

PRESS-TELEGRAM

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CALIFORNIA

Indoor mask mandate is back

Newsom: Face coverings to be required across the state until at least mid-January

By Adam Beam
The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO » California is bringing back a rule requiring people to wear masks indoors, a move aimed at containing a new type of the coronavirus as people gather

with family and friends during the holidays. Gov. Gavin Newsom's administration announced the new mandate will start Wednesday and last until Jan. 15. The order comes as the per capita rate of new coronavirus

CORONAVIRUS » PAGE 8



JEFF CHIU — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Gavin Newsom said a mandate requiring masks be worn indoors will start Wednesday.

L.A. County: State is just catching up to where region has been for months

By Ryan Carter
rcarter@scng.com

California's renewed universal indoor masking mandate issued Monday will affect much of the state's population, including in Orange and San Bernardino

counties, where face coverings will now be required for all residents in such places as restaurants and retail shops. But for Los Angeles County, where public health officials issued a universal

MASKS » PAGE 8

WEATHER

TORNADO VICTIMS STRUGGLE IN COLD



GERALD HERBERT — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martha Thomas stays warm with a bed comforter Monday in Mayfield, Ky., as volunteers help her salvage possessions from her destroyed home in the aftermath of tornadoes that tore through the region. At least 88 people, including 74 in Kentucky, were killed in the outbreak.

Many in Kentucky may be without heat, power or water for weeks in freezing temperatures

By Bruce Schreiner
and Claire Galofaro
The Associated Press

MAYFIELD, KY. » Residents of Kentucky counties where tornadoes killed dozens of people could be without heat, water or electricity in frigid temperatures for weeks or longer, state officials warned Monday, as the toll of damage and deaths came into clearer focus in five states slammed by the swarm of twisters.

Kentucky authorities said the sheer level of destruction was hindering their ability to tally the damage from Friday night's storms. At least 88 people, including 74 in Kentucky, were killed by the tornado outbreak that also destroyed a nursing home in Arkansas, heavily damaged an Amazon distribution center in Illinois and spread its deadly effects into Tennessee and Missouri.

In Kentucky, as searches continued for those still missing, efforts also turned to repairing the power grid,

TORNADOES » PAGE 7



SCOTT OLSON — GETTY IMAGES

Crews clear the rubble at the Mayfield Consumer Products candle factory on Monday in Mayfield, Ky., after it was destroyed by a tornado three days earlier.

PORTS

Container fee put on hold again

Officials delaying possible punitive action on cargo

By City News Service

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach announced on Monday that a container excess dwell fee on companies whose containers linger at marine terminals will be delayed again, now scheduling it to take effect, if necessary, on Dec. 20.

The fee, which was announced Oct. 25, has been delayed due to progress in reducing the number of port containers at the terminal, with the ports reporting Monday a 47% decline in aging cargo on the docks, up from the 37% decline announced the previous week. Over the next week, port officials will monitor and reassess the fee's implementation.

"There's been significant improvement in clearing import containers from our docks in recent weeks," Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Gene Seroka said Nov. 15, when the fee was first delayed.

The fee was delayed again on Nov. 22 and Nov. 29 and Dec. 6.

FEES » PAGE 4

USA GYMNASTICS

Organizations to pay victims of sex abuse \$380 million

By Scott M. Reid
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USA Gymnastics and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee reached a \$380 million settlement Monday with more than 500 women who were sexually abused by former U.S. Olympic and national team physician Larry Nassar.

The agreement ends a legal battle that highlighted the organizations' roles in enabling Nassar's behavior and then covering it up for more than a year.

U.S. Bankruptcy Court Southern District of Indiana Judge Robyn Moberly's confirmation of the agreement comes almost three years to the day after USA

GYMNASTICS » PAGE 4

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Volume 143, issue 348



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PRESS-TELEGRAM
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WEATHER

Powerful storm to arrive in SoCal

Flooding, rock slides and other trouble on roads could be possible through tonight

By Eric Licas
elicas@scng.com

Darkening skies with patches of rain and howling winds forecast for late Monday will be a prelude to a powerful storm that should arrive in earnest overnight and could lead to flooding, rock slides and other havoc on roads across Southern California through this evening.

On Monday, in advance of the storm, areas in the burn scars

of the South and El Dorado fires were ordered evacuated, the San Bernardino County fire and sheriff's departments said.

The South fire burned this year in the north Fontana area. The El Dorado fire burned last year, and Monday's evacuation affected Angelus Oaks, Forest Falls, Mountain Home Village, Oak Glen and North Yucaipa.

Maps of the evacuation areas and other information were posted on the Fire Department's

Facebook page.

Temperatures were between 5 and 10 degrees cooler across Southern California on Monday morning, as clear conditions over the weekend were replaced by clouds building ahead of the storm, according to the National Weather Service.

Light showers were reported along the coast and in mountain areas Monday morning.

Precipitation spread into the valleys and was expected to grow more intense that evening as the first wave of the storm reached Los Angeles County overnight,

STORM » PAGE 5



A heavy equipment operator builds a sand berm at Surfside in Seal Beach on Monday ahead of a strong storm forecast to arrive by the late evening.

JEFF GRITCHEN
STAFF
PHOTOGRAPHER

LAKEWOOD

SURPRISE! KIDS GET NEW BIKES



PHOTOS BY BRITTANY MURRAY — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Third graders at Aloha Health Medical Academy in Lakewood react Monday as they learn they are all getting new bicycles, courtesy of the YMCA of Greater Long Beach and Bikes for Kids.

Third graders at Aloha Health Medical Academy receive early Christmas present

By Brittany Murray
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Third graders at Aloha Health Medical Academy in Lakewood entered the multipurpose room on Monday thinking that two students would be awarded brand new bikes for their efforts in essay writing.

Principal Danielle Saldavia Pouncey read two essays and awarded bikes to happy children courtesy of the YMCA and Bikes for Kids.

Saldavia Pouncey asked if maybe there was one more bike to be awarded. Sure enough, they found one in a nearby closet and a third student was smiling.

Next came a huge surprise — reminiscent of Oprah Winfrey's famous car giveaway — when Alvaro Rodriguez, operations director for YMCA of Greater Long Beach, dropped a black curtain to reveal 55 bikes, one for each student.

A roar took over the small room and tears fell from a few students' eyes. The genuine appreciation and happiness felt by the children were palpable.

ABC Unified school board President



At first, two bikes were on display to be awarded to top essay writers. Moments later, all children in the assembly found out they would be getting a bicycle.

Soo Yoo wiped away tears as she congratulated the students on their essay efforts and new bikes. Yoo recalled her own childhood and having to borrow bikes from friends. She encouraged

them to keep dreaming and succeeding.

After a parent signs paperwork, the children will take their bikes home in time for some quality riding over the holiday break.

CORONAVIRUS

L.A. County tops 15 million COVID-19 vaccine doses

By City News Service

Los Angeles County health officials marked a significant milestone Monday, announcing that more than 15 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in the county, but they said more needs to be done to reach people still resistant to the shots.

As of Thursday, more than 15.2 million doses of vaccine have been administered in the county, a number that rose dramatically in recent weeks, thanks to the expanded availability of booster doses.

"The delivery of 15 million vaccines required a network of hundreds of providers willing to extend their services to serve residents across every community in the county," county public health Director Barbara Ferrer said in a statement. "While we are proud of the work collectively done to administer 15 million vaccines in L.A. County, it is clear that we will need to continue to support vaccination efforts for months to come as we try to reach those still unvaccinated, those who need boosters, and those that are newly

VACCINE » PAGE 5



FREDERIC J. BROWN — AFP/GETTY IMAGES

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is administered at a pop-up clinic offering initial vaccinations and booster shots in Rosemead on Nov. 29.

COURTS

Man gets 20 years to life in stabbing

Defendant is sentenced over 2020 slaying of good Samaritan after he violating a restraining order

By City News Service

A Signal Hill man was sentenced Monday to 20 years to life in state prison for fatally stabbing a good Samaritan in Long Beach during a confrontation.

Superior Court Judge Richard M. Goul rejected the defense's bid for a new trial for Edson Eduardo Rufino, along with a request to reduce the 20-year-old man's conviction from second-degree murder to voluntary manslaughter.

Deputy District Attorney Karen Brako called Rufino a "catalyst" for the events that occurred April 2, 2020, saying he was "the sole party responsible for these events" that left 31-year-old Leandro Maza dead.

Rufino violated a restraining order by visiting his girlfriend that day at her mother's home and used a knife to threaten the girlfriend's brother and another visitor to the home when his girlfriend's mother called police, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Rufino fled with the girlfriend and ended up at another home where Maza — a roommate of the mother's who was armed with a metal pole — helped to detain him while waiting for police, authorities said. Rufino then pushed his way out of the home and fatally stabbed Maza, according to prosecutors.

Rufino fled and was arrested early the next morning by Long Beach police. He has remained in jail since.

Rufino was convicted July 7 of the murder charge, along with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon and a misdemeanor count of

SENTENCE » PAGE 5

LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Homeless count will resume in January after COVID hiatus

By City News Service

LOS ANGELES » Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority officials and volunteers will conduct the annual 2022 homeless count between Jan. 25 and 27, the first since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which forced the cancellation of this year's count.

The effort, known as the point-in-time count or 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, is essential to understanding how large the region's homelessness crisis has become. The count must be conducted by continuum of care providers to receive federal funding through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

According to the 2020 count, the county's homeless population increased by 12.7% over the previous year, while Los Angeles' homeless population jumped by 14.2%.

In January 2019, Los Angeles County had 58,936 homeless people, but by January 2020 the number rose to 66,433. Los Angeles counted 36,165 in 2019 and 41,290 in 2020.

The county received an exemption from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

COUNT » PAGE 5

FILM AND TV AWARDS

Golden Globes reveal nominees to skeptical Hollywood

By Jake Coyle
The Associated Press

NEW YORK » After widespread criticism forced the organization that puts on the Golden Globes to lose its televised award show and overhaul its membership, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association nevertheless went ahead announcing nominees for film and television awards on Monday despite a skeptical entertainment industry. Just as it's done for many years, the HFPA gathered reporters at the Beverly Hilton to announce its picks for the 79th Golden Globes. But this time, there was no nationally

televised morning-show live spot or any immediate celebrity celebrations. Hollywood mostly shrugged. The HFPA, which usually has a handful of movie stars make their announcement, turned instead to Snoop Dogg, who read the nominees behind sunglasses and a red hat during a live stream on the Globes' YouTube page. The majority of studios, public relations firms and A-list talent haven't engaged much this year with the group, which dropped its usual requirement that films be submitted for consideration. Critics have said it's too soon for the HFPA to return to business as usual. Some

would rather see the Globes be gone for good. But the press association tried to maintain its perch in awards season on Monday, spreading nominations around to the likes of Will Smith ("King Richard"), Kristen Stewart ("Spencer"), "West Side Story" breakthrough Rachel Zegler, Leonardo DiCaprio ("Don't Look Up"), Denzel Washington ("The Tragedy of Macbeth"), Ben Affleck ("The Tender Bar") and Lady Gaga ("House of Gucci"). The nominees for best picture, drama, went to Jane Campion's gothic Western "The Power of the Dog," Denis Villeneuve's

sci-fi epic "Dune," the family drama "CODA," Reinhold Marcus Green's tennis biopic "King Richard" and Kenneth Branagh's autobiographical "Belfast." The comedy or musical picks for best picture were: Adam McKay's apocalyptic comedy "Don't Look Up," Paul Thomas Anderson's '70s ode to San Fernando Valley "Licorice Pizza," Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story," Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Tick, Tick ... Boom!" and Joe Wright's "Cyrano." "Belfast" and "The Power of the Dog" tied for the most nominations with seven apiece. Netflix dominated the film nomi-

nees with 17 nods in total. HBO's "Succession" led the TV side with five nominations, including nods for best drama and best actor in a drama series for recent New Yorker profile subject Jeremy Strong. Normally, such honors would set off a flurry of delight from early-roused nominees and their studios — an awards triumph to be trumpeted on social media and in calls with reporters. On Monday morning, no nominee immediately celebrated — publicly, at least. The press association claims that in the nine months since its 2021 show, it has remade itself. "HFPA

2.0," recently elected president Helen Hoehne has said. The group has added a chief diversity officer; overhauled its board; inducted 21 new members, including six Black journalists; brought in the NAACP on a five-year partnership; and updated its code of conduct. "This has been a year of change and reflection for the Hollywood Foreign Press Association," Hoehne said Monday. All of that came after a Los Angeles Times' expose detailed some of the HFPA's unethical behavior and revealed that its 87 voting members didn't include one Black journalist.

Gymnastics

FROM PAGE 1

Gymnastics, facing decertification proceedings and hundreds of lawsuits, filed for Chapter 11 protection. The settlement protects USA Gymnastics, the USOPC, former USA Gymnastics CEO Steve Penny, former U.S. Olympic and national team coordinators Martha and Bela Karolyi, former USA Gymnastics board chairman Paul Parilla and Twistars, the Michigan club owned by former U.S. Olympic team head coach John Geddert, from future litigation related to Nassar's sexual abuse. The agreement, however, did not silence the demand among survivors and their supporters for Congress to remove the current USOPC board and strip USA Gymnastics of its national governing body status. "Congress needs to remove the USOPC's leadership and completely revamp that organization," said John Manley, an Orange County attorney who represents hundreds of Nassar survivors. "These organizations are utterly corrupt. They only care about their junkets and money and medals. Athletes are just commodities to them and Larry Nassar is the result of that culture."

Maggie Nichols in June 2015 became the first U.S. national team member to report allegations of abuse against Nassar to USA Gymnastics. Top USOPC officials, including then-CEO Scott Blackmun, were made aware of the allegations shortly thereafter but did not take action. The USOPC board did not call for an investigation of the Nassar matter until February 2018.

USOPC CEO Sarah Hirshland, in a statement, acknowledged the organization's failure in the Nassar case. "We are grateful to have reached a resolution with the athlete survivors," Hirshland said. "We have the deepest respect for the tremendous strength and bravery these women have shown. We recognize our role in failing to protect these athletes, and we are sorry for the profound hurt they have endured. ... Our resolve to make Olympic and Paralympic sport safe for all guides everything we do. This is our pledge, today and every day."

The USOPC, like USA Gymnastics, had repeatedly argued during the contro-



SAUL LOEB — POOL VIA AP

United States gymnasts Aly Raisman, left, Simone Biles, McKayla Maroney and Maggie Nichols prepare to leave the chamber after testifying at a Senate Judiciary hearing on Capitol Hills on Sept. 15 about the Inspector General's report on the FBI's handling of the Larry Nassar sexual abuse investigation. A \$380 million settlement was announced Monday.



CARLOS OSORIO, FILE — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Larry Nassar, a former doctor for USA Gymnastics and member of Michigan State's sports medicine staff, listens to the judge during one of his court sentencing hearings in Michigan in 2017. He is currently in prison in Florida.

versy that it did not have a legal obligation to protect young athletes from sexual and physical abuse by coaches, officials and other organization members.

USA Gymnastics agreed to include at least one survivor on the NGB's board of directors, SafeSport committee and the athlete health and wellness council. The Indianapolis-based organization also said it will strengthen its SafeSport and complaint adjudication policies.

Mitchell A. Kamin, an attorney for the USOPC, suggested in a June hearing that the organization did not have a legal responsibility to alert authorities at Michigan State after top USOPC officials were made aware of sexual abuse allegations against Nassar in 2015, a year before the allegations became public, according to a court transcript obtained by the Southern California News Group. Nassar continued

to treat young athletes at Michigan State's sport medicine clinic until September 2016.

Judge Moberly during that same hearing accused the USOPC of not "playing ball" in lawsuits filed by the Nassar survivors.

"USA Gymnastics is deeply sorry for the trauma and pain that Survivors have endured as a result of this organization's actions and inactions," USA Gymnastics president and CEO Li Li Leung said in a statement. "The Plan of Reorganization that we jointly filed reflects our own accountability to the past and our commitment to the future."

Nassar was sentenced to 60 years in prison in 2017 in the child pornography case. He was later sentenced to 40 to 175 years and 40 to 125 years in two Michigan state courts after pleading guilty to multiple sexual assault charges. He is currently an inmate at a federal prison in Florida.

The agreement, said Jessica Howard, a U.S. national team and Hall of Fame gymnast, was "validation that what we've been doing was the right thing."

Howard, a Nassar survivor, joined dozens of other gymnasts in expressing skepticism that USA Gymnastics and the USOPC will follow through on the agreed upon steps to protect future athletes.

"I have absolutely no sense of closure and I'm completely skeptical," Howard said. "The USOPC spent \$100 million fighting us."

Still, Howard and other survivors view the settlement as a victory by a group of women who shared their stories of abuse by Nassar and others in congressional hearings and media interviews to keep the pressure on USA Gymnastics and the USOPC.

The survivors, Howard said, were driven by a sense of "obligation to future athletes."

USA Gymnastics had a longstanding policy prior to the Nassar scandal of not warning member gyms or parents of athletes of sexual misconduct allegations against coaches or other individuals, a longtime top aide to the organization's former CEO acknowledged in a previously undisclosed sworn deposition revealed by the SCNG in June.

Renee Jamison, the administrative assistant to former USA Gymnastics CEO Penny from 2005 to 2011 and later the organization's director of ad-

ministration and Olympic relations, also revealed in the deposition that employees were instructed by USA Gymnastics not to report sexual misconduct complaints to law enforcement or Child Protective Services, even though they were informed by the organization that they were mandated reporters.

Instead, USA Gymnastics employees prior to 2015 were told to forward sexual misconduct complaints to attorneys representing the organization — first Jack Swarbrick and later Scott Himself, Jamison said. Swarbrick is the University of Notre Dame athletic director.

Himself is now an associate political science professor at Wabash.

Top USOPC officials were aware of allegations that Nassar had sexually abused Nichols and other U.S. national team members in the summer of 2015 but took no action to report the abuse to law enforcement or discipline Nassar and continued to be briefed on efforts by Penny to conceal the allegations from the public and potential future victims.

USOPC officials were also briefed on discussions between Penny and W. Jay Abbott, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Indianapolis office, about Abbott receiving a top level security position with the USOPC.

The Justice Department's Office of Inspector General recently determined that Abbott lied to DOJ investigators about applying for the USOPC post. The OIG investigation found that Abbott also lied to investigators about the initial steps he took in the days and weeks after he learned of allegations against Nassar in July 2015.

Abbott retired from the FBI in January 2018.

The Justice Department, however, has issued no indictments in the FBI case.

"The federal government has completely let the survivors down," Manly said. "The DOJ, the attorney general have altogether failed these women. They know what happened and they've listened to some of the finest athletes ever to represent this country testify (before Congress) and they still will not hold their tormentors accountable. And that is an obscenity."

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Fees

FROM PAGE 1

"I'm grateful to the many nodes of the supply chain, from shipping lines, marine terminals, trucks and cargo owners, for their increased collaborative efforts," Seroka added.

The fee is one of several efforts aimed at speeding the processing of cargo at the San Pedro Port Complex and eliminate a backlog of ships trying to deliver merchandise. Port of Los Angeles officials said when the policy was announced that about 40% of import containers were idling at terminals for at least nine days.

Both Long Beach and Los Angeles' harbor commissions unanimously approved the policy on Oct. 29,

to be in effect for 90 days.

The fines, if implemented, will begin at \$100 per container, increasing by \$100 per container each day. Containers set to be transported by truck will incur fines if they remain at the port for nine days or more. For rail containers, fines will be assessed if they are at the port for three days or more.

Fees collected from the policy will be reinvested into programs that aim to enhance efficiency, accelerate cargo velocity and address congestion impacts.

The policy to implement fees was developed in coordination with the Biden-Harris Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Port of Long Beach and supply chain stakeholders.

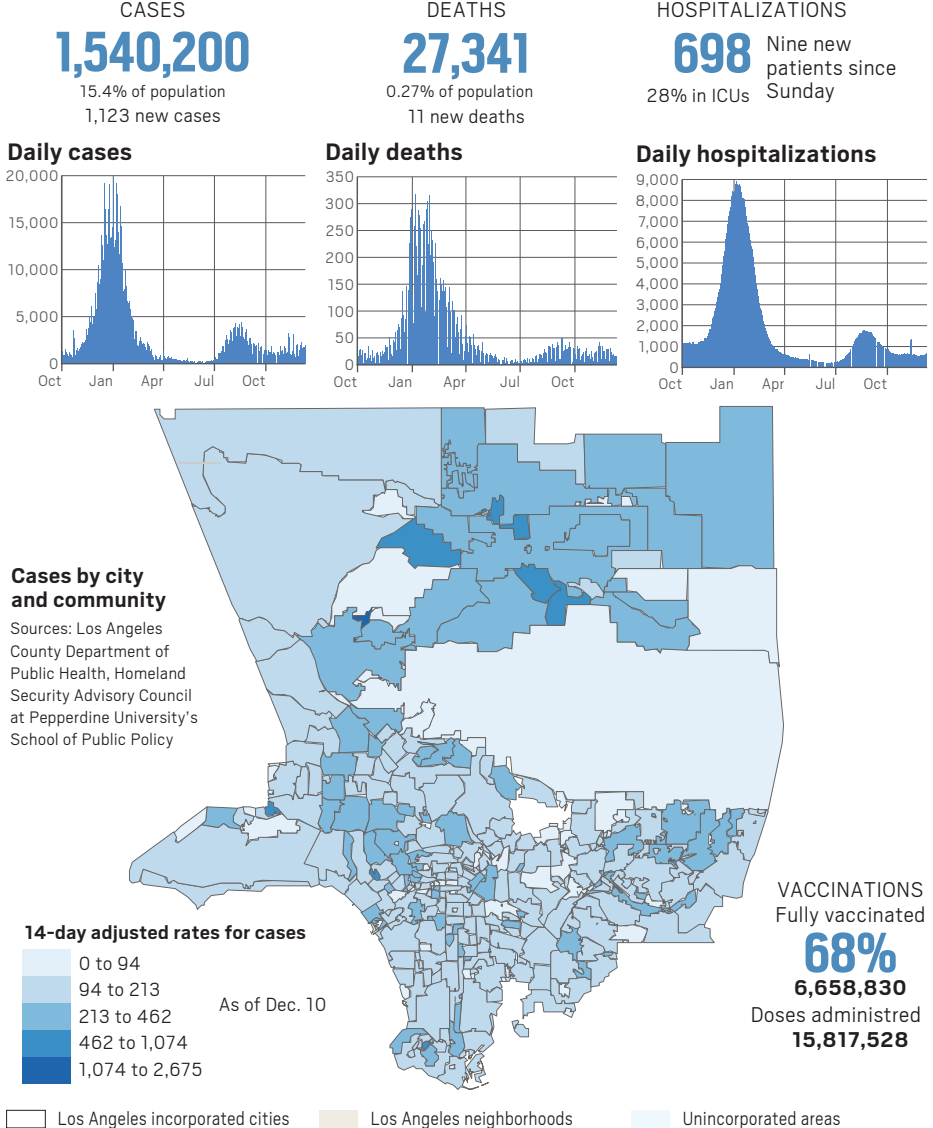
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L.A. County coronavirus cases



	Total cases	Total deaths		Total cases	Total deaths		Total cases	Total deaths
Agoura Hills	1,582	20	Eagle Rock	4,585	121	Arcadia	769	16
Alhambra	8,587	221	East Hollywood	3,916	134	Athens-Westmont	7,943	131
Arcadia	3,598	149	Echo Park	1,746	23	Athens Village	1,228	32
Artesia	2,507	81	El Sereno	7,381	116	Avocado Heights	1,306	14
Avalon	35	0	Elysian Park	686	5	Azusa	2,865	47
Azusa	7,762	133	Elysian Valley	1,528	28	Bassett	2,983	48
Baldwin Park	15,028	344	Encino	4,873	76	Bouquet Canyon	85	1
Bell	7,805	129	Exposition	466	7	Bradbury	52	24
Bell Gardens	9,244	122	Exposition Park	7,545	94	Canyon Country	1,250	7
Bellflower	13,488	218	Faircrest Heights	391	3	Castaic*	4,680	22
Beverly Hills	3,859	36	Figueroa Park Square	1,666	31	Cerritos	80	1
Bradbury	42	0	Florence-Firestone	10,831	134	Charter Oak	0	0
Burbank	11,878	263	Glassell Park	4,207	64	Claremont	57	5
Calabasas	1,909	35	Gramercy Place	1,804	35	Covina	2,872	48
Carson	12,660	275	Granada Hills	8,526	203	Covina (Charter Oak)	1,932	23
Cerritos	4,005	62	Green Meadows	4,649	57	Del Aire	419	3
Claremont	3,070	66	Hancock Park	1,519	7	Del Rey	41	1
Commerce*	2,777	42	Harbor City	3,394	39	Del Sur	283	3
Compton	20,209	291	Harbor Gateway	6,229	87	Desert View Highlands	461	8
Covina	8,118	185	Harbor Pines	231	2	Duarte	966	13
Cudahy	5,516	66	Harvard Heights	2,940	73	East Covina	47	1
Culver City	3,145	117	Harvard Park	8,588	111	East La Mirada	677	9
Diamond Bar	4,215	94	Highland Park	6,904	115	East Lancaster	19	0
Downey	21,275	328	Historic Filipinotown	2,408	82	East Los Angeles	28,474	474
Duarte	2,872	102	Hollywood	8,084	79	East Pasadena	248	10
El Monte	19,627	467	Hollywood Hills	2,515	27	E. Rancho Dominguez	3,232	56
El Segundo	1,173	10	Hyde Park	4,862	96	East Whittier	624	10
Gardena	8,246	220	Jefferson Park	1,395	17	El Camino Village	1,029	15
Glendale	26,112	716	Koreatown	6,531	131	El Monte	24	0
Glendora	6,335	209	Lafayette Square	647	9	Elizabeth Lake	128	1
Hawaiian Gardens	2,647	27	Lake Balboa	6,784	72	Florence-Firestone	15,488	238
Hawthorne	13,090	246	Lakeview Terrace	2,731	43	Franklin Canyon	1	0
Hermosa Beach	1,681	11	Leimert Park	2,154	25	Glendora	89	3
Hidden Hills	148	2	Lincoln Heights	5,935	190	Hacienda Heights	6,301	107
Huntington Park	12,760	188	Little Armenia	1,378	90	Harbor Gateway	0	0
Industry	198	5	Little Bangladesh	3,340	35	Hawthorne	361	3
Inglewood	17,351	356	Little Tokyo	536	12	Hi Vista	77	1
Irwindale	316	7	Longwood	706	9	Kagel/Lopez Canyons	324	2
La Canada Flintridge	1,198	17	Los Feliz	1,664	29	La Crescenta	1,537	19
La Habra Heights	131	2	Manchester Square	1,292	16	La Habra Heights	16	1
La Mirada	5,659	137	Mandeville Canyon	220	1	La Rambla	340	21
La Puente	7,736	133	Mar Vista	3,129	37	La Verne*	224	1
La Verne	3,824	66	Marina Peninsula	262	2	Ladera Heights	602	16
Lakewood	9,922	131	Melrose	10,553	229	Lake Hughes	77	0
Lancaster*	30,714	354	Mid-City	1,602	46	Lake Los Angeles	2,031	21
Lawndale	4,444	60	Miracle Mile	1,548	19	Lake Manor	191	2
Lomita	2,058	47	Mission Hills	5,279	133	Lakewood	0	0
Long Beach	67,780	1,060	Mt. Washington	3,406	66	Lennox	4,049	60
Lynwood*	15,424	259	North Hills	11,140	163	Leona Valley	178	3
Malibu	754	12	North Hollywood	26,146	402	Littlerock	696	6
Manhattan Beach	2,262	19	Northridge	9,801	196	Juniper Hills	176	3
Maywood	5,950	99	Pacific Palisades	1,261	15	Pearblossom	646	13
Monrovia	4,219	87	Pacoima	19,694	248	Llano	62	2
Montebello	11,904	241	Palisades Highlands	225	1	Marina del Rey	765	4
Monterey Park	5,798	209	Palms	3,636	67	Miracle Mile	0	0
Norwalk	19,157	422	Panorama City	15,634	291	Monrovia	468	1
Palmdale	31,680	374	Park La Brea	954	1	Newhall	70	1
Palos Verdes Est.	727	10	Pico-Union	8,011	249	North Lancaster	217	3
Paramount	11,727	178	Playa del Rey	198	1	North Whittier	1,341	29
Pasadena	14,045	368	Playa Vista	945	12	Northeast San Gabriel	1,984	46
Pico Rivera	13,003	292	Porter Ranch	3,512	48	Padua Hills	14	0
Pomona	30,573	514	Rancho Park	565	2	Palmdale	142	4
Rancho Palos Verdes	2,281	64	Regent Square	339	3	Palos Verdes Peninsula	34	0
Redondo Beach	4,461	57	Reseda	14,105	319	Pearblossom/Llano	196	2
Rolling Hills	93	3	Reseda Ranch	845	5	Pellissier Village	198	1
Rolling Hills Estates	465	8	Reynier Village	360	2	Placerita Canyon	5	0
Rosemead	5,781	168	San Pedro*	9,867	142	Pomona	81	2
San Dimas*	4,201	101	Shadow Hills	534	5	Quartz Hill	1,864	27
San Fernando	6,195	73	Sherman Oaks	8,811	123	Rancho Dominguez	491	5
San Gabriel	3,862	220	Silverlake	4,444	129	Roosevelt	116	0
San Marino	507	10	South Carthay	1,063	6	Rosewood	204	5
Santa Clarita	29,232	302	South Park	8,545	112	East Gardena	201	6
Santa Fe Springs	3,497	49	St Elmo Village	799	42	Rancho Dominguez	630	18
Santa Monica	7,282	196	Studio City	2,136	49	Rowland Heights	4,395	83
Sierra Madre	706	13	Sun Valley	11,206	172	San Clemente Island	0	0
Signal Hill	1,535	11	Sunland	2,914	62	San Francisquito Cyn.	23	0
South El Monte	3,936	76	Sycamore Square	56	2	San Jose Hills	4,006	85
South Gate	21,922	264	Sylmar*	19,326	263	San Pasqual	44	0
South Pasadena	1,811	49	Tarzana	4,420	86	Sand Canyon	24	0
Temple City	2,893	130	Temple-Beaudry	6,071	118	Santa Catalina Island	258	3
Torrance	10,386	250	Thai Town	1,175	23	Santa Monica Mtns.*	1,139	18
Vernon	143	0	Toluca Lake	813	6	Saugus	187	0
Walnut	2,252	41	Toluca Terrace	198	8	Saugus/Canyon Country	55	1
West Covina	15,900	307	Toluca Woods	169	0	South Antelope Valley	50	0
West Hollywood	3,876	45	Tujunga	3,802	81	South El Monte	404	6
Westlake Village	162	1	University Hills	343	3	South San Gabriel	1,125	50
Whittier	13,658	286	University Park	4,403	64	South Whittier	10,030	166
Los Angeles	628,707	10777	Valley Glen	4,865	81	S.E. Antelope Valley	111	0
Adams-Normandie	1,413	18	Valley Village	3,002	85	Stevenson Ranch	1,917	9
Alsace	1,912	21	Van Nuys*	17,404	374	Sun Village	1,128	14
Angeles National Forest	5	0	Venice	2,975	19	Sunrise Village	217	1
Angelino Heights	361	6	Vermont Knolls	3,496	65	Twin Lakes	146	4
Arleta	8,087	127	Vermont Square	1,780	29	Val Verde	457	3
Atwater Village	1,816	29	Vermont Vista	9,059	117	Valencia	321	2
Baldwin Hills	3,738	80	Vernon Central	12,567	175	Valinda	4,462	82
Bel-Air	638	3	Victoria Park	1,221	14	View Park	1,063	16
Beverly Crest	982	6	View Heights	315	7	Walnut Park	3,480	57
Beverlywood	1,405	4	Watts	9,024	115	West Antelope Valley	76	1
Boyle Heights*	19,732	329	Wellington Square	717	11	West Carson	2,881	147
Brentwood	2,310	20	West Adams	4,772	158	West Chatsworth	4	0
Brookside	51	2	West Hills	4,277	123	West LA	217	18
Cadillac-Corning	905	10	West Los Angeles	3,515	55	West Puente Valley	2,016	27
Canoga Park	11,395	182	West Vernon	11,831	204	W. Rancho Dominguez	238	6
Carthay	1,396	79	Westchester	3,864	59	West Whittier	5,043	94
Central	8,562	142	Westlake	9,027	324	Westfield	69	0
Century City	907	15	Westwood	4,034	30	West Hills	71	1
Century Palms/Cove	7,486	112	Wholesale District*	9,272	118	White Fence Farms	429	5
Chatsworth	4,890	90	Wilmington	10,253	104	Whittier	387	9
Chaviot Hills	695	9	Wilshire Center	6,742	139	Whittier Narrows	55	1
Chinatown	978	16	Winnetka	8,330	97	Willowbrook	8,217	112
Cloverdale/Cochran	2,018	29	Woodland Hills	7,371	99	Wisburn	668	12
Country Club Park	1,914	83	Acton	850	13	Under investigation	18,733	71
Crenshaw District	1,929	35	Agua Dulce	445	5	* Case and death numbers include cases associated with correctional facility outbreaks located in the city.		
Crestview	1,414	47	Altadena	4,311	81			
Del Rey	2,853	35	Anaverde	193	0			
Downtown*	5,660	57	Angeles National Forest	43	1			
JEFF GOERTZEN and KURT SNIBBE, SCN								

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Storm dumps snow, douses parched northern regions

By Janie Har and Christopher Weber
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO » Motorists spun out on whitened mountain passes and residents wielded umbrellas that flopped in the face of fierce winds as Northern California absorbed even more rain and snow on Monday, bringing the possibility of rock slides and mudslides to areas scarred by wildfires following an especially warm and dry fall across the U.S. West.

Kirkwood Mountain Resort was closed Monday, saying on social media that it was not safe to open with 17 inches of overnight snow and high winds. A California Highway Patrol car in Truckee nudged a big-rig up a snowy hill while smaller vehicles spun out, resulting in minor bumps and bruises but no real injuries, CHP Officer Carlos Perez said.

“It’s just so bad and so thick,” he said of the snowfall, with more expected Monday night. “We’re telling people that if they don’t need to be around this area, they probably shouldn’t travel.”

The multiday storm, a powerful “atmospheric river” weather system that is sucking up moisture from the Pacific Ocean, raised the threat of flooding and was expected to dump more than 8 feet of snow on the highest peaks in California and Nevada and drench other parts of the two states before it moves on midweek, forecasters said.

The storm will bring much-needed moisture to the broader region that’s been gripped by drought that scientists have said is caused by climate change. The latest U.S. drought monitor shows parts of Montana, Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah are classified as being in exceptional drought, which is the worst category.

Most western U.S. reservoirs that deliver water to states, cities, tribes, farmers and utilities rely on melted snow in the springtime.

This week’s storm is typical for this time of the year but notable because it’s the first big snow that is expected to significantly affect travel with ice and snow on the roads, strong

winds and limited visibility, said National Weather Service meteorologist Anna Wanless in Sacramento.

“Most of California, if not all, will see some sort of rain and snow,” she said.

Meanwhile, gusts were so strong in and around San Francisco that state transportation officials issued a wind advisory for the Bay Bridge connecting the city to Oakland and warned drivers of campers and trailers to avoid the 4.5-mile span late Sunday.

The welcome rain didn’t stop Oakland resident and artist Zhenne Wood from walking her neighbor’s dog, a short-legged corgi.

“I decided to stay home today and not go anywhere, which is nice,” she said. “And I’m really happy for the rain. I think we needed it a lot.”

The storm prompted officials to shut down a 40-mile stretch of the iconic Highway 1 in California’s Big Sur area until today.

The scenic coastal route south of the San Francisco Bay Area frequently experiences damage during wet weather.

Storm

FROM PAGE 3

meteorologists said.

The storm will dump 1 to 3 inches of rain in the valleys and on the coast, and possibly upwards of 5 inches of precipitation in the mountains beginning Monday night and through tonight.

Mudslides near areas scorched by recent wildfires are possible, as rain loosens exposed soil and boulders. Voluntary evacuation warnings were also issued for people living near the burn scars left last year by the Bond fire in Orange County and the Apple fire in San Bernardino County.

California Highway Patrol and Caltrans officials expect road closures to

take place due to flooding, falling boulders and other hazards. Motorists should plan ahead, and can check for issues along their route by visiting roads.dot.ca.gov or quickmap.dot.ca.gov

Flooding on low-lying roads and highways with poor drainage will be likely and will make it possible for fast-moving vehicles to hydroplane.

“Speeding is the biggest reason people lose control,” CHP officer Dan Olivas said.

Officials in Riverside County advised people living in encampments along washes and drainage channels, such as the Santa Ana River bed, to get to higher ground.

The combination of rain, wind and low temperatures may be dangerous to those exposed to the elements overnight. People in need of shelter during the storm can visit

ocgov.com/residents/health/homeless-services to learn about emergency facilities in Orange County, or lahsa.org/winter-shelter to find a place to stay indoors in Los Angeles County.

Snow is expected to fall at heights as low as 4,500 ft. above sea level by this afternoon. Tire chains may be required on the 5 Freeway along the Grapevine, the Cajon Pass on the 15 Freeway, and other roads at high elevations.

Thunder and high winds will accompany heavy rainfall. Gusts ranging from 45 to 60 mph were expected by Monday evening in mountain and desert regions.

The storm will leave Southern California this evening, but gusty conditions will linger into Wednesday and temperatures for the remainder of the week will remain cool.

Sentence

FROM PAGE 3

contempt of court, according to prosecutors.

Zoe Rawson, who works for a nonprofit, Arts for Healing and Justice Network, said she met Rufino

when he was 16 years old and told the judge that he is a “loving, kind, sensitive person.”

“I don’t want to be dismissive of the tragic outcome in this case,” she told the judge, while noting that she was concerned that a lengthy period of incarceration will “poten-

tially cause a lot of trauma” for the defendant.

The judge countered that there was “evidence that Mr. Rufino is a danger” and added that the young man has the prospect of being released on parole at a “relatively young age” under the sentence.

Count

FROM PAGE 3

ment and was not required to conduct a 2021 count due to the pandemic. The

decision was made after LAHSA determined it was not safe to gather 8,000 volunteers, given guidance

INFLUENCERS

Time magazine spotlights Musk

The founder of Tesla and SpaceX is named its Person of the Year

By the Associated Press

Calling him a “clown, genius, edgelord, visionary, industrialist, showman,” Time magazine has named Tesla CEO Elon Musk as its Person of the Year for 2021. Musk, who is also the founder and CEO of space exploration company SpaceX, recently passed Amazon founder Jeff Bezos as the world’s wealthiest person as the rising price of Tesla pushed his net worth to around \$300 billion. He owns about 17% of Tesla’s stock, which sold for almost \$1,000 a share Monday. Time cited the breadth of Musk’s endeavors, from his founding of SpaceX in 2002, to his hand

in the creation of the alternative energy company SolarCity in addition to Tesla, the most valuable car company in the world. The magazine emphasizes that its annual acknowledgment is not an award, but rather, “recognition of the person who had the most influence on the events of the year, for good or for ill.” The magazine also noted the sway Musk holds over an army of loyal followers (and investors) on social media, where he skewers the powerful and also regulators attempting to keep in check an executive that is far from traditional. Before his 66 million followers on Twitter, he offers outlandish assistance to the world and drives even his own followers and investors mad by roiling markets. Though it only became profitable in recent years, Tesla is far and away the world’s most valuable car company, at one point

this year crossing the \$1 trillion market capitalization threshold. Detroit heavyweights Ford and General Motors are worth less than \$200 billion combined. Musk said last month that SpaceX will attempt to launch its futuristic, bullet-shaped Starship to orbit in January. NASA has contracted with SpaceX to use Starship for delivering astronauts to the lunar surface as early as 2025. Musk said he plans to use the reusable ships to eventually land people on Mars. Time highlighted Musk’s recent admission to his 66 million Twitter followers that half his tweets were “made on a porcelain throne.” In its profile of the provocative CEO, Time went on to chronicle one of those toilet tweet storms in detail before concluding: “This is the man who aspires to save our planet and get us a new one to inhabit.”



Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk is shown on the cover of Time magazine's upcoming double issue naming its Person of the Year.

TIME VIA AP

CALIFORNIA



A hog walks in a holding pen on Ron Mardesen's farm Thursday near Elliott, Iowa. A coalition of California restaurants and grocery stores has filed a lawsuit to block implementation of a farm animal welfare law, adding to uncertainty about whether bacon and other fresh pork products will be prohibitively expensive or available at all in the state when the new rules take effect on New Year's Day. Mardesen already meets the California standards for the hogs he sells to specialty meat company Niman Ranch, which supported passage of animal welfare initiative Proposition 12 and requires all of its roughly 650 hog farmers to give breeding pigs far more room than mandated by the law.

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Will new pork law take effect Jan. 1? Grocers call for delay

By Scott Mcfetridge
The Associated Press

A coalition of California restaurants and grocery stores has filed a lawsuit to block implementation of a new farm animal welfare law, adding to uncertainty about whether bacon and other fresh pork products will be much more expensive or in short supply in the state when the new rules take effect on New Year's Day. The lawsuit is the latest step in a tumultuous, three-year process of enacting rules overwhelmingly approved by voters but that remain in question even as the law is set to begin. Since voters approved Proposition 12 by a 2-to-1 ratio in November 2018, state officials have missed deadlines for releasing specific regulations covering the humane treatment of animals that provide meat for the California market. Most hog producers haven't made changes to comply with the law. And now a coalition of business owners is seeking more than a two-year delay. “We’re saying this is not going to work,” said Nate Rose, a spokesman for the California Grocers Association. While groups are working to delay the measure, the state has eased the transition to the new system. It has allowed pork processed under the old rules and held in cold storage to be sold in California in 2022, which could prevent shortages for weeks or even months.

As Josh Balk, who leads farm animal protection efforts at the Humane Society of the United States, put it, California residents need not fear “pork industry claims of the apocalypse.” Put simply, the law requires that breeding pigs, egg-laying chickens and veal calves be given enough space to stand and turn around. For pigs, that means they no longer can be kept in narrow “gestation crates” and must have 24 square feet of usable space. Producers of eggs and veal appear able to meet the new law, but hog farmers argued the changes would be too expensive and couldn’t be carried out until the state approved final regulations for the new standards. An estimate from North Carolina State University found the new standard would cost about 15% more per animal for a farm with 1,000 breeding pigs. The National Pork Producers Council has challenged California’s right to impose standards on businesses in other states, but so far those efforts have failed. California is the nation’s largest market for pork, and producers in major hog states like Iowa provide more than 80% of the roughly 255 million pounds (115 million kilograms) that California’s restaurants and groceries use each month, according to Rabobank, a global food and agriculture financial services company. Without that supply, it’s unclear if a state that consumes about 13%

of the nation’s pork supply will have all the meat it demands. The North American Meat Institute, an industry group, said packers and processors “will do their best to serve the California market.” “What will happen in California? I don’t know,” said Michael Formica, the general counsel for the National Pork Producers Council. “One thing we know is there will be finite supplies to sell there.” Adding to the uncertainty is the lawsuit filed last month in Sacramento County by the California Grocers Association, California Restaurant Association, California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce, California Retailers Association and Kruse & Sons, a meat processor. The suit seeks a 28-month delay until final regulations for enforcement of the rules are officially adopted. California’s agriculture and health departments have said the voter-backed measure didn’t give them enough time to approve final regulations. The agencies were still accepting public comments for revisions in December. That means it could be months before final rules are approved. Given that delay, the groups claim in the lawsuit that they can’t be sure they’re complying and could be subject to penalties stipulated in the law. “Our concern is the uncertainty,” said Rose, of the grocers association. He said a judge has scheduled a hearing for March, but the group is pushing for an earlier date.

Briefly

Markets retreat from highs as investors await Fed meeting

Technology and energy companies helped pull stocks lower on Wall Street on Monday, a downbeat start to the week following the market’s best weekly gain since February. The S&P 500 fell 0.9%, giving back some of its gains after the benchmark index climbed to an all-time high Friday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 0.9%, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite slid 1.4%. Small-company stocks fared worse than the broader market in a signal that investors are concerned about economic growth. The Russell 2000 shed 1.4%. The market’s pullback, with the S&P 500 fresh off its 67th all-time high this year, comes as investors look ahead to the Federal Reserve’s latest economic and interest rate policy update on Wednesday. Markets expect the central bank will announce plans to accelerate its timetable for reducing bond purchases aimed at keeping long-term interest rates low. The S&P 500 fell 43.05 points to 4,668.97. The Dow slid 320.04 points to 35,650.95. The Nasdaq dropped 217.32 points to 15,413.28. The Russell 2000 gave up 31.31 points to 2,180.50. Several big pharmaceutical companies, including COVID-19 vaccine makers Moderna and Pfizer were among the biggest gainers in the S&P 500 Monday. Moderna jumped 5.8% for the biggest gain in the index. Pfizer rose 4.6% following news it is buying Arena Pharmaceuticals. More than 60% of the stocks in the S&P 500 fell, with technology stocks, banks and a mix of companies that rely on consumer spending weighing the index down most. Nvidia fell 6.8% for the biggest drop in the S&P 500. Bank of America dropped 2.1% and General Motors slid 6.5%. Energy stocks took some of the heaviest losses as the price of U.S. crude oil fell 0.5%. Devon Energy slid 5.4%. Automakers and travel-related companies also fell. Ford lost 4.8% and Carnival dropped 4.9%.

Bond yields fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury fell to 1.41% from 1.49% late Friday. That weighed on banks, which rely on higher bond yields to charge more lucrative interest on loans. Capital One fell 2.9%. Harley-Davidson rose 4.7% after saying it will take its electric motorcycle division public through a blank-check company, valuing the enterprise that has been part of the motorcycle maker for 10 years at \$1.77 billion. OSHA probes Amazon warehouse collapse

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has opened an investigation into the collapse of an Amazon warehouse in Illinois, after a tornado caused major structural damage to the building Friday, a spokesman confirmed to CNN. At least six Amazon workers died at the warehouse building collapse. “I can confirm that OSHA has opened an investigation into the building collapse at the Amazon Warehouse in Edwardsville IL due to a tornado. OSHA has had compliance officers at the complex since Saturday, December 11 to provide assistance,” said Scott Allen, regional director for public affairs and media relations for the US Department of Labor, in an email Monday. OSHA, which investigates all workplace fatalities and catastrophes, “has six months to complete its investigation, issue citations and propose monetary penalties if violations of workplace safety and or health regulations are found,” Allen added. A spokesperson for Amazon said in an email Monday that the company is supporting OSHA’s effort. Forty-five people made it out of the Amazon facility, with one person airlifted to a regional hospital for treatment, Edwardsville Fire Chief James Whiteford said during a Saturday evening news conference. The chief said approximately 150 yards of the building collapsed after the tornado touched down at 8:35 p.m. Friday.

Compiled from Associated Press and CNN reports.

S&P 500											
Name	Close	1D Chg	% Chg	Name	Close	1D Chg	% Chg	Name	Close	1D Chg	% Chg
Activision Blizzard Inc	58.70	0.10	0.2	Cornerstone OnDemand Inc	-	-	-	Mattel Inc	20.15	-1.10	-5.2
AECOM	73.46	0.44	0.6	Dine Brands Global Inc	76.33	-3.57	-4.5	Molcrum General Corp	52.27	-0.14	-0.3
AeroVironment Inc	60.03	-3.04	-4.8	Douglas Emmett Inc	33.00	-0.37	-1.1	Molina Healthcare Inc	300.94	-2.04	-0.7
Amazon.com Inc	3391.35	-52.89	-1.5	East West Bancorp Inc	75.69	-2.10	-2.7	Northrop Grumman Corp	377.33	6.27	1.7
AMC Entertainment Inc	23.24	-4.20	-15.3	Edison International	66.88	-0.18	-0.3	PacWest Bancorp	43.84	-1.08	-2.4
American Homes 4 Rent	42.18	0.73	1.8	EnvisionCommunications	6.76	-0.25	-3.6	Public Storage	355.21	7.21	2.1
Amgen Inc	211.39	0.50	0.2	Green Dot Corp	34.82	-0.66	-1.9	Raytheon Technologies	84.33	-1.83	-2.1
AT&T Inc	22.44	-0.40	-1.8	Guess? Inc	23.37	-0.82	-3.4	Reliance Steel & Alum Co	156.49	-1.68	-1.1
Avery Dennison Corp	210.63	-2.00	-0.9	Herbalife Nutrition Ltd	37.49	0.12	0.3	Semtech Corp	85.45	-1.76	-2.0
Bank of America Corp	43.58	-0.94	-2.1	Hope Bancorp Inc	14.25	-0.11	-0.8	Sketchers USA Inc	43.66	-1.69	-3.7
Beyond Meat Inc	63.42	-1.09	-1.7	Jacobs Engineering Group	140.89	-2.55	-1.8	Tesla Inc	966.41	-50.62	-5.0
Big 5 Sporting Goods Corp	19.36	-1.23	-6.0	KB Home	43.86	-0.75	-1.7	TrueCar Inc	3.53	-0.13	-3.6
BitNile Holdings Inc	-	-	-	Kennedy-Wilson Inc	22.34	-0.10	-0.4	Tutor Perini Corp	12.49	-0.38	-3.0
Boeing Co/The	197.40	-7.66	-3.7	Live Nation Entertainment	108.60	-3.27	-2.9	Uber Technologies Inc	35.73	-0.94	-2.6
California Resources Corp	42.72	-2.04	-4.6	Lockheed Martin Corp	345.55	0.67	0.2	Walmart Inc	143.57	2.54	1.8
CBRE Group Inc	104.09	0.39	0.4	Lyft Inc	38.41	-1.10	-2.8	Walt Disney Co	150.43	-2.28	-1.5
Cheesecake Factory	40.68	-0.76	-1.8	Macerich Co	17.28	-0.57	-3.2	Wells Fargo & Co	48.56	-1.64	-3.3

COMMODITIES					
Future	Close	1 D % Chg	3 M % Chg	6 M % Chg	1 YR % Chg
Gold (t oz.)	1787.30	⬆️ 0.1	⬇️ -0.4	⬇️ -4.9	⬇️ -3.2
Silver (t oz.)	22.33	⬆️ 0.6	⬇️ -6.2	⬇️ -20.7	⬇️ -7.9

Tornadoes

FROM PAGE 1

sheltering those whose homes were destroyed and delivering drinking water and other supplies.

“We’re not going to let any of our families go homeless,” Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said in announcing that lodges in state parks were being used to provide shelter.

In Mayfield, one of the hardest hit towns, those who survived faced a high in the 50s and a low below freezing Monday without any utilities.

“Our infrastructure is so damaged,” Mayfield Mayor Kathy Stewart O’Nan said on “CBS Mornings.” “We have no running water. Our water tower was lost. Our wastewater management was lost, and there’s no natural gas to the city. So we have nothing to rely on there. So that is purely survival at this point for so many of our people.”

Across the state, about 26,000 homes and businesses were without electricity, according to power-outage.us, including nearly all of those in Mayfield. More than 10,000 homes and businesses have no water, and another 17,000 are under boil-water advisories, Kentucky Emergency Management Director Michael Dossett told reporters.

Kentucky was the worst hit by far in the cluster of twisters across several states, remarkable because they came at a time of year when cold weather normally limits tornadoes. At least 74 people died in the state, Beshear said Monday, offering the first specific count of the dead.

Among them were a 2-month-old whose family tried to protect her by putting her in a car seat, a 94-year-old Korean War veteran from Arkansas, a longtime florist in Tennessee who recently “started on her new adventure” as an airport security worker and a Kentucky judge known for his common sense.

In Bowling Green, Ken-



People embrace amid tornado damage after extreme weather hit the region on Sunday, in Mayfield, Ky. Dozens of tornadoes roared through five states Friday, destroying a nursing home in Arkansas, heavily damaging an Amazon distribution center in Illinois and spreading their deadly power into Tennessee and Missouri. BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

tucky, 11 people died on the same street, including two infants found among the bodies of five relatives near a residence, Warren County coroner Kevin Kirby said.

Beshear warned that it could take days longer to pin down the full death toll, with door-to-door searches impossible in some places.

“With this amount of damage and rubble, it may be a week or even more before we have a final count on the number of lost lives,” the governor said.

Initially as many as 70 people were feared dead in the Mayfield Consumer Products candle factory, but the company said Sunday that eight deaths were confirmed and eight people remained missing, while more than 90 others had been located. Bob Ferguson, a spokesman for the company, said many employees gathered in a tornado shelter, then left the site and were hard to reach because phone service was

out.

Debris from destroyed buildings and shredded trees covered the ground in Mayfield, a city of about 10,000 in western Kentucky. Twisted sheet metal, downed power lines and wrecked vehicles lined the streets. Windows were blown out and roofs torn off the buildings that were still standing.

Five twisters hit Kentucky in all, including one with an extraordinarily long path of about 200 miles, authorities said.

Douglas Koon, his wife, Jackie, and their three children huddled in his mother-in-law’s bathroom in Dawson Springs, Kentucky, as the storms approached. The tornado hit the house directly, flinging the family around and tossing a bathtub in the air that was shielding two of his sons. The couple put their infant daughter, Oaklynn, in a car seat to protect her, and she appeared to be OK on Saturday.

“It’s the most traumatic thing I’ve been through, I felt like I was helpless in protecting my kids,” Douglas Koon told MSNBC in an interview on Saturday. But by Sunday, the baby was having seizures, and doctors noticed a brain bleed after she was taken to the hospital. They believed she had a stroke, Koon said in a Facebook post.

Early Monday morning, the family posted that the infant had died.

In addition to the deaths in Kentucky, the tornadoes also killed at least six people in Illinois, where the Amazon distribution center in Edwardsville was hit; four in Tennessee; two in Arkansas, where the nursing home was destroyed and the governor said workers shielded residents with their own bodies; and two in Missouri.

Not far from Mayfield, 67 people spent Sunday night at a church serving as a shelter in Wingo, and 40 more were expected to

arrive Monday. Organizers were working to find a mobile outdoor shower facility and a laundry truck, expecting many of the displaced to need a long-term place to stay. Volunteers were scrambling to meet more immediate needs, too, such as underwear and socks.

Lifelong Mayfield resident Cynthia Gargis, 51, is staying with her daughter after the storm tore off the front of her apartment and sucked out almost everything inside. She came to the shelter to offer help and visit with friends who lost their homes.

“I don’t know, I don’t see how we’ll ever get over this,” she said. “It won’t ever be the same.”

Glynda Glover, 82, said she had no idea how long she would stay at the Wingo shelter: Her apartment is uninhabitable since the wind blew out the windows and covered her bed in glass and asphalt.

“I’ll stay here until we

get back to whatever normal is,” she said, “and I don’t know what normal is anymore.”

On the outskirts of Dawson Springs, another town devastated by the storms, homes were reduced to rubble and trees toppled, littering the landscape for a span of at least a mile.

“It looks like a bomb went off. It’s just completely destroyed in areas,” said Jack Whitfield Jr., the Hopkins County judge-executive.

He estimated that more than 60% of the town, including hundreds of homes, was “beyond repair.”

“A full recovering is going to take years,” he said.

Tim Morgan, a volunteer chaplain for the Hopkins County Sheriff’s Department, said he’s seen the aftermath of tornadoes and hurricanes before, but nothing like this.

“Just absolute decimation,” he said. “There is an entire hillside of houses that are 3 feet tall now.”

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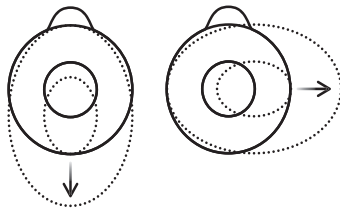
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Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 1

rus cases in California has jumped 47% in the past two weeks.

“We know people are tired and hungry for normalcy. Frankly, I am too,” California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said Monday. “That said, this is a critical time where we have a tool that we know has worked and can work.”

California lifted its statewide mask mandate on June 15 for people who were vaccinated, a date Newsom heralded as the state’s grand reopening. But since then, county governments covering about half of the state’s population have imposed their own indoor mask mandates as case rates surged with new variants.

The new mask mandate will cover everyone else, but state officials on Monday were unclear about how it would be enforced. Ghaly said enforcement would likely be stronger in some places than others, but he urged Californians to heed the warnings and wear masks.

“We know that there’s going to be people who don’t necessarily agree with this, who are tired, who aren’t going to mask,” Ghaly said. “We hope that those are few and far between, that most people see the purpose of doing this over the next month as something to protect them and their communities during a very tough time.”

Newsom has issued lots of other coronavirus mandates, including requiring state employees, health care workers and, soon, public school students and teachers to be vaccinated. The governor can do this



DAMIAN DOVARGANES — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Signs with social distancing guidelines and face mask requirements are posted at an outdoor mall in Los Angeles on June 11. Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday that his administration is bringing back the statewide mandate that requires people to wear face masks at indoor settings starting Wednesday. It will remain in effect until at least Jan. 15.

because California is still operating under an emergency declaration Newsom issued at the beginning of the pandemic. That emergency declaration will remain in place until Newsom lifts it or the state Legislature votes to end it.

Republican Assemblyman Kevin Kiley, who ran against Newsom for governor during an unsuccessful recall election, has routinely tried and failed to get the Democratic-dominated Legislature to end the state’s emergency declaration.

“I think that people are incredibly frustrated with this notion that these choices should be made by one person rather than in the way that our country and state are supposed



Shoppers wear masks inside The Cool store in the Fairfax district of Los Angeles on July 19. Southern California is facing a new uptick in the number of coronavirus cases, health officials say.

MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

to work which is all of us together having a say and having the freedom to make choices for ourselves,” Kiley said. “Gavin Newsom is taking actions that go far be-

yond what any other governor or any other state has done.”

California joins other states with similar indoor mask mandates, including

Washington, Oregon, Illinois, New Mexico, Nevada, Hawaii and New York. But other Democratic governors have resisted new restrictions, including Gov. Jared

Masks

FROM PAGE 1

indoor mask order in July, it was just more of the same.

Take the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, for example: “We will continue to support local and state guidelines and comply with all mandates,” read a statement.

Cities, schools and businesses echoed that point.

Restaurants in the county already require masks, except when people are eating. And the state requires students on campus to don face coverings.

But Monday’s decision will affect about half of the state’s counties. San Bernardino County, for example, had exempted restaurants from its masking requirements. And in Orange County, only unvaccinated patrons were required to wear a mask indoors.

Nonetheless, some in L.A. County had strong responses to the move. As the impact of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s latest health order — effective Wednesday — spread, it amplified a mix of simmering frustration in the county with a sense that at least now everyone is in the same boat in a fight against a relentless disease. “While some may be discouraged personally with this new state mandate, we do believe — at a minimum — it puts Long Beach restaurants on an even playing field with our peers in neighboring counties,” said Alex Cherin, spokesperson for the Long Beach Restaurant Association.

Back on July 17, with concern swirling about the swiftly spreading delta variant, the county’s public health officers implemented essentially the same order the state issued Monday.

Back then, the county had been “reopen” for roughly 30 days, with a stunning rise in confirmed cases in the period — from 210 on June 15 to 1,537 on July 15. The delta variant was running wild in a county still trying to get its people vaccinated.

Newsom’s latest order comes as a new variant — omicron — threatens to take hold. While it appears to be fast-moving, it remains to be seen if it is as virulent as delta. But the order also comes as delta continues to swirl during a holiday season that inches closer each day to what of-



JAE C. HONG — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bartender Guy Klender, right, shares a light moment with masked-up customers while celebrating Star Wars Day on May 4 at Scum and Villainy Cantina, a bar on Hollywood Boulevard in Los Angeles.

officials fear will be another seasonal surge.

After a plateau in late November to early December, hospitalizations are on the rise again in the county, up another 20 from Sunday to 718 on Monday, according to the state. And statewide, officials cited a 47% increase in coronavirus infection rates since Thanksgiving. California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly said that over that period, the statewide rate of daily new cases went from 9.6 per 100,000 residents to more than 14 per 100,000.

L.A. County saw another 11 new deaths and 1,123 new confirmed coronavirus cases, and that was likely a low number reflecting delays in reporting from the weekend.

The city and county of L.A. already require masks in all indoor public settings and businesses. The county leans on federal and state guidance that recommended universal masking because it’s clear fully vaccinated people, though in much fewer numbers, can catch the disease.

The county requires masks be worn, regardless of vaccination status:

- On public transit — airplanes, ships, trains, taxis, buses, ride-shares.
- At transit terminals.
- Indoors at K-12 schools and child care/youth set-

“While some may be discouraged personally with this new state mandate, we do believe — at a minimum — it puts Long Beach restaurants on an even playing field with our peers in neighboring counties.”

—Alex Cherin, spokesperson for the Long Beach Restaurant Association

tings.

- In health care settings and long-term care facilities.
- At correctional facilities.
- In homeless and emergency shelters.
- At all indoor public settings such as theaters, restaurants, bars and concert and sports venues.

As word spread of the mandates, L.A. County and city businesses appeared as seasoned veterans of the health orders, which they’ve now had to live with for months.

“We’re already under the mask mandate, but honestly, the new rule will probably make our job a little bit easier because people still argue with us about putting on a mask,” said Camila Perry, owner of The North End in Hollywood and The Oaks Tavern in Sherman Oaks. “The rules are silly, but if the whole state is under the same mandate, it will create less confusion for people, coming from

other counties. ... At least, there’s some consistency.”

Then again, there were those who continued to resist the county’s orders, let alone anything from the state.

“This mandate will not change anything for West Covina,” said West Covina Mayor Dario Castellanos, whose city has not enforced the county mandate, he added. “We will not be enforcing any such mandate. We need to keep our resources on the uptick in crime throughout the state. We will rely on residents to do whatever they feel is best, most comfortable, and safest for themselves and their families.”

Locally, proprietors themselves are tasked with ensuring that people are complying with county rules, though inspectors visit establishments continually. Failure to comply with the county’s public health order is punishable by fine or citation.

The resumption of a

statewide indoor masking mandate won’t have much of an impact on schools, which, under current state and county rules, already require staff and students to mask up while inside a building.

L.A. County Superintendent of Schools Debra Duardo said in a statement that mask mandates “go a long way” toward keeping everyone safe.

“The L.A. County Office of Education has required the use of masks in all indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status, since the countywide mandate went into place in mid-July,” Duardo stated. “We know that masks are one of the most powerful tools to keep students safe and schools open. By partnering with the L.A. County Department of Public Health to distribute accurate information about masks, vaccines, testing and other safety protocols, we are helping families and communities across our 80 school districts be confident about the decisions they are making for their children.”

Not everyone applauds such rules, however.

Let Them Breathe, a group which in July filed a lawsuit against the state over its masking requirements for K-12 schools, again criticized the state on Monday.

Polis of Colorado who told Colorado Public Radio last week that “the emergency is over” and “public health (officials) don’t get to tell people what to wear.”

State officials are afraid of a repeat of last winter, when the state averaged more than 100 cases per 100,000 people during a monster winter surge of the virus when nearly 20,000 people died during an eight-week period.

But that surge was before vaccines were available. Today, more than 70% of California’s residents who are eligible have been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus. Even with the recent increase in cases, the state is averaging a little more than 14 cases per day per 100,000 people.

Even so, Ghaly said hospitals in several counties with low vaccination rates are still struggling with lots of patients, including parts of Southern California in Riverside, San Bernardino, Mono and Inyo counties. Ghaly warned coronavirus hospitalizations often increase in the weeks following a jump in new cases.

“We are proactively putting this tool of universal indoor masking in public settings in place to ensure we get through a time of joy and hope without a darker cloud of concern and despair,” Ghaly said. “Californians have done this before, and we of course believe we can do it again.”

California also is tightening existing testing requirements by ordering unvaccinated people attending indoor events of 1,000 people or more to have a negative test within one or two days, depending on the type of test. The state also is recommending travelers who visit or return to California to get tested within five days of their arrival.

“California is in a race with itself to be the most tyrannical state in the nation, and they are outdoing even themselves,” the group tweeted in response to the universal indoor masking mandate.

But many schools have long adopted the county’s K-12 mandate, coupled with a strong belief that masks are a known, effective tool to prevent spread.

It was an approach echoed across the county, where indoor mask mandates have been in effect since school started.

“This policy will not change anything at AUSD because we have been mandating masks inside for everyone since school year began,” said Alhambra Unified Superintendent Denise Jaramillo. “We have high compliance from students and staff following the indoor mask requirements. Sometimes they need reminders to have the mask over their nose if it slides down, but noncompliance has been minimal.”

County Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer has long praised schools for having risen to the occasion, implementing rules aimed to stem the spread of the virus in complex school settings.

Jaramillo said it’s been a matter of caution, awareness and common sense.

“I attended a school today, and the kids had been sitting for a presentation for an hour,” she said. “Afterwards, teacher gave them a mask/water break. They went outside, removed the mask, drank some water [socially distanced] and after a little while, they returned to class. All went very smoothly. For the most part, students are used to wearing masks and part of the messaging is for teachers to allow for relief/breaks as needed.”

One fact that all appear to agree on: They want this pandemic to be over, including the state’s health chief.

“We know people are tired and hungry for normalcy,” Ghaly said Monday. “Frankly, I am, too. That said, this is a critical time where we have a tool that we know has worked and can work.”

Mike Sprague, Olga Grigoryants, Linh Tat, Harry Saltzgaver, Robert Morales and City News Service contributed to this report.

Thank you for your service!

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Our many advocacy achievements and record legislative success this year were only possible because of your work chairing our massive grassroots alliance's diverse issue committees.

Thanks to your engagement and expertise, we were able to protect jobs, uplift communities, and put California on a path toward sustained prosperity for all.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy, healthy holiday season. Let's keep the momentum going in 2022.

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Editorial

Biden falling approval isn't a real surprise

According to a recent aggregate of polls by FiveThirtyEight, President Joe Biden's approval rating has plunged nearly 12 percentage points since May to just 43%. This is no surprise. Biden vowed as a candidate to restore norms disregarded by President Trump and at his inauguration emphasized the value of unity. Since then, he has prioritized a costly legislative agenda further to the left than what most Americans want.

Back in April, after Biden rammed through a \$1.9 trillion spending bill without a single Republican vote and began entertaining ideas on court-packing, this editorial board wondered, "The question is how far Biden is actually willing to go and how much longer he can shift policy discussions to the left without running into the inevitable backlash."

Eight months later, it looks like that backlash is in full swing. Zooming in, it's clear most Americans aren't satisfied with Biden's leadership on key issues.

According to a recent survey by ABC and Ipsos, 69% of Americans disapprove of how Biden is handling inflation.

For the one-year period leading to November, consumer prices surged 6.8%, the highest annual rate since 1982.

This is effectively a tax on all Americans, with the harshest effects falling on lower-income Americans.

On top of this, 57% of Americans disapprove of Biden's handling of the ongoing economic recovery.

President Biden has been all-in on federal profligacy as the key to getting America's economy moving again.

His key legislative package, so-called Build Back Better, would increase the federal deficit by \$3 trillion, according to a recent analysis by the Congressional Budget Office, if its

provisions were made permanent.

The sprawling package, while touted by self-avowed democratic socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, as supported by most Americans, isn't even well-supported.

On Dec. 9, a NPR/Marist poll found that just 41% of Americans support the Build Back Better bill. Just 46% think the package will help create jobs that pay better, but even fewer (42%) think it will help people like themselves.

Meanwhile, the NPR/Marist poll indicates that 61% of Americans, including 65% of independents, think the country is heading in the wrong direction.

Add to that the impressively low approval ratings of Vice President Kamala Harris (as low as 28%, according to a USA Today/Suffolk poll), and it's clear President Biden is promoting unity, of sorts, against his administration and his priorities.

It is unfortunate that President Biden hasn't been the collaborative, centrist force he was as a senator. Heading into an election year that increasingly favors Republicans, Biden and the Democratic leadership in Congress show little signs of adapting to the reality that just because a majority of Americans were understandably tired of President Trump, that doesn't mean they'll just go along with anything.

ECONOMICS

Left-leaning economists undercut premise of BBB

By Scott A. Hodge

As the Senate considers the House-passed version of the Build Back Better Act (BBB), which promises to make Washington's tax-and-spending systems more progressive, lawmakers should consider the findings of a new study by the Paris-based World Inequality Lab. That's the organization co-directed by progressives' favorite French economists, Thomas Piketty, of the Paris School of Economics, and Emanuel Saez and Gabriel Zucman of the University of California at Berkeley.

Titled "Why is Europe More Equal Than the United States?" the study finds that the U.S. tax system is more progressive than Europe's. In fact, the U.S. redistributes more to the bottom 50% of taxpayers than any country in Europe. Yet, we somehow remain one of the most unequal countries.

This begs the question: is the solution more of the same tax-and-spend policies found in the BBB?

The study finds that since 1980, income inequality has risen faster in the U.S. than in Europe. Although the U.S. may be richer overall, our poor are found to be poorer than Europe's poor and our rich are found to be richer than Europe's rich. This wasn't always the case. In 1980, our bottom 50%'s share of pretax national income was slightly higher than in Europe and has declined further and faster since.

While the U.S. collects less in taxes and social contributions as a share of national income (28%) than Europe (47%), the study finds "the taxation profile is unambiguously more progressive in the United States." They say that "the top 1% face a tax rate higher than 30% in the US," while "bottom income groups are taxed at an average rate that is nearly twice as small in the US as in Europe."

Despite progressives' claims that the those at the top aren't paying their fair share, the study finds that "the US stands out as the country with the highest level of progressivity: the top decile faces a tax rate that is more than 70% higher than that of the poorest half of the population." And while



MELINA MARA/THE WASHINGTON POST VIA AP, POOL

Vice President Kamala Harris applauds as President Joe Biden addresses a joint session of Congress on April 28, 2021. Some economist have concerns of the president's Build Back Better Act.

BBB would make our income tax system even more progressive, these economists note that the U.S. already stands out "as one of the countries where the top 10% pay the largest share of their pretax income in the form of income and wealth taxes."

Looking at the net impact of taxes and transfers on inequality, the "US tax-and-transfer system appears to be unequivocally more progressive" than in European countries. The top 10% saw their average incomes decrease more after taxes and transfers than their counterparts in Europe. Meanwhile, "the US stands out as the country that redistributes the greatest fraction of national income to the bottom 50%."

By the authors' estimates, "taxes and transfers reduce inequality more in the US than in Europe." But they conclude, it is the starting point, pretax inequality, that explains why the U.S. has a bigger gap between the rich and poor than does Europe. Thus, in their view, more study is needed of how "predistribution policies such as access to education and healthcare or labor market regulations" can impact pretax incomes.

Progressives will claim that BBB addresses such issues. But we have been playing this game

for years: raise taxes, increase spending, blame the other side for the failures. Perhaps the reason the U.S. has persistent inequality is seeded in issues outside the scope of our tax code. Limited public school options, an unreliable Medicaid system and freezing workers out of self-help jobs by occupational licensing regulations have removed the ladder of opportunity for too many.

We can address those issues without job-killing tax hikes and in fact could use our tax code to truly help low-income Americans. Indeed, a recent study found that full expensing of capital investments led to greater hiring of low-skilled workers, while another study found that the economic burden of the corporate income tax is disproportionately borne by low-skilled, young and female workers, suggesting that the corporate tax hikes in the BBB plan would harm the very people the plan is intended to help.

Sometimes it is possible to help people too much.

Scott A. Hodge is president of the Tax Foundation, a nonpartisan research organization in Washington, D.C.

Question of the Week

What are you doing on New Year's Eve?

Last year at "the holidays" — Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve and Day — we knew the answer to the question, What are you doing to celebrate?

Nothing. Nada. Bupkis. Oh, we did mark the holy and the merely fun occasions. But, pre-vaccinations for the novel coronavirus, the vast majority of us did so either alone or in the little family pods that responsible people had to stick to, gatherings-wise, in order to lessen the spread of the deadly virus that causes COVID-19 and led to a worldwide pandemic.

Then, in January — just 11 months ago! — the first Americans were vaccinated, and within months the highly effective preventative was available to almost all of us. First shot. Second shot. Then came the boosters. Yes, it's still possible to come down with the disease. But its serious effects are usually dramatically lowered, and far fewer lives are in danger. What a blessing.

But the viral variants are concerning. Delta is still with us, and so is the omicron. Practical masks in public are making a comeback, not that they ever went entirely away. So we're not quite where we

thought we might be.

That said, What are you doing New Year's Eve? And all of the other holidays in our near future.

That's our Question of the Week for readers.

Post-vaccines, did you have big plans for the holidays that included all of your family and friends, but that are now being adjusted a tad? Or even ratcheting down to very small plans indeed, out of caution?

Or are you instead going full speed ahead, attending and giving large parties, just as in the Before Times?

Are you going on a holiday trip — airplanes, ships, a long and relaxing train ride — and feeling good about it? Or is there some trepidation?

If you are throwing a bash, are you making it a fully-vaccinated-only event? Or is it come as you are — vaxed or not?

When you're on the town, do you feel more comfortable entering venues asking for proof of vaccination? Or is that an annoying bureaucratic intrusion? Is the mask easy by now, or a further annoyance?

Email your thoughts to opinion@scng.com. Please include your full name and city or community of residence. Provide a daytime phone number (it will not be published).

Letters

Readers respond to Question of the Week: Is press too hard on President Joe Biden?

Judge for yourself

There is absolutely different coverage between former President Trump and President Biden. There may be some negative press about President Biden but nothing even close to what was said about former President Trump; very little that Trump did that was good was even recognized. He was nominated for the Nobel peace award several times, he brought home our prisoners, he kept our young service people from being brutally murdered or injured, he made friends out of enemies, he kept us out of war, helped make us energy independent, kept inflation down, secured the border, made our streets safe and reinstated Merry Christ-

mas, just a few of the things. Biden has done very little yet is praised for the smallest accomplishments. Go back over the first year of former President Trump's term and then look at President Biden's press coverage and judge for yourself.

— *Rosalie Hines, San Clemente*

Yes, way too harsh

Yes, it does seem that for the last four months, the consensus seems to be that the media has been harsher in depicting the job being done by President Biden than it was for former President Donald Trump. Whether checking on podcasts, columns written by newspaper and magazine reporters, the media appears to be tougher on Biden. Naturally, the Democrats are still strongly supporting him and realize that he has had many challenges from Afghanistan, inflation and the ongoing COVID-19 epidemic. Yet,

In the final analysis history may prove to be more favorable to our president than now.

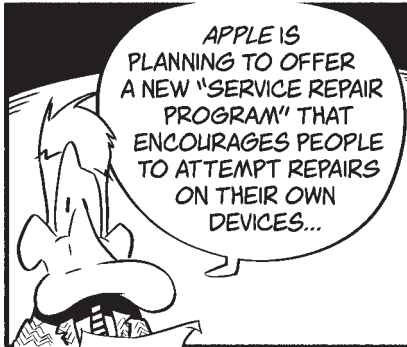
— *Isadora Johnson, Seal Beach*

Press is not hard enough

The press is just working with what Biden gives them, most of which is negative. He began his presidency by canceling everything Trump had put into place. It is sad to see our leadership the brunt of jokes and insults, but that is what it's become. He is seemingly unfit for the responsibilities and lacks strength and integrity. No need to list all the things that he has done to make our lives more difficult because we are living them and trying to get through the countless struggles. Biden has earned and deserves all the bad press he receives.

— *Barbara Shepard, Huntington Beach*

MALLARD FILLMORE: By Bruce Tinsley



Nation+World news feed

RACIAL INJUSTICE

Chauvin expected to plead guilty in Floyd civil rights case

MINNEAPOLIS » Former Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin appears to be on the verge of pleading guilty to violating George Floyd’s civil rights, according to a notice sent out Monday by the court’s electronic filing system.

The federal docket entry shows a hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday for Chauvin to change his current not guilty plea in the case. These types of notices indicate a defendant is planning to plead guilty. The court system also sent out instructions for media to attend the hearing. Chauvin has already been convicted of state murder and manslaughter charges for pinning his knee against Floyd’s neck as the Black man said he couldn’t breathe during a May 25, 2020 arrest. He was sentenced to 22½ years in that case.

He and three other former officers — Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao — were set to go to trial in late January on federal charges alleging they willfully violated Floyd’s rights.

— *The Associated Press*

RACE AND ETHNICITY



ROGELIO V. SOLIS — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Honoring victims of racial violence: A section of two handcrafted quilts adorned with more than 115 cross-stitched portraits honoring African Americans who lost their lives to racial violence, is photographed while on display at the Margaret Walker Center on the Jackson State University campus, Nov. 30, in Jackson, Miss.

UNITED KINGDOM

Surging omicron variant sparks a rush on booster vaccinations

LONDON » Long lines formed Monday at vaccination centers across England as people heeded the government’s call for all adults to get booster shots to protect themselves against the omicron variant, and as the U.K. recorded its first death of a patient infected with omicron.

In a televised announcement late Sunday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said everyone 18 and older would be offered a third vaccine dose by Dec. 31 — less than three weeks away, and a month earlier than the previous target. Johnson said boosters would “reinforce our wall of vaccine protection” against an anticipated “tidal wave of omicron.”

U.K. health authorities say omicron cases are doubling every two to three days in Britain, and that the variant will replace delta as the dominant coronavirus strain within days. Health Secretary Sajid Javid told lawmakers Monday that omicron will be dominant in London “within 48 hours.”

— *The Associated Press*

MINNESOTA

Pathologist: Wright’s gunshot wound wasn’t survivable

MINNEAPOLIS » The trial of a Minnesota police officer charged in the shooting death of Daunte Wright opened its second week of testimony on Monday with an assistant medical examiner telling jurors that the gunshot wound was not survivable and caused Wright’s death.

Prosecutors also highlighted the differences between the Officer Kim Potter’s handgun and the Taser that her lawyers say she had intended to fire.

Wright, 20, was killed on April 11 after being pulled over in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Center for having expired license plate tags and an air freshener hanging from his rearview mirror. Potter, 49, is charged with manslaughter.

Potter, a 26-year police veteran who resigned two days after the shooting, said she meant to draw her Taser to stop Wright after he pulled away and got back in his car as officers tried to arrest him on a warrant for a weapons charge.

— *The Associated Press*

AFGHANISTAN

No troops disciplined in U.S. strike killing Afghan civilians

WASHINGTON » No U.S. troops involved in the August drone strike that killed innocent Kabul civilians and children will face disciplinary action, U.S. defense officials said Monday.

Officials said that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has approved recommendations on the disciplinary matter from the generals who lead U.S. Central Command and Special Operations Command, based on the findings of an independent Pentagon review released last month.

The review, done by Air Force Lt. Gen. Sami Said and endorsed by Austin in November, found there were breakdowns in communication and in the process of identifying and confirming the target of the bombing, which killed 10 civilians. But he concluded that the strike was a tragic mistake. The Aug. 29 drone strike on a white Toyota Corolla, killed Zemerai Ahmadi and nine family members, including seven children. Ahmadi, 37, was a longtime employee of an American humanitarian organization.

— *The Associated Press*

ENVIRONMENT

Russia vetoes resolution that links climate change, security

NEW YORK » Russia on Monday vetoed a first-of-its-kind U.N. Security Council resolution casting climate change as a threat to international peace and security, a vote that sank a years-long effort to make global warming a more central consideration for the U.N.’s most powerful body.

Spearheaded by Ireland and Niger, the proposal called for “incorporating information on the security implications of climate change” into the council’s strategies for managing conflicts and into peacekeeping operations and political missions, at least sometimes. The measure also asked the U.N. secretary-general to make climate-related security risks “a central component” of conflict prevention efforts and to report on how to address those risks in hot spots.

Stronger storms, rising seas, more frequent floods and droughts and other effects of warming could inflame social tensions and conflict. Some 113 of the U.N.’s 193 member countries supported it.

— *The Associated Press*

SUPREME COURT

Justices won’t block vaccine mandate for NY health workers

WASHINGTON » The Supreme Court refused Monday to halt a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for health care workers in New York that does not offer an exemption for religious reasons.

The court acted on emergency appeals filed by doctors, nurses and other medical workers who say they are being forced to choose between their jobs and religious beliefs.

As is typical in such appeals, the court did not explain its order, although it has similarly refused to get in the way of vaccine mandates elsewhere.

Justices Neil Gorsuch, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito dissented. “Now, thousands of New York health-care workers face the loss of their jobs and eligibility for unemployment benefits,” Gorsuch wrote in a 14-page opinion that Alito joined.

New York is one of just three states, along with Maine and Rhode Island, that do not accommodate health care workers who object to the vaccine on religious grounds.

— *The Associated Press*

Online: For continual coverage of national and international news, go to our website.

BOY SCOUTS

Insurer agrees to \$800M settlement

By Randall Chase
The Associated Press

DOVER, DEL. » Attorneys in the Boy Scouts of America bankruptcy case have reached a tentative settlement under which one of the organization’s largest insurers would contribute \$800 million into a fund for victims of child sexual abuse.

The agreement announced Monday calls for Century Indemnity Co. and affiliated companies to contribute \$800 million into the fund in return for being released from further liability for abuse claims. The payment would bring the amount of money in the proposed trust to more than \$2.6 billion, which would be the largest sexual abuse settlement in U.S. history.

The settlement comes as more than 82,000 sexual abuse claimants face a Dec. 28 deadline to vote on a previously announced Boy Scouts reorganization plan.

That plan called for the Boys Scouts and its roughly 250 local councils to contribute up to \$820 million in cash and property into a fund for victims. They also would assign certain insurance rights to the fund. In return, the local councils and national organization would be released from further liability for sexual abuse claims. The plan also includes settlement agreements involving another one of the Boy Scouts’ major insurers, The Hartford, and the BSA’s former largest troop sponsor, the Mormon church. The Hartford has agreed to pay \$787 million into the victims’ fund, and the Mormons have agreed to contribute \$250 million. In exchange, both entities would be released from any further liability involving child sex abuse claims.

CORONAVIRUS

In two years, 1 of every 100 older Americans has perished

By Julie Bosman, Amy Harmon and Albert Sun
The New York Times

As the coronavirus pandemic approaches the end of a second year, the United States stands on the cusp of surpassing 800,000 deaths from the virus, and no group has suffered more than older Americans. All along, older people have been known to be more vulnerable, but the scale of loss is only now coming into full view.

Seventy-five percent of people who have died of the virus in the United States — or about 600,000 of the nearly 800,000 who have perished so far — have been 65 or older. One in 100 older Americans has died from the virus. For people younger than 65, that ratio is closer to 1 in 1,400.

The heightened risk for older people has dominated life for many, partly as friends and family try to protect them. “You get kind of forgotten,” said Pat Hayashi, 65, of San Francisco. “In the pandemic, the isolation and the loneliness got worse. We lost our freedom and we lost our services.”

Since vaccines first became available a year ago, older Americans have been vaccinated at a much higher rate than younger age groups and yet the brutal toll on them has persisted. The share of younger people among all virus deaths in the United States increased this year, but, in the past two months, the portion of older people has risen once again, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. More than 1,200 people in the United States are dying from COVID-19 each day, most of them 65 or older.

In both sharp and sub-



ISADORA KOSOFSKY — THE NEW YORK TIMES

Coffins hold Maria Serrano, 98, and her son Victor, 67, who both died after complications from COVID-19, at Park Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles in February 2021.

tle ways, the pandemic has amplified an existing divide between older and younger Americans.

In interviews across the country, older Americans say they have continued to endure the isolation and fear associated with the pandemic long after tens of millions of younger and middle-aged people have gone back to work and school and largely resumed normal lives. Older people are still falling seriously ill in great numbers, particularly if they are unvaccinated, and hospitals in the Midwest, New England and the Southwest have been strained with an influx of patients this month. Worried about their risks, and the ongoing warnings from health officials about the added dangers for older people, many of them are still curtailing travel and visits with grandchildren, and are dining out less.

At the same time, the push by many companies to have employees return to workplaces is also creating new tension for adults who are older — but still working — and considered at higher risk if they were to get the virus, some experts said. “There’s all these ways — subtle, overt, direct, indirect — that we

CAPITOL INSURRECTION

Panel votes for contempt charges against Meadows

By Mary Clare Jalonick and Farnoush Amiri
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON » The House panel investigating the Jan. 6 Capitol insurrection voted Monday to recommend contempt charges against former White House chief of staff Mark Meadows as lawmakers revealed a series of frantic texts he received as the attack was underway.

The texts, provided by Meadows before he ceased cooperating with the committee, revealed that members of Congress, Fox News anchors and even President Donald Trump’s own son were urging Meadows to push Trump to act quickly to stop the siege by his supporters.

“We need an Oval address,” Donald Trump Jr. texted Meadows as his father’s supporters were breaking into the Capitol, sending lawmakers running for their lives and interrupting the certification of President Joe Biden’s victory. “He has to lead now. It has gone too far and gotten out of hand.”

Trump Jr. added, “He’s got to condemn this s— ASAP.”

Republican Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the panel’s vice chairwoman, detailed the texts obtained by the committee as the panel voted to recommend the contempt charges against Meadows, who did not show up for a deposition last week after his lawyer said he would stop cooperating.

The panel voted 9-0 to recommend the contempt charges. The House is expected to vote Tuesday to refer the charges to the Justice Department, which will decide whether to prosecute the former Republican congressman.

Cheney said the texts show Trump’s “supreme dereliction” as he refused to strongly condemn the



Meadows

violence of his supporters, and also raise questions about whether he sought to obstruct the congressional certification through inaction.

“These texts leave no doubt,” Cheney said. “The White House knew exactly what was happening at the Capitol.”

The vote comes as the panel has already interviewed more than 300 witnesses, and subpoenaed more than 40 people, as it seeks to create the most comprehensive record yet of the lead-up to the insurrection and of the violent siege itself. The committee’s leaders have vowed to punish anyone who doesn’t comply, and the Justice Department has already indicted longtime Trump ally Steve Bannon after he defied his subpoena this fall.

“Whatever legacy he thought he left in the House, this is his legacy now,” committee Chairman Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., said of Meadows ahead of the vote. “His former colleagues singled him out for criminal prosecution because he wouldn’t answer questions about what he knows about a brutal attack on our democracy. That’s his legacy.”

In a Monday letter to Thompson, Meadows’ attorney George Terwilliger said the contempt vote would be “unjust” because Meadows was one of Trump’s top aides and all presidents should be afforded executive privilege to shield their private conversations. Meadows himself sued the panel, asking a court to invalidate two subpoenas that he says are “overly broad and unduly burdensome.”

Universal Sudoku Puzzle

			8	7	2			3
4			6	9				7 2
					8			9
			7					
	5	4		2		1	3	
					4			
8		1						
6	2			8	1			4
3			2	6	7			

12/14

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Previous puzzle solution

1	9	4	7	2	3	6	5	8
5	2	7	8	4	6	9	3	1
8	3	6	9	5	1	7	4	2
3	4	1	2	9	8	5	7	6
9	5	2	3	6	7	8	1	4
6	7	8	4	1	5	3	2	9
4	1	3	6	7	9	2	8	5
7	6	5	1	8	2	4	9	3
2	8	9	5	3	4	1	6	7

12/13

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

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1. Yours truly uses a crowbar (1)

■ ■ ■ ■

2. Satirical send-up slipup (1)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

3. Barely rigid dirigible (1)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

4. Documentary filmmaker Ken swivels (1)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

5. One misting perfume on a game entrant (2)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

6. Vatican's Sistine's red fruits (2)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

7. Courteous-regard-for-elders druthers (3)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■

3. PLAYER SPRAYER 6. CHAPLINS APPLS 7. DEFERENCE PREFERENCE

1. I PLY 2. SPOOF GOOF 3. LIMP BLIMP 4. BURNS TURNS

12-14-21

ANSWERS

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEYZT

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

OSUEH

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

JTREEC

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

BNILEB

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

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“○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○” THE ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

(Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: BURLY CRUSH MIDDLE GRAVEL
Answer: The deadline for the Jumble puzzle was fast approaching, so the creators — SCRAMBLED

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Horoscope

Moon Alert: After 12:30 a.m., there are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions. The Moon is in Taurus.

Happy birthday for Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021: You are a sensitive person who is versatile and ambitious. You're fair, impartial and thoughtful. You are a seeker who wants to learn more about many things. This year is a time of work and building both physically in an external way as well as internal structures in your life. This will prepare you for change next year.

Aries (March 21-April 19): ★★ Financial matters are on your mind today. You might be contemplating a major purchase. At a deeper level, you also might be thinking about your values today. Something might prompt you to ask yourself, "What really matters?" Tonight: Guard your possessions.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): ★★★★★ The Moon is in your sign today and tomorrow. This happens for two days every month, and when it occurs, it increases your emotions about things and heightens your reactions to others. However, it slightly improves your luck. Tonight: Unexpected events.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): ★★ While you are focused on partners and close friends today, especially someone who might be a bit challenging to deal with lately, you will welcome a chance to hide or work alone or behind the scenes. You need a breather; perhaps some time off. Tonight: Quiet time.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): ★★ Today a heart-to-heart conversation with a friend, perhaps a female, will be meaningful

to you. In fact, this discussion might prompt you to change or modify your future goals. You also might rethink your relationship to a club or a group. Tonight: Be friendly.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): ★★ You are high-viz today, which means people notice you more than usual. Since this is happening, it's good for you to be aware of this in case you have to do some damage control. Today you will feel sympathetic to others, especially co-workers. If you can help someone, you will. Tonight: Expect something different.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): ★★★★★ Your sense of adventure is heightened today, which is why you want to go places, meet new faces and discover exciting things. You want to learn more about your world! If you can travel, by all means, do so. Take a course or study to expand your knowledge. Tonight: Check travel plans.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): ★★ Today your feelings are intense. Ironically, you might attract emotionally intense people to you as well! You might envy something that someone else owns. Or you might have a desire to have greater control over something or a particular situation. Tonight: Something unexpected.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): ★★ Once a month, for two days, the Moon is opposite your sign. Today that time has arrived. This means that when you're dealing with others, you have to be cooperative and show largess and be accommodating. Let someone else go first. In two

weeks, when the Moon is in your sign, you're the star! Tonight: Someone will surprise you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): ★★ You might have to work on behalf of someone else today or do something to provide a service for someone. You also might be focused more than usual on your health. Meanwhile, some of you will be involved with a situation related to your pet. Tonight: An interruption.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): ★★★★★ This is a favorable day because the Moon in Taurus is supportive to your Sun in Capricorn. Furthermore, for you, this Moon makes you feel more playful, more sociable and more inclined to enjoy sports, fun outings and pleasant activities with kids. Hurray! Tonight: Socialize!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): ★★ If possible, you will prefer to cocoon at home among familiar surroundings today. This is because you want to seek comfort and refuge, and escape the demands of your outside world. Some of you also might be involved with a parent today. Tonight: A surprise at home.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): ★★ Today you need to talk to someone because you have something you want to say. You won't be satisfied with superficial chitchat. You want to get something off your chest, and you want someone to listen to you. Tonight: Unexpected news.

Find Georgia Nicols horoscopes at georgianicols.com.

ADVICE

Wife's activities exclude husband

DEAR ABBY » My husband is in his 40s and permanently disabled from injuries received in a recent automobile accident. He is in pain, on pain medicine 24 hours a day and basically sleeps his days away. His pain and immobility make intimacy impossible.

He doesn't object when I go out with friends or participate in activities he is unable to do, like hiking, biking or kayaking, yet I feel guilty for leaving him home alone five days a week, and sometimes the entire weekend. His mother thinks I'm a terrible person for doing this, but I can't just sit home with him after I get home from work because he falls asleep watching TV.

We both know this will be the situation for the rest of our lives. This self-care is very important to my physical and mental well-being, as the financial stress is also overwhelming. How do I continue to live an active life and

still be the wife he needs?
— *Sad Fate in Pennsylvania*

DEAR SAD FATE » If the situation were reversed, is this the way you would like your husband to treat you? This is an honest discussion you should be having with him. I will be frank. Leaving a disabled spouse five days (nights?) a week or for an entire weekend on a regular basis seems excessive.

You promised to love, honor and cherish this man in sickness and in health. Would it be possible to include him on an occasional outing — if he can handle it — so he can have some fresh air and a change of scenery? If you must go out to preserve your sanity, it would be compassionate to arrange for someone to stay with him so he's not alone in case there is an emergency.

DEAR ABBY » I'm a woman of 28. I have started falling in love with a girl I

met recently. We talked for a while, expressed feelings for each other and decided to start dating. She lives in Minnesota and I'm in Texas. She's also in college. I think she's 18 or 19. I know our age span is a little wide, but we didn't care about that.

Recently she hasn't been talking to me as often. She said she just needs some time to herself and that she's having some second thoughts about all of this. I talked with her about it, and she told me she still loves me and wants me to come visit her. What should I do?

— *Starting To Lose Faith*

DEAR STARTING » You are ready for a serious commitment to someone. She's a college student who isn't yet out of her teens. If she needs time to herself so she can figure out whether she is ready for the kind of relationship you have in mind, give it to her. Do not force it. If that means postponing your visit, so be it.

Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com.

HINTS FROM HELOISE

Make your tree last longer

DEAR READERS » When you purchase a live Christmas tree, ask the seller to make a fresh cut, straight across the base of the trunk, removing around an inch from the bottom, to be sure that there's plenty of water absorption.

As soon as you get the tree home, put it in a tree stand. Add water right away, and be sure it covers the cut end of the trunk. The tree needs lots of water. Check it daily.

Place the tree away from fireplaces, wood stoves, direct sunlight or other heat sources, because the heat will make the tree droop and might create a fire hazard.

DEAR READERS » During the festive and busy holidays, your house can get messy, and you might need to spiff it up in a hurry. Here are five quick ways to do this:

1. File it — Sort and file bills, coupons and paperwork.
2. Forward it — Items that are scattered around should be moved to where they belong.

3. Fix it — Collect any items that need to be repaired and fix them.
4. Fill it in — Fill out any forms, school permission slips or bills that must be completed.
5. Forget about it — Throw out, donate to charity, give away or take to the recycle bin any unwanted items.

DEAR READERS » During holiday meals, it's inevitable that some of the delicious food will end up on the tablecloth, particularly gravy. Here's what to do for a washable tablecloth: Spoon up as much of the gravy as you can and try to treat it as soon as possible. Blot the stains with paper towels. Then put the tablecloth in a sink. Soak with a mixture of 1 teaspoon of a mild, colorless liquid detergent to each cup of lukewarm water. If the stain is still there, put a full-strength liquid laundry detergent on the fabric and rub it well, then launder as usual.

DEAR READERS » Most likely, after your holi-

day dinners, there will be leftovers, and you don't want to toss out good food that can be transformed into other tasty meals. Instead, use heavy plastic plates with compartments. Scoop leftover portions into them. You can add spices or seasonings to jazz them up. Then put the filled dinner plates into freezer-safe zip-top bags and label and date it. When you are in a rush for a fast dinner, you can grab these and reheat in the microwave.

DEAR READERS » After you slice apples, isn't it annoying when they start to turn brown? It's not an appetizing look. Here's how to prevent this from happening. Squeeze lemon, orange or grapefruit juice on the cut slices, or you can dip the slices in lightly salted water.

Here's a quick treat: Mix a teaspoon of sugar with a bit of lemon juice and toss the apples.

Write to Heloise at P.O. Box 795001, San Antonio, TX 78279-5000; Fax 210-HELOISE; or email Heloise@Heloise.com.

The New York Times Crossword

By Jennifer Lee and Victor Galson

Edited by Will Shortz No. 1109

- ACROSS**
- 1 Analyze grammatically
6 Extreme devotee, informally
11 Org. for Pistons and Rockets
14 Overact
15 Egypt's Sadat
16 Common street name in the Northeast
17 "God in his wisdom made the fly / And then forgot ..."
19 ____ Sports (video game)
20 Card in Uno
21 Word after square or plus
22 Brings home
24 "Tell me, O Octopus, I begs, / Is those things arms ...?"
28 Festival that awards the Palme d'Or
31 Best possible
32 Eschew
33 Voiced, as grievances
35 Something often lent, but never returned
38 Eye of ____ (part of a witch's brew)
39 Poet Nash, who wrote the lines in 17-, 24-, 47- and 58-Across
40 Long part of a horse, short part of a giraffe
- 41 Places with frontline workers, for short
42 Vibes
43 Parts of a Facebook feed
44 Bring out
46 "Let's be real"
47 "The cow is of the bovine ilk; / One end is moo, ..."
51 Alternative to Google or AOL
52 One-named singer born Gabriella Sarmiento Wilson
53 Straw, basically
57 Thanksgiving dinner ending
58 "The trouble with a kitten is that / Eventually it ..."
62 Flub
63 They protect the QB
64 Beth Harmon's weakness in "The Queen's Gambit"
65 "Yes, captain"
66 Ocean's motions
67 Like a good biscuit
- DOWN**
- 1 Adoptees from the A.S.P.C.A.
2 One way to run
3 Indian flatbread
4 "Go, go, go!"
5 Fish that may have only vestigial fins
6 Mr. Tumnus in the "Narnia" books and others
7 Zoomed-in map
8 "Blech!"

- 9 "I'll pass"
10 Impassive
11 Netflix debut, perhaps
12 Ice you can wear
13 Not quite right
18 Lowry who wrote "The Giver"
23 ____ mode
25 Like a low battery icon
26 Puts on the payroll
27 Genesis garden
28 Walking aid
29 Profess
30 "Listen, bub!"
33 What the nouns and verb in this clue doesn't do
34 Civil rights activist ____ B. Wells
36 Prefix with inflammatory
37 Doctor's generic recommendation
39 "That's gotta hurt!"
40 Shirley Temple, e.g.
- 42 Deception's enemy in the "Transformers" films
43 Chum
45 Scooby-____
46 Something said to be in the eyes or belly
47 Like an overachieving personality
48 Dangerous, as a situation
49 French wine valley
50 Much internet humor
54 Home of the Bruins
55 Refuse to continue
56 E-commerce site for homemade goods
59 One of the Manning brothers
60 El ____ (Spanish hero)
61 UV blocking measure

Answers to yesterday's puzzle

Q	U	E	E	N	P	A	C	T	S	C	S	I
E	D	D	I	E	A	M	A	H	L	E	T	C
D	O	N	N	A	S	U	M	M	E	R	R	Y
N	A	S	A	L	O	O	F	T	E	X	T	
			T	I	S				L	I	S	A
A	R	E	T	H	A	F	R	A	N	K	L	I
A	V	O	I	D					D	R	E	S
C	A	P	A	N		S	M	I	T	H		L
H	I	E		A	K	I	T	A		N	E	W
E	L	L	A	F	I	T	Z	G	E	R	A	L
				A	C	T	S		G	A	S	
M	A	D	E		L	A	S	S	O		H	E
O	L	D		L	O	R	E	T	T	A	L	Y
J	O	E		O	P	E	R	A		W	A	R
O	E	R		L	E	A	F	Y		S	W	E

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
17						18						19		
20						21				22	23			
				24	25				26	27				
28	29	30						31						
32						33	34				35	36	37	
38						39					40			
41						42					43			
			44	45					46					
47	48							49	50					
51								52				53	54	55
57						58	59	60			61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-14 CRYPTOQUOTE

NXDL YSBOZULBYL GNXG ZO

ASE NXDL USBL X MZGGML

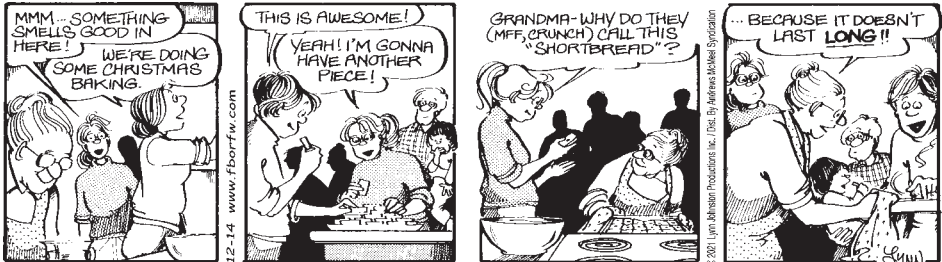
GNZBV QLMM, ASE YXB US X

IZVVLF GNZBV QLMM, GSS.

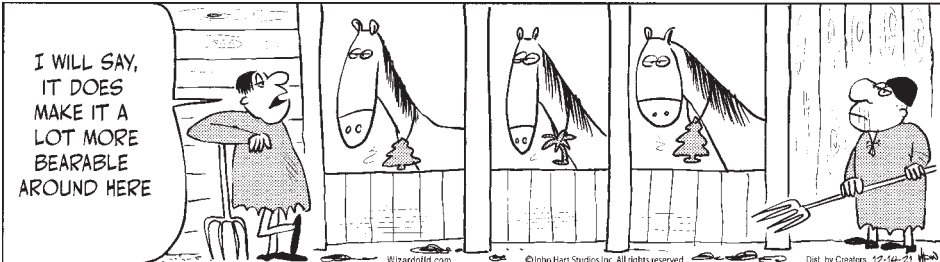
— UXDZU PGSFLA

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT YOU DON'T SEE WITH YOUR EYES, DON'T WITNESS WITH YOUR MOUTH. — YIDDISH PROVERB

FOR BETTER OR WORSE: By Lynn Johnston



WIZARD OF ID: By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



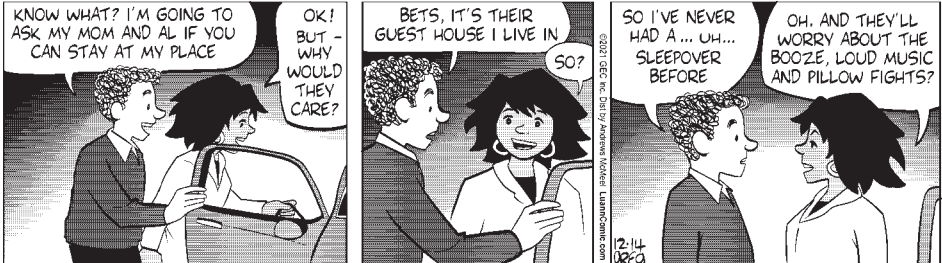
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE: By Stephan Pastis



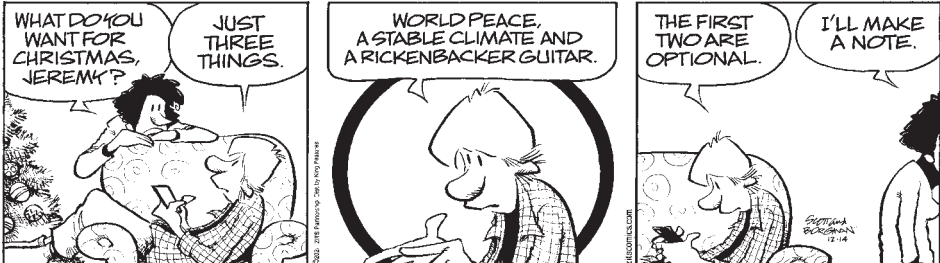
BABY BLUES: By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



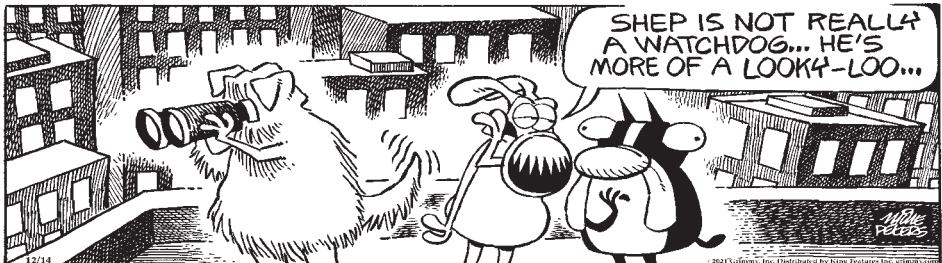
LUANN: By Greg Evans



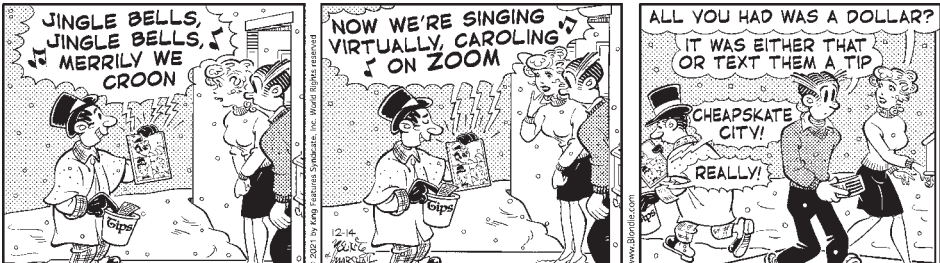
ZITS: By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



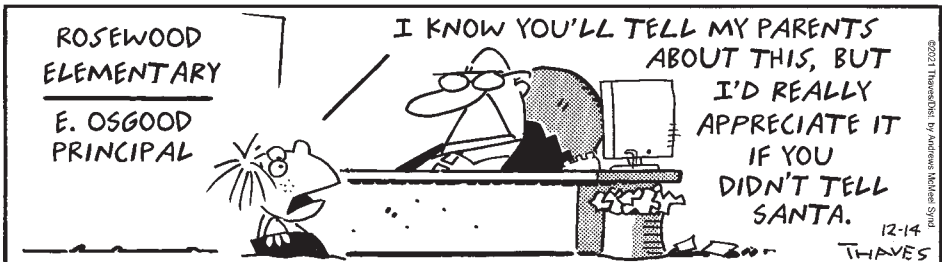
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM: By Mike Peters



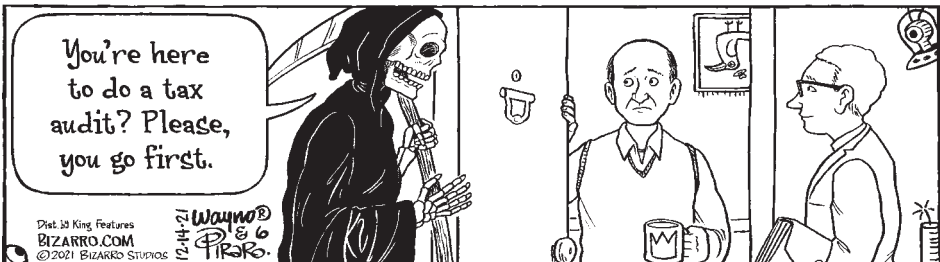
BLONDIE: By Dean Young & John Marshall



FRANK & ERNEST: By Bob Thaves



BIZARRO: By Wayno and Piraro



MARVIN: By Tom Armstrong



PICKLES: By Brian Crane



THE BORN LOSER: By Chip Sansom



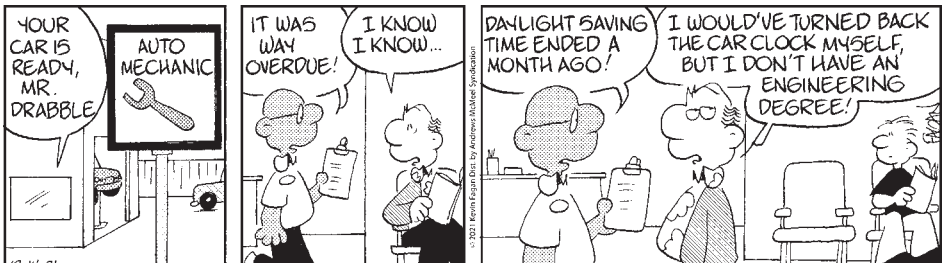
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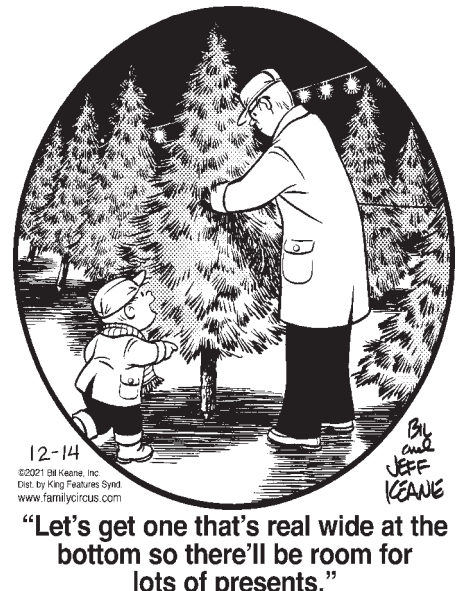
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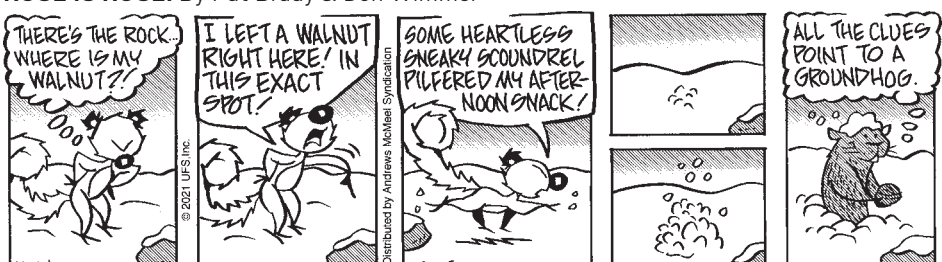
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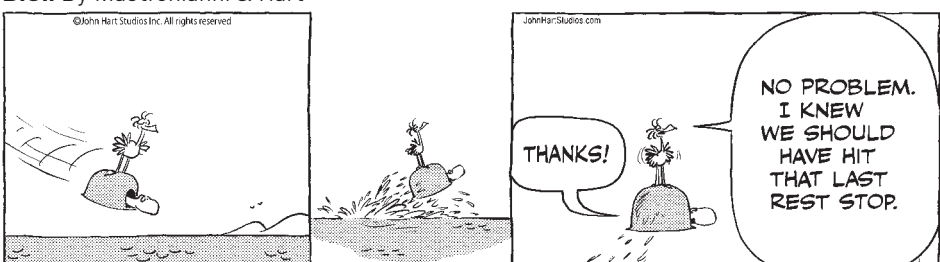
FAMILY CIRCUS: By Bil Keane



ROSE IS ROSE: By Pat Brady & Don Wimmer



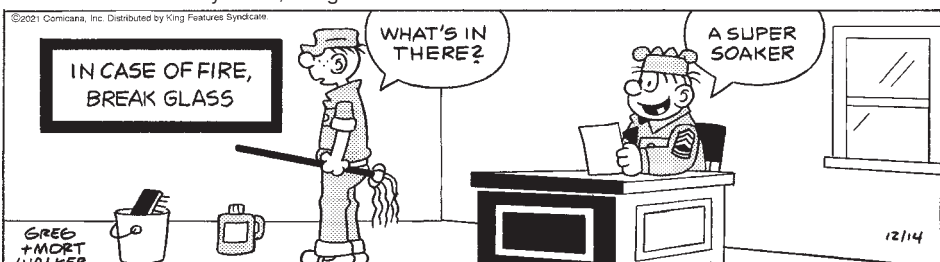
B.C.: By Mastronianni & Hart



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE: By Chris Browne

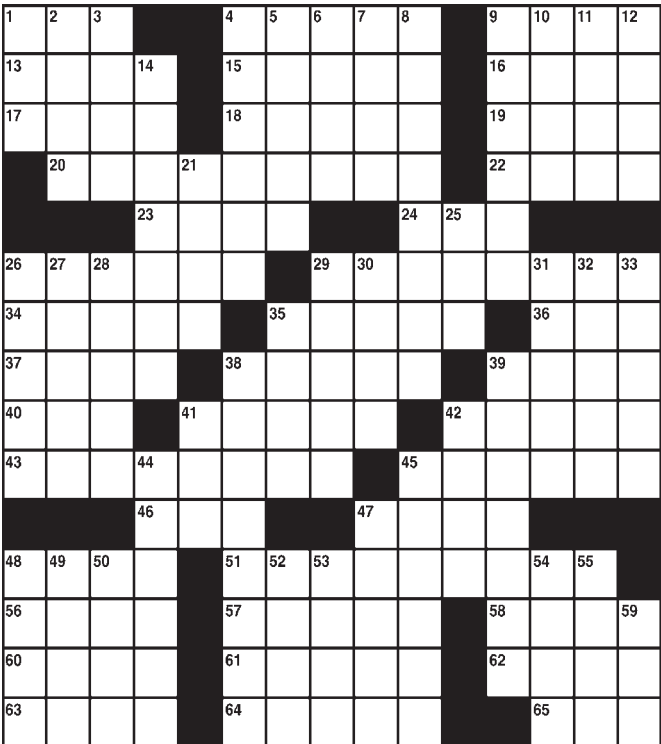


BEETLE BAILEY: By Mort, Greg and Brian Walker



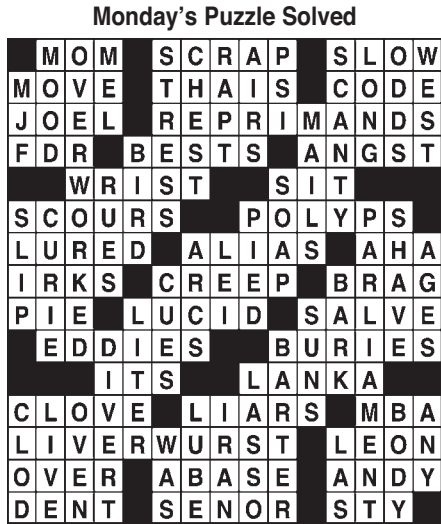
The Daily Commuter

- ACROSS**
- 1 Joint nearest the waist
 - 4 Part of HUD
 - 9 Party giver
 - 13 ___ a test; passed easily
 - 15 ___ Haute, IN
 - 16 Linear measure
 - 17 Precious
 - 18 Excludes
 - 19 Stickum
 - 20 Most ready for a nap
 - 22 Mass song
 - 23 Narrow cut
 - 24 Whopper
 - 26 TV screen display type
 - 29 Mixing with a spoon
 - 34 ___ up; slackens
 - 35 Express gratitude to
 - 36 By way of
 - 37 Uses a chair
 - 38 Pitchfork tine
 - 39 Ukraine's capital
 - 40 TV's "___ Tree Hill"
 - 41 Expands
 - 42 Portion
 - 43 Calmness
 - 45 Graduation cap feature
 - 46 Piña colada ingredient
 - 47 Understands
 - 48 Enormous
 - 51 Capture
 - 56 Gaping
 - 57 Fortune-teller's deck
 - 58 Has remorse for
 - 60 Verboten topic
 - 61 Wed without fanfare
 - 62 ___ at; answer sharply & irritably
 - 63 Had down pat
 - 64 Underground drain
 - 65 Deceitful
- DOWN**
- 1 "If I Only ___ a Brain"; Scarecrow's song
 - 2 Decorates petits fours



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/14/21

- 3 Chime loudly
- 4 Perfect society
- 5 Send in payment
- 6 Oscar-winner Larson
- 7 ___ and crafts
- 8 Newly hatched bird
- 9 Further up
- 10 Exclusively
- 11 Slimy film
- 12 Following that
- 14 Puts on clothes
- 21 Sprawling trees
- 25 Aggravate
- 26 Colombia's dollars
- 27 Singer Frankie
- 28 Fall flower
- 29 Flamboyant
- 30 Fawn colors
- 31 Twining vines
- 32 Caroline, to RFK
- 33 Court mallet
- 35 Turkey ___; ragtime dance
- 38 Apes and monkeys
- 39 Mouths, slangily



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- 41 African antelope
- 42 Walkway
- 44 Before this, to a poet
- 45 Wobble
- 47 Feel about blindly
- 48 Tap the horn
- 49 Sneak ___; approach
- stealthily
- 50 Cowboy Autry
- 52 Light in color
- 53 Bow of a ship
- 54 Poor Clares & others
- 55 Great buy
- 59 ___ on; watch from hiding

ASK DR. ROACH

Long COVID and vaccination

DEAR DR. ROACH » Is it safe for an unvaccinated person experiencing long-term symptoms after a COVID-19 infection to get the vaccination, or must they wait until the typical 90-day period for symptoms to diminish or disappear?



Dr. Keith Roach
Columnist

— P.M.

DEAR READER » In general, people can expect to have symptoms of acute COVID-19 infection for up to four weeks after the onset of symptoms. Beyond four weeks, people with persistent symptoms are considered to have post-COVID conditions, also called "long COVID." The most typical symptoms are fatigue, shortness of breath and difficulty thinking or with memory, often called "brain fog." Other symptoms may include chest pain, cough, loss of taste and smell, and many more. Roughly a third of people with symptomatic COVID-19 symptoms will have persistent symptoms.

I do recommend vaccination after COVID-19 infection, with or without persistent symptoms. People should get vaccinated only after they have met criteria for stopping isolation. This usually means waiting until 10 days after symptom onset; after resolution of fever for at least 24 hours; and after improvement of other symptoms. People with severe disease or with an immune system condition

should consult their physicians, as they may need more time. There is no rush to giving the vaccine. The risk of being infected again within three months of COVID-19 infection is very low. People who received monoclonal antibodies should not get vaccinated for 90 days. Vaccination has not been associated with worsening of symptoms in people with persistent COVID symptoms. There have been some cases of symptoms improving with vaccine. So, for a person who is well past their acute phase, getting the vaccine is safe and may possibly help reduce long COVID symptoms, but is not urgent since immunity is reliable for at least 90 days after infection.

DEAR DR. ROACH » I'm a healthy 66-year-old woman who experienced a "gush" of vaginal bleeding a few days ago. It subsided fairly quickly, and I have not experienced any bleeding or spotting since. I immediately saw my OB/GYN. Her visual assessment of my cervix showed no inflammation and a healthy appearance. She then recommended we do a uterine biopsy to rule out cancer. I was informed that no sedation is used and to expect sharp pain and cramping. I was perplexed. Why, with modern medicine, am I to be subject to medieval torture? Why isn't sedation of-

fered to alleviate pain and discomfort? Would an ultrasound be a more prudent first step?

— L.A.

DEAR READER » Uterine bleeding in a woman after menopause always raises the concern for endometrial (uterine) cancer, although only about 10% of cases turn out to be cancer. Still, a thorough evaluation is called for in any woman with postmenopausal uterine bleeding.

Either ultrasound or biopsy is a reasonable first step in excluding uterine cancer in women with postmenopausal bleeding. Most experts recommend the biopsy, since the ultrasound often does not give enough information to exclude cancer, and the biopsy will be necessary anyway.

If a biopsy is needed, you have options. Take a pain reliever ahead of time to prevent or at least reduce pain. Sedation is perfectly reasonable, although you will need someone to help you home after the procedure. I did also read about using anesthetic for the procedure, but it is not routinely done. Most women do not have severe pain (certainly not "medieval torture" level), according to studies, but speak to your gynecologist about the options.

Contact Dr. Roach at ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

BROOM HILDA: By Russell Myers



DILBERT: By Scott Adams



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ECO-FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

Solution: 7 letters



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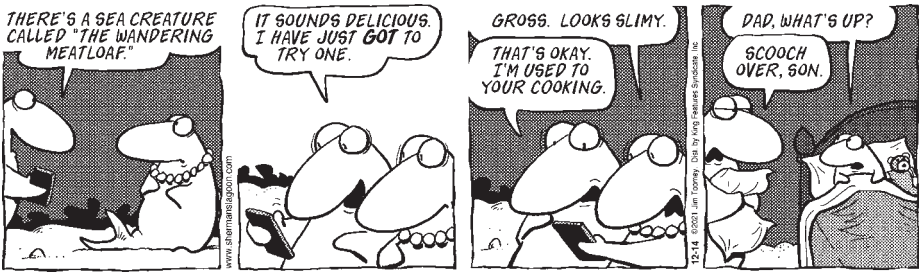
12/14

Bags, Bike, Bottle, Candle, Carpool, Ceramic, Cloth, Compost, Cotton, Cutlery, Decomposition, Deodorant, Earth, Fabric, Fiber, Filter, Garden, Glass, Green, Grocery, Habitat, Handmade, Land, Lights, Local, Mugs, Oils, Organic, Panels, Planet, Plants, Protect, Recycle, Reduce, Reusable, Safety, Shower, Soil, Solar, Walk, Water, Windmill, Wood

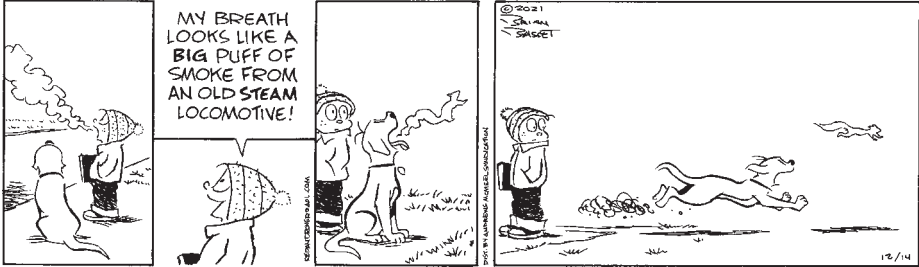
Yesterday's Answer: Jelly Beans

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SHERMAN'S LAGOON: By Jim Toomey



RED & ROVER: By Brian Bassett



Universal Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Ease up
- 6 Blown away
- 10 Word after "welcome" or "yoga"
- 13 Early wake-up time
- 14 Pink, like a steak
- 15 "Rocks"
- 16 "Goes too far"
- 19 Baby seals
- 20 Sell
- 21 Express lane unit
- 22 Slice of history
- 23 Mr. Rogers' first name
- 25 Enjoy some egg rolls
- 27 "Herding dog with rough hair"
- 29 Factions
- 33 Ticket parts that might be scrapbooked
- 34 Get ready, for short
- 37 Be behind on bills
- 38 "I'm a Cheerleader" (1999 satirical comedy)
- 39 ___ Field (home to the Mets)
- 40 Chess pieces
- 41 Boxer Ali
- 43 Train a boxer?
- 44 Common retirement spot?
- 45 "Chalk drawings on pavement"
- 47 Legendary people

- 49 Knee part: Abbr.
- 50 Leave speechless
- 52 ___-cone
- 53 Painter whose name anagrams to "yoga"
- 55 Bluish green
- 57 Girl in Edinburgh
- 61 "Caused a feeling of irritation"
- 65 Hash browns ingredient, informally
- 66 Competed
- 67 Music genre that might give you the feels
- 68 Wipe from a chalkboard
- 69 Caesar's words to Brutus
- 70 "You've your match!"

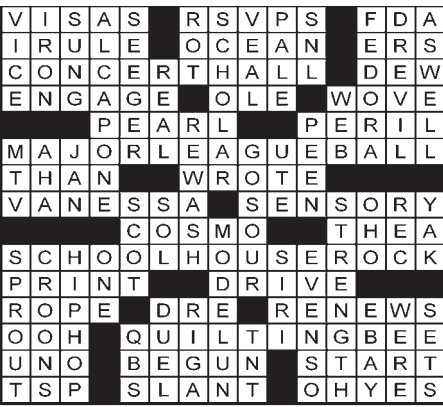
DOWN

- 1 Makes certain
- 2 Cameo role
- 3 Things that might be on the chopping block? (Is this thing on?)
- 4 Middle of summer?
- 5 Curved like a rainbow
- 6 Advise of danger
- 7 Wear away
- 8 ___ Plains, Illinois
- 9 Catcher's catcher
- 10 Feeling after leg day

- 12 Abound
- 17 State confidently
- 18 Location
- 19 Cat or ferret, e.g.
- 23 Calf bones
- 24 Begin again
- 26 Pain-relieving pill
- 28 Creator of a 3D puzzle cube
- 30 Sandwich, chips and drink, e.g.
- 31 11- or 12-year-old
- 32 Puts in the mail
- 34 Classic IBM products
- 35 Tear
- 36 "Wheels down" info: Abbr.
- 41 Brand with a green crocodile logo
- 42 Not just seasonal

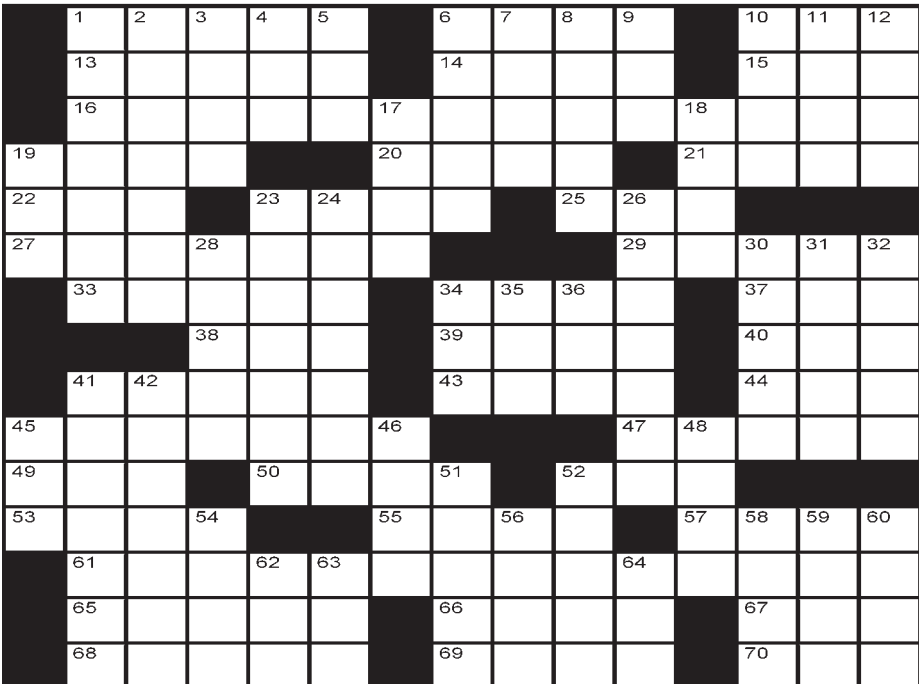
- 45 Move like a dog's tail
- 46 Ballerina's skirt
- 48 Young stallion
- 51 Audacity
- 52 Cold shower? "___ boy!"
- 56 Butting heads
- 58 "Uh ... excuse me"
- 59 "___ Places More Than Others" (Renee Watson novel)
- 60 Little twerp
- 62 Word that establishes consent
- 63 Get a lode of this!
- 64 Campus email ender

Answers to yesterday's puzzle



12/14

Define Your Boundaries by Paul Coulter





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B. NATTERSON-HOROWITZ, MD

UCLA professor and author of "Wildhood: The Astounding Connections Between Human and Animal Adolescents"



NATASHIA DEÓN

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Morris' 24 points lead six L.A. players in double figures in a 111-95 victory over the Suns. **PAGE 4**

RAMS



RALPH FRESO — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp, left, who had 13 receptions Monday night, celebrates his touchdown catch with guard Austin Corbett.

HEALTHY BOOST

Short-handed Rams beat the Cardinals to close in on lead in the NFC West

By Kevin Modesti
kmodesti@scng.com
@kevinmodesti on Twitter

GLENDAL, ARIZ. » The Rams' game against the Arizona Cardinals on Monday night was always going to be a test of their place in the playoff pecking order. But in the hours before kickoff, it became something more. A test of their resources, resourcefulness and resolve.

Taking the field at State Farm Stadium without five important players lost to the COVID-19 reserve list, the Rams got big games from Matthew Stafford and Cooper Kupp on offense and Aaron Donald and Leonard Floyd on defense — and a cast of understudies all over the field.

The Rams beat the Cardinals, 30-23, to silence a red-clad crowd that wanted to cheer the home team closer

RAMS » PAGE 6



CHRISTIAN PETERSEN — GETTY IMAGES

Greg Gaines, left, tackles the Cardinals' Kyler Murray for one of the Rams' four sacks of the Arizona quarterback.

THE SCORE

RAMS 30, CARDINALS 23

Up next: Seahawks at Rams, Sunday, 1:25 p.m., Ch. 11

+ **Inside:** Ramsey, Higbee placed on COVID-19 reserve list before Monday night's game. **PAGE 6**

As COVID-19 strikes, the Rams pull together for an unlikely win vs. Cardinals

GLENDAL, ARIZ. » The NFL is not going to 7-on-7. The NFL will not be postponing games into time slots to be named later.

On field level, they realize this. They know from experience that COVID-19 and its variants will be viewed the same as pulled hamstrings. The Rams certainly grasped it Monday night. Unlike every other business, pro football features a surplus of players and a shortage of jobs. Their stand-ins plugged the holes well enough to let the stars stand tall, and created an unlikely 30-23 victory, the Cardinals' third loss in 13 games.

The Rams are 9-4 and should feel somewhat reassured, going into a

WHICKER » PAGE 6



CHARGERS

Chargers' Slater in COVID protocol

Rookie lineman could still play Thursday

By Gilbert Manzano
gmanzano@scng.com
@gmanzano24 on Twitter

The Chargers placed rookie left tackle Rashawn Slater on the COVID-19 reserve list Monday.

Slater tested positive for COVID-19, but Chargers coach Brandon Staley didn't rule out Slater for Thursday night's showdown against the Kansas City Chiefs at SoFi Stadium.

"He has a chance that he can play Thursday," Staley said.

Staley said the team is still working on the contingency plan for Slater possibly not playing against the Chiefs. Offensive tackle Trey Pipkins, the Chargers' 2019 third-round selection, would likely get the start at left tackle if Slater is ruled out.

Slater, the 13th overall draft pick, is in the midst of a Pro Bowl-worthy rookie season and has provided ample time for quarterback Justin Herbert to operate.

This is the third time in the past month that the Charges have entered a game week with uncertainty surrounding their star players because of COVID-19.

Wide receiver Keenan Allen didn't play Sunday against the New York Giants because he tested positive for COVID-19, and wide receiver Mike Williams and cornerback Chris Harris Jr. were required to quarantine for five days before being cleared to play because they were deemed close contacts of Allen.

Edge rusher Joey Bosa also had to quarantine for five days before being cleared to play against the Pittsburgh Steelers in Week 11 because he was a close contact of defensive tackle Jerry Tillery.

Linebacker Drue Tranquill, backup center Scott Quessenberry and defensive tackles Linval Joseph and Christian Covington have also tested positive for COVID-19 in the past month.

CHARGERS » PAGE 7

UP NEXT

Thursday: Chiefs at Chargers, 5:20 p.m., Ch. 11

USC FOOTBALL

Slovis, facing a diminished role under Riley, enters transfer portal

By Adam Grosbard
agrosbard@scng.com
@adamgrosbard on Twitter

Kedon Slovis' time at USC is coming to an end.

The junior quarterback has entered the transfer portal, according to multiple reports, allowing him to find a new school at which he can finish his collegiate career.

Slovis was a three-year starter at USC, taking over the job in 2019 following a season-ending knee injury to JT Daniels in the first game of the season. The next week, Slovis made a statement performance by throwing for 377 yards and three touchdowns without an interception in a win over a ranked Stanford team.

Daniels went on to transfer the following off-season after Slovis established himself as USC's man with a freshman stat line that read 71.9% completion rate, 3,502 yards and 30 touchdowns to nine interceptions. He was named the 2019 Pac-12 Offensive Freshman of the Year.

But Slovis never again

reached those heights at USC, as confidence issues lingered in 2020 while he recovered from an elbow injury suffered in the 2019 Holiday Bowl.

The former three-star prospect led several frantic comebacks as a sophomore, including a fourth-quarter rally to beat UCLA

USC » PAGE 5



KEITH BIRMINGHAM — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

USC quarterback Kedon Slovis entered the transfer portal Monday, looking to finish his college career elsewhere.



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LOCAL

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Long Beach St. shows fight but falls to USC

News service reports

The Long Beach State men's basketball team went toe-to-toe on the road with the No. 16 team in the country, but USC was able to hold on down the stretch and hand LBSU a 73-62 defeat Sunday at the Galen Center.

Joel Murray led the way for LBSU (3-7) with 14 points, while Colin Slater and Romelle Mansel also both finished in double figures.

"They came out in the second half and we missed a couple of good looks," LBSU coach Dan Monson said. "Then it snowballed and they took control of the game. We kept fighting and we had an opportunity, but they were better than us when they needed to be."

Led by Isaiah Mobley's 21 points and 12 rebounds, the 16th-ranked Trojans pulled away at the beginning of the second half.

"These teams come in and think it's their Super Bowl," said Drew Peterson, who added 15 points for USC. "One game can kind of

set us back big time, so we knew we had to lock down. Thankfully, we answered right away."

Slater added 12 points. Mansel had 10 points, including three dunks in the second half, and seven rebounds.

Neither team led by more than seven points in the first half. LBSU outscored USC 12-9 to lead by three before Peterson hit a 3-pointer that beat the half-time buzzer for a 38-all tie. LBSU missed its first six shots of the second half before Slater hit a jumper. Then USC stretched the lead to 13 points.

LBSU followed with back-to-back baskets by Slater, including a 3-pointer, to make it 62-54. But Peterson answered with USC's ninth 3-pointer of the game, and LBSU was effectively done.

LBSU fell to 0-2 against ranked teams, having lost to then-No. 2 UCLA 100-79 in its second game of the season.

It plays La Sierra on Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Walter Pyramid in its last home game until Jan. 8.



ALEX GALLARDO — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Long Beach State guard Colin Slater scored 12 points in the team's 73-62 loss to USC on Sunday at the Galen Center.

OLYMPICS

On road to fifth Olympics, White finds risk worth it

By Eddie Pells
The Associated Press

COPPER MOUNTAIN, COLO. » One of Shaun White's greatest fears is finding himself upside down above a halfpipe with no idea where he's going to land.

Time and again over two decades, he has decided the risk is worth it.

As he embarked this month on the quest to make his fifth Olympics, the world's most famous halfpipe rider says living a life full of calculated risks is still part of his DNA — a mindset that, these days, is less taken for granted in all-or-nothing sports such as his than it was a mere 12 months ago.

"I've been lost in the air before, and it's terrifying," White said in an interview with The Associated Press. "You're flying around and you don't know where you are and you're hoping for the best. The sky color matches the color of the snow. We never really had a name for that. I was intrigued when I heard they call it the 'twisties' in gymnastics."

Simone Biles' decision to pull out of the women's team final at the Tokyo Games earlier this year resonated with athletes throughout the elite world, including White, and also advanced the conversation about many of the mental-health challenges Olympians face.

Just as twisting and somersaulting over a vault can be a life-threatening endeavor, doing the same over an icy, rock-hard halfpipe is among the most dangerous of Olympic pursuits. White was famously helicoptered off the halfpipe in



PATRICK SEMANSKY — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shaun White bites his gold medal during a ceremony at the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

New Zealand after a grizzly wreck in the run-up to the 2018 Olympics. When he overcame the 62-stitch injury to his face and won the gold medal in Pyeongchang, it marked a stunning crescendo to a comeback that even he wasn't sure was possible.

White believes the key to an athlete putting him or herself at risk over and over again is knowing you're doing it for the right reasons — a key component missing from Biles' mindset when she stepped away.

"It's scary to be out there alone," White said. "And when you go out and do that, you want it to be your choice. You don't want to feel like you have to do this because of some reason other than, 'Hey, I want to do this.'"

The stakes will be every

bit as high, if not higher, this year. A triple cork jump — involving 1620 degrees of spin above the halfpipe — could very well be the trick needed to win the Olympics. It involves another half revolution of spin than the back-to-back 1440s that White used to win in Korea. White used to practice the triple cork into an air bag, but nobody has yet pulled it off in a high-stakes contest.

Meanwhile, at the season's first Olympic qualifying event this week, everyone saw the risks involved. In Saturday's final of the U.S. Grand Prix, Japanese rider Raibu Katayama had to be taken by sled off the course after hitting his head and neck on the lip of the halfpipe. Earlier in the week, freeskier Connor Ladd was taken to a hospital in Denver after suffering

a traumatic head injury. His family said Ladd has made progress but has a long journey ahead.

Another freeskier, Gus Kenworthy, pulled out of the contest. He said it's not uncommon for action-sports athletes to get lost in the air.

"I didn't have a sense of where the sky and the ground and everything was, and that's why I pulled out," said Kenworthy, who won the silver medal in slopestyle in 2014.

White withdrew from snowboarding's Olympic slopestyle contest in 2014 — part of a Russian adventure that turned out nothing like he'd hoped.

"It was hard and it was harsh," White said. "I got a bunch of backlash from other competitors saying I chickened out. But I had to be confident with myself

and say, 'You know, look, this is the comfort level, and it's not there.'"

White also finished fourth in the halfpipe that year. The setbacks forced him to step back and re-think what made him love snowboarding, and all the risk that comes with it, in the first place.

Part of the mission between 2014-18 was to get back to the top, and do it without so much noise from the outside — sponsors, business projects and the like.

It's like that again this time around, but with an even tighter-knit feel.

He's working with his brother, Jesse, again, and is in a relationship with actress Nina Dobrev, who he met at a motivational seminar, Now 35 and with the end of his career much

closer than the beginning, White says he's entering this Olympic journey with a refined perspective on what's really important.

In his teens and 20s, he battled against cynics who wondered why he was devoting his life — putting his life on the line, in fact — for a sport that was not accepted in the mainstream. He coupled that with a desire to show that not only was he in a legit sport, but that he was the best at it, and that, yes, you could become rich and famous doing it.

"After a while, drawing from that same fuel of motivation isn't sustainable," he said. "So then, you go, 'OK, cool, what else is there? And then I look and see things that are important to me: Being a good friend. Being someone who others can count on. I had to take this hard look at what I was doing, and now, this understanding of who I am in the greater picture has really helped me with everything. With feeling content.'"

Don't get him wrong. He'd still like to win on Feb. 11, the day the gold medal is awarded on the mountains outside of Beijing.

If he does, it will add to an already legendary trophy case. If he doesn't — well, it won't be the first time he's come up short.

Perhaps the biggest triumph, he says, has already been secured. He's still doing this at age 35, and he's ready to give everything in a quest for a fifth Olympics because he's doing it for the right reasons.

"I'm feeling motivated and I'm feeling like I can," White said. "It's a different feeling but the drive and the motivation is there."

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On the air

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
3 p.m.	SE Louisiana at Louisville	ACCN
4 p.m.	VMI at Wake Forest	BSSC
4 p.m.	Northwestern St. at LSU	SECN
4 p.m.	Furman at North Carolina	ESPN2
5 p.m.	South Carolina St. at Duke	ACCN
5 p.m.	Arizona St. at Creighton	FS1
5 p.m.	Texas A&M-CC at Minnesota	BTN
6 p.m.	Alabama at Memphis	ESPN
6 p.m.	North Alabama at Auburn	SECN
6 p.m.	Ark.-Pine Bluff at Texas	ESPN
6 p.m.	Santa Clara at Boise St.	CBSSN
7 p.m.	UC Davis at Oregon St.	Pac12N
HOCKEY		
10 a.m.	Champions Hockey League	NHLN
12:30 p.m.	Champions Hockey League	NHLN
NBA		
4:30 p.m.	Warriors at Knicks	TNT
7 p.m.	G League: Agua Caliente Clippers at South Bay Lakers	SpecSN
7 p.m.	Suns at Trail Blazers	TNT
NHL		
4 p.m.	Kings at Lightning	BSW
SOCCER		
11:55 a.m.	Leeds United at Manchester City	NBCSN
7 p.m.	CONCACAF League: Motagua at Comunicaciones	FS2, TUDN
TENNIS		
5:30 a.m.	ATP tournament coverage	Tennis
3 p.m.	ATP tournament coverage	Tennis
3 a.m.	ATP tournament coverage	Tennis

5 games out

☒ Home ☐ Away

Lakers: 710 AM, nba.com/lakers				
Wednesday	Friday	Sunday	Dec. 21	Dec. 23
Mavericks 4:30 p.m. SpecSN	T-Wolves 7 p.m. SpecSN	Bulls 12:30 p.m. SpecSN	Suns 7 p.m. TNT	Spurs 7:30 p.m. SpecSN

Clippers: 570 AM, nba.com/clippers				
Wednesday	Saturday	Monday	Dec. 22	Dec. 26
Jazz 7 p.m. BSSC, ESPN	Thunder 5 p.m. BSSC	Spurs 7:30 p.m. BSSC	Kings 7 p.m. BSSC	Nuggets 6 p.m. BSSC

Ducks: 830 AM, nhl.com/ducks				
Wednesday	Friday	Monday	Dec. 21	Dec. 23
Kraken 7 p.m. TNT	Coyotes 7 p.m. ESPN+	Oilers 6:30 p.m. BSW	Flames 6 p.m. BSSC	Canucks 7 p.m. BSSC

Kings: 570 AM, nhl.com/kings				
Today	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday	Dec. 22
Lightning 4:30 p.m. BSW	Panthers 4 p.m. BSW	Hurricanes 4 p.m. BSW	Capitals 4 p.m. BSW	Oilers 7 p.m. TNT

NFL
Chargers: vs. Kansas City, Thursday, 5:20p.m., Ch. 11, NFL Network
Rams: at Seahawks, Sunday, 1:25 p.m., Ch. 11
COLLEGE FOOTBALL
UCLA: vs. NC State, Holiday Bowl in San Diego, Dec. 28, 5p.m., Ch. 11
COLLEGE BASKETBALL
USC: vs. UC Irvine, Wednesday, 6p.m., Pac-12 Network
UCLA: vs. Alabama St., Wednesday, 8p.m., Pac-12 Network
HORSE RACING
Santa Anita: Dec. 26, 11 a.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Baylor is fourth No. 1 in as many weeks

By The Associated Press

Baylor won the national championship last season without ever reaching No. 1 in the AP Top 25. The Bears are there now. Baylor took advantage of Purdue's last-second loss to Rutgers last week to become the fourth different team at No. 1 in the past four weeks. The Bears earned every vote from a 61-member national media panel Monday to reach the top spot in the poll for the first time since a four-week run ended on Feb. 17, 2020. "Every coach tells you that the goal is at the end of the year to be No. 1," Baylor coach Scott Drew said, "but I will tell you that it always means something. It means something to your fans. It means something to your coaches, your players and everybody. It's a great sign of respect for other people that have come before you, the work they put in." The Bears (9-0) were followed by former No. 1s Duke and Purdue along with UCLA and Gonzaga, which began the season atop the poll and spent the first two weeks there before losses to the Blue Devils and Alabama in a span of three games. Baylor has won a nation-leading 15 consecutive games, none by fewer than eight points, including its memorable 86-70 win over Gonzaga in April for the national title. The Bears also had wins over Stanford, Arizona State and Michigan State to start this season before suffocating then-No. 6 Villanova in a 57-36 victory on Sunday. The Crimson Tide led the second five in the AP poll Monday, climbing three spots after beating then-No. 14 Houston on Saturday.

They were followed by Kansas, unbeaten Arizona, Villanova and undefeated USC. "I can't be too upset if we haven't lost, but there's always things to clean up and get better at," Trojans coach Andy Enfield said. "Our goal is to be an elite defensive team, but we're not there yet. I'm happy with the team. We're excited to be 10-0." Iowa State, another of the seven remaining Division I unbeaten, climbed six spots to No. 11 after the Cyclones romped past Iowa and avoided a let-down against Jacksonville State. They were followed by Michigan State, Auburn, Houston and Ohio State with Seton Hall, Texas, Tennessee, LSU and UConn in the top 20. Kentucky, Xavier, Colorado State, Arkansas and Texas Tech rounded out the poll. **RISE AND FALLING** » Michigan State and Seton Hall made the biggest moves this week, the Spartans climbing seven spots to No. 12 after wins over Minnesota and Penn State and Seton Hall jumping to No. 16 after beating Texas on Thursday night. The Longhorns dropped 10 spots to No. 17. Kentucky fell 11 to No. 21 after the Wildcats lost to Notre Dame on Saturday. **HELLO, GOODBYE** » Xavier entered the poll at No. 22 with Colorado State right behind after the Rams ran their record to 10-0 for the second time in program history. The Red Raiders moved into the poll at No. 25 after their overtime win over Tennessee. Wisconsin was No. 22 last week but lost to Ohio State and was first outside the Top 25 receiving votes this week.

MOTORSPORTS COMMENTARY



HASSAN AMMAR — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red Bull team chief Christian Horner, right, celebrates with driver Max Verstappen after winning the Formula One Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in the UAE on Sunday. Verstappen ripped the title away from Lewis Hamilton with a pass on the final lap.

Is it racing or entertainment? Formula One teeters at finale

By Jenna Fryer
The Associated Press

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES » The one thing Max Verstappen requested — over and over and over again — was that the race stewards not interfere with the Formula One title-deciding finale with any questionable or inconsistent calls. He didn't get his wish. Yet it played directly in his favor. How you felt about it Monday depended on your view of racing. Is it sport? Or is it entertainment? Verstappen won his first world championship Sunday at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix with a pass of Lewis Hamilton on the final lap of a riveting season. His 10th win of the year made Verstappen the first Dutch champion and denied Hamilton a record-breaking eighth title. But it will forever be a controversial victory — Mercedes might call it tainted — because of the role race director Michael Masi played in the messy outcome. Hamilton had a lead of nearly 12 seconds and Red Bull conceded Verstappen's only chance was from "some luck from the racing gods" when a crash by Nicholas Latifi with five laps remaining put the ending in Masi's control. With the world watching, — thanks Netflix! — Masi tried to figure out what to do next. "You only need one racing lap!" Red Bull team principal Christian Horner said in urging Masi to get Latifi's mess cleaned up in time

to give Verstappen one final shot at Hamilton. "Michael, this isn't right," Toto Wolff of Mercedes objected as Masi deliberated. Masi could have sided with Wolff and let the race end behind the safety car with Hamilton cruising past Michael Schumacher into history under yellow. Or, he could have thrown a red flag, allowed all drivers to pit for new tires, and then gone green for a final shootout. The race director waffled during his decision-making process and in that time, Verstappen indeed pitted for fresh, faster tires while Hamilton stayed out to maintain the lead. Masi then moved the lapped traffic out of Verstappen's way and gave him and Hamilton one final lap over 3.2 miles to decide the championship. Verstappen caught Hamilton in Turn 5 — "No, Mikey, no!" screamed Wolff, "that was so not right!" — and held him off on his soft, fresh Pirelli tires for the title. The final lap was the only lap Verstappen led all day. Hamilton led 51 of the 58 trips around Yas Marina Circuit. Wolff was furious but was rebuked time and again by Masi and the FIA. Masi scolded him over the radio: "Toto, it's called a motor race, OK? We went car racing," and Mercedes lodged a pair of protests. It took almost five hours for the FIA to deny them both and rule the race official, and Mercedes has now asked for reconsideration from the International Court of Appeal.

Entertained yet? F1 was already the top motorsports series in the world but its popularity has exploded in North America over the three-year run of the "Drive to Survive" behind-the-scenes Netflix docuseries. The show has removed the velvet rope for viewers and given them access like never before to teams, drivers and drama. The racing just happens to be what the stars of the show do for a living. Few television producers would greenlight any script that called for an enthralling back-and-forth season that spanned 22 races across four continents to end under yellow. People want to be entertained and that's what Masi gave the viewers Sunday night with the officiating decision. But in ensuring a climactic finale to the upcoming fourth installment of "Drive to Survive," a decision was made that ran afoul of the purity of Formula One. The lack of gimmicks — think playoffs, green-white-checkered flag finishes, stage racing — is what open wheel racing fans love. IndyCar declined in 2020 to throw a red flag for a late crash at the Indianapolis 500 and Scott Dixon didn't get a final challenge on Takuma Sato, who became the 11th winner in more than a century to collect the checkered flag under caution. Conversely, since NASCAR implemented in 2007 its green-white-checkered flag rule of using multiple restarts to ensure a green-flag finish, eight of 15 Daytona

500s have been decided in overtime. NASCAR tweaked its rules to give fans the finish they paid for, while IndyCar has resisted attempts to push it down a similar path of instant gratification. Formula One was supposed to be above manipulations and would follow its thick rulebook, boring races and all. That's changed since American-owned company Liberty Media became F1's parent company in 2017 and "the way it's always been done" no longer reigns supreme. This year saw the introduction of sprint qualifying in three races, which will be doubled to six in 2022, a late red-flag followed by a final standing restart at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix, and the awarding of only half points for the sixth time in F1 history when rain allowed for a measly one lap run behind the safety car in Belgium. And yet there was still consternation in the paddock over the ending. "THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE!!!!" tweeted George Russell, who will be Hamilton's teammate next year at Mercedes. "Max is an absolutely fantastic driver who has had an incredible season and I have nothing but huge respect for him, but what just happened is absolutely unacceptable. I cannot believe what we've just seen," added Russell, who retired from the race and was a spectator for the finish. Maybe it wasn't pure racing and, in the end, unacceptable for F1 standards. But it sure was entertaining and will be talked about forever.

USC MEN'S BASKETBALL

Trojans move up to No. 10 in AP Top 25

By Adam Grosbard
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The USC men's basketball program is a top-10 team. The Trojans moved up six spots to No. 10 in the Associated Press poll released on Monday following wins over Eastern Kentucky and Long Beach State. It is the highest the Trojans have been in a regular-season AP Top 25 since 2017-18, when USC began the season at No. 10. USC finished No. 9 in the AP poll following an Elite Eight run last season, but topped out at No. 17 during the regular season with top-three NBA pick Evan Mobley in tow. This year's Trojans aren't as highly-touted as prospects, but have come to-

gether under head coach Andy Enfield to produce the fourth-lowest field-goal percentage defense in the nation. Junior Isaiah Mobley is leading the team in scoring and rebounding and is two-tenths of a rebound away from averaging a double-double. Transfers Chevez Goodwin and Drew Peterson have thrived in their second seasons at USC, while Boogie Ellis has been a strong offensive option since transferring from Memphis. USC is one of three Pac-12 teams in the AP Top-10, joining No. 8 Arizona and No. 4 UCLA.



ALEX GALLARDO — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

USC's Max Agbonkpolo celebrates his 3-pointer in the Trojans' 73-62 win over Long Beach State on Sunday.

NBA

Standings

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
PACIFIC DIVISION									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Golden State	22	5	.815	—	7-3	W-1	14-2	8-3	
Phoenix	21	5	.808	½	8-2	L-1	12-2	9-3	
Clippers	16	12	.571	6½	6-4	W-4	12-7	4-5	
Lakers	15	13	.536	7½	6-4	W-2	10-7	5-6	
Sacramento	11	17	.393	11½	5-5	L-3	5-8	6-9	
SOUTHWEST DIVISION									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Memphis	17	11	.607	—	8-2	W-3	11-6	6-5	
Dallas	14	13	.519	2½	4-6	W-2	7-6	7-7	
San Antonio	10	16	.385	6	6-4	W-1	6-8	4-8	
Houston	9	18	.333	7½	8-2	W-1	7-6	2-12	
New Orleans	8	21	.276	9½	5-5	L-1	4-9	4-12	
NORTHWEST DIVISION									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Utah	19	7	.731	—	8-2	W-7	9-4	10-3	
Denver	14	13	.519	5½	5-5	W-2	8-4	6-9	
Minnesota	12	15	.444	7½	4-6	W-1	7-9	5-6	
Portland	11	16	.407	8½	2-8	L-5	10-5	1-11	
Oklahoma City	8	18	.308	11	2-8	L-2	4-9	4-9	
EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC DIVISION									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Brooklyn	19	8	.704	—	7-3	W-2	8-5	11-3	
Philadelphia	15	13	.536	4½	5-5	L-1	6-6	9-7	
Boston	14	14	.500	5½	4-6	W-1	7-4	7-10	
Toronto	13	14	.481	6	5-5	W-2	6-9	7-5	
New York	12	15	.444	7	3-7	L-3	5-9	7-6	
SOUTHEAST DIVISION									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Miami	16	12	.571	—	4-6	L-1	8-4	8-8	
Washington	15	13	.536	1	4-6	L-2	8-4	7-9	
Charlotte	15	14	.517	1½	4-6	L-1	8-4	7-10	
Atlanta	13	14	.481	2½	5-5	L-2	8-6	5-8	
Orlando	5	23	.179	11	1-9	L-5	2-8	3-15	
CENTRAL DIVISION									
	W	L	Pct	GB	L10	Str	Home	Away	
Chicago	17	10	.630	—	5-5	L-2	8-4	9-6	
Milwaukee	18	11	.621	—	7-3	L-1	9-4	9-7	
Cleveland	17	12	.586	1	8-2	W-4	8-7	9-5	
Indiana	12	17	.414	6	4-6	L-1	9-7	3-10	
Detroit	4	22	.154	12½	0-10	L-12	2-11	2-11	

Monday's results
Clippers 111, Phoenix 95
Toronto 124, Sacramento 101
Cleveland 105, Miami 94
Golden State 102, Indiana 100
Boston 117, Milwaukee 103
Houston 132, Atlanta 126
Memphis 126, Philadelphia 91
Dallas 120, Charlotte 96
Denver 113, Washington 107

Tuesday's games
Golden State at New York, 4:30 p.m.
Toronto at Brooklyn, 4:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Portland, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Chicago, p.p.d.

Wednesday's games
Atlanta at Orlando, 4 p.m.
Houston at Cleveland, 4 p.m.
Miami at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Lakers at Dallas, 4:30 p.m.
Indiana at Milwaukee, 5 p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 5 p.m.
Charlotte at San Antonio, 5:30 p.m.
Minnesota at Denver, 6 p.m.
Clippers at Utah, 7 p.m.
Memphis at Portland, 7 p.m.
Washington at Sacramento, 7 p.m.

HIGHLIGHTS

Curry closes in on record, Warriors win

By The Associated Press

Stephen Curry finished one 3-pointer shy of tying the NBA career record on Monday night, making five 3-pointers and scoring 26 points to help the Golden State Warriors rally late for a 102-100 win over the Indiana Pacers.

Curry is closing in on Ray Allen's record of 2,973. The chase resumes tonight on the NBA's grandest stage — Madison Square Garden — against the New York Knicks.

MAVERICKS 120, HORNETS 96 » Kristaps Porzingis had 24 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks, and Dallas hit a season-high 19 3-pointers as the Mavericks routed the Charlotte to sweep a back-to-back without All-Star guard Luka Doncic.

RAPTORS 124, KINGS 101 » Chris Boucher matched his season high with 17 points, Yuta Watanabe had a season-best 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Toronto used a 70-point first half to rout Sacramento.

CAVALIERS 105, HEAT 94

» Kevin Love made five 3-pointers and scored all 23 of his points in the second half, leading Cleveland to its fourth straight win.

CELTICS 117, BUCKS 103 » Jayson Tatum scored 16 of his 42 points in the fourth quarter and Boston beat Milwaukee.

ROCKETS 132, HAWKS 126 » Eric Gordon scored 32 points, D.J. Augustin added 22 and Houston rallied from 19 points down and handed Atlanta its fifth straight home loss.

GRIZZLIES 126, 76ERS 91 » Dillon Brooks scored 23 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 22 and Memphis shot better than 50% in a dominating win over Philadelphia.

BULLS' NEXT TWO GAMES POSTPONED DUE TO PROTOCOLS » The NBA postponed the Chicago Bulls' next two games, with 10 of the team's players in the league's health and safety protocols. The Bulls' next game is now scheduled for Sunday against the Lakers at home.

LAKERS

Horton-Tucker has confidence ahead of trade season

By Kyle Goon
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If LeBron James' passes are a vote of confidence, Talen Horton-Tucker has to be feeling good about himself.

Embedded in James' triple-double stat line against the Orlando Magic on Sunday night were 10 assists. Half of them went to Horton-Tucker, the Lakers' youngest player, on a variety of looks: catch-and-shoot 3-pointers, curls for layups, and a transition dunk. It showcased the breadth of what Horton-Tucker, 21, can do on the offensive end — and served as a sign that James is working to lift him up.

“Just trying to give me every bit of advice that I can get from him has been great,” Horton-Tucker said of James' influence. “So I feel like he's always been open to me, trying to help me get the ball, use him for screens and using him as a decoy also to try to get open. Just being able to have him there and be someone that's

UP NEXT

Wednesday: Lakers at Mavericks, 4:30 p.m., SpecSN

kinda in my back that's giving me that push is always gonna be good and I appreciate it.”

In his third NBA season, Horton-Tucker hasn't gotten off to a smooth start. Thumb surgery sidelined him for the first month of games. He returned to immediate fanfare in his first three games, but when James returned from an abdominal injury, the young wing was suddenly lost in the star-driven mix. In the next eight games, he shot under 30% from the field as he struggled to find a fit alongside James, Anthony Davis and Russell Westbrook.

The last four games have seen a slight pick-up for Horton-Tucker, who has averaged 13 points and 3.5 assists in the last week. It's important for the Lakers to get their young, freshly paid wing going — Horton-Tucker has arguably the most unsettled future

CLIPPERS

Morris, Clippers find way to cool off red-hot Suns

By Mirjam Swanson
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LOS ANGELES » Sure, the Phoenix Suns have won 20 of their past 22 games. But they're 2-2 in their past four — with recent losses to the Golden State Warriors and, on Monday, a 111-95 defeat against an ever-game Clippers contingent.

In their first meeting since Phoenix closed the Western Conference finals with a 130-103 victory over a drained Clippers team in June, coach Tyronn Lue's undermanned squad looked like the streaking squad, controlling the contest the whole way.

With impactful performances up and down the lineup, the starters and reserves both — none of them more consequential than Marcus Morris'.

Against his former team, the Clippers' Morris twin was aggressive, efficient and necessarily creative. He finished with a season-high 24 points. He pulled down 11 rebounds and shot 10 for 16, including draining turnaround 19-footer late in the shot clock, effectively a cherry on the victory as it put the Clippers (16-12) ahead 100-79 with 4:37 to play.

The Suns came in having won 20 of 21 games and two consecutive since Golden State interrupted their 18-game winning streak.



ASHLEY LANDIS — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clippers guard Reggie Jackson (1) controls the ball against Suns forward Mikal Bridges on Monday at Staples Center.

The Clippers, however, had a three-game winning spurt to their credit — and not having lost to the Suns in a regular-season home game since 2013.

On Monday, both teams were following the league-wide trend, making due as best they could without their full complement of players.

“Everybody's dealing with it, I saw Chicago had like nine guys the other night and teams are dealing,” Suns coach Monty Williams said. “This is the time of the year that you would typically see this atmosphere but then you add COVID to it and it's a bit more of an adjustment but we've just got to figure it out as we go along.”

On Monday before 17,909

fans at Staples Center, the Suns were forced to figure it out without Devin Booker (hamstring), Deandre Ayton (non-COVID illness) and Jalen Smith (non-COVID illness).

Their hosts weren't exactly in better shape; the Clippers were without Kawhi Leonard (ACL), Paul George (elbow) and Nicolas Batum (ankle).

And yet, the Clippers opened with perhaps their most encouraging half of the season in the win of the season so far.

That included inspired — and ultimately contagious — defense that held the Suns to just 44 points on 42.6% shooting (20 for 47), including just 3 for 14 from behind the arc. And the Clippers did

CLIPPERS

Ibaka is healthy, but playing time shrinking

By Mirjam Swanson
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LOS ANGELES » It's hard to predict who might be in and who will be out for any given game for the Clippers this season, with the injuries, injury recovery periods and Nicolas Batum's bout with COVID-19 that all have been thrown at coach Tyronn Lue's team.

But there appears to be one thing Clippers fans can just about bank on seeing: A steady diet of Ivica Zubac and Isaiah Hartenstein in the post.

And something they shouldn't expect as much, at least for the time being: Serge Ibaka sightings.

Lue hasn't had much insight to offer recently in response to questions about the 32-year-old center, who has been available but had not played in the Clippers' two games prior to Monday

night's matchup against the Phoenix Suns.

The game before that, Ibaka played only when Hartenstein — the 23-year-old German-American center who is having a breakout season off the bench in L.A., averaging 7.2 points on 65.3% shooting and 4.7 rebounds and 1.7 assists entering Monday — got in foul trouble in Portland.

“Yes, he's available,” Lue confirmed when asked about Ibaka before the Clippers' victory over Orlando on Saturday.

Did something happen to take him out of the rotation?

“No, ma'am.”

What have his conversations been like with the big man about his role?

“Keep that between us,” Lue said Monday. “But we've had conversations and that's all about all I can go into.”

Ibaka missed most of his first season with the Clippers because of an ail-

ing back and returned late in the regular season and played two playoff games but couldn't go any further. The veteran, floor-spacing big man underwent back surgery on June 10 — a procedure that kept him out of competition for the Clippers' first eight games this season.

“They had to clean up my disc because that's where the nerves come in and out,” explained Ibaka — who opted into the \$9.7 million second year of his contract with the Clippers this offseason — on media day in late September.

“That's it. I think it wasn't that bad, I just be dealing with the pain for so long for almost a year,” Ibaka said then. “That's the hard part ... I thought like if I just keep working, keep taking the baths, strengthening my core, I'm going to be fine, but it was not the case. I wish I could get surgery earlier, earlier during the season,

but hey, things happen. Now I'm going to focus on it for the next season.”

But after he played limited minutes — and was limited, production-wise — in his first two games back from the injury, he asked Lue if he could ramp up in the G League. The Clippers' coach liked the idea, so Ibaka checked in with the Agua Caliente Clippers for whom he averaged 15.5 points, 9.3 rebounds and 2.5 assists in 27.3 minutes in a four-game stint.

When Ibaka joined the big-league Clippers again, Lue experimented, plugging in Ibaka beside Hartenstein with the second unit for significant minutes in a couple of games and then starting him with Zubac in three games (those lineups both were plus-one in 48 and 22 minutes, respectively).

Since then, though, Ibaka had played only 7 minutes, 12 seconds.

THE SCORE

CLIPPERS 111, SUNS 95

Up next: Clippers at Jazz, Wednesday, 7 p.m., BSSC, ESPN

BOX SCORE

Phoenix	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts
Bridges	32:42	6-10	3-3	0-2	0	4	16
Crowder	24:39	3-7	0-0	2-3	1	4	6
McGee	25:09	5-13	3-4	6-13	1	3	13
Paul	33:18	4-14	1-2	0-2	8	3	9
Shamet	25:59	3-11	0-0	0-2	1	1	6
C.Johnson	34:11	5-11	4-4	1-6	1	3	17
Payne	28:35	5-15	2-2	0-4	4	0	12
Payton	17:58	2-8	1-2	2-3	5	1	6
Wainright	14:49	3-7	0-0	2-6	1	4	8
Hutchison	2:38	0-0	2-2	0-0	0	2	
Totals	240:00	36-96	16-19	13-41	22	23	95

Percentages: FG .375, FT .842; **3-Point Goals:** 7-29, .241 (C.Johnson 3-7, Wainright 2-5, Payton 1-2, Bridges 1-3, Crowder 0-2, McGee 0-2, Paul 0-2, Payne 0-3, Shamet 0-3); **Team rebounds:** 10; **Team turnovers:** 1; **Blocked shots:** 3 (Crowder, Payne, Payton); **Turnovers:** 10 (Payne 3, McGee 2, Paul 2, Payton 2, C.Johnson); **Steals:** 10 (C.Johnson 3, Paul 3, Bridges 2, Crowder, Shamet); **Technical fouls:** Paul, 3; 44 second.

Clippers	Min	FG	FT	Reb	A	PF	Pts
Mann	38:23	7-10	2-2	2-9	3	5	17
Morris Sr.	33:25	10-16	2-3	1-11	1	0	24
Zubac	24:34	4-7	0-0	4-5	1	5	8
Jackson	30:23	6-13	5-5	0-3	2	1	19
Kennard	34:24	5-9	3-3	0-9	4	2	16
Bledsoe	24:11	4-8	1-4	0-0	4	2	10
Hartenstein	23:01	5-7	2-2	1-5	7	5	12
Boston Jr.	16:13	0-4	0-2	0-3	1	0	0
Winslow	12:40	1-2	1-2	0-0	1	0	3
K.Johnson	12:45	1-2	0-0	0-0	0	0	2
Totals	240:00	43-78	16-23	8-45	24	20	111

Percentages: FG .551, FT .696; **3-Point Goals:** 9-21, .429 (Kennard 3-5, Jackson 2-4, Morris Sr. 2-4, Bledsoe 1-2, Mann 1-3, Boston Jr. 0-3); **Team rebounds:** 9; **Team turnovers:** 1; **Blocked shots:** 7 (Zubac 4, Hartenstein 2, Winslow); **Turnovers:** 16 (Bledsoe 4, Zubac 4, Kennard 3, Jackson 2, Hartenstein, Morris Sr., Winslow); **Steals:** 5 (Bledsoe 2, Zubac 2, Hartenstein); **Technical fouls:** None.

Phoenix	21	23	25	26	—	95
Clippers	27	29	23	32	—	111

A: 17,909 (18,997); T: 2:12.

it without fouling, limiting Phoenix to just two free throws (of which Chris Paul made one).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BUTCH DILL — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alabama quarterback Bryce Young (9) won the Heisman Trophy and led the Crimson Tide to the CFP semifinals.

Alabama puts three players on AP All-America first team

By The Associated Press

Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young and Alabama teammates Will Anderson Jr. and Jameson Williams have been selected All-Americans by The Associated Press, giving the top-ranked Crimson Tide more players on the first team than any other school.

The AP All-America team presented by Regions Bank, selected by a panel of Top 25 college football poll voters, was released Monday.

Young became the fourth Alabama player, and first Tide quarterback, to win the Heisman on Saturday night. Anderson, who leads the nation in sacks with 15.5, was fifth in the Heisman voting.

Alabama (12-1) will face No. 4 Cincinnati (13-0) in the College Football Playoff semifinals Dec. 31.

The Tide will bring five players who received AP All-American honors into their playoff game. Tackle Evan Neal made the second team and safety Jordan Battle was a third-team selection.

Cincinnati is represented on the first team by cornerback Ahmad Gardner, who was a second-team All-American last season. Fellow Bearcats cornerback Coby Bryant made the second team.

The other playoff semifinal on New Year's Eve, No. 2 Michigan (12-1) against No. 3 Georgia (12-1), will feature four more first-team All-Americans.

Defensive end Aidan Hutchinson, the Heisman runner-up, and kicker Jake Moody are All-Americans for the Wolverines. Georgia's top-ranked defense is represented by defensive tackle Jordan Davis and linebacker Nakobe Dean.

Michigan linebacker David Ojabo was chosen for the second team and running back Hassan Haskins was a third-team selection.

Georgia matched Alabama with five players across the three teams. Defensive tackle Devonte Wyatt and freshman tight end Brock Bowers made the second team and safety Lewis Cine was a third-team choice.

Pittsburgh quarterback Kenny Pickett made the second team and fellow Heisman finalist C.J. Stroud from Ohio State was the third-team QB.

ALL-AMERICA TEAM

The 2021 Associated Press All-America team presented by Regions Bank, selected by a panel of Top 25 poll voters.

FIRST TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback: Bryce Young, sophomore, Alabama.

Running backs: Kenneth Walker III, junior, Michigan State; Breece Hall, junior, Iowa State.

Tackles: Ikem Ekwonu, sophomore, North Carolina State; Darian Kinnard, senior, Kentucky.

Guards: Kenyon Green, junior, Texas A&M; Zion Johnson, senior, Boston College.

Center: Tyler Linderbaum, junior, Iowa.

Tight end: Trey McBride, senior, Colorado State.

Receivers: Jordan Addison, sophomore, Pittsburgh; David Bell, junior, Purdue; Jameson Williams, junior, Alabama.

All-purpose player: Deuce Vaughn, sophomore, Kansas State.

Kicker: Jake Moody, senior, Michigan.

DEFENSE

Edge rushers: Aidan Hutchinson, senior, Michigan; Kayvon Thibodeaux, junior, Oregon.

Linemen: Jordan Davis, senior, Georgia; DeMarvin Leal, junior, Texas A&M.

Linebackers: Will Anderson, Jr., sophomore, Alabama; Nakobe Dean, junior, Georgia; Devin Lloyd, junior, Utah.

Cornerbacks: Ahmad Gardner, junior, Cincinnati; Roger McCreary, senior, Auburn.

Safeties: Verone McKinley III, sophomore, Oregon; Jalen Pitre, senior, Baylor.

Defensive back: Marcus Jones, senior, Houston.

Punter: Matt Araiza, junior, San Diego State.

Iowa State running back Breece Hall is the only player to repeat as a first-team AP All-American this season.

Iowa center Tyler Linderbaum and Texas A&M guard Kenyon Green each were first-team selections this season after making the second team in 2020.

Kentucky tackle Darian Kinnard and Oregon edge rusher Kayvon Thibodeaux went from third-team in 2020 to first-team in 2021.

The AP added two players, one on each side of the ball, to the teams this year, the first change to the All-America structure since 2006. To reflect a game that features more passing than ever before — plus more schools playing major college football — the offenses now feature three receivers and the defenses include an extra defensive back.

With more receiver spots to fill, Ohio State became the first school to have three wideouts earn All-America honors in the

same season. Chris Olave and Garrett Wilson made the second team and Jaxon Smith-Njigba was a third-team pick.

Add in Alabama's Williams, an Ohio State transfer, and four receivers who played for the Buckeyes in 2020 made the AP All-America teams.

The Buckeyes led all schools, placing eight players on the three teams. Joining the three receivers and Stroud were offensive linemen Thayer Munford and Nichola Petit-Frere, defensive lineman Haskell Garrett and kicker Noah Ruggles, who all made the second team.

Virginia QB Armstrong says he's staying put

Virginia's new coach achieved the first big victory of his tenure on Monday when quarterback Brennan Armstrong said he's given no thought to transferring. Coach Tony Elliott met

SECOND TEAM

OFFENSE

Quarterback: Kenny Pickett, senior, Pittsburgh.

Running backs: Sean Tucker, freshman, Syracuse; Tyler Badie, senior, Missouri.

Tackles: Evan Neal, junior, Alabama; Nicholas Petit-Frere, junior, Ohio State.

Guards: Thayer Munford, senior, Ohio State; William Dunkle, junior, San Diego State.

Center: Alec Lindstrom, senior, Boston College.

Tight end: Brock Bowers, freshman, Georgia.

Receivers: Chris Olave, senior, Ohio State; Garrett Wilson, junior, Ohio State; Jerreth Sterns, junior, Western Kentucky.

All-purpose player: Jahmyr Gibbs, sophomore, Georgia Tech.

Kicker: Noah Ruggles, senior, Ohio State.

DEFENSE

Edge rushers: Jermaine Johnson, senior, Florida State; Cameron Thomas, junior, San Diego State.

Linemen: Devonte Wyatt, senior, Georgia; Haskell Garrett, senior, Ohio State.

Linebackers: Malcolm Rodriguez, senior, Oklahoma State; Leo Chenal, junior, Wisconsin; David Ojabo, junior, Michigan.

Cornerbacks: Coby Bryant, senior, Cincinnati; Ja'Quan McMillian, junior, East Carolina.

Safeties: Jaquan Brisker, senior, Penn State; Kyle Hamilton, junior, Notre Dame.

Defensive back: JoJo Domann, senior, Nebraska.

Punter: Adam Korsak, senior, Rutgers.

with the Cavaliers for the first time on Sunday night, and Armstrong — who threw for 4,444 yards in 11 games this season for an average of 404 per game, which ranks second nationally — said Monday after Elliott's introductory news conference that he's staying put.

"I think he's going to run a great program. I'm really excited to see it," said Armstrong, who has two years of eligibility remaining. "I'm not going to transfer. It's either here or the NFL."

Elliott spent the past seven seasons as the offensive coordinator at Clemson, a stint that included two national titles and the spectacular three-year career of quarterback Trevor Lawrence, who was the top pick in this spring's NFL draft.

At Virginia, Elliott takes over for Bronco Mendenhall, who surprisingly announced his resignation after the Cavaliers concluded a 6-6 regular season.

USC hiring Lincoln Riley, it was considered unlikely that Slovis would remain a Trojan, given that the dual-threat Dart is a better fit for Riley's offense than the pocket-passer Slovis.

But now Slovis will get to test out the transfer market, with two seasons of eligibility remaining.

He joins former USC players like defensive end Jake Lichtenstein, linebackers Juliano Falaniko and Raymond Scott and outside linebacker Hunter Echols in the transfer portal.

KINGS

Kings leave for challenging trip with confidence

By Andrew Knoll

Correspondent

With victories against competitive teams in three of their last four games and a sweep of a two-game homestand in their rearview mirror, the Kings tonight begin a four-game road trip during which they will face four of the Eastern Conference's top teams.

The Kings' three victories came against an Edmonton team that had jockeyed around the top three spots in the Pacific Division and boasted the NHL's two top scorers; a Dallas squad that had surged after a wobbly start; and conference-leading Minnesota, which had entered their matchup on an eight-game tear.

The Wild had defeated the Kings in their second game of the season, throwing their weight around and dominating in the greasy areas of the ice. Since then, the Kings had strung together a seven-game win streak but sandwiched it between skids of six and five games, respectively.

"I think that we're just a better hockey team than we were," said winger Brendan Lemieux, who scored the game-winning goal on Saturday before taunting the Minnesota bench. "We've come a long way. We've been able to string some wins together in bunches and now it's just a matter of finding some consistency and being able to win games with our 'B' game, win games tired and win games when the pucks aren't bouncing."

The Kings will face the two-time defending Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning today. They'll also play the Metropolitan Division-leading Washington Capitals, as well as the Carolina Hurricanes and Florida Panthers on the trip, four of the East's top five teams by point percentage. So do their recent big wins against formidable foes give the Kings a bit of swagger going into a tough trip?

"For us, any type of momentum is really good. We played probably two of the hottest teams in the league right now (that) had the

UP NEXT

Today: Kings at Lightning, 4:30 p.m., BSW

best winning streaks," Kings coach Todd McLellan said. "So, to head out on the road, it gives us a little bit of confidence, but it doesn't allow us to relax though."

The Kings will have to confront the challenges ahead without the services of defenseman Alex Edler, who was placed on injured reserve with a lower-body injury he sustained in the opening moments of the Minnesota game. McLellan described Edler's absence as "long-term."

Veteran defenseman Olli Maatta seems most likely to draw in for Edler. Defenseman Christian Wolanin, who was lost on waivers to the Buffalo Sabres earlier this season but then reclaimed on Dec. 1 after Buffalo also waived him, was recalled from the Kings' top minor-league affiliate to provide defensive depth.

Tampa Bay won the Stanley Cup in the bubble in 2020 and then again after last year's truncated regular season. This season, the Lightning have remained in contention despite playing in a ruthlessly competitive division and conference, as well as persevering through injuries to key players.

Right wing Nikita Kucherov, a former scoring champion and MVP, and clutch-performing center Brayden Point have both missed significant time with injuries. Center Anthony Cirelli has joined them in the press box recently.

Center Steven Stamkos, Tampa's captain, leads the Lightning with 32 points in 26 games. He and defenseman Victor Hedman have been the foundation of a fruitful era in Tampa.

Hedman, a former Norris Trophy winner, has stepped up his offensive game with 27 points in as many games, and winger Alex Killorn is having a career-best campaign at age 32. Goalie Andrei Vasilevski has led the NHL in wins for four straight seasons and is tied for second this season.

NHL HIGHLIGHTS

Flames have COVID-19 outbreak

By The Associated Press

The NHL has postponed the Calgary Flames' next three games after six players and a staff member entered the league's COVID-19 protocol over a 24-hour period.

The Flames announced Monday that forwards Elias Lindholm, Andrew Mangiapane, Brad Richardson and Adam Ruzicka and defensemen Chris Tanev and Nikita Zadorov were in the protocol.

Postponed games include Monday night's game at Chicago, Tuesday's game at Nashville and Thursday's home game against Toronto.

Later Monday, the Carolina Hurricanes announced star center Sebastian Aho, rookie center Seth Jarvis and a member of the training staff have entered the COVID-19 protocol.

The team said all three would remain in Vancouver. The Hurricanes lost there 2-1 on Sunday, with Aho missing the game with what the team originally said was an illness. Carolina played at Calgary on Thursday, winning 2-1 in overtime.

The league said in a news release that the Flames games were postponed due to concern with continued spread and the likelihood of additional positive cases. The Flames' training facilities were also closed.

Calgary is the third NHL team this season to have games postponed due to a COVID-19 outbreak.

NHL standings

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
PACIFIC DIVISION										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Ducks	30	16	9	5	37	94	82			
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62			
Edmonton	26	16	10	0	32	90	80			
Vegas	27	16	11	0	32	95	85			
San Jose	28	15	12	1	31	75	77			
Kings	26	12	10	4	28	70	68			
Vancouver	29	12	15	2	26	72	85			
Seattle	27	9	15	3	21	77	98			
CENTRAL DIVISION										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Minnesota	28	19	8	1	39	106	82			
Nashville	28	17	10	1	35	81	75			
St. Louis	28	15	8	5	35	96	79			
Colorado	25	16	7	2	34	109	84			
Winnipeg	27	13	9	5	31	82	76			
Dallas	25	13	10	2	28	69	70			
Chicago	27	10	15	2	22	62	86			
Arizona	27	5	20	2	12	48	101			

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC DIVISION										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Florida	27	18	5	4	40	101	75			
Toronto	29	19	8	2	40	93	75			
Tampa Bay	27	17	6	4	38	89	74			
Boston	24	14	8	2	30	69	62			
Detroit	28	13	12	3	29	78	96			
Buffalo	27	8	15	4	20	73	97			
Ottawa	25	8	16	1	17	67	93			
Montreal	29	6	20	3	15	62	102			
METROPOLITAN DIVISION										
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA			
Washington	28	17	5	6	40	97	71			
Carolina	27	19	7	1	39	85	58			
N.Y. Rangers	27	18	6	3	39	79	68			
Pittsburgh	27	14	8	5	33	80	70			
Columbus	26	14	11	1	29	86	76			
New Jersey	26	10	11	5	25	74	86			
Philadelphia	26	10	12	4	24	65	88			
N.Y. Islanders	23	7	11	5	19	50	70			

Monday's result
Calgary at Chicago, ppd.

Today's games
Kings at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Montreal at Pittsburgh, 4 p.m.
New Jersey at Philadelphia, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at Florida, 4 p.m.
Vegas at Boston, 4 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Detroit, 4:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Carolina at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
St. Louis at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Columbus at Vancouver, 7 p.m.
Seattle at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday's games
Washington at Chicago, 5 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Arizona, 6 p.m.
Seattle at Ducks, 7 p.m.

Thursday's games
Detroit at Carolina, 4 p.m.
Kings at Florida, 4 p.m.
Ottawa at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Philadelphia at Montreal, 4 p.m.
Vegas at New Jersey, 4 p.m.
Boston at N.Y. Islanders, 4:30 p.m.
Buffalo at Minnesota, 5 p.m.
Colorado at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Columbus at Edmonton, 6 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 6 p.m.
Vancouver at San Jose, 7:30 p.m.

USC

FROM PAGE 1

in the Rose Bowl. But Slovis finished with a 67% completion rate and a 17-7 touch-down-to-interception ratio. Still, he was named to the 2020 All-Pac-12 first team.

Slovis entered 2021 hoping to shake off those issues and establish himself as a high-end NFL draft pick. He spoke in the preseason about how his confidence was restored and that his

arm felt strong and ready for the season.

But Slovis again struggled, with three of the four NFL receivers from his freshman year off to the pros along with the two NFL linemen from 2019, too. Slovis' completion percentage dropped to a career low of 65%, and he threw 11 touchdowns to eight interceptions.

A neck injury in Week 2 against Washington State opened the door for freshman Jaxon Dart, who led USC to a comeback win over

the Cougars. Once Dart recovered from meniscus surgery, he and Slovis began splitting time at quarterback, with Dart being trusted in the fourth quarter with USC holding onto a one-possession lead against Arizona.

A lower leg injury shut down Slovis' season, causing him to miss the final three games.

There was reason to speculate on whether Slovis would follow his original intention to turn pro after this season or transfer. With

NFL



Rams wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (3) celebrates his touchdown catch as Cardinals cornerback Marco Wilson reacts.

Rams

FROM PAGE 1

to an NFC West division title. “This was the sign of a mentally tough team,” said Rams coach Sean McVay, who had to juggle lineups and game plans between Friday and Monday. “I’m really proud of these guys.”

The win by the Rams (9-4) — their most notable victory since a September home win against Tampa Bay — cut Arizona’s (10-3) lead to one game and gave them a chance at the division title with four games left in the regular season, while also solidifying their position at the top of the conference wildcard race.

Stafford passed for 287 yards and three touchdowns, without an interception. Kupp caught a career-high 13 of Stafford’s 23 completions for 123 yards and a touchdown. Arizona’s Kyler Murray was intercepted twice, sacked a season-worst four times and held without a scoring pass.

Stafford said it was tough hearing Monday morning that the Rams would be without two more of their best players as All-Pro cornerback Jalen Ramsey and starting tight end Tyler Higbee went on the COVID-19 reserve list.

“Sometimes when your back’s against the wall, you’ve got less guys than you thought you were going to have going into a game, it brings us together a little bit,” Stafford said.

Tied at halftime, in danger of wearing down as the undermanned team, the Rams instead came out and got touchdown passes from Stafford on their first two series of the third quarter, helped by the defense’s second take-away of the night.

A 52-yard strike to Van Jefferson at the goal line came one play after the Rams benefited from an unnecessary-roughness penalty following a catch by Kupp.

After Floyd continued an inspired performance by intercepting a Murray pass, the Rams took over at the Cardinals’ 19-yard line and went up, 27-13, when Kupp went down and caught a 4-yard pass inside the right end-zone pylon.

The Cardinals got one back on James Conner’s second touchdown run.

But Matt Gay’s third field goal of the night, and 18th consecutive successful field-goal attempt, made it a two-score game again with 7:20 left.

Defensively the Rams held Murray to a 72.1 passer rating, and cornerbacks Darius Williams and David Long hung in there against a mega-gifted receiving group. DeAndre Hopkins, a rival of Jalen Ramsey’s for so long, caught only five passes for 54 yards in his absence.

Stafford, protected well, put so much oomph into one pass that he looked like an Olympian

SUMMARY

Rams	0	13	14	3	—	30
Arizona	3	10	0	10	—	23

First quarter

Ari — FG Prater 53, 10:58.

Second quarter

LAR — Beckham 2 pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 12:53.

LAR — FG Gay 55, 7:23.

Ari — Conner 1 run (Prater kick), 3:18.

LAR — FG Gay 35, :35.

Ari — FG Prater 53, :00.

Third quarter

LAR — Jefferson 52 pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 13:36.

LAR — Kupp 4 pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 9:45.

Fourth quarter

Ari — Conner 8 run (Prater kick), 13:38.

LAR — FG Gay 33, 7:20.

Ari — FG Prater 49, :37.

	LAR	Ari
First downs	18	22
Total net yards	356	447
Rushes-yards	21-89	22-103
Passing yards	267	344
Punt returns-yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff returns-yards	1-27	0-0
Int-return yards	2-42	0-0
Comp-att-int	23-30-0	32-49-2
Sacked-yards lost	3-20	4-39
Punts-average	3-40.0	1-52.0
Fumbles-lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	5-40	7-54
Time of possession	29:04	30:56

INDIVIDUAL STATS

Rushing — Rams, Michel 20-79, Jefferson 1-10, Arizona, K.Murray 7-61, Conner 13-31, Moore 2-11.

Passing — Rams, Stafford 23-30-0-287, Arizona, K.Murray 32-49-2-383.

Receiving — Rams, Kupp 13-123, Beckham 6-77, Jefferson 2-58, Blanton 2-29, Arizona, Conner 9-94, Green 7-102, Hopkins 5-54, Ertz 5-42, Kirk 3-86, Moore 3-5.

Missed field goals — None.

As the season has progressed, the Rams have been confronted more and more by injuries, none bigger than wide receiver Robert Woods’ season-ending knee injury.

But they had been unscathed by COVID-19 going into this week. Then, Friday, Rams leading rusher Darrell Henderson went on the list for players who test positive or have close contact with someone who did. And Saturday, right tackle Rob Havenstein and cornerback Dont’e Deayon were placed on the list.

The body blow came Monday afternoon when the Rams announced that Ramsey and Higbee were going on the COVID-19 list too.

Asked what his reaction to the Ramsey and Higbee news was, McVay said: “My initial reaction was, ‘You gotta be s-----g me.’”

That left the Rams without four starters because of coronavirus protocols, in addition to injured starting center Brian Allen.

Tight end Kendall Blanton, tackle Bobby Evans, and defensive backs David Long and Kareem Orr were among the Rams stepping into bigger roles.

If the team’s confidence was frayed, they began to stitch it together as the first half proceeded.

The Cardinals, seeking to repeat their 37-20 victory at SoFi Stadium in October, had scored first on a nine-play drive to a field goal. The Rams went three and out on their first series, and they were about to fall behind 10-0 when Arizona made another sustained drive inside their 10. Murray targeted tight end Zach Ertz in the end zone.

But Donald got a hand on the pass, and linebacker Ernest Jones intercepted it near the goal line.

From the sideline, it felt like a moment of magic to Stafford, who had been talk-

ing with Rams offensive coordinator Kevin O’Connell about what the offense would do if the Cardinals scored.

“Not three seconds before that play happened,” Stafford said, “I’m (talking) about, ‘All right, let’s answer back after this,’ and he goes, ‘Well, you don’t know. (Murray) could throw one in there, it could be tipped and picked,’ and as he’s finishing the sentence, the damn thing happened.”

After Jones’ 31-yard return, the Rams went 68 yards to go in front for the first time on a 2-yard pass from Stafford to Odell Beckham Jr., giving the wide receiver touchdowns in three consecutive games.

The kickers were trading long field goals, Gay producing a season-best 55-yarder and later 35-yarder.

The Rams’ defense was doing better against Murray this time around. Donald recorded two of his sacks in the first half, giving him three in the past three quarters after he got to Trevor Lawrence in the fourth quarter of the Rams’ victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars. The make-shift secondary was holding the league’s completion-percentage leader below his norm.

Murray did pull out a signature play by running for 16 yards and stepping out of bounds at the Rams’ 36 with one second left before halftime, allowing Matt Prater to kick a 53-yard field goal and make it 13-13.

The Rams got a scare at the end of the second half too when Prater kicked his third field goal with 37 seconds left, and the Cardinals recovered an on-side kick.

But Donald, who had started the game with a sack, ended it with his season-high third sack of the game with Arizona at its own 42-yard line.

“He stepped up,” Floyd said, “like a lot of (Rams) players.”

RAMS NOTES

Ramsey, Higbee hit COVID-19 list before game

By Kevin Modesti
kmodesti@scng.com
@kevinmodesti on Twitter

GLENDAL, ARIZ. » Rams cornerback Jalen Ramsey and tight end Tyler Higbee were placed on the COVID-19 reserve list Monday afternoon as the team continued to be hit hard by the virus before its game against the Arizona Cardinals.

Running back Darrell Henderson was put on the list Saturday, and right tackle Rob Havenstein and cornerback Dont’e Deayon were placed on it Sunday.

Ramsey, Higbee, Henderson and Havenstein are the first Rams starters to go on the COVID-19 list since the start of the regular season.

All of them missed the 8-4 Rams’ game against the 10-2 Cardinals on Monday night.

The COVID-19 reserve list, instituted as part of the NFL’s coronavirus protocols, is for players who test positive for the virus or are found to have had close contact with someone who did.

Trying to fill holes, the Rams announced Monday they activated from the practice squad running back Javian Hawkins, tight end Jared Pinkney and defensive backs Grant Haley and Kareem Orr, as well as wide receiver and kickoff returner Brandon Powell, all designated as replacements for players sidelined by COVID-19 protocols.

The Rams activated linebacker Justin Hollins from injured reserve.

In another move, the team elevated guard Jeremiah Kolone from the practice squad.

The loss of Ramsey, generally considered the NFL’s best cornerback, further thinned out a secondary that also lost Robert Rochell to an injury in the past week.

Without Higbee, the Rams were left with Kendall Blanton and Brycen Hopkins, as well as Pinkey, available to play tight end.

Where they stand

The Rams went into Monday night’s game two games behind the Cardinals in the NFC West title race, but feeling secure about their position as far as making the playoffs is concerned.

They remain the No. 1 wild card and No. 5 seed overall with four games to play, ahead of the 7-6 49ers and 6-7 Washington, with the 6-7 Vikings, Eagles, Falcons and Saints currently outside of playoff position based on tie-

breakers.

Next game

The Rams host the Seattle Seahawks at SoFi Stadium on Sunday at 1:25 p.m., trying to sweep the teams’ regular-season series for the second time in the six years since the Rams returned to Los Angeles.

They won both games in 2018 and split the two in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2020, before beating the Seahawks in a first-round playoff game last season.

This year, the Rams won at Lumen Field 26-17 in Week 5.

The Seahawks (5-8) are one of the NFL’s most disappointing teams but are on their first winning streak of the season after beating the 49ers 30-23 and the Texans in Houston 33-13.

Unclear futures

The past few weeks have brought an increase in the number of Rams in important roles who can become free agents after this season.

Wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr., signed as a free agent in November, and outside linebacker Von Miller, acquired in a trade earlier that month, both are coming to the end of their contracts.

Running back Sony Michel, playing a stepped-up role with Henderson out, also can be an unrestricted free agent. Center Coleman Shelton, who has been playing in place of injured Brian Allen, can be a restricted free agent.

Other potential 2022 free agents on the Rams’ offense include right guard Austin Corbett, tackle-guard Joe Noteboom, tight end Johnny Mundt and backup quarterback John Wolford.

Others on defense include cornerbacks Darious Williams and Deayon, and linebackers Troy Reeder and Ogbornia Okoronkwo.

Kicker Matt Gay, leading the league in field-goal percentage going into Monday’s game, can be a restricted free agent.

The subject must be on players’ minds, but it’s not something they’re talking about publicly with a month to go in the regular season.

Noteboom, who has been groomed as an eventual successor to Andrew Whitworth at left tackle and can also play guard, was asked in November if he has thought about next year.

“I try to stay in the moment with all that stuff,” Noteboom said.

Whicker

FROM PAGE 1

late scheduling whirlwind that features Baltimore, Minnesota, San Francisco and Seattle. The defense couldn’t restrain Kyler Murray for four quarters, but it kept batting down his passes and intercepted two, which the Rams turned into touchdowns.

Aaron Donald was monumental, from his sack on the first play until the end of the fourth quarter, when he stood above a fallen Murray. The Cards had recovered an onside kick and Murray made a dash that was called back by Sean Harlow’s holding penalty — on Donald.

Donald also tipped the pass that Leonard Floyd intercepted as Murray was trying to put the Cardinals up, 10-0.

“You’re hot,” Floyd told Donald. “Keep staying hot.”

“I’ve seen it from afar, and I’ve seen it up close and personal,” Matthew Stafford said with a grin. “Great players do that kind of thing. I was standing on the sideline and (offensive coordinator) Kevin O’Connell said, well, you never know. He (Murray) might try to fit one in there, and we might pick it. And, holy (mackerel), that’s what hap-



Rams outside linebacker Leonard Floyd (54) celebrates his interception against the Cardinals on Monday in the second half in Glendale, Ariz.

pened.”

Defensively the Rams held Murray to a 72.1 passer rating, and cornerbacks Darius Williams and David Long hung in there against a mega-gifted receiving group. DeAndre Hopkins, a rival of Jalen Ramsey’s for so long, caught only five passes for 54 yards in his absence.

Stafford, protected well, put so much oomph into one pass that he looked like an Olympian

javelin man, and Van Jefferson turned it into a 52-yard touchdown. On the next door he got hit by Chandler Jones and the ball squirted away to his right, and as 21 other guys looked up and down and around for it, Stafford sprinted to cover it.

“I was screaming while I was running,” he said.

That meant he could connect with Cooper Kupp for a 27-13 lead.

“I thought the leadership of

this team really came through,” coach Sean McVay said.

But it was difficult to take all the drives and kicks and penalties seriously, in the face of a problem that is bearing down on two years without a solution, let alone a face.

On Monday, 37 NFL players were reported to test positive. The Rams lost Ramsey and Tyler Higbee and were already missing Darrell Henderson and Rob Havenstein. That’s four prominent starters.

The Detroit Lions went to Denver on Sunday and lost 38-10. They were missing six players who had tested positive and were forced to go back to virtual meetings.

The Calgary Flames of the NHL had their Monday game with Chicago postponed, thanks to variants inside their locker room. Ten of the NBA’s Chicago Bulls have tested positive during the past 13 days, and two of their games have been pushed back.

The Bulls were double-vaccinated and received boosters, and their symptoms have been negligible. Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers caught a stronger version of the variant and said he wasn’t sure he would survive.

The NFL is expected to make the booster shot mandatory by

Dec. 27. But as all the sports begin to take full houses and crowded beer lines and cheek-by-unmasked-jowl seating for granted, their seasons are being jeopardized again.

It would not be surprising if an alpha quarterback like Tom Brady demanded that his Tampa Bay Buccaneers go into lockdown during the run to the postseason concludes. It also wouldn’t surprise anyone if the NHL got disrupted by cross-border concerns, or if the college basketball season went haywire again. Washington already has punted games with Gonzaga and UCLA.

One assumes the NCAA is looking for contingencies for its tournament, which was entirely confined to Indianapolis last year. The Los Angeles area has the hotels and the arenas to play host, if it comes to that.

Unfortunately, pandemic fatigue has given way to pandemic denial through much of the country. The NFL plowed through it all in 2021 as if it was trying to show that football and the virus were co-existing facts of our lives. That theory is becoming gospel.

The Rams showed they know the rules. The show, accompanied by the casting calls, goes on.

NFL

NOTES

Meyer's turbulent tenure with Jags hits new low

By The Associated Press

Urban Meyer's tenure in Jacksonville is nearing a new low, and no one could have thought that was possible 2 ½ months ago.

The Jaguars (2-11) were shut out for the first time in more than a dozen years Sunday, a 20-0 drubbing at Tennessee that showed just how far the team's offense has regressed in the past seven weeks.

Although it's unlikely billionaire owner Shad Khan would fire Meyer after one season — Khan despises the notion of paying people to not work and has been adamant he finally “got it right” by hiring Meyer — he has to, at the very least, have growing concerns about his latest debacle in Jacksonville.

The Jaguars have failed to top 200 total yards in three games, including in back-to-back weeks, and now have two five-game skids. Neither had happened in the team's previous 26 years.

They have the league's longest current losing streak to go along with a 15-game road skid and eight consecutive losses in AFC South play.

The only thing that's improved since Meyer took over



KYUSUNG GONG — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jaguars head coach Urban Meyer, in his first year in the NFL, watched Jacksonville get shut out for the first time in more than a dozen years on Sunday.

in January is the team's defense, and Meyer has mostly left that side of the ball to longtime NFL assistant and first-time coordinator Joe Cullen.

Meyer's first year with the Jaguars will be remembered for public embarrassments and weekly confusion about what's happening in games and seemingly inside the locker room.

Khan and Meyer had a one-on-one meeting in Nash-

ville for roughly 15 minutes following the latest loss, the team's 32nd in its past 37 games.

“Our focus is to finish the season strong and to make whatever adjustments we have to make to get this thing cooking,” Meyer said.

FORMER JETS PLAYER SENTENCED TO 3 YEARS IN COVID SCAM » Former NFL player Josh Bellamy has been sentenced to three years and one month in federal prison

for fraudulently obtaining over \$1.2 million in COVID-19 relief funds.

Bellamy, 32, of St. Petersburg, Florida, was sentenced Friday in Tampa federal court, according to court records. He pleaded guilty in June to conspiracy to commit wire fraud. Besides serving prison time, Bellamy must also pay restitution.

Bellamy most recently played for the New York Jets,

who released him from the reserve/physically unable to play list in Sept. 2020, just days before his arrest.

RAVENS HOPE JACKSON IS A QUICK HEALER » This was the absence Baltimore could least afford. The Ravens are hopeful it won't linger.

Lamar Jackson missed most of Sunday's loss at Cleveland after spraining his ankle, but a day later, coach John Harbaugh said the star quarterback did not have a high ankle sprain. Harbaugh said he's planning for Jackson to play this week, but it's too early to tell for sure.

“We'll see where it goes this week,” Harbaugh said. “If he can go, he'll go. If not, Tyler (Huntley) will be the quarterback.”

Huntley threw for 270 yards and a touchdown and showed some impressive scrambling ability, but it wasn't enough as the Ravens fell 24-22 to the Browns. It was Baltimore's second consecutive loss, but the Ravens (8-5) remained in sole possession of first place in the AFC North.

BRONCOS MAKING A SURPRISING POSTSEASON PUSH » What usually drives the Denver Broncos this time of

year is seeing what's under the Christmas tree and envisioning what sunny locale they'll be jetting off to come January.

Not now.

The Broncos (7-6) thrust themselves into the thick of the AFC playoff scramble with a 38-10 blowout of the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

The postseason hasn't been a possibility for the Broncos in mid-December since 2015 when Peyton Manning was hollering “Omaha! Omaha!” at the line of scrimmage instead of bantering with baby brother Eli from the broadcast booth on “Monday Night Football.”

“This is the first time we've been in this position this late in the season where we have everything right in front of us,” fourth-year linebacker Bradley Chubb said Monday. “So, it feels different, guys coming in at 10 o'clock, the first lift option we've got, trying to get it in, watching the film.

“Everybody's locked in, man. It's been fun to see.”

The Broncos haven't had a winning record in December since 2016, when they finished 9-7 and missed the playoffs.

ANALYSIS



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH — THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two Seahawks break up a pass intended for Houston's Brandin Cooks (13) during the Texans' 33-13 loss Sunday.

Bad teams getting blown out is a common theme in NFL

By Rob Maaddi
The Associated Press

TAMPA, FLA. » Josh Allen wouldn't let Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers cruise to a lopsided victory after the Buffalo Bills fell behind by 21 points at halftime.

Allen led an impressive comeback with his arm and legs to force overtime before Brady connected with Breshad Perriman for a 58-yard catch-and-run touchdown to win it.

Several other teams didn't show Buffalo's fight on Sunday. Most had less at stake.

Seven games were decided by 15 or more points, including five by at least 20.

Considering the teams on the losing end, it wasn't a surprise.

The Lions (1-11-1), Jaguars (2-11), Texans (2-11), Jets (3-10) and Giants (4-9) were outscored 158-53. They'll spend the final four weeks fighting for draft positioning, and on the wrong side of more routs.

“It's going to flip,” Jets coach Robert Saleh promised after a 30-9 loss to New Orleans. “This crappy part is part of the process,

but at the same time it's not discouraging by any sense of the imagination because we've got a lot of young guys getting a lot of good playing time. And I promise you they're learning from all this.”

Jets fans can't be blamed for being skeptical. New York will miss the playoffs for the 11th straight year and has had only one winning season in that span.

Coming off its first win of the season, Detroit stayed close for a half in Denver. The Broncos then pulled away for a 38-10 win.

“It just wasn't good enough,” Lions coach Dan Campbell said.

They've been saying the same thing for decades in Detroit. The Lions haven't won a playoff game since 1992.

The dysfunctional Jaguars lost 20-0 at Tennessee following a report that rookie coach Urban Meyer and his staff aren't getting along. Jacksonville has just one winning season in the last 14 years yet has suffered more embarrassment under Meyer in only 13 games.

“It hasn't exactly materialized the way I ex-

pected it to have, the experience of winning games,” said Meyer, a three-time national champion at Florida and Ohio State who has learned it's not easy to win in the NFL.

The Texans fell to the Seahawks 33-13, their 23rd loss in 29 games. They couldn't win with Deshaun Watson last year. They can't win with him getting paid to sit out games this season.

Houston visits Jacksonville next week. The winner may be the real loser for dropping a spot in the draft order.

The Giants are one loss away from securing their fifth straight losing season and eighth in nine years after a 37-21 loss to the Chargers. The biggest question in New York will be coach Joe Judge's job security after only two seasons.

“I am the head coach and everything in this program reflects on me,” Judge said. “I will never shy away from that. I do not make any excuses and I do not hide from that either. I am not a finger pointer. I am not an excuse maker and I am never trying to deflect anything. In terms of the direc-

tion the program is going, there is a lot of things that I see week after week with our players and where we are going that I am encouraging all the way.

“Sometimes that is tough to see externally, but these are the key foundational pieces that are being put in place and we are making lots of progress going forward.”

Others may need a microscope to see the progress Judge is talking about.

The worst loss of the day belonged to Las Vegas. The Chiefs routed the Raiders for the second time in five games. Kansas City won this one 48-9. The Raiders (6-7) are clinging to playoff hopes, but they've lost five of six and aren't going anywhere.

“I try my best to stay positive, but it sucks,” Las Vegas quarterback Derek Carr said.

He could've been speaking on behalf of many players on the bad teams that were blown out.

AP pro football writers Dennis Waszak and Mark Long contributed to this report.

Chargers

FROM PAGE 1

“It's just a part of life,” Staley said about the COVID-19 spikes across the NFL. “It's just part of the world that we're living in. You just make your adjustments when things happen and you keep it moving.”

“I know that we're doing our best within our ecosystem to make sure that our ecosystem here at the building is safe and that we follow the protocols the best that we can and that we know how.”

Chargers get rest, recovery for Thursday

The Chargers created an ideal situation heading into a short week by jumping to a 30-point lead during the fourth quarter of Sunday's win at SoFi Stadium.

Staley pulled most of his starters at that point to begin the rest and recovery plan that the team implemented to deal with the drawbacks that come from playing in a Thursday game.

The Chargers will play their first Thursday home game since 2016 and will get to face the Chiefs without having to travel the prior game.

“Luckily, this game (versus the Giants), I think a lot of us came out feeling pretty good,” Bosa said. “It's definitely the best I've felt, probably, going into a Thursday game I can remember.”

Staley had his players go through a recovery room that had five stations, including ice tubs and massages, following the win against the Giants.

“We wanted to start that recovery process right now,” Staley said Sunday. “We did not want to wait until Monday. We have a bunch of people in there working right now. That's a big part of it, making sure that they take advantage of all the resources that we pour into them so that they can be at their best on Thursday night.”

Bosa isn't a fan of Thurs-

day games, but he commended the recovery plans that Staley and his staff incorporated for this season.

“I've never really enjoyed having to play on Thursday,” Bosa said. “Usually, by Thursday, I'm barely starting to feel a little bit better going into the weekend. It's kind of tough, but the team has been doing a great job. They really put an emphasis on recovery after the game. We were all back there doing the ice tub and getting some massages, flushes and all of that. We're doing our best to get ready for it.”

Staley, who was hired as the team's head coach in January, has taken a cautious approach for players' safety when it comes to injuries. He has also added detailed pre-practice activities for warm-ups.

Bosa said he wasn't happy at the time with Staley's decision to sideline him for the final three quarters against the Cincinnati Bengals in Week 13 after being evaluated for a concussion and cleared to return to the game. But Bosa, who sustained two concussions last season, appreciated Staley for prioritizing his long-term health.

“It's definitely easy to get caught up in the emotions in the moment and I definitely wanted to go back out there, but I'm trying to think long term for myself and definitely for the team as well,” Bosa said. “Because if I take a few more bad shots, then it's something I'm gonna have to consider, probably retiring. But that's not something I'm really thinking about. Luckily, I made the right decision and so did Coach Staley, so I had plenty of time to recover.”

Update on James

Staley said safety Derwin James reported Monday that his hamstring injury is improving.

James didn't play in the win against the Giants because he felt tightness in his hamstring after Friday's practice.

“Derwin reported better today than he was yesterday,” Staley said. “He's day-to-day.”



KEITH BIRMINGHAM — STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Chargers' Joey Bosa isn't a fan of Thursday games but likes what the coaching staff has done to help players recover.

SOCCKER

Morgan heads home to California with NWSL's Wave

By Anne M. Peterson
The Associated Press

After nearly a decade of crisscrossing the country and the globe for her professional career, Alex Morgan is headed home to Southern California.

Morgan is joining the San Diego Wave, which will begin play in the National Women's Soccer League next season.

"I think something I'm really excited about is that I've made a long-term commitment to this club," she told The Associated Press. "I see myself being in San Diego through my playing career. I see my family settling down in San Diego."

The addition of the Wave and Angel City FC in Los Angeles will bring the league to 12 teams in its 10th season. Former Manchester United coach Casey Stoney will lead San Diego in its inaugural year.

Morgan was one of the NWSL's original players when the league launched in 2013. She spent three seasons with the Portland Thorns before joining the expansion Orlando Pride. She also had stints in Europe with Lyon and Tot-

tenham Hotspur — and she took time off for the birth of her daughter, Charlie.

Morgan, who is from San Dimas, California, feels a bit bittersweet about leaving the Pride, which failed to make the playoffs this season for the third straight time.

"I really did love my time in Orlando, it was six years, give or take, with pregnancy and a couple of other hurdles, world championships and things like that. But it was an incredible run and I just wish that we could have made more of an impact on the field," she said. "I wish I could have left with more of a grin on my face knowing that we had to accomplished what we set our minds to in Year 1."

The trade sending Morgan to San Diego reunites her with former national team coach Jill Ellis, who is president of the Wave.

"This is an incredibly special moment for our club, our fans, and our community to welcome Alex and her family to San Diego. She is an extraordinary person, a great talent and a leader on and off the field," Ellis said.

Ellis led the United States to back-to-back World Cup



DEAN MOUHTAROPOULOS — GETTY IMAGES

Alex Morgan is joining the San Diego Wave, which will begin play in the National Women's Soccer League in 2022.

titles in 2015 and 2019. Morgan was fixture on both teams.

The terms of the deal were undisclosed. The NWSL trade window does not open until Friday, the day after the league's expansion draft.

"The Pride are extremely appreciative of the professionalism and commitment that Alex has shown to the Club over the last six seasons, and respect her desire to play closer to family at this point in her career," the Pride said in a statement.

The United States went on to win the title with a 2-0 victory over the Netherlands.

She has 115 career goals in 190 matches for the United States.

In an interview ahead of San Diego's announcement, Morgan addressed the future of the league, which was thrown into turmoil this season.

Former players Sinead Farrelly and Mana Shim came forward with allegations of sexual harassment and coercion against long-time league coach Paul Riley.

The fallout was dramatic. Riley was immediately fired by the North Carolina Courage, NWSL Commissioner Lisa Baird stepped down, and both the league and U.S. Soccer commissioned outside investigations.

Riley was one of five coaches in the NWSL who were dismissed this season amid reports of misconduct. Richie Burke, coach of the Washington Spirit, was fired for violating the league's harassment policy after former player Kaiya McCullough leveled allegations of abusive behavior.

OL Reign coach Farid

Benstiti was dismissed over the summer after an incident at practice, Racing Louisville's Christy Holly was terminated for cause and Chicago Red Stars coach Rory Dames stepped down last month just as allegations of inappropriate behavior came out.

Morgan said the NWSL needs to be held accountable for allowing misconduct to go unchecked.

"I think there were just a lot of steps missed, a lot of corners cut and you have to look back and go, 'We can't do that moving forward. We can't cut corners.' And so that's what I feel like the league needs to address moving forward, it needs to look itself in the eye and really ask for the players' trust by showing that they can do it the right way," Morgan said.

Morgan said a good start would be reaching a collective bargaining agreement with the NWSL Players' Association. In addition to player wages, safety and health, among the issues she would like to see tackled are the NWSL's long offseason and international breaks so teams aren't depleted during national team absences.

SPORTSWIRE

U.S. Soccer, women's team players extend labor deal

News service reports

The U.S. Soccer Federation and the union for its women's national team agreed to a three-month extension of their labor contract through March, a move announced on the same day players filed a brief asking a federal appeals court to reinstate their equal pay claim.

As part of the extension, the sides agreed the federation will stop paying the salaries of national team players in the National Women's Soccer League. The allocation system of national team players had been in place since the league started play in 2013.

"USWNT players will have no restrictions as to the league in which they play club soccer," the union for the women's national team said in a statement Monday. "Players who choose the NWSL will sign directly with the NWSL/an NWSL club and will be employed by the NWSL."

The NWSL Players Association is attempting to negotiate an initial labor contract with the league, which has been dealing with sexual harassment allegations that led to the resignation of Commissioner Lisa Baird in October.

The extension gives more time for negotiations during the leadup to regional qualifying for the 2023 Women's World Cup, scheduled for July 4-20.

Players led by Alex Morgan sued the USSF in March 2019, contending they have not been paid equitably under their collective bargaining agreement compared to what the men's team receives under its agreement, which expired in December 2018. The women asked for more than \$64 million in damages plus \$3 million in interest under the Equal Pay Act and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

U.S. District Judge R. Gary Klausner in Los Angeles granted a summary judgment to the federation on the pay claim in May 2020. The judge ruled the women rejected a pay-to-play structure similar to the one in the men's agreement with the USSF and accepted greater base salaries and benefits than the men. He allowed their allegation of discriminatory working conditions to go to trial, and the sides reached a settlement on that portion. The court asked the parties on Nov. 23 to review dates for possible oral arguments in Pasadena from March through May. The case will be assigned to a three-judge panel.

The USSF said the women accepted a labor contract with greater guaranteed pay than the men and additional

benefits.

"U.S. Soccer remains committed to equal pay for our senior national team players and ensuring that they remain among the highest-paid in the world," the federation said in a statement.

The USSF said on Sept. 14 it had offered identical contracts to the men's and women's unions, which are separate and have no obligation under federal labor law to agree to similar terms. The federation met jointly with the unions on Nov. 29 and was set to meet with the women's union Monday.

"We'll continue to encourage both our USWNT and USMNT to come together around one table to agree on a path forward that benefits everyone," the USSF said.

The USSF says it cannot control the prize money give to federations by FIFA, soccer's governing body.

FIFA awarded \$400 million in prize money for the 32 teams at the 2018 men's World Cup, including \$38 million to champion France. It awarded \$30 million for the 24 teams at the 2019 Women's World Cup, including \$4 million to the U.S. after the Americans won their second straight title.

FIFA has increased the total to \$440 million for the 2022 men's World Cup, and its president, Gianni Infantino, has proposed FIFA double the women's prize money to \$60 million for the 2023 Women's World Cup, in which FIFA has increased the teams to 32.

Players on the Legia Warsaw soccer team were attacked by fans who forced their way onto the team bus, the club said. The defending league champions were heading back to their training base following a 1-0 loss to Wisla Plock on Sunday when the bus was attacked.

Legia did not say if anyone was injured. The club said the police dispersed the group.

Paris Saint-Germain will play Real Madrid in a star-studded Champions League Round-of-16 tie after fixtures were redrawn following a technical error. European football's governing body UEFA declared the initial draw void earlier on Monday after Manchester United was drawn by mistake. United was initially drawn against PSG but will now face a slightly easier two-legged tie against Spanish side Atlético Madrid.

But it means fans will be denied the mouthwatering prospect of watching Messi renew his rivalry with Ronaldo — for now at least. It will also see Messi, a long-term enemy of Madrid throughout his time at Barcelona, return to the Santiago Bernabéu.

DIVING

Hayden makes history at nationals

Kristen Hayden became the first Black woman to win a U.S. national senior title when she paired with Quinn Henninger for a victory in mixed synchronized 3-meter at the USA Diving winter national championships at Bloomington, Ind. Hayden, a recent transfer to Indiana University, and freshman Henninger took the lead on their third dive of the competition. Their next two dives earned mostly 7.0s and 7.5s for a total score of 286.86 points, three points ahead of Carson Tyler and Anne Fowler.

It was the first synchro competition together for Henninger and Hayden.

Hayden joined Mike Wright as the only Black divers to win U.S. national titles. Wright won on 1-meter springboard in 2012.

TENNIS

Raducanu tests positive for COVID-19

U.S. Open champion Emma Raducanu tested positive for COVID-19 and pulled out of an exhibition match in the United Arab Emirates. Organizers of the Mubadala World Tennis Championship said the British teenager is isolating and following protocols.

BITS & PIECES

Olympic swim champ denies coercion

Two-time Olympic swimming champion Yannick Agnel has admitted to having a relationship with an underage girl but denied coercion, the prosecutor in the Frenchman's rape case said.

Prosecutor Edwige Roux-Morizot said Agnel "recognizes the materiality of the alleged facts" but she said he did not have "the feeling that there was coercion."

"If the facts constitute rape or sexual assault, it is because there is a significant age difference," Roux-Morizot said. Agnel was 24 when the alleged rape took place. The girl was reportedly 13. Agnel was arrested in Paris last week.

World Triathlon imposed a package of sanctions on Russia after repeated doping cases, including one involving an athlete who competed at the Tokyo Olympics. World Triathlon's measures won't stop Russian triathletes competing, but they bar Russia from hosting world and European-level events until the end of 2022, suspend Russian officials from international positions, and mandate more drug testing.

Odds

FANDUEL SPORTSBOOK

College basketball		
Favorite	Line	Underdog
at North Carolina	11½	Furman
at Wake Forest	16	VMI
at Clemson	8	Miami (Ohio)
at Towson	8½	UNC-Greensboro
Monmouth	1	at Yale
at So. Florida	6	Austin Peay
at S.F. Austin	11½	La.-Monroe
at Creighton	7½	Arizona St.
at Texas Tech	23	Arkansas St.
at Mississippi St.	9½	Georgia St.
at Houston	23	La.-Lafayette
DePaul	9½	at UIC
at North Texas	11½	Sam Houston
at S. Alabama	8½	Tarleton
Alabama	3	at Memphis
at Boise St.	6	Santa Clara
at Oregon St.	6	UC Davis
UC Santa Barbara	2½	at Pacific

NBA		
Favorite	Line (O/U)	Underdog
at Brooklyn	8½ (Off)	Toronto
Golden State	5½ (Off)	at New York
at Portland	Off	Phoenix

College football		
Friday		
Favorite	Line (O/U)	Underdog

Bahamas Bowl		
Toledo	10 (51½)	Mid. Tennessee
Cure Bowl		
Co. Carolina	10½ (63½)	N. Illinois

Saturday		
Boca Raton Bowl		
Appalachian St.	3 (68)	W. Kentucky

New Mexico Bowl		
Fresno St.	11½ (51)	UTEP
Independence Bowl		
BYU	7 (54½)	UAB

LendingTree Bowl		
Liberty	9 (58½)	E. Michigan
LA Bowl		
Oregon St.	7 (67½)	Utah St.

New Orleans Bowl		
La.-Lafayette	5 (55)	Marshall
Monday, Dec. 20		
Myrtle Beach Bowl		
Tyler	9½ (53)	Old Dominion

Tuesday, Dec. 21		
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl		
Wyoming	3 (59)	Kent St.

Frisco Bowl		
UTSA	2½ (50)	San Diego St.
Wednesday, Dec. 22		
Armed Forces Bowl		
Army	3½ (58½)	Missouri

Thursday, Dec. 23		
Frisco Football Classic		
Miami (Ohio)	3 (54½)	North Texas

Gasparilla Bowl		
Florida	7 (56½)	UCF
Friday, Dec. 24		
Hawaii Bowl		
Memphis	7½ (59)	Hawaii

Saturday, Dec. 25		
Camellia Bowl		
Georgia St.	4½ (50½)	Ball St.

Monday, Dec. 27		
Quick Lane Bowl		

College basketball

MEN			
AP TOP 25			

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Baylor (61)	9-0	1,525	2
2. Duke	7-1	1,429	3
3. Purdue	9-1	1,319	1
4. UCLA	9-1	1,312	4
5. Gonzaga	8-2	1,291	5
6. Alabama	8-1	1,202	9
7. Kansas	8-1	1,181	8
8. Arizona	9-0	1,172	11
9. Villanova	7-3	924	6
10. USC	10-0	810	16
11. Iowa State	10-0	798	17
12. Michigan State	9-2	707	19
13. Auburn	8-1	693	18
14. Houston	8-2	683	14
15. Ohio State	8-2	656	21
16. Seton Hall	9-1	635	23
17. Texas	6-2	583	7
18. Tennessee	7-2	390	13
19. LSU	9-0	376	25
20. Connecticut	9-2	360	15
21. Kentucky	7-2	345	10
22. Xavier	9-1	301	-
23. Colorado State	10-0	251	-
24. Arkansas	9-1	241	12
25. Texas Tech	7-1	164	-

Others receiving votes: Wisconsin 156, North Carolina 85, Providence 57, Oklahoma 46, USF 36, Illinois 31, West Virginia 24, Loyola Chicago 20, Michigan 8, St. Bonaventure 6, BYU 4, Minnesota 3, Creighton 1.

MONDAY'S RESULTS

WEST
CS Dominguez Hills 79, Westcliff 66
Portland 78, Cal Poly 77

EAST
Albany (N.Y.) 61, Boston College 57
George Washington 67, Radford 58
New Hampshire 92, Keene St. 54
Princeton 89, UMBC 77
Sacred Heart 79, Columbia 69

SOUTH
Appalachian St. 69, Erskine 44
Liberty 95, Carver 36
Stetson 104, Johnson (Fla.) 58

MIDWEST
N. Dakota St. 77, Indiana St. 70
N. Illinois 70, Chicago St. 59
Rhode Island 82, Milwaukee 58

Nevada	3½ (59)	W. Michigan
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Military Bowl
Boston College 3 (51½)

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Birmingham Bowl

Auburn 3 (51½)

First Responder Bowl
Louisville 1½ (55½)

Liberty Bowl
Mississippi St. 8½ (59½)

Holiday Bowl
N.C. State 1 (60)

Guaranteed Rate Bowl
Minnesota 3½ (45)

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Fenway Bowl

Virginia 2 (71)

Pinstripe Bowl
Maryland 1 (55)

Cheez-it Bowl
Iowa St. 1 (45½)

Alamo Bowl
Oklahoma 4½ (61½)

OTHER BOWLS
Thursday, Dec. 30

Peach Bowl
Michigan St. 2 (60)

Friday, Dec. 31
Cotton Bowl — CFP semifinal

Alabama 13½ (58)

Orange Bowl — CFP semifinal
Georgia 8 (47)

Saturday, Jan. 1
Rose Bowl

Ohio St. 6½ (66)

NFL

Thursday

Favorite Line (O/U) Underdog

Kansas City 4 (51)

Saturday
at Cleveland 5½ (42½)

at Indianapolis 2½ (45½)

Sunday

at Rams 6½ (47½)

at Buffalo 10½ (43½)

Dallas 10½ (44½)

at N.Y. Giants 3 (41)

at Jacksonville 4½ (43½)

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NFL

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Kansas City	9	4	0	.692	351	268
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Las Vegas	6	7	0	.462	283	360

EAST DIVISION

New England	9	4	0	.692	350	200
Buffalo	7	6	0	.538	363	229
Miami	6	7	0	.462	254	288
N.Y. Jets	3	10	0	.231	226	397

SOUTH DIVISION

Tennessee	9	4	0	.692	324	290
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<

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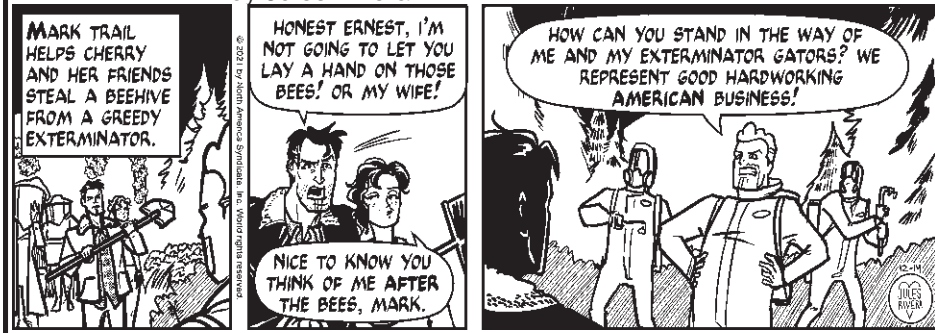
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MARK TRAIL: by Jules Rivera



OFF THE MARK: by Mark Parisi



THE ACES ON BRIDGE® Bobby Wolff

"Cliches begin arguments; they don't settle them."
— Jonah Goldberg

A bridge player must know when to forsake the rote guidelines such as "second hand low." In today's deal, when North doubles two hearts for takeout, he has to guess at his next turn whether to raise two no-trump to game. His undisclosed long suit is his only justification, but now it is up to South to justify his partner's faith.

On lead, West tries a low club, hoping to establish his long suit. That club eight is a tip-off to declarer, though. West would lead the club 10 from an honor-10-9-8 sequence, so the eight must be fourth-highest from A-K-9-8 or A-K-10-8.

Thus, declarer can safely put up dummy's club jack, retaining his queen as a stopper, and then run the diamond jack as an avoidance play against East. West wins the diamond king, and his best return is a diamond, leaving declarer to work out which major-suit finesse to take to conjure an extra trick. Declarer has a good picture of the hand by now, though, and when West shows out on the third diamond, the way is clear.

Assuming West would not lead a club from a broken four-card holding in preference to his side's agreed suit, West must have five clubs (backed up by East's count-showing club nine at trick one), four hearts and two diamonds, leaving room for only two spades. So, declarer now cashes two rounds of spades, in case the queen should drop from West. When it does not, declarer eventually finesses the heart queen for his contract.

NORTH
♠ A J 6 4
♥ 7 3
♦ J 10 7 5 2
♣ J 4

WEST
♠ 3 2
♥ J 10 9 6
♦ K 8
♣ A K 10 8 2

EAST
♠ Q 9 7 5
♥ K 8 5 4
♦ 6 4 3
♣ 9 7

SOUTH
♠ K 10 8
♥ A Q 2
♦ A Q 9
♣ Q 6 5 3

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: West

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥
2 NT 2 ♥ Dbl. Pass
3 NT All pass

Opening Lead: Club eight

BID WITH THE ACES

South holds:
♠ A J 6 4
♥ 7 3
♦ J 10 7 5 2
♣ J 4

South West North East
1 NT Pass

ANSWER: This hand is quite powerful if you have a spade fit. Take your chances with Stayman. If partner bids two diamonds, you can pass. If he shows four spades, you can raise him to three. If you hear two hearts, you can continue with two no-trump (or two spades if allowed in your methods). That may not be perfect, but at least you have a long suit to compensate for the stretch.

For details of Bobby Wolff's autobiography, "The Lone Wolff," contact shewolff5757@aol.com. If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@mindspring.com.
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bstine@scng.com

Legal Notice

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS RFP 04-2122 – Internet Enrollment Services

The Long Beach Unified School District (District) is seeking proposals from qualified vendors (Proposers), to provide Internet Enrollment Services to eligible families with students enrolled in the Long Beach Unified School District. The intent of this RFP process is to select the most responsive and responsible Proposer and establish a one (1) year contract with an option to extend up to four (4) additional one (1) year periods based on satisfactory service/performance. More information at: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/23758/portal-home>

Pub Dec 14, 21, 2021 PT Ad# 11507035

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Legal Notice

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS RFP 06-2122 – Maintenance Agreement for Elevators and Lifts District Wide

The Long Beach Unified School District (District) is seeking proposals from qualified vendors (Proposers), to provide Maintenance Agreement for Elevators & Lifts District Wide. The intent of this RFP process is to select the most responsive and responsible Proposer and establish a one (1) year contract with an option to extend for up to two (2) additional one year periods based on satisfactory service/performance, and selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). More information at: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/23758/portal-home>

Pub Dec 7, 14, 2021 PT Ad# 11505227

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Los Angeles County Hearing Officer will conduct a public hearing to consider the project described below. You will have an opportunity to testify, or you can submit written comments to the planner below or at the public hearing. If the final decision on this proposal is challenged in court, testimony may be limited to issues raised before or at the public hearing.

Hearing Date and Time: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.

Hearing Location: Online. Visit <http://planning.lacounty.gov/ho> and select hearing date for more information.

Project & Permit(s): Project No. PRJ2021-003326-(4), CSD Modification No. RPPL2021009367

Project Location: Vacant parcel adjacent to 16732 Elmcroft Ave., Cerritos, within the Artesia Zoned District

CEQA Categorical Exemption: Class 3 and Class 5

Project Description: Modification of the Cerritos Islands Community Standards District (CSD) to authorize more than the allowed maximum height, more than the allowed maximum number of stories and less than the required side yards, in conjunction with the construction of a new SFR pursuant to section 22.314.090 of the Los Angeles County Code.

For more information regarding this application, contact Carl Nadela, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) via e-mail at cnadela@planning.lacounty.gov or by telephone: (213) 974-6411. Case materials are available online at <http://planning.lacounty.gov/case>. All correspondence received by DRP shall be considered a public record.

If you need reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids, contact the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator at (213) 974-6488 (Voice) or (213) 617-2292 (TDD) with at least 3 business days' notice. Si necesita más información por favor llame al (213) 974-6411.

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NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF BONNIE BELL HORTON

Case No. 21STPB11319

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of BONNIE BELL HORTON

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Gary Guacci in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Gary Guacci be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2022 at 8:30AM in Dept. No. 11 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
ROBERT M STONE ESQ
SBN 104936
SIMON, MCKINSEY
MILLER & STONE
2750 BELLFLOWER BLVD STE 100
LONG BEACH CA 90815
HORTON
Dec 7,8,14, 2021

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF AMANDA CAITLIN JACOBSEN

Case No. 21STPB10338

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of AMANDA CAITLIN JACOBSEN

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Alicia O'Brian in the Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Alicia O'Brian be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on January 10, 2022 at 8:30AM in Dept. No. 11 located at 111 N. Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code.

Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
CHRISTOPHER P BRANDLIN ESQ
SBN 278426
CHRISTOPHER P BRANDLIN APC
2780 SKYPARK DR STE 295
TORRANCE CA 90505
JACOBSEN
Dec 7,8,14, 2021

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF: Lorri Sklov

CASE NUMBER: 21STPB10988

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both of: Lorri Sklov

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by: Jennifer Leiter

in the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE: Requests that Jennifer Leiter be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Jan 10, 2022 Time 8:30 AM Dept. 4 Address of court: 111 North Hill Street Los Angeles CA 90012 Stanley Mosk Courthouse

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within the later of either (1) four months from the date of first issuance of letters to a general personal representative, as defined in section 58(b) of the California Probate Code, or (2) 60 days from the date of mailing or personal delivery to you of a notice under section 9052 of the California Probate Code. Other California statutes and legal authority may affect your rights as a creditor. You may want to consult with an attorney knowledgeable in California law.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a formal Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.

Attorney for petitioner:
Davis R. Zellmer
5150 E. Pacific Coast Hwy, Ste 200
Long Beach CA 90804
Pub. Dec 13, 14, 20, 2021 PT Ad# 11506552

2021 251047 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Mantra Wheels

2735 E Artesia Blvd Long Beach CA 90805

This business is conducted by: a Corporatoion . The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

All Star Tire Corporation 2735 E Artesia Blvd Long Beach CA 90805

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: Nov 16, 2021

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et. seq., Business and Professions Code.)

Pub. Dec 14, 21, 28; Jan 4, 2021 PT Ad# 11506995

2021 251061 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Fuchsfelge North America

2735 E Artesia Blvd Long Beach CA 90805

This business is conducted by: a Corporatoion . The registrant has not begun to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

All Star Tire Corporation 2735 E Artesia Blvd Long Beach CA 90805

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: Nov 16, 2021

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et. seq., Business and Professions Code.)

Pub. Dec 14, 21, 28; Jan 4, 2021 PT Ad# 11507009

2021250566 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: DG Nursey

2682 Eucalyptus Ave Long Beach CA 90806

This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has begun on 11/2021 to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

Daniel Garibaldo-Lopez 2682 Eucalyptus Ave Long Beach CA 90806

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: Nov 16, 2021

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et. seq., Business and Professions Code.)

Pub. Nov 23, 30, Dec 7, 14, 2021 PT Ad# 11502700

2021 258680 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: Reverse89

3622 Capetown St Lakewood CA 90712

This business is conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has begun on 11/2021 to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed herein.

I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.

Jeloni Williams 3622 Capetown St Lakewood CA 90712

This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on: Nov 29, 2021

NOTICE: This fictitious name statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the county clerk. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14400 et. seq., Business and Professions Code.)

Pub. Dec 7, 14, 21, 28, 2021 PT Ad# 11505224

NOTICE INVITING PROPOSALS

RFP 07-2122 – Asbestos Abatement and Lead Stabilization

RFP 08-2122 Hererra Elementary School Abatement

The Long Beach Unified School District (District) is seeking proposals from qualified vendors (Proposers), to provide services for Asbestos Abatement/Lead Stabilization and Herrera Elementary School Abatement. The intent of the RFP process is to select the most responsive and responsible Proposers for based on satisfactory service/performance, and selected Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). More information at: <https://pbsystem.planetbids.com/portal/23758/portal-home>

Pub Dec 14, 21, 2021 PT Ad# 11506923

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH BOB JONES

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ELEGANT PLAY

Both vulnerable, West deals

NORTH

♠ A Q 5 3

♥ A K 8

♦ J 5

♣ A Q 7 2

WEST

♠ Void

♥ Q J 10 7 4 3

♦ K Q 4 3

♣ J 9 6

EAST

♠ K 10 4

♥ 5

♦ A 10 8 7 2

♣ 10 8 5 4

SOUTH

♠ J 9 8 7 6 2

♥ 9 6 2

♦ 9 6

♣ K 3

The bidding:

WEST 2NT EAST 4♠ SOUTH 4♠

All pass

Opening lead: Queen of ♥

Today's deal is from a rubber bridge game, where few conventions are played. North would probably have taken a four-heart bid by South as a transfer, but South wasn't sure, so he just bid four spades. South won the opening heart lead with dummy's ace. There was

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Answer to previous puzzle

OPERA STAT KALE
PAPER CAGE EVEN
TRIPE OXEN RIND
SECONDWIND ODDS
TOO STEPS
LAW TLC DOESOK
ISR LOOP ONION
SHOOTSTHEBREEZE
TETRA SORE GEE
SNEAKS PAL ESS
LETGO CAB
SLAT ROUGHDRAFT
HOSE AUTO DALAI
IRIS IDEA EVADE
PEST TART ROSES

12/14/21

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Newsday Crossword

WEAR YOUR FOOD by Sally R. Stein Edited by Stanley Newman www.stanxwords.com

ACROSS

1 Take it easy

5 Sudden

10 Fitness center

13 Mediterranean island nation

14 France's capital, humorously

15 Large vase

16 Not illuminated

17 Not yet in port

18 Obtain

19 Beef cuts

21 Sailor's affirmative

22 Snaky letter

23 Change for a \$5 bill

24 Make a mistake

26 Enemy

27 Discovers, as a clue

31 Rude person

34 Encourage to act

37 Clinton's vice president

38 Song

39 Camera closeup attachments

40 Way of walking

41 Commando weapons

42 Devoured

43 24-hr. bank conveniences

44 Happening first

46 Lincoln nickname

48 __ de plume

49 Agile

51 Poisonous snake

54 Mayo container

56 Salad-bar fare

60 __ Baba (Arabian Nights hero)

61 Shaquille of basketball

DOWN

1 Corporal and captain

2 Historic immigration island

3 Agitate

4 Art on an arm

5 Sudden

6 Tops of heads

7 __ Major (Big Dipper)

8 Smell bad

9 China used to serve pekoe

10 Make easier to swallow

11 Hunter's quarry

12 Poker-hand starter

13 Artistic inspiration

20 Reacts to ragweed

25 Jamaican music

26 City near Sacramento

27 Rounded roof

28 Catch in a trap

29 Quick haircut

30 Solidifies

31 Air-conditioner measures: Abbr.

32 Greek liqueur

33 Donut-shaped burger topper

35 Barnyard beast with a beard

36 Bought

45 Create, as raised lettering

47 Avoid by going around

49 Get to work

50 Stacks of firewood

51 "All kidding __ . . ."

52 What radiators give off

53 Vessels for frying

54 Tire-changing device

55 Burn-soothing plant

57 Not fooled by

58 Have on

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ALLERGY REPORT

Allergy, dust and dander today: Neutral

Pollen levels

Grass Absent Weeds Absent
Trees Low Mold Low
Source: National Allergy Bureau

TODAY'S UV INDEX

1
Highest at 12 p.m.
(The higher the number, the faster skin damage will occur.)

11+: Extreme
8-10: Very high
6-7: High
3-5: Moderate
< 2: Low

SKY WATCH

	Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset
Today	6:49 a.m.	4:45 p.m.	2:07 p.m.	2:45 a.m.
Wednesday	6:50 a.m.	4:45 p.m.	2:36 p.m.	3:41 a.m.

Hours of sunlight
9 hr., 56 min.

PLANET WATCH

At about 8:00 p.m., look high in the north for the constellation Cassiopeia the Queen, often described as a prominent "W." However, at this time of the year, observers in the Northern Hemisphere see it upside-down, making it look more like an "M."

Venus sets at 7:17 p.m. Jupiter sets at 9:54 p.m.
Mars rises at 5:33 a.m. Saturn sets at 8:28 p.m.
Source: Morrison Planetarium

WINDS

Anaheim WSW 7-14 mph
Long Beach WSW 12-25 mph
Los Angeles WSW 10-20 mph
Ontario WSW 8-16 mph
Santa Monica WSW 12-25 mph

ALMANAC

Long Beach through 5 p.m. yesterday

Temperatures

High/low 61°/46°
Normal high/low 66°/46°
Record high 81° (2017)
Record low 35° (1985)
Humidity noon today 83%

Precipitation

24 hours through 5 p.m. yesterday 0.00"
Month to date 0.04"
Normal month to date 0.77"
Season to date 0.43"
Normal season to date 2.07"

TIDES

Inner L.A. Harbor

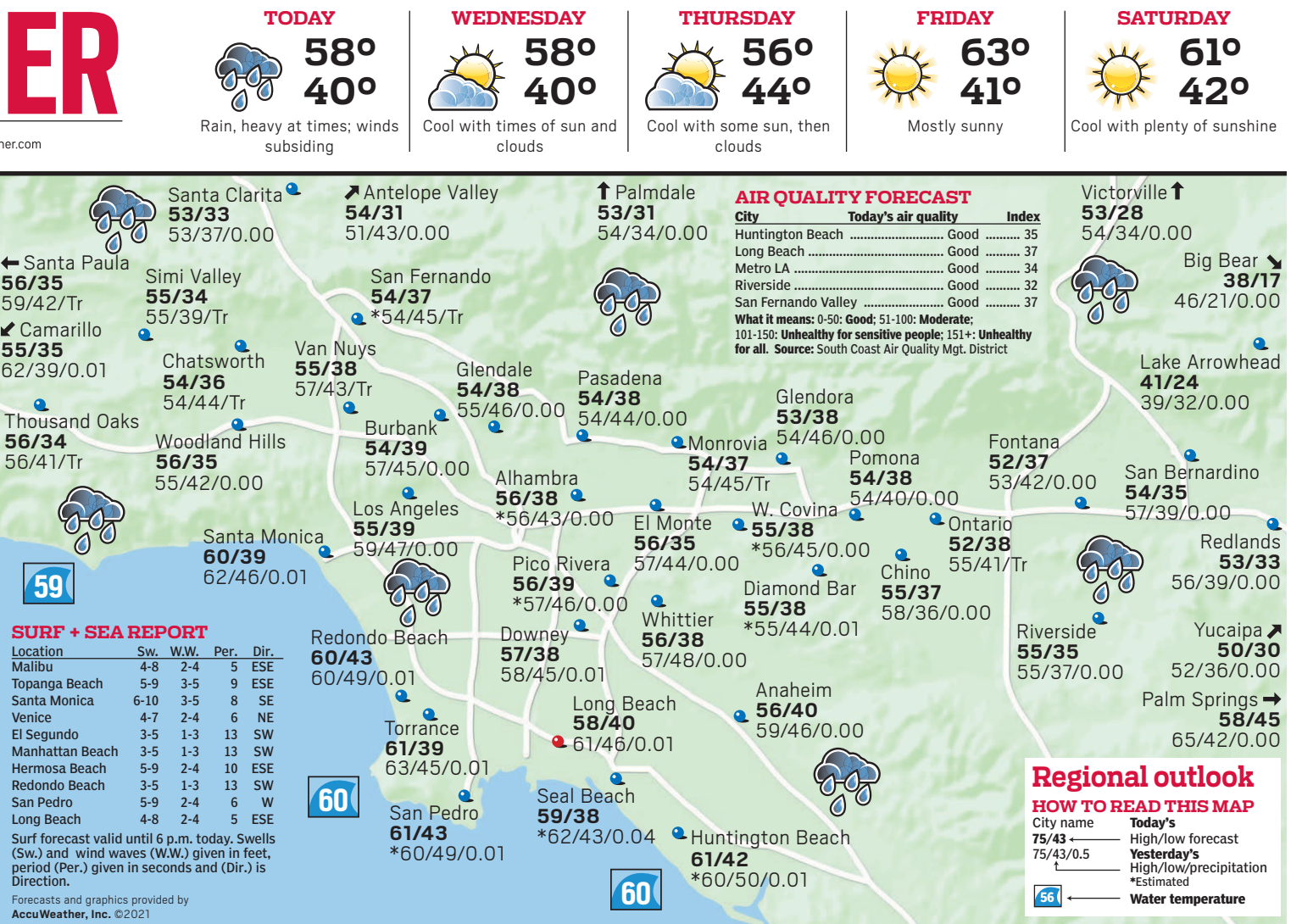
Time	High	Time	Low
6:10 a.m.	5.4 ft.	1:05 p.m.	0.5 ft.
7:11 p.m.	3.5 ft.	none	

Outer L.A. Harbor

Time	High	Time	Low
6:06 a.m.	5.5 ft.	1:03 p.m.	0.5 ft.
7:07 p.m.	3.6 ft.	none	

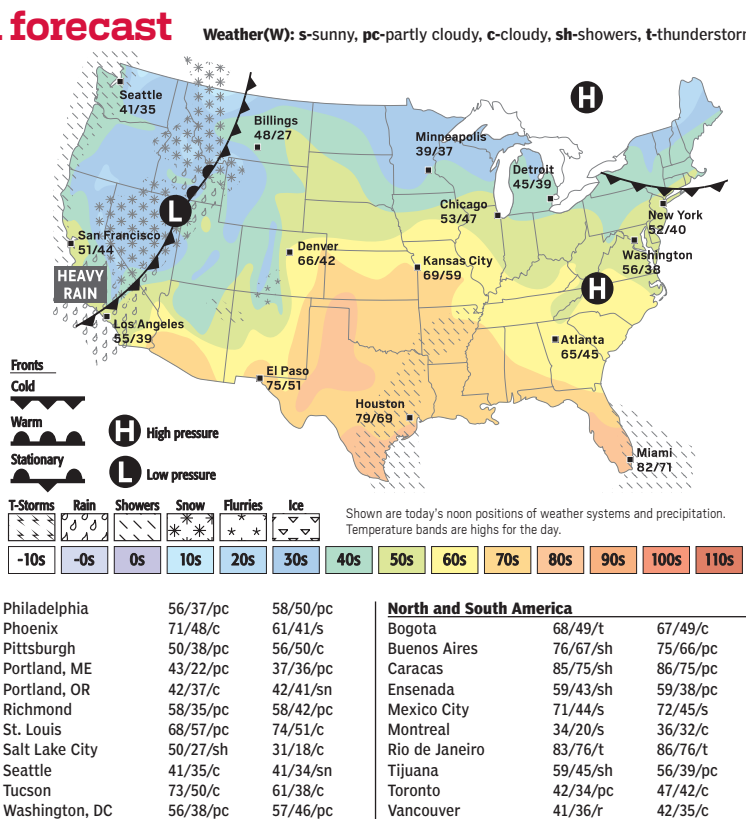
CALIFORNIA CITIES

City	Today Hi/Low	Wednesday Hi/Low
Avalon	58/49/r	55/45/pc
Bakersfield	51/36/r	49/35/pc
Barstow	55/35/r	49/31/pc
Bishop	43/14/sn	39/18/pc
Crescent City	47/40/sh	50/43/r
Death Valley	59/41/r	59/41/pc
Eureka	48/39/c	50/42/r
Fresno	49/35/r	50/41/pc
Lake Tahoe	26/9/sn	31/27/sn
Mammoth Mountain	30/5/sn	32/15/pc
Monterey	52/43/r	56/48/c
Napa	51/36/c	52/46/r
Needles	67/43/r	58/38/pc
Oakland	52/41/c	53/49/c
Oxnard	56/38/r	56/40/pc
Redding	48/35/c	44/40/sh
Sacramento	49/36/c	44/40/sh
San Diego	61/47/r	58/43/pc
San Francisco	51/44/c	54/50/c
San Jose	51/40/sh	53/49/c
San Luis Obispo	52/36/r	58/43/pc
Santa Ana	60/43/r	58/44/pc
Santa Barbara	53/38/r	56/38/c
Ventura	58/40/r	52/38/pc
Yosemite Valley	35/16/sn	40/35/c



National and world forecast

City	Today Hi/Low	Wednesday Hi/Low
Albuquerque	58/45/c	49/27/pc
Anchorage	6/-2/pc	6/4/pc
Atlanta	65/45/s	61/48/s
Baltimore	56/35/pc	56/45/pc
Billings	48/27/pc	31/16/sn
Bismarck	44/25/pc	27/7/c
Boise	39/20/c	35/28/pc
Boston	47/30/pc	46/41/c
Buffalo	46/36/pc	50/49/c
Charlotte	65/34/s	61/41/pc
Chicago	53/47/pc	66/45/r
Cincinnati	56/45/pc	63/54/c
Cleveland	51/41/pc	58/52/r
Dallas	78/66/c	79/65/pc
Denver	66/42/pc	50/24/pc
Des Moines	60/52/pc	73/30/c
Detroit	45/39/pc	56/52/c
Duluth	37/33/c	42/20/sh
El Paso	75/51/c	68/39/s
Fairbanks	-32/-34/pc	-22/-24/s
Fargo	38/30/c	36/8/c
Honolulu	82/71/sh	81/69/pc
Houston	79/69/c	80/70/c
Indianapolis	55/47/pc	63/56/c
Kansas City	69/59/pc	78/35/t
Las Vegas	56/39/r	50/34/pc
Louisville	59/50/pc	67/60/c
Miami	82/71/pc	80/72/sh
Milwaukee	54/45/pc	64/43/r
Minneapolis	39/37/pc	55/22/sh
Nashville	64/48/pc	69/58/pc
New Orleans	76/62/s	78/63/pc
New York City	52/40/pc	52/49/pc
Oklahoma City	75/59/pc	81/40/pc
Omaha	59/50/pc	72/29/t
Orlando	79/64/s	80/64/pc



City	Today's High/low	Wednesday's High/low
Baghdad	70/50/pc	74/54/pc
Beijing	45/17/pc	43/18/pc
Hong Kong	73/67/pc	75/70/pc
Jerusalem	68/51/pc	58/46/s
Kabul	51/22/s	46/20/pc
Manila	87/76/s	85/77/pc
Melbourne	72/55/pc	68/54/sh
New Delhi	70/48/pc	70/48/pc
Seoul	47/40/c	53/32/pc
Singapore	87/76/t	87/77/sh
Sydney	76/62/pc	81/68/s
Tehran	52/41/s	51/38/c
Tokyo	48/43/r	56/45/s

City	Today's High/low	Wednesday's High/low
Amsterdam	50/47/c	50/45/sh
Athens	50/47/r	53/46/sh
Belgrade	32/25/c	33/31/pc
Berlin	43/41/c	47/42/c
Budapest	37/27/pc	40/29/c
Dublin	46/41/c	52/45/pc
London	55/47/c	54/44/pc
Madrid	62/34/pc	61/32/s
Moscow	29/19/c	29/26/c
Paris	47/41/c	47/41/c
Rome	58/40/pc	57/41/pc
Stockholm	38/30/c	42/33/c
Vienna	44/39/pc	45/38/pc
Zurich	42/32/c	40/33/c

City	Today's High/low	Wednesday's High/low
Cairo	69/51/pc	66/51/s
Casablanca	69/45/pc	71/50/c
Johannesburg	78/60/pc	76/57/t
Kinshasa	90/74/t	78/74/t
Lagos	89/77/c	89/77/pc
Nairobi	75/60/t	74/61/t
Tripoli	61/46/pc	62/47/s

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