

## McCain asserts freedoms in S. China Sea

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

The guided-missile destroyer USS John S. McCain steamed past a disputed island chain in the South China Sea on Friday, a day after transiting the Taiwan Strait, moves that challenge Chinese claims in the region.

The McCain sailed near the Paracel Islands west of the Philippines in a freedom-of-navigation operation meant to “assert navigational rights and freedoms,” according to a statement from 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley on Friday.

China has built military airfields and outposts on the islands, raising concern among surrounding nations and within the United States, which sends its warships through the area on a regular basis.

China, Taiwan and Vietnam dispute sovereignty of the archipelago, imposing “unlawful restrictions on innocent passage” of military vessels through the islands, according to Keiley’s statement.

The McCain challenged those restrictions, as well as China’s “claim to

straight baselines enclosing the Paracel Islands,” Keiley said. Beijing holds that its territorial waters extend to the island chain, but international law dictates otherwise.

“Unlawful and sweeping maritime claims in the South China Sea pose a serious threat to the freedom of the sea, including freedoms of navigation and overflight, free trade and unimpeded commerce, and freedom of economic opportunity for South China Sea littoral nations,” Keiley wrote.

A day earlier, the McCain sailed through the Taiwan Strait, where China also asserts territorial claims and requires foreign vessels to seek its permission before entering. That operation was also meant to demonstrate “the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,” Keiley said Thursday.

Beijing “paid close attention to and monitored from start to end the passage of the US military vessel through the Taiwan Strait,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a press conference Thursday, according to

a transcript.

“China will continue to stay on high alert and is ready to respond to all threats and provocations at any time, and will resolutely safeguard its national sovereignty and territorial integrity,” Wang said. “We hope the U.S. side will play a constructive role for regional peace and stability, rather than the opposite.”

The McCain’s back-to-back challenges to Chinese claims in the region come as President Joe Biden, inaugurated 2½ weeks ago, configures his foreign policy.

During a speech Thursday at the State Department, Biden said his administration would “take on directly the challenges posed by our prosperity, security and democratic values by our most serious competitor, China,” according to a transcript.

“We’ll confront China’s economic abuses; counter its aggressive, coercive action; to push back on China’s attack on human rights, intellectual property and global governance,” Biden said in the address.

## ‘Skywalkers’ among names rejected for Space Force

By CHAD GARLAND

*Stars and Stripes*

AstroPraetorians, constellators, freedom-naughts, geosentries, Trekkies, Skywalkers and Wookies were all suggested names for members of the Space Force, according to two PowerPoint slides the service released Friday.

After removing duplicates and alternate spellings, the list emailed to Stars and Stripes included about 380 possible names, from Aces to Zero-gees. Officials in December chose “guardians” as the general term for Space Force members, akin to the Air Force’s airmen.

Last year, officials sought

ideas from its ranks for a name to distinguish members of the fledgling service from sailors, soldiers, airmen and Marines. They received over 700 responses, Gen. John “Jay” Raymond said in late March.

Some of the goofier ones were anti-gravity gang, astrogators, loonies, FloatyBois, Homo Spaciens and Space Avengers.

Airmen, sailors, cadets, raiders, pathfinders, ensigns, corpsmen, Rangers, scouts, specialists, troops, troopers, warriors and operators were among the listed submissions already widely in use, officially or not, as military ranks, specialties, weapon systems or other designations.

nations.

Specialist was announced late last month as the term the Space Force would use for its four most junior ranks, though it has also long been used in Army ranks in order to distinguish enlisted technicians from non-commissioned officers.

Delta, the name the service adopted for the equivalent of an air wing as well as the term for the shape used in its “Star Trek”-like logo, was also among the proposals. So was the related title of “deltan.”

Space professionals, which was used as a placeholder before guardians, was listed among space cadets, space

cases, space folks, space Marines and space GIs.

Entries like STARgeant show a clear affinity for wordplay. Other suggestions capture the difficulty of defining members of a service that is bound to Earth but focused on space: ground-based-astronauts, space operator located elsewhere, space operator located on Earth and terranauts.

While many saw the chosen term “guardians” as a reference to the Marvel comic book and movie series “Guardians of the Galaxy,” the name of the series was also among the suggestions, as was that of its main character, Star-Lord.

# Japan's vending machines sell virus tests

*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — Vending machines on almost any street corner in Japan sell everything from sodas to ice cream and warm noodles.

Now, consumers in Tokyo and a neighboring prefecture can find machines vending coronavirus test kits.

Vending machines in five locations in Tokyo and Kanagawa prefecture are selling polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, test kits for about \$33. The price is set to increase by nearly \$10 on Monday.

Tokyo, Kanagawa and two other prefectures that comprise the greater Tokyo metro area are under a state of emergency until March 7 due to a winter surge in new coronavirus cases. The surge was the worst of the pandemic thus far but is in decline.

The vending machines, which can be found near Shibuya, Osaki, Kanda and Ofuna stations as well as at Jyomyoin temple near Uguisudani, were installed to encourage people to take the test regularly, accord-

ing to the website for Takenoko ENT Clinic, which provides the kits and analyzes the actual tests.

Kits were nearly sold out at the Osaki machine on Thursday, while the Shibuya and Ofuna machines were close to fully stocked.

Each kit comes with a sample container, zip-close bags, an informational form and an envelope to send the sample to the clinic in neighboring Saitama prefecture, according to the People vending machine company's website.

After buying the kit, the subjects must deposit a saliva sample in the container, mix it with a saline solution to prevent it from hardening and mail the sample to the clinic.

The test subjects register their information and kit number on the clinic website. Within 24 hours of receiving the test sample, the clinic sends the subjects a website address where they can find their results, according to the clinic.

If the result is positive, the clinic will call

the subject directly and also report the result to the clinic's local health care center, the clinic said on its website. The subject will be asked to stay home until contacted by a local health care center.

Some limits apply. Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, should not take the vending machine test; neither should anyone who has traveled in the previous two weeks or has been in contact with someone already infected with the virus.

The clinic encourages anyone with symptoms or who has been in close contact with an infected person to see a health care professional.

Its large testing machine allows the clinic to provide tests much cheaper than other providers, according to the clinic.

"Let's take tests once every two weeks to protect ourselves and the people you care about until the vaccines become widely available," the clinic stated on its website.

## New vehicle registration policy for Army in Hawaii

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — All Army installations on Oahu Island will now require soldiers, civilian employees and their family members to register vehicles they drive onto bases, a policy aimed at reducing the number that are abandoned on installations.

Army Garrison Hawaii's Directorate of Emergency Services announced the new vehicle registration system Wednesday, Command Sgt. Maj. Mike Oliver said on Facebook Live that day.

"Effective immediately, all personnel gaining access to the post will need to register their vehicle," he said. "This will help to decrease the number of abandoned vehicles that we have in our community.

"Our military police and security guards will start to enforce

this new policy starting May 1," he said.

The policy affects Schofield Barracks, Wheeler Army Airfield, Fort Shafter and all housing owned or managed by the Army.

The policy will have little effect on base visitors because they are already required to register vehicles when requesting a pass.

Abandoned vehicles have long been a chronic problem on Oahu, both on military installations and public streets.

Dumping a vehicle in Hawaii is a crime, and active-duty soldiers would face prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, the page said.

Any soldier out-processing from an Army installation will be required to show proof of "shipping, selling or disposal" of registered vehicles, Oliver said.

## Army vet's ex-husband charged after her death

BY WYATT OLSON

*Stars and Stripes*

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — The soldier married to an Army veteran found dead by military police at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, on Jan. 13 was charged Thursday with murder, the Army said.

Spc. Raul Hernandezperez was charged under the Uniform Code of Military Justice with murder and failure to follow a lawful order following the death of his wife, Selena Roth, 25, the Army said in a news release Thursday. A trial date has not been set.

Hernandezperez, 25, of Naples, Fla., is an intelligence analyst assigned to the 500th Military Intelligence Brigade. He had filed for divorce from Roth in October, according to Hawaii court records.

"Our brigade and the Army

community are heartbroken by Selena's death," brigade commander Col. Theodore Travis said in the news release. "We have extended our condolences to Selena's family, friends and loved ones. We ask that you please respect the highly sensitive nature of this tragedy out of respect for the families. We will ensure that Spc. Hernandezperez is treated fairly throughout the judicial process."

Defendants in military criminal proceedings, like defendants in civilian courts, are presumed innocent until proven guilty at a court-martial.

Roth was buried Monday in a central Florida cemetery near her hometown.

While in the Army, Roth was a signals intelligence analyst, according to the obituary prepared by her family.

# The basics of Trump's second trial

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump's historic second impeachment trial begins Tuesday, forcing the Senate to decide whether to convict him of incitement of insurrection after a violent mob of his supporters laid siege to the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

While Trump's acquittal is expected, all 100 senators will first have to sit at their desks and listen to hours of graphic testimony from House Democrats about the riots, which left five people dead. The House impeached Trump on Jan. 13, one week after the violence.

A look at the basics of the upcoming impeachment trial:

## How does the trial work?

The Constitution says the House has the sole power of impeachment while the Senate has the sole power to try the individual on the charges. The person being impeached — who can be the president, the vice president or any civil officer of the United States — can be convicted by two-

thirds of the senators present.

The House appoints managers as prosecutors who set up on the Senate floor, along with the defendant's lawyers, to present their case. The prosecutors and Trump's defense team will have a set amount of time to make arguments, and then senators can ask questions in writing before a final vote.

Once the senators reach a final vote on the impeachment charge — this time there is just one, incitement of insurrection — each lawmaker will stand up and cast their vote: guilty or not guilty.

## Why try Trump when he is out of office?

Republicans and Trump's lawyers argue that the trial is unnecessary, and even unconstitutional, because Trump is no longer president and cannot be removed from office. Democrats disagree, pointing to opinions of many legal scholars and the impeachment of a former secretary of war, William Belknap, who resigned in 1876 just hours before he was impeached over a kickback scheme.

While Belknap was eventually acquitted, the Senate held a full trial. And this time, the House impeached Trump while he was still president, seven days before Biden's inauguration.

If Trump were convicted, the Senate could take a second vote to bar him from holding office again.

## How is this trial different from Trump's first trial?

Trump's first trial was based on evidence uncovered over several months by the House about a private phone call between Trump and the president of Ukraine, as well as closed-door meetings that happened before and afterward. Democrats held a lengthy investigation and then compiled a report of their findings.

In contrast, the second trial will be based almost entirely on the visceral experience of a riot that targeted the senators themselves, in the Capitol building. The fresh memories of Jan. 6 could make it easier for the House impeachment managers to make their case, but it doesn't mean the outcome will be any different.

# Calls grow for US to rely on rapid testing

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — When a Halloween party sparked a COVID-19 outbreak at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, school officials conducted rapid screening on more than 1,000 students in a week, including many who didn't have symptoms.

Although such asymptomatic screening isn't approved by regulators and the 15-minute tests aren't as sensitive as the genetic one that can take days to yield results, the testing director at the historically Black college credits the approach with quickly containing the infections and allowing the campus to remain open.

"Within the span of a week, we had crushed the spread. If we had had to stick with the PCR test, we would have been dead in the water," said Dr. Robert Doolittle, referring to the polymerase chain reaction test that is considered the gold standard by many doctors and Food and Drug Administration regulators.

With President Joe Biden vowing to get elementary and middle school students back to the classroom by spring and the country's testing system still unable to keep pace with the spread of COVID-19, some experts see an opportunity to refocus U.S. testing less on medical precision than on mass screening that they believe could save hundreds of thousands of lives. As vaccines slowly roll out,

they say the nation could suppress the outbreak and reopen much of the economy by easing regulatory hurdles to allow millions more rapid tests that, while technically less accurate, may actually be better at identifying sick people when they are most contagious.

The U.S. reports about 2 million tests per day, the vast majority of which are the slower, PCR variety. The initial tests developed to detect COVID-19 all used the cutting-edge technique, which quickly became the standard at U.S. hospitals and labs. It also became the benchmark for accuracy at the FDA, which has greenlighted more than 230 PCR tests but only about a dozen rapid tests.

# US must lift sanctions for Iran to recommit to nuke deal

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader on Sunday urged the United States to lift all sanctions if it wants Iran to live up to commitments under its nuclear deal with world powers, state TV reported, his first comments on the matter since U.S. President Joe Biden took office.

"If (the U.S.) wants Iran to return to its commitments, it must lift all sanctions in practice, then we will do verification ... then we will return to our commitments," state TV

quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying.

Former President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. in 2018 from the atomic deal, which saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Biden has said he will seek to revive the deal, but insisted that Iran must first reverse its nuclear steps, creating a contest of wills between the nations.

Following the killing last December of an Iranian scientist credited with spearhead-

ing the country's disbanded military nuclear program, Iran's parliament approved a law to block international nuclear inspectors later this month — a serious violation of the accord.

Iran also has begun enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels and said it would experiment with uranium metals, a key component of a nuclear warhead. The country has announced its moves and insisted that all breaches of the pact are easily reversible.

# California shifts indoor church guidelines

*Associated Press*

SAN FRANCISCO — California Gov. Gavin Newsom's office on Saturday issued revised guidelines for indoor church services after the U.S. Supreme Court lifted the state's ban on indoor worship during the coronavirus pandemic, but left in place restrictions on singing and chanting.

In the most significant legal victory against California's COVID-19 health orders, the high court issued rulings late Friday in two cases where churches argued the restrictions violated their religious liberty. The justices said for now California can't continue with a ban on indoor church services, but it can limit attendance to 25% of a building's capacity and restrict singing and chanting inside.

The new state guidelines limit attendance at indoor services in areas with widespread or substantial virus spread to 25% of a building's capacity. Indoor services in areas with moderate to minimum spread are limited to 50% capacity.

California had put the ban in place because the virus is more easily transmitted indoors and singing releases tiny droplets that can carry the disease.

Newsom's office said those measures were imposed to protect worshippers from getting infected.

"We will continue to enforce the restrictions the Supreme Court left in place and, after reviewing the decision, we will issue revised guidelines for worship services to continue to protect the lives of Californians," the governor's press secretary, Daniel Lopez, said in a statement.

## Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — There were 58 fewer people hospitalized in Arkansas on Saturday as the number of hospitalizations continues a recent decline, according to the Arkansas Department of Health.

There were 750 hospitalizations, down from 808 on Friday, while the number of reported cases rose by 1,341, and there were 11 more deaths due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus, according to the health department.

Overall, the number of both deaths and cases have also declined during the past two weeks, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The seven-day rolling average of deaths in the state has dropped from 40.86 per day on Jan. 22 to 31.29 and the average number of new cases has fallen from 1,963.86 per day to 1,737.14 during the same time peri-

od, the Johns Hopkins data showed.

## Kentucky

LEXINGTON — Less than half of staff members at Kentucky long-term care facilities have been vaccinated for COVID-19, in part because many refused vaccination, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported. Some of those people are now changing their minds, leading to complications in the vaccine distribution.

Doses first became available for long-term care facility staff and residents two months ago. Since then, an estimated 73% of residents have received the vaccine, but only about 45% of staff have been vaccinated.

But CVS Health and Walgreens were contracted by the federal government to provide only three vaccine clinics at long-term care facilities. The third, which is happening now, was meant as a wrap up to offer second doses to any stragglers. Both pharmacies initially refused to dole out first doses at their final clinic, in part because they don't have a contract to come back and administer the second dose, said Betsy Johnson, an industry lobbyist and director of the Kentucky Association for Health Care Facilities and the Kentucky Center for Assisted Living.

After meeting with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services this week, CVS and Walgreens have now been instructed to provide a first dose to staff members and residents as long as the facility has a plan for how those people will get a second dose — a responsibility that will likely fall to the local health department, Johnson said.

## Maryland

BALTIMORE — Three Orthodox Jewish day schools in Baltimore County have reported large numbers of COVID-19 cases in the past two months.

The Baltimore Sun reported that the outbreaks prompted one middle school to shut down and move to virtual learning for a week.

The outbreaks are far larger than others seen in public or private schools since the state's mandatory reporting requirements began in October. County health officials said they have been working with the schools, but declined to detail what measures have been taken at each to contain the outbreaks, which began shortly after Thanksgiving.

The Talmudical Academy of Baltimore,

a century-old, kindergarten through 12th grade school in Pikesville, had 62 cases inside the school on Feb. 3, according to Maryland's COVID-19 school dashboard. That number was by far the most cases reported in a single school since October. The school will be closed for two weeks, including one week of virtual instruction and a week of vacation.

## New York

NEW YORK — State-run COVID-19 vaccination sites in Long Island and community-based "pop-up" locations throughout the New York City area were closed Sunday because of an impending winter storm, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday.

Operations at eight state-run COVID-19 testing sites also were suspended because of inclement weather.

"Much of Downstate New York is expected to experience heavy snow and strong winds, creating the potential for dangerous travel conditions on Sunday," Cuomo said in a statement. "Everyone with appointments can rest assured they will not lose their spots — all appointments will be rescheduled for later in the week and everyone will receive direct notification of these scheduling changes."

Mass vaccination sites at the Westchester County Center, Yankee Stadium, Javits Center and Aqueduct Racetrack, as well as state-run mass vaccination sites throughout Upstate New York, will continue operating as scheduled, according to the governor's office.

## Texas

AUSTIN — The number of people hospitalized due to the coronavirus fell below 10,000 on Saturday, the first time since Dec. 19, according to the state health department.

There were 9,957 hospitalizations in addition to 13,192 newly reported confirmed or suspected virus cases and 348 additional deaths due to COVID-19, the department reported.

There have been 38,476 COVID-19 deaths and more than 2.15 million cases since the pandemic began.

The seven-day rolling averages of both deaths and new cases declined in the state during the past two weeks, with deaths dropping from 322.43 per day on Jan. 22 to 305.71 and new cases falling from 19,769.43 to 18,979.71, according to the Johns Hopkins data.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Man charged after police find booby trap in home

**MI** TWINING — A northeastern Michigan man was arrested after authorities said a booby trap was found in his home as police served a search warrant connected to a stolen credit card.

Roger Broadstone, 67, was arraigned on attempted murder, arson for preparing to burn a building, placing an offensive substance with intent to injure, disarming an officer, resisting police and other charges, WJRT-TV reported.

Broadstone is accused of barricading himself inside his Twining-area home and refusing to allow officers inside. State police said the officers wanted to speak with Broadstone about \$1,500 in merchandise purchased online.

### Police: Man used hatchet in attack on woman

**NE** LINCOLN — Police in Lincoln arrested a man in a domestic assault case, accusing him of attacking his girlfriend with a hatchet.

Police arrested Nathan Ueding, 29, of Lincoln, on suspicion of second-degree assault, use of a deadly weapon, strangulation, making terroristic threats and false imprisonment, the Lincoln Journal Star reported.

The woman told officers that Ueding assaulted her, hitting her several times with a hatchet and not allowing her to leave the home for several hours, police said.

Officers later found Ueding waiting in a vehicle outside the woman's workplace and arrested him, police said.

### Runaway cow escapes slaughter, roams streets

**RI** PROVIDENCE — A 1,600-pound steer was reported roaming the streets of Rhode Island's capital.

Workers with Rhode Island Beef & Veal told WJAR-TV that a wholesaler lost control of the cow while unloading it for slaughter.

The steer eventually made it to Providence, where local authorities contacted the Department of Environmental Management and animal control. Neither agency had the resources to capture and transport the animal, according to a police report.

Johnston police said the animal was still on the run.

### Teen joins inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts

**WV** MORGANTOWN — A West Virginia teenager joined the nation's inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts.

Frannie Kitzmiller of Morgantown earned the distinction, the Morgantown Area Council of the Boys Scouts of America said in a news release.

The statement said Kitzmiller is West Virginia's first female Eagle scout and among hundreds nationwide. Girls were allowed to join the Boys Scouts of America in 2019.

### Suit: Supermarket shorts customers on coffee

**MA** BOSTON — A Massachusetts man has sued a supermarket chain he alleges overstated the number of cups of coffee that could be

made from a store brand can of coffee.

The lawsuit filed in federal court in Boston alleges the Market Basket cans which contain roughly 11 ounces of coffee are labeled as containing enough coffee to brew 79 cups in the case of regular or 76 cups in the case of decaffeinated, WCVB-TV reported.

But the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, David Cohen, of Weymouth, alleges when he follows the directions on the can he can brew only 39 and 37 cups respectively.

"This means that consumers of the products, including plaintiff, were cheated out of 51% of the servings they paid for, in both cases, based on the advertising, marketing, and labeling of the products," the lawsuit said.

### Scientists link chemicals to cancer in sea lions

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Scientists in California have determined the likely causes of a mysterious cancer that has killed sea lions for years include elements introduced to the ocean by humans.

A team of marine mammal pathologists, virology experts, chemists and geneticists found the causes include toxic chemicals and herpes, The Los Angeles Times reported.

Scientists detected the sea lion cancer decades ago. At the time, barrels of industrial trash, radioactive materials, oil refinery waste, rotting meats and various acid sludges were dumped in the sea.

"With all the dumping since the Second World War, right up to the 1970s, that's a lot of stuff

out there," said Pdraig Duignan, chief pathologist at the Marine Mammal Center and a co-author of the study.

### Woman gives \$1K tips to restaurant workers

**MI** GRAND RAPIDS — A woman handed out \$1,000 tips to stunned restaurant workers in the Grand Rapids area.

Inspired by a video on TikTok, Jenna Arcidiacono raises money on Venmo to reward people who have been struggling during the coronavirus pandemic, especially when Gov. Gretchen Whitmer banned indoor dining for more than two months.

She has given \$7,000 since January, with minimum tips of \$1,000.

### Group rescues dozens of dogs during heavy snow

**IA** MARENGO — An Iowa group said it rescued more than 40 dogs on a rural property during heavy snow.

The Animal Rescue League of Iowa said it sent rescue teams to a property near Marengo in Iowa County, where they found dogs confined to pens in two dilapidated buildings and a camp.

The dogs were wet and cold, and are in need of various degrees for medical care, WHO-TV reported.

The rescuers said the dogs will need to be helped with a fear of humans, caused by being in cages.

No information about the property or property owner was released.

— From The Associated Press

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Manning, Megatron, Woodson headed to Hall

*Associated Press*

Though others have eclipsed him in some sections of the record book, Peyton Manning's stamp on the NFL is very much a thing of 2021 and beyond.

Manning, the quarterback whose meticulous attention to detail helped turn the 21st-century gridiron into a chessboard on turf, was awarded his spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday in his first year of eligibility.

The son of Saints legend Archie and brother of two-time Super Bowl champion Eli will be joined later this year in Canton by another first-ballot lock, defensive back Charles Woodson, who beat out Manning for the Heisman Trophy in 1997, and then spent nearly two decades trying to stop him. Calvin Johnson — aka "Megatron" — was also a first-ballot selection, his mere nine years of playmaking excellence with the Lions more than enough to convince the panel.

Also making it were guard Alan Faneca, who made nine Pro Bowls and missed only one game over 13 seasons with the Steelers, Jets and Cardinals; and John Lynch, the

hard-hitting safety who burnished his reputation in Tampa Bay, which plays Kansas City for the Super Bowl title Sunday.

Cowboys receiver Drew Pearson, Raiders coach Tom Flores and longtime Steelers scout Bill Nunn made it in the senior, coach and contributor categories, respectively.

In a nod to COVID-19, the voters eschewed their traditional all-day meeting Saturday in favor of a virtual gathering on Jan. 19. Manning found out a few days later, with his coaches and his family delivering the news. The winners' names were made public at the NFL Honors awards ceremony Saturday night. Jaguars left tackle Tony Boselli and Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas were among the finalists whose names were not called.

Manning going into the hall was all but preordained. That's fitting, in a way, because more than any quarterback before him, he used every minute of his preparation during the week, and then every second at the line of scrimmage during the games, doing all he could to eliminate doubt about the result of every play before it happened.

His work in the video room, his "voluntary" offseason throw-and-catch sessions with receivers, his quizzing of coaches and teammates alike during practices — all were the stuff of legend.

The end game came on Sundays, for 14 seasons with the Indianapolis Colts, then four more with the Denver Broncos, when he barked "Omaha, Omaha!!" at the line of scrimmage — we still don't know what it means — then went about dissecting defenses en route to 186 regular-season victories, a still-record five MVP awards and two Super Bowl titles in four trips.

When Manning retired after leading the Broncos to the title in 2016, he had the career records for passing yardage (71,940) and touchdowns (539), among others, and was part of the conversation as Greatest Of All Time.

Drew Brees and Tom Brady have eclipsed those numbers. Brady, playing in his 10th Super Bowl on Sunday, has shut the door on the GOAT debate, and with a win will join Manning as the second quarterback to lead two franchises to a title.

## Packers QB Rodgers named NFL MVP for 3rd time

*Associated Press*

A pair of Aarons pulled off an NFL hat trick Saturday night.

Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers earned his third Associated Press Most Valuable Player award, while Rams defensive tackle Aaron Donald took his third top defensive player prize at NFL Honors.

Also taking home awards were two members of the Washington Football Team: quarterback Alex Smith was the Comeback Player of the Year, and edge rusher Chase Young got the top defensive rookie.

Titans 2,000-yard rusher Derrick Henry won Offensive Player of the Year, and the offensive rookie honor went to Chargers quarterback Justin Herbert. Cleveland's Kevin Stefanski was the Coach of the Year, and Buffalo offensive coordinator Brian Daboll earned assistant coach honors.

Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson won the Walter Payton Man of the Year award for his work in the community.

Rodgers had perhaps the best season of his 16-year career, leading Green Bay to a 13-3 regular season, the NFC's best mark. Just a few months after the Packers choose a quarterback in the first round of April's

draft, Rodgers — who turned 37 in December — tore up the NFL.

Rodgers topped the league with 48 touchdown passes completion rate (70.7 percent), and a 121.5 rating. He was picked off just five times.

"It is really special to have won it in my fourth year as a starter and now to win it in my 13th year as a starter in a new offense is pretty amazing and something I am very proud of," Rodgers said. "To have sustained success and be able to play your best football at 37 in my 16th season is something I take a lot of pride in."

Donald, the Los Angeles Rams' unanimous All-Pro, added the 2020 top defensive player honor to his wins in 2017 and 2018. Only Pro Football Hall of Famer Lawrence Taylor (1981, '82, '86) and Houston edge rusher J.J. Watt (2012, '14, '15) have earned the award three times. "You just named two great defensive players," he said, "so any time your name is mentioned with greats, you will be honored — especially there's only a few that have accomplished that. To be the third to do it that is truly a blessing. It shows the body of work that I have; anytime your hard work is rewarded you are going to be happy about that. It is just a blessing."

The 36-year-old Smith completed a remarkable comeback from a broken right leg that required 17 surgeries to repair. Smith stepped in to start eight games before a strained right calf in the same leg sidelined him for the postseason spot he helped the team secure. Everyone across the league cited Smith as an inspiration. "It is humbling when I hear that," Smith said. "I know for how long I spent thinking about and looking at the men and women who inspired me. I am stuck in the hospital bed, stuck in a wheelchair, spent countless hours googling and looking at videos of our service men and women going through the same rehab as I went through. ... "So there were definitely people in front of me that I am so thankful for that allowed me to go down this path. And obviously I am humbled and I guess you hope that you can kind of be a link in that chain for anybody coming behind you."

Henry ran for 2,027 yards, the eighth player to surpass the magic 2,000 mark.

"Two thousand yards is always on a running back's mind, especially in the league because it is so unique," Henry said. "Always put the team goals first, then individual goals come second. But I knew we take a lot of pride in the running game."

# Kings top Nuggets despite Jokic's 50

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Harrison Barnes had 28 points and seven rebounds to help offset a career-high 50 points by Denver's Nikola Jokic, and the Sacramento Kings beat the Nuggets 119-114 on Saturday to complete a season sweep.

Barnes made five three-pointers, shot 10 of 16 overall and scored 13 points in the third quarter. Barnes also made a pair of free throws with 0.5 seconds remaining.

Jokic just missed adding to his franchise record of 46 triple-doubles with another huge night. The big man had 12 assists and eight rebounds and scored 23 points in the fourth quarter. But it wasn't enough for the Nuggets, who lost their third straight.

Sacramento first-round draft

pick Tyrese Haliburton scored a season-high 23 points. Hassan Whiteside added 11 points and 11 rebounds, and Richaun Holmes had 21 points.

**Mavericks 134, Warriors 132:** Luka Doncic tied his career high with 42 points in a scoring duel with Stephen Curry, leading host Dallas over Golden State.

The prime-time matchup on national TV lived up to the billing, with Curry hitting a season-high 11 three-pointers on the way to 57 points for the Warriors. It was the second-highest total of his career, behind the 62 points he scored in a win over Portland about a month ago.

**76ers 124, Nets 108:** Joel Embiid scored 33 points and Ben Simmons had 16 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists to lead host Philadelphia over short-handed Brooklyn.

Tobias Harris added 21 points and 12 rebounds for the Eastern Conference leaders.

**Lakers 135, Pistons 129 (2OT):** LeBron James scored eight of his 33 points in the second overtime, Anthony Davis added 30 points and host Los Angeles narrowly avenged a loss in Detroit last month.

**Knicks 110, Trail Blazers 99:** Elfrid Payton and Julius Randle scored 22 points apiece to power host New York over Portland.

**Bulls 118, Magic 92:** Zach LaVine bounced back from a poor performance a night earlier and scored 39 points as visiting Chicago routed injury-plagued Orlando.

**Spurs 111, Rockets 106:** DeMar DeRozan scored 30 points and host San Antonio held off a late charge from Houston.

**Hawks 132, Raptors 121:**

Trae Young had 28 points and 13 assists, Clint Capela finished with 23 points and 16 rebounds, and host Atlanta topped Toronto to snap a three-game losing streak.

**Bucks 124, Cavaliers 99:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 24 points and 11 rebounds, Jrue Holiday scored 20 and Milwaukee won at Cleveland for the second time in two days.

**Pelicans 118, Grizzlies 109:** Brandon Ingram had 27 points, 12 rebounds and a career-high four blocks, and Zion Williamson capped a 29-point night with a game-sealing dunk as host-New Orleans beat Memphis for its third straight victory.

**Thunder 120, Timberwolves 118:** Darius Bazley made the tiebreaking layup with 1:16 to play, and Oklahoma City edged visiting Minnesota after blowing a three-point lead.

# Lee's late goal lifts Islanders past Penguins

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — Anders Lee scored on the power play late in the third period to lift the New York Islanders over the Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 on Saturday night, snapping a five-game skid.

Lee scored with 2:44 left after Pittsburgh's Teddy Blueger was penalized for delay of game. It was the fourth goal this season for the Islanders captain. Ryan Pullock and Mathew Barzal had assists.

Semyon Varlamov made 28 saves for the Islanders.

Jake Guentzel put the Penguins ahead 3-2 at 3:19 of the third before Cal Clutterbuck tied it for the Islanders with his first goal of the season at 8:23.

Penguins captain Sidney Crosby assisted on Guentzel's fourth goal of the season. Crosby has 114 points against Islanders, the most of any active player against one team.

**Maple Leafs 5, Canucks 1:** Auston Matthews scored twice to extend his goal streak to a career-best seven games and host Toronto heaped more misery on Vancouver.

Wayne Simmonds scored twice and Zach Hyman had a goal and an assist, providing the rest of the offense for the Maple Leafs.

Frederik Andersen made 27 saves.

Mitch Marner added three assists to extend his point streak to seven games as Toronto won its second straight against the Canucks following Thursday's 7-3 blowout. Mikko Lehtonen chipped in with two assists for his first two-point night in the NHL.

**Coyotes 3, Blues 1:** Jakob Chychrun scored twice and Clayton Keller added a power-play goal, helping Arizona win at St. Louis.

Keller, a St. Louis native, rushed by Oskar Sundqvist and beat rookie Ville Husso through the goaltender's legs 10:44 into the second period. Chychrun added an empty-netter in the final minute.

Coyotes goalie Darcy Kuemper, who lost his previous start Tuesday, stopped 24 shots to improve to 3-5-1.

Robert Thomas scored for the Blues. Husso made 16 saves in his third start.

The teams split two games earlier in the week, and they play again on Monday night. St. Louis won 4-3 on Tuesday, but Arizona rebounded with a 4-3 victory Thursday.

**Ducks 2, Sharks 1:** Max Comtois and Troy Terry scored in the shootout, Ryan Miller made 26 saves and host Anaheim

beat San Jose.

Terry and San Jose's Ryan Donato each scored in the first round of the shootout, but Comtois had the decisive goal with a shot through Devan Dubnyk's legs.

Logan Couture scored for San Jose 11 seconds into the game but was stopped in the shootout along with Kevin Labanc. Dubnyk made 32 saves.

Anaheim's Isac Lundestrom scored his first NHL goal.

**Flames 6, Oilers 4:** Mikael Backlund helped host Calgary overcome a sluggish start with a goal and two assists in a win over Edmonton.

Milan Lucic, Johnny Gaudreau and Dillon Dube each had a goal and an assist for the Flames.

Calgary's Sam Bennett and Elias Lindholm also scored.

Oilers captain Connor McDavid had a goal and an assist, with Jujhar Khaira, Jesse Puljujarvi and Darnell Nurse also scoring for Edmonton.

**Canadiens 2, Senators 1:** Jake Allen made 34 saves and Josh Anderson broke a tie early in the third period, leading Montreal to the victory at Ottawa.

# Oklahoma State tops No. 6 Texas in 2 OTs

Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — Cade Cunningham scored five of his 19 points in the second overtime, including a contested three-pointer with 1:33 left, to help Oklahoma State beat sixth-ranked Texas 75-67 on Saturday.

Kalib Boone led the Cowboys with 22 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks, including two in the second overtime after Cunningham had staked Oklahoma State to a 74-67 lead with the three-pointer and two free throws.

Avery Anderson added 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Cowboys (12-5, 5-5 Big 12).

Andrew Jones had 17 points and Courtney Ramey 13 for the Longhorns (11-5, 5-4), who shot just 25% from the field (20-for-79) and had 21 turnovers. They hung around by forcing Oklahoma State into 35% shooting, grabbing 22 offensive rebounds and coming up with 18 steals and six blocks.

Cunningham scored the final basket in regulation, a three-pointer with 52 seconds left to tie the score at 59. He missed another three-pointer with four seconds left. He had two turnovers in the final minute of the first overtime, but also swiped a Texas inbound pass with four seconds left. But he missed a short floater in the lane and the game went to a second extra period.

**No. 5 Houston 112, Our Lady Of The Lake 46:** Cameron Tyson made a school-record 10 three-pointers on his way to a career-high 32 points to lead the host Cougars.

Coming off an 82-73 loss to East Carolina on Wednesday, Houston (16-2) left little doubt against the overmatched Saints, jumping to a big lead by halftime. Tyson, who scored 20 in the first half, beat his previous career high of 31 points against Tulane on Jan. 28.

The Cougars shot 55%, including 15-for-31 on three-pointers. Tramon Mark added 22 points, six rebounds and six assists, and Jamal Shead had 20 points, 11 assists, nine rebounds and eight steals.

**No. 9 Oklahoma 79, Iowa State 72:** Elijah Harkless scored a season-high 19 points and the host Sooners sent the Cyclones to their seventh straight loss.

Austin Reaves, who missed the previous two games while in COVID-19 protocols, had 16 points, eight rebounds and eight assists.

Brady Manek, who returned to the starting lineup for the first time since being out with COVID-19, had nine points and a career-high 15 rebounds for Oklahoma (12-5, 7-4 Big 12). Umoja Gibson added 18 points

for the Sooners, who bounced back from a close loss at No. 10 Texas Tech.

**No. 18 Missouri 68, No. 10 Alabama 65:** Dru Smith had 16 points and eight rebounds and the Tigers held off a frantic rally at the end by the visiting Crimson Tide.

Missouri was up by 20 with less than six minutes remaining, but its only points after that came on four free throws.

Herb Jones had two chances to give Alabama the lead in the final 20 seconds, but he missed a layup and had another try blocked by Mitchell Smith.

**No. 11 Tennessee 82, Kentucky 71:** Keon Johnson scored 17 of his season-high 27 points after halftime and fellow freshman Jaden Springer added a season-high 23 points to pace the visiting Volunteers to their second consecutive victory at Rupp Arena.

Trailing 58-48 with 12 minutes remaining, Tennessee (13-4, 6-4 Southeastern Conference) scored 12 straight points for the lead thanks to the freshmen. The lead traded hands twice more before the Vols took control with another 12-0 run for a 74-64 advantage.

Johnson finished 9-for-6 from the field and 9-for-11 from the line, while Springer was 9-for-17 and scored 14 in the second half.

**No. 12 Illinois 75, No. 19 Wisconsin 60:** Kofi Cockburn scored 23 points and Ayo Dosunmu had the third triple-double in school history with 21 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists to lead the host Illini.

Cockburn had 14 rebounds and recorded his eighth double-double in nine games for Illinois (13-5, 9-3).

D'Mitrik Trice scored 19 points and Nate Reuvers added 11 for the Badgers (14-6, 8-5).

**No. 13 Texas Tech 73, Kansas State 62:** Mac McClung scored 23 points as the Red Raiders handed the host Wildcats their 10th straight loss.

McClung, the Big 12 leading scorer, is averaging 25 points in his last four road games and capped the game with a breakout dunk in the final minute. Kevin McCullar added 15 points and Kyler Edwards had 13 for Texas Tech (14-5, 6-4 Big 12).

**No. 14 Virginia 73, Pittsburgh 65:** Sam Hauser scored 10 of his 23 points during a key second-half stretch to lead the host Cavaliers. Hauser, Jay Huff and Tomas Woldetensae all hit back-to-back three-pointers in a 23-9 surge that turned a 36-all game into a 59-45 lead for Virginia (13-3, 9-1 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Woldetensae had 14 points and Huff finished with 13 points and eight rebounds.

**No. 15 Creighton 71, Marquette 68:** Christian Bishop scored 14 points and the visiting Bluejays withstood a late comeback, denying a three-pointer in the final seconds.

The Golden Eagles (9-10, 5-8 Big East) trailed by 12 in the second half but rallied as D.J. Carton sank two three-pointers in the final minute. Carton's final three cut Creighton's lead to 70-68 with 35.9 seconds remaining.

**No. 16 Virginia Tech 80, Miami 76 (OT):** Nahiem Alleyne hit a go-ahead jumper with 25 seconds remaining in overtime and Hunter Cattoor added two late free throws for the visiting Hokies.

Justyn Mutts scored 22 points and Keve Aluma finished with 16 points for Virginia Tech (14-4, 8-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

**No. 17 West Virginia 91, No. 23 Kansas 79:** Miles McBride scored a career-high 29 points and Taz Sherman added a career-best 25 for the host Mountaineers.

West Virginia (13-5, 6-3 Big 12) never trailed and got off to a good start in a challenging stretch where it will play six straight opponents that are currently ranked. The Jayhawks (12-7, 6-5) lost their fifth straight road game.

**USC 66, No. 21 UCLA 48:** Ethan Anderson had career highs of five three-pointers and 19 points, and the Trojans won to put them in a tie with the short-handed Bruins atop the Pac-12.

Tahj Eaddy added 16 points for USC (15-3, 9-2), which has won four in a row.

**No. 24 Purdue 75, Northwestern 70:** Jaden Ivey scored a career-high 20 points and grabbed seven rebounds to provide the energy for the host Boilermakers.

Purdue (13-7, 8-5 Big Ten) also has won nine straight in the series for the first time since 1994-98.

**No. 25 Drake 80, Valparaiso 77:** Shan-Quan Hemphill scored 18 points, including a dunk that jumpstarted a late 11-0 run as the visiting Bulldogs won their second straight game since entering the AP poll earlier in the week for the first time in nearly 13 years.

**UNLV 68, Air Force 58:** Bryce Hamilton had 22 points and 13 rebounds in the Runnin' Rebels defeat of the visiting Falcons.

Cheikh Mbacke Diong had 16 points for UNLV (7-9, 4-5 Mountain West Conference). Nick Blake added 11 points. A.J. Walker had 18 points for Air Force (4-13, 2-11).