

## Army mulls Purple Hearts for more troops

*The Washington Post*

The Army is evaluating whether dozens of additional U.S. troops merit recognition for brain injuries suffered in an Iranian ballistic missile strike in Iraq nearly two years ago, defense officials said Thursday, a move underscoring that one of the most significant foreign policy crises of Donald Trump's presidency was more severe than he and other U.S. officials acknowledged at the time.

At least 33 service members involved in the Jan. 8, 2020, attack on Ain al-Asad air base are under consideration for Purple Hearts, a distinction reserved for those wounded in combat, a defense official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity. If approved, the personnel will join at least 30 other troops who already received the award for sustaining injuries in the incident.

Geoffrey Hansen, a retired Army captain who survived the attack, said that many of the soldiers he supervised have residual ailments and that one person had died by suicide.

"I've got lots of soldiers that have really bad PTSD issues, memory issues, bad

headaches," Hansen said, referring in part to post-traumatic stress. "All kinds of lingering effects."

The attack in western Iraq brought Washington and Tehran to the brink of war. It followed weeks of escalation that included the death of an American in a separate rocket attack in Iraq, an Iranian-backed siege on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, and the U.S. drone strike there that killed Qassem Soleimani, a longtime U.S. nemesis and the powerful head of Iran's Quds Force.

Iran responded to Soleimani's killing by launching 15 ballistic missiles, 11 of which struck Ain al-Asad. The missiles, each about 40 feet long and carrying a 1,600-pound warhead that left craters up to 30 feet, were the most powerful weapons launched at U.S. troops in a generation.

Trump responded to the lack of American fatalities by declaring on Twitter that "All is well!" A few days later, he said that some of the troops involved had "headaches" but that the situation was "not very serious," prompting a rebuke from veterans groups.

Initially, the Defense Department reported that eight service members had suffered

traumatic brain injuries, but that number increased multiple times in following days. Eventually, at least 110 survivors were diagnosed with a TBI. The Pentagon attributed the rising numbers to symptoms surfacing over time.

The Army decided to evaluate whether additional Purple Heart awards were warranted after a commander overseeing troops on the base, Col. Gregory Fix of the Minnesota National Guard, requested "reconsideration" for 33 nominations that had not been approved.

Fix wrote in a letter, first reported by CBS News, that he had been instructed "not to inquire about the remaining awards or resubmit those awards" but did so anyway. He could not be reached for comment Thursday.

The Purple Heart, in addition to its cultural significance in recognizing those wounded in combat, comes with several benefits from federal and state governments. They include hiring preference for government jobs, upgrades in medical benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, tuition waivers and free Purple Heart license plates in many states.

## COVID-19 hot spots are ominous sign for winter in US

*Associated Press*

The contagious delta virus is driving up COVID-19 hospitalizations in the Mountain West and fueling disruptive outbreaks in the North, a worrisome sign of what could be ahead this winter in the U.S.

While trends are improving in Florida, Texas and other southern states that bore the worst of the summer surge, it's clear that delta isn't done with the United States. COVID-19 is moving north and west for the winter as people head indoors, close their windows and breathe stagnant air.

"We're going to see a lot of outbreaks in unvaccinated people that will result in serious illness, and it will be tragic," said Dr. Donald Milton of the University of Maryland School of Public Health.

In recent days, a Vermont college suspended social gatherings after a spike in cases tied to Halloween parties. Boston of-

ficials shut down an elementary school to control an outbreak. Hospitals in New Mexico and Colorado are overwhelmed.

In Michigan, the three-county metro Detroit area is again becoming a hot spot for transmissions, with one hospital system reporting nearly 400 COVID-19 patients. Mask-wearing in Michigan has declined to about 25% of people, according to a combination of surveys tracked by an influential modeling group at the University of Washington.

"Concern over COVID in general is pretty much gone, which is unfortunate," said Dr. Jennifer Morse, medical director at health departments in 20 central and northern Michigan counties. "I feel strange going into a store masked. I'm a minority. It's very different. It's just a really unusual atmosphere right now."

New Mexico is running out of intensive

care beds despite the state's above-average vaccination rate. Waning immunity may be playing a role. People who were vaccinated early and have not yet received booster shots may be driving up infection numbers, even if they still have some protection from the most dire consequences of the virus.

"Delta and waning immunity — the combination of these two have set us back," said Ali Mokdad, a professor of health metrics sciences at the University of Washington. "This virus is going to stick with us for a long, long time."

The delta variant dominates infections across the U.S., accounting for more than 99% of the samples analyzed.

No state has achieved a high enough vaccination rate, even when combined with infection-induced immunity, to avoid the type of outbreaks happening now, Mokdad said.

# US warns Russia may invade Ukraine

*Bloomberg News*

WASHINGTON — The United States is raising the alarm with European Union allies that Russia may be weighing a potential invasion of Ukraine as tensions flare between Moscow and the bloc over migrants and energy supplies.

With Washington closely monitoring a buildup of Russian forces near the Ukrainian border, U.S. officials have briefed EU counterparts on their concerns over a possible military operation, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.

The assessments are believed to be based on information the U.S. hasn't yet shared with European governments, which would have to happen before any decision is made on a collective response, the people said. They're backed up by publicly available evidence, according to officials familiar with the administration's thinking.

A White House official said Thursday evening that the U.S. was consulting with allies over the buildup, considered Ukraine a partner and denounced any and all aggressive acts by Russia.

Russia says military deployments on its territory are an internal matter and it denies any aggressive intentions, while accusing the U.S. of provocation by sailing warships in the Black Sea close to its territory this week.

The ruble weakened on the news, falling 0.5% against the U.S. dollar to a six-day low.

Similar tensions erupted in the spring when the U.S. and NATO accused Russia of massing as many as 100,000 troops, tanks and warplanes near the border with Ukraine. The crisis eased after U.S. President Joe Biden called Russian President Vladimir Putin and offered a summit that took place in June.

Russia's latest movement of troops and tanks toward Ukraine spurred CIA Director Bill Burns to visit Moscow this month, where he spoke by phone with Putin. German Chancellor Angela Merkel also asked Putin in a call Wednesday to use his influence with Russia's ally Belarus to defuse a crisis over thousands of Middle East migrants seeking to cross the border with Poland into the EU. Putin declined.

Merkel and Putin spoke again Thursday about Ukraine and Belarus, the Kremlin said in a statement. The Russian leader criticized Ukraine's alleged use of combat drones in violation of a previous agreement and American military activity in the Black Sea, according to the statement.

The U.S. warning over Ukraine comes on top of the more recent standoff between Poland and Belarus, a close Russian ally. And it is playing out amid uncertainty over increased Russian gas supplies to Europe despite Putin's pledge to ramp up deliveries from this week to ease an energy crunch. He's pushing for European regulators to give swift approval to operate the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany, a project the U.S. and Ukraine

opposed as a security risk.

Russia doesn't intend to start a war with Ukraine now, though Moscow should show it's ready to use force if necessary, one person close to the Kremlin said. An offensive is unlikely as Russian troops would face public resistance in Kyiv and other cities, but there is a plan to respond to provocations from Ukraine, another official said.

The information U.S. officials shared on Russia at the recent meetings in Brussels was unsettling, said one of the people familiar. Another person emphasized that there's no way of knowing Moscow's true intentions, and what its next move might be or when.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, meeting with Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Wednesday in Washington, appeared to suggest the U.S. had shared at least some new information with him.

"What we heard and saw today in Washington, D.C., corresponds to our own findings and analysis, adds some new elements which allows us to get a better, more comprehensive picture," Kuleba said at a joint news conference with Blinken. The situation in Belarus is a "potential frontline" and shouldn't be underestimated, he said.

The U.S. doesn't "have clarity over Moscow's intentions" toward Ukraine, Blinken told reporters. "Our concern is that Russia may make the serious mistake of attempting to rehash what it undertook in 2014."

## Taliban reports mosque in Afghanistan hit by blast

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb exploded in a mosque during Friday prayers, wounding 15 people in eastern Afghanistan, where Islamic State militants have been waging a campaign of violence, a Taliban provincial spokesman said.

Qari Hanif, the government spokesman for Nangarhar Province, said the bomb appeared to have been planted inside the mosque in the town of

Traili, located in the mountainous Spin Ghar area outside the provincial capital Jalalabad.

ISIS militants have been carrying out nearly daily shootings and bombings against Taliban fighters in the province. ISIS bombings against mosques in the area have been much rarer, however, since the region is overwhelmingly Sunni Muslim. The group is known for bombing mosques belonging to Afghanistan's Shiite minority

that have killed hundreds of people.

Since coming to power in Afghanistan three months ago, the Taliban have been waging a counterinsurgency campaign, vowing to put down the threat from ISIS.

ISIS is an enemy of the Taliban. The two groups share a hard-line interpretation of Islam and over the years engaged in some of the same violent tactics, such as suicide bombings.

However, the Taliban have focused on seizing control of Afghanistan, while ISIS adheres to global jihad.

On Wednesday, a spokesman for the Taliban intelligence service said the agency has arrested close to 600 ISIS members, including key figures and financial supporters. Khalil Hamraz said at least 33 ISIS members have been killed in gun battles with Taliban security forces.

# Effort to fast-track migrants struggling

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The average time for U.S. immigration cases to be resolved is nearly four years. But that's not the mandate in Francisco Prieto's courtroom.

The New York judge must attempt to rule within 300 days on dozens of cases he hears daily from families that just entered the country. The migrants are being sent to the front of the line with the idea that others will be less likely to migrate knowing a backlog of more than 1.4 million cases will no longer buy them a few years in the United States even if they lose.

Nearly six months ago, the Biden administration established a "dedicated docket" for families, many seeking asylum, in Prieto's city and 10 others, including Boston, San Francisco, Miami and El Paso, Texas. It is a modest step aimed at bringing order to the southern border, where authorities this year have faced unusually high numbers of migrant arrivals, including nearly 15,000, most-

ly Haitians, who camped under a bridge in the small border town of Del Rio, Texas, in September.

Roughly 35 of the country's more than 530 immigration judges are assigned to the new docket, according to the most recent data provided by the Executive Office for Immigration Review, which oversees federal immigration courts. Many juggle the duties on top of their normal caseloads.

While it's still early, the effort has made progress: As of mid-September, it was handling nearly 16,000 cases, and more than 100 had received at least an initial decision, according to the agency. It declined to provide more details.

Still, the numbers barely make a dent: Tens of thousands of migrants are released into the country each month, with orders to report to immigration authorities later.

The expedited docket also faces some of the same challenges and complaints as similar efforts under Biden's two predecessors.

Critics say it rushes the complex work of building asylum cases, making it nearly impossible for migrants to have a fair shot, especially if they can't secure an attorney in time. Judges follow the same procedures applied in other immigration cases but on a shorter timeline.

During the Obama and Trump administrations, most families that went through similar fast-track dockets lacked legal representation and were ultimately ordered removed from the country, according to the Migration Policy Institute, a D.C. think tank.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, in an emailed statement this week, maintained the dedicated docket provides fair hearings for families seeking asylum.

"The goal of this process is to ensure that individuals who merit protection do not have to wait for years to get it, and that those who are ineligible for protection are quickly returned to their countries," Mayorkas said.

# Astroworld death toll rises to nine

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A 22-year-old college student who was critically injured in the crush of fans at the Astroworld festival in Houston has died, the family's lawyer said Thursday, bringing the death toll to nine.

Bharti Shahani, who was set to graduate from Texas A&M University in the spring, died Wednesday night, attorney James Lassiter said during a news conference. All of the concertgoers who died following the Friday night show were between the ages of 14 and 27, underscoring how the tragedy unfolded in a mostly younger crowd.

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A 9-year-old boy who was also injured at the sold-out festival of 50,000 people remained in a medically induced coma, according to family.

"For the first time in her life she just wanted to have fun, and that was taken from her," said Namrata Shahani, her sister, who attended the concert with Bharti and their cousin. Namrata Shahani said her sister's last words to her were, "Are you OK?"

Concertgoers have described the packed crowd growing dangerous even before

headliner Travis Scott appeared on stage, and seeing people collapse while the rapper performed. Scott's attorneys have said he did not know about the deaths and injuries until after the show.

On Thursday, Scott's representatives said in a statement that he was distraught and has been trying to connect with the affected families to share condolences and provide them aid.

Hundreds of people were injured in the intensifying surge. A criminal investigation into the deaths at Astroworld is underway.

# Defense rests case in Kenosha protest shooting trial

Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. — The defense rested its case Thursday at the murder trial of Kyle Rittenhouse, setting the stage for closing arguments Monday in the shootings that left Americans divided over whether he was a patriot taking a stand against lawlessness or a vigilante.

Rittenhouse's lawyers put on about 2½ days of testimony to the prosecution's five, with the most riveting moment coming when the 18-year-old told the jury that he was defending himself from attack when he

used his rifle to kill two men and wound a third on the streets of Kenosha in the summer of 2020.

Prosecutors have sought to portray Rittenhouse as the instigator of the bloodshed, which took place during a tumultuous night of protests against racial injustice.

He faces a mandatory sentence of life in prison if convicted of the most serious charge against him.

After closing arguments, names will be drawn from an old, brown lottery tumbler to decide which 12 jurors will deliberate and

which ones will be dismissed as alternates. Eighteen people have been hearing the case. The panel appeared overwhelmingly white.

The protests in Kenosha were set off by the wounding of Jacob Blake, a Black man, by a white police officer. Rittenhouse, then 17, went to Kenosha from his home in Antioch, Ill., with a rifle and a medical kit in what the former police and fire youth cadet said was an effort to protect property after rioters set fires and ransacked businesses on previous nights.



# Climate talks soften fossil fuel stance

*Associated Press*

GLASGOW, Scotland — Negotiators at this year's U.N. climate talks in Glasgow appeared to be backing away Friday from a call to end all use of coal and phase out fossil fuel subsidies completely, but gave poor countries hope for more financial support to cope with global warming.

The latest draft proposals from the meeting's chair called on countries to accelerate "the phaseout of unabated coal power and of inefficient subsidies for fossil fuels."

A previous draft Wednesday had been stronger, calling on countries to "accelerate the phasing out of coal and subsidies for fossil fuel."

While the chair's proposal is likely to undergo further negotiation at the talks, due to end Friday, the change in wording suggested a shift away from unconditional demands that some fossil fuel exporting nations have objected to.

U.S. climate envoy John Kerry said Washington backed the current wording. "We're not talking about eliminating" coal, he told fellow climate diplomats.

On government funds flowing into fossil fuels, Kerry said: "Those subsidies have to go."

"We're the largest oil and gas producer in the world and we have some of those subsidies," he said.

But there was a mixed response from activ-

ists and observers on how significant the addition of the words "unabated" and "inefficient" was.

Richie Merzian, a former Australian climate negotiator who directs the climate and energy program at the Australia Institute think tank, said the additional caveats were "enough that you can run a coal train through it."

Countries like Australia and India, the world's third-biggest emitter, have resisted calls to phase out coal any time soon.

The question of how to address the continued use of fossil fuels responsible for much of global warming has been one of the key sticking points at the two-week talks.

## SpaceX delivers new crew members to space station

*Associated Press*

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A SpaceX capsule carrying four astronauts pulled up Thursday at the International Space Station, their new home until spring.

It took 21 hours for the flight from NASA's Kennedy Space Center to the glittering outpost.

The one German and three U.S. astronauts said it was an emotional moment when they first spotted the space station 20 miles distant — "a pretty glorious sight," according to Raja

Chari, commander of the Dragon capsule.

"Floating in space and shining like a diamond," noted German astronaut Matthias Maurer. "We're all very thrilled, very excited."

The Dragon's entire flight was automated, with Chari and pilot Tom Marshburn monitoring the capsule systems, ready to take control if necessary. At one point, they reported what looked like a "gnarled knob" or possibly a small mechanical nut floating past their camera's

field of view, but SpaceX Mission Control said it posed no concern. The docking occurred 263 miles above the eastern Caribbean.

The station's welcoming committee consisted of three astronauts instead of the originally planned seven. That's because SpaceX returned four of the station residents on Monday, after the new arrivals' launch kept getting delayed.

"I can't tell you how happy I am to see these smiling faces," NASA astronaut Mark Vande

Hei said after embracing each of the newcomers. "Every one of us, all seven of us, are friends, and we're going to become even better friends as time goes on."

Vande Hei and one of the two Russians on board are midway through a one-year mission that won't end until March.

The new crew will spend the next six months at the space station and, during that time, host two groups of visiting tourists. Russia will launch the first bunch in December and SpaceX the second in February.

## Sponsors asked about support of Beijing Olympics

*Associated Press*

Leading sponsors of the Beijing Winter Olympics should explain why they remain largely silent about alleged human rights abuses in China with the Games opening there in just under three months, Human Rights Watch said Friday.

The rights group said in an online briefing that it had reached out to all but one of the IOC's so-called TOP sponsors — and leading broadcast rights holder NBC — in lengthy letters almost six months ago.

The only reply came from sponsor Allianz, which it wrote only last month. "We stand behind the Olympic Movement and our long-standing support for its ideals will not waver,"

Allianz said.

The Beijing Games open Feb. 4.

The letters asked sponsors to be aware of the rights climate in China, and to scrutinize supply chains and other operations to assure they do not "contribute to human rights violations."

"There are just three months until the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics, but corporate sponsors remain silent over how they are using their influence to address China's appalling human rights record," Sophie Richardson, China director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement.

The statement said sponsors risk "being associated with an Olympics tainted by censor-

ship and repression."

The TOP sponsors, at the time of the letter, included: Airbnb, Alibaba, Allianz, Atos, Bridgestone, Coca-Cola, Dow, General Electric, Intel, Omega, Panasonic, Procter & Gamble, Toyota and Visa. Two sponsors — Dow and General Electric — have completed contracts with the IOC that ended with the recent Tokyo Olympics.

In Beijing, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin denounced the sponsor accountability calls from Human Rights Watch.

"To politicize sports by fabricating lies and rumors and undermining the Olympic cause is unpopular and will never succeed," Wang told media at a daily briefing.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Military members get help home for holidays

**TN** LYNCHBURG — The Tennessee distillery producing Jack Daniel's whiskey is teaming with a military support group to help service members and their families get home for the holidays.

More than 1,700 service members and relatives will head home through "Operation Ride Home," organizers said. It's the most participants in program history.

In its 11th year, the program provides financial assistance to active-duty, junior-enlisted military members and their families to travel to loved ones' homes nationwide.

The Jack Daniel Distillery teams with the Armed Services YMCA to offer the assistance.

Service members from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard have been assisted with travel to every state.

## Lawyer drops pants at metal detector

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Justice was not blind when a lawyer dropped his pants after repeatedly setting off a metal detector at a Pittsburgh courthouse.

Jeffrey Pollock, 59, was trying to pass through security outside family court Wednesday, but the machine kept sounding an alarm, authorities said. The lawyer told guards his suspenders were causing the alerts and he could not remove them.

The guards asked him to keep trying until the alerts stopped.

"After a heated discussion with the guards, Pollock un-

hooked his suspenders, dropped his drawers, took them off, and placed them in the bin to go through the metal detector," the Allegheny Sheriff's Office said in a news release.

Authorities said Pollock stood in his shirt and underwear.

He was charged with disorderly conduct.

"I used poor judgment," Pollock told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review. "I was trying to make a point."

## University name change passes legislature

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — Southern Utah's Dixie State University is poised to change a name often associated with the Deep South and slavery after the Utah Legislature approved a new name Wednesday over local backlash.

The Republican-controlled Legislature voted to change the name to Utah Tech University after multiple executives from the burgeoning tech sector said the Dixie name is often met with confusion and distaste as the institution grows. Gov. Spencer Cox is expected to sign the bill.

## Police: Teen in chase that ended in a crash

**AL** PRATTVILLE, — A 14-year-old driving a vehicle carrying five other youths led police on a chase Tuesday that ended with a crash in Alabama, authorities said.

State troopers on Interstate 65 tried to stop a Ford Expedition sport-utility vehicle that had been reported stolen but the driver refused to pull over, Cpl. Jeremy Burkett told WSFA-TV.

A chase continued into the

city of Prattville north of Montgomery, and the SUV slammed into two other vehicles at an intersection.

A 14-year-old who was allegedly driving was charged with attempting to elude police, reckless endangerment, assault, receiving stolen property and speeding, Burkett said. Five other juveniles also were in the vehicle, he said: An 11-year-old, a 12-year-old, two 13-year-olds and another 14-year-old.

## 13 charged in drug trafficking crackdown

**MA** BOSTON — Federal authorities have charged 13 people they allege are members or associates of a drug trafficking gang that moved fentanyl, cocaine, suboxone and counterfeit prescription pills from Massachusetts into Maine and New Hampshire and even into a county jail.

The arrests stemmed from an investigation that started in August 2020 into the Gangster Disciples street gang operating in the Lawrence, Mass. area, federal prosecutors said in a statement.

The investigation included intercepted cellphone communications between the gang's leaders, members and drug suppliers, authorities said.

## Shop operators hid \$2.8M in sales

**NY** UTICA — The operators of three doughnut shops in New York were convicted of tax evasion after concealing \$2.8 million in cash sales from the government, according to federal prosecutors.

Rome residents John Zour-

dos, his wife Helen Zourdos and their son Dimitrios Zourdos were each convicted Wednesday of one count conspiracy to defraud the United States, seven counts of tax evasion, and seven counts of aiding and assisting in the filing of false corporate tax returns. The trio operated three Dipping Donuts stores in Rome and New Hartford, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of New York.

They were accused of concealing more than \$2.8 million in cash sales from the Internal Revenue Service and evading more than \$650,000 in individual taxes from 2013 to 2017, according to prosecutors.

## Mass vehicle break-ins creating worry in area

**MO** ST. LOUIS — Police throughout the St. Louis area are reporting a new trend in vehicle break-ins — groups of thieves hitting multiple cars in a matter of minutes.

KTVI-TV reports that a UPS facility in the Maryland Heights area is among the parking areas victimized recently. A shipping company lot in St. Louis was targeted last Friday. Similar mass break-ins have been reported in St. Peters and Fenton in Missouri and in Sauget and Pontoon Beach on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River.

St. Louis County police say four or five people in a single vehicle go onto a parking lot at night, hit up to 50 cars over the course of a few minutes, and take off.

Thieves have gotten away with firearms, cash, credit cards and jewelry.

— From Associated Press

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# Tua comes off bench as Dolphins surprise Ravens

Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — Tua Tagovailoa walked off the field, game ball in his injured left hand, and waved his arms to acknowledge the cheers.

“Tua! Tua! Tua!”

And then he stopped before entering the tunnel to take a bow, a rare moment of celebration for the Miami Dolphins this season.

Xavien Howard forced a fumble and returned it 49 yards for a touchdown, Tagovailoa came off the bench and capped his night with a 1-yard sneak for a score with 2:19 left and the Dolphins stunned the Baltimore Ravens 22-10 on Thursday night.

“Any win is good,” Tagovailoa said. “No rumors, no external factors of noise had anything to do with what we did tonight.”

The Dolphins (3-7) got three field goals from Jason Sanders in what became their second win in five days. Tagovailoa — who couldn’t start because of a fractured finger on his left, or throwing, hand — threw for 158 yards in relief of Jacoby Brissett, who passed for 156 yards before needing to depart in the third quarter with an injured right knee.

“I think it’s tough coming into a game, second half,” Tagovailoa said. “You’ve got to warm up, you’ve got to get your head back into the mindset of going in and playing, but that’s the NFL. You’ve got to be ready at any time.”

Baltimore’s streak of 51 regular-season games with at least 14 points — the second-longest such streak in NFL history behind a 63-game run by New England from 2009 through 2013 — came to an end.

An emphatic end, at that.

“We just played poorly and it’s because of our coaching,” Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. “It starts with me. I didn’t do a good job getting these guys ready.”

Miami’s defense carried an offense that had one quarterback get hurt, have an injured one take his place, and saw its only trip to the end zone in the first 57 minutes come from an offensive lineman who reached just far enough on a back flip to get the ball over the goal line — only to have it not count because he wasn’t an eligible receiver.

Didn’t matter. The offense did enough, and the defense did more than enough.

“The defense played great,” Tagovailoa said.

Lamar Jackson completed 26 of 43 passes for 238 yards and a touchdown for Baltimore (6-3). Mark Andrews had the scoring grab for the Ravens, who had dominated Miami in the teams’ most recent three meetings going into Thursday — winning by a combined 137-16 score.

“We’ve got to be a lot better,” Harbaugh said.

Brissett had a 52-yard completion to Isaiah Ford late in the half on what appeared to be a busted play that turned into Miami’s longest gain of the season — to that point, anyway. Sanders connected on a chip shot, the Dolphins took a 6-3 lead into the break and, somehow, had the lead for good.

Andrews’ scoring catch got Baltimore to within 15-10, just close enough for it to seem that Miami was on the ropes. Tagovailoa found Albert Wilson for a 64-yard gain — Miami’s longest play of the season and the longest pass of Tagovailoa’s NFL career — with about three minutes left, and then the QB muscled in from the 1 to seal the win.

“We just didn’t play a good football game,” Ravens defensive end Calais Campbell said. “At the end of the day, they played better football than us today.”

The closest either offense came to the end zone for the game’s first 55 minutes was a play midway through the third quarter, when Tagovailoa completed a pass to right guard Robert Hunt. The lineman rumbled toward the goal line, got flipped over and appeared to reach the ball over the plane.

It wouldn’t have counted anyway. Hunt wasn’t an eligible receiver, the Dolphins settled for a field goal and a 9-3 lead.

And soon afterward, finally, a TD happened. Howard stripped the ball from Ravens receiver Sammy Watkins after a catch on the ensuing Baltimore possession, picked up the fumble and scored to put Miami up 15-3.

## Veteran’s Day tributes

In addition to having the U.S. flag displayed for the national anthem, the Dolphins also had flags from the branches of the military and a POW-MIA flag unfurled as well. The anthem was performed by retired Navy Petty Officer First Class General Wilson.

And at halftime, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon performed a rifle precision drill.

# Pickett, No. 25 Panthers hold off UNC in overtime

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A rare mistake by Kenny Pickett nearly cost No. 25 Pittsburgh.

The senior quarterback turned darkhorse Heisman Trophy candidate made up for it by doing what he’s done so often during his record-breaking season: make something incredibly difficult look incredibly easy.

Pickett atoned for a late interception that allowed North Carolina to force overtime by firing a strike through a downpour at soggy Heinz Field to tight end Lucas Krull during the first possession of overtime for an 11-yard score that put the Panthers back in front.

Pitt’s defense did the rest, harassing Tar Heels star Sam Howell into a desperation fourth-down heave that landed in the outstretched arms of Panthers defensive back M.J. Devonshire to finish off a 30-23 victory.

“Listen, everyone’s talking about offense,” Pitt coach Pat Narduzzi said. “You win championships with defense. And that was a championship-level performance.”

One that kept the Panthers (8-2, 5-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) in control of the Coastal Division with two games to go. Pitt will earn its second trip to the ACC title game in four years if it wins out or if it beats Virginia next week and Miami drops any of its final three games.

Pickett’s 32nd touchdown of the season to Krull finished off a 346-yard performance in which he became the school’s all-time leader in yards passing. Pickett slipped past Alex Van Pelt’s mark of 11,267 career yards in the first quarter, the latest in a series of records that have fallen during his breakout season.

Pitt flirted with the idea while letting a 16-point halftime lead slip away. Howell threw for a touchdown and ran for another to get the Tar Heels (5-5, 3-4) within 23-20 with 5:34 to go.

Pitt opted to stay aggressive. Maybe too aggressive. Pickett’s pass on the first snap of the Panthers’ next drive bounced off two pairs of hands before North Carolina linebacker Jeremiah Gemmel grabbed it at the Pitt 35.

The Tar Heels drove to the Pitt 3 before settling for a game-tying 21-yard field goal by Grayson Atkins on fourth down instead of going for the win in regulation.

It’s a decision that will eat at North Carolina coach Mack Brown for a while. He initially wanted to keep Howell and the offense on the field before changing his mind.



# No. 21 Maryland rallies to beat GW

*Associated Press*

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Maryland's shots repeatedly bounced off the rim. The Terrapins appeared a bit out of sync while running their offense, and the defense was often a step slow.

Coach Mark Turgeon knew there would be early season games like this for his revamped team. Fortunately for the Terps, they won anyway.

Qudus Wahab had 18 points and 15 rebounds, Fatts Russell added 15 points and No. 21 Maryland bounced back from a lackluster first half to beat neighboring George Washington 71-64 Thursday night.

Wahab, 6-foot-11 transfer from Georgetown, kept the Terrapins (2-0) within striking distance before halftime and fueled an 8-0 run at the start of the second half that put Maryland ahead for good.

After the Terrapins let a 12-point lead dwindle to 66-64, Wahab made one of two free throws. He then blocked a shot on the other end and snagged the rebound of a potential game-tying three before Russell clinched it with a shot from beyond the arc.

"We have six new guys in our rotation. That's a lot to do," Turgeon said. "The guys found a way to win. We made some mistakes that we'll learn from. We'll get better."

Joe Bamisile scored 20 for the Colonials (1-1), including 16 in the first half. Maryland transfer Ricky Lindo Jr. had 13 points and nine rebounds in his return to the school where he played from 2018-20.

The Terrapins went 0-for-9 from three-point range before halftime and trailed 26-21 until closing to 30-29 at the break. Wahab went 5-for-5 from the floor, but his teammates were a combined 7-for-27.

"The first half I wasn't happy with the shots," Turgeon said. "I thought the second half we got a lot of really good looks."

Maryland found its shooting touch at the outset of the second half. Hakim Hart and Russell made layups before Wahab sank two free throws and added a dunk for a seven-point lead.

Maryland won despite going 3-for-20 from beyond the arc.

It didn't matter, because Wahab dominated inside on both ends.

The schools are located less than 20 miles apart, but this was the first meeting between the teams since 2013 and the first in College Park since 1979. The Terrapins are 37-31 in a series that began in 1913 with GW posting a 21-14 victory.

## Pacers hand Jazz first loss at home, 4 players ejected

*Associated Press*

SALT LAKE CITY — Myles Turner stood up to Rudy Gobert and the Indiana Pacers knocked down the Utah Jazz.

Malcolm Brogdon scored a season-high 30 points and grabbed nine rebounds, leading the Pacers to a 111-100 victory on Thursday night that ended Utah's unbeaten home start.

Turner, Gobert, Donovan Mitchell and Joe Ingles were ejected with 4:01 left. Turner shoved Gobert, planting his shoulder in his back after a missed layup. Gobert responded by bear hugging him and trying to wrestle Turner to the floor. The two players had to be separated near the basket across from the Pacers bench.

Turner blamed the scuffle on Gobert knocking him to the floor after the initial play.

"I had to stand up for myself in that situation," Turner said. "I don't think I did anything wrong. But that's not for me to decide. We'll talk to the league and see what happens from there."

Brogdon had the eighth 30-point game of his career and T.J. McConnell added 21 points,

eight rebounds and five assists off the bench for the Pacers. Turner had 13 points and nine rebounds.

The Pacers finished 2-2 on their road trip after their second road win of the season.

"We've got a resilient group," Brogdon said. "We've got a group that's maturing and a group that's getting better and getting tougher. We've got to continue to build on this."

Mitchell scored 26 points and Gobert added 19 points and 11 rebounds. Mitchell blamed the scuffle on built-up frustration over the referees allowing too much contact early in the game.

"That whole thing could have been avoided — just draw the line early, as opposed to letting it build up for the whole game," Mitchell said.

Mitchell got off to a fast start and gave the Jazz an early boost. But after Bojan Bogdanovic drove for a layup to give Utah a 42-38 lead midway through the second quarter, the Pacers held the Jazz to just four baskets over the final 6½ minutes before halftime. Meanwhile, Indiana crashed the boards and repeatedly scored second-chance bas-

kets to go back in front.

The Pacers closed the half on an 11-3 run punctuated by back-to-back baskets from McConnell and took a 60-51 lead.

"They were able to get in the paint against us, put pressure on the rim," Jazz coach Quin Snyder said. "That wasn't just our guards. That was breakdowns in a lot of different areas."

Gobert scored 11 points in the third quarter to help the Jazz briefly rally. Turner and Brogdon combined to make three three-pointers on three straight possessions to quell the run and extend the Pacers' lead back to 83-74.

Utah drew no closer than five points in the fourth quarter and had any comeback hopes dashed with the ejections of Mitchell and Gobert late in the quarter.

"We lacked physicality," Gobert said. "We let them get away too many offensive rebounds. They were the more aggressive team tonight. We made some runs, but you know, we couldn't get the stops we needed."

**Clippers 112, Heat 109:** Paul George scored 27 points, Reggie

Jackson added all of his 22 points in the second half and streaking Los Angeles hung on to beat visiting Miami for its sixth straight win.

Eric Bledsoe had 21 points and Ivica Zubac finished with 18 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers, who trailed by 17 points in the first quarter when Miami's Bam Adebayo scored 19 points.

Miami dropped its third in a row and fourth of five.

**Raptors 115, 76ers 109:** Gary Trent Jr. and Fred VanVleet hit back-to-back three-pointers over the final 1:10 to lift Toronto past Philadelphia.

VanVleet hit six threes and scored 32 points, and Trent added 20 to help the Raptors knock off the undermanned Sixers. The Raptors lost to Boston on the front end of a back-to-back but the late threes rallied them to a nice road victory.

Joel Embiid, Isaiah Joe, and Matisse Thybulle are still in the NBA's health and safety protocols. Seth Curry did return from a foot injury and Tobias Harris scored 19 points in his return from a six-game absence after testing positive for COVID-19.

# Draisaitl helps Oilers roll past Bruins

Associated Press

BOSTON — Leon Draisaitl had two goals and an assist, moving ahead of teammate Connor McDavid into the NHL scoring lead and leading the Edmonton Oilers to a 5-3 victory over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

Evan Bouchard, Zach Hyman and Cody Ceci also scored and Mikko Koskinen stopped 26 shots for Edmonton. McDavid had one assist to extend his scoring streak to 12 games to start the season.

Draisaitl has 26 points (12 goals, 14 assists) for a two-point lead over McDavid.

David Pastrnak, Brad Marchand and Brandon Carlo scored for Boston.

**Kings 2, Senators 0:** Jonathan Quick made 34 saves and visiting Los Angeles beat short-handed Ottawa to extend its winning streak to seven games.

Ottawa has nine players and an assistant coach in the NHL's COVID-19 protocol.

**Avalanche 7, Canucks 1:** Valeri Nichushkin scored in his return from injury, Mikko Ranta-

nen had a goal and two assists and host Colorado overcame the absence of star center Nathan MacKinnon to rout Vancouver.

Logan O'Connor and Devon Toews each added a goal and an assist, Gabriel Landeskog, Darren Helm and J.T. Compher also scored, and Darcy Kuemper made 21 saves. The Avalanche snapped a two-game skid with their highest-scoring game of the season.

**Capitals 2, Red Wings 0:** Zach Fucile became the first goalie in franchise history to post a shutout in his NHL debut, stopping 21 shots in visiting Washington's victory over Detroit.

Fucile is the first goalie to shut out the Red Wings in his NHL debut in Detroit's 95 seasons.

**Devils 4, Islanders 0:** Mackenzie Blackwood made a season-high 42 saves for his seventh career shutout to help host New Jersey beat New York.

Janne Kuokkanen scored a short-handed goal, Tomas Tatar had a power-play goal and Dawson Mercer and Dougie Hamil-

ton each had one at even strength. New Jersey has won three in a row to improve 4-1-2 in its last seven games.

**Canadiens 4, Flames 2:** Nick Suzuki broke a third-period tie with a power-play goal and host Montreal beat Calgary.

Suzuki fooled goalie Jacob Markstrom by shooting from behind the net. The puck hit the goalie's skate and crossed the line for Suzuki's fourth goal in five games.

**Ducks 7, Kraken 4:** Troy Terry extended his NHL-leading scoring streak to 13 games with two goals and an assist and visiting Anaheim beat Seattle.

Josh Mahura scored twice to help the Ducks win their sixth in a row in their first game since general manager Bob Murray's resignation on Wednesday amid an investigation into his conduct. The Ducks have an eight-game unbeaten streak.

**Penguins 3, Panthers 2 (SO):** Jeff Carter scored the deciding goal in a shootout and host Pittsburgh beat Florida.

Penguins goaltender Tristan Jarry, who has struggled in

shootouts this season, gave an emphatic fist pump after stopping Anton Lundell to win it. Jarry also denied Aleksander Barkov and former Penguin Patrick Hornqvist.

**Jets 4, Sharks 1:** Nate Schmidt broke a second-period tie with his first goal and host Winnipeg went on to beat short-handed San Jose.

Seven San Jose players and coach Bob Boughner missed the game because they are in the NHL's COVID-19 protocol. John MacLean ran the team in Boughner's absence.

**Predators 4, Blues 3 (OT):** Matt Duchene scored his second goal of the game 2:01 into overtime, lifting visiting Nashville past St. Louis.

Yakov Trenin and St. Louis native Luke Kunin also scored for the Predators.

**Golden Knights 3, Wild 2:** Paul Cotter and Jonas Rondbjerg each scored their first NHL goals and host Vegas defeated Minnesota.

The Golden Knights improved to 7-2-0 since Oct. 26 after opening the season 1-4-0.

## Wide receiver Beckham signs 1-year deal with Rams

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Receiver Odell Beckham Jr. agreed to a one-year deal with the Rams on Thursday, choosing Los Angeles and its burgeoning super team over several potential free-agent destinations.

The Browns released Beckham on Monday midway through his third season in Cleveland. He cleared waivers Tuesday with no team willing to pick up the \$7.25 million he was owed under his last contract, freeing the five-time 1,000-yard wideout to sign with any team.

After considering his options, Beckham elected to join NFL yards passing leader Matthew Stafford and coach Sean McVay

in the league's most productive passing offense.

The three-time Pro Bowl selection will play alongside NFL receiving leader Cooper Kupp — who has 74 catches for 1,019 yards and 10 TDs, all tops in the league — and starters Robert Woods (556 yards) and second-year pro Van Jefferson (443 yards). One of those three receivers is likely to see less playing time after Beckham joins the Rams, who have run offensive sets featuring three receivers almost exclusively this season.

The Rams (7-2) visit the San Francisco 49ers on Monday night before their bye week.

In other NFL news:

■ A witness said firefighters

were slow to extinguish a vehicle fire sparked by a deadly crash that authorities blame on former Raiders wide receiver Henry Ruggs III, his lawyers say in a court filing.

Ruggs, 22, is accused of causing the pre-dawn crash by driving drunk at speeds up to 156 mph with his girlfriend in his Corvette sports car. The team released him hours after the crash.

Raiders owner Mark Davis was seen among more than 100 people entering the Thursday funeral for the woman who died, Tina Tintor, at St. Simeon Serbian Orthodox Church in Las Vegas. A private burial followed at a Las Vegas cemetery.

"Firemen did not attempt to extinguish the fire at Ms. Tintor's vehicle for approximately 20 minutes at which time the entire vehicle was engulfed in flames," defense attorneys David Chesnoff and Richard Schonfeld said in a Wednesday court filing that does not identify their witness.

The attorneys seek a court order to obtain Clark County Fire Department records about the pre-dawn Nov. 2 crash and fire. A Nov. 17 court hearing was scheduled.

A county spokesman, Erik Pappa, said in a statement Thursday there were "no delays in response or in the attack on the fire."