

## Up to 12K in Air Force reject vaccine

*The Washington Post*

Up to 12,000 Air Force personnel have rejected orders to get fully vaccinated against the coronavirus despite a Pentagon mandate and officials say it is too late for them to do so by Tuesday's deadline, posing a first major test for military leaders whose August directive has been met with defiance among a segment of the force.

The vast majority of active-duty airmen, 96.4%, are at least partially vaccinated, according to data from the Air Force. But officials have warned that, barring an approved medical or religious exemption, those who defy lawful orders to be fully immunized are subject to punishment, including possible dismissal from the service or they could be charged in the military

justice system.

The challenge now confronting Air Force leaders — how to address potential large-scale dissent in the face of a top health priority that has been deeply politicized — is a bellwether for the dilemma that's in store across the military's other services, which have staggered compliance deadlines ranging from the end of November to the middle of next summer and in some cases have experienced far greater resistance to President Joe Biden's mandate.

A wave of dismissals could jolt the Air Force personnel system and cause significant challenges within units that must be ready to respond to crises at a moment's notice, especially if some vital jobs — like pilots or aircraft maintainers — are

overrepresented among those who could face expulsion, said Katherine Kuzminski, a military policy expert at the Washington think tank Center for a New American Security.

"The fact that it's a choice leading to potential loss to readiness is striking," she said.

The Air Force is the third largest military service, just behind the Navy, with 324,000 active-duty airmen, making even 3% of its ranks a substantial number. For comparison, personnel assigned to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, one of the service's most populated installations in the United States, numbered slightly more than 10,000 in 2019.

The Air Force declined to say how many airmen appear to be outright refusing vaccination

versus those seeking exemptions or those who have opted out because they are nearing their scheduled exit from the military. The Air Force will release some of those details after next week's deadline passes, said Ann Stefanek, a spokesperson for the service.

Pentagon spokesperson John Kirby said this week that, generally, the number of religious exemptions for any vaccine is "very, very small." The Army, which is the largest military service, has granted just one permanent medical exemption and no religious exemptions for the coronavirus vaccine, officials said. The Navy hasn't granted any religious exemptions for any vaccine — for COVID-19 or otherwise — in the past seven years.

## Biden tells Macron US 'clumsy' in sub deal

*Associated Press*

ROME — Meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron on Friday, President Joe Biden said America was "clumsy" in its orchestration of a secret U.S.-British submarine deal with Australia, an arrangement that left France in the lurch and rattled Europe's faith in American loyalty.

Biden and Macron greeted each other with handshakes and shoulder-grabs before their first face-to-face meeting since the deal was publicly announced in September, marking the latest American effort to try to smooth hurt French sensibilities. Biden didn't formally apologize to Macron, but conceded the U.S. should not have caught its oldest ally by sur-

prise.

"I think, what happened was to use an English phrase, what we did was clumsy," Biden said, adding the submarine deal "was not done with a lot of grace."

"I was under the impression that France had been informed long before," he added.

The U.S.-led submarine contract supplanted a prior French deal to supply Australia with its own diesel-powered submarines. The U.S. argued that the move, which will arm the Pacific ally with higher-quality nuclear-powered boats, will better enable Australia to contain Chinese encroachment in the region.

Macron said the two allies would develop "stronger cooperation" to prevent a similar

misunderstanding from happening again.

"We clarified together what we had to clarify," he added, when asked if U.S.-French relations had been repaired. "What really matters now is what we will do together in the coming weeks, the coming months, the coming years," he said.

To that end, Macron's goal for the meeting was securing greater U.S. intelligence and military cooperation supporting French anti-terrorist operations in the Sahel region of Africa.

Macron praised Biden's "very operational, very concrete decisions" in recent weeks that helped the French military fighting Islamic extremists in the Sahel.

Biden and Macron also dis-

cussed new ways to cooperate in the Indo-Pacific, a move meant to soothe French tempers over being excised from the U.S.-U.K.-Australia partnership that accompanied the submarine deal. Other topics on the agenda included China, Afghanistan and Iran, as well as climate change before next week's U.N. climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland.

In a concession by the White House, the Biden-Macron meeting in Rome was organized and hosted by France at Villa Bonaparte, the French embassy to the Holy See, which Macron's office called "politically important." Meanwhile, first lady Jill Biden was to host Brigitte Macron for a "bilateral engagement" Friday afternoon.

# Chaplains weigh religious vaccine objections

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Military chaplains say they are navigating a nuanced process of determining which service members get religious exemptions to avoid the mandated coronavirus vaccinations. Attorneys representing some troops contend their methods have led to unfair treatment in some cases.

Now as deadlines loom for all service members to be vaccinated, troops who are denied exemptions will be forced to choose between taking the shots or leaving the service. But measuring a person's religious sincerity can be tricky, leaving some troops waiting anxiously for a decision, some chaplains and attorneys said.

While the religious-exemption processes are established in service doctrines, military chaplains said their role in the process is complicated. Chaplains must determine whether service members are truthful in their religious objections to the vaccine or simply using faith to avoid a shot they don't want to take. It's a case-by-case process that requires the chaplains to make recommendations to the chain of command.

"For those who are against the vaccine for religious reasons, the chaplains really determine the severity of their religious conviction," said Navy Capt. Richard Ryan, the chaplain overseeing the service's Pacific fleet. "The policy says it'll be on a case-by-case basis and it is based on the sincerity of the religious conviction."

But some attorneys claim the case-by-case nature of the process leads to uneven treatment that derides military effectiveness by making social pariahs out of vaccine refusers.

"They can do this ad hoc treatment where some individuals

are getting assistance from the command and others are being basically bullied and harassed," said Houston attorney Sean Timmons, a former Army prosecutor who is representing some troops in this matter. "That's creating a lot of readiness issues because the unit's supposed to be a cohesive team to deploy together to fight a mission."

The mandate, which Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin issued in August, requires all service members who refuse the shot without an approved medical, religious or other administrative exemption to be separated from the military for failing to obey a lawful order, according to the Pentagon.

There are several steps before separation, which include a series of consultations with commanders and medical professionals meant to address any misinformation about the vaccine, which the Food and Drug Administration approved for emergency use nearly a year ago. The FDA in August gave full approval to the Pfizer vaccine, which prompted Austin to issue the military mandate.

Austin called the vaccine "necessary to protect the force and defend the American people" in his Aug. 24 memo announcing the mandate.

Troops in the Air Force and Space Force must be fully vaccinated by Nov. 2, those in the Marine Corps and Navy by Nov. 28 and soldiers in the Army by Dec. 15, each service branch has announced separately.

Service leaders have declined to say how many exemption requests have been filed, though the Army, Navy and Marine Corps said no permanent religious exemptions so far had been approved. The Air Force, which also oversees the Space Force's vaccine data, did not say whether any religious exemp-

tion requests by guardians or airmen have been approved.

While Austin has said vaccinating troops against the coronavirus is a matter of military readiness, chief Pentagon spokesman John Kirby on Monday said it is also important to allow troops an opportunity to request accommodations if the vaccine goes against their religious convictions.

"We want to respect people's religious beliefs in the military, and one of the freedoms that we fight for here in the military is religious freedom," he said.

Timmons said the case-by-case process can cause fairness issues. Among his clients, he said he's seen a pattern of those who are well liked by their command having an easier time securing the exemptions than those who are not.

"The reality is they're helping those who they think are top performers, and everybody else, they're browbeating them and putting them under duress, and if they don't comply ... they're moving to separate [them]," he said.

Timmons, who is vaccinated, said he's seen his "clients inflicted with significant harassment — being admonished, being mocked, being bullied, being ostracized" by their chain of command for refusing to get the shot.

For example, he said some troops were told to "sit in the corner" after declining the shot at command-ordered mass vaccination events, which is "a way to mock those individuals who aren't complying with directives to get vaccinated."

"They look like kids in a classroom back in the '80s when it used to be that the ones who talk too much were put in the corner of the room to prevent them from talking," Timmons said.

Kirby on Wednesday told re-

porters that he was unaware of reports of unfair treatment regarding vaccine exemptions, adding Austin expects "leaders throughout the department are going to handle the mandatory vaccination program with compassion and with understanding."

"There's an exemption policy that's been in place well before the [coronavirus] vaccine. It's not new," Kirby said. "And [Austin's] expectation is that if members of the military want to apply for one that they should be able to, and they should be able to make their case."

While there's no standardized Defense Department script that chaplains must use to determine religious convictions, some commands have developed key questions to ask.

For example, a religious accommodation interview questionnaire used by the Army Chaplain Corps asks questions such as "How does your religion influence and shape your lifestyle?" and "How is your religious practice burdened by military regulation?"

Schatelowitz, who is helping her Greek Orthodox son through the Army's exemption process, recommends knowing and studying their religious beliefs before starting the request process.

"In order to show sincerity, you're going to have to know what you're talking about," she said.

Religious beliefs don't necessarily have to align with what an established church or religion teaches about the vaccine, Ryan said.

"It's not just about what the denomination thinks — it's the belief of the individual," Ryan said. "You can be Catholic and disagree with the Catholic Church on that and it's still a sincerely held religious belief."

# Facebook Inc. renames itself Meta

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Like many companies in trouble before it, Facebook is changing its name and logo.

Facebook Inc. is now called Meta Platforms Inc., or Meta for short, to reflect what CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Thursday is its commitment to developing the new surrounding technology known as the “metaverse.” But the social network itself will still be called Facebook.

Also unchanged, at least for now, are its chief executive and senior leadership, its corporate structure and the crisis

that has enveloped the company.

Skeptics immediately accused the company of trying to change the subject from the Facebook Papers, the trove of leaked documents that have plunged it into the biggest crisis since it was founded in Zuckerberg’s Harvard dorm room 17 years ago. The documents portray Facebook as putting profits ahead of ridding its platform of hate, political strife and misinformation around the world.

The move reminded marketing consultant Laura Ries of when energy company BP

rebranded itself to “Beyond Petroleum” to escape criticism that the oil giant harmed the environment.

“Facebook is the world’s social media platform, and they are being accused of creating something that is harmful to people and society,” she said. “They can’t walk away from the social network with a new corporate name and talk of a future metaverse.”

Facebook the app is not changing its name. Nor are Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger. The company’s corporate structure also won’t change. But on Dec. 1, its stock

will start trading under a new ticker symbol, MVRB.

The metaverse is sort of the internet brought to life, or at least rendered in 3D. Zuckerberg has described it as a “virtual environment” you can go inside of, instead of just looking at on a screen. People can meet, work and play, using virtual reality headsets, augmented reality glasses, smartphone apps or other devices.

It also will incorporate other aspects of online life such as shopping and social media, according to Victoria Petrock, an analyst who follows emerging technologies.

## Wages jump with employer efforts to fill jobs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wages and salaries jumped in the three months ending in September by the most on records that date back 20 years as companies are forced to offer higher pay to fill a near-record number of available jobs.

Pay increased 1.5% in the third quarter, the Labor Department said Friday. That’s up sharply from 0.9% in the previous quarter. The value of benefits rose 0.9% in the July-September quarter, more than double that of the preceding three months.

The figures demonstrate that workers are gaining greater leverage in the job market and are able to command higher pay, more

benefits and other perks like flexible work hours. With more jobs available than there are unemployed people, government data shows, businesses have been forced to work harder to attract staff.

Millions of Americans are responding to rising wages by quitting their jobs for better-paying positions. In August, nearly 3% of American workers quit their jobs, a record high. A higher number of quits also means companies have to raise pay to keep their employees.

In the year ending in September, wages and salaries soared 4.2%, also a record gain.

The wage increases are partly being fueled by an increasing willingness by

workers to seek out higher-paying jobs. Workers who switch jobs are seeing some of the sharpest income gains in decades. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, in September job-switchers saw their pay jump 5.4% compared with that of a year earlier. That’s up from just 3.4% in May and the biggest increase in nearly 20 years. For those who stayed in their jobs, pay rose 3.5%.

Inflation, however, is offsetting the purchasing power of these pay gains. In the third quarter, prices rose at an annual rate of 5.3%, outpacing the boost in incomes. Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices rose 4.5%.

## Fla. sues Biden over vaccine order for contractors

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The state of Florida on Thursday sued President Joe Biden’s administration over its coronavirus vaccine mandate for federal contractors, opening yet another battleground between Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and the White House.

The lawsuit, announced by DeSantis at a news conference, alleges the president doesn’t have the authority to issue the rule and that it violates procurement law.

DeSantis has vowed legal action over

federal vaccination requirements and fought masking and vaccine rules implemented by local governments in Florida.

He recently announced he would call state lawmakers to the Capitol next month to pass legislation to combat vaccine mandates enacted by private businesses.

The case was filed in U.S. District Court in Tampa and names Biden, NASA Administrator Bill Nelson as well as White House contracting officials as defendants.

In addition to a vaccine mandate for

federal contractors, which is set to go into effect in December, Biden has also announced that private employers with 100 or more workers will have to require them to be vaccinated or tested weekly.

Biden has argued that the sweeping mandates will help end a pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than 740,000 Americans.

But Republicans nationwide have opposed the vaccination requirements and have threatened to bring similar legal challenges.

# Settlement reached in SC church massacre

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Families of nine victims killed in a racist attack at a Black South Carolina church have reached a settlement with the Justice Department over a faulty background check that allowed Dylann Roof to purchase the gun he used in the 2015 massacre.

The Justice Department will pay \$88 million, which includes \$63 million for the families of the nine people killed and \$25 million for five survivors who were inside the church at the time of the shooting, it was announced Thursday.

Bakari Sellers, an attorney who helped broker the agreement, told The Associated Press the “88” figure was purposeful. It’s a number typically associated with white supremacy and the number of bullets Roof said

he had taken with him to the attack.

“We’ve given a big ‘F you’ to white supremacy and racism,” Sellers told the AP. “We’re doing that by building generational wealth in these Black communities, from one of the most horrific race crimes in the country.”

According to the Justice Department, settlements for the families of those killed range from \$6 million to \$7.5 million per claimant. Survivors’ settlements are \$5 million per claimant.

Months before the June 17, 2015 church shooting, Roof was arrested on Feb. 28 by Columbia, S.C., police on the drug possession charge. But a series of clerical errors and missteps allowed Roof to buy the handgun he later used in the massacre.

The errors included wrongly listing the

sheriff’s office as the arresting agency in the drug case, according to court documents. An examiner with the National Instant Criminal Background Check System found some information on the arrest but needed more to deny the sale, so she sent a fax to a sheriff’s office. The sheriff’s office responded it didn’t have the report, directing her to the Columbia police.

Under the system’s operating procedures, the examiner was directed to a federal listing of law enforcement agencies, but Columbia police did not appear on the list. After trying the separate West Columbia Police Department and being told it was the wrong agency, the examiner did nothing more.

After a three-day waiting period, Roof went back to a West Columbia store to pick up the handgun.

# Ex-NY Governor Cuomo accused of groping woman

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — Former New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo was accused in a criminal complaint Thursday of committing a misdemeanor sex crime, two months after he resigned under pressure in a sexual harassment scandal.

But prosecutors said Thursday they didn’t know the document had been filed, and the woman’s attorney said she hadn’t been given a chance to decide whether she wanted to go through with a case.

The one-page complaint, filed by an investigator with the Albany County Sheriff’s Office, accused Cuomo of putting his hand under a woman’s shirt on Dec. 7, 2020. The

document didn’t name the woman but Cuomo had been publicly accused of groping an aide, Brittany Comisso, at the executive mansion in Albany last year around that date.

The office of the county’s district attorney, David Soares, which would handle any prosecution and was involved in the investigation, issued a statement saying it had been caught off guard by the filing.

“Like the rest of the public, we were surprised to learn today that a criminal complaint was filed in Albany City Court by the Albany County Sheriff’s Office against Andrew Cuomo,” it said. “The Office of Court Administration has since made that filing

public. Our office will not be commenting further on this case.”

The Times Union newspaper quoted unnamed officials as saying the complaint had been issued “prematurely” before a final decision had been made about whether Cuomo would face charges.

The office of Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple didn’t directly address that report, but confirmed in a statement that Albany City Court had issued a criminal summons ordering Cuomo to appear at 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 17.

Cuomo has adamantly denied groping her, saying once, “I would have to lose my mind to do such a thing.”

# Joro spider from East Asia takes hold in north Georgia

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A large spider native to East Asia has spun its thick, golden web on power lines, porches and vegetable patches all over north Georgia this year — a proliferation that has driven some unnerved homeowners indoors and prompted a flood of anxious social media posts.

In metro Atlanta, Jennifer Turpin — a self-described arachnophobe — stopped blowing leaves in her yard after inadvertently walking into a web created by the Joro spider. Stephen Carter has avoided a walking trail along the Chattahoochee River where he encountered Joro webs every

dozen steps.

Farther east in Winterville, Ga., Will Hudson’s front porch became unusable amid an abundance of Joro webs 10 feet deep. Hudson estimates he’s killed more than 300 of the spiders on his property.

“The webs are a real mess,” said Hudson, an entomologist at the University of Georgia. “Nobody wants to come out of the door in the morning, walk down the steps and get a face full of spider web.”

The Joro — *Trichonephila clavata* — is part of a group of spiders known as orb weavers for their highly organized, wheel-shaped webs. Common in Japan, China,

Korea and Taiwan, Joro females have colorful yellow, blue and red markings on their bodies. They can measure three inches across when their legs are fully extended.

It’s not clear exactly how and when the first Joro spider arrived in the U.S. In Georgia, a researcher identified one about 80 miles northeast of Atlanta in 2014. They have also been found in South Carolina, and Hudson is convinced they will spread across the South.

It’s also not clear why they are so abundant this year, though experts agree their numbers have exploded.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Police sergeant returns fire, injures 4 inside car

**FL** NORTH MIAMI BEACH — Someone opened fire on a police sergeant as he attempted to stop a vehicle while on patrol in North Miami Beach, officials said.

News outlets reported the shooting happened along Biscayne Boulevard just after 2:30 a.m. Thursday.

The sergeant heard gunshots and saw occupants inside a white BMW and a black Dodge Charge shooting at each other, police Chief Richard Rand told news outlets.

When the sergeant tried to stop one of the vehicles, someone inside opened fire, Rand said. The sergeant fired back and both vehicles fled the area. The sergeant wasn't injured.

Authorities later stopped the BMW, Rand said. Four people inside the car had injuries consistent with being shot or grazed by a bullet or shrapnel, he said.

They were taken to a hospital and none suffered life-threatening injuries, he said.

### Horse owners warned of West Nile Virus danger

**TN** NASHVILLE — Tennessee's state veterinarian this week reminded horse owners to protect their animals from West Nile Virus after a horse in Weakley County that contracted the disease had to be euthanized.

Horse owners should work with a veterinarian to determine a vaccination schedule, according to a news release from the Agriculture Department. Because West Nile is a mosquito-borne illness, horses

in areas with heavy mosquito infestations may require more frequent vaccination. Owners should also eliminate mosquito breeding sites by removing standing water and regularly cleaning water containers. And they can use equine-approved repellents and fans in the stalls.

Approximately one-third of infected horses will die, and those that recover can relapse or develop secondary issue.

### Agency, tourism group to highlight tribes

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — The National Park Service has partnered with a tourism association to ensure the contributions, cultures and traditions of Native Americans are incorporated into exhibits and programming at sites across the country.

The park service says it highlights the history of Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians throughout the year. The five-year agreement with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association will expand opportunities, officials said.

### Doctor fined \$6,000 for missing surgery

**MA** BOSTON — Massachusetts' medical board has reprimanded and fined the head of spine surgery at Boston Medical Center after he left an operating room to eat lunch in his car and then fell asleep and missed an emergency surgery in 2016.

According to a consent order released Monday by the Board of Registration in Medicine, Dr. Tony Tannoury, 54, admitted to

falling asleep his car in November 2016. A chief resident performed the surgery after Tannoury missed it, The Boston Globe reported.

The state Board of Registration in Medicine said that Tannoury was the attending surgeon for trauma emergencies that night and took the patient into the operating room.

Tannoury was fined \$6,000, ordered to complete five education credits in professionalism and review regulations for supervisors, the board said.

Boston Medical reprimanded Tannoury, emphasizing that he violated hospital policy which requires that surgeons be present for critical parts of operations.

### Man accused of robbing 23 banks is arrested

**AZ** PHOENIX — A man dubbed the "Back Again Bandit" who allegedly robbed 22 banks in Arizona and one in Nevada over a 10-month span has been arrested, the FBI said Wednesday.

An FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, with help from Phoenix police, took Richard Zumbro, 44, into custody Monday after a robbery at a U.S. Bank location in Mesa.

The FBI said the string of robberies began in December 2020 and almost all of them were at banks or credit unions that were inside supermarkets.

Zumbro got his nickname because he allegedly robbed the same two banks in Phoenix and Tempe a total of five times.

He's charged in a federal criminal complaint of entering supermarkets and handing a demand note to a teller.

Authorities didn't disclose how much money was taken in the 23 robberies.

### Relaxed COVID rules will allow max capacity

**HI** HONOLULU — Starting next week, Honolulu will allow outdoor and indoor entertainment venues to operate at full capacity with vaccinated attendees, the mayor said Wednesday as he announced the city's latest measures easing coronavirus restrictions.

Patrons will have to wear masks, Mayor Rick Blangiardi said. No food and only water will be allowed, he said. The change will take effect on Nov. 3, in time for the next University of Hawaii football home game.

### County's major disaster declaration approved

**VA** RICHMOND — The Biden administration has approved a major disaster declaration for a Virginia county following heavy rains in late August that led to flash floods and landslides, Gov. Ralph Northam said Wednesday.

According to a news release from Northam's office, the declaration provides federal support through public assistance and hazard mitigation grant programs to assist in recovery efforts and protect against future disasters.

The Virginia Department of Emergency Management will hold applicant briefings in the coming weeks to help inform potential grant applicants of the process for applying for and receiving federal grants.

— From Associated Press

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# Packers hand Cardinals first defeat

Associated Press

Rasul Douglas was living the life of an NFL journeyman just a few weeks ago, bouncing between camps and practice squads in a frustrating process that is football's version of purgatory.

Finally, the Green Bay Packers liked what they saw.

Now he's a Thursday night hero for the league's hottest team — at one of his former team's expense.

Douglas corralled an interception with 12 seconds left in the fourth quarter that helped the Packers knock off the previously unbeaten Arizona Cardinals 24-21 in a thriller that featured two of the NFL's top quarterbacks.

"Blessed," Douglas said. "You're in a crazy mental state being in the league for five years, never been on the practice squad before. You feel like you are working for nothing, kind of. Then you get a call and you are somewhere else and you're playing."

The Cardinals looked like they were going to rally to win their eighth straight game but Kyler Murray threw the stunning interception on second-and-goal as the home crowd groaned in disbelief. A.J. Green didn't expect the pass to come his way, never turned around and Douglas was there to snatch the ball in the corner of the end zone.

"We weren't on the same page," Murray said. "And it cost us."

It was a big night for some lesser-known

Packers players. Douglas was added to the active roster just three weeks ago when the team needed help in the secondary. He was signed off the Cardinals practice squad, where he spent a few weeks earlier this year.

"This is why I love this squad," Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said. "The guy that made the pick was with them (pointing to Cards sideline) for four weeks. He was on the street. We brought him in. He's starting for us. He's a great dude. He's really meshed well with our team. To come up with a play like that with 15 seconds left is incredible."

Cobb's clutch night was much needed since Green Bay was playing without their two top receivers. Davante Adams and Allen Lazard were put on the reserve/COVID-19 list earlier in the week, but the 31-year-old Cobb responded with two touchdowns that were both tough catches in traffic.

"It was tough in the passing game at times, but Cobby came up with a couple of big touchdown catches," Rodgers said.

Cobb's 6-yard touchdown catch on the first play of the fourth quarter put the Packers up 24-14. Once one of the NFL's top receivers — making the Pro Bowl in 2014 with 1,287 yards receiving and 14 touchdowns — Cobb has settled into a secondary role late.

He only caught three passes on Thursday, but they were important ones.

The Cardinals trailed for most of the night but rallied to pull within 24-21 on James Conner's second touchdown run of the game with 10:45 left in the fourth. Arizona then had a crucial goal-line stand late in the fourth — capped by Devon Kennard swatting down Rodgers' fourth-down pass — giving them the ball back at the 1-yard line and an opportunity to go 99 yards for the win.

They almost made it.

Green Bay (7-1) has won seven straight games after dropping the season opener. Arizona (7-1), trying to set a franchise record for longest streak to start a season, instead tied the mark set in 1974.

Both teams were hampered in the early going by a lack of healthy receivers. The offensive pace picked up in the second half.

"In the second half, guys responded and they've done that all year when we've struggled, to be able to come back and answer the bell," Cardinals coach Kliff Kingsbury said. "We just weren't able to finish this time."

Without Watt: The Cardinals were playing their first game without defensive end J.J. Watt, who reportedly needs shoulder surgery that could end his season.

Watt suffered the injury in last week's game against the Texans, though there was no indication that there was a problem after the game. The three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year has 16 tackles and one sack this season.

## No. 24 Coastal Carolina gets 'biscuit,' beats Troy

Associated Press

CONWAY, S.C. — Facing another tight finish with Troy, Coastal Carolina coach Jamey Chadwell remembered something Tampa Bay Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians puts on his play sheet: "No risk it, no biscuit."

Chadwell took the risk on a fake punt with about 3 minutes left and a one-score lead as No. 24 Coastal Carolina held off Troy 35-28 on Thursday night, rebounding from its first loss of the season at Appalachian State last time out.

The result was a 12-yard run for the first down by defensive tackle C.J. Brewer that kept the drive going.

"I felt like last week, from a play-calling standpoint, I got a little apprehensive," Chadwell said. "I said, 'Hey, this week we're going for it.'"

The successful run on fourth-and-4 let Coastal Carolina (7-1, 3-1 Sun Belt Confer-

ence) hold the ball until the final 25 seconds on the way to their 12th straight home victory.

Grayson McCall threw for 294 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a third touchdown as the Chanticleers overcame a slow start to beat Troy (4-4, 2-2) for a third straight time.

"Obviously, we didn't play our best ball, but we found a way and now it's on to the next one," McCall said.

McCall connected on scoring throws of 66 yards to Javon Heiligh and 71 yards to Braydon Bennett. Still, Troy (4-4, 2-2) made it a one-score game on Gunnar Watson's 18-yard touchdown pass to Tez Johnson to draw within 35-28 with 4:52 to go.

But facing fourth-and-4 on its own 31, the Chanticleers set up for a punt. Instead, they snapped the ball to Brewer, who took it around the left side for 12 yards to keep the drive going.

"I didn't know we were calling it and I ran down the sidelines telling the defense, 'I need one. I need one,'" McCall said. "Then I see C.J. Brewer running down the sidelines."

Troy got the ball back with 25 seconds to go on its 24. But Watson fumbled as he was sacked by Josiah Stewart and Jeffrey Gunter recovered to seal things.

### The takeaway

**Troy:** The Trojans put a couple of scares into Coastal, but didn't have the staying power on defense to keep the potent Chants off the scoreboard.

**Coastal Carolina:** The Chanticleers will need help if they hope to reach the Sun Belt Conference championship game. Any chance to keep that dream alive means they can't slip up against teams they're favored to beat — and they should be the favorites in their final four games.

# Walker, Knicks hand Bulls first loss

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kemba Walker scored 21 points, RJ Barrett added 20 and the New York Knicks hung on to hand the Chicago Bulls their first loss of the season 104-103 on Thursday night.

Julius Randle had 13 points and 16 rebounds. Derrick Rose came off New York's bench to score 12 points against his former team as the Knicks won their second straight and improved to 4-1.

Chicago star Zach LaVine scored 25 points, despite playing with a torn ligament in his left thumb.

The Bulls went on a 12-0 run in the final minutes to nearly tie the score in a game the Knicks seemingly had wrapped up.

LaVine's dunk with 9.5 seconds left trimmed New York's lead to one point after the Knicks held a 104-91 advantage with 2:59 left. LaVine's thumb was taped up after he was injured Monday in Toronto.

Randle missed a pair of free throws with 4.7 seconds left to give Chicago the final possession, but DeMar DeRozan mis-

sed a 15-foot, pull-up shot as time ran out.

Nikola Vucevic had 22 points and DeRozan added 20 points for Chicago, which fell to 4-1. The Bulls' 4-0 start was their best since 1996-97.

**Grizzlies 104, Warriors 101:** Ja Morant made a driving layup with 57.9 seconds left and shined in Stephen Curry's home building once again, scoring 30 points as Memphis made it two straight thrilling overtime wins against Golden State.

Curry wound up with 36 points, but missed two key three-pointers late in a rematch of the play-in game from five months ago that Memphis won 117-112 in OT on May 21 at Chase Center.

Curry missed a three to end regulation, leaving the teams tied at 98, then another with 1:18 remaining in OT to finish 7-for-20 from deep in the Warriors' first loss following a 4-0 start.

**76ers 110, Pistons 102:** Joel Embiid shook off lingering pain in his right knee and had 30 points and 18 rebounds to lead host Philadelphia over De-

troit.

Embiid remains hampered by a right knee that hasn't been right since he suffered a torn meniscus during last season's playoffs.

The 76ers watched a 14-point edge evaporate in a loss to Brooklyn in the home opener. It almost happened again after former Villanova standout Saddiq Bey buried a three that pulled the Pistons to 101-94 and another that made it 103-97.

**Wizards 122, Hawks 111:** Bradley Beal scored 27 points and Montrezl Harrell added 25 with 13 rebounds to lift host Washington over Atlanta.

The Wizards (4-1) continued their impressive start under new coach Wes Unseld Jr., winning this time without new point guard Spencer Dinwiddie. Washington rested Dinwiddie, who missed almost all of last season because of a knee injury, on the second night of a back-to-back. The Wizards were also without Daniel Gafford because of a thigh issue.

The Hawks cut a 20-point second-half deficit to five in the fourth quarter, but Harrell

dunked off a pass from Beal, and then a dunk by Beal made it 115-106.

**Jazz 122, Rockets 91:** Bojan Bogdanovic scored 19 points and seven Utah players reached double figures in a win over host Houston.

Utah is off to its first 4-0 start since the 2006-07 season.

Joining Bogdanovic, Rudy Gobert (16), Jordan Clarkson (16), Donovan Mitchell (15), and Joe Ingles (14), Eric Paschall (13) and Hassan Whiteside (10) also scored in double figures for the Jazz.

**Mavericks 104, Spurs 99:** Luka Doncic scored 10 of his game-high 25 points in the fourth quarter as host Dallas beat San Antonio.

The Mavericks went ahead to stay on Doncic's alley-oop pass to Dwight Powell for the finish that made it 86-84 with 8:33 left. They stretched that to an 11-point gap by the time Doncic hit a step-back three-pointer about 3½ minutes later.

Jalen Brunson added 19 points for the Mavericks, while Dorian Finney-Smith had 14 and Maxi Kleber 12.

## Teixeira on verge of light heavyweight title in UFC 267

Associated Press

Not many people get to celebrate their 42nd birthday by making their final preparations for a UFC title fight.

Glover Teixeira had that honor Thursday, and the Brazilian mixed martial arts veteran is marking the milestone by thinking about the obstacles he surmounted to get to the brink of an unlikely championship.

"I'm a fan of this sport as well, and I love when people overcome situations and break the rules doing something that not many people have done," Teixeira said. "If I win this title right now, who did that before? Only one guy in the UFC: Randy Couture. It's a hard

thing to do, and I'm glad that I'm here and I'm going to get it Saturday night."

A remarkable career that began in 2002 and appeared to be on the wane only four years ago reaches another peak Saturday at the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi, where Teixeira (32-7) will take on Jan Blachowicz (28-8) for the light heavyweight belt at UFC 267.

Teixeira will be the UFC's oldest first-time champion if he can upset Blachowicz, no fresh-faced kid himself at 38. Couture was 43 when he reclaimed the UFC heavyweight title in 2007, but the famed MMA pioneer didn't face quite the same obstacles as Teix-

eira to reach this point.

While preparing to take on the hard-hitting, well-rounded Blachowicz in recent weeks, Teixeira has also spoken at length for the first time about his journey as a teenage illegal immigrant who found his way to the Connecticut gyms where he fell in love with the sport and made it his life's work.

In opening up, Teixeira said he has felt the love of MMA fans who might not have paid attention to him earlier in his career.

"Lately a lot of people say, 'Got to get that belt, make that move!'" Teixeira said.

UFC 267 is the first numbered UFC event not on pay-per-view in

the U.S. in a decade, although it's still on ESPN+. The show takes place in the Middle East in the evening, making it an afternoon event in Europe and a morning spectacle for North American viewers.

Former bantamweight champion Petr Yan takes on Cory Sandhagen in the co-main event for a curious interim title belt created by the UFC because champ Aljamain Sterling wasn't quite ready to return from neck surgery. Rising lightweight star Islam Makhachev also fights Dan Hooker, and unbeaten welterweight Khamzat Chimaev returns for his first bout of 2021 against Li Jingliang.

# Panthers' Quenneville resigns amid scandal

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Joel Quenneville resigned as coach of the Florida Panthers on Thursday, two days after the second-winningest coach in NHL history was among those implicated for not swiftly responding to allegations by a Chicago Blackhawks player of being sexually assaulted by another coach during the 2010 Stanley Cup playoffs.

The announcement was made shortly after Quenneville met with NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman in New York to discuss his role in the Blackhawks' response to claims from Kyle Beach that he was sexually assaulted by then-Blackhawks assistant Brad Aldrich.

"I admire Kyle Beach for his courage in coming forward, am appalled that he was so poorly supported upon making his initial claim and in the 11 years since, and am sorry for all he has endured," Bettman said.

Andrew Brunette — an assistant coach under Quenneville in Florida — was hired as the team's interim coach, and was expected to make his debut when the unbeaten Panthers played at Detroit on Friday night. Brunette has never been a head coach.

Quenneville resigned with about three years and \$15 million remaining on his contract with the Panthers. In a statement released to TSN, Quenneville said he resigned "with deep regret and contrition."

"I want to express my sorrow for the pain this young man, Kyle Beach, has suffered. My former team, the Blackhawks, failed Kyle and I own my share of that," Quenneville said. "I want to reflect on how all of this happened and take the time to educate myself on ensuring hockey spaces are safe for everyone."

Bettman said he agreed with Quenneville's decision to resign. If the 63-year-old Quenneville ever wants to return to the NHL, Bettman said the league would need to meet with him first and approve his hiring.

The fallout likely isn't over. Bettman was scheduled to meet Friday with Winnipeg Jets general manager Kevin

Cheveldayoff, who also worked for the Blackhawks when Beach made his allegations.

An investigation released Tuesday said Quenneville — who coached Chicago at that time — and others in the Blackhawks organization did not prioritize addressing Beach's allegations, presumably because they did not want to take away from the team's push toward a championship.

Quenneville has said he was unaware of the allegations until this summer, a stance he reiterated as recently as Wednesday morning. Beach, in an interview that aired Wednesday evening on TSN, said there was "absolutely no way" the then-Blackhawks coach could deny knowing about the allegations.

## Hurricanes blank Bruins, extend franchise-best start

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Frederik Andersen made 33 saves for his first shutout with Carolina, giving the Hurricanes their best six-game start in franchise history with a 3-0 win over the Boston Bruins on Thursday night.

The Hurricanes are 6-0-0 — an opening streak that's one game longer than two seasons ago. They've also only used Andersen in goal this season. He became the seventh goalie in NHL history to win each of his team's first six games of a season.

Tony DeAngelo and Nino Niederreiter scored for the Hurricanes, and Andrei Svechnikov added an empty-net goal.

The Bruins lost to an unbeaten team for the second night in a row after falling 4-1 to the Florida Panthers a night earlier in the start of a two-game road trip.

Bruins goalie Jeremy Swayman stopped 21 shots.

**Sabres 4, Ducks 3 (OT):** Rasmus Asplund scored his second goal with 43.9 seconds left in overtime, capping Buffalo's wild evening in which it blew a three-goal lead before rallying to beat host Anaheim.

Zemgus Girgensons and Arttu Ruotsalainen also scored for the Sabres, who opened a four-game West Coast trip by earning at least a point for the sixth time in their seven games. Craig Anderson stopped 34 shots in

a standout performance in goal.

**Jets 3, Kings 2:** Pierre-Luc Dubois scored twice and Kyle Connor had three assists as visiting Winnipeg used a third-period charge to defeat Los Angeles.

Andrew Copp had a power-play goal for the Jets, who have won four straight. Eric Comrie allowed two goals on 32 shots in his season debut.

**Canadiens 4, Sharks 0:** Jake Allen made 45 saves, Mike Hoffman scored for the third straight game and visiting Montreal beat San Jose — its first win there in nearly 22 years.

Alexander Romanov and Brendan Gallagher also scored goals as Montreal snapped a 10-game losing streak against the Sharks, who looked rather flat in their first game at home after an encouraging five-game road trip.

**Avalanche 4, Blues 3:** J.T. Compher scored two goals to help visiting Colorado hand St. Louis its first loss this season.

Nazem Kadri and Cale Makar also scored for the Avalanche, and Darcy Kuemper recorded 15 saves.

Vladimir Tarasenko, Brayden Schenn and Colton Parayko scored for St. Louis.

**Flyers 2, Canucks 1:** Sean Couturier scored and added an assist as visiting Philadelphia used a quick start to defeat Vancouver.

James van Riemsdyk also scored on the

power play for the Flyers and Claude Giroux had two assists. Quinn Hughes scored for the Canucks.

The night got off to a fast start with the teams scoring three goals in the first seven minutes, two of them 1:53 apart.

**Kraken 4, Wild 1:** Haydn Fleury had the first two-goal game of his career and Brandon Tanev added his sixth of the season into an empty net, as host Seattle beat Minnesota.

Seattle won its second straight in handing Minnesota just its second loss.

Tanev and Mark Giordano both scored empty-net goals after Minnesota pulled Cam Talbot.

**Flames 4, Penguins 0:** Jacob Markstrom stopped 45 shots for his second shutout in his last three starts as visiting Calgary beat Pittsburgh.

Markstrom recorded his second shutout in five games this season and the 10th of his career. Playing his 12th NHL season and second with the Flames, Markstrom has stopped 136 of his last 137 shots faced.

**Lightning 4, Coyotes 1:** Alex Killorn scored twice in the first period and Tampa Bay earned its first home victory of the season by beating Arizona.

The Lightning were 0-2-1 at Amalie Arena before beating the Coyotes, who fell to 0-6-1 and have lost the first two games of their five-game trip.