

## Iran demands punishment for killing

*Associated Press*

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's supreme leader on Saturday demanded the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist who led Tehran's military nuclear program, as the Islamic Republic blamed Israel for a slaying that has raised fears of reignited tensions across the Middle East.

After years of being in the shadows, the image of Mohsen Fakhrizadeh suddenly was to be seen everywhere in Iranian media, as his widow spoke on state television and officials publicly demanded revenge on Israel for the scientist's slaying.

Hours after the attack, the Pentagon announced it had brought the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier back into the Middle East, an unusual move as the carrier already spent months in the region. It cited the drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq as the reason for the decision, saying "it was prudent to have additional defensive capabilities in the region to meet any contingency."

Israel, long suspected of killing Iranian scientists a decade ago amid earlier tensions over Tehran's nuclear program, has

yet to comment on Fakhrizadeh's killing Friday.

However, the attack bore the hallmarks of a carefully planned, military-style ambush, the likes of which Israel has been accused of conducting before.

The attack has renewed fears of Iran striking back against the U.S., Israel's closest ally in the region, as it did earlier this year when a U.S. drone strike killed a top Iranian general. An Iranian lawmaker suggested throwing out U.N. nuclear inspectors in response to the killing.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called Fakhrizadeh "the country's prominent and distinguished nuclear and defensive scientist."

Khamenei, who has the final say on all matters of state, said Iran's first priority after the killing was the "definitive punishment of the perpetrators and those who ordered it." He did not elaborate.

Speaking earlier Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani blamed Israel for the killing.

"We will respond to the assassination of Martyr Fakhrizadeh in a proper time," Rouhani said. "The Iranian nation is smarter than falling into the trap of the Zionists. They are thinking to create chaos."

Both Rouhani and Khamenei said that Fakhrizadeh's death would not stop the nuclear program.

Iran's civilian atomic program has continued its experiments and now enriches a growing uranium stockpile up to 4.5% purity in response to the collapse of Iran's nuclear deal after the U.S.' 2018 withdrawal from the accord.

That's far below weapons-grade levels of 90%, though experts warn Iran now has enough low-enriched uranium for at least two atomic bombs if it chose to pursue them.

Fakhrizadeh headed Iran's so-called AMAD program that Israel and the West have alleged was a military operation looking at the feasibility of building a nuclear weapon. The International Atomic Energy Agency says that "structured program" ended in 2003.

## Tensions prompt concern in Persian Gulf

*Associated Press*

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi government is on edge as the Trump presidency enters its final weeks, fearing that a last-minute confrontation between the United States and Iran could erupt on Iraqi soil.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi is under pressure from U.S. officials to escalate his government's crackdown on Iran-backed militias in Iraq, whose rockets have repeatedly targeted diplomatic and military sites used by Americans over the past year. President Donald Trump has now told his advisers he is prepared to order a devastating response if any Americans are killed in attacks attributed to Iran.

With tensions running high, there are concerns here that provocative actions by either side could spark unintended conflict.

"As a government, I think the Iraqis are just wishing they could close their eyes and

have these two months fly by. The potential for escalation is high," said Sajad Jiyad, an Iraq expert and fellow at the Century Foundation.

Last week, a militia fired rockets toward the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, breaching a month-old truce but causing no casualties among Americans or Iraqi security forces.

An armed group identifying itself as Ashab al-Kahf said that it had fired the barrage in response to a raid a night before in the city of Fallujah, which led to the arrest of three militiamen.

Iraqi security personnel, a senior militia leader, two Western officials and an eyewitness on the street confirmed that the raid took place, although it remains unclear who was detained.

"The fact that this scene is becoming more complicated means that danger is

lurking everywhere," said Jiyad.

The raid in Fallujah came several weeks after the United States intensified its pressure on Kadhimi's government to bring the Iran-backed militias to heel, ratcheting up tensions in Iraq.

But the apparent divisions within the militia camp could make it a challenge, even for the most influential of the militias and their Iranian patrons, to maintain calm during this sensitive time.

In a message directed at Brig. Gen. Ismail Qaani, head of Iran's Quds Force, following his visit, to Baghdad to urge restraint, the leader of the Asaib al-Haq militia, Qais al-Khazali, said in a television interview, "The Americans occupy our country, not yours. We will not listen to you anymore because our motives are 100% nationalist." He added, "The truce with the Americans has ended due to its conditions not being met."

# Biden win gives some Gitmo prisoners hope

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The oldest prisoner at the Guantanamo Bay detention center went to his latest review board hearing with a degree of hope, something that has been scarce during his 16 years locked up without charges at the U.S. base in Cuba.

Saifullah Paracha, a 73-year-old Pakistani with diabetes and a heart condition, had two things going for him that he didn't have at previous hearings: a favorable legal development and the election of Joe Biden.

President Donald Trump had effectively ended the Obama administration's practice of reviewing the cases of men held at Guan-

tanamo and releasing them if imprisonment was no longer deemed necessary. Now there's hope that will resume under Biden.

"I am more hopeful now simply because we have an administration to look forward to that isn't dead set on ignoring the existing review process," Paracha's attorney, Shelby Sullivan-Bennis, said by phone from the base on Nov. 19 after the hearing. "The simple existence of that on the horizon I think is hope for all of us."

Guantanamo was once a source of global outrage and a symbol of U.S. excess in response to terrorism. But it largely faded from the headlines after President Barack

Obama failed to close it, even as 40 men continue to be detained there.

Those pushing for its closure now see a window of opportunity, hoping Biden's administration will find a way to prosecute those who can be prosecuted and release the rest, extricating the U.S. from a detention center that costs more than \$445 million per year.

Biden's precise intentions for Guantanamo remain unclear. Transition spokesman Ned Price said the president-elect supports closing it, but it would be inappropriate to discuss his plans in detail before he's in office.

## Turkey seeks to mend its relations with West, Saudis

*Bloomberg*

Turkey is seeking to mend relations with traditional western allies and regional powerhouse Saudi Arabia as rifts with Russia, Joe Biden's U.S. election victory and the threat of European sanctions force a foreign-policy rethink, people familiar with the discussions said.

After he was sworn in with sweeping executive power more than two years ago, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan made a high-stakes pivot away from the pursuit of closer ties with the West. Turkey veered closer to Moscow, alienating and antagonizing fellow members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Recent events have changed the calculus, the people said.

Ankara's interests are increasingly at

odds with those of Russian leader Vladimir Putin. Russia and Turkey were on opposite sides in Libya's war before a truce was agreed, and have clashing aims in Syria's conflict. Turkey then muscled into Russia's Caucasus backyard with its support for Azerbaijan in the 44-day war with Armenian forces over Nagorno-Karabakh.

Then there's the U.S., where President Donald Trump, who declared his personal rapport with Erdogan even while they quarreled, is leaving the White House. And in Europe, leaders are set to discuss penalizing Turkey for its unilateral energy exploration in contested waters of the Mediterranean at a European Union meeting starting Dec. 10.

Sanctions would imperil Turkey's economic recovery from pandemic restrictions

just weeks after a new team of top officials began attempts to get to grips with a collapsing currency.

Erdogan is sounding conciliatory:

"We don't have issues with any country or institution that cannot be solved through politics, dialogue and negotiation," he said on Sunday as he urged the E.U. to help overcome obstacles holding up Turkey's bid to join the bloc and abide by agreements on customs and visa-free travel. "We express the same wish in relations with our ally America."

Officials have hinted that Turkey, in a bid to avert U.S. punishments, would ring-fence from NATO systems the Russian-made S-400 air-defense missiles it bought and tested. Erdogan has sent his envoy to Brussels to de-escalate tensions with the E.U.

## Appeals court rejects Trump challenge of Pa. race

*Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — President Donald Trump's legal team suffered yet another defeat in court Friday as a federal appeals court in Philadelphia roundly rejected the campaign's latest effort to challenge the state's election results.

Trump's lawyers vowed to appeal to the Supreme Court despite the judges' assessment that the "campaign's claims have no merit."

"Free, fair elections are the lifeblood of our democracy. Charges of unfairness are serious. But calling an election unfair does not make it so. Charges require specific allegations and then proof. We have neither

here," 3rd Circuit Judge Stephanos Bibas, a Trump appointee, wrote for the three-judge panel, all appointed by Republican presidents.

The case had been argued last week in a lower court by Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who insisted during five hours of oral arguments that the 2020 presidential election had been marred by widespread fraud in Pennsylvania.

However, Giuliani failed to offer any tangible proof of that in court.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Brann, another Republican, had said the campaign's error-filled complaint, "like Frankenstein's Monster, has been haphazardly stitched to-

gether" and denied Giuliani the right to amend it for a second time.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals called any revisions "futile." Chief Judge D. Brooks Smith and Judge Michael Chagares were on the panel with Bibas, a former University of Pennsylvania law professor. Trump's sister, Judge Maryanne Trump Barry, sat on the court for 20 years, retiring in 2019.

"Voters, not lawyers, choose the president. Ballots, not briefs, decide elections," Bibas said in the opinion, which also denied the campaign's request to stop the state from certifying its results, a demand he called "breathhtaking."

# States scramble to provide virus relief

*Associated Press*

SANTA FE, N.M. — Faulting inaction in Washington, governors and state lawmakers are racing to get pandemic relief to small business owners, the unemployed, renters and others whose livelihoods have been upended by the widening coronavirus outbreak.

In some cases, elected officials are spending the last of a federal relief package passed in the spring as an end-of-year deadline approaches and the fall COVID-19 surge threatens their economies anew. Democrats have been the most vocal in criticizing President Donald Trump and the GOP-controlled Senate for failing to act, but many Republican lawmakers are also sounding the alarm.

The Democratic governors of Colorado and New Mexico convened special legislative sessions in the closing days of November to address the virus-related emergency. Earlier this week, the New Mexico Legislature passed a bipartisan relief bill that will deliver a one-time \$1,200 check to all unemployed workers and give up to \$50,000 to certain businesses.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said the state took action to help residents “who have real issues about keeping food on their table, a roof over their head.”

“While the United States of America is on

fire, the Trump administration has left states to fight this virus on their own,” she said, noting state efforts alone simply are not enough. “It is clear no help is coming — not from this president, not from this administration. As we have done every day this year, New Mexico will step up.”

In Colorado, a special session scheduled for Monday will consider roughly \$300 million in relief to businesses, restaurants and bars, child-care providers, landlords, tenants, public schools and others.

“Even as cases have exploded across the country, Congress and the president have not yet passed much-needed relief for people,” Colorado Gov. Jared Polis said in announcing the session. “Here in Colorado, we want to do the best with what we have to take care of our own.”

In New Jersey and Washington state, Republicans who are a minority in both legislatures were the ones pushing for special sessions. They want to direct more money to struggling small business owners.

Republican lawmakers in Wisconsin, who control both houses of the Legislature, are considering whether to return in December to address effects of the latest coronavirus wave after Democratic Gov. Tony Evers put forward a \$500 million COVID-19 relief bill earlier this week. Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, a Democrat, plans to convene

lawmakers in December to contend with the virus, partially at Republicans’ urging.

“Senate Republicans are committed to recovering our economy that has been harmed by broad and prolonged shut-downs,” Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Paul Gazelka said in a statement. “We will work with anyone to find solutions.”

State government leaders want Trump and Congress to extend the Dec. 30 deadline for spending virus relief money already allocated under the CARES Act, which was approved in March, and to provide more federal funding to deal with the consequences of the latest surge.

“It’s just heartbreaking what they’re allowing to happen with no federal government intervention,” said Washington state House Speaker Laurie Jinkins, a Democrat.

In making his decision to call the Minnesota Legislature into special session, Walz cited “a sense of urgency” around doing something on the state level due to the lack of a federal response.

“I would reiterate to our federal partners — to the outgoing administration and to the incoming Biden administration — please work together, please find a compromise in there, please. If you have to, move a package now with the idea that you will come back and move one later,” Walz said. “COVID is not going to end at the end of the month.”

# Crowds thin on Black Friday as pandemic surges

*Associated Press*

NEW YORK — The raging coronavirus pandemic kept crowds thin at malls and stores across the country on Black Friday, but a surge in online shopping offered a beacon of hope for struggling retailers after months of slumping sales and businesses toppling into bankruptcy.

In normal times, Black Friday is the busiest shopping day of the year, drawing millions of people eager to get started on their holiday spending.

But these are not normal times: A spike in coronavirus cases is threatening the economy’s fitful recovery from the sudden plunge in the spring. Crowds at stores were dramatically diminished as shoppers shifted online.

Game consoles, cookware, robotic vacuum cleaners, slippers and pajamas were popular among shoppers preparing to spend a lot of time indoors this winter. Many

were still eager to get into the holiday spirit and delight their loved ones after a tough year.

Many retailers beefed up their safety protocols to reassure wary customers about coming in on Black Friday. But stores also catered to those shopping digitally by moving their doorbuster deals online and ramping up curbside pickup options.

“We have been intentional to try to not create the frenzy, the doorbusters, the long lines and the crowds you typically see on a Black Friday,” said Stephen Lebovitz, CEO of CBL, which operates about 100 malls and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in November.

Several hundred shoppers lined up ahead of opening at Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn., which normally attracts several thousand on Black Friday. The mall spread out the Black Friday deals over eight days, and many retail tenants pivoted more to on-

line and curbside pickup, said Jill Renslow, Mall of America’s senior vice president of business development.

“It feels good, and it’s the right thing to do to keep everybody safe,” Renslow said. “Everyone is shopping a little differently but that’s OK.”

Only a trickle of shoppers showed up at Macy’s Herald Square in New York an hour after it opened, offering 50% off handbags and 60% off women’s and men’s coats. Workers sanitized door knobs and windows.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has labeled shopping in crowded stores during the holidays a “higher risk” activity and says people should limit any in-person shopping.

Thanksgiving Day hit a new record online as spending reached \$5.1 billion, up 21.5% compared to a year ago, according to Adobe Analytics, which measures sales at 80 of the top 100 U.S. online retailers.



# Los Angeles locks down to curb surge

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The raging coronavirus pandemic has prompted Los Angeles County to impose a lockdown to prevent the caseload from spiraling into a hospital crisis but the order stops short of a full business shutdown that could cripple the holiday sale season.

The “safer at home” public health order announced Friday calls for 10 million residents to stay home “as much as possible” and bars them from gathering with people outside of their household for public or private occasions.

The border exempts church services and protests, which the Department of Public Health said are constitutionally protected.

Schools that currently are holding in-person classes also mainly will be allowed to remain open, as will beaches, parks and trails.

The order takes effect Monday and will last until at least Dec. 20. It is less strict than a statewide lockdown issued in March by Gov. Gavin Newsom but it is still a ratcheting up of measures that aim to slow the exploding number of people who have become infected with COVID-19 and those winding up in hospitals.

The county on Friday reported 24 deaths and 4,544 new COVID-19 cases with a five-day daily average of 4,751 cases.

## Hawaii

HONOLULU — Travelers to the Hawaiian island of Kauai will have to spend 14 days in quarantine regardless of whether they obtain a negative COVID-19 test, Hawaii Gov. David Ige said Friday.

Ige approved a request from Kauai Mayor Derek Kawakami to temporarily opt out of the state’s pre-travel testing program. This program allows travelers to bypass a two-week quarantine requirement if they test negative up to 72 hours before arriving in the islands.

The new policy will take effect on Dec. 2. Kawakami said he would gladly repeal it once Kauai has the virus under control again.

## Kentucky

A federal court halted Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear’s recent coronavirus-related suspension of in-person classes at religious schools, a victory for state Attorney General Daniel Cameron.

Beshear has appealed the ruling to the Sixth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and asked for an emergency stay of the judge’s

order.

U.S. District Judge Gregory F. Van Tatenhove on Wednesday ruled that the Democratic governor’s order cannot apply to religious schools as the “First Amendment protects the right of religious institutions ‘to decide for themselves, free from state interference, matters of church government as well as those of faith and doctrine.’”

Under Beshear’s new restrictions, middle and high schools are required to continue with remote learning until January. Elementary schools may reopen Dec. 7 if the county they are located in is not in a “red zone,” the highest category for COVID-19 incidence rates.

## Michigan

A Big Boy restaurant in Michigan’s Thumb region has lost its name after the owners refused to stop indoor dining as part of statewide restrictions to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Customers were greeted Friday with Sandusky Diner instead of Sandusky Big Boy, the name for 35 years. The company that grants franchises took action.

The Sandusky location was one of four eateries cited this week for violating the state’s order against indoor dining. Three other establishments, including one of the restaurants, also had their liquor licenses suspended.

Big Boy’s corporate office told the owners that they had 24 hours to comply with the state’s order, said Troy Tank, part owner and operations manager for the restaurant.

## Nevada

LAS VEGAS — Las Vegas welcomed nearly 1.9 million tourists in October, a greater total than September but only about half the 3.7 million it hosted throughout the month a year prior, Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority reported this week.

The slow and incomplete return of tourists continues to imperil the city’s overall economy and experts haven’t begun to analyze how new restrictions put into effect on Tuesday to contain the spread of COVID-19 could jeopardize efforts to bring back the concerts, conventions and trade shows that traditionally draw visitors to Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Tourists’ hesitance to travel has caused air traffic to plummet in most parts of the United States, including Las Vegas, however the market for tourists who live within driving distance grew in October, com-

pared to a year prior.

## New Jersey

NEWARK — A convicted sex offender serving 19 years for traveling to Thailand and molesting young boys is among inmates seeking early release from a New Jersey prison that has experienced a COVID-19 outbreak.

In recent court filings, Wayne Nelson Corliss, 71, has said his health is in danger at the federal prison at Fort Dix because he suffers from diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. The facility had reported 255 cases through Wednesday, the most of any federal prison in the country according to data on the Bureau of Prisons website.

Corliss, 71, currently is scheduled to be released in 2025.

## New York

BUFFALO — Coronavirus cases continued climbing Friday in New York and hospitalizations rose even as the state recorded a record high in testing for COVID-19.

Western New York’s positivity rate spiked to a seven-day average of 6.28%, outpacing other parts of the state, according to figures released by the state. And Erie County, which includes Buffalo, reported more coronavirus deaths — six — than any other county in the state for a second consecutive day.

The state reported 8,176 new cases, the figures show, and statewide hospitalizations climbed to 3,103.

“We’re seeing an increase with the numbers across the country and within our own state,” Cuomo said in a news release. “It started with the fall, and it’s going to continue and probably worsen in the winter.”

## Texas

SAN ANTONIO — The surging coronavirus continued to strain hospitals in Texas Friday, as some hard-hit parts of the state remained under curfews aimed at stemming the spread of COVID-19 over the holiday weekend.

State health authorities reported more than 8,500 Texans hospitalized with COVID-19 Friday, a drop from 8,700 Thursday, but still a more than 50% increase from a month ago. State data show limited intensive-care unit capacity in regions including the Texas Panhandle and El Paso area.

Local leaders in El Paso and San Antonio have issued partial curfews through Monday morning.

## Vandals topple statue of Washington, deface other

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — Minneapolis Park Police are investigating after vandals toppled a statue of George Washington and defaced a pioneer monument with anti-colonialist graffiti early Thanksgiving morning.

The Star Tribune reported a statue of Washington was torn from its base in Washburn Fair Oaks Park and splashed with paint.

Several miles away, in northeast Minneapolis' BF Nelson Park, the large granite "Pioneers Statue" was spray painted with the words "no thanks," "no more genocide," "decolonize" and "land back."

The monument depicts three generations of a pioneer family, whose men are holding a rifle, ax and plow. A woman and her newborn stand at their side. On the back of the statue's base, an engraving shows an American Indian handing a peace pipe to Father Hennepin.

## 'Tacky Lights Tour' altered due to coronavirus

**VA** RICHMOND — An annual holiday tradition of touring elaborate holiday displays at homes in and around Richmond will continue this year, but there won't be quite as many lights.

The Tacky Lights Tour is still set to begin although some longtime participants will skip it because of the need to limit crowds and maintain social distancing during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

The over-the-top holiday displays typically attract long lines of cars, buses and limos filled with people who get out and walk around so they can see the lights up close.

Al and Esther Thompson on Wendhurst Drive in Glen Allen have posted signs saying that no more than 25 people will be allowed to stand in front of the house to comply with the state's restrictions on gatherings.

## Video shows man rescue puppy from alligator

**FL** ESTERO — A 74-year-old man leaped into a Florida pond and wrestled open the jaws of an alligator that lunged from the water to attack his 3-month-old puppy.

The rescue last month was captured on video by cameras placed in the area to document wildlife.

Richard Wilbanks told the News Press he was walking Gunner, a Cavalier King

Charles spaniel, along the pond's shoreline when a 4-foot gator lunged from the water and grabbed the dog.

Wilbanks jumped into the water and pried open the gator's jaws, freeing the frightened puppy.

Wilbanks and his wife took Gunner to an animal hospital where doctors found a puncture wound. The puppy stayed at the hospital for a few days to recover.

## Teen charged with DUI in crash that kills passenger

**SC** POWDERSVILLE — An 18-year-old man was charged with driving under the influence in a Thanksgiving crash that killed one of his passengers, South Carolina troopers said.

Justin Fowler's pickup truck ran off the right side of a small rural Anderson County road, then struck a tree and a fence, state Highway Patrol Master Trooper Gary Miller said.

Four people were in the truck. The front seat passenger was trapped in the wreckage and died at the hospital after being cut from the truck, Miller said.

## Historic Black church vandalized, destroyed

**MO** HOLTS SUMMIT — A historic Black church in Missouri was vandalized, leaving its congregation reeling and authorities looking to find out who did it.

The Callaway County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post that the acts committed at the Mount Vernon Missionary Baptist Church in Holts Summit are "despicable and quite offensive."

Photos show what appear to be bullet holes and boot prints on the older building's front door, while inside there are gaping holes in the walls, pews tipped over, toilets shattered and furniture smashed.

## Man allegedly dragged two officers with SUV

**IN** CROWN POINT — Ernest L. Hoover Jr. of Chicago faces nearly a dozen felony charges after he allegedly dragged two police officers with an SUV, running over one of them, as they investigated a disturbance at a northwestern Indiana home.

The Lake County Sheriff's Department said two officers were called to a Dyer couple's home on reports that a man was repeatedly ringing their doorbell and walking back and forth between their porch and an SUV parked in their driveway.

Officer Alex Gallegos began struggling with Hoover, trying to take him into custody, when Sheriff's Officer Michael Maggi arrived and began helping Gallegos in the arrest. But Hoover somehow got into his SUV, accelerated in reverse and allegedly dragged both officers for several feet until they fell off.

## Clinic owner charged with Medicaid funds theft

**WA** SPOKANE — The owner of a health clinic based in Spokane, Wash., is facing charges of theft and money laundering after investigators alleged fraudulent Medicaid billing totaling more than \$5 million since 2017.

Investigators from the Washington Attorney General Office's Medicaid Fraud Control Division had been tracking Means since at least March, according to court records.

They were tipped off by an abnormally large amount of billing codes indicating in-person consultations lasting half an hour or more, many of them at an in-person substance abuse treatment center in Spokane Valley.

## Store's lottery win feeds people for Thanksgiving

**SC** ANDERSON — A store in South Carolina that sold a \$350,000 winning lottery ticket is using some of its share of the lucky windfall to help its customers on Thanksgiving.

The owners and managers at KP Food Mart in Anderson fried turkeys and made side dishes Thursday for its customers and the homeless people who live nearby, store manager Aggi Tarnowski told The Independent-Mail.

A customer earlier this month won \$350,000 on a scratch off ticket, and under South Carolina Lottery rules, the store received 1%.

## New quarter pays homage to state landmark

**KS** WICHITA — The Flint Hills of Kansas are all abuzz over a new coin that pays homage to the state's Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve.

The Wichita Eagle reported that the U.S. Mint released the 55th installment in its America the Beautiful Quarters Program. The flip side offers a skyward view of the prairie, native Big Bluestem and Indian grasses as well as a Regal Fritillary butterfly. The inscriptions include "Tallgrass Prairie," "Kansas" and the release year.

From The Associated Press

# Irish pull away in meeting with Heels

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Ian Book kept scrambling to buy time and help No. 2 Notre Dame put together multiple long touchdown drives. The Fighting Irish's defense allowed little room for Sam Howell and No. 25 North Carolina's potent offense to do the same.

Book threw for a score while the Fighting Irish defense locked down the Tar Heels for the final three quarters in a 31-17 victory on Friday. The win kept Notre Dame on course to earn a spot in the Atlantic Coast Conference championship game.

Both teams scored two first-quarter touchdowns and went into halftime tied at 17, only to see Notre Dame gradually take over in a performance coach Brian Kelly called "one of those road wins that really shows the mettle of your football team."

"It felt like it was going to be a shootout in the beginning," said Book, adding: "Our defense did an unbelievable job in the second half and gave us a lot of op-

portunities, and we were able to capitalize on it."

Book threw for 279 yards and ran for 48 yards for the Fighting Irish (9-0, 8-0 ACC, No. 2 CFP), using his mobility and elusiveness to keep plays alive on a night when both offenses frequently faced long fields.

Receiver Ben Skowronek got Notre Dame its first lead with his 13-yard run around the right side midway through the third quarter. Kyren Williams ran for 124 yards — including a 47-yarder with about 5½ minutes left as the Irish burned time off the clock.

Williams closed that drive with his second rushing TD, a clinching 1-yarder with 1:20 left that kept the Fighting Irish alone atop the ACC standings ahead of No. 4 Clemson and No. 10 Miami. He also had a 4-yard scoring catch in the first quarter after Book corralled a low snap and scrambled to buy time before finding him on the right side.

More impressive, though, was

a defensive effort that forced Howell and the high-scoring Tar Heels to work for every gain after the opening quarter.

UNC (6-3, 6-3, No. 19 CFP) sprinted to touchdowns on its first two drives, but Notre Dame surrendered only one field goal from there. The Tar Heels came in averaging 43 points and 563 yards, yet they were unable to protect Howell nor open running lanes for a pair of backs averaging better than 100 yards rushing each in Javonte Williams and Michael Carter.

UNC finished with a season-low 298 yards while Howell — one of the national leaders in passing yardage and touchdowns — threw for just 211 yards and a score. He also ran for a touchdown.

"You can't rush for 87 yards and have six sacks and beat anybody, much less a really, really good football team," UNC coach Mack Brown said. "So give Notre Dame credit. They're really, really good. When they stepped up in the second half on

defense, they really stepped up."

## The takeaway

**Notre Dame:** The Fighting Irish came in with a defense that ranked among the nation's best by allowing just 85.1 yards rushing and 16.6 points. That unit came up big even after losing safety Kyle Hamilton to a first-half targeting call.

"They were scoring all over film, all over a bunch of teams," linebacker Drew White said. "And so that just motivated our group as a unit to come into the game and just reinforce that we believe we're the best defense in the country."

**UNC:** Brown had said this game would be a measuring-stick opportunity for the Tar Heels. They got off to a fast start, but then struggled to sustain drives and finished with 173 yards after the first two scoring drives. That included being forced to punt on seven of eight drives.

# Nolan's first snap lifts Oregon State over Oregon

Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Taking his first college snap after starting quarterback Tristan Gebbia limped off, Chance Nolan scored on a 1-yard, fourth-down run with 33 seconds left to give Oregon State a 41-38 upset victory over No. 9 Oregon on Friday night.

Jermar Jefferson ran for 226 yards and two touchdowns to help the Beavers (2-2) win their second straight game. Jefferson has run for at least 100 yards in each of Oregon State's four games and is on pace to hit 1,000 despite the short season.

Oregon (3-1) had won seven in a row and three straight over the rival Beavers. The loss dashed any slim hopes the Ducks had of a spot in the College Football Playoff. The Ducks were ranked No. 15 in the first CFP rankings released Tuesday.

Tristan Gebbia threw for 263 yards and a score and had a touchdown run during the foggy game at Reser Stadium. While no fans were allowed in the game, cars passing near

the stadium honked for the home team in the aftermath.

Tyler Shough threw for 266 yards and two touchdowns for Oregon.

It was the 124th edition of the rivalry that dates to 1894. This summer amid racial injustice protests nationwide, both schools decided to drop the "Civil War" nickname.

Gebbia scored on a 1-yard keeper early in the fourth quarter to pull Oregon State to 31-26.

Oregon State had an interception on the ensuing drive and got the ball on the Oregon 33. Gebbia found Kolby Taylor with a 31-yard pass before Jefferson scored on a 2-yard run. Gebbia's keeper on the two-point conversion gave Oregon State a 34-31 lead.

An Oregon State penalty helped the Ducks on their drive, capped by Cyrus Habibi-Likio's 1-yard dash into the end zone, to give Oregon back the lead with 8:27 left.

**No. 15 Iowa State 23, No. 20 Texas 20:** Breece Hall scored on a 3-yard run with 1:25

remaining and the visiting Cyclones held off last-minute drive by Sam Ehlinger and the Longhorns to remain in first place in the Big 12.

After Iowa State sacked Ehlinger on third down, Texas' Cameron Dicker barely missed left with a 58-yard field-goal attempt as time expired.

The Cyclones (7-2, 7-1) have almost locked up a spot in the Big 12 championship game for the first time.

Hall gained 91 yards on 20 carries, his first game under 100 this season, but had 30 on the final 69-yard touchdown drive. Brock Purdy completed 25 of 36 passes for 312 yards and a touchdown. Charlie Kolar had six receptions for 131 yards.

Ehlinger was 17-for-29 for 298 yards and one touchdown in what could be his final home game for the Longhorns. Ehlinger and Brennan Eagles set up touchdowns in the first and third quarters, connecting for 59 and 45 yards.



## Ravens-Steelers postponed again

*Associated Press*

With reigning NFL MVP Lamar Jackson under quarantine as part of an outbreak of COVID-19 that has ravaged the Baltimore Ravens, the team has turned its focus from breaking out of a slump to simply getting healthy and back to practice.

The Ravens have more than a dozen players on the reserve/COVID-19 list, and their training facility is closed to prevent the spread of the virus. Jackson tested positive this week and will not play against the unbeaten Pittsburgh Steelers Tuesday night, a game that was originally scheduled for Thanksgiving night and postponed to Sunday before the NFL moved the game again.

The makeup for the game will be held at 8 p.m. ET and telecast nationally by NBC.

With that game moving to Tuesday, Baltimore's game against Dallas, scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 3, will instead be played at 5 o'clock on Monday, Dec. 7.

The NFL also has ordered all team facilities not involving teams playing Monday or Tuesday to be closed on those days. The Eagles and Seahawks play Monday night, and the Ravens and Steelers play on Tuesday.

"We appreciate the efforts of the NFL and Pittsburgh Steelers throughout this process, while we all work to create an environment that keeps the health and safety of everyone involved at the forefront of each decision," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "Our organization has a plan in place, and we will be prepared to play the Steelers. We thank everyone for their adaptability and look forward to the challenge of facing a very good football team at Heinz Field on Tuesday night."

Baltimore (6-4) will be decidedly short-handed against Pittsburgh (10-0).

Jackson, fullback Patrick Ricard, defensive tackle Justin Madubuike, and long snapper Morgan Cox were added to the COVID-19 list on Monday. They join quarterback Trace McSorley; running backs Mark Ingram and J.K. Dobbins; defensive linemen Calais Campbell, Brandon Williams and Jihad Ward; linebacker Pernell McPhee; and centers Patrick Mekari and Matt Skura.

A year ago, the Ravens finished with the best regular-season record in the NFL behind the play of Jackson, who threw 36 touchdown passes and set a single-season record for yards rushing by a quarterback.

# Chiefs expecting best from Brady, Buccaneers

*Associated Press*

TAMPA, Fla. — The Kansas City Chiefs aren't buying all the talk about Tom Brady's struggles. They insist he's still playing at a high level and will have to be at their best to beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The reigning Super Bowl champions (9-1) visit the Bucs (7-4) on Sunday, with Patrick Mahomes facing Brady for the fourth time in his young career and Brady looking to shrug off a couple of subpar performances against playoff contenders.

"You can't take anything away from Tom Brady. He's still very smart, he's still trying to throw the ball downfield, he still has the weapons. We'll have our hands full," Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu said.

"He's played against our system a number of times, even going back to New England," Mathieu added. "He's familiar with us. Now we have to get familiar with him and the weapons he has."

Brady won two of the previous three matchups against Mahomes, including an overtime thriller in the AFC championship game two seasons ago.

The six-time Super Bowl champion played poorly in home losses to New Orleans and the Los Angeles Rams two of the past three weeks. Still, Kansas City coach Andy Reid cautioned against anyone writing off the 43-year-old quarterback.

Despite Brady's recent struggles, particularly on deep passes, the Bucs have already matched their victory total from all of last season and remain in prime position to end a 12-year playoff drought that's the second longest in the NFL.

"He's unbelievable. He's a great player, a Hall of Fame player. We're lucky enough to have a chance to be in this era where we get to play him," Reid said.

"He's old, and it's hard to tell he's old," Reid added. "And that's a tribute to how he takes care of himself, and the care and living he does all the way around, from diet to workout to everything."

The Chiefs have won five straight, the eighth consecutive year they've had a streak at least that long.

They avenged their lone loss last week with a 35-31 victory at Las Vegas, with Mahomes throwing for 348 yards and two TDs.

Mahomes, who's thrown for just over 312

yards per game with 14 TDs and one interception during Kansas City's winning streak, was as surprised as anyone that Brady left the Patriots to sign with Tampa Bay in free agency last March.

"But he's in a great spot. They've got a lot of weapons there," Mahomes said, looking ahead to another head-to-head meeting.

"I don't think it's going to feel very much different. It's still a very good football team that's playing really good football and winning a lot of games," Mahomes said. "I know it's going to be a really big challenge for us."

Brady threw a pair of costly interceptions and was 0-for-6 on passes traveling at least 20 yards in last week's 27-24 loss to the Rams. He's 0-for-19 on such throws over the past three games, which includes a 38-3 loss to the Saints.

The struggles have raised questions about whether the offense Brady is being asked to run following a historic 20-year stint with the Patriots is suited to what he does best.

Bucs coach Bruce Arians concedes the offense has been inconsistent, but attributes that to a lack of continuity caused in part by teams not having a usual offseason due to the coronavirus pandemic and injuries that have forced lineup changes and limited practice time for some players.

"He can do anything, so it's not like he can't do it," Arians said, responding to critics who suggest the problem is the offensive scheme, which stresses pushing the ball downfield.

"We've had the guys open. We've just missed them," Arians said.

"Each and every week is so different, but when they're there, we need to hit them," the coach added. "We can't have them going off our fingertips, and we can't overthrow them."

Brady has lots of good things to say about Mahomes and the Chiefs, who lead the league in scoring at 32.1 points per game.

"He's a terrific player, obviously. ... They've got their offense rolling," Brady said. "I feel continuity is probably the most critical aspect of consistent performance. ... They've been in that system for a while. Coach Reid's been there for a while. He's a great coach. ... They've been tough to beat for a lot of years now."

# No. 22 UCLA edges Pepperdine in 3OT

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The UCLA Bruins have two days before their home opener to try to get their legs back under them after a physically taxing three-overtime thriller against Pepperdine.

Tyger Campbell and Jules Bernard hit three-pointers early in the third overtime, and Chris Smith added a three-point play to finish with 26 points and lead No. 22 UCLA to a 107-98 victory Friday.

Jaime Jaquez Jr. played all

55 minutes while Campbell played 52 and Smith 51.

“There’s a lot of film that we’re going to show tomorrow as we take ice baths,” second-year coach Mick Cronin said. “I’m going to put my head in a bucket of ice and I’m going to have Tyger and those guys take cold tubs, Jaime and Chris, who played 50 minutes.”

Jaquez, a sophomore swingman who had a heads-up play to keep the Bruins alive in the second OT, was thinking the same thing.

“I know when I go back I’m probably going to take a nap, get a good night’s sleep, get in an ice bath and do whatever I’ve got to do to prepare for the next game we’ve got,” he said.

Senior guard Colbey Ross also played all 55 minutes and had 33 points to become Pepperdine’s all-time leading scorer but it wasn’t enough to keep the Waves (1-1) from losing their sixth straight to UCLA and their 38th straight to a ranked opponent. Ross hit a floater to send the game into a

second overtime tied at 81 but missed a three-pointer that forced a third OT.

Campbell and the Bruins (1-1) came out strong in the third extra period to avoid a second straight upset loss to open the season.

Campbell scored 10 of his 22 points in the third overtime. Bernard had 21, Jaquez 16 and Cody Riley 13.

UCLA was routed 73-58 by San Diego State on Wednesday night in the four-team event at Viejas Arena.

# Garza nearly perfect as No. 5 Hawkeyes roll

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Luka Garza expects perfection every time he shoots.

The Iowa center came close to that in the fifth-ranked Hawkeyes’ 103-76 win over Southern.

Garza scored 41 points, missing just one shot early in the second half. He was 14-for-15 from the field, making all three of his three-point attempts, and was 10-for-12 on free throws. He also had nine rebounds and three blocked shots in 29 minutes.

It was the 18th consecutive game of 20 or more points for Garza, the lone unanimous selection to the AP preseason All-America team.

“Whenever I get the ball, I feel like I can score,” Garza said. “Sometimes you have those days where you’re just making shots. I put enough work into each shot that when I put it up, I have a strong feeling that it’s going to go in.”

**No. 1 Gonzaga 90, Auburn 67:** Drew Timme had 28 points and 10 rebounds, Corey Kispert scored 25 points and the Bulldogs routed the Tigers at the Rocket Mortgage Fort Myers Tip-Off in Fort Myers, Fla.

Timme, who left the game with about eight minutes remaining, went 11-for-16 from the field. Kispert made four three-pointers. Jalen Suggs, Gonzaga’s highest-rated recruit, added 12 points and six assists.

Allen Flanigan scored 20 points to lead Auburn (1-1).

**No. 6 Kansas 94, Saint Joseph’s 72:**

Christian Braun scored 30 points and the Jayhawks pulled away to beat the Hawks at the Rocket Mortgage Fort Myers Tip-Off in Fort Myers, Fla.

Braun made 10 of 13 shots, hit five three-pointers and added nine rebounds.

Ochai Agbaji, whose foul trouble proved costly in an opening 102-90 loss to No. 1 Gonzaga, added 18 points. Jalen Wilson had 14 for the Jayhawks (1-1).

Jack Forrest had 18 points for Saint Joseph’s (0-2). Ryan Daly and Dahmir Bishop added 14 for the Hawks.

**No. 7 Wisconsin 92, Arkansas-Pine Bluff 58:** Micah Potter scored 19 points, D’Mitrik Trice added 15 and the host Badgers overwhelmed the Golden Lions.

Wisconsin (2-0) scored the first 25 points, hitting 10 of its first 13 shots, before Kshun Stokes scored on a floater from the lane for Arkansas-Pine Bluff with 10:05 left in the first half.

Arkansas-Pine Bluff missed its first 11 shots and committed five turnovers before finally scoring.

Shaun Doss Jr. had 16 points for Arkansas-Pine Bluff (0-2).

**No. 8 Illinois 77, Ohio 75:** Ayo Dosunmu scored 24 points, Kofi Cockburn had 13 points and 11 rebounds and the Illini rallied to beat the visiting Bobcats to improve to 3-0

Jason Preston scored 31 points for Ohio (2-1). Ben Vander Plas added 20 points.

**No. 14 Texas Tech 84, Sam Houston State 52:** At Lubbock, Texas, Mac McClung scored 18 points and the Red

Raiders beat the Bearcats.

Georgetown’s leading scorer last season, McClung has 38 points in his first two games for the Red Raiders (2-0).

Zach Nutall had 14 points for Sam Houston State.

**No. 15 West Virginia 70, Western Kentucky 64:** Derek Culver scored 15 points and the Mountaineers overcame a 10-point second-half deficit to beat the Hill-toppers in the final of the Bad Boy Mowers Crossover Classic in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Culver was selected the tournament MVP. Miles McBride had 14 points and Taz Sherman scored 12 for the Mountaineers (3-0).

**No. 17 Houston 68, Boise State 58:** Quentin Grimes had 25 points and eight rebounds, Caleb Mills added 12 points and the host Cougars beat the Broncos in the Southwest Showcase.

Rayj Dennis scored 18 points on 8-for-13 shooting to lead the Broncos in their opener. Marcus Shaver Jr. added 16 points and seven rebounds. Mountain West preseason player of the year Derrick Alston Jr. was scoreless on 0-for-6 shooting.

**No. 24 Rutgers 96, Fairleigh Dickinson 75:** Ron Harper Jr. had a career-high 30 points while going 5-for-9 from beyond the arc, and Jacob Young had 24 points and seven assists for the Scarlet Knights in Piscataway, N.J.

Montez Mathis added 15 points for Rutgers (2-0).

Brandon Rush and Jahil Jenkins each scored 16 points for Fairleigh Dickinson (0-2).