

## Poll: Political violence OK for 1 in 3 in US

*The Washington Post*

Phil Spampinato had never contemplated the question of whether violence against the government might be justified — at least not in the United States. But as he watched Republicans across the country move to reshape election laws in response to former President Donald Trump's false fraud claims, the part-time engineering consultant from Dover, Del., said he began thinking differently about "defending your way of life."

"Not too many years ago, I would have said that those conditions are not possible, and that no such violence is really ever appropriate," said Spampinato, 73, an independent.

The notion of legitimate violence against the government had also not occurred to Anthea Ward, a mother of two in Michigan, until the past year — prompted by her fear that President Joe Biden would go too far to force her and her family to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

"The world we live in now is scary," said Ward, 32, a Republican. "I don't want to sound like a conspiracy theorist, but sometimes it feels like a movie. It's no longer a war against Democrats

and Republicans. It's a war between good and evil."

A year after a pro-Trump mob ransacked the Capitol in the worst attack on the home of Congress since it was burned by British forces in 1814, a Washington Post-University of Maryland poll found that about 1 in 3 Americans said they believe violence against the government can at times be justified.

The findings represent the largest share to feel that way since the question has been asked in various polls in more than two decades. They offer a window into the country's psyche at a tumultuous period in American history, marked by last year's insurrection, the rise of Trump's election claims as an energizing force on the right, deepening fissures over the government's role in combating the pandemic and mounting racial justice protests sparked by police killings of Black Americans.

The percentage of adults who said violence is justified is up to 34% from 23% in 2015 and 16% in 2010 in CBS News-New York Times polls. A majority continued to say that violence against the government is never justified — but the 62% who hold that view

is a new low point, and a stark difference from the 1990s, when as many as 90% said violence was never justified.

While a 2015 survey found no significant partisan divide when it comes to the question of justified violence against the government, the new poll identified a sharper rise on the right — with 40% of Republicans and 41% of independents saying it can be acceptable. The view was held by 23% of Democrats, the survey finds.

People's reasoning for what they considered acceptable violence against the government varied, from what they felt to be overreaching coronavirus restrictions, to the disenfranchisement of minority voters, to the oppression of Americans. Responses to an open-ended question on the survey about hypothetical justifications included repeated mentions of "autocracy," "tyranny," "corruption" and a loss of freedoms.

The growth in the share of Americans willing to accept violence against the government identified by The Post-UMD poll may be partly due to methodology. Previous surveys were conducted by phone while the new

poll was largely conducted online, and studies have found respondents are more willing to voice socially undesirable opinions in self-administered surveys than when asked by an interviewer.

Recent surveys, though, have identified a similar trend, and subsequent interviews of some of the 1,101 respondents who participated in the Dec. 17-19 Post-UMD poll found that the events of the past two years have prompted people to reconsider their views. (The new poll has a margin of error of plus or minus four percentage points.)

It wasn't until Jan. 6 that 75-year-old Beverly Lucas considered the fact that people could attempt to violently attack the government. Lucas, who voted for Trump and identifies as a Republican, said she was horrified watching the images of people clad in "Make America Great Again" apparel storming the Capitol, assaulting police officers who were guarding the building.

Still, Lucas said she had not ruled out the possibility that she would agree with violence if there was no available nonviolent alternative, referencing the Revolutionary War.

## Navy fires captain, executive officer of USS Montgomery

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — The Navy took the unusual step Thursday of relieving both the captain and executive officer of a San Diego-based warship, it said in a statement.

Cmdr. Richard Zamberlan, the commanding officer of the littoral combat ship USS Montgomery, and Cmdr. Phillip Lundberg, were relieved "due to

a loss of confidence in their ability to command," said Lt. Katie Diener, a Navy spokesperson.

The loss of confidence is connected to a mishandled sexual harassment complaint on the ship, a Navy official in San Diego familiar with the vessel but not authorized to comment publicly told the Union-Tribune on Thursday.

Cmdr. Nicole Schwegman, a

spokesperson for the San Diego-based Naval Surface Force, declined to comment on the harassment complaint.

"It would be inappropriate to comment on the investigation at this time," Schwegman said when reached by phone. "But yes, there is an investigation into the matter."

Cmdr. Dustin Lonero, the executive officer of another San

Diego-based LCS, the Coronado, is taking command of the Montgomery until a permanent captain is assigned, the Navy said.

Both officers were in charge of the Montgomery's "Blue" crew. Littoral combat ships have two crews — blue and gold — that rotate as part of the platform's "minimal manning" crew model.

# Ex-soldier went undercover as KKK member

*Associated Press*

For nearly 10 years, Joseph Moore lived a secret double life.

At times, the U.S. Army veteran donned a white robe and hood as a hit man for the Ku Klux Klan. He attended clandestine meetings and participated in cross burnings. He even helped plan the murder of a Black man.

Moore, however, wore something else during his years in the klan — a wire for the FBI. He recorded his conversations with his fellow klansmen, and shared what he learned with federal agents trying to crack down on white supremacists in Florida law enforcement.

One minor mistake, one tell, he believed, meant a certain, violent death.

“I had to realize that this man would shoot me in the face in a heartbeat,” Moore said in a deep, slow drawl, remembering a particularly scary meeting in 2015. But it was true of many of his days.

The married father of four helped the federal government foil at least two murder plots, according to court records. He was also an active informant when the FBI exposed klan members working as law enforcement officers in Florida at the city, county and state levels.

Today, he and his family live under new names. Apart from testifying in court, the 50-year-old has never discussed his undercover work in the KKK publicly. But he reached out to a reporter after The Associated Press published a series of stories about white supremacists working in Florida’s prisons that were based, in part, on records and recordings detailing his work with the FBI.

“The FBI wanted me to gather as much information about these individuals and confirm their identities,” Moore said of law enforcement officers who were in-

involved with the klan.

“From where I sat ... it is more prevalent and consequential than any of them are willing to admit.”

The FBI first asked Moore to infiltrate a klan group in rural north Florida in 2007.

Moore said he came across dozens of police officers, prison guards, sheriff deputies and other law enforcement officers who were involved with the klan and outlaw motorcycle clubs.

He alerted the feds to a plot to murder a Hispanic truck driver, he said. Then he pointed the FBI toward a deputy with the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office who was a member of the same group. The FBI also identified a member of the klan cell working for the Fruitland Park, Fla., police department.

His years as an informant occurred during a critical time for the nation’s domestic terrorism efforts. In 2006, the FBI had circulated an intelligence assessment about the klan and other groups trying to infiltrate law enforcement ranks. The assessment said some in law enforcement were volunteering “professional resources to white supremacist causes with which they sympathize.”

Moore said he joined the klan only after the government approached him. As a U.S. Army-trained sniper, he said he felt that if his country asked him to protect the public from domestic terrorists, he had a duty.

Moore said he never shared the klan’s racist views and never used racial slurs while undercover. On FBI recordings reviewed by the AP, he was never heard using racial slurs like his former klan brothers.

But he also acknowledged that successful undercover work required him to change into a wholly different person.

“I laid out a character that had

been overseas. That had received medals in combat,” Moore said. “That had special operations experience — more experience than I had. But someone that they would feel confident would be a useful asset to the organization at a much higher level.”

It worked, and Moore was given high level access.

“If you’re not credible, if you’re not engaged on all levels, you don’t get to go home to your family,” he said.

It also required Moore to lie to his wife. Eventually, she became suspicious and he cracked. He told her and her parents what he was doing.

When the FBI discovered that his wife knew, they ended the relationship with the agency.

But in 2013, the agency was back, asking him to infiltrate a different Florida klan chapter.

Within a year of becoming “naturalized,” he’d become a Grand Knight Hawk of the “klavern” based in rural north central Florida. He was in charge of security, and the go-to guy for violence.

It was at a cross-burning ceremony in December 2014 that Charles Newcomb, the “Exalted Cyclops” of the chapter, pulled him aside to discuss a scheme to kill a Black man. Warren Williams was a former inmate who’d gotten into a fight with one of their klan brothers. The klansmen wanted Williams dead.

Moore alerted the FBI. He then recorded discussions of the murder plot that would lead to criminal convictions for three klansmen.

Moore said the three former prison guards implicated in the murder plot operated among a group of other officer-klan members at the Reception and Medical Center in Lake Butler, Fla., a prison where new inmates are processed. He said the officers he knew were actively recruiting at

the prison.

Florida’s Department of Corrections has disputed that claim.

“Every day, more than 18,000 correctional officers throughout the state work as public servants, committed to the safety of Florida’s communities. They should not be defamed by the isolated actions of three individuals who committed abhorrent and illegal acts several years prior,” the department said in an emailed statement.

Spokeswoman Michelle Glady told AP the agency found no evidence of a wider membership by extremist white supremacist groups, or a systemic problem. She said every allegation of wrongdoing is investigated by the department’s inspector general.

“That statement by the state is not accurate,” said Moore, who asserts he saw evidence of a more pervasive problem.

After Moore testified in that case, his FBI work ended because he’d been publicly identified.

“I was on track to uncover more activity in law enforcement, but the immediate threat to the public with the murder plot was a priority,” Moore said.

He went public now because he does not want his work, and those of other confidential informants who put their lives on the line to help expose domestic extremists, to have been in vain.

He wants corrections and law enforcement leaders to root out white supremacists and other violent extremists.

“If you want to know why people don’t trust the police, it’s because they have a relative or friend that they witness being targeted by an extremist who happens to have a badge and a gun. And I know as a fact that this has occurred. I stopped a murder plot of law enforcement officers,” said Moore.

# US and Russia face deep conflicts in Ukraine talks

Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — After tough talk between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin over the Russian troop buildup on the Ukraine border, both sides have insisted they are hopeful that a pathway to easing tensions could open during diplomatic talks set for January.

But with less than two weeks to go before senior U.S. and Russian officials are to meet in Geneva, the chasm is deep and the prospect of finding an exit to the crisis faces no shortage of complications.

Biden on Friday told reporters that he advised Putin when they spoke by phone a day earlier that the upcoming talks could only work if the Russian leader “deescalated, not escalated, the situation” in the days ahead. The U.S. president said he also sought to make plain to Putin that the United States and allies stood ready to hit Russia with punishing sanctions if the Russians further invade Ukraine.

“I made it clear to President Putin that if he makes any more moves into Ukraine, we will have severe sanctions,” Biden said. “We will increase our presence in Europe with NATO allies.”

Meanwhile, Biden’s national security team on Friday turned their attention to preparation for the Geneva talks, set for Jan. 9 and 10, to discuss Russia’s massing

of some 100,000 troops on its border with Ukraine.

The Geneva talks, which are to be led on the U.S. side by senior State Department officials, are slated to be followed by Russia-NATO Council talks and a meeting of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

Biden was scheduled to speak by phone Sunday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The two leaders planned to review preparations for the upcoming diplomatic engagements, according to the White House.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday debriefed Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly, Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on the Biden-Putin call and discussed preparations for the upcoming talks.

“The two weeks ahead are going to be tough,” said Daniel Fried, a former U.S. ambassador to Poland who was a top adviser on Eastern Europe to Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. “The Biden administration has done a pretty credible job of outlining, framing up the negotiations. But the toughest test is yet to come because Putin will continue to engage in threats and brinksmanship to see how determined we are.”

# Kim vows to boost N. Korea military

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to further bolster his military capability, maintain draconian anti-coronavirus measures and push hard to improve the economy during a speech at a key political conference, state media reported Saturday.

A state media report on Kim’s speech at the five-day plenary meeting of the ruling Workers’ Party didn’t carry any specific comments on dealings with the United States and South Korea. Some experts said this implies Kim has no interest in resuming talks with Washington and Seoul anytime soon and would rather keep his country’s borders closed while seeking a stronger self-reliant economy to overcome pandem-

ic-related difficulties.

“The increasingly unstable military environment on the Korean Peninsula and international politics have instigated calls to vigorously push forward with our national defense build-up plans without any delay,” Kim was quoted as saying by the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim ordered the production of powerful, modern weapons systems to improve his military forces and called for the military’s “absolute loyalty and allegiance” to the ruling party led by him, according to KCNA.

KCNA said the plenary meeting set forth “tactical directions” for North Korea’s external relations including with South Korea, but didn’t elaborate. It made no mention of the U.S.

# Russians toured US Army training areas in Germany

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

Russian government representatives toured U.S. Army training areas in Bavaria last month for an internationally guaranteed inspection, shortly after Ukrainian troops wrapped up a training exercise there with American troops.

U.S. Army Europe and Africa said Thursday that it had hosted the Russian inspection team at U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria for two days beginning Dec. 21.

The inspection was conducted under the terms of the Vienna Document 2011, an agreement focused on disarmament, security and transparency in Europe and some Central Asian countries.

Inspections have long been a routine part of that and other arms control agreements, but this one came against a backdrop of fears in the United States and Europe that Russia is on the brink of another invasion of Ukraine.

News of the Russians’ presence at the U.S. installations came the same day that President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, spoke by phone about upcoming talks seeking de-escalation.

One senior administration official called it a “moment of crisis,” sparked by the Kremlin’s buildup of forces near Ukraine.

During the Russian team’s visit, U.S. officials briefed them about tenant units and the Joint Multinational Readiness Center. The Army also gave inspectors an aerial tour of the sprawling Grafenwoehr and Hohenfels training areas and Katterbach Kaserne, as well as a tour of the ranges at Grafenwoehr.

On Dec. 17, the readiness center in Hohenfels said it ended a 10-day combat training exercise involving about 4,600 soldiers from Ukraine, Poland and several other former members of the Soviet bloc.

“It’s very different and new for our company to participate in this kind of training,” said 1st Lt. Andrii Tretiak, commander of the Ukrainian Mechanized Company, 92nd Mechanized Brigade, as quoted in an Army statement.

It was unclear whether the Russian visit was related to the exercise. USAREUR-AF said Thursday that it could not provide further details on the visit ahead of press time because key people were out for the holidays.

# Jan. 6 committee to go public as findings mount

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — They've interviewed more than 300 witnesses, collected tens of thousands of documents and traveled around the country to talk to election officials who were pressured by Donald Trump.

Now, after six months of intense work, the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection is preparing to go public.

In the coming months, members of the panel will start to reveal their findings against the backdrop of the former president and his allies' persistent efforts to whitewash the riots and reject suggestions that he helped instigate them. The committee also faces the burden of trying to persuade the American public that their conclusions are fact-based and credible.

But the nine lawmakers — seven Democrats and two Republicans — are united in their commitment to tell the full story of Jan. 6, and they are planning televised hearings and reports that will bring their findings out into the open.

Their goal is not only to show the severity of the riot, but also to make a clear connection between the attack and Trump's brazen pressure on the states and Congress to overturn Joe Biden's legitimate election as president.

"The full picture is coming to light, despite President Trump's ongoing efforts to hide the picture," said Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, the committee's vice chairwoman and one of its two Republican members.

"I don't think there's any area of this broader history in which we aren't learning new things," she said.

While the fundamental facts of Jan. 6 are known, the committee says the extraordinary trove of material they have collected — 35,000 pages of records so far, including texts, emails and phone records from people close to Trump — is fleshing out critical details of the worst attack on the Capitol in two centuries, which played out on live television.

They hope to fill in the blanks about the preparations before the attack, the financing behind the Jan. 6 rally that preceded it and the extensive White House campaign to overturn the 2020 election. They are also investigating what Trump himself was doing as his supporters fought their way into the Capitol.

True accountability may be fleeting. Congressional investigations are not criminal cases and lawmakers cannot dole out punishments. Even as the committee works, Trump and his allies continue to push lies about election fraud while working to place similarly minded officials at all levels of state and local government.

Still, the lawmakers hope they can present the public with a thorough accounting that captures what could have been "an even more serious and deeper constitutional crisis," as Cheney put it.

"I think this is one of the single most important congressional investigations in history," Cheney said.

## Strong overnight storms bring damage to south

*Associated Press*

HAZEL GREEN, Ala. — A line of severe storms damaged homes, knocked out power and downed trees in parts of the southern United States late Saturday into Sunday morning.

Authorities closed roads in Hazel Green, Ala., after power lines came down and homes suffered damage. The Madison County Sheriff's Office shared photos online including one of a snapped power pole.

The weather also caused damage to businesses in Hazel Green, including a Walmart, local news outlets reported. The community is located about 15 miles north of Huntsville.

The same system brought down trees in the nearby town of Triana, roughly 20 miles southwest of Huntsville. Mayor Mary Caudle told WAFF-TV that about 280 residents took cover in a storm shelter Saturday night.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear declared a state of emergency on Saturday as powerful storms ripped through the state causing flash floods, power outages and property damage, including from a possible tornado in Hopkinsville.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries or deaths. The storms come just three weeks after deadly tornadoes tore through the region, killing more than 90 people in five states, including 77 in Kentucky.

As of Saturday night, much of Kentucky and West Virginia were under a flood warning. Portions of eastern Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama were under a tornado watch.

## Officials probe cause of massive fire in Colorado

*Associated Press*

SUPERIOR, Colo. — Investigators are still trying to determine what sparked a massive fire in a suburban area near Denver that burned neighborhoods to the ground and destroyed nearly 1,000 homes and other buildings.

Three people are missing following the inferno that broke out Thursday.

Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle said Saturday authorities were pursuing a number of tips and had executed a search warrant at "one particular location." He declined to give details.

A sheriff's official who declined to provide his name confirmed one property was under investigation in Boulder County's Marshall Mesa area, a region of open grassland about 2 miles west of Superior. A National Guard Humvee blocked access to the property, which was only one of several under investigation, the official said.

Utility officials found no downed power lines around where the fire broke out in the area located between Denver and Boulder. The wildfire came unusually late in the year, following an extremely dry fall and amid a winter nearly devoid of snow, condi-

tions experts say certainly helped the fire spread.

At least 991 homes and other buildings were destroyed, Pelle said: 553 in Louisville, 332 in Superior and 106 in unincorporated parts of the county. Hundreds more were damaged. Pelle cautioned that the tally from the wind-whipped wildfire is not final.

The totals include destroyed barns, outbuildings and other structures, but the vast majority were homes, Boulder County spokesperson Jennifer Churchill said late Saturday.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Tiger fatally shot after biting arm of man at zoo

**FL** NAPLES — A sheriff's deputy shot a Malayan tiger that grabbed the arm of a man who was either feeding or petting the animal at a zoo in southwest Florida, authorities said.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office said the man, believed to be in his 20s, was seriously injured Wednesday evening when he entered an unauthorized area near the tiger's enclosure at Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens. The man works for a third-party cleaning service contracted to clean restrooms and the gift shop, the sheriff's office said.

News outlets reported the 8-year-old tiger named Eko later died.

Investigators said they believe the tiger grabbed the man's arm after he breached a barrier fence and put his arm through the fence surrounding the enclosure.

### Semitrailer driver is charged in wild chase

**WI** PORTAGE — A semitrailer driver from Iowa faces charges in Wisconsin after he allegedly led state troopers on a wild interstate chase.

The Portage Daily Register reported Wednesday that 27-year-old Kyle Futrel of Cherokee, Iowa, was charged Dec. 21 in Columbia County with multiple counts, including fleeing an officer, reckless endangerment, possession of methamphetamine and possession of narcotics. He also was cited for first-offense operating under the influence.

According to a criminal complaint, state troopers received calls from motorists on Dec. 17 reporting a semitrailer was all over the road on Interstate 39-90-94. One caller said the truck had stopped in traffic and was backing up toward their vehicle.

A state trooper caught up with the semitrailer and followed it with emergency lights activated. According to the complaint, the truck deviated from the right lane onto the shoulder multiple times.

At one point the truck turned off all its lights while going about 50 mph. The trooper reported the truck nearly crashed into multiple vehicles before it finally came to a stop blocking the northbound lanes.

Futrel said he needed to pass an SUV and he turned off his lights to get the trooper's attention, the complaint said.

Officers found 11 grams of methamphetamine in the truck as well as drug paraphernalia, the complaint said.

### Rural school providing internet for students

**NM** SANTA FE — A school district in northwestern New Mexico is providing high-speed internet to students' families, most of whom are Indigenous, in a \$1.2 million deal that leapfrogs piecemeal efforts by state and tribal officials.

Cuba Independent Schools superintendent Karen Sanchez-Griego said staff began installing Starlink's \$500 receivers at students' homes in November and hope to connect all 450 families by the end of the school year.

Traditional fiber optic cables

haven't been installed around Cuba because of the area's sparse population, lack of money, and crisscrossing red tape from tribal, federal and state agencies that have to approve digging.

### Small town sees 2 banks robbed in same afternoon

**NY** COMMACK — Police in a Long Island town were investigating two bank robberies that occurred hours apart and about two miles away from each other Wednesday.

Both occurred in Commack, a town of about 37,000 people that is about 25 miles east of Manhattan.

According to Suffolk County police, a man wearing a mask, hooded sweatshirt, ski cap and gloves robbed a Capital One bank branch shortly before noon by handing a teller a note threatening violence and demanding money. He fled on foot with an undisclosed amount of money.

At approximately 4:30 p.m., an HSBC bank was robbed by a man in a gray hooded sweatshirt, a dark-colored jacket, blue baseball cap, blue facemask and gloves who gave a teller a threatening note. He also fled on foot.

Police didn't say if they believed the same man was involved in both robberies.

### Mongoose caught where pest is not established

**HI** HONOLULU — Hawaii agriculture officials are concerned after a live mongoose was caught on Kauai, an island that doesn't have an established population of the invasive pest that threatens native birds.

The state Department of Agriculture said a mongoose was found Tuesday in one of 15 traps set up after one of the animals was spotted at Nawiliwili Harbor.

Mongoose found in Hawaii are native to India and were originally introduced in 1883 by the sugar industry to control rats in sugarcane fields on Maui, Molokai and Oahu.

But it turned out that the animals only had a minor impact on rat populations.

The weasel-like animals are now widespread on the Big Island, Oahu, Maui and Molokai. But there are no known populations on Lanai and Kauai.

They prey on the eggs and hatchlings of native ground nesting birds and endangered sea turtles.

### University to start next semester remotely

**FL** MIAMI — The University of Miami will start the spring semester with remote-only classes amid surging cases of COVID-19 in South Florida, school officials said.

Julio Frenk, president of the private university, announced late Wednesday that classes will be conducted remotely when the semester begins on Jan. 18. In-person classes are expected to resume on Jan. 31, Frenk said in an email to students and faculty.

Leaders of Florida's public university system on Wednesday urged students and workers to wear masks and get booster shots and COVID-19 tests when they return to campus this month.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting World, National and Military News

# No. 9 Oklahoma St. rallies past Irish

*Associated Press*

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Oklahoma State was a step slow in the first half, appearing to be stuck in the desert sand while Notre Dame raced around the field.

A quick scoring drive just before halftime gave the No. 9 Cowboys a spark and they rode it one of the biggest victories in school history.

Led by Spencer Sanders, Oklahoma State pulled off the biggest comeback in Fiesta Bowl history, overcoming a 21-point deficit to beat No. 5 Notre Dame 37-35 on Saturday.

Sanders accounted for 496 yards and threw three of his four touchdown passes to Tay Martin, including a 9-yarder to cap a four-play, 75-yard drive just before halftime.

“Us going down and scoring quickly just before the half, that gave us hope,” Oklahoma State Mike Gundy said. “That gave us a chance as coaches to say, ‘Guys, we’re fine.’”

Oklahoma State (12-2, No. 9 CFP) came up

inches short of securing a College Football Playoff spot in a loss to No. 6 Baylor at the Big 12 title game and fell into 21-point, first-half hole against Notre Dame (11-2, No. 5 CFP).

Jack Coan led Notre Dame’s early charge while throwing for a Fiesta Bowl-record 509 yards and five touchdowns.

Sanders and Martin brought the Cowboys back.

Sanders, who had a 9-yard touchdown pass to Jaden Bray in the first quarter, cut Notre Dame’s lead to 28-14 with a 9-yard scoring pass to Martin with 37 seconds left in the first half. The pair connected for two more touchdowns, from 5 and 8 yards, to tie the game, and the Cowboys went up 34-28 on three field goals by Tanner Brown.

Sanders threw for 371 yards on 34-of-51 passing and ran for 125 yards after throwing four interceptions in the Big 12 title game. He’s the second player in FBS history with 350 yards passing, 100 rushing yards and

four passing touchdowns in a bowl game, joining Clemson’s Tajh Boyd in the 2014 Orange Bowl.

Notre Dame still had a chance.

The Irish forced two fumbles deep in their own end, but turned the ball over on downs at the 15 and Brown kicked a 25-yard field goal

Coan threw a 25-yard TD pass to Kevin Austin with 1:05 left to pull Notre Dame within two, but Oklahoma State recovered the on-side kick to keep the Irish winless in major bowl games since the 1993 Cotton Bowl under Lou Holtz.

“In the first half, we scored 28 points, we’re moving the ball, we’re protecting the quarterback and obviously things didn’t go that way in the second half,” Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said after his head coaching debut. “We have to go back and see what the defense did schematically to give us some issues and try find a way to make sure that never happens again.”

# No. 7 Ohio State outlasts No. 10 Utah in Rose Bowl

*Associated Press*

PASADENA, Calif. — C.J. Stroud and Jaxon Smith-Njigba put on a passing performance that obliterated a multitude of records during one of the biggest offensive days in Ohio State’s storied history.

The Buckeyes still barely did enough to hold off resilient Utah and its backup quarterback in one spectacular Rose Bowl.

Stroud capped his record-setting offensive day by leading a 56-yard drive ending in Noah Ruggles’ 19-yard field goal with nine seconds to play, and No. 7 Ohio State beat No. 10 Utah 48-45 on Saturday night in the wild 108th edition of the Rose Bowl.

Stroud passed for a school-record 573 yards and a record-tying six touchdowns for the Buckeyes (11-2), who won the Granddaddy of Them All for the second time in four years while toppling one long-standing offensive record after another. Stroud’s yards passing and touchdowns are both Rose Bowl records, and he finished 3 yards

shy of the record for yards passing in any bowl game.

“It’s emotional for me,” said Stroud, from nearby Rancho Cucamonga. “It’s like I’m dreaming right now. I was able to come home and win the Rose Bowl like this. ... This is the Rose Bowl, man. This is where the legendary games are being played.”

Smith-Njigba set the record for any FBS bowl game with 347 yards receiving while catching a school-record 15 passes and scoring three touchdowns. Marvin Harrison Jr. also caught three TD passes for the Buckeyes, who set a Rose Bowl and school bowl record with 683 total yards.

Yet the Buckeyes were the ones playing from behind for nearly all of the first three-plus quarters until they summoned the will for three fourth-quarter scoring drives.

“Our team is built on fighting,” Smith-Njigba said. “We were down the first half, but we just had to stay level headed and keep fighting.”

Ohio State had to rally from 10 points down late in the third quarter to get past the Pac-12 champion Utes (10-4), who got off to an electrifying 35-point first half in their first school’s first trip to the Rose Bowl. They even stayed competitive after star quarterback Cameron Rising went down with an injury while getting sacked with 9:56 to play.

The Utes had to turn to backup Bryson Barnes, who grew up on a pig farm in central Utah and had never thrown a collegiate pass. He led them on a tying drive, capped by a 15-yard TD pass to Dalton Kincaid with 1:54 left.

Stroud coolly drove the Buckeyes back downfield in the waning seconds, and Ruggles hit his easy field goal. Ohio State kicked off to Britain Covey, who already had a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown earlier, but the Buckeyes smothered his cutback as time ran out.

“All we needed was 30 more seconds, if that,” Barnes said. “Get down the field, tie it and

head to OT. But we didn’t get enough time.”

In front of a raucous crowd dominated by Utah fans in the venerable stadium that opened in October 1922, the schools matched the 2012 Oregon-Wisconsin matchup for the highest-scoring first half in Rose Bowl history, combining for 42 points and 443 yards in the second quarter alone.

Ohio State trailed 38-31 entering the fourth quarter despite the pyrotechnics of its passing game, but the Buckeyes immediately stopped Utah on downs at the Ohio State 31, and tied it on Harrison’s 5-yard TD catch with 10:12 left. After Rising’s injury, Smith-Njigba made a 30-yard, over-the-shoulder catch for his third touchdown with 4:22 to play.

“To come out in the second half and play the way we did says a lot about this team,” said Ohio State coach Ryan Day. “We were short-handed, and for us to respond the way we did at halftime says a lot about the character of this team.”

## Ole Miss QB Corral hurt in Sugar Bowl loss to Baylor

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A Sugar Bowl showdown against Mississippi and coach Lane Kiffin's explosive, Southeastern Conference-leading offense provided a high-profile platform for Baylor to validate its old-school formula of ball control and aggressive defense.

Al Walcott set a Sugar Bowl record with a 96-yard interception return, Monaray Baldwin raced 48 yards for the go-ahead score on an end around, and sixth-ranked Baylor beat No. 8 Mississippi 21-7 Saturday night as injured Rebels quarterback Matt Corral watched from the sideline on crutches.

Abram Smith rushed for 172 yards to finish with a single-season record 1,601 for Big 12 champion Baylor (12-2), which won 12 games in a season for the first time. The defense did the rest, finishing with 10 sacks — two by game MVP Terrel Bernard — and three interceptions.

"I would not put it as necessarily as a point to prove," Baylor coach Dave Aranda said

when summing up the significance of the victory. "I would say it as more of an identity to show. ... Just to take the stage and to take the lights and the crowd and all of that and to, like, be us — all the way, man.

"You want other people to see it," Aranda continued. "I'm appreciative that we had the opportunity, and we took advantage of it."

Corral, a dual-threat star QB and projected high-round NFL draft choice, became one of the big stories of the Sugar Bowl because of his decision to play, rather than opt out and minimize injury risks in advance of turning pro.

Corral had accounted for 3,936 total yards and 31 touchdowns during the regular season. But his hopes of going out with a flourish in a New Year's Day bowl faded on Ole Miss' third series, when he was sacked from behind by Cole Maxwell amid a cluster of players. When he was helped up and off the field, Corral didn't put weight on his right foot.

## Reeves, who coached in 4 Super Bowls, dies at 77

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Dan Reeves' talents off the field were recognized early on by Tom Landry.

Reeves was still suiting up for the Dallas Cowboys when Landry made him a player-coach.

At 37, Reeves landed his first head coaching job, pulled off a trade to acquire John Elway, and built the Denver Broncos into a powerhouse that reached the Super Bowl three times in a four-year span.

At the final stop of nearly four decades in the NFL, Reeves guided the Atlanta Falcons to their first Super Bowl.

The only blemish on his record: four blowout losses in the

big game.

Reeves, who did win a ring as a player with the Cowboys but will be remembered mostly for a long, largely successful coaching career marred by those four defeats, died Saturday of complications from dementia. He was 77.

A statement released by his family through former Falcons media relations director Aaron Salkin said Reeves died "peacefully and surrounded by his loving family at his home in Atlanta."

Including a stint with the New York Giants, Reeves totaled 190 regular-season coaching victories — ninth most in NFL history.

# Top-ranked Baylor holds on to beat No. 8 Iowa State

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Baylor has a new cast of players, but its depth and defense showed up as usual in one of the most anticipated games of the season so far.

James Akinjo scored 16 points, LJ Cryer had 10 of his 13 in the second half, and the top-ranked Bears beat No. 8 Iowa State 77-72 on Saturday for the Cyclones' first loss.

Baylor (13-0, 1-0 Big 12) never trailed in only the fourth Division I matchup of 12-0 teams in 40 years and the first game between top-10 teams at Hilton Coliseum since 2014.

The defending national champions got the tough game they expected and had to overcome 19 turnovers and foul trouble.

"First and foremost, it shows we have a great rotation," coach Scott Drew said. "Different people stepped up at different times, and you need that because not everybody has great shooting nights and great games."

The defending national champion Bears extended their win streak to 19 games and are among three remaining unbeaten teams. Southern California and Colorado State are the others.

Tristan Enaruna scored a career-high 23 points for the Cyclones (12-1, 0-1), who were off to the second-best start in program history under first-year coach T.J. Otzelberger after winning two games last season.

The Cyclones managed to turn in a game effort on a day they shot 1-for-14 on three-pointers and Gabe Kalscheur, their second-leading scorer for the season, was held without a

point and committed six of the Cyclones' 17 turnovers.

"The areas we talk about after every game, when they show up to the best of our ability, I don't think anybody can beat us," Otzelberger said. "Our ball pressure wasn't at the level if needed to be, we got outrebounded and our ball toughness wasn't where it needed to be."

**No. 6 Kansas 76, George Mason 67:** Jalen Coleman-Lands came off the bench to hit five three-pointers and score 20 points, reserve Mitch Lightfoot added 14 points, and host Kansas held off George Mason.

The game was put together earlier this week when Kansas had its Big 12 opener against TCU postponed due to a COVID-19 outbreak. George Mason was willing to play anywhere after it had four straight games canceled or postponed.

The Patriots were up for the challenge. Kansas led 66-61 with 3 minutes left when Christian Braun rattled in a three-pointer to extend the lead. George Mason came up empty on its next two possessions, and Ochai Agbaji converted a three-point play with 1:48 to go to put the game out of reach.

**No. 22 Villanova 73, No. 15 Seton Hall 67:** Justin Moore hit a go-ahead jumper with 1:36 to play and visiting Villanova beat short-handed but gutsy Seton Hall.

Collin Gillespie scored 21 points, Brandon Slater added 17 and Moore had 13 for the Wildcats (9-4, 2-1 Big East). Jermaine Samuels added 11 points and 11 rebounds for Villanova, which dominated the boards 42-28 with Seton Hall missing two key big men because of COVID-19.

# Kyrou, Blues cruise through cold snap

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — The St. Louis Blues boarded their bus to the game in a humorous ensemble of shorts, Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops, lightening the mood before the coldest outdoor game in NHL history.

Jordan Kyrou and his linemates made the Winter Classic look like a day at the beach.

Kyrou had two goals and two assists in a five-goal second period, and the Blues cruised to a 6-4 win over the Minnesota Wild with a faceoff temperature of minus-5.7 degrees on Saturday night.

“It’s a nice little trick. I definitely was fully awake,” said Blues captain Ryan O’Reilly, who helped orchestrate the dress code in the player group chat.

This was the first of 33 outdoor games the league has played with a temperature below zero. The Blues got serious once they hit the ice, filling their water bottles with chicken broth and tucking hand warmers in their pads to help against the cold.

“It was important to have energy and emotion in the game,” coach Craig Berube said. “When you’re playing in that kind of extreme weather, you’ve got to dig in.”

**Islanders 3, Oilers 2 (OT):** Noah Dobson scored 3:52 into overtime to lift host New York past slumping Edmonton.

Ilya Sorokin stopped 17 shots to help New York improve to 3-0-1 in the last four games overall, and 4-0-1 at home after losing the first seven (0-5-2) at the new UBS Arena.

**Maple Leafs 6, Senators 0:** Justin Holl and Ilya Mikheyev scored on the same first-period penalty kill for their first goals of the season and host Toronto routed Ottawa at fan-less Sco-

tiabank Arena.

The Maple Leafs and Senators returned to action for the first time since the NHL’s expanded schedule pause over the holidays.

**Bruins 4, Sabres 3 (OT):** Charlie Coyle scored on a wrist shot from the slot 34 seconds into overtime and host Boston completed a comeback victory over Buffalo in the Bruins’ first game in 16 days.

Jeff Skinner and Vinnie Hinostroza both returned from COVID-19 protocols and each had a goal for Buffalo.

**Predators 6, Blackhawks 1:** Tanner Jeannot scored twice, and Filip Forsberg and Ryan Johansen each had a goal and an assist in host Nashville’s victory over Chicago.

Nick Cousins and Roman Josi also scored, Mattias Ekholm had three assists and Juuse Saros made 37 saves to help Nashville snapped a two-game losing streak.

**Hurricanes 7, Blue Jackets 4:** Brady Skjei and Steven Lorentz each scored twice and visiting Carolina had the last seven goals to beat Columbus.

Gustav Nyquist in his 600th NHL game scored shorthanded and had an assist for the Blue Jackets (15-14-1).

**Panthers 5, Canadiens 2:** Sam Bennett scored twice, Sergei Bobrovsky made 29 saves and host Florida beat Montreal for its third straight victory.

**Canucks 5, Kraken 2:** Vasily Podkolzin and Nils Hoglander scored goals in the first period, Tyler Motte and Conor Garland scored in the third and visiting Vancouver beat Seattle.

**Kings 6, Flyers 3:** Viktor Arvidsson had two goals and two assists, and Todd McLellan earned his 500th win as an NHL coach as host Los Angeles defeated Philadelphia.

# Warriors rally late for tough win over Jazz

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Earning road victories against other top NBA teams is quickly becoming a habit for Golden State.

Stephen Curry scored 28 points and had nine assists on Saturday night to help the Western Conference-leading Warriors to a 123-116 win over the Utah Jazz, who are third in the conference.

The Warriors notched their second major road victory over an elite Western Conference foe in eight days, after beating second-place Phoenix on Christmas Day.

Andrew Wiggins had 25 points for the Warriors, and Otto Porter Jr. had 20 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Andre Iguodala added 12 points, eight assists and seven rebounds off the bench — including a late three-pointer to seal the win.

Donovan Mitchell, Bojan Bogdanovic and Jordan Clarkson all scored 20 points, and Rudy Gobert had 20 points and 19 rebounds in Utah’s seventh home loss.

**Bulls 120, Wizards 119:** DeMar DeRozan hit a three-pointer at the buzzer for the second straight game to give visiting Chicago a win over Washington.

Kyle Kuzma’s three-pointer with 3.3 seconds to play gave Washington a 119-117 lead, until DeRozan beat the Wizards in the same way he beat Indiana on Friday night.

DeRozan finished with 28 points and Zach LaVine had 35 points to help the Bulls to their seventh straight win, which is their longest streak since Dec. 18-29, 2014.

Kuzma scored 29 points and had 12 rebounds, while Bradley Beal had 27 points and a career-high 16 assists in his first start at point guard. Beal also passed the 14,000 point mark.

**Pistons 117, Spurs 116 (OT):** Saddiq Bey hit a three-

pointer with 1.9 seconds left in overtime and finished with 21 points to lead host Detroit over San Antonio.

Hamidou Diallo had 34 points and 13 rebounds for Detroit, which had lost four in a row and 18 of its last 19 games. The Pistons had five players score in double figures and three — Diallo (14), Luka Garza (14) and Bey (17) — with double-digit rebounds. Garza scored 20 points, Caasius Stanley 17 and Derrick Walton had a career-high 11 points in the win.

**Bucks 136, Pelicans 113:** Giannis Antetokounmpo had 35 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists for his second triple-double of the season and host Milwaukee won its sixth straight game by beating New Orleans.

Antetokounmpo has averaged 33 points, 11.5 rebounds and 6.5 assists in four games since returning from COVID-19 protocols that caused him to miss five games. Jordan Nwora had 23 points and shot 5 of 7 from three-point range for the Bucks. Jrue Holiday scored 21, Allen added 16 points and Bobby Portis 14.

**Clippers 120, Nets 116:** Eric Bledsoe scored a season-high 27 points and short-handed Los Angeles, playing on the second night of a back-to-back, rallied to beat host Brooklyn.

Terance Mann and Reggie Jackson added 19 points apiece for the Clippers, who were coached for the second straight night by assistant Brian Shaw with coach Tyrone Lue in health and safety protocols.

**Nuggets 124, Rockets 111:** Nikola Jokic scored 24 points and Facundo Campazzo added a career-high 22 as visiting Denver used a huge second quarter to take control in a win over Houston.

It’s the third consecutive victory for Denver, and extends Houston’s losing streak to seven games.