

## Guard checks for Buffalo storm victims

*Associated Press*

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The National Guard went door to door in parts of Buffalo on Wednesday to check on people who had lost power during the area's deadliest winter storm in decades, and authorities faced the tragic possibility of finding more victims amid melting snow.

As a deep freeze eased into milder weather, the National Guard members were knocking on doors in those neighborhoods in Buffalo and its suburbs, said Mark Poloncarz, the top official in the county that encompasses New York's second-most-populous city.

"We are fearful that there are individuals who may have perished, living alone, or people who are not doing well," he said.

Officials said more than 30 people so far have been reported to have died because of the blizzard that raged Friday and Saturday in western New York, an area prone to powerful winter storms. The historic Blizzard of 1977 killed as many as 29.

Antwaine Parker told The Buffalo News that his mother, Carolyn Eubanks, per-

ished at the home of strangers who took her in after her family tried to get help for the ailing woman.

Eubanks, 63, relied on an oxygen machine. With the power out in her home and emergency responders unable to answer calls amid the blizzard, Parker said, he and his stepbrother drove through the snow Saturday to rescue her themselves. She collapsed as they led her to a car, he said.

"She's like, 'I can't go no further.' I'm begging her, 'Mom, just stand up.' She fell in my arms and never spoke another word," Parker told the newspaper.

The stepbrothers knocked on doors, seeking someone who would help. They found David Purdy, who opened his door to two desperate strangers and helped them carry Eubanks inside and try in vain to revive her.

After they realized she was gone, Purdy and his fiancée sheltered her body until first responders showed up with plows the next day.

"I done it as respectful as I could," Purdy told The Buffalo News. His own mother is

roughly the same age as Eubanks was and also uses an oxygen machine, he said, and "if she needed help, I'd hope there would be people out there to help her, as well."

Temperatures were expected to rise into the mid-40s on Wednesday and the low 50s by Friday, the National Weather Service said.

With enough snow still on the ground that driving was still banned in Buffalo, officials worked to clear storm drains and watched a forecast that calls for some rain later in the week. Erie County officials said they were preparing for the possibility of some flooding and of ice jams in local creeks.

The weather service said Wednesday that "any flooding is expected to be of the minor or nuisance variety."

Though suburban roads and most major highways in the area reopened Tuesday, there was still a driving ban in Buffalo, and state and military police were assigned to enforce it. Poloncarz, the Erie County executive and a Democrat, said the goal was to have at least one lane on every street open by Wednesday evening.

## High court keeps asylum limits in place temporarily

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is keeping pandemic-era limits on asylum in place for now, dashing hopes of migrants who have been fleeing violence and inequality in Latin America and elsewhere to reach the United States.

Tuesday's ruling preserves a major Trump-era policy that was scheduled to expire under a judge's order on Dec. 21. The case will be argued in February and a stay imposed last week by Chief Justice John Roberts will remain in place until the justices make a decision.

The limits, often known as Title 42 in reference to a 1944 public health law, were put in place under then-President Donald Trump at the beginning of the pandemic, but unwinding it has taken a torturous route through the courts. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention attempted to end the policy in April 2022, but a federal judge in Louisiana sided with 19 Republican-

led states in May to order it kept in place. Another federal judge in Washington said in November that Title 42 must end, sending the dispute to the Supreme Court. Officials have expelled asylum-seekers inside the United States 2.5 million times on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Immigration advocates sued to end the policy, saying it goes against American and international obligations to people fleeing to the U.S. to escape persecution. They've also argued that the policy is outdated as coronavirus treatments improve.

The Supreme Court's 5-4 decision comes as thousands of migrants have gathered on the Mexican side of the border, filling shelters and worrying advocates who are scrambling to figure out how to care for them.

"We are deeply disappointed for all the desperate asylum seekers who will continue to suffer because of Title 42, but we will continue fighting to eventually end the policy," said Lee Gelernt, a lawyer with the Ameri-

can Civil Liberties Union, which had been arguing to end Title 42's use.

Andrea Rudnik, co-founder of non-profit immigration aid organization Team Brownsville in South Texas, said the situation at the border is a humanitarian crisis. She said there are thousands of migrants camped on cardboard boxes and in makeshift tents near the entrance of the Gateway International Bridge in Matamoros, Mexico, opposite Brownsville, without food, water, clothing or bathrooms.

"It is very readily becoming a dangerous situation because there's no toilets," Rudnik said. "Get that many people together with no bathrooms and you know what you have got."

States that wanted Title 42 kept in place hailed the outcome. In a press release Tuesday, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds praised the court's decision while saying it's not a permanent solution to the country's immigration woes.

# French defense chief visits Ukraine, vows aid

*Associated Press*

KYIV, Ukraine — France's defense minister on Wednesday pledged further military support for Ukraine, insisting his government's backing is unflagging while efforts are also being made with Moscow to reach an eventual negotiated end to Russia's invasion.

French Minister for the Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu said his trip to Kyiv was important to identify the priorities of the Ukrainian defense ministry. France's support will include a \$212 million fund that would allow Ukraine to purchase weapons, Lecornu said.

Lecornu traveled to Ukraine's capital after a trip to Poland, where he announced a deal Tuesday to sell Poland two French-made military satellites.

While France has been less vocal about its military support for Ukraine than the U.S. and Britain, the country has sent a steady supply of weapons to Ukraine since Russia invaded on Feb. 24.

France hosted two aid conferences for Ukraine this month. But many in Ukraine remain critical of Paris' response to the war because of President Emmanuel Macron's efforts to maintain contact with Russian President Vladimir Putin and seek a negotiated solution.

Lecornu said France was giving military equipment from the French army to the Ukrainian army.

Ukrainian defense minister Oleksii Reznikov said Ukraine's top priority remains "air defense, anti-missile defense, anti-drone defense, that is, the task of pro-

tecting (the) Ukrainian sky."

French Crotale air-defense systems already are "on combat duty," said Reznikov.

"And accordingly, we agreed that we will increase (the) capabilities of our air force," he said.

Lecornu came to Ukraine a week after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy visited the U.S., Ukraine's chief ally, and amid fighting focused mostly in the country's east but with neither Moscow nor Kyiv reporting major gains in recent weeks.

In his annual speech to Ukraine's parliament, Zelenskyy urged the European Union to open membership talks with his country after granting it candidate status in June. He also praised relations with the U.S., which has promised to send powerful Patriot air defense systems

to Ukraine.

"This is a special sign of trust in Ukraine," said Zelenskyy.

While both Russia and Ukraine have said they were willing to participate in peace talks, their stated conditions remain far apart. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov reiterated Wednesday that any peace plan must acknowledge four regions of Ukraine that Russia illegally annexed as Russian territory, a demand that Kyiv flatly rejects.

Russian forces have pressed their offensive to capture all of eastern Ukraine by concentrating in recent weeks on Bakhmut, in Donetsk province. Ukrainian forces were pushing a counteroffensive in neighboring Luhansk province, in hopes of reclaiming the area and potentially dividing Russia's troops in the east.

## Sikh recruits now can have beards in US Marine Corps

*The Washington Post*

The U.S. Marines cannot force Sikh recruits to go against their religious beliefs by shaving their beards, a federal appeals court ruled Friday.

"They are now suffering and will continue to suffer grave, immediate, and ongoing injuries to the exercise of their faith," the unanimous panel for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit wrote in ordering an injunction against the policy.

Three Sikh men hoping to go through boot camp challenged the policy in federal court this year, along with a captain who wants to be able to serve with a beard in combat zones. While their lawsuit is ongoing, the order requires the Marines to accommodate them now so they can begin training.

"Today's ruling is a major victory for these Sikh recruits, who

can now begin basic training without having to forfeit their religious beliefs," Eric Baxter, who represented the plaintiffs, said in a statement. "It is also a victory for our nation, as three brave and dedicated men will soon serve our nation with valor in the Marine Corps."

The ban on facial hair applies in basic training and "combat zones," a designation that covers over three dozen countries where hazard pay is given. Officials defended the policy as necessary for the uniformity and discipline required to become a Marine and serve as one. Col. Adam Jeppe, who is in charge of such policies, told the court that "everyone desiring to be a Marine often must be willing to give up something to accept uniformity and what it means. This common sacrifice contributes to the forging of unit cohesion."

## US asks Australia to extradite former Marine

**BY SETH ROBSON**

*Stars and Stripes*

The Australian government has formally received a request by Washington to extradite a former U.S. Marine pilot accused of providing military training to China, Australian officials said Wednesday.

The Australian Attorney-General's Department on Sunday received the Dec. 9 request to hand over the former Marine, Daniel Duggan, 54, who has been in Australian custody since Oct. 21, according to a statement emailed by department spokeswoman Jo White to Stars and Stripes.

The Attorney-General's office said a magistrate in the Australian state of New South Wales is scheduled to consider the extradition on Jan. 10.

Duggan, wanted for alleged money laundering and offenses under the U.S. Arms Export Con-

trol Act, was arrested on a U.S. request, according to the statement.

Duggan's lawyer, Dennis Miralis, did not respond to a message sent through his firm's website.

The Australian newspaper reported Tuesday that Duggan was indicted in the U.S. on charges including conspiracy to unlawfully export defense services to China, conspiracy to launder money and violations of the arms control act.

The allegations stem from work he did with the Test Flying Academy of South Africa between 2010 and 2012, the newspaper reported. A former Harrier "jump jet" pilot, Duggan moved to Australia in the late 2000s and set up a business offering tourist flights near Hobart called Top Gun Tasmania, the newspaper reported.

Duggan has been a permanent Australian resident since 2002, The Australian reported.

# Winter weather upends water systems across south

*AP/Report for America*

JACKSON, Miss. — A cold snap blanketing the Deep South has upended water systems as local officials struggle to repair widespread leaks and broken pipes, forcing some people to take drastic measures to get by without reliable access to running water.

Breakdowns in infrastructure arose in rapid succession after days of freezing temperatures in areas where extended periods of frigid weather are abnormal.

The water woes are acute in places like Jackson, Miss., where the water system partially collapsed in late August and has had repeated weather-related breakdowns.

Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said the city is dealing with a “worst case scenario” on Tuesday.

Lumumba declared a local state of emergency Monday

evening as Jackson’s troubled water system failed to produce adequate pressure because of broken and leaking pipes. Crews have spent days working to identify leaks, but city officials said pressure remains low or nonexistent. The Environmental Protection Agency is assisting with the effort to repair broken water lines, Lumumba said.

“We are dealing with an old, crumbling system that continues to offer challenge after challenge,” he said.

Throughout the Deep South, hundreds of leaks from broken pipes were draining water towers faster than treatment plants could replenish them.

Selma, Ala., was in the third day of trying to find leaks and started Monday to shut down major lines and interrupting service to try to isolate where the biggest leaks were happening, Mayor James Perkins Jr.

said in a statement.

Water crews in Florence, S.C., finally succeeded Tuesday in getting the water pressure back up after having to follow just about every water line in the city to find a large, but hidden, leak, officials said.

Widespread water problems also continued in Georgia. Sara Lips, a spokesperson for the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, said at least 16 water systems statewide were experiencing problems.

Bottled water was being distributed Tuesday in Memphis, Tenn., where authorities urged people “to limit all non-essential water uses.”

Memphis Light, Gas and Water CEO Doug McGowen said in a statement Tuesday that “we are heading in the right direction to recover from this water distribution crisis,” with pressure being restored, but urging continued conservation for now.

## Northwest battered with waves, severe winds

*AP/Report for America*

PORTLAND, Ore. — Monster waves, high tides and strong winds battering western Oregon and Washington led to fatal crashes, power outages and flooded homes on Tuesday.

Oregon State Police said multiple people died when their car hit a tree on U.S. 26 east of Cannon Beach, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Investigators are determining whether the tree fell on the roadway before the car hit it or if the tree crushed the vehicle when it fell, police said. The exact number of people killed wasn’t immediately known.

Another motorist was killed when a tree fell and struck their vehicle while driving farther east on U.S. 26, KATU reported, citing Oregon State Police. More than 50 miles of the highway was shut down because of that crash, downed trees and high winds — from Rhododendron to Warm Springs, state transportation officials said.

In Washington, high tides known as king tides and heavy rains caused water to spill into more than a dozen homes in Seattle’s South Park neighborhood, The Seattle Times reported.

The stormy conditions gripped the Pacific Northwest as other parts of the nation are reeling from a ferocious winter storm that killed dozens.

Thirty-foot waves were expected to break along the entire Oregon coast on Tuesday, the National Weather Service said, with wave heights possibly topping 40 feet on the north coast.

“In situations like this, we recommend that people stay off the beach entirely,” said Brian Nieuwenhuis, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service’s Medford office.

## Southwest flight cancellations snowball

*Associated Press*

DALLAS — Travelers who counted on Southwest Airlines to get them home suffered through another wave of canceled flights Wednesday, and pressure grew on the federal government to help customers get reimbursed for unexpected expenses they incurred because of the airline’s meltdown.

Exhausted Southwest travelers tried finding seats on other airlines or renting cars to get to their destination, but many remained stranded. The airline’s CEO said it could be next week before the flight schedule returns to normal.

By late morning on the East Coast, about 90% of all canceled flights Wednesday in the U.S. were on Southwest, according to the FlightAware tracking service.

Other airlines recovered from ferocious winter storms that hit large swaths of the country over the weekend, but not Southwest.

The Dallas airline was undone by a combina-

tion of factors including an antiquated crew-scheduling system and a network design that allows cancellations in one region to cascade throughout the country rapidly.

Those weaknesses are not new — they helped cause a similar failure by Southwest in October 2021.

The federal government is now investigating what happened at Southwest, which carries more passengers within the United States than any other airline.

In a video that Southwest posted late Tuesday, CEO Robert Jordan said Southwest would operate a reduced schedule for several days but hoped to be “back on track before next week.”

Jordan blamed the winter storm for snarling the airline’s “highly complex” network. He said Southwest’s tools for recovering from disruptions work “99% of the time, but clearly we need to double down” on upgrading systems to avoid a repeat of this week.



# Architect of Whitmer plot sentenced

*AP/Report for America*

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — A Delaware trucker described as a co-leader of the conspiracy to kidnap Michigan's governor was sentenced to more than 19 years in prison Wednesday, a day after an accomplice received 16 years behind bars.

Prosecutors had sought a life sentence for Barry Croft Jr., 47, who was the fourth and final federal defendant to learn his fate. Croft and Adam Fox were convicted in August of conspiracy charges in Grand Rapids. Croft also was found guilty of possessing an unregistered explosive.

They were accused of hatching a stunning plot to abduct Gov. Gretchen Whitmer from her vacation home just before the 2020 presidential election. The conspirators were furious over tough COVID-19 restrictions that Whitmer and officials in other states had put in place during the early months of the pandemic, as well as per-

ceived threats to gun ownership.

Whitmer was not physically harmed. The FBI was secretly embedded in the group and made 14 arrests.

Croft regularly wore a tri-cornered hat common during the American Revolution and had tattoos on his arms symbolizing resistance — “Expect Us” — as he traveled to Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan to meet with like-minded extremists.

“Although he may not have had hierarchical control over all the other participants, he coordinated and pushed the implementation of the conspiracy from its inception to its final stages,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Nils Kessler said in a court filing.

“The only remaining step was for the governor to appear at her cottage so they could launch their plan, but fortunately she was still beyond their control,” the prosecutor said.

A different jury in Grand Rapids, Mich.,

couldn't reach a verdict on the pair at the first trial last spring but acquitted two other men.

“The abduction of the governor was only meant to be the beginning of Croft's reign of terror,” Kessler said. “He called for riots, ‘torching’ government officials in their sleep and setting off a ‘domino’ effect of violence across the country.”

A key piece of evidence: Croft, Fox and others traveled to see Whitmer's vacation home in northern Michigan, with undercover agents and informants inside the cabal.

At one point, Croft told allies: “I don't like seeing anybody get killed either. But you don't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs, you know what I mean?”

Croft's attorney tried to soften his client's role. In a court filing, Joshua Blanchard said the Bear, Del., man didn't actually have authority over others and often frustrated them because he “just kept talking.”

## China to resume issuing passports as limits ease

*Associated Press*

BEIJING — China says it will resume issuing passports for tourism in another big step away from anti-virus controls that isolated the country for almost three years, setting up a potential flood of Chinese going abroad for next month's Lunar New Year holiday.

The announcement Tuesday adds to abrupt changes that are rolling back some of the world's strictest anti-virus controls as President Xi Jinping's government tries to reverse an economic slump.

Rules that confined millions of people to their homes kept China's infection rate low but fueled public frustration and crushed economic growth.

The latest decision could send free-spending Chinese tourists to revenue-starved destinations in Asia and Europe for Lunar New Year, which begins Jan. 22 and is usually the country's busiest travel season.

But it also presents a danger

they might spread COVID-19 as infections surge in China.

Travel services companies Trip.com and Qunar said international ticket bookings and searches for visa information on their websites rose five to eight times after Tuesday's announcement. Top destinations included Japan, Thailand, South Korea, the United States, Britain and Australia.

Japan, India, South Korea and Taiwan have responded to the Chinese wave of infections by requiring virus tests for visitors from China.

China stopped issuing visas and passports at the start of the pandemic in early 2020.

The National Immigration Administration of China said it will start taking applications Jan. 8 for passports for tourists to go abroad.

The agency said it will take applications to extend, renew or reissue visas but gave no indication when they might be issued to first-time applicants.

## House committee expected to release Trump's taxes

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump's tax returns are expected to be released by the House Ways and Means committee on Friday, a congressional aide confirmed Tuesday.

That's the next time the House, which is on break for the holidays, is scheduled to meet for a routine pro forma session. The new Congress, with Republicans in control of the House, begins Jan. 3.

The aide was not authorized to discuss the timing of the release publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Democratic-controlled committee voted last week to release Trump's returns, with some redactions of sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers and contact information. The release raises the potential of additional revelations related to the finances of the longtime businessman who broke political norms by refus-

ing to make public his returns as he sought the presidency.

The vote came the same day the panel released a report in which it found that the IRS failed to pursue mandatory audits of Trump on a timely basis during his presidency. It indicated the Trump administration may have disregarded an IRS requirement dating back to 1977 that mandates audits of a president's tax filings.

The IRS only began to audit Trump's 2016 tax filings on April 3, 2019, more than two years into Trump's presidency and just months after Democrats took control of the House. That date coincided with Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., the panel chairman, asking the IRS for information related to Trump's tax returns.

The vote was the culmination of a yearslong fight between Trump and Democrats that played out from the campaign trail to the halls of Congress and the Supreme Court.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Teen arrested in bogus parking ticket scam

**CA** SANTA CRUZ — A 19-year-old man designed fake parking tickets and put them on cars near the beach in Northern California in the hopes of collecting real payments, authorities said.

The man put the false citations — which included a QR code linking potential victims to a website to pay a fine — on cars, said Santa Cruz police.

Investigators do not know how many fake tickets the man put on cars or how many victims may have paid the bogus fines.

Police took the man into custody on suspicion of unlawful use of a computer system and attempted fraud. He denied receiving any payments.

### Officers deliver stolen packages to right owners

**FL** HOLLYWOOD — Police officers in South Florida made Christmas Eve deliveries to the rightful owners of packages that had been stolen by a “porch pirate,” authorities said.

Police officers in Hollywood received a call about a man who was seen taking packages from people’s front doors. When officers arrived at the scene, they saw a man who matched a description and tried to make contact with him but he ran away, the Hollywood Police Department said in a news release.

The officers chased him and were able to take him into custody. Upon searching the man’s vehicle, they found 30 stolen packages. Officers were able to identify who most of the packages belonged to and delivered

them to their proper homes on Christmas Eve, the news release said.

The man is facing criminal charges of burglary, grand theft and resisting arrest without violence.

### Police kill armed teen during confrontation

**IA** DES MOINES — Police officers in Des Moines shot and killed a 16-year-old boy they encountered during a domestic disturbance.

The Des Moines Register reported that a relative of the boy called police to report the dispute at an apartment complex near Blank Park Zoo. The caller said the disturbance involved the boy and he was armed with a handgun.

Police said that officers found the boy in an apartment with other family members. Officers tried to talk to the boy to de-escalate the situation but the boy raised the gun toward officers, prompting more than one officer to open fire. The boy later died at a hospital.

### Judge: ER must stay open for nine months

**IN** HAMMOND — A northwestern Indiana hospital that was days away from closing its emergency room has been ordered by a judge to keep those emergency services operational for another nine months.

A Lake County judge granted a preliminary injunction that Hammond Mayor Thomas McDermott Jr. had sought against Franciscan Health Hammond, which announced Nov. 3 that it would close its emergency room at year’s end.

The city’s legal team successfully argued that Franciscan Alliance, a Mishawaka-based hospital chain, broke its May 2021 promise to provide 24/7 medical services while downsizing the hospital.

Hammond’s attorneys had sought an 18-month reprieve, but McDermott said he was moving ahead with plans to find another emergency medical provider for the space.

Robert Anderson, an attorney for Franciscan, said he would have to review the judge’s decision before the hospital decides its next move.

The judge’s order states that is unlikely to be extended beyond nine months.

### Woman brings raccoon to bar, receives probation

**ND** BISMARCK — A woman who brought a wild raccoon into a bar earlier this year will spend a year on probation.

Erin Christensen, 38, of Mad dock, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges of providing false information to law enforcement, tampering with evidence and unlawful possession of a live furbearer, reported the Bismarck Tribune.

Northeast District Judge Donovan Foughty gave her a suspended six-month jail sentence and a year on probation. He also ordered her to pay \$1,100 in fines and fees.

According to court documents, Christensen said her family found the raccoon, nicknamed Rocky, on the side of a road and was nursing it back to health when she brought it into the bar on Sept. 6.

A bartender said Rocky didn’t

get loose nor did he bite anyone but state health officials still issued a warning about potential rabies exposure.

Keeping a wild raccoon as a pet is illegal under state law — as is keeping a bat or skunk because they are known carriers of rabies, according to North Dakota’s Game and Fish website. Authorities ultimately euthanized the raccoon, who tested negative for rabies.

### Students charged with mistreating a cadaver

**PA** PITTSBURGH — The University of Pittsburgh will examine how it manages donated human tissue following abuse-of-corpses charges against two students.

Authorities charged Amay Gupta, 19, of Fremont, Calif., and Sonel S. Jimenez, 19, of Albrightsville, Pa., with one misdemeanor count apiece. Pitt police allege the students mistreated a cadaver Nov. 4 in an anatomy lab class in Victoria Hall.

Witnesses observed Gupta making sexual remarks about a male corpse and placing a hand inside its chest, while Jimenez was seen inappropriately touching a female corpse, smirking and commenting, according to complaints against the students.

A Pitt spokesperson told the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette that the university is moving to assess internal operations. The university receives about 80 cadavers a year from Pennsylvania’s nonprofit Human Gifts Registry for educational purposes.

— From wire reports

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# Doncic's stat line lights up Twitter

Associated Press

DALLAS — Include the extra rebound, or don't.

It doesn't really matter with Luka Doncic's logic-defying stat line that had current and former NBA stars, along with current and former teammates, buzzing on Twitter.

Doncic had 60 points, a Dallas franchise record, a career-best 21 rebounds and 10 assists in a wild 126-121 overtime victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.

Set up by his improbable tying jumper in the final second of regulation off his intentionally missed free throw, Doncic had the first 60-20-10 triple-double in NBA history.

Plenty of peers noticed, including former European sidekick Kristaps Porzingis, traded to Washington last season to break up the pairing that never really clicked as planned.

Porzingis referenced their shared playing roots in Spain, with a tweet in Spanish that translated to "This guy is not normal."

And the 7-foot-3 Latvian skipped that extraneous rebound on a night when he could celebrate a double-double of his own with 24 points and 10 rebounds as the Wizards beat Philadelphia.

Doncic broke Dirk Nowitzki's franchise

record of 53 points from 2004 two days after the Mavericks unveiled a statue of the retired German star outside the arena.

Nowitzki is the highest-scoring foreign-born player in NBA history (sixth overall). The 23-year-old All-Star could hold that title some day.

"It'll be another statue in Dallas," Hall of Famer Kevin Garnett wrote on Twitter.

Kyle Kuzma included the extra rebound while calling Doncic's numbers "INSANE!!!!!!"

Brooklyn star Kevin Durant felt the need for an expletive in comparing Doncic's night to video-game numbers.

Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said he'll never see another night like it, and teammate Christian Wood, whose three-pointer sparked the rally from nine points down in the final 30 seconds of regulation, said he was sending a "GOAT" to Doncic's farm in his native Slovenia.

"Everybody is still in shock," coach Jason Kidd said after the game. "The history of the game is written by the players and it was written again tonight for a player — Luka — doing something that's never been done before."

After grabbing the loose ball on a rebound and shooting the 11-foot jumper in

one motion, the 23-year-old danced around while waving his arms as the thinned-out crowd expecting a loss celebrated wildly.

It was 115-115 with 1.0 seconds remaining.

"A lot of people asked me about this back in the locker room, and I said I thought we won it," Doncic said. "That's why I went to the crowd like this. I thought we won the game, and then I see it's tied. I was like, 'Oof.'"

Dallas was down nine with 33 seconds left in regulation before getting even in a back-and-forth sequence capped by Doncic grazing the rim and hitting the backboard with the intentional miss.

Quentin Grimes scored a career-high 33 points and Dallas native Julius Randle had 29 points and 18 rebounds for the Knicks, who lost a fourth consecutive game coming off an eight-game winning streak, their longest in almost nine years.

The first 60-point game in Dallas history also included Doncic's career high in rebounds. The young Slovenian had his seventh triple-double and the league's highest-scoring performance of the season.

The Mavericks moved three games over .500 with a fourth consecutive victory, both marks matching their season bests.

# Nuggets rally past Kings to win fifth straight

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Michael Porter Jr. scored 30 points, Jamal Murray added 25 and the Denver Nuggets rallied from a 20-point deficit to beat the Sacramento Kings 113-106 on Tuesday night for their fifth straight win.

Porter and Murray sparked an 8-0 run in a span of 56 seconds late in the fourth quarter to turn a tie game into another win for the top team in the Western Conference.

Porter's three-pointer broke a 96-all tie with 3:14 to play and Murray followed with a desperation three just before the shot clock expired. Murray then added a steal and break-away layup to make it 104-96 with 2:14 to play and Denver hung on from there.

Nikola Jokic added 20 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won eight of their last nine games.

De'Aaron Fox scored 26 points and Kevin Huerter added 11 for the Kings, who have lost three of four games to open a six-game homestand.

**Suns 125, Grizzlies 108:** Duane Washington Jr. scored a career-high 26 points, powering Phoenix to the road win.

Ja Morant led Memphis with 34 points. Desmond Bane was the only other Memphis player in double figures with 14 before Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins cleared his bench midway through the fourth quarter.

**Wizards 116, 76ers 111:** Kristaps Porzingis scored 24 points, and host Washington stopped Philadelphia's eight-

game winning streak.

The Wizards withstood a 48-point effort by Joel Embiid and a 26-point, 13-assist performance by James Harden. The 76ers cut a 16-point deficit to one late in the game but couldn't overtake Washington.

**Celtics 126, Rockets 102:** Jaylen Brown scored 14 of his 39 points in the third quarter, pouring it on after he was knocked to the parquet by a flagrant foul that sparked host Boston to its third straight win.

Jalen Green scored 28 and Kevin Porter Jr. had 22 points and nine assists for the Rockets, who snapped a five-game losing streak in Chicago on Monday.

**Lakers 129, Magic 110:** LeBron James scored 28 points, Russell Westbrook had a triple-

double and visiting Los Angeles stopped a four-game slide.

**Warriors 110, Hornets 105:** Klay Thompson had 29 points and Jonathan Kuminga delivered on both ends down the stretch, sending host Golden State to the win.

LaMelo Ball had 21 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte, which lost 124-113 at Portland on Monday. Terry Rozier scored 19 points and Mason Plumlee grabbed 13 rebounds.

**Clippers 124, Raptors 113:** Paul George scored 23 points, and visiting Los Angeles won for the seventh time in nine games.

**Pacers 129, Hawks 114:** Buddy Hield made six three-pointers on his way to 28 points, leading host Indiana to the win.



# Carr, No. 6 Texas beat A&M-Commerce

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — Marcus Carr tied a Texas record with 10 three-pointers and matched his career high with 41 points as the sixth-ranked Longhorns beat Texas A&M-Commerce 97-72 on Tuesday night.

Carr, a senior, previously scored 41 while playing for Minnesota against Nebraska on Feb. 27, 2021. He scored 33 points in the first half alone Tuesday, matching a Texas record for a half set by Jim Krivacs in 1978.

Carr's total was the most by a Texas player since Reggie Freeman had 43 points against Fresno State on Dec. 14, 1996.

"We wanted to make Texas beat us from three," A&M-Commerce coach Jaret von Rosenberg said. "Carr really had a night. The rim looked like an ocean for him."

Texas (11-1) played its fourth straight game without coach Chris Beard, who was suspended without pay after his Dec. 12 arrest on a felony family violence charge. It was the Longhorns' first game since Beard's

fiancée, Randi Trew, issued a statement saying Beard did not strangle her and she never wanted him arrested or prosecuted.

Carr converted 13 of 19 shots in 30 minutes, including 10 of 15 three-pointers. He has totaled 103 points in his last four games. He made eight threes in the first half, a school record for a half, as the Longhorns led 47-29 at the break.

"Most of the shots that I put up felt really good," Carr said. "I thought they were going in. My teammates just kept giving me confidence after they'd seen me knock down the first couple. They just said, 'We're going to look for you. Keep shooting. Keep knocking them down.'"

Carr attempted only four shots in the second half. He had two assists in each half.

"You'd think he'd want to try to continue gunning, but he came out the opposite," acting coach Rodney Terry said after the game. "He was a willing passer."

Terry removed Carr with 3:26 remaining knowing he needed

one more three-pointer to break Al Coleman's school record set in 1997.

"We need him on Saturday (at Oklahoma)," Terry said. "We don't need him the last three, four minutes of the game, and he turns his ankle. We need him healthy."

Carr said he became aware of the three-point record when it was posted on the arena's video board.

"Timmy (Allen) looked at me and said get one more," Carr said. "Not to say I didn't want to break it. But it wasn't of as much importance to me. Honestly, at that point, I was really just focused on trying to get better on defense."

Freshman Dillon Mitchell scored a season-best 16 points for Texas, providing an inside complement to Carr's long-range shooting. Arterio Morris scored 12 points. Allen had eight points, eight assists and six rebounds. Tyrese Hunter also had eight assists.

C.J. Roberts scored 20 points to lead A&M-Commerce (4-10).

Tommie Lewis added 19 points for the Lions.

Carr is the first Longhorn other than Terry to be allowed to speak to the media since Beard's arrest.

"Right now, R.T. is our coach. We're focused on being led by him. Obviously, it's an adjustment, but a good and smooth one," Carr said.

## Big picture

**Texas A&M-Commerce:** The Lions moved up to Division I this season, and the transition has not been easy. They played 13 of their first 14 games on the road or at neutral sites and have lost six straight by an average of 15.8 points. They attempt a lot of three-pointers, 29 a game before Tuesday, with 27% accuracy. Texas limited A&M-Commerce to 15 attempts. The Lions made seven, and they shot 53% overall.

**Texas:** The Longhorns have 73 assists on 101 baskets in their last three games. They made 28 assists on 37 baskets against A&M-Commerce.

# Wisconsin tops Oklahoma St. in Guaranteed Rate Bowl

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Wisconsin had a new coach on the sideline, with the interim coach still calling the shots. The Badgers had several new players in key positions, including quarterback.

A long, sometimes-difficult season came to a conclusion with more adversity — and, eventually, a win.

A 17-point lead nearly erased, Wisconsin dug down for one last defensive play to beat Oklahoma State 24-17 in the Guaranteed Rate Bowl on Tuesday night.

"It ended exactly the way we wanted it to — we got the win," said Braelon Allen, who ran for 116 yards and scored on a 20-yard touchdown.

Luke Fickell, hired away from Cincinnati after a trip to the College Football Playoff last season, joined the team on the sideline for the bowl game. He wasn't there to run the show, though; all the decisions were left to interim coach Jim Leonhard.

"This is what I envisioned what this was about from afar," Fickell said. "And that's what they've shown me over the last three and a half weeks: they want to be here, they want to do it together and they want to do it the right way."

## First Responder Bowl

**Memphis 38, Utah State 10:** Seth Henigan threw for 284 yards and three touchdowns — two of them to Eddie Lewis — and Jeyvon Ducker ran for two scores to help the Tigers rout the Aggies at the First Responder Bowl in Dallas.

Henigan's touchdown passes were all thrown in the second quarter, when Memphis (7-6) outscored Utah State (6-7) 21-3. The Tigers outgained the Aggies in the period 179 yards to 39 and 137-16 in the air.

Ducker had a 1-yard plunge and a 48-yard sprint for scores, both in the fourth quarter. Lewis caught scoring passes of 15 and 22 yards, and Caden Prieskorn caught a 3-yard touchdown pass with 24 seconds remaining

in the half.

## Birmingham Bowl

**East Carolina 53, Coastal Carolina 29:** Holton Ahlers threw a Birmingham Bowl-record five touchdown passes and accounted for a game-record six TDs to help the Pirates beat the Chanticleers in the Birmingham Bowl at Protective Stadium in Birmingham, Ala.

Ahlers, selected the game MVP, threw for 300 yards on 26-for-38 passing, rushed for 37 yards and a touchdown and caught a pass for 14 yards for East Carolina (8-5).

## Camellia Bowl

**Buffalo 23, Georgia Southern 21:** Cole Snyder passed for 265 yards and Tajay Ahmed took over the fourth quarter with 14 carries to lead the Bulls past the Eagles in the Camellia Bowl in Montgomery, Ala.

Buffalo (7-6) chewed up the clock with runs from Ahmed on 11 consecutive plays and one pile-driving final first down. He had 27 carries for 98 yards and a touchdown.

# Raanta, Canes shut out Blackhawks

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Antti Raanta made 24 saves for his first shutout since March and the Carolina Hurricanes beat the Chicago Blackhawks 3-0 on Tuesday night for their ninth consecutive victory.

Martin Necas, Jesper Fast and Jordan Martinook scored to help the Hurricanes extend their franchise-record points streak to 15 games.

"If we keep playing like this, we're going to get lots of wins," Raanta said. "It's a good confidence-booster, but I don't think we're worrying too much about the streak. We just want to improve and play good hockey."

Raanta, making his third consecutive start, had his 16th career shutout. He faced only seven shots in both the first and third periods.

There were dominating stretches for the Hurricanes, so Raanta had to make sure he was ready when called upon.

"It's almost our trademark here that the first 10, 15 minutes, it's usually at the other end," he said. "You just try to keep yourself warm and focused."

The Blackhawks, who were aiming for back-to-back wins for the first time since late October, have lost nine of their last 10. They've been shut out in three of those defeats.

**Capitals 4, Rangers 0:** Marcus Johansson, defenseman Erik Gustafsson and Lars Eller scored, and Darcy Kuemper made 32 saves as surging Washington beat New York for its sixth straight road win.

Conor Sheary had a short-handed, empty-

net goal for the Capitals, who have won 10 of 11 overall and are 13-3-1 since Nov. 23.

Kuemper improved to 7-1-0 in eight career games against the Rangers with his third shutout this season.

New York had won eight of nine.

**Oilers 2, Flames 1:** Connor McDavid scored his NHL-leading 31st goal on a power play in the third period and visiting Edmonton beat Calgary.

McDavid's 16-game point streak (15 goals, 17 assists) is the longest active streak in the NHL and one short of his career high.

Tyson Barrie, with his 100th career goal, also scored for the Oilers.

**Maple Leafs 5, Blues 4 (OT):** William Nylander scored on a breakaway with 57 seconds left in overtime and visiting Toronto beat St. Louis.

Justin Holl, Alexander Kerfoot, Calle Jarnkrok and John Tavares also scored for Toronto, and Ilya Samsonov made 30 saves as the Leafs won their third straight to improve to 10-2-1 in December.

**Stars 3, Predators 2:** Roope Hintz scored his second goal of the game with 52.3 seconds left and visiting Dallas beat Nashville.

Jamie Benn had a goal and an assist and Jake Oettinger made 26 saves for the Stars, winners of three of four.

**Wild 4, Jets 1:** Jared Spurgeon, Mats Zuccarello and Frederick Gaudreau each had a goal and an assist, and visiting Minnesota handed Winnipeg its first-three game skid of the season.

Samuel Walker scored his first NHL goal

for the Wild, who are 7-1-0 in their past eight games. Sam Steel contributed a pair of assists.

**Senators 3, Bruins 2 (SO):** Alex DeBrincat was the only player to score in the shootout and host Ottawa beat Boston to snap a three-game skid.

DeBrincat and Tim Stutzle scored second-period goals for the Senators.

Jake DeBrusk and Pavel Zacha scored for the Bruins.

**Islanders 5, Penguins 1:** Mathew Barzal and Anders Lee each scored twice, Josh Bailey had a goal and an assist and host New York beat Pittsburgh.

Hudson Fasching and Brock Nelson each had two assists and Ilya Sorokin made 19 saves in his 100th NHL appearance.

**Coyotes 6, Avalanche 3:** Michael Carcone scored in his first NHL game, Nick Schmaltz had his second power-play goal in two games and host Arizona ended Colorado's winning streak at four.

Evan Rodrigues, Cole Makar and Mikko Rantanen scored for the Avalanche.

**Kings 4, Golden Knights 2:** Phillip Daulton and Viktor Arvidsson each had a goal and two assists, Pheonix Copley made 21 saves to win his fifth straight start and host Los Angeles beat Vegas.

Alex Iafallo had a goal and an assist and Gabriel Vilardi also scored to help the Kings improve to 5-0-1 in their past six games.

**Canucks 6, Sharks 2:** Bo Horvat had two goals and two assists, Spencer Martin stopped 24 shots and host Vancouver beat San Jose for its third straight victory.

## Braves give new catcher Murphy \$73M, six-year deal

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves signed newly acquired catcher Sean Murphy to a \$73 million, six-year contract, locking up another key player with a long-term deal.

The contract signed Tuesday includes a \$15 million club option for 2029 with no buyout that could raise the total value of the agreement to \$88 million.

Murphy will make \$4 million in 2023, \$9 million in 2024 and \$15 million each season from 2025 through 2028. He agreed to donate 1% of his annual salary to the Atlanta Braves Foundation.

After the uncertainty of playing with the low-budget Oakland Athletics for the past four seasons, Murphy is looking forward to

putting down roots in Atlanta with a team that has won five straight NL East titles and captured the World Series championship in 2021.

"My wife is looking forward to having a spot where she feels comfortable, at least for a while," Murphy said. "That's important to us."

The 28-year-old Murphy was acquired from the Athletics shortly after the winter meetings in a three-team deal that also included the Milwaukee Brewers.

### Eovaldi joins Rangers' rotation

The Texas Rangers have added another proven veteran to their revamped starting rotation.

Texas native Nathan Eovaldi agreed Tuesday to a two-year contract that includes a vesting player option for the 2025 season. The team announced the deal after the right-hander completed a physical exam in Texas.

Eovaldi's addition comes just under a month after the Rangers signed two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom in free agency.

A person familiar with the deal said Eovaldi was guaranteed \$34 million, with salaries of \$16 million each in 2023 and 2024, and a \$2 million signing bonus payable at a later date. That person spoke on the condition on anonymity because the team didn't disclose the terms.