18 — left for head coaching jobs with Oklahoma and Virginia, respectively.

Tigers head coach Dabo Swinney called his decision to promote from within a "no-brainer."

Clemson's 2021 struggles were somewhat washed away by a stirring five-game winning streak to close the season.

"Having that comfort level of being around the people that I'm around and then them having trust in me gives me a lot of confidence," said Streeter, a former Tigers quarterback who has been on the coaching staff since 2014. "I've just got to do the best I possibly can. I'm excited about attacking the opportunity."

Streeter previously called plays for Clemson in the 2020 College Football Playoff after Elliot con-

**Cheez-It Bowl**  
Clemson vs. Iowa State  
AFN-Sports  
11:45 p.m. Wednesday CET  
7:45 a.m. Thursday JKT

tracted COVID-19 and had to miss the team's 44-28 loss to Ohio State. The Tigers' offense mostly sputtered that game, and many of those same struggles carried over into this season.

Sophomore quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei battled consistency issues, playing most of this season with a sprained posterior cruciate ligament in his right knee. But the QB said his familiarity with Streeter has smoothed out the transition to a new coordinator.

"Coach Streeter is the exact same person he was when he recruited me, when he was my quarterback coach, and when he was the passing game coordinator. Now, as offensive coordinator, he's the exact same person," Uiagalelei said. "Nothing has changed. I'm just excited for the new opportunity to work with Coach Streeter."

### Purdy good quarterback

Uiagalelei may still be trying to find his footing as Clemson's quarterback, but Iowa State senior Brock Purdy has already cemented his legacy as the most successful signal-caller in school history.

In addition to being 30-16 as a starter with seven fourth-quarter comeback victories, Purdy enters his final college game with 11,966 passing yards with 80 career touchdowns.

"I'm trying to enjoy all the relationships and moments with my teammates this whole week being here," said Purdy, whose 73.1% completion percentage this season ranked fourth in the nation. "It's been special. It's definitely going to be sad when the fourth quarter ends and that's my last time in cardinal and gold."

# NFL

## Scoreboard

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	9	6	0	.600	427	264
New England	9	6	0	.600	388	260
Miami	8	7	0	.533	305	315
e-N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	276	449
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	10	5	0	.667	357	326
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	420	316
e-Houston	4	11	0	.267	248	401
e-Jacksonville	2	13	0	.133	217	396
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	410	324
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	355	356
Pittsburgh	7	7	1	.500	301	371
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	314	329
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	421	306
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	408	411
Las Vegas	8	7	0	.533	316	387
Denver	7	8	0	.467	298	260
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	4	0	.733	457	307
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	398	318
Washington	6	9	0	.400	297	407
e-N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	.267	248	365
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Tampa Bay	11	4	0	.733	442	312
Atlanta	7	8	0	.467	278	400
New Orleans	7	8	0	.467	316	305
e-Carolina	5	10	0	.333	277	345
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	383	324
Minnesota	7	8	0	.467	384	372
e-Chicago	5	10	0	.333	265	373
e-Detroit	2	12	1	.167	259	386
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	.733	416	326
x-Arizona	10	5	0	.667	394	306
San Francisco	8	7	0	.533	377	334
e-Seattle	5	10	0	.333	306	307

e-Eliminated from playoffs  
x-clinched playoff spot  
y-clinched division

**Thursday, Dec. 23**  
Tennessee 20, San Francisco 17

**Saturday, Dec. 25**  
Green Bay 24, Cleveland 22  
Indianapolis 22, Arizona 16

**Sunday, Dec. 26**  
Atlanta 20, Detroit 16  
Buffalo 33, New England 21  
Cincinnati 41, Baltimore 21  
Houston 41, L.A. Chargers 29  
L.A. Rams 30, Minnesota 23  
N.Y. Jets 26, Jacksonville 21  
Philadelphia 34, N.Y. Giants 10  
Tampa Bay 32, Carolina 6  
Chicago 25, Seattle 24  
Kansas City 36, Pittsburgh 10  
Las Vegas 17, Denver 13  
Dallas 56, Washington 14

**Monday's game**  
Miami 20, New Orleans 3

**Sunday's games**  
Atlanta at Buffalo  
Jacksonville at New England  
Kansas City at Cincinnati  
L.A. Rams at Baltimore  
Las Vegas at Indianapolis  
Miami at Tennessee  
N.Y. Giants at Chicago  
Philadelphia at Washington  
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets  
Denver at L.A. Chargers  
Houston at San Francisco  
Arizona at Dallas  
Carolina at New Orleans  
Detroit at Seattle  
Minnesota at Green Bay

**Monday, Jan. 3**  
Cleveland at Pittsburgh

**Calendar**  
Jan. 15-16 — Wild-card playoff games  
Jan. 22-23 — Divisional playoff games  
Jan. 30 — Conference championship games  
Feb. 6 — Pro Bowl at Allegiant Stadium, Las Vegas  
Feb. 13 — Super Bowl LVI at SoFi Stadium, Inglewood, Calif.

# COVID-19 list continues to grow

BY STEVE REED  
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — To Indianapolis Colts coach Frank Reich, it was just a matter of time before his team would be adding a few players to the NFL's COVID-19 list.

The Colts placed safety Jahleel Addae, cornerback T.J. Carrie, linebacker Malik Jefferson, running back Marlon Mack and tackle Braden Smith on the list Monday. Smith has been a key member of the offensive line that has helped Jonathan Taylor lead the league in rushing. Cornerback Chris Wilcox went on the practice squad COVID-19 list.

"It's interesting that since we had more unvaxxed players than the average around the league that we were one of the last teams to (test) positive," Reich said. "You kind of feel like it's going to catch up with you at some point just because the virus is so rampant. But this is what you prepare for, hitting adversity you don't expect, although this is something we probably could have expected to hit us at some point."

Also:  
■ The Carolina Panthers sent all of their players home from Bank of America Stadium after six more players tested positive for COVID-19 on Monday.

That brings the total number of Carolina players on the COVID-19 list to 13.

Defensive end Brian Burns, linebacker Shaq Thompson, defensive end Marquis Haynes, defensive tackle Phil Hoskins, center Matt Paradis and defensive tackle Daviyon Nixon all tested positive on Monday. Paradis and Nixon were already on injured reserve.

■ The Jacksonville Jaguars placed 10 players on the COVID-19 list Monday, including five defensive linemen and two starting offensive linemen.

Because left guard Andrew Norwell is unvaccinated, he will be out at least 10 days under NFL protocols and will miss Sunday's game at New England. The other nine players are vaccinated and have a chance to play against the Patriots.

The Jaguars already ruled out pass rusher



DARRYL WEBB/AP

**Indianapolis head coach Frank Reich pumps his fists after the Colts' 22-16 victory over the Arizona Cardinals on Saturday.**

Josh Allen, who also is unvaccinated and won't be cleared in time to play. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Friday along with receiver Laviska Shenault and right guard Ben Bartch.

■ The Tennessee Titans got left guard Rodger Saffold and rookie defensive back Elijah Molden back from the COVID-19 list. They still have two other offensive linemen still on the list, and they also put four players — including three starters — on the list, including outside linebacker Bud Dupree, wide receiver Julio Jones, defensive back Buster Skrine and receiver Nick Westbrook-Ikhine. They also put cornerback Caleb Farley, who's on injured reserve, on the list.

■ The Cleveland Browns, who have been hit as hard as any team by COVID-19 the past few weeks, activated eight players, including defensive end Jadeveon Clowney and running back Kareem Hunt.

Clowney has missed the past two games — both losses — and his return will help a pass

rush that hasn't been the same without him. Starting left tackle Jedrick Wills Jr. is also back. He's been replaced the last two games by left guard Joel Bitoni, who can slide back to his usual spot.

■ The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, hard hit by injuries on offense, put star wideout Mike Evans on the COVID-19 list, but activated wide receiver Breshad Perriman from it. Evans missed Sunday's game with an injury. Wide receivers coach Kevin Garver also went on the list.

■ The Green Bay Packers placed G Ben Braden, LB Tita Galeai, WR Amari Rodgers and LB Ty Summers on the list, and placed defensive lineman RJ McIntosh on the practice squad COVID-19 list.

■ The Houston Texans added RB David Johnson, LB Neville Hewitt and practice squad fullback Paul Quessenberry to the list.

■ The Cincinnati Bengals placed backup quarterback Brandon Allen and already-injured cornerback/kick returner Darius Phillips on the list. Phillips (shoulder), who was the Bengals' primary kick returner, has been on injured reserve since Dec. 9.

Allen has been the No. 2 quarterback behind starter Joe Burrow. The team will likely have to add a quarterback to the roster.

Starting defensive tackle D.J. Reader missed last Sunday's game after going on the COVID-19 list on Dec. 20, the same day that starting cornerback Chidobe Awuzie came off it.

■ The San Francisco 49ers placed punter Mitch Wishnowsky on COVID-19 list.

■ The Las Vegas Raiders added CB Casey Hayward, LB Cory Littleton, LB Patrick Onwuasor, LB Denzel Perryman, DT Darius Philon and LB K.J. Wright to the list.

■ The Seahawks added defensive end L.J. Collier to the list. Collier played 25 snaps in Sunday's loss to the Bears. Seattle has six players from the 53-man roster on the virus list.

■ Minnesota placed guard Oluisaemeka Udoh on the list.

■ Denver added starting defensive lineman Mike Purcell and outside linebacker Andre Mintze to the list.

## Seventh: Saints QB was under constant pressure

FROM PAGE 24

ing QB Taysom Hill and veteran backup Trevor Siemian.

"Rookie quarterback — we mixed up some looks on him," Needham said. "Had him a little confused out there and I think that played a big part."

With the Saints' offensive line missing three starters, including both tackles, Book completed 12 of 20 passes for 135 yards.

"Just keeping him upright tonight was a challenge," New Orleans coach Sean Payton said. "The first interception was a throw he'll want back, but that's a tough position for him to be in."

The Saints' defense helped keep the game within reach until Waddle scored on a 1-yard shovel pass from Tua Tagovailoa to make it 17-3 with 5:10 left in the third quarter.

Tagovailoa, who entered the game with an NFL best 69.9%

completion rate, connected on 19 of 26 passes (73.1%) for 198 yards and the short TD. He also was intercepted by Marshon Lattimore.

### The Waddle effect

Waddle missed the Dolphins' previous game because of a positive COVID-19 test. He has 96 catches this season, eclipsing New Orleans' Michael Thomas for the second-most receptions by a rookie, and leaving him five short of Anquan Boldin's rookie record of 101 catches in 2003.

Waddle said "it'll obviously be pretty cool" if he breaks the record.

"The NFL is a special league, so anything in this league, to have a record is always big," he said.

### Book's opening

Book got a roar of encouragement from the crowd when he first took the field and and Saints fans

were cheering again two plays later when he completed his first career pass. Then they let out a collective gasp on his second pass — Needham's pick-6.

Needham said a "max blitz" helped set up his first interception for a score at any level of football.

"We knew the ball had to come out quick so I was just staring at the quarterback and right when he said, 'Hut,' he was looking at the slot," Needham recalled. "I think the ball got tipped and it landed right in my hands."

Book's next two series also lasted three plays each and ended on sacks. New Orleans didn't get a first down until the second quarter. That drive lasted five plays.

The Saints finally moved the ball on their fifth series, needing just four plays to pick up three first downs. A roughing-the-passer penalty on a 12-yard completion to Alvin Kamara moved New

Orleans to the Miami 23, setting up Brett Maher's field goal to make it 10-3.

"Personally I got a lot to get better at," Book said. "There's things in my mind already that I want back but it felt good to be out there."

Cam Jordan's second sack of the game in the final minute of the second quarter forced Miami to try a 59-yard field goal, which Jason Sanders missed, keeping the Saints' deficit at one touchdown at halftime.

### Superlatives

The Dolphins' eight sacks tied a team record for a game. They became the first team in the Super Bowl era to have that many sacks, score a defensive TD and hold an opponent under 200 total yards while allowing no TDs or third-down conversions. The Saints went 0-for-12 on third down.

# SPORTS



**Coach named**  
US taps Quinn to lead men's hockey team » **Olympics, Page 18**

**NFL**



BUTCH DILL/AP

Saints quarterback Ian Book is sacked by the Miami Dolphins' Brandon Jones during the second half of Monday's game in New Orleans. Book, a rookie, was sacked eight times.

# Dolphins win seventh straight



DERICK HINGLE/AP

Dolphins wide receiver Jaylen Waddle caught 10 passes for 92 yards and a TD.

## Waddle, Miami pull away from COVID-ravaged Saints

By **BRETT MARTEL**  
*Associated Press*

NEW ORLEANS — A Dolphins defense that intercepted Saints rookie Ian Book twice and sacked him eight times was probably enough to push Miami's winning streak to seven games.

The team also got a big lift from rookie sensation Jaylen Waddle to outclass New Orleans on both sides of the ball.

Waddle caught 10 passes for 92 yards and a touchdown in his return from the COVID-19 list, and the Dolphins beat the short-handed Saints 20-3 on Monday night, becoming the first NFL team to win seven straight after losing seven in a row.

"This team stuck together, really the en-

**INSIDE**  
List of players in protocols gets bigger, Page 23

tire year," said third-year Miami coach Brian Flores, who improved to 19-7 in games played after October. "Obviously, we dealt with a lot of adversity early in the year. It revealed a lot — revealed the character of the guys in our locker room.

"Our guys kept fighting, they kept sticking together, they worked hard," Flores added.

Nik Needham intercepted Book and re-

turned the ball 28 yards for a touchdown to help Miami become one of four 8-7 teams — along with Baltimore, the Los Angeles Chargers and Las Vegas — in contention for one of the final playoff spots in the AFC.

Book started for New Orleans (7-8) because of a COVID-19 outbreak that took 16 players off the active roster, including start-

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## Bowl games continue to be impacted » College football, Pages 21-22

