

## Air Force sets vaccination deadline

By **KARIN ZEITVOGEL**  
*Stars and Stripes*

Active-duty airmen and Space Force guardians must be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus by Nov. 2 unless they have a valid exemption, Air Force officials have said.

That means they must have had a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine or both doses of a two-shot vaccine at least two weeks before that date, a statement released Friday said.

Air Force reservists and Guardsmen have until Dec. 2 to meet the inoculation requirements, which were announced two weeks after Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered all troops to get the shot after the Food and Drug Administration approved the two-dose Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on Aug. 23.

Military providers will initially offer only the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, but airmen and guardians can continue to volunteer to receive vaccines authorized for emergency use by the FDA, including the two-shot Moderna vaccine and the single-dose Jans-

sen vaccines, the statement said. Those can be given by military or civilian providers.

The obligation to meet the vaccination deadline will only be waived for service members who are granted medical or administrative exemptions, including for religious reasons, the statement said. Having an approved retirement or separation date will not lead to exemption if that is the sole reason cited by a service member.

Those who don't have an exemption but refuse to have the vaccine could be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

"We are taking an aggressive approach to protect our service members, their families and their communities from COVID-19 and the highly transmissible Delta variant," Undersecretary of the Air Force Gina Ortiz Jones said in the statement. "As members of the nation's armed forces, our airmen and guardians must be able to respond to situations around the globe — being fully vaccinated will help us safely meet the readiness requirements that our national security de-

pends on."

The Air Force deadlines were announced a week after the Navy said that active-duty Marines and sailors must be fully vaccinated by Nov. 28 and reservists by Dec. 28.

Vaccination is mandatory even if a service member has been infected with the coronavirus, the Navy said in a statement, noting that all COVID-19 deaths in the service have been among "individuals not (fully) immunized."

The Army has not yet announced a timeline for soldiers to be fully vaccinated.

Airmen and guardians who have proof of vaccination in their medical records will be considered to have met the Air Force's coronavirus inoculation requirements.

The process for airmen and guardians to follow to obtain exemptions for medical reasons is explained in AFI 48-110\_IP, Immunizations and Chemoprophylaxis for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, and, on religious grounds, in DAFI 52-201, Religious Freedom in the Department of the Air Force, the statement said.

## Taliban announce caretaker Cabinet amid protests

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban on Tuesday announced a caretaker Cabinet that paid homage to the old guard of the group, giving top posts to Taliban personalities who dominated the 20-year battle against the U.S.-led coalition and its Afghan government allies.

Interim Prime Minister Mullah Hasan Akhund headed the Taliban government in Kabul during the last years of its rule. Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, who had led talks with the United States and signed the deal that led to America's final withdrawal from Afghanistan, will be one of two deputies to Akhund.

There was no evidence of non-Taliban in the lineup, a big demand of the international community.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, when announcing the Cabinet, said the appointments were for an interim government. He did not elaborate on how long they would serve and what would be the catalyst for a

change.

So far, the Taliban have shown no indications that they will hold elections.

The announcement of Cabinet appointments by Mujahid came hours after the Taliban fired into the air to disperse protesters and arrested several journalists, the second time in less than a week the group used heavy-handed tactics to break up a demonstration in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

The demonstrators had gathered outside the Pakistan Embassy to accuse Islamabad of aiding the Taliban's assault on northern Panjshir province. The Taliban said Monday that they seized the province — the last not in their control — after their blitz through Afghanistan last month.

Afghanistan's previous government routinely accused Pakistan of aiding the Taliban, a charge that Islamabad has denied. Former vice president Amrullah Saleh, one of the leaders of the anti-Taliban forces, has long been an outspoken critic of neighboring

Pakistan.

Dozens of women were among the protesters Tuesday. Some of them carried signs bemoaning the killing of their sons by Taliban fighters they say were aided by Pakistan. One sign read: "I am a mother when you kill my son you kill a part of me."

On Saturday, Taliban special forces troops in camouflage fired their weapons into the air to end a protest march in the capital by Afghan women demanding equal rights from the new rulers.

The Taliban again moved quickly and harshly to end Tuesday's protest when it arrived near the presidential palace. They fired their weapons into the air and arrested several journalists covering the demonstration. In one case, Taliban fighters waving Kalashnikov rifles took a microphone from a journalist and began beating him with it, breaking the microphone. The journalist was later handcuffed and detained for several hours.

# Tributes pour in for sailors killed in crash

*Stars and Stripes*

Family and friends took to social media over the weekend to honor the five Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 8 crewmembers who died last Tuesday when their helicopter crashed into the Pacific Ocean.

The MH-60S helicopter crashed during what the Navy described only as routine flight operations 70 miles off the coast of San Diego.

The Navy's identification of the sailors coincided with a shift of the search to a recovery operation after more than 72 hours of coordinated rescue efforts to look for the wreckage, the U.S. Pacific Fleet said in a statement Saturday.

Five other sailors aboard the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier, where the aircraft was operating before the crash, were also injured. Those sailors were in stable conditions as of Saturday, said Lt. Samuel R. Boyle, a spokesman for the Pacific Fleet.

■ Naval Air Crewman (Helicopter) 2nd Class James P. Buriak, 31, grew up in Salem, Va., where he attended Salem High School and Roanoke College, according to a GoFundMe fundraiser.

He joined the Navy in 2017 and served as a rescue swimmer assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 8, the fundraiser stated.

In February 2020, Buriak was recognized for rescuing a swimmer caught in a rip current off Guam's Gun Beach.

Buriak is survived by his wife, Megan, and son, Caulder, according to an obituary

published on the Roanoke College website.

■ Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sarah F. Burns, 31, hailed from Severna Park, Md.

On Sunday, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan paid tribute to Burns on Twitter.

"I ask all Marylanders to join me in sending our deepest condolences to the family of U.S. Navy Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Sarah F. Burns of Severna Park, and her four fellow sailors who were killed in last week's tragic helicopter crash," Hogan wrote in the tweet. "Fair winds and following seas."

Burns is survived by her husband, Lucas, who is also in the Navy, according to a GoFundMe fundraiser for Burns' family.

■ Lt. Bradley A. Foster, 29, of Oakhurst, Calif., was an Eagle Scout and a 2015 graduate of the California State University Maritime Academy in Vallejo.

"Brad Foster represents the very best of Cal Maritime, both during time his time at our academy and later in his service to the nation," Cal Maritime President Tom Cropper said in a statement posted to the school's website. "Enthusiastic, optimistic, and mature beyond his years, Brad took the road less traveled."

Foster, a pilot, was a 2009 graduate of Yosemite High, where he was excelled in swimming and water polo, according to the Fresno Bee newspaper on Sunday. He earned Eagle Scout, the Boy Scouts' highest rank, that year.

Foster also attended Fresno State University before joining the Navy in 2012, according to the Bee, and worked through high

school and college at his parents' Sears Home Store.

He is survived by his wife, Beth, and their 1-year-old daughter, Audrey, according to a GoFundMe fundraiser for Foster's family.

■ Lt. Paul R. Fridley, 28, from Annandale, Va., was remembered in several tributes posted to social media.

"Rest In Peace, Paul Fridley. A great Woodson football player from the Class of 2011 and an even better person," said a tweet posted on the Twitter account for the W. T. Woodson High School football team. "Thank you for your service to our country."

"Paul was a man of light," said Navid Galt in a comment posted to the GoFundMe fundraiser for Fridley's family. "His smile and attitude brought energy and positivity to every encounter he was [a part] of."

Fridley is survived by his wife, Sarah, according to the GoFundMe.

■ Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Bailey J. Tucker, 21, of St. Louis, graduated in 2018 from Parkway North High School, broadcaster KMOV reported Tuesday. Tucker was on the wrestling team at school.

Friends described him as a hard worker, a good friend and a jokester, according to the station.

"Biggest heart once you got to know him, would do anything for you," a friend, Baileigh Sample, told the station.

"Lit up the room even if things were sad."

Tucker is survived by his parents, according to a GoFundMe fundraising page.

## US-built databases a potential tool of Taliban repression

*Associated Press*

BOSTON — Over two decades, the United States and its allies spent hundreds of millions of dollars building databases for the Afghan people. The nobly stated goal: Promote law and order and government accountability and modernize a war-ravaged land.

But in the Taliban's lightning seizure of power, most of that digital apparatus — including biometrics for verifying identities — apparently fell into Taliban hands. Built with few data-protection safeguards, it risks becoming the high-tech jackboots of a surveillance state. As the Taliban get their governing feet, there are worries it will be used for social control and to punish perceived

foes.

Putting such data to work constructively — boosting education, empowering women, battling corruption — requires democratic stability, and these systems were not architected for the prospect of defeat.

"It is a terrible irony," said Frank Pasquale, Brooklyn Law School scholar of surveillance technologies. "It's a real object lesson in 'The road to hell is paved with good intentions.'"

Since Kabul fell on Aug. 15, indications have emerged that government data may have been used in Taliban efforts to identify and intimidate Afghans who worked with the U.S. forces.

People are getting ominous and threatening phone calls, texts and WhatsApp messages, said Neesha Suarez, constituent services director for Rep. Seth Moulton, of Massachusetts, an Iraq War veteran whose office is trying to help stranded Afghans who worked with the U.S. find a way out.

Ali Karimi, a University of Pennsylvania scholar, is among Afghans unready to trust the Taliban. He worries the databases will give rigid fundamentalist theocrats, known during their insurgency for ruthlessly killing enemy collaborators, "the same capability as an average U.S. government agency when it comes to surveillance and interception."

# Tahoe evacuation lifted despite fire threat

AP/Report for America

**SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif.** — The lifting of a mandatory evacuation order for South Lake Tahoe’s 22,000 residents is a confident milestone in the fight against the Caldor Fire, but the blaze remains only 48% contained and still threatens areas south of the resort town.

Firefighters are confronting aggressive winds and flames in some southeast sections of the Caldor Fire, which could still reach Meyers, a community more than a mile high known as the gateway to Lake Tahoe, and other areas including the Kirkwood ski resort.

And although the evacuation is no longer mandatory for the

smoke-cloaked city on the lake’s south shore, more than 5,000 personnel are still working to protect the surrounding resort communities and the homes of employees who staff casinos, restaurants and ski resorts.

“We’re also looking long term — what’s going to happen, four, five or six days down the road. We want to make sure we’re planning and having stuff ready and completed” before more people can return home, Cal Fire official John Davis said. “And if it comes sooner, we are already in the planning process for the whole area that’s still under evacuation order.”

When the 338 square-mile wildfire gobbled up pine trees

and crossed the Sierra Nevada last week, South Lake Tahoe transformed into a ghost town. The city appeared slightly rebounded on Monday, yet still mostly empty compared to normal holiday weekends.

“I was honestly convinced this place was gonna go down,” Lake Tahoe Community College student Dakota Jones said Monday upon his return. “It was nice to see that I was wrong.”

The Caldor Fire erupted Aug. 14 and was burning as many as 1,000 acres an hour at its peak as it spread across dense forests, tree-dotted granite cliffs and scattered cabins and hamlets in the northern Sierra Nevada. Through tactics including bull-

dozing defense lines and air-dropping Lake Tahoe water onto the flames, crews successfully carved a perimeter around much of the wildfire.

Fire officials still expect hot spots, but hope to make enough progress to lift more evacuation orders in the coming days. Much depends on the wind, rain and lightning that coming thunderstorms may yield.

Winds have been easing, allowing firefighters to make progress containing the conflagration, but authorities remain concerned about southwest winds sparking spot fires. In Northern California, the weather is expected to cool slightly and the humidity to rise starting on Tuesday.

## New Orleans: Seniors left in dark, hot facilities after Ida

Associated Press

**NEW ORLEANS** — Officials in New Orleans will thoroughly inspect senior living apartments in the city in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida after finding people living in buildings without working generators, which left residents trapped in wheelchairs on dark, sweltering upper floors, Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Monday.

Hundreds were evacuated Saturday and the city later said five people had died in the privately run buildings in the days after the storm. The coroner’s office is investigating whether the deaths will be attributed to the hurricane, which struck land nine days before.

The managers of some of the homes for seniors evacuated out of state without making sure the residents would be safe after the storm, New Orleans City Council member Kristin Palmer said at a news conference.

“They’re hiding under the loophole of ‘independent living,’” Palmer said. “It’s not independent living if there’s no

power and you’re in a wheelchair on the fourth floor.”

The city is creating teams of workers from the health, safety and permits, code enforcement and other departments. Their first focus is to make sure the senior homes are safe and evacuate people if necessary, Cantrell said.

But after that, management will be held accountable, and the city will likely add requirements that include facilities having emergency agreements in place with contractors who will make sure generator power is available at the sites, the mayor said.

Crews in Louisiana have restored power to nearly 70% of greater New Orleans and nearly all of Baton Rouge after Hurricane Ida, but outside those large cities, getting lights back on is a complex challenge that will last almost all of September, utility executives said Monday.

“It’s going to be a rebuild, not a repair,” said Entergy Louisiana President and CEO Phillip May.

## Federal officials to ‘protect’ abortion seekers in Texas

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — The Justice Department said Monday that it will not tolerate violence against anyone who is trying to obtain an abortion in Texas as federal officials explore options to challenge a new state law that bans most abortions.

Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department would “protect those seeking to obtain or provide reproductive health services” under a federal law known as the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

Garland said in a statement that federal prosecutors are still urgently exploring options to challenge the Texas law. He said the Justice Department would enforce the federal law “in order to protect the constitutional rights of women and other persons, including access to an abortion.”

The federal law, commonly known as the FACE Act, prohibits physically obstructing or using the threat of force to intimidate or interfere with a person seeking reproductive health services. The law also prohibits damaging

property at abortion clinics and other reproductive health centers.

The new Texas law prohibits abortions once medical professionals can detect cardiac activity, usually around six weeks — before some women know they’re pregnant. Courts have blocked other states from imposing similar restrictions, but Texas’ law differs significantly because it leaves enforcement up to private citizens through lawsuits instead of criminal prosecutors.

Justice Department officials have also been in contact with U.S. attorneys in Texas and the FBI field offices in the state to discuss enforcing the federal provisions.

“The department will provide support from federal law enforcement when an abortion clinic or reproductive health center is under attack,” Garland said. “We will not tolerate violence against those seeking to obtain or provide reproductive health services, physical obstruction or property damage in violation of the FACE Act.”

# First responders resisting mandates for virus vaccines

*Associated Press*

March 11, 2021. It was supposed to be a turning point in the coronavirus pandemic for Erin Tokley, a longtime Philadelphia police officer, Baptist minister and 47-year-old father of three. It was supposed to be the day of his vaccine appointment.

Instead it was the date of his funeral.

Tokley — “Toke” to his friends and family — died on March 3, becoming the Philadelphia Police Department’s sixth confirmed COVID-19 death.

Philadelphia officers first became eligible for their shots in late January and Tokley was eager to get it as soon as he could. But he fell ill in early February, before it was his turn to roll up his sleeve.

The resurgence of COVID-19 this summer and the national debate over vaccine requirements have created a fraught situation for the nation’s first responders, who are dying in larger numbers but pushing back against mandates.

It’s a heartbreaking situation for Tokley’s widow, Octavia, as

the 21st anniversary of their first date approaches on Sept. 10. She said she has moved beyond her anger at other police officers who are refusing the vaccine, and is now disappointed. Her husband’s life couldn’t be saved, but theirs still can.

“I don’t want to have to be there to support your family for this,” she said. “Nobody deserves this, especially when it can be prevented.”

Her husband is one of 132 members of law enforcement agencies who are known to have died of COVID-19 in 2021, as of Monday, according to the Officer Down Memorial Page. In Florida alone last month, six people affiliated with law enforcement died over a 10-day period.

In the first half of 2021, 71 law enforcement officials in the United States died from the virus — a small decrease compared to the 76 who died in the same time period in 2020, per data compiled by the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

Last year, the total figure was 241 — making the virus the

leading cause of law enforcement line-of-duty deaths.

Despite the deaths, police officers and other first responders are among those most hesitant to get the vaccine and their cases continue to grow.

No national statistics show the vaccination rate for America’s entire population of first responders, but individual police and fire departments across the country report figures far below the national rate of 74% of adults who have had at least one dose.

Frustrated city leaders are enacting mandates for their municipal employees — including police officers and firefighters — as the delta variant surges. The mandates’ consequences range from weekly testing to suspension to termination.

It’s a stark contrast from the beginning of the vaccine rollout when first responders were prioritized for shots.

“It makes me sad that they don’t see it as another safety precaution,” Octavia Tokley said.

“You wear masks, you wear bulletproof vests. You protect each other. That’s what you do, you protect and you serve.”

## US citizens more wary of government surveillance

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — As the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks approaches, Americans increasingly balk at intrusive government surveillance in the name of national security, and only about a third believe that the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were worth fighting, according to a new poll.

The poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows that support for surveillance tools aimed at monitoring conversations taking place outside the country, once seen as vital in the fight against attacks, has dipped in the last decade.

In particular, 46% of Americans say they oppose the U.S. government responding to threats against the nation by reading emails sent between people outside of the United States without a warrant, as permitted under law for purposes of foreign intelligence collection. That’s compared to just 27% who are in favor. In an AP-NORC poll conducted one decade ago, more favored than opposed the practice, 47% to 30%.

In a marked turnabout from the first years after Sept. 11, when Americans were more likely to tolerate the government’s monitoring of communications in the name of defending the homeland, the poll found bipartisan concerns about the scope of surveillance and the expansive intelligence collection tools that U.S. authorities have at their disposal.

Despite general surveillance concerns, six in 10 Americans support the installation of surveillance cameras in public places to monitor potentially suspicious activity.

## Myanmar opposition calls for uprising

*Associated Press*

BANGKOK — The main underground group coordinating resistance to Myanmar’s military government issued a sweeping call for a nationwide uprising on Tuesday, raising the prospect of spiraling unrest.

The National Unity Government, which views itself as a shadow government, was established by elected legislators who were barred from taking their seats when the military seized power in February.

The group’s acting president Duwa Lashi La declared what he called a “state of emergency” and called for revolt “in every village, town and city in the entire country at the same time.” A video of his speech was posted on Facebook.

Some 1,000 civilians have been killed in the seven months of clashes that followed the army takeover.

A spokesman for the ruling military downplayed the call for renewed protests.

Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun blamed exile media for exaggerating the opposition’s strength, in a statement posted on the Telegram app by state television MRTV.

Myanmar has been wracked by unrest since the military ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, with initially peaceful demonstrations against the ruling generals morphing into a low-level insurrection in many cities after security forces used deadly force.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Ex-Yale official charged with theft of computers**

**CT** NEW HAVEN — A former Yale University administrator faces federal fraud and money laundering charges related to the theft of millions of dollars in computer equipment from the university's medical school.

The 41-year-old woman served in various positions at the school, including director of finance for the Department of Emergency Medicine.

Prosecutors alleged that beginning in 2013, the woman ran a scheme that involved ordering millions of dollars in computer hardware from Yale vendors, then shipping the equipment to an out-of-state business in exchange for money.

The former administrator pleaded not guilty Friday in U.S. District Court to mail fraud, wire fraud and money laundering and was freed after posting a \$1 million bond.

**Man found asleep in a home faces charges**

**DE** REHOBOTH BEACH — Police in Delaware said an intoxicated, partly clothed Virginia man was arrested after he was found sleeping in a home in a popular beach resort town.

Delaware State Police said in a news release that the 26-year-old man from Arlington, Va., entered the victims' residence in Rehoboth Beach and was found sleeping in a bed. The home is located just blocks off the beach.

Troopers responded early Sunday morning and found the man in a rear bedroom on the second floor of the house. Troopers detected a strong smell of alcoholic beverages and arrested the man without a problem.

The victims found his wet cloth-

ing in the bedroom and discovered he was wearing one of their shirts. He was charged with burglary and theft.

**Visitor center open at city's 1st national monument**

**IL** CHICAGO — Years in the making, the visitor center and state historic site grounds at the Pullman National Monument have officially opened to the public.

Chicago's first national monument marks the site where Pullman passenger railroad cars were built; employees lived nearby in the neighborhood on the city's South Side. The sprawling Pullman company factory closed in 1982. The National Park Service's visitor center features exhibits on worker demonstrations that helped plant the seeds of the modern labor movement. For instance, Black railroad workers won a significant labor agreement in the 1930s that helped lead to worker protections.

Robert Bushwaller, a Historic Pullman Foundation board member, was encouraged by the crowd on Saturday. Some drove vintage cars to mark the opening day during the Labor Day weekend.

Then-President Barack Obama designated the factory and surrounding area a national monument in 2015. Restoration and revitalization at the site has been ongoing for years.

**Kayak that fell off of trailer kills motorcyclist**

**IA** GUTTENBERG — A motorcyclist was killed in the northeastern corner of Iowa when he was hit by a kayak that had fallen from a trailer, the Iowa State Patrol reported.

The crash happened Sunday morning on a county road in Allamakee County, according to the Telegraph Herald. John Thein,

75, of Guttenberg, was riding a motorcycle northbound on the road just before 11 a.m. and was approaching a southbound pickup truck pulling a trailer loaded with kayaks when one of the kayaks fell from the trailer, investigators said.

The loose kayak hit Thein's motorcycle, causing the crash that killed him. The investigation into the fatal crash is ongoing.

**Homicide suspect found naked, officially charged**

**MD** ASPEN HILL — Police in Maryland say that a suspect in another man's death was found naked and charged with murder.

The Montgomery County Police Department said in a news release that the 58-year-old suspect was charged with first-degree murder in the killing on Friday.

Officers responded Friday afternoon to the Aspen Hill area to a report of shots fired.

The news release says the suspect was "completely unclothed" when officers arrived. He was arrested without problem. Officers then found another man with apparent gunshots. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Suit: Paraplegic man's foot 'shredded' in coaster**

**UT** FARMINGTON — A paraplegic man who was injured on a roller coaster is now suing a Utah amusement park, saying his paralyzed leg wasn't properly secured while he was on the ride and his foot was shredded.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported Matthew Christensen filed the lawsuit against Lagoon Amusement Park on Thursday in Davis County's 3rd District Court.

The lawsuit said Christensen's ligament in his big toe was "irreparably shredded," and that he suf-

fered fractures to his lower leg, toe and two other foot bones.

A spokesman for the theme park in Farmington, north of Salt Lake City, said he couldn't speculate on the facts of the incident, which are under investigation.

**4 wounded in shooting at SantaCaliGon Festival**

**MO** INDEPENDENCE — Four people were wounded in a shooting at a festival in Missouri, prompting police to use Facebook to urge parents to pick up their children from the event.

Independence police responded to the shooting at the SantaCaliGon Festival on Sunday night.

Police later said four people had been shot, and all were expected to survive their injuries, television station KCTV reported.

No arrests were announced. It was not immediately clear what led up to the shooting.

**Sheriff: Counterfeit pills cause 2 fatal overdoses**

**VA** LEESBURG — A Northern Virginia sheriff is warning that counterfeit pills have led to two overdoses.

The Loudoun County Sheriff's Office sent a warning Sunday that its detectives have been investigating two deaths that are believed to involve painkiller pills that were likely counterfeit. Both cases are pending toxicology.

The sheriff's office said that street-level pills are often laced with fentanyl and other agents that can be harmful.

The Virginia sheriff said his warning follows a similar alert by Frederick County, Md., health officials after non-fatal overdoses there were attributed to counterfeit pills. It's not clear if the cases in the two states are linked.

— From wire reports



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**Reporting World, National and Military News**

# Several teams going with rookies at QB

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Top two overall draft picks Trevor Lawrence and Zach Wilson are set to step right in and become starting NFL quarterbacks in Week 1 of their rookie season.

Mac Jones will join them after beating out Cam Newton for the job in New England, which should make this year's draft class just the second since the merger with at least three Week 1 rookie starters at quarterback.

The timeline for the two other first-round quarterbacks in this year's draft is a bit murkier. But if recent history is any guide, Trey Lance and Justin Fields don't figure to wait too long to get their chance as starters.

The days of Aaron Rodgers spending three years on the bench as Brett Favre's apprentice or Carson Palmer sitting out his entire rookie season behind Jon Kitna in Cincinnati are mostly in the past.

While some point to the success Patrick Mahomes has had in Kansas City since spending almost his entire rookie season on the bench behind Alex Smith, rookies are being thrown into the fire quicker than ever. The differences between the pro and college offenses have narrowed and teams try to take advantage of having a starting

quarterback on a cheaper rookie contract.

Since the rookie wage scale was put in place before the 2011 season, 30 of the 32 quarterbacks drafted in the first round — all but Jake Locker and Jordan Love — started at least one game as a rookie. Twelve of those started the opener and nearly two-thirds (21 out of 32) got their chance in the first four games of the season.

The 2021 class is set to become the second one to have at least three rookie QB starters in Week 1 with Jones ready to start the opener against Miami following an impressive preseason.

The 2012 class had five with Andrew Luck, Robert Griffin III, Ryan Tannehill, Brandon Weeden and Russell Wilson all getting the nod. Only Wilson and Tannehill are starters less than a decade later with Seattle's Wilson the only one with the team that drafted him.

The Patriots released Newton last Tuesday to clear the way for Jones to start. While Jones was the last of the first-round quarterbacks drafted at No. 15, he might be the most polished and proved to be ready to step in early after a stellar final season at Alabama.

"I'm going to be ready whenever my time comes up," Jones said after last

week's 22-20 win over the New York Giants. "We got work to do and we'll get the things fixed and then we'll just keep rolling."

There is no clear pattern of success when it comes to when to start a rookie quarterback. Luck stepped in right away to turn Indianapolis into a playoff team. Josh Allen and Justin Herbert got off to good career trajectories after making their first starts in Week 2. But other early starters such as EJ Manuel and Sam Darnold didn't have the same sort of success.

While Mahomes and Lamar Jackson won MVPs in their second years after waiting until the second half of their rookie seasons to start, others like Johnny Manziel and Locker didn't appear to benefit from the time on the sideline.

"Each situation has its own situation," 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said. "I look at ours, I learn from everything through my own experience and just reading about football and watching it over the years. That's why we all develop our opinions. But just like the perfect play call or the perfect throw, you don't know until the end of it. Stuff is adjusting at all times and you've got to always be ready to adjust and do the best with opportunities you have."

## Tight ends Smith, Henry targets for Patriots' Jones

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — One thing that was apparent watching the Patriots offense last season was the lack of dependable pass-catching options quarterback Cam Newton had at his disposal.

It was a point of emphasis in the offseason, one that coach Bill Belichick sought to improve with the addition of tight ends Jonnu Smith and Hunter Henry.

Soon after signing free-agent deals, both tried to acquaint themselves with Newton, making trips to meet up with the quarterback for informal throwing sessions.

Those workouts proved to be moot when the Patriots surprised many around the NFL by releasing Newton at the end of training camp and elevating

rookie Mac Jones to the starting job.

It's put the spotlight on Jones, whose first game out of the gate will be against a Dolphins defense that features 2020 interceptions leader Xavien Howard.

It's also underscored the importance of Smith and Henry, who will be counted on even more to help take pressure off their young quarterback. Smith said he is excited for Jones, adding that he's ready to give him all the support he can to make it a successful first outing Sunday.

"He's taken that role and he's done a great job at it. That's why he is where he is," Smith said. "He does everything he's supposed to do. ... We're just ready to ride for him."

Smith and Henry were slowed by injuries at different times this

summer: Henry was dealing with a shoulder issue and Smith a leg injury.

But they entered the first game week Monday without restrictions in practice, a good sign for them and Jones as the Patriots prepare to open the season with back-to-back division games.

"We missed that for a little bit in camp with both of us not being out there, but it's fun once we're out there and rolling," Henry said of building chemistry with Smith. "It's a good competition. Just being able to build that chemistry with him while we're on the field. Talk through things, see how I see things, how he sees things. Bounce things off each other."

Over the past two seasons a group of Patriots tight ends that

has included Devin Asiasi, Ben Watson, Ryan Izzo, Matt LaCosse and Dalton Keene combined for just 54 catches for 672 yards and three touchdowns.

Asiasi is the only one of that group currently on the roster, leaving plenty of room for Henry and Smith to make their marks in 2021.

Smith and Henry combined for 101 catches and 12 TDs last season.

Henry's recent injury kept him sidelined for more than two weeks during training camp, which may have put him too far behind physically to be ready for Sunday's opener.

Asked if he has any doubt he'll be ready to go, he said he's only focused on following the program the training staff has laid out for him.

# Djokovic overcomes American Brooksby

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For 1½ sets, including one particularly compelling and competitive 24-point game, Novak Djokovic's fourth-round opponent at the U.S. Open — Jenson Brooksby, the last American left in singles — gave him fits amid a raucous atmosphere at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

That let Djokovic, above all, and everyone else, know that Brooksby — a 20-year-old wildcard entry from California who is ranked 99th and never before had been on this sort of stage — belonged. And then, not surprisingly, Djokovic showed why he is who he is and how he's managed to move within three victories of the first calendar-year Grand Slam in men's tennis in 52 years.

Settling in and sending messages, to the fans with roars and to Brooksby with some stare-downs, the No. 1-ranked Djokovic improved to 25-0 in majors this year by winning 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 on Monday night. He extended his pursuit of a true Grand Slam and a record-breaking 21st major championship, while also making this the first time in the history of the U.S. Open, an event that dates

to the 1880s, with zero men or women from the host country in the quarterfinals.

"Was a good finish. It wasn't a good start," said Djokovic, who hopes to add a fourth U.S. Open title to a collection that's been boosted by his ninth at the Australian Open in February, second at the French Open in June and sixth at Wimbledon in July.

He next meets No. 6 Matteo Berrettini of Italy in a rematch of the final at the All England Club.

One key to Monday's turnaround: Djokovic broke in Brooksby's initial service game in each of the last three sets.

"I wanted to wear him down," Djokovic said, "and it worked."

Affected by a left hip that bothered him earlier in the tournament, Brooksby was visited by a trainer after the second set and again after the third. Still, for someone who never had set foot on Ashe's blue court until about two hours before the match, when he got a chance to practice there, Brooksby never seemed overwhelmed by the setting or the circumstances.

"We're going to see a lot of him in the future," said Djokovic, who would be the first man

since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Slam trophies in one year. "I mean, he has the means. Now, obviously a lot of things have to come together. But he has a bit of an unorthodox game. Does a lot with the feel. He's smart. He knows how to win points."

Brooksby's 6-foot-4 strides and reach, his anticipation, his variety that includes a well-disguised two-handed backhand slice, his think-steps-ahead point construction, his commitment to patterns drawn up by his coach at home in Sacramento since age 7, Joe Gilbert — all left Djokovic a tad discombobulated early.

"I knew it would be important to start strong, to impose my mindset and my strategy, my game out there," Brooksby said. "I could see it working. I really did have a lot of confidence in myself out there that I can beat him, I can beat anybody."

In the first set, Brooksby made one unforced error, Djokovic 11. And Brooksby won 14 of the points that lasted five strokes or more, Djokovic four.

When Djokovic netted an overhead to move Brooksby two points from the set, most of

the spectators in the 23,000-plus-capacity arena — excited to be back after last year's ban on audiences amid the pandemic — rose, clapping and screaming.

When Djokovic missed a return to cede that set to his foe, Brooksby waved both arms and heard more loud support.

"Electric. Awesome. I enjoyed it. I truly did," said Djokovic, who soon would be hearing his own cheers. "You guys gave both of the players a lot of energy."

He broke to go up 2-0 in the second set and punched the air and shouted. At 3-1 arrived an epic game: six break chances, nice deuces, 24 points in all, spread out over nearly 20 minutes. Djokovic pushed the ball into the net to end that game and make it 3-2, prompting Brooksby to hop and jump and windmill his arm and cry, "Let's go!"

And then, quick as can be, Djokovic regrouped. With Brooksby gasping for air, Djokovic broke right back and, soon enough, the outcome was clear.

"The momentum," declared Djokovic, a 34-year-old from Serbia, "was changed."

# Edsall out as UConn coach effective immediately

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — University of Connecticut football coach Randy Edsall has left the program a day after announcing he would retire at the end of the season.

Edsall, whose teams have gone just 6-32 since he returned to the Huskies for a second stint as coach in 2017, will be replaced on an interim basis by defensive coordinator Lou Spanos, the school announced Monday.

"Upon further reflection by both Randy and I, and after having the opportunity to visit with Randy today, we are both in agreement that it is in the best interest of our student-athletes to have a new voice leading UConn football," Connecticut athletic director David Benedict said

Edsall, 63, was originally the Huskies coach from 1999 through the 2010 season, leading UConn into what is now the bowl subdivision, taking the Huskies to five bowl games and winning Big East titles in 2007 and 2010.

He was rehired by UConn in 2017, despite going 22-34 at Maryland, where he was fired six games into his fifth season.

His rehiring puzzled many Huskies faithful, who were still upset that he had left the team after its 2011 Fiesta Bowl loss to Oklahoma, without notifying his players or flying home with the team.

UConn went 3-9 during Edsall's first season back, then went 1-11 and 2-10 before sitting out last season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Huskies, in their first season as an independent after leaving the American Athletic Conference, are 0-2 this season, losing their opener 45-0 at Fresno State before falling last Saturday at home, 38-28, to Holy Cross from the FCS.

Spanos, a 26-year coaching veteran in both college and the NFL, has served as the Huskies' defensive coordinator since the 2019 season.

"I have gotten to know Lou over the last two years and have great respect for him as a person and for his football acumen," Benedict said. "There is no doubt that Lou has the respect of the players, and I look forward to supporting him and the team for the remainder of the 2021 season."

UConn hosts Purdue (1-0) on Saturday.

# Jeter, Simmons, Walker to finally be inducted

Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Derek Jeter visited Cooperstown when he was a kid nearly four decades ago and said he doesn't remember much about the trip. He's returning this week and likely won't ever forget even one moment.

After a delay of well over a year, the former New York Yankees shortstop and captain will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame on Wednesday along with fellow class of 2020 members Ted Simmons, Larry Walker and the late Marvin Miller, whose efforts on the labor front changed the game.

Last year's ceremony was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. Nobody was selected from this year's writers' ballot and the Hall of Fame's Era committees postponed their scheduled elections until the upcoming offseason because of the pandemic.

"As strange as this sounds or may sound,

I'm trying not to think about it," the 47-year-old Jeter, now an owner and CEO of the Miami Marlins, said last week. "I just want to go there and experience it."

In 2007, the inductions of Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn drew an estimated record crowd of 82,000 to the expansive grass field at the Clark Sports Center on the outskirts of this one-stoplight village in upstate New York. When the wildly popular Jeter was elected in January 2020 that record figured to be in jeopardy because fans had been booking reservations well in advance. With a midweek ceremony instead of the traditional Sunday afternoon, school back in session and the threat of inclement weather, the Hall of Fame wasn't offering an attendance prediction.

The 72-year-old Simmons, a star catcher and first baseman in the 1970s and 1980s for the St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee Brewers, found a silver lining in the long

wait.

"The wait has been good and bad — bad in that you've had to wait an extra year for this thing to kind of come to a head, but good in that it's extended an additional year," said Simmons, who grew up just outside Detroit. "It's been such a difficult time for everybody here in the last two years, all over the country, in the workforce, in society in general with this pandemic. The fact that it's now going to happen just brings us closer to some normalcy, which we're all hoping for."

The self-effacing Walker, now 54, said the delay sort of made his election seem a bit surreal.

"I've been caught on many occasions when somebody wants me to sign something and ... I give it back to them and then they give it back to me because I forget to put HOF2020 on there," said Walker, who will join Ferguson Jenkins as the only Canadian-born players in the Hall of Fame.

## Rays rally from 6 runs back to beat Red Sox in 10th

Associated Press

BOSTON — Austin Meadows hit a tying, inside-the-park homer in the ninth inning, Nelson Cruz had a go-ahead single in the 10th and the Tampa Bay Rays rallied from a six-run deficit to beat the Boston Red Sox 11-10 on Monday.

The AL East-leading Rays took advantage of four errors, the biggest when center fielder Alex Verdugo appeared to lose Cruz's high fly in the sun with bases loaded and two outs in the fourth.

The ball glanced off Verdugo's glove and Cruz wound up circling the bases on the play, scoring on second baseman Taylor Motter's wild throw that let Tampa Bay close to 7-5 against ace Chris Sale.

Cruz also homered and had a pair of RBI singles as the Rays increased their AL East lead to 8½ games over New York. The Red Sox missed a chance to move ahead of the Yankees for the top AL wild-card spot.

Wander Franco had four hits for Tampa Bay. Collin McHugh (6-1) got the win.

**Blue Jays 8, Yankees 0:** Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 40th homer, Marcus Semien went deep twice and Toronto won at New York for their fifth straight win.

Hyun Jin Ryu (13-8) pitched six effective innings as the Blue Jays won for the eighth time in nine games.

**Dodgers 5, Cardinals 1:** Max Scherzer struck out 13 in his hometown and Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer, leading Los Angeles to the win at St. Louis.

Scherzer (13-4) permitted one unearned run and six hits in eight innings. The three-time Cy Young Award winner is six strikeouts away from becoming the 19th player in big league history to reach 3,000.

**Giants 10, Rockies 5:** Thairo Estrada hit two of San Francisco's four home runs, and Kevin Gausman pitched seven solid innings in a win at Colorado.

The major league-best Giants (88-50) remained one game ahead of the Dodgers in the NL West.

**Rangers 4, Angels 0:** A.J. Alexy allowed one hit over six in-

nings in his second straight phenomenal start to begin his major league career, and Jose Trevino drove in two runs as visiting Texas blanked Los Angeles.

Alexy (2-0) retired his final 13 batters and didn't allow a base-runner after the second inning. He became the first pitcher in modern major league history to go at least five scoreless innings while allowing fewer than two hits as a starter in each of his first two career appearances.

**Phillies 12, Brewers 0:** Bryce Harper hit an early home run, Brad Miller connected twice and Jean Segura added a grand slam, leading Zack Wheeler and Philadelphia to the win at Milwaukee.

Andrew McCutchen and Freddy Galvis also homered as the Phillies won for the eighth time in the last 10 games to stay in the playoff chase.

**Cubs 4, Reds 3:** Frank Schwindel hit a tiebreaking RBI single in the eighth inning, and host Chicago earned its season-high seventh straight win.

Schwindel's single through the right side scored Alfonso Ri-

vas, who started the rally with a pinch-hit single off Michael Lorenzen (0-2) and advanced to second on a wild pitch.

**Nationals 4, Mets 3:** Carter Kieboom and Andrew Stevenson hit RBI singles in the ninth inning off Edwin Díaz, and host Washington rallied in the finale of a five-game series.

**Twins 5, Indians 2:** Jorge Polanco hit a solo homer and doubled three times, leading Minnesota to the victory at Cleveland.

**Royals 3, Orioles 2:** Andrew Benintendi hit a go-ahead single for Kansas City in the eighth inning, then reached above the left-field wall to take away a potential tying home run in the ninth in a win at Baltimore.

**Pirates 6, Tigers 3:** Ke'Bryan Hayes and Yoshi Tsutsugo each hit a two-run single during host Pittsburgh's four-run seventh inning as it defeated Detroit to stop a six-game losing streak.

**Astros 11, Mariners 2:** Rookie Jake Meyers homered and drove in four runs as Houston jumped on Yusei Kikuchi early and sailed to a win over visiting Seattle.