

## Acquittal ups support for Capitol riot inquiry

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — After former President Donald Trump's acquittal at his second Senate impeachment trial, bipartisan support appears to be growing for an independent Sept. 11-style commission into the deadly insurrection that took place at the U.S. Capitol.

Investigations into the riot were already planned, with Senate hearings scheduled later this month in the Senate Rules Committee. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has asked retired Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré to lead an immediate review of the Capitol's security process.

Lawmakers from both parties, speaking on Sunday's news shows, signaled that even more inquiries were likely. The Senate verdict Saturday, with its 57-43 majority falling 10 votes short of the two-thirds needed to convict Trump, hardly put to rest the debate about the Republican former president's culpability for the Jan. 6 assault.

"There should be a complete investigation about what happened," said Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy, one of seven Republicans who voted to convict Trump. "What was known, who knew it and when they knew, all that, because that builds the basis so this never happens again."

Cassidy said he was "attempting to hold President Trump accountable," and added that as Americans hear all the facts, "more folks will move to where I was." He was censured by his state's party after the vote.

An independent commission along the lines of the one that investigated the 9/11 attacks would probably require legislation to create. That would elevate the investigation a step higher, offering a definitive government-backed accounting of events.

Pelosi has expressed support for such a commission while stressing that the members who sit on it would be key. Still, such a panel would pose risks of sharpening

partisan divisions or overshadowing President Joe Biden's legislative agenda.

"There's still more evidence that the American people need and deserve to hear and a 9/11 commission is a way to make sure that we secure the Capitol going forward," said Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., a Biden ally.

"And that we lay bare the record of just how responsible and how abjectly violating of his constitutional oath President Trump really was."

House prosecutors who argued for Trump's conviction of inciting the riot said Sunday they had proved their case. They also railed against the Senate's Republican leader, Mitch McConnell, and others who they said were "trying to have it both ways" in finding the former president not guilty but criticizing him at the same time.

A close Trump ally, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., voted for acquittal but acknowledged that Trump had some culpability for the siege

at the Capitol that killed five people, including a police officer, and disrupted lawmakers' certification of Biden's White House victory.

Graham said he looked forward to campaigning with Trump in the 2022 election, when Republicans hope to regain the congressional majority.

"His behavior after the election was over the top," Graham said. "We need a 9/11 commission to find out what happened and make sure it never happens again."

The Senate acquitted Trump of a charge of "incitement of insurrection" after House prosecutors laid out a case that he was an "inciter in chief" who unleashed a mob by stoking a monthslong campaign of spreading debunked conspiracy theories and false violent rhetoric that the 2020 election was stolen from him. Trump's lawyers countered that his words were not intended to incite the violence and that impeachment was nothing but a "witch hunt" designed to prevent him from serving in office again.

## Philippines wants more US security aid for pact vow

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's administration wants considerably more military aid from the United States in exchange for not abrogating a key security pact with Washington, his spokesman said Monday, rejecting criticism that the blunt demand resembled extortion.

Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the Philippines has received much less security assistance from the U.S. than Pakistan and other countries despite Manila's long treaty alliance with Washington. Roque did not specify how much more the U.S. should provide in exchange for the continuation of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Duterte said in a speech last

week that if the U.S. wants to keep the military agreement, which he ordered abrogated a year ago, "they have to pay."

"It's a shared responsibility, but your share of responsibility does not come free," said Duterte, who is known for his blunt comments.

Roque said that "what the president wants is, if you want to continue using our territory, we want just compensation for it. Not loose coins, not dilapidated equipment."

Duterte's administration notified the U.S. government in February last year that it intends to abrogate the 1998 agreement, which allows the entry of large numbers of American forces for joint combat training with Filipino troops and lays down the legal terms for their temporary stay. The termination would have taken effect after 180 days, in August, but Duterte de-

layed the effectivity of the decision.

If the agreement is terminated, it would deal a major blow to one of America's oldest alliances in Asia.

Duterte has often lashed out at U.S. security policies while nurturing relations with China and Russia. But his foreign and defense secretaries have cited the importance of Manila's alliance with America.

The U.S. military presence in the region has been seen as a crucial counterbalance to China, which continues to aggressively assert its vast territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea despite a 2016 international arbitration ruling that invalidated their historic basis. China, the Philippines, Vietnam and three other governments have been locked in the territorial standoff for decades.

Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson, who heads the Senate committee on national defense and generally supports Duterte, said "there is a more civil and statesmanlike manner to ask for compensation from a long-time ally using the usual diplomatic channels and still get the same desired results."

Duterte's demand for the U.S. to pay up "may have given the impression that the Philippines is a nation of extortionists," Lacson said in a statement which stressed that "one cannot put a price tag on the value" of the Visiting Forces Agreement.

Roque said the demand was "not extortion, it's upholding the national interest of Filipinos."

There was no immediate reaction from U.S. officials.

# COVID-19 conspiracies spread fast, far

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — It took just three months for the rumor that COVID-19 was engineered as a bioweapon to spread from the fringes of the Chinese internet and take root in millions of people's minds.

By March 2020, belief that the virus had been human-made and possibly weaponized was widespread, multiple surveys indicated. The Pew Research Center found, for example, that one in three Americans believed the new coronavirus had been created in a lab; one in four thought it had been engineered intentionally.

This chaos was, at least in part, manufactured.

Powerful forces, from Beijing and Washington to Moscow and Tehran, have battled to control the narrative about where the virus came from. Leading officials and allied media in all four countries functioned as super-spreaders of disinformation, using their stature to sow doubt and amplify politically expedient conspiracies already in circulation, a nine-month Associated Press investigation of state-sponsored disinformation conducted in collaboration with the Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab found. The analysis was based on a review of millions of social media postings and articles on Twitter, Facebook, VK, Weibo, WeChat, YouTube, Telegram and other platforms.

As the pandemic swept the world, it was China — not Russia — that took the lead in spreading foreign disinformation about COVID-19's origins.

Beijing was reacting to weeks of fiery rhetoric from leading U.S. Republicans, including then-President Donald Trump, who sought to rebrand COVID-19 as “the China virus.”

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs says Beijing has worked to promote friendship and serve facts, while defending itself against hostile forces seeking to politicize the pandemic.

“All parties should firmly say ‘no’ to the dissemination of disinformation,” the ministry said in a statement to AP, but added, “In the face of trumped-up charges, it is justified and proper to bust lies and clarify rumors by setting out the facts.”

The day after the World Health Organization designated the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic, Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, shot off a series of late-night tweets that launched what may be the party's first truly global digital experiment with overt disinformation.

Chinese diplomats have only recently mobilized on Western social media platforms, more than tripling their Twitter accounts and more than doubling their Facebook accounts since late 2019. Both platforms are banned in China.

“When did patient zero begin in US?” Zhao tweeted on March 12. “How many people are infected? What are the names of the hospitals? It might be US army who brought the epidemic to Wuhan. Be transparent! Make public your data! US owe (sic) us an explanation!”

What happened next showcases the power of China's global messaging machine.

On Twitter alone, Zhao's aggressive spray of 11 tweets on March 12 and 13 was cited over 99,000 times over the next six weeks, in at least 54 languages, according to analysis conducted by DFRLab. The accounts that referenced him had nearly 275 million followers on Twitter — a number that almost certainly includes duplicate followers and does not distinguish fake accounts.

Influential conservatives on Twitter, including Donald Trump Jr., hammered Zhao, propelling his tweets to their largest audiences.

China's Global Times and at least 30 Chinese diplomatic accounts, from France to Panama, rushed in to support Zhao. Venezuela's foreign minister and RT's correspondent in Caracas, as well as Saudi accounts close to the kingdom's royal family also significantly extended Zhao's reach, helping launch his ideas into Spanish and Arabic.

His accusations got uncritical treatment in Russian and Iranian state media and shot back through QAnon discussion boards. But his biggest audience, by far, lay within China itself — despite the fact that Twitter is banned there. Popular hashtags about his tweetstorm were viewed 314 million times on the Chinese social media platform Weibo, which does not distinguish unique views.

Late on the night of March 13, Zhao posted a message of gratitude on his personal Weibo: “Thank you for your support to me, let us

work hard for the motherland!”

China leaned on Russian disinformation strategy and infrastructure, turning to an established network of Kremlin proxies to seed and spread messaging. In January, Russian state media were the first to legitimize the theory that the U.S. engineered the virus as a weapon. Russian politicians soon joined the chorus.

“One was amplifying the other. ... How much it was command controlled, how much it was opportunistic, it was hard to tell,” said Janis Sarts, director of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence, based in Riga, Latvia.

Iran also jumped in. The same day Zhao tweeted that the virus might have come from the U.S. Army, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, announced COVID-19 could be the result of a biological attack. He would later cite that conspiracy to justify refusing COVID-19 aid from the U.S.

Ten days after Zhao's first conspiratorial tweets, China's global state media apparatus kicked in.

“Did the U.S. government intentionally conceal the reality of COVID-19 with the flu?” asked a suggestive op-ed in Mandarin published by China Radio International on March 22. “Why was the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Ft. Detrick in Maryland, the largest biochemical testing base, shut down in July 2019?”

Within days, versions of the piece appeared more than 350 times in Chinese state outlets, mostly in Mandarin, but also around the world in English, French, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic, AP found.

In January, as a team from the World Health Organization poured through records in China to try to pinpoint the origins of the virus, MOFA spokeswoman Hua Chunying urged the U.S. to “open the biological lab at Fort Detrick, give more transparency to issues like its 200-plus overseas bio-labs, invite WHO experts to conduct origin-tracing in the United States.”

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs told AP it resolutely opposes spreading conspiracy theories. “We have not done it before and will not do it in the future,” the ministry said in a statement. “False information is the common enemy of mankind, and China has always opposed the creation and spread of false information.”

# NATO chief wants new way to fund missions

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — Militaries shouldn't have to foot the whole bill when they deploy troops for NATO missions, the alliance's top official said Monday ahead of high-level talks that will include a debate about overhauling how operations are paid for.

"It will be fair if the country that deploys troops doesn't cover all the costs," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said during a virtual news conference from his Brussels headquarters, ahead of talks Wednesday where U.S. De-

fense Secretary Lloyd Austin and other allied defense leaders will discuss issues ranging from defense spending to security matters, including the future of NATO's mission in Afghanistan and its training mission in Iraq.

In recent years, and particularly under the Trump administration, much of the United States' focus has been on getting all allies to spend 2% of GDP on their individual militaries.

Stoltenberg said he expects nine of 30 allies to hit that benchmark in 2021, which will also be the seventh consecutive year that allied defense budgets

increase overall.

But other changes are needed to ensure equitable "burden sharing," he said.

One way to achieve that will be to increase NATO's shared defense budget and use those funds to support missions, such as air policing in the Baltics or multinational battle group deployments along NATO's eastern flank. Currently, the nation that deploys troops on such missions pays the bill.

"I think that we should change that so that actually NATO contributes to covering those costs," Stoltenberg said.

He did not detail how he sees

costs being spread out, but said that making more allies pay for NATO missions would serve as an incentive for other members to get involved in defense efforts.

"This would support allied deployments in our battlegroups in the eastern part of our alliance, air policing, maritime deployments and exercises," Stoltenberg said.

Adjusting how missions are funded could benefit the U.S., which leads a battlegroup in Poland and regularly contributes to other operations, such as air policing efforts in the Baltics.

## Iran's army tests short-range 'smart' missile

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's army test fired a sophisticated short-range missile Sunday, state media reported.

The report by the official IRNA news agency quoted the chief of the army's ground forces, Gen. Kioumars Heidari, as saying that the missile's range was 186 miles.

Gen. Heidari said the "smart" missile is capable to work under "any weather condition." He did not say where the test took place.

Iran's national army controls short-range missiles, al-

though longer-range ones capable of traveling up to 1,250 miles — far enough to reach archenemy Israel and U.S. military bases — are controlled by the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard.

In a parallel development, deputy chief of the army Adm. Habibollah Sayyari told IRNA that Iran and Russia will hold a joint naval drill in northern part of the Indian Ocean in the "near future."

Sayyari said the drill has aimed at "reinforcing security" in the region. This is the second such drill since 2019,

when the two nations held a four-day exercise alongside China's navy.

Tehran has been seeking to step up military cooperation with Beijing and Moscow while under U.S.-led sanctions. Visits to Iran by Russian and Chinese naval representatives have also increased in recent years.

In recent months, Iran has increased its military drills as the country tries to pressure President Joe Biden to reenter a previous nuclear accord that his predecessor Donald Trump abandoned. Biden has

said America could reenter the deal.

On Thursday, the Guard conducted a drill near Iraqi border using drones, helicopters and tanks.

Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew the United States from the Iranian nuclear accord, in which Tehran had agreed to limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions.

When the U.S. then increased sanctions, Iran gradually and publicly abandoned the deal's limits on its nuclear development.

## Retired Adm. McRaven adapts bestseller book for kids

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — The retired U.S. Navy admiral who directed the raid that killed Osama bin Laden is continuing his career as an author.

William McRaven is adapting his best-selling "Make Your Bed: Little Things That Can Change Your Life ... And Maybe the World" for younger audiences. Little, Brown Books for

Young Readers announced Monday that McRaven's "Make Your Bed With Skipper the Seal" will come out Oct. 12.

"When my three children were young, I always took time to read to them," McRaven said in a statement. "I found that stories of adventure and overcoming challenges helped shape their character and inspired them

to be their very best. I hope that 'Make Your Bed with Skipper the Seal' is just such a book!"

McRaven, 65, led the U.S. Joint Special Operations Command in 2011 when a team of Navy SEALs killed bin Laden in Pakistan. He also led the 2009 rescue of Richard Phillips, a ship captain who was captured by Somali pirates and later portrayed

by Tom Hanks in the 2013 movie "Captain Phillips." McRaven, himself a former SEAL, retired from the Navy in 2014.

Financial terms for his new book were not disclosed. McRaven was represented by Robert Barnett, the Washington attorney whose other clients range from former President Barack Obama to novelist James Patterson.

# Average new virus cases in US below 100K

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Average daily new coronavirus cases in the United States dipped below 100,000 in recent days for the first time in months, but experts cautioned Sunday that infections remain high and precautions to slow the pandemic must remain in place.

The seven-day rolling average of new infections was well above 200,000 for much of December and went to roughly 250,000 in January, according to data kept by Johns Hopkins University, as the pandemic came roaring back after it had been tamed in some places over the summer.

That average dropped below 100,000 on Friday for the first time since Nov. 4. It stayed below 100,000 on Saturday.

“We are still at about 100,000 cases a day. We are still at around 1,500 to 3,500 deaths per day. The cases are more than two-and-a-half-fold times what we saw over the summer,” Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” “It’s encouraging to see these trends coming down, but they’re coming down from an extraordinarily high place.”

On Saturday, the seven-day rolling average for deaths was around 2,500. That number peaked at more than 3,300 earlier in the winter, according to Johns Hopkins.

The U.S. saw a spike of more than 5,400 deaths reported Friday — nearly half from Ohio, where authorities said earlier in the week that they planned to add deaths to the state’s tally over the course of a few days after discovering as many as 4,000 unreported COVID-19 fatalities.

Walensky added that new variants, including one first detected in the United Kingdom that appears to be more transmissible and has already been recorded in more than 30 states, will likely lead to more cases and more deaths.

“All of it is really wraps up into we can’t let our guard down,” she said. “We have to continue wearing masks. We have to continue with our current mitigation measures. And we have to continue getting vaccinated as soon as that vaccine is available to us.”

The U.S. has recorded more than 27.5 million virus cases and more than 484,000 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins data.

With parents and political leaders eager to have children around the country back in school for in-person learning, it is important that people continue to observe precautions, Walensky said.

The CDC released guidance on Friday outlining mitigation strategies necessary to reopen schools or to keep them open.

Some teachers have expressed concern about returning to the classroom without having been vaccinated, but the guidelines do not say that’s necessary. Dr. Anthony Fauci said on ABC’s “This Week” that it would be “optimal” if teachers were vaccinated, but that other measures laid out in the 24-page document can lessen their risk.

## Illinois

CHICAGO — Four COVID-19 vaccination sites dedicated to Chicago Public Schools teachers and staff are expected to be fully operational this week, district officials said.

Starting Monday, Chicago will reserve 1,500 shots weekly for employees in the nation’s third-largest school district. That’s on top of about 2,000 doses offered in recent days to teachers who are at higher risk of illness or starting back in classrooms sooner as the district gradually reopens. Some pre-K and special education students started in-person classes Thursday.

The vaccination sites are at four schools, including Clemente High School where some educators have already received

shots. District officials said employees will be excused from work duties during their vaccination appointments.

Overall, district officials say more than 7,500 employees have been offered vaccinations, but they can’t say how many were given because of medical privacy laws. The district said Friday that it was taking a survey to determine how many have been administered.

## Alaska

ANCHORAGE — Alaska will no longer require travelers to have a negative COVID-19 test when arriving in the state, Gov. Mike Dunleavy said Sunday when outlining plans for the state to transition into a recovery phase.

The announcement came after the state’s emergency declaration expired Sunday.

Dunleavy ordered his commissioners and state employees to continue following the policies that were in place under the declaration. However, officials will spend the next several weeks reviewing which policies are still needed.

Alaska has had 54,282 total resident cases of the virus, and 280 Alaskans have died. The state, which has a population of about 728,000, has given 175,135 vaccine doses.

## Washington

KENNEWICK — Six counties in south-central Washington have been approved to move to Phase 2 of reopening and can immediately ease COVID restrictions, the state Department of Health said Sunday.

Benton, Franklin, Yakima, Kittitas, Walla Walla and Columbia counties were the last of the state’s 39 counties to be moved into Phase 2.

The Tri-City Herald reported that means restaurants and bars can serve food and drink indoors, fitness centers can offer more services, and movie theaters and other indoor entertainment businesses can reopen. All

will be limited to 25% capacity.

In addition, some small at-home indoor gatherings are allowed.

## California

LOS ANGELES — The rates of new coronavirus infections and hospitalizations continue to fall across California, but the state’s death toll remains persistently high.

California on Sunday reported another 408 deaths, bringing the total since the outbreak began to more than 46,840 — the highest in the nation.

Despite the grim death count, health officials are confident that California is emerging from its worst surge of the pandemic.

The number of patients in hospitals with COVID-19 slipped below 9,000 statewide, a drop of more than a third over two weeks, according to the state Department of Public Health.

## West Virginia

CHARLESTON — West Virginia is on track to have its lowest weekly count of positive coronavirus cases since late October.

The state reported 1,816 confirmed cases from last Monday through Saturday. There have been no days in the past week when the daily total was above 400. The last time that happened was in the week ending Oct. 25, when there were about 1,550 cases reported over seven days.

The number of people hospitalized for the virus statewide on Saturday was 327. That’s the lowest count since early November.

And the number of active cases statewide, 11,823, has plummeted from its peak of 29,257 on Jan. 10.

At least 2,210 virus-related deaths have been reported in West Virginia, including 81 for the week ending Sunday. It marked the first time since late November that the state had under 100 deaths reported in one week.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Former school bus driver admits to driving on meth

**MT** BILLINGS — A former school bus driver in Montana has pleaded guilty to being under the influence of methamphetamine while operating the vehicle, endangering his student passengers and other drivers, prosecutors said.

Keith Adam Jones, 46, pleaded guilty in Yellowstone County District Court on Friday to criminal endangerment and driving under the influence, the Billings Gazette reported.

Jones fell asleep at the wheel in September, drove over curbs and into a yard during his morning route dropping students off at Ben Steele Middle School, authorities said. Students reported the erratic driving to their parents.

Police said an officer spoke with Jones after he arrived at the school and said his speech was slurred. Jones tested negative on a breath sample for alcohol but allegedly told police he used marijuana, authorities said.

### Mutilated pelicans found at pier called 'death row'

**FL** BRADENTON — A pelican rescue group in Florida wants state wildlife officials to heighten patrols at a popular fishing pier in Manatee County after more than a dozen mutilated birds were discovered over the past month in the area.

"It sure looks like somebody has cut a square right into the forehead of several of them," Kim Begay, Friends of the Pelicans vice chair, told Spectrum Bay News 9.

Since Jan. 9, the rescue group

says a total of 16 disfigured pelicans have been found at the fishing pier on the Manatee County side of the Sunshine Skyway bridge. Some of the mutilated birds were discovered as recently as last week.

Begay said the pelican rescue group has managed to save all but one of the wounded pelicans. Some have dubbed the South Skyway Fishing Pier as "pelican death row."

### Businessman purchases historic ferry operation

**VA** LEESBURG — A Virginia businessman has reached a deal to purchase a historic cable-drawn ferry operation on the Potomac River that was closed last year because of a land dispute.

Chuck Kuhn and his wife, Stacy, finalized purchase terms for White's Ferry in Leesburg on Thursday.

The ferry operation between Loudoun County, Va., and Montgomery County, Md., was established in 1786 but ceased operations in December. The move came after a Virginia judge said the ferry company had no right to use a parcel of land on the Virginia side of the river as a landing site. The ruling came in a decade-old lawsuit over the so-called Rockland Farm property. At issue was whether there was a public right of access to the Virginia landing site.

Kuhn plans to work with Peter Brown, the majority owner of Rockland Farm, along with local officials and the Coast Guard, in an effort to get the ferry officially reopened. The purchase terms include the ferry, a store serving ferry passengers, and the Maryland shoreline that supports the ferry operation.

Plans include repairs to the ferry and the property, including new cables, after negotiations with Brown.

### Man killed while helping apparent drunk driver

**WI** THREE LAKES — A Three Lakes man was killed by an apparent drunken driver after he was run over when he stopped to help pull the driver out of a ditch, authorities said Saturday.

The Oneida County Sheriff's Office said authorities got a call around 9:30 p.m. Friday about a pedestrian who had been backed over by a truck on Highway X in the town of Three Lakes. An initial investigation showed the truck was heading northbound on the highway when it went into the southbound ditch.

The 59-year-old pedestrian was trying to help pull the truck out when he was hit as the truck exited the ditch. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The 29-year-old driver of the truck was arrested. The case has been forwarded to the district attorney's office for possible charges of homicide by intoxicated use of a motor vehicle, third offense operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, operation of a motor vehicle after license revocation and failure to install an ignition interlock device.

### Police say home intruder fatally shot by 12-year-old

**NC** GOLDSBORO — A man who forced his way into an apartment with an accomplice was fatally shot by a 12-year-old inside, according to authorities in North Carolina.

Goldsboro police said the inci-

dent happened shortly after 12:30 a.m. Saturday when two masked people forced their way into the residence, demanded money and shot a 73-year-old woman. The 12-year-old shot at the intruders, causing them to flee, investigators said.

Police found Khalil Herring, 19, of Goldsboro, at a nearby intersection suffering from a gunshot wound. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Evidence suggests that he was one of the two intruders, police said.

The woman was hospitalized with non-life-threatening injuries.

### Man pleads guilty to hate crime at Black neighbor

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — An Indianapolis man has pleaded guilty to federal hate crime and weapons charges after threatening a Black neighbor, prosecutors said Friday.

Shepherd Hoehn, 51, became incensed over the neighbor hiring a construction crew to remove a tree last June 18 and burned a cross above the fence line facing the neighbor's property, displayed a swastika on his fence, displayed a large sign containing several anti-Black racial slurs, displayed a machete near the sign, loudly played the Confederate anthem "Dixie" repeatedly and threw eggs at the neighbor's house, prosecutors said.

The FBI executed a search warrant at Hoehn's home two weeks later and discovered several firearms and drug paraphernalia, they said.

Hoehn's sentencing date has not been set. He faces a maximum statutory penalty of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000 for each of the charges.

— From wire reports

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# McDowell defies odds to win Daytona

*Associated Press*

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Michael McDowell was glued to Brad Keselowski's bumper, watching and waiting for his chance to win the Daytona 500.

Joey Logano was the leader, the laps were winding down and yet no one had the nerve to pull out of traffic. McDowell was certain Keselowski would go for it eventually, and when he did, McDowell would play his hand.

On the final lap, Keselowski attempted to dart around Logano, but Logano threw a block on his teammate that crashed them both. McDowell stayed right where he was, flat in the gas, and drove through a crash scene for a stunning upset.

"I knew he would go for a race-winning move and my plan was to let him make that move," McDowell said. "I knew I didn't want to make my move too early, so I was committed to the (Keselowski) bumper and when he made the move, the hole opened up."

A 100-1 underdog when the race began Sunday afternoon, McDowell won for the first time in 358 Cup starts when the checkered flag finally flew about 15 minutes after midnight. The race was stopped by rain for almost six hours and ended nine hours after the green flag waved at Daytona International Speedway.

"There's been lots of years where I was wondering what the heck am I doing and why am I doing it?" McDowell said. "I always knew if I just kept grinding that one day everything will line up and go right."

NASCAR's season opener was stacked with storylines. Denny Hamlin was trying for a record third-consecutive Daytona 500 victory, and the team he started with Michael Jordan was debuting with driver Bubba Wallace.

Kyle Larson was back after nearly a year in exile for using a racial slur, and reigning Cup champion Chase Elliott was going for his first Daytona 500 win.

And all the way at the back of the field,

1990 Daytona 500 winner Derricke Cope made what he said would be his final NASCAR start. At 62 he was the oldest driver in the field, and his upset victory 31 years ago was considered the biggest in race history. McDowell didn't take that title, partly because McDowell is a strong superspeedway racer capable of mixing it up with the usual suspects.

McDowell was in the mix even before the two Penske cars derailed the finish. His Ford was strong enough to push Keselowski, and McDowell figured with the checkered flag in sight, he'd try to pass Keselowski as they exited the final turn.

Logano's block of Keselowski — it seemed late, Keselowski had already started to pull alongside his teammate — triggered a fiery multi-car pileup that was in McDowell's rearview mirror.

"Brad was turning right, Joey was turning left and I went right through the middle," McDowell said. "It's just kind of a blur from there."

## Wallace is 1st Black driver to lead at Daytona 500

*Associated Press*

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Bubba Wallace ran into trouble early and late in his first Daytona 500 driving for Michael Jordan.

He still came out of NASCAR's marquee race with another milestone, becoming the first Black driver to lead a lap in the Daytona 500.

Wallace dipped to the low line late in the second stage to grab the lead on lap 129 in the No. 23 Toyota. He lost the lead back to two-time defending champion Denny Hamlin — who co-owns 23XI with Jordan — and ran third at the end of the stage.

Wallace got caught up in a fiery, chaotic last lap and finished 17th in a race won by Michael McDowell.

"Bum end. I bailed out down the back, saw the wreck happening and got run over from behind. Should've bailed sooner," Wallace tweeted. "Fast car, can't have loose wheels. Onto the right turns."

Wallace was forced to pit with 22 laps left in the race because he felt a vibration because of the loose wheel in the Toyota. He fell a lap down and pushed Hamlin to give his boss and Toyota teammate a nudge toward his run at a record third straight Day-

tona 500 championship.

Hamlin finished fifth.

"We worked together quite a few times," Hamlin said. "I actually thought he was going to win the second stage."

Wallace finished second in the 2018 Daytona 500 for the highest finish in the race by a Black driver.

Wallace had a solid first two-thirds of the rain-delayed race at Daytona International Speedway after a tumultuous start in Jordan's debut race.

"He was running up front and battling for stage wins. That's what we want to see," Hamlin said.

Jordan's No. 23 Toyota failed inspection twice before the race, prompting NASCAR to kick the team's car chief out off the grounds. The car passed on the third attempt, but had to start from the back of the field. Jordan watched the beginning of the race from a luxury suite.

The six-time NBA champion had his first conversation with the 23XI crew chief when he called Mike Wheeler to find out why the team failed inspection.

Jordan entered NASCAR as the first Black principal owner of a full-time Cup Series team in nearly 50 years. He's tight with Hamlin and has rooted on the Joe Gibbs

Racing driver from the pits in the past.

This venture is no lark for Jordan. Jordan was a kid when his late father packed up the car and took the family to NASCAR races at Southern tracks like Daytona, Darlington Raceway and defunct Rockingham Speedway.

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, Jordan and Wallace never met until this week. Jordan hit town in the days before the race and played some golf — naturally — and had a made-for-TV team meeting with Wallace and Hamlin.

"I feel like he's going to learn how to win. He's got the talent," Jordan told Fox Sports. "We would not have invested in him and picked him if he didn't have the talent to win. By the end of the year, I think he's going to have an opportunity and probably will win at least a couple of races. If it's more, I'd be elated."

Wallace was winless in his first 112 career Cup starts, all driving the No. 43 for Richard Petty Motorsports. Wallace is the only Black full-time driver at NASCAR's top level and raised his profile last summer when he successfully called for the series to ban the display of Confederate flags at race-tracks.

# Jokic's triple-double lifts Nuggets by Lakers

Associated Press

DENVER — Nikola Jokic recorded his sixth triple-double of the season and the Denver Nuggets beat Los Angeles 122-105 on Sunday night in a game where Lakers forward Anthony Davis hobbled from the court after re-aggravating his sore right Achilles.

Davis will have an MRI on Monday. He strained his Achilles late in the first half.

The spotlight was on the showdown between Jokic and LeBron James, who are both among the favorites in the NBA MVP race. Jokic finished with 23 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists. James had 22 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists, but the Lakers' seven-game win streak ended.

**Clippers 128, Cavaliers 111:** Lou Williams scored a season-high 30 points in his first start of the season, and Los Angeles handed Cleveland its seventh straight loss.

The three-time Sixth Man of the Year added a season-high 10 assists and made all eight of his free throws on a night when the Clippers were without Kawhi Leonard and Paul George. Leonard has a lower left leg contusion and Paul is dealing with bone swelling in his right toe.

**Trail Blazers 121, Mavericks 118:** Damian Lillard hit a tiebreaking three-pointer in the final minute, and Portland overcame another high-scoring outing from Luka

Doncic to win at Dallas.

The young Mavs sensation scored 44 points two nights after getting a career-high 46 in a victory over New Orleans, but it wasn't enough to extend Dallas' four-game winning streak, tied for their longest this season.

**Suns 109, Magic 90:** Devin Booker scored 27 points, Mikal Bridges added 21 and host Phoenix cruised to its sixth straight victory.

The Suns have won nine of their past 10 games and this one wasn't close. Phoenix never trailed and jumped out to a 14-2 lead after Orlando missed 12 of its first 13 shots.

**Pistons 123, Pelicans 112:** Mason Plumlee had 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his first career triple-double, and Detroit spoiled Stan Van Gundy's return to Motown.

Van Gundy was the coach and president of basketball operations for the Pistons from 2014-18. He's coaching New Orleans now, and Detroit became the latest team to blitz the Pelicans from three-point range.

**Grizzlies 124, Kings 110:** Jonas Valanciunas scored a season-high 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds, leading Memphis to the victory at Sacramento.

Ja Morant added 16 points and 10 assists despite a rough 7-for-18 shooting night from the field. Dillon Brooks scored 22 points for the Grizzlies, who have lost five of six.

**Thunder 114, Bucks 109:** Justin Jackson scored a season-high 22 points and hit a critical three-pointer in the final minute to help host Oklahoma City overcome Giannis Antetokounmpo's triple-double.

With Milwaukee making a late push, Jackson hit a three-pointer with 14.9 seconds remaining to put the Thunder in control for good in just his second start of the season.

**Timberwolves 116, Raptors 112:** Karl-Anthony Towns scored seven of his 20 points late in the fourth quarter before fouling out, helping Minnesota snap a four-game losing streak on the road.

Malik Beasley also scored 20 points for the Timberwolves, and Anthony Edwards finished with 18.

**Spurs 122, Hornets 110:** Dejounte Murray had 26 points and 12 rebounds, and San Antonio won at Charlotte.

Derrick White scored 12 of his season-high 25 points in the fourth quarter, helping the Spurs to their fifth win in six games.

**Wizards 104, Celtics 91:** Bradley Beal scored 35 points in his return from a rare night off, leading host Washington to the victory.

Beal went 10-for-18 from the field and 11-for-11 at the free-throw line. The NBA's leading scorer rested during Friday night's loss to the New York Knicks.

## No rust: Livers leads Michigan past Wisconsin

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — Michigan only needed 20 minutes or so to shake off the rust from a three-week layoff.

Isaiah Livers scored 20 points, Hunter Dickinson had 11 points and 15 rebounds, and the third-ranked Wolverines rallied from a 14-point deficit to beat No. 21 Wisconsin 67-59 on Sunday.

Michigan (14-1, 9-1 Big Ten) hadn't played since a 70-53 victory at Purdue on Jan. 22. The school announced the next day it was pausing all athletic activities after several people linked to the athletic department tested positive for a COVID-19 variant that transmits at a higher rate.

"I was outside, I was doing jump-rope, I was doing everything necessary to stay in shape," Livers said. "A lot of other guys were, too. We all had a program. We all stayed true to it, and obviously (you saw) the outcome. We're getting back in our rhythm,

back in that Michigan basketball rhythm."

That was apparent down the stretch.

After trailing most of the way, the Wolverines scored the game's final eight points. The Badgers (15-7, 9-6) collected just six points and one basket in the final 7:45.

"We're fit to play I think any kind of style — a fast-paced game, a slow-paced game, a grind-it-out game, whatever," said Dickinson, who also had five blocks. "With our depth, I think we have the ability to do so much out there, win in so many different ways."

**Drake 51, No. 22 Loyola Chicago 50 (OT):** Tremell Murphy scored 17 points, including the go-ahead basket in overtime, as the visiting Bulldogs rallied to win despite a poor shooting performance.

Murphy's layup with 2:50 remaining put Drake ahead for good, 49-48, in the defensive struggle between Missouri Valley Conference powers. The Ramblers had two shots

blocked in the final 15 seconds before Murphy made the clinching steal and was fouled.

It was the Bulldogs' first win over a ranked opponent since they beat then-No. 17 Creighton on Jan. 23, 2013. Loyola pounded Drake 81-54 on Saturday.

**Colgate 92, Army 83:** Jordan Burns scored 22 points as the Raiders stretched their win streak to eight games, defeating the Black Knights.

The win streak gives Colgate its best record through 10 Patriot League games in program history. Army was coming off a three-week break for COVID-19 concerns.

Jack Ferguson had 18 points and nine rebounds for the Raiders (9-1, 9-1 Patriot League). Tucker Richardson added 16 points and eight rebounds. Jeff Woodward had 10 points, four assists and three blocks.

Jalen Rucker had 18 points for the Black Knights (9-6, 5-5). Lonnie Grayson added 18 points and 11 rebounds.

# Pegula, Brady set up all-US quarterfinal

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — After Jessica Pegula earned her first trip to a Grand Slam quarterfinal, the daughter of the owners of Buffalo's NFL and NHL franchises scribbled on the screen of an Australian Open courtside TV camera: "hi mom, hi dad, see you next rd Jen B."

In addition to a shoutout to her parents, that was a message for Jennifer Brady, a good pal of Pegula's whose fourth-round match was up next in Rod Laver Arena on Monday.

And after Brady won, too, setting up an all-American matchup against Pegula with a berth in the final four at stake, she used a blue marker to respond in kind, writing: "Bring it Jess!"

"It's an opportunity for both of us," Pegula said, recalling that she and Brady became close after playing doubles together for the United States in the team competition now known as

the Billie Jean King Cup. "I'm just happy I'm here; she's been playing some good tennis, solidifying herself as a top player."

The 61st-ranked Pegula beat No. 5 seed Elina Svitolina of Ukraine 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, before the 22nd-seeded Brady, a Pennsylvanian who played college tennis at UCLA, had a 6-1, 7-5 victory over No. 28 Donna Vekic of Croatia.

Brady was one of the 72 players who had to go through a hard lockdown — two weeks stuck in a hotel room, not allowed to leave for any reason — after flying to Australia in January because someone on their flight tested positive for COVID-19 upon arrival.

Brady and Pegula gave the U.S. three women's quarterfinalists at Melbourne Park, joining 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams. Top-ranked Ash Barty ensured a fourth American didn't make it to the last eight, beating unseeded Shelby Rogers 6-3, 6-4 to set up a quarterfinal match against No. 25 Karolina

Muchova.

There will be a one-nation men's quarterfinal, too, between Russians Daniil Medvedev and Andrey Rublev. Medvedev, the 2019 U.S. Open runner-up, eliminated 192nd-ranked American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 in 1 1/2 hours, while Rublev moved on when No. 22 Casper Ruud stopped because of an injury after dropping the first two sets. A third Russian man, 114th-ranked qualifier Aslan Karatsev, already had advanced, giving the country a trio of quarterfinalists at a major tournament for the only time in the professional era.

Also on that half of the draw, Rafael Nadal moved closer to a men's-record 21st Grand Slam trophy by overwhelming No. 16 Fabio Fognini 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. Nadal's next opponent will be No. 5 Stefanos Tsitsipas, whose fourth-round match was canceled when No. 9 Matteo Berrettini withdrew because of an abdominal injury.

# Penguins top Capitals, stay unbeaten at home

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins have stayed afloat by showing a remarkable ability to rally late. Forced to protect a rare third-period lead, they didn't let the opportunity go to waste.

Tristan Jarry made a series of big stops late and a pair of empty-net goals by Zach Aston-Reese and Sidney Crosby helped the Penguins pull away for a 6-3 victory over the somewhat rusty Washington Capitals on Sunday.

Pittsburgh entered the game having been either tied or trailing going into the third period in each of its first 12 contests. Nursing a one-goal advantage this time around, the Penguins held their ground to stay unbeaten at PPG Paints Arena (5-0), with three of those wins coming against the rival Capitals.

"There was a lot to like," Pittsburgh head coach Mike Sullivan said. "We competed hard."

Bryan Rust scored twice — including a second-period power-play goal that ended an 0-for-20 stretch with the man advantage — and added an assist. Brandon Tanev and Jake Guentzel also scored for the Penguins, who have won two straight. Jarry made 28 saves and assisted on Aston-Reese's empty-netter with 1:03 to go that finally put Wash-

ington away.

It's been a bumpy start for Jarry, an All-Star a season ago who has found himself sitting for long stretches thanks to the steady play of backup Casey DeSmith. DeSmith, however, was unavailable due to a non-COVID-19 related illness. Jarry made sure emergency call-up Maxime Legace wasn't necessary.

Nicklas Backstrom collected his 250th career goal for the Capitals and Jakob Vrana and Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored, but the Capitals looked a little off while playing for the first time in a week thanks a series of COVID-19-related postponements.

**Golden Knights 1, Avalanche 0:** Max Pacioretty scored early in the second period, Marc-Andre Fleury made 30 saves and host Vegas beat Colorado.

The Golden Knights, who improved to 5-1-0 since returning from a pause due to COVID-19 protocols, leapfrogged the St. Louis Blues to reclaim first place in the West Division.

Vegas was playing on the second of back-to-back days after a 3-1 win at San Jose on Saturday.

The Avalanche played for the first time in nearly two weeks after their schedule was paused due to coronavirus protocols.

# Berger wins by 2 after eagle putt on No. 18

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — For all the stunning views at Pebble Beach that can be so soothing, Daniel Berger couldn't escape the tension when he arrived at the final hole Sunday in the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

He was tied for the lead, needing a birdie on the par-5 18th to win. Off to his right was out-of-bounds markers below a row of hedges, where Berger hit his drive on Saturday that led to double bogey. To his left was the Pacific Ocean.

"I was going to go down swinging," he said.

Two of the best swings of his career, a driver into the fairway and a 3-wood from 250 yards away in the cool air at sea level, left him 30 feet and two putts away. Berger capped it off with an eagle putt for a 7-under 65 and a two-shot victory over Maverick McNealy.

"To step up there and hit a great drive and then one of the best 3-woods I've ever hit in my life, and then to make that putt is just as good as it gets for me," Berger said.

He finished at 18-under 270 for his fourth career victory.

Berger started his final round with a 4-iron to 20 feet for eagle on the par-5 second.