

MONDAY

TODAY
& next
morning

HIGH

60

LOW

45

Mostly sunny,
breezy and
cooler.

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CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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JANUARY 3, 2022

Florida's Best Community

Newspaper Serving Florida's Best Community

\$1

VOL. 128 ISSUE 3



IN BRIEF

Commissioners to hold annual planning retreat

The Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) annual planning retreat will be held at 9 a.m. Jan. 5 at the Lecanto Government Building, room 166, 3600 W. Sovereign Path.

The public is invited to attend, though there will be no "open to the public" speaking opportunities during this event. Citizens are welcome to speak during the BOCC meeting scheduled for 1 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave. in Inverness.

This full day event provides an opportunity for commissioners to discuss, plan and prioritize programs, projects and issues facing Citrus County and the BOCC while looking to the future. For more information, call public information officer Veronica Kampschroer at 352-527-5484.

Get your American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification

The City of Inverness is offering an American Red Cross Lifeguarding Certification Class on the following dates at Whispering Pines Park Pool, 1700 Forest Drive in Inverness:

- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 22
- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 23
- 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 29
- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jan. 30

There is a mandatory prerequisite swim from 2 to 3 p.m. Jan. 9. The \$150 registration fee is due after completion of the swim.

Swimmers must demonstrate the following:

- Swim 300 yard continuously.
- Proper kick, stroke and rhythmic breathing using the breaststroke/free-style.
- Tread water for 2 minutes using legs only.
- Swim 20 yards (no goggles), surface dive to 10 feet, retrieve a 10-pound object, swim on back holding the object, return to the starting point and exit the water within 1 minute and 40 seconds.

Candidates must be 15 years old, pass the prerequisite swim, turn in completion for online studies and attend all class sessions.

For more information, call 352-726-1995.

Attend the 16th annual Purple Heart ceremony

The combat wounded patriots of Aaron A. Weaver Chapter 776 Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH) invites all veterans and the public, especially families and students, to attend the 16th annual Purple Heart ceremony. The ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. Feb. 19 at the Citrus County Fairgrounds Auditorium, 3610 S. Florida Ave. in Inverness.

The patriotic ceremony commemorates the proud legacy of the Purple Heart and pays tribute to Florida's fallen heroes of the global War on Terror and America's wounded warriors. It will also feature patriotic music by members of the Nature Coast Community Band.

This year's ceremony is dedicated to the memory of recently departed U.S. Army veteran and past chapter commander, Raymond "Ray" Michael, who was a tireless advocate for Citrus County's veterans.

For information about Chapter 776, visit citruspurpleheart.org or call 352-382-3847.

Apply for a Supervisors of Elections scholarship

The Florida Supervisors of Elections (FSE) will offer four \$1,200 scholarships for 2022 to college students, according to Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Maureen 'Mo' Baird.

Applicants must be registered Florida voters and live in the state for at least the preceding two years. Applicants must be either a political science, public administration, business administration or journalism/mass communication major and be at least a junior in college.

Students must be enrolled or accepted as a full-time student in a senior college or university in Florida and have at least a "C" average or above for the previous year.

The deadline to apply for a scholarship is March 11. Applications are available at votecitrus.gov.

Applications must be submitted to the elections office of the county in which the applicant is registered to vote. Each county will select one finalist to send to the FSE scholarship committee for consideration.

State tax collections exceed expectations

November collections surpass \$398 million

By JIM SAUNDERS

News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida lawmakers got another boost Thursday as they prepare to start the 2022 legislative session and draw up a new state budget.

The state in November collected \$398.8 million more in general-revenue taxes than expected, continuing a series of months of higher-than-projected revenues, according to a report released by state economists.

That is good news for lawmakers, in

part, because general revenue plays a critical role in paying for schools, health care and prisons.

Thursday's report echoed earlier analyses that pointed to consumers continuing to spend after saving money earlier in the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, it cited issues such as child-tax credit changes that were part of a federal stimulus law.

"November collections reflect activity that largely occurred in October, which continued to benefit from the Advance Child Tax Credit payments; redirected spending from the hard-hit service sector and some consumers' ability to draw down atypically large savings that built up during the pandemic," said the report by the Legislature's Office of Economic &

Demographic Research.

Also, the report indicated that tax collections benefited from higher prices linked to inflation.

"The immediate response to inflation is an increase in sales tax collections that reflects the higher prices," the report said.

The economists, however, reiterated recent analyses that Floridians have cut back on saving money after padding their bank accounts earlier in the pandemic.

"After increasing to a historic peak rate of 33.7 percent in April 2020 from the 7.9 percent for the entire 2018-19 fiscal year, just released personal income data indicated that the personal savings rate was

See TAX, page A7

2021 health care highlights

COVID-19 continued to dominate the health care landscape in Citrus County during 2021

By FRED HIERS

Chronicle Reporter

The virus and its variants claimed at least 839 county residents since its onset. As of Dec. 28th, some 21,035 county residents have been infected. The latest data is likely greater because Florida was slow in reporting to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the Christmas week.

At the end of 2020 in Citrus County there had been 266 deaths due to the virus. By the end of 2021, that had surged to its present level.

During 2020 the CDC reported 6,663 county residents infected with the coronavirus. By the end of 2021 that had jumped to 21,035.

During the year the county's two local hospital were often inundated in their ER departments and intensive care units as they saw waves of the infected come for medical care.

By the fall the number of new cases began to taper off as more people became vaccinated or got natural immunity after an infection.

The county now has a 59 percent vaccination rate for those residents eligible for the vaccines, according to the Florida Department of Health. The state average is 71 percent.

Rush for early vaccinations

The year began, however, with the Department of Health in Citrus County giving vaccines in a first-come, first-served basis to those people over 65 years old. Thousands of people showed up at the Central Ridge District Park in Beverly Hills on Jan. 7



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Vehicles line up at the front of the line Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021 as the first COVID-19 vaccinations are given to county residents at Central Ridge District Park near Holder. Motorists lined up by the hundreds to receive vaccinations Thursday. A reported total of 800 doses was distributed.

and Jan. 9 for a chance at a vaccination. Vaccinations continued throughout the year and eventually other health care facilities and doctors' offices offered the vaccine to patients.

Citrus County Hospital Board loses lawsuit

After two years of feuding over who was to blame for millions of dollars in pension fund loss-

es, the Citrus County Hospital Board and its former financial advisor Aon Hewitt Investment Consulting squared off in federal court.

The hospital board's consulting lawyers in the Aon Hewitt case told the hospital board that Aon was behind the loss of as much as \$12 million to the fund.

The federal judge didn't see it that way and sided with Aon Hewitt. The hospital board's

legal bill was about \$3 million. Luckily for the hospital board, Aon Hewitt did not sue to recoup its legal fees, which was estimated at several million dollars.

Assisted Living apartments for veterans delayed

The proposed Veterans Village of Citrus County meant to

See HEALTH CARE, page A2

Proposed Wyld Palms subdivision near finish line for Inverness Council approval

By FRED HIERS

Chronicle Reporter

The Inverness City Council will take another swing Tuesday at giving approval for Wyld Palms subdivision's final plat.

The item was on the council's agenda early in December but was pulled by staff due to a technical survey oversight.

The council will decide whether to approve the plat



WILLIAMS

proved the in the subdivision's preliminary plat.

The subdivision's original 2007 plat called for mostly

that calls for 62 townhomes and 168 single family homes. The final plat calls for 10 fewer single family homes than the council ap-

proved the in the subdivision's preliminary plat.

The subdivision's original 2007 plat called for mostly condominiums before the projects was mostly abandoned.

Currently, there are 20 one-story condo units in vari-

ous stages of completion, but none have been sold.

Garden Street Communities purchased the Wyld Palms property July 9, 2021, and provided the city with a final plat of the new subdivision.

In a letter to the city council members, City Manager Eric Williams said the new developers thus far have met the city's

See PALMS, page A7



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HEALTH CARE

From page A1

provide affordable, assisted living apartments to veterans was delayed at least nine months beginning in May 2021.

That was the report by Dr. William Dixon to the Citrus County Hospital Board, which in 2020 donated \$2.5 million to the project. Dixon is the Veterans Village board president. In a letter to the hospital board, Dixon explained that there were several factors that contributed to the delay as well as a potential \$1.3 million additional cost to the project. The original cost of the project was \$10.2 million for the 100 apartment complex adjacent to the U.S. Veterans Affairs Lecanto Clinic on West Marc Knighton Court off County Road 491.

Dixon told the hospital board that there were site plan delays when the Veterans Village board learned that there was drainage runoff from the Black Diamond Ranch into a pond on the Veterans Village property. Dixon explained the pond had to be increased in size to accommodate the runoff. The rising price of construction materials is also creating a problem, he said.

Bayfront Health Seven Rivers changes name

Bayfront Health Seven Rivers changed its name to Bravera Health Seven Rivers. The name change to Bravera Health stems from a 2020 sale of Bayfront Health St. Petersburg to Orlando Health. In the deal, the Tampa Bay hospital keeps its name and other Bayfront hospitals throughout Florida must change theirs.

Local hospitals hurting for volunteers amid pandemic

The county's two hospitals, Bravera Health Seven Rivers and Citrus Memorial Hospital, saw a huge drop in volunteers as the coronavirus pandemic made many

afraid to return and risk infection.

Citrus Memorial had 120 volunteers who daily worked in the hospital's emergency rooms greeting patients, restocking shelves, walking patients to their destinations in the hospital and its office buildings. That number fell by half. The hospital now continues to work to get volunteers to return.

Bravera Health Seven Rivers typically had 10 volunteers at the hospital any given day. That fell to two or three per day.

Local charities get hospital board help

The Citrus County Hospital Board gave more than 40 local charities about \$430,000 to help offset slumping donations and increasing calls for help as the coronavirus took its economic toll on the non-profit groups.

Working through the Citrus County Community Food Bank, hospital board chairwoman Debbie Ressler identified the Citrus County charitable organizations and proposed to her fellow hospital board members to donate \$10,000 to each charity. Most of the board members agreed.

Oak Hill Hospital offers new heart care

Oak Hill Hospital in Hernando County announced that the 350-bed hospital campus is now offering outpatient cardiac rehabilitation services.

About 4,500 Citrus County residents, mostly from the southern portion of the county, already flock annually to the Hernando County medical teaching hospital.

Local Salvation Army gets helping hand

The Citrus County Hospital Board voted to offer the local Salvation Army as much as \$150,000 to replace its decommissioned mobile canteen vehicle.

In 2020, the Salvation Army's mobile canteen

feeding program, which provides hot meals to the needy, provided 15, 614 meals to more than 4,600 families. In addition, it gave away 35,782 snacks and 74,544 pounds of food.

The mobile food vehicle is also used during emergency responses.

Many in Citrus County shun vaccines

Citrus County lagged behind the Florida average for vaccinations against the coronavirus throughout 2021.

As recent as Dec. 23, 59 percent of the county's eligible residents were vaccinated. Florida's average is 71 percent.

But the county's two local hospitals were not any better.

Both Bravera Health Seven Rivers and Citrus Memorial Hospital reported during the summer that only about half their staff were vaccinated.

Hospitals impose strict visiting policy

Both hospitals during the summer limited their visiting hours as the health care facilities saw COVID-19 patient cases increase three and four fold and inundate the hospitals.

Citrus County Commission, Nature Coast EMS break ties

Frustrated with the faltering finances of Nature Coast EMS and its repeated need for more subsidies, the Citrus County Commission voted 3-2 to end its contract with the private ambulance company and take over the service by Oct. 1.

The county commission folded its new ambulance service into the county's fire rescue department.

In 2021 the Citrus County Hospital Board gave the newly formed Doctors' Free Clinic of Citrus 5.5 acres along State Road 44 and near Northeast 12th Avenue as part of a 99-year-long lease to jumpstart the organization's efforts to build a free clinic for the poor and

underinsured. Currently, the DFCCC provides medical care to Citrus County's uninsured, underinsured, and homeless between the ages of 18-64 at the Department of Health facility in Lecanto one Saturday per month.

The organization also asked the hospital board for \$1.3 million to build a 3,000-square-foot facility but said it may need a larger building.

No more babies to be born at Bravera Health Seven Rivers

Bayfront Health Seven Rivers in Crystal River (now Bravera Health) announced in 2021 that it is ending obstetrical and newborn services and will close its labor and delivery unit, effective 11:59 p.m. on February 11, 2022.

After this date, the 128-bed hospital will no longer provide inpatient labor and delivery services, according to a hospital media release.

"This has been a very difficult decision. However, fewer births are occurring at Bayfront Health Seven Rivers and this coincides with the increasing average age of our population," said hospital CEO, Linda Stockton.

Citrus County Hospital Board gives college \$1 million

The Citrus County Hospital Board gave the College of Central Florida \$1 million to add to its endowment fund to help its Citrus County students enrolled in health care fields.

The college, with more than 10,000 students and based in Ocala, has a campus at a 100-acre site in Lecanto. More than 4,000 students attend the Lecanto campus.

The hospital board trustees said they wanted the money invested and the profits used to help Citrus County health care students pay tuition. The trustees agreed their hope was that the stu-

dents would remain and work in Citrus County.

The hospital board trustees also invited college representative to meet with the hospital board in January 2022 and request more money and explain how it would be spent.

Vaccine users getting younger

Local pharmacies and government health care providers began in November to provide the coronavirus vaccine to children 5 through 11 years of age.

The move by the local Department of Health in Citrus County, Winn-Dixie, Walgreens, CVS, and Publix pharmacies to offer the vaccines followed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in late October granting emergency use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 to include children.

Fred Hiers is a reporter at the Citrus Chronicle. E-mail him at fred.hiers@chronicleonline.com

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G Gary
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I was treated like family and received professional help with my hearing loss and tinnitus. Carey explained the testing and the solutions available. Life is much more peaceful in the house, as long as I'm wearing my hearing aids.

J Janice
★★★★★

Excellent service - had to remove earwax from moms ears & was very gentle. Really took time in testing her hearing as she is 97 & he was so patient with her. Went way beyond - so kind - thank you so much!

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Exclude cleanings, repairs and relines for non-insured patients only. Must present coupon at service. Prices subject to change. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 1/31/2022

Replacement Denture Starting at \$500

D5110 or D5120

For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 1/31/2022

Metal-Free Crowns "The Aesthetic Crowns" \$689

D2740

Excludes D2950 (Core build-up). For non-insured patients. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. All coupons must be presented at the time of service. No exceptions. Expires 1/31/2022

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With purchase of 3 units or more

D62450RD6740

Excludes D 50 Core build-up. Must present coupon at time of service. Prices subject to change. Coupon cannot be used with any other offer. Expires 1/31/2022

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CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE

NEWS BRIEFS

Landscaping program: ‘Right Plant, Right Place’

Citrus County Utilities Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program is offering a free online gardening workshop, “Right Plant, Right Place,” from 2 to 3 p.m. Jan. 11.

Once established, the right plant is often sustainable without additional supplemental watering. Choosing appropriate plant materials, planting them correctly and managing them wisely ensures a garden’s success.

To register, visit ccufflprogram.eventbrite.com. For more information, call Steven Davis at 352-527-5708.

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee to meet

The Affordable Housing Advisory Committee will meet at 5 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Citrus County Resource Center café, 2804 W. Marc Knighton Court in Lecanto.

This meeting will include the review of all State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program strategies proposed in the 2022-25 Local Housing Assistance Plan (LHAP). A draft version of the proposed LHAP can be viewed at the Citrus County Resource Center.

For more information, call Citrus County Housing Services at 352-527-7520.

Traveling exhibit: ‘Apron Strings: Ties to the Past’

The Old Courthouse Heritage Museum’s latest free traveling exhibit, “Apron Strings: Ties to the Past,” is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday from Nov. 10 to Jan. 7, 1 Courthouse Square in Inverness.

The exhibit explores the people behind the aprons and is more about life than fabric. It will reevaluate these unique objects as an important piece of social history.

Featuring 50 vintage and contemporary examples, dating from the 1900s, this exhibit reviews the apron’s role as an emotionally charged vehicle for expression with a rich craft history that is still relevant today.

The exhibition chronicles changing attitudes toward women and domestic work. It also surveys the wide range of design techniques apron-makers have used to express themselves.

Today, artists continue using aprons to explore cultural myths, realities and their individual experiences with American domesticity. Though not as widespread today, aprons remain as functional and protective garments for men and women alike.

If you have an apron to share, you are invited to participate in the museum’s first Lunch and Learn speaker program from noon to 1:30 p.m. with presenters Marnie Ward and Sue Collins from the UF/IFAS Extension. Both are gifted seamstresses and will share aprons from their personal collections.

For more information, call 352-341-6428.

Audition for an Art Center thriller

The Art Center of Citrus County will host auditions for “Something to Hide” at 2 p.m. Jan. 15 and 16, 2644 N. Annapolis Ave. in Hernando. The cast has three male and four female roles.

This ingenious thriller follows an author who finds out his wife and publisher ran over and killed his mistress in a car. They agree to dispose of the body and the rest of the play reveals the true relationship between husband and wife.

Show dates include:

- 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. March 25
- 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. March 26
- 2 to 4:30 p.m. March 27
- 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 1
- 2 to 4:30 p.m. April 2
- 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 2
- 2 to 4:30 p.m. April 3
- 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 8
- 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. April 9
- 2 to 4:30 p.m. April 10

For more information, call 352-746-7606.

County board to discuss library display policy

By **MICHAEL D. BATES**
Chronicle Reporter

A confrontation earlier this year about an LGBTQ display at two local libraries will be reignited Tuesday when county commissioners discuss establishing a policy on what can or cannot be displayed.

County Administrator Randy Oliver will present commissioners with three options:

- Continue with the current approach and let the library advisory board have the final decision on

displays.

- Have the library advisory board vet displays in advance. That means displays coincide with best practices of all public libraries and approved as part of a staff planning process which includes public input.
- Eliminate displays from libraries completely to remove all contention.

In June, local libraries had a display during LGBT Pride Month and some people complained libraries should steer clear of politics and ideologies.

Eric Head, director of Citrus County Libraries, told the Chronicle then that the complaints caught him by surprise and that he didn’t view the display as political.

Commissioners in general responded that library displays should avoid taking political sides and be fair to all groups.

Fast forward to November when more than a dozen residents took the podium during the public input section of a county commission meeting to again complain about the display. The library, they said, is no place to push such lifestyles

on children.

The board heard their concerns but took no action.

This Tuesday, a group of people plan to show up to defend the library’s right to set up LGBTQ Pride displays.

The county commission meeting is at 1 p.m. Jan. 4 at the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness.

To view the entire agenda, visit <https://bit.ly/3eEFVMm>.

Michael D. Bates is a staff writer with the Citrus County Chronicle and can be reached at mbates@chronicleonline.com

Hot dog! It’s JaseyRae Jones

7-year-old entrepreneur opens a hot dog cart to fuel her dirt bike racing career

By **NANCY KENNEDY**
Chronicle Reporter

As if life wasn’t full enough for 7-year-old motocross racer JaseyRae Jones, she can now add business entrepreneur to her growing resume.

On Tuesday, Dec. 28, JaseyRae opened her own hot dog cart in Floral City so she can earn money to help pay her racing expenses.

“At the end of the day, we got \$85!” she said.

The cart idea belongs to her dad, Michael Jones, who owns Monster’s Pizza in Floral City.

“I had an extra \$100 that I was going to lose anyway, because nobody keeps it forever,” he said, “so we went to the Hard Rock Casino and I hit a \$5,000 jackpot playing the slots. I actually left with \$6,000. The first thing I thought: \$5,000 goes fast, so what can I do to make it last?”

He bought a hot dog cart for \$2,500 for his daughter.

“She’s been with us here at the (pizza) shop since day one, so she knows about business,” he said. “We race a lot, and it’s expensive. So, this is for her.”

On her first day in business, with the cart set up outside Monster’s Pizza, her first customer bought a hot dog with sweet relish and mustard on it.

JaseyRae serves Sabrett hot dogs.

“You can get it with chili or cheese or onions, but I like mine plain,” she said. “And you can get a combo with chips and a soda.”

She said her first day was “a lot



Matthew Beck / Chronicle photo editor

Seven-year-old JaseyRae Jones is helping fund her racing career by selling hot dogs in the Floral City area.

of learning,” from the steps to assembling a hot dog to remembering to ask what kinds of toppings the customer wants on it.

“I think it would be a good idea to have onion sauce,” she told her dad the next day.

JaseyRae’s hot dog cart started out at Monster’s Pizza, but it’s moving to a more permanent location outside Liquor Plus located at 8290 S Florida Ave, Floral City, FL 34436.

Also, when JaseyRae is otherwise unavailable, such as when she’s in school at Floral City Elementary School where she’s in second grade or when she’s at a race, an employee will be minding the business.

Michael Jones said they also

plan to have JaseyRae’s hot dog cart at the Citrus County Fair in March.

At 7, JaseyRae is a bundle of energy. She loves “girly girl” stuff like wearing dresses and doing her hair and nails, but she also loves racing dirt bikes.

She’s been riding since she was 2, on a Honda 50cc with training wheels.

Currently, she rides a KTM 65cc dirt bike. And has a track in her yard at home where she practices, also a yard gym where she works out.

“This year she will be racing in three classes: KTM 65 ages 5 to 9, 65 open and junior girls ages 7 to 15,” said her mom, Tatjana McCauley. “She’s really fast.”

JaseyRae, named after a song, “Jasey Rae,” by the band All Time Low, said when she’s in a race, she thinks: “I know I’m going to win,” adding, “When I’m riding, I feel strength.”

“She’s a good kid,” her dad said. “She already knows the concept of hard work, that to get what you want you might have to sweat a little bit,” he said. “And she knows that if she doesn’t know how to do something, to practice until you get better at it.”

Information about days/times of JaseyRae’s hot dog cart can be found on the JaseyRae Jones Facebook and Instagram pages.

Nancy Kennedy can be reached at 352-564-2927 or by email at nkennedy@chronicleonline.com.

Man accused of bringing drugs into county jail

Originally arrested on a warrant for alleged burglary

By **HANNAH SACHEWICZ**
Chronicle Reporter

After being arrested for an out-of-county warrant, a Hernando man is facing additional drug charges for bringing narcotics into the local detention facility, according to a Citrus County Sheriff’s Office arrest affidavit.

Michael Joyner, 57, was arrested Dec. 27 on an active Pinellas County warrant for an alleged burglary of an unoccupied structure. Bond was set at \$5,000.

Later that day, he was arrested again on charges of possession of a controlled substance and introduction of contraband in a detention facility. An additional bond was posted at \$4,000.

Deputies made contact with Joyner on North Carl G. Rose Highway in Hernando on Dec. 27. After confirming his identity, they learned he had an active Pinellas County warrant.

He was transported to the Citrus County Detention Facility. According to the report, Joyner had no prior knowledge of this case.

Approximately two hours later, deputies were called back to the detention facility. A correction officer informed them Joyner

had possession of a controlled substance, which they believed to be methamphetamine.

Deputies reviewed security footage, which showed Joyner being held in booking. According to the report, he looked at the security camera and proceeded to stand directly underneath it, out of view.

When Joyner stepped back into the camera’s view, a small red plastic bag fell onto the floor in front of him. He reportedly stepped on the bag and proceeded to drag his foot – and the bag – into the other room of booking.

According to the report, Joyner continued to slide his foot between the wall and walk through metal detector. He then lifted his foot and walked back into the original room he was in.

Footage showed another inmate sweeping the floor in the second room of booking. He bent down near the metal detector, picked up the bag and turned it over to correctional staff immediately.

Deputies field tested the substance, which reported tested positive for meth and weighed a total of 5.65 grams.

Post Miranda, Joyner reportedly told deputies he saw the bag on the floor, but believed it to be cellophane and kicked it out the door. He denied ever having it in possession on his person.

Joyner was charged and the narcotics were turned into evidence.

Hannah Sachewicz can be reached at hannah.sachewicz@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2929.

State urges Appeals Court to act on health worker shots

By **JIM SAUNDERS**
News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Saying it is among states that are “unshielded,” Florida is pressing a full federal appeals court to at least temporarily block a Biden administration rule that would require health-care workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

David Costello, an assistant state solicitor general, filed a document late Wednesday afternoon at the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal pointing to a new Biden administration directive about moving forward with the vaccination requirement. The directive would apply to Florida and other states that have not received preliminary injunctions against the requirement.

The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments Jan. 7 in cases from other parts of the country about the legality of the requirement, but it is not clear when justices will rule.

Pensacola-based U.S. District Judge Casey Rodgers last month rejected Florida’s request for a preliminary injunction against the rule, and a panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals also refused to halt it.

Florida on Dec. 16 filed a petition asking the full Atlanta-based appeals court to issue an injunction that at least would put the rule on hold while an underlying appeal is decided – a move known as seeking an “injunction pending appeal.” But the appeals court had not acted on the petition as of Thursday morning.

In the document filed Wednesday, Costello said the new Biden administrative directive would give 30 days for compliance in Florida and about two dozen other states that do not

have injunctions. It said the “new enforcement memorandum underscores the need for the en banc (full) court’s expeditious intervention.”

The vaccination requirement, issued in early November, would apply to workers at hospitals, nursing homes and other health-care providers that participate in the Medicare and Medicaid programs. The requirement was initially scheduled to take effect Dec. 6, but the Biden administration suspended it because of injunctions issued in Louisiana and Missouri cases.

But the directive issued Tuesday by the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services indicates that the federal government will start enforcing the requirement where it can. It gives 30 days for health-care workers to have at least one dose of vaccine and 60 days to have two doses, according to a copy attached to the document filed by Costello.

A federal district judge in Louisiana initially issued a nationwide injunction against the vaccination requirement, but the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals this month said that decision went too far. The New Orleans-based appellate court scaled back the injunction to apply only to 14 states that filed the case in Louisiana.

That effectively left Florida without an injunction against the requirement.

Florida Attorney General Attorney Ashley Moody’s office argued in the Dec. 16 petition seeking a hearing at the full appeals court that the rule violates federal laws and would worsen staffing problems at health-care facilities, including state-run facilities such as veterans’ nursing homes.



JOYNER

ENTERTAINMENT

2021 box office closes with more fireworks for ‘Spider-Man’

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK — Hollywood closed out 2021 with more fireworks at the box office for “Spider-Man: No Way Home,” which topped all films for the third straight week and already charts among the highest grossing films ever. But even with all the champagne popping for “No Way Home,” the film industry heads into 2022 with plenty of reason for both optimism and concern after a year that saw overall ticket revenue double that of 2020, but still well off the pre-pandemic pace.

Movie theaters began the year mostly shuttered but ended it with a monster smash. Sony Pictures’ Marvel sequel “No Way Home” grossed an estimated \$52.7 million over the week-end to bring its three-week total to \$609.9 million. That ranks 10th all-time in North America. Worldwide, it’s made \$1.37 billion, a total that puts it above “Black Panther” and makes it the 12th highest grossing film globally.

“No Way Home,” Tom Holland’s third standalone film as the webslinger, gave a huge lift to the box-office recovery that started in earnest last spring when U.S. cinemas opened after a year of COVID-19 closures. Marvel films dominated the turbulent year, accounting for the top four movies of 2021: “No Way Home,” “Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings,”



Tom Holland in Columbia Pictures’ “Spider-Man: No Way Home.”

“Venom: Let There Be Carnage” and “Black Widow.”

The North American box office in 2021 amounted to \$4.5 billion, according to data firm ComScore. That’s about 60 percent down from 2019 – back before the days of masked moviegoers, social distancing and virus variants like the currently surging omicron.

Whether the movies will ever reach those pre-pandemic totals again is uncertain, given that exclusive theatrical windows have since shrunk, studios have experimented with hybrid releases and little besides superhero films are packing theaters. Partly due to COVID-19 disruptions, the 2022 release schedule is unusually packed with potential blockbusters, including “The Batman,” “Black Panther: Wakanda Forever,” “Top Gun:

Maverick,” “Jurassic World: Dominion,” “Thor: Love and Thunder” and “Avatar 2.”

Second place over the weekend went to Universal Picture’s animated sequel “Sing 2.” It took in \$19.6 million in its second weekend to bring its two-week total to \$89.7 million. That’s a steady result given that family movies and films skewing toward older moviegoers have been the slowest to bounce back during the pandemic. “Sing 2” added another \$54.9 million internationally. It’s trajectory should make it the top animated release of the pandemic.

But after “No Way Home” and “Sing 2,” there was little that appealed to moviegoers over the holiday weekend.

“The King’s Man,” the third installment in Matthew Vaughn’s “Kingsman” series, grossed a

modest \$4.5 million in its second week after a lackluster debut. But that was still good enough for third place. The Disney release, produced by 20th Century Studios, has made \$47.8 million globally.

Steven Spielberg’s “West Side Story” sold \$2.1 million in tickets in its fourth weekend. While holding well (the film dropped 26 percent from the week prior), the once-envisioned holiday upswing for the acclaimed musical hasn’t materialized. “West Side Story” has grossed a disappointing \$29.6 million domestically.

After flopping on its debut last week, Warner Bros.’ “The Matrix Resurrections” dropped a steep 64 percent in its second weekend with \$3.8 million. The film is simultaneously streaming on HBO Max, a 2021 practice that the studio has pledged to end in 2022. The long-incoming “Matrix” reboot was even edged by the second week of the Kurt Warner NFL drama “American Underdog,” which grossed \$4.1 million for Lionsgate.

One of the only new releases of the week was Apichatpong Weerasethakul’s “Memoria,” with Tilda Swinton. Its distributor, Neon, has laid out a novel strategy for the art-house release, playing the film in only one theater at a time, with no plans for a future streaming or physical release. “Memoria” started its quixotic, cross-country journey with \$52,656 since opening Dec. 16 at New York’s IFC Center.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Monday, Jan. 3, the third day of 2022. There are 362 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Jan. 3, 1990, ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrendered to U.S. forces, 10 days after taking refuge in the Vatican’s diplomatic mission.

On this date:

In 1777, Gen. George Washington’s army routed the British in the Battle of Princeton, New Jersey.

In 1861, more than two weeks before Georgia seceded from the Union, the state militia seized Fort Pulaski at the order of Gov. Joseph E. Brown. The Delaware House and Senate voted to oppose secession from the Union.

In 1868, the Meiji Restoration re-established the authority of Japan’s emperor and heralded the fall of the military rulers known as shoguns.

In 1959, Alaska became the 49th state as President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation.

In 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced the United States was formally terminating diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba.

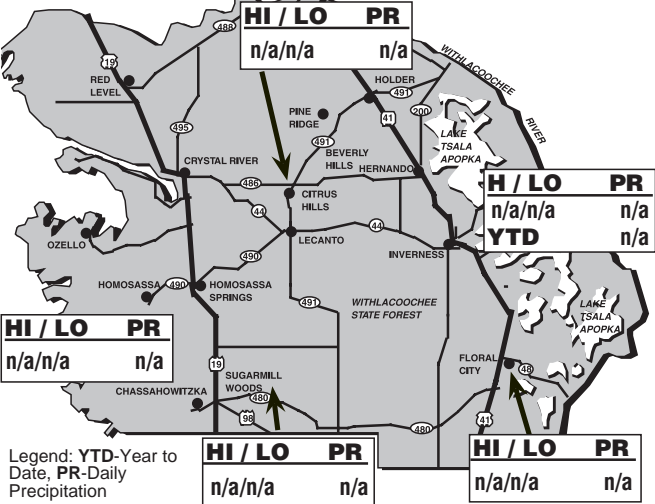
In 1967, Jack Ruby, the man who shot and killed Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President John F. Kennedy, died in a Dallas hospital.

In 1977, Apple Computer was incorporated in Cupertino, California, by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Mike Markkula Jr.

In 2002, a judge in Alabama ruled that former Ku Klux Klansman Bobby Frank Cherry was mentally competent to stand trial on murder charges in the 1963 Birmingham church bombing that killed four black girls. (Cherry was later convicted, and served a life sentence until his death in November 2004.)

In 2007, Gerald R. Ford was laid to rest on the grounds of his presidential museum in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during a ceremony watched by thousands of onlookers.

YESTERDAY’S WEATHER



THREE DAY OUTLOOK

Exclusive daily forecast by: Bay News 9

TODAY & TOMORROW MORNING

High: 60° **Low:** 45°
Mostly sunny, breezy and cooler

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MORNING

High: 71° **Low:** 52°
Increasing clouds, low humidity

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY MORNING

High: 74° **Low:** 53°
Partly cloudy and warmer

ALMANAC

Data from Crystal River Airport

TEMPERATURE

Yesterday 81/64
Record* 84/23
Normal 70/42
Mean temp. 56
Departure from mean 17

DEW POINT

Yesterday at 3 p.m. 68°

HUMIDITY

Yesterday at 3 p.m. 87%

PRECIPITATION

Yesterday 0.01"
Total for the month 0.02"
Total for the year 0.01"
Normal for the year 0.17"

POLLEN COUNT**

Predominant: Trees
Mon

UV INDEX:

4
0-2 minimal, 3-4 low, 5-6 moderate, 7-9 high, 10+ very high

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

30.00

AIR QUALITY

Yesterday observed Good
Pollutant PM2.5

SOLUNAR TABLES				
DATE	DAY	MINOR (MORNING)	MAJOR (MORNING)	MINOR (AFTERNOON)
01/03	MONDAY	7:23	1:05	5:44
01/04	TUESDAY	7:23	2:09	5:45

CELESTIAL OUTLOOK				
Jan 9	Jan 17	Jan 25	Feb 1	

BURN CONDITIONS				
Today's Fire Danger Index is: MODERATE. There is no burn ban.				

For more information call Florida Division of Forestry at (352) 797-4140. For more information on wildfire conditions, please visit the Division of Forestry's Web site: www.freshfromflorida.com/Divisions-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service/Wildland-Fire

WATERING RULES				
For established lawns and landscapes, irrigation may occur during only one (1) of the specified time periods, 12:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., or 4:00 p.m. - 11:59 p.m., on the allowable watering days below:				

Addresses with house numbers ending in:				
0 - 1	Monday	6 - 7	Thursday	
2 - 3	Tuesday	8 - 9 -or-	Friday	
4 - 5	Wednesday	Common Areas		

Questions, concerns or reporting violations, please call: City of Inverness at 352-726-2321; City of Crystal River at 352-795-4216, Ext. 313; Incorporated Citrus County at 352-527-7669. For more information, visit: https://www.citrusbocc.com/departments/water_resources/watering_restrictions.php

TIDES				
*From mouths of rivers **At King's Bay ***At Mason's Creek				

TIDES				
City	High	Low	High	Low
Chassahowitzka*	6:11 a.m.	0.8 ft	7:03 p.m.	0.1 ft
Crystal River**	4:04 a.m.	2.7 ft	5:32 p.m.	1.5 ft
Withlacoochee*	1:08 a.m.	3.7 ft	7:22 p.m.	2.6 ft
Homosassa***	4:34 a.m.	1.6 ft	7:04 p.m.	0.5 ft

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FLORIDA TEMPERATURES

City	H	L	F'cast	City	H	L	F'cast
Daytona Bch.	64	53	s	Miami	81	63	pc
Fort Lauderdale	80	60	pc	Ocala	62	43	s
Fort Myers	72	50	s	Orlando	65	51	s
Gainesville	59	42	s	Pensacola	50	36	pc
Homestead	82	57	pc	Sarasota	67	49	s
Jacksonville	58	47	s	Tallahassee	52	37	pc
Key West	78	66	sh	Tampa	66	48	s
Lakeland	65	47	s	Vero Beach	73	54	pc
Melbourne	72	54	pc	W. Palm Bch.	77	65	pc

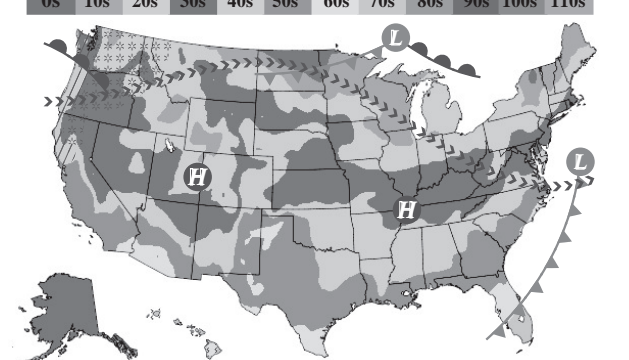
MARINE OUTLOOK

Today: Northwest winds 20 to 25 knots then becoming north around 20 knots in the late morning and afternoon. Seas 5 to 7 feet with occasional seas to 9 feet. Bay and inland waters rough. Tonight: Northeast winds around 15 knots.

LAKE LEVELS				
Location	SUN	SAT	Full	
Withlacoochee at Holder	29.33	29.36	34.64	
Tsala Apopka-Hernando	37.77	37.77	38.66	
Tsala Apopka-Inverness	39.09	39.10	39.73	
Tsala Apopka-Floral City	40.23	40.24	41.37	

Levels reported in feet above sea level. Flood stage for lakes are based on 2.33-year flood, the mean-annual flood which has a 43-percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any one year. This data is obtained from the Southwest Florida Water Management District and is subject to revision. In no event will the District or the United States Geological Survey be liable for any damages arising out of the use of this data. If you have any questions you should contact the Hydrological Data Section at (352) 796-7211.

THE NATION



FORECAST FOR 3:00 P.M. Monday

City	SUN	MON	City	SUN	MON
Albany	48 28 0.12	24 13 mc	New Orleans	77 42 0.34	50 36 s
Albuquerque	36 17 0.00	44 17 s	New York City	59 40 0.60	33 23 sn
Asheville	64 54 0.83	33 15 ss	Norfolk	73 59 0.15	42 28 ra
Atlanta	73 57 0.17	43 30 pc	Oklahoma City	29 12 0.01	49 32 s
Atlantic City	62 55 0.16	38 20 sn	Omaha	14 -8 0.00	36 24 s
Austin	48 25 0.00	55 34 s	Palm Springs	61 37 0.00	64 41 s
Baltimore	65 52 0.59	30 20 sn	Philadelphia	63 46 0.33	34 19 sn
Billings	34 16 0.00	39 15 pc	Phoenix	59 36 0.00	63 38 s
Birmingham	74 48 0.00	42 28 pc	Pittsburgh	46 30 0.09	33 23 pc
Boise	25 6 0.00	38 30 mc	Portland, ME	39 33 0.08	25 13 mc
Boston	46 37 0.26	28 19 mc	Portland, OR	55 42 0.32	29 18 cl
Buffalo	34 21 0.31	24 20 pc	Providence, RI	50 42 0.32	29 18 cl
Burlington, VT	34 18 0.17	16 6 mc	Raleigh	70 62 0.37	39 23 ra
Charleston, SC	72 64 0.00	54 35 mc	Rapid City	38 -1 0.00	44 25 s
Charleston, WV	57 36 0.38	35 22 pc	Reno	38 17 0.00	42 38 mc
Charlotte	72 60 0.39	46 26 sh	Rochester, NY	32 19 0.34	22 17 ss
Chicago	32 21 0.04	25 19 s	Sacramento	52 28 0.00	50 47 sh
Cincinnati	52 30 0.26	34 23 s	Salt Lake City	28 10 0.00	37 29 hz
Cleveland	38 30 0.10	32 24 mc	San Antonio	55 32 0.00	54 34 s
Columbia, SC	74 62 0.77	52 27 pc	San Diego	67 44 0.00	60 46 s
Columbus, OH	41 28 0.07	32 21 pc	San Francisco	54 35 0.00	56 51 ra
Concord, NH	39 30 0.10	25 9 pc	Savannah	83 67 0.00	57 38 pc
Dallas	40 19 0.00	51 32 s	Seattle	38 28 0.04	40 33 ra
Denver	42 10 0.04	49 21 pc	Spokane	23 12 0.00	35 23 sn
Des Moines	9 -8 Trace	33 22 s	St. Louis	28 19 Trace	34 23 s
Detroit	27 19 0.03	28 21 s	St. Ste Marie	14 3 0.01	26 18 mc
El Paso	45 24 0.00	53 30 s	Syracuse	37 21 0.30	20 17 ss
Evansville, IN	43 30 0.09	34 24 s	Topeka	20 0 0.02	39 27 s
Harrisburg	63 43 0.07	31 19 mc	Washington	63 52 0.22	35 19 sn
Hartford	52 36 0.27	30 18 mc	YESTERDAY'S NATIONAL HIGH & LOW		
Houston	68 30 0.01	51 38 s	HIGH	88	Port LaBelle, Fla.
Indianapolis	37 25 0.07	32 24 pc	LOW	-38	Hibbing, Minn.
Kansas City	18 3 Trace	37 28 s			
Las Vegas	47 26 0.00	51 34 s			
Little Rock	43 27 0.02	43 26 s			
Los Angeles	62 43 0.00	60 43 s			
Louisville	57 33 0.12	37 25 s			
Memphis	52 28 0.15	39 24 s			
Milwaukee	25 17 0.10	23 14 s			
Minneapolis	5 -15 0.00	26 15 pc			
Mobile	81 48 0.75	50 32 s			
Montgomery	74 56 1.06	46 30 pc			
Nashville	58 34 0.64	40 24 pc			

KEY TO CONDITIONS: c=cloudy; fg=fog; hz=haze; mc=mostly cloudy; pc=partly cloudy; ra=rain; rs=rain/snow; s=sunny; sh=showers; sm=snow; sn=snow; ss=snow showers; t=thunderstorms

ALERT CITRUS SIGNUP

- To register for the Citrus County Sheriff's Office's Alert Citrus weather program, visit www.sheriffcitrus.org and click on the links to register.
- Create a profile, list how you want to be contacted in case of a weather emergency (text, mobile phone, home phone, email), then include the address(es) you want alerts for. You can choose what types of emergencies you want to hear about, and set a quiet period for no conduct.
- Those without computer access may call 352-249-2705.

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Overnight storms bring damage to parts of U.S. South

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

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

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

of Huntsville.

Huntsville Utilities said service has been restored to parts of Hazel Green, but work continues with multiple downed power poles in the area.

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

Madison, Morgan Cullman, Marshall, Jackson, DeKalb, Limestone, Franklin and Lawrence counties remain under a tornado watch until 2 a.m. The

National Weather Service issued a winter weather advisory for north and parts of north-central Alabama, in effect from 6 p.m. through 3 a.m. Monday. Temperatures are expected to plummet as a cold front moves through.

The storms followed a system earlier Saturday which brought flooding to parts of Kentucky. Gov. Andy Beshear said Sunday that four tornadoes were confirmed. No injuries were reported. The strongest was an EF-2 tornado that caused significant damage in Hopkinsville on Saturday with estimated peak winds of 115 mph, the National Weather

Service said.

Temperatures dipped Sunday after the severe weather rolled through, and winter storm warnings were posted from northern Alabama to southern New Jersey with up to 7 inches of snow possible in some areas. Freeze warnings were posted from southern Texas to Mississippi.

Authorities closed down a road after power lines came down and homes suffered damage early Sunday in Hazel Green, Ala. The storms followed a system earlier Saturday which brought a possible tornado and flooding to parts of Kentucky.

Madison County Sheriff's Office via AP



Schools adapt for return from break as COVID-19 cases surge

By **CAROLYN THOMPSON**
Associated Press

Mask requirements are returning in some school districts that had dropped them. Some are planning to vastly ramp up virus testing among students and staff. And a small number of school systems are switching to remote learning — for just a short while, educators hope.

With coronavirus infections soaring, the return from schools' winter break will be different than planned for some as administrators again tweak protocols and make real-time adjustments in response to the shifting pandemic. All are signaling a need to stay flexible.

"Change has been the only constant in this fight," Newark Schools Superintendent Roger León said, continues "to be a brutal, relentless and ruthless virus that rears its ugly head at inopportune times."

Long after the widespread closures in the pandemic's early days, school and elected leaders say they are using the lessons and tools of the past two years to try to navigate the latest surge without long-term shutdowns, which had woeful effects on learning and students' well-being.



Teachers from the Earth School speak out on issues related to lack of coronavirus testing outside P.S. 64, on Dec. 21 in New York. In the nation's largest school system, New York City, 2 million at-home test kits provided by the state will be used to increase testing following the break, the mayor announced this week.

Still, pressure from parents and teachers unions has added to the urgency surrounding safety measures as the omicron-fueled surge sends up caseloads and puts children in the hospital in close to record numbers.

"They say kids do well (if infected), but who's to say my kid is not going to be that one," said Rebecca Caldwell,

who is considering petitioning her Charleston, Illinois, district for a remote option that would let her keep her four sons, ages 17, 10, 7 and 5, home through the winter.

The first half of the school year brought Caldwell's family three scares from exposures. One, from a family member, kept the whole family in quarantine for 10

days. Her 17-year-old and 10-year-old saw classmates infected, and each underwent a nerve-wracking series of COVID-19 tests as part of a more recent "test-to-stay" policy.

"It's really scary because you worry about the domino effect, too," said Caldwell, whose own health issues led her to leave her restaurant

job more than a year ago to lessen her risk.

In the nation's largest school system, New York City, 2 million at-home test kits provided by the state will be used to increase testing following the break, officials announced this week. Students whose classmates test positive can keep coming to school as long as their at-

home tests are negative and they don't have symptoms.

Michael Mulgrew, president of the United Federation of Teachers, which represents New York City educators, questioned whether the new testing initiatives will be available in every school by the time schools reopen Monday.

"We are moving closer to a safe reopening of school next week. But we are not there yet," he said.

In Chicago, the nation's third-largest school district, officials announced the purchase of 100,000 laptops over the holidays in case they are needed for remote learning in January, though district leaders said they hope to avoid a system-wide closure. The Chicago Teachers Union has proposed pausing in-person learning unless new safety measures are introduced, including negative COVID tests for returning students.

Los Angeles health officials last week announced tightened testing and masking rules for all employees and students when LA County public and private schools return to campuses on Monday. Concerned by a spike of the Omicron variant, the county health department mandated that teachers must wear medical grade masks in class and students and staff must wear masks outdoors in crowded spaces. Schools will have two weeks to comply.

2 missing; survivors count blessings after Colorado fire

By **THOMAS PEIPERT, BRITTANY PETERSON and EUGENE GARCIA**
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Colo. — Search teams looked for two missing people on Sunday in the snow-covered but still smoldering debris from a massive Colorado wildfire, while people who barely escaped the flames sorted through what was left after the blaze and investigators tried to determine its cause.

The flames ripped through at least 9.4 square miles and left nearly 1,000 homes and other buildings destroyed in suburbs between Denver and Boulder. It came unusually late in the year following an extremely dry fall and amid a winter nearly devoid of snow. Experts say those conditions, along with high winds, helped the fire spread.

In hard-hit Louisville, Susan Hill walked her dog in the well-below freezing chill Sunday morning down a snowy street. She

choked up as she remembered three days ago seeing the sky change color from the hill where she used to watch fireworks — and then the nervous sprint out of town with her college-age son and the dog, cat and the fire box with birth certificates and other documents.

The flames stopped about 100 yards from her property, and she slept Saturday night in her home using a space heater and hot water bottles to stay warm since her natural gas service had not been turned back on.

"I don't even know how to describe it," she said. "It's so sad. It's so awful. It's just devastating."

In the burned-out neighborhood near Hill's home, a U.S. Mail carrier checked the still-standing brick and stone boxes for outgoing mail. The fire came so quickly people might have put bills or other letters in there, and she didn't want someone to steal them.

While homes that burned to the foundations were still smoldering in some

places, the blaze was no longer considered an immediate threat — especially with Saturday's snow and frigid temperatures.

"A day late and a dollar short," Hill said of snow, which scientists said typically prevents winter fires that spread in dry grass.

Authorities initially said everyone was accounted for after the fire. But Boulder County spokesperson Jennifer Churchill said the reports of three people missing were later discovered amid the scramble to manage the emergency. One was found alive, officials said Sunday.

Crews were still looking for a woman at a home in Superior and a man living near Marshall. Boulder County Sheriff Joe Pelle said their homes were "deep in hot debris and covered with snow. It is a difficult task."

Other investigators were seeing if the missing people might have made it out, but not contacted their families or friends, Pelle said.

Crews rescue 21 people on stuck tram cars in New Mexico

By **PAUL DAVENPORT**
Associated Press

New Mexico search and rescue crews used ropes and helicopters Saturday to rescue 21 people who were stranded overnight in two tram cars after an iced-over cable caused the cars to get stuck high up in the Sandia Mountains overlooking Albuquerque.

Lt. Robert Arguelles a Bernalillo County Fire Department spokesperson, said early Saturday afternoon that crews first rescued 20 people stranded in one car and several hours later rescued a 21st person stranded by themselves in a second car.

All the people on the two cars were employees of the Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway or a mountaintop restaurant, and the 20 in one car were being ferried down to the base of the mountains at the end of their workdays, Arguelles said.

The other employee had been heading up the mountain to provide overnight security when the tram system shut down Friday night due to icing, Arguelles said.

There were no reported injuries among those stranded, Arguelles said. "More just pretty frustrated."

To rescue the 20 people in the one car, operators were able to move it to a

nearby support tower more than halfway up the mountain, and search and rescue personnel early Saturday morning hiked to the area and climbed the tower to deliver blankets and other supplies to those inside the heated car, Arguelles said.

Search and rescue personnel over several hours used ropes and other equipment to lower the stranded employees about 85 feet to the ground before escorting them to a nearby landing zone in the steep and rocky terrain where the tower was located, Arguelles said.

The 20 people were then ferried by helicopter several at a time to the base of the mountains, he said.

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OPINION

► “The key to successful leadership today is influence, not authority.”
— Kenneth Blanchard

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The opinions expressed in Chronicle editorials are the opinions of the newspaper’s editorial board.

EDITORIAL

County needs more funding for bike trail

Fort Island Trail, which leads to the county’s sole Gulf beach, has become a popular route for bicyclists who enjoy the bucolic 9-mile stretch of highway. Unfortunately, it’s a narrow two-lane road separated by a striped 5-foot bike lane. Wide vehicles, such as RVs or those towing boats, sometimes veer into that lane on tight curves causing safety issues for bicyclists.

County commissioners recently took steps to alleviate the problem by voting 4-1 to send out requests for proposals (RFP) for a design-build multi-use path on the road.

County Administrator Randy Oliver said the RFP makes it clear the county is budgeting \$1 million and no more. That means bidders will tell the county how much path they can build for the amount of money the county has available. It could be 10 feet; it could be 2 miles.

Since 2017, County Commissioner Jeff Kinnard has led the charge on getting the path built because of safety reasons. When done, the path will get bikers off the shoulder of the road where they are jockeying for space with cars and trucks. It’s a worthwhile project long

THE ISSUE:

Commissioners voted to build a bike path along Fort Island Trail.

OUR OPINION:

The project has merit, but the county needs to secure more sources of money.

in the making. The county is on the right track but needs to find more sources of money to fully fund the path the whole length of Fort Island Trail.

Right now the county is understandably taking baby steps toward completion of the project. But the path construction would start at the beach and meander toward U.S. 19, meaning cyclists would have to load their bikes onto their vehicle and drive to the beach to use the first leg of the path or risk the dangerous trek on the road. When the path is completed, cyclists could cruise over from downtown Crystal River and take a ride to the beach, all on the safety of a multi-use path.

Considering the popularity of bicycling in Florida and the crowds of cyclists the path through Inverness attracts, it’s likely a trail from U.S. 19 to the Gulf will contribute to the local economy by attracting more tourists who will spend money in the county.

This season, give the gift of food. And health. And hope.

As the year ends, a lot of folks are thinking about their charitable contributions, and there is no better place for your donated

Steve Roberts



dollars than your local food bank or other nutrition programs. The need is acute, as the damaging effects of the pandemic continue to ripple through the economy while inflation – the worst in 40

years – wrecks family budgets. As Bloomberg reports, “Hunger is rising this holiday season with the U.S. Census Bureau estimating more than 21 million Americans didn’t have enough to eat in early December as pandemic relief payments run out and grocery prices rise.”

The crunch is about to get worse. Expanded tax credits, which gave poor families an extra \$300 per child each month, recently lapsed and have not been renewed by a Congress struggling with partisan and ideological divisions.

“The majority of parents have reported using the mid-month cash infusions for food, according to Census Bureau surveys between July and September,” adds Bloomberg. “Studies have found making the payments permanent could significantly reduce childhood poverty.”

But the moral obligation to alleviate hunger is combined with very practical benefits. Think of food as an investment, which actually generates generous dividends. Few, if any, charitable gestures can make such a direct and decisive impact on the lives, and futures, of children.

Dr. Megan Sandel, co-director

of the Boston Medical Center’s Grow Clinic, described for NPR the effects of malnutrition: “We’ll see what you think of as a really cute 1-year-old. And when you start talking to their mother, you realize the child’s 2 years old and hasn’t outgrown their 12-month-old clothes. ... That child (is) not getting enough to eat, not gaining weight, but they’re actually starting to stunt their height and potentially stunt their brain growth during a really critical period.

“And those can be really impressive changes that result in kids, say, not growing up well, not being able to show up to kindergarten ready to learn, and we pay those consequences over a lifetime,” Dr. Sandel explained. “And so time is of the essence. We need to really make sure that families don’t fall off the cliff, especially in this time with such high food inflation.”

The impact of chronic hunger continues to echo well past early childhood. When Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced a 27 percent increase in food stamp benefits, he emphasized that improving family diets “is more than a commitment to good nutrition – it’s an investment in our nation’s health, economy and security.”

“Ensuring low-income families have access to a healthy diet helps prevent disease, supports children in the classroom, reduces health care costs and more,” Vilsack added.

Public policy can certainly help combat hunger, and more robust food stamp allowances are a positive step. Extending the child tax credit is another imperative. But fortunately, food is an area where government is not the only recourse or resource. Communities and individuals can make a big difference as well.

Take Niyati Parekh, professor

of public health nutrition at New York University, who notes, “around one-third of all food globally is wasted, especially nutrient-dense foods such as fruits, vegetables and dairy. How can we divert food, particularly perishables, from being wasted and redirect it to those who are food insecure?”

Her answer is creating a mobile app called Food2Share, designed as a digital marketplace to connect local restaurants with food-insecure individuals. Once the app is launched, people will be able to claim unused food from local restaurants.

Then there is Turquoise LeJeune Parker, an elementary schoolteacher in Durham, North Carolina, who realized several years ago that many of her students were going hungry during vacations because they relied so heavily on subsidized meals provided at their schools.

She started small, raising enough money to feed 22 students during the Christmas holidays. This year she raised more than \$100,000, reports The Washington Post, and “about 5,200 students took home bags filled with a two-week supply of cereal, bread, peanut butter, pasta, granola bars, oatmeal, beans, mac ‘n’ cheese, canned chicken, fruit and vegetables.”

“It really took off and made such an impact for these families that I knew I had to keep going,” Parker told the Post. “Food is something that no one can do without. It’s not only a basic human need, it’s a human right.”

Not everyone can have the impact of Niyati Parekh or Turquoise Parker. But everyone can find a way to help make food a “human right.”

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. He can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.



HOT CORNER: UNHAPPY WITH CHANGES

■ I agree with Bob Clayton on Wednesday’s letter to the editor (Dec. 29, Page A8, titled “Changes to paper are ‘disappointing’”). I am disappointed in the new Chronicle, also...

■ Why do you keep moving the horoscopes in the paper or not putting them in at all? Today’s paper (Wednesday, Dec. 29), says they’re on A4, which they are not. They’re on C6. Please correct that.

■ Well, “Poop in the Shoe” for whoever destroyed the comics. The daily comics are so bad. Sunday’s comics – that is just a real joke. So, here we go, please print this: “Poop in the Shoe” to whoever did that.

■ I’m responding to the changes to the Chronicle newspaper. There are many I do not like at all. But you’d figure as the new owner, that the true Chronicle subscribers that have been

reading the Chronicle for years, you’d figure you would have took a survey and input their opinions on how to improve the paper instead of just doing it yourself. There’s comics I don’t like and some of the fonts is way too small – like your lottery, you need a magnifying glass to see the letters. In my point of view, I’m not very happy with the changes you have made this far.

■ I really, really, really miss some of the old comics, like “Big Nate,” “Arlo and Janis” and “For Better or Worse.” Please bring those back.

■ How come you don’t have Fantasy 5 anymore and the results the next day and the same thing with Jackpot Triple Play?

■ Just calling to say that your new lineup of the Comics Page and the new comics and the deletion of the older ones really sucks.

It’s a must to address homelessness in county

The letter to the editor by William New on Dec. 24 was spot on (Page A10, titled “Don’t San Francisco my Florida”). The Withlacoochee State Trail used to be 46 continuous miles long, but now it is divided into two parts by the dangerous, threatening homeless camp between miles 34 and 35. So it’s now two trails: one 34 miles long and one 11 miles long. No one wants to use the “no man’s land”

that is the homeless camp, because of the stench ... the beggars and the very real threat to our safety.

We must address the very serious challenges of homelessness in Citrus County, not just ignore those who find themselves in that sad situation. The State Trail is a huge economic driver for this county, but will not remain so if this homeless camp is allowed to flourish on this site. Florida State Parks, Citrus County agencies and private individuals must work together to correct this situation.



THE CHRONICLE invites you to call “Sound Off” with your opinions about local subjects. You do not need to leave your name, and have less than a minute to record. COMMENTS will be edited for length, libel, personal or political attacks and good taste. Editors will cut libelous material. OPINIONS expressed are purely those of the callers.

DeSantis’ budget allocates \$4 billion to state colleges, universities

By BETHANY BLANKLEY
The Center Square

When the Florida legislature meets in January, it will scour through a range of funding initiatives prioritized in the fiscal 2023 budget proposal from Gov. Ron DeSantis. A big chunk of it includes an historic \$23.9 billion in proposed funding to education, of which \$13.3 billion would go to K-12 public schools serving Florida’s nearly 3 million students.

DeSantis’ education budget also seeks to allocate \$4 billion to fund Florida state colleges and universities, as well as extensive funding to overhaul and expand workforce development programs, grants and scholarships.

If approved by lawmakers, it would allocate \$1.3 billion to fund Florida’s state colleges and \$2.7 billion to Florida’s state universities, with no tuition or fee increases.

“Our students and families should not face any additional financial burdens as they are completing their education,” the governor’s budget summary states.

It also would allocate roughly \$122 million in operating funds to Florida’s historically black colleges and

universities, including over \$90 million to Florida A&M University, \$16.96 million to Bethune-Cookman University, \$7.4 million to Edward Waters College, and \$7 million to Florida Memorial University.

The budget also maintains \$20.8 million for the Florida Postsecondary Academic Library Network used by the Florida College System and State University System. This includes \$9 million in proposed funding to state colleges and \$11.8 million to state universities for e-resources, technical support and distance learning technology.

The governor’s budget proposal also allocates \$602 million to fund the state’s Bright Futures Scholarship Program and \$40 million to provide a \$300 stipend to each Florida Academic Scholar for both fall and spring semesters. It also would provide \$35 million to the Open Door Grant Program to fund school district workforce education institutions and Florida College System institutions.

Another priority of the education portion of the budget is to expand the affordability of workforce training and credentialing for Floridians. To do this, the budget seeks to



Students gather and socialize on the quad near the Marshall Student Center on the University of South Florida college campus in Tampa. Gov. Ron DeSantis’ education budget also seeks to allocate \$4 billion to fund Florida state colleges and universities, as well as extensive funding to overhaul and expand workforce development programs, grants and scholarships.

allocate more than \$534 million to support workforce education programs, including \$15 million for the governor’s Pathways to Career Opportunities Grant Program, which supports pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students.

It proposes \$560 million in performance funding for state universities, \$25 million for two incentive funds for state colleges, and funding for students earning industry certifications in high-skill, high-demand areas at state colleges (\$14 million) and career technical centers (\$6.5 million).

It also would completely overhaul Florida’s workforce training and development system, allocating another \$100 million to implement the Consumer-first Workforce System.

In addition to apprenticeship programs, technical centers and state college and university workforce development programs, it also would fund two new programs designed to expand Florida’s police force.

DeSantis earlier this year invited law enforcement officers from other states or cities impacted by movements to defund their police depart-

ments to relocate to Florida. He offered to pay officers a \$5,000 hiring bonus, cover their relocation expenses and costs related to exams and other related training programs. Several from New York City have already taken him up on the offer and moved to Florida.

The budget proposal would fund this initiative by allocating \$25 million to cover the cost of the \$5,000 bonus payments, which is also offered to new recruits who live in Florida. It also allocates \$6 million to fund two educational and workforce development programs: \$5 million to a Law Enforcement Academy Scholarship Program and \$1 million to establish an Out-of-State Law Enforcement Equivalency Reimbursement initiative.

The funding would cover the cost of law enforcement academies for prospective officers, the State Officer Certification Exam fee and any necessary equivalency training program costs for relocating officers.

DeSantis’ budget also seeks to spend \$100 million to fund workforce development capitalization incentive grants to help recipients purchase of instructional equipment, lab-

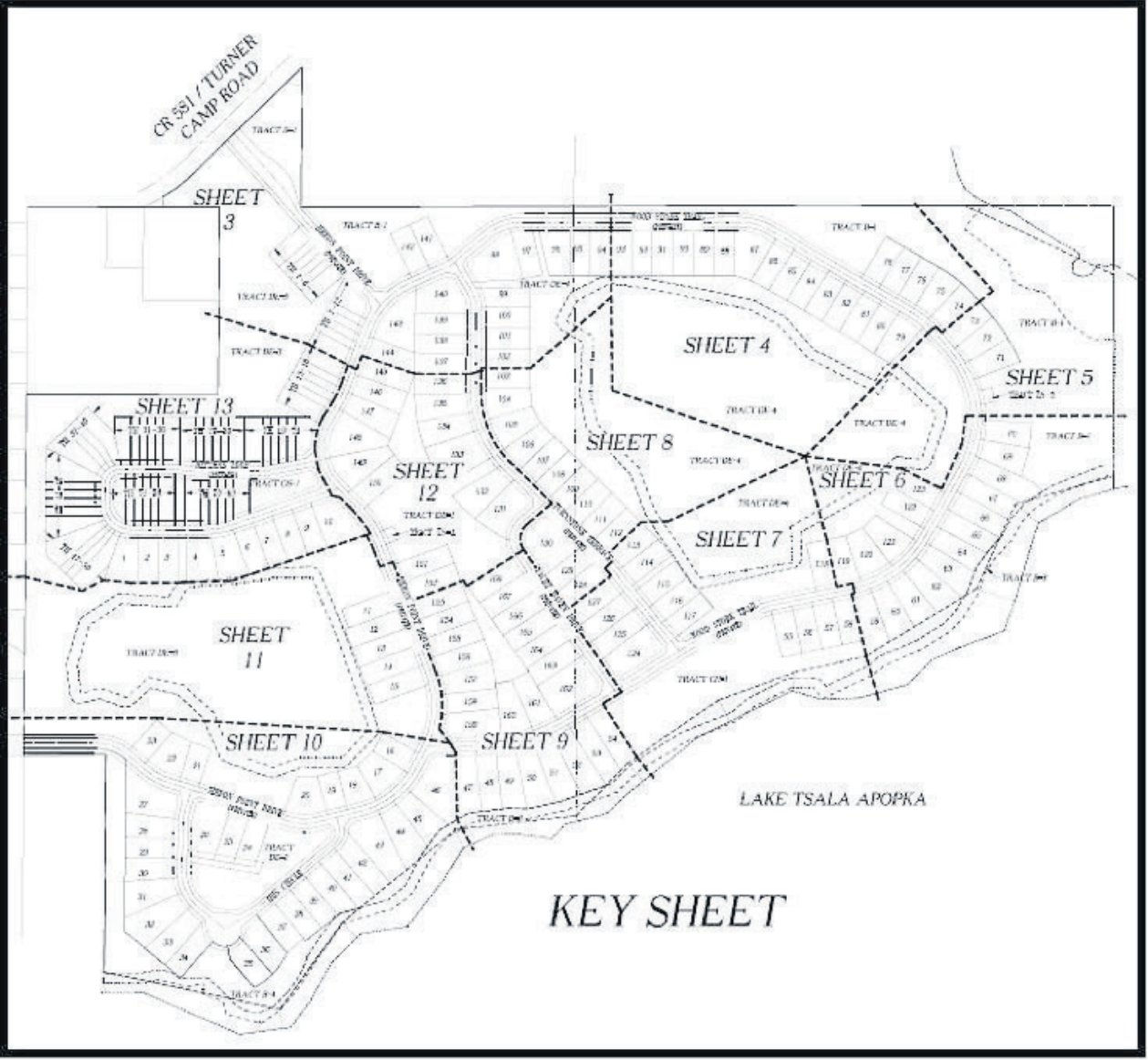
oratory equipment, supplies, or other expenses.

Florida’s higher education system has been ranked the best in the nation for five consecutive years by U.S. News and World Report. The Sunshine state boasts five of the top 100 public universities in the country, including one in the top 5, and another in the top 20.

The University of Florida was just ranked the fifth best public university in the nation by U.S. News & World Report’s 2022 Best College report. It also ranked ninth best for student outcomes, tying with Stanford and Brown universities. It was also listed among the top schools for undergraduate research and for veterans, and its online undergraduate program was ranked the third best in the country.

Florida Southern College was named the best Christian College in the state for 2022 by EDsmart. The Princeton Review’s Best 387 Colleges guide also listed it in its top 20 most beautiful campuses in the nation.

Florida’s colleges and universities also provide some of the lowest tuitions in the U.S. for public four-year institutions, the governor’s office notes.



Wyld Palms final plan.

PALMS

From page A1

requirements and complied with the few changes that city staff requested.

Williams said in early 2021 the anticipated revival of the Wyld Palms subdi-

vision was stalled because of the owner’s reluctance to risk their 300-plus condominium entitlement in favor of a subdivision with a reduced number of townhomes and single-family lots.

To address the owner’s concern, city officials of-

fered a streamlined approval process conditioned on the sale of the property to Garden Street Communities.

Williams said the developer has met all other conditions required through the development process.

The plat will be presented

to the city council during its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday, Jan. 4.

The council meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, 212 W. Main St., Inverness.

Fred Hiers is a reporter at the Citrus Chronicle. E-mail him at fred.hiers@chronicleonline.com

TAX

From page A1

below normal at 6.9 percent for November 2021,” the report said. “This was the second month of subpar savings.”

Lawmakers will start the legislative session Jan. 11 and will be flush with cash because of a flood of federal stimulus money and the higher-than-expected state tax collections. Gov. Ron DeSantis has proposed a \$99.7 billion budget that will serve as a starting point as lawmakers negotiate a final spending plan for the fiscal year that will start July 1.

Economists periodically revise projections of general revenue, with the latest revision in August. In addition to topping the projections by \$398.8 million in November, the state exceeded them by \$435.5 million in October and \$442.2 million in September.

The vast majority of the November boost came from sales taxes, which were \$294.8 million over projections, according to the report. The state had expected to collect \$2.3792

billion in sales taxes and brought in \$2.674 billion.

The state also collected \$29.1 million more than

expected in documentary-stamp taxes, which stem from real-estate transactions.

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NATION & WORLD

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



Alberto Pezzali / AP

People, some wearing masks, gather on the south bank of river Thames to celebrate New Year's Eve, in London, on New Year's Eve. In Britain, where the highly contagious variant of the coronavirus has sent caseloads soaring to record highs, Health Secretary Sajid Javid said Monday no further restrictions will be introduced in England before the new year.

UK makes omicron contingency plans for hospitals, schools

By MIKE FULLER
Associated Press

LONDON — The U.K. government has been making contingency plans in case hospitals, schools and other workplaces are hit by major staff shortages amid the country's record-breaking spike in coronavirus infections.

Public sector workplaces have been preparing for staff absences ranging from 10 percent to 25 percent as COVID-19 sickens more people or forces them to isolate, the Cabinet Office said.

The highly transmissible omicron variant has caused Britain's daily new caseload to soar over Christmas and the New Year, with a new daily high of 189,000 on Dec. 31. A further 137,583 infections and 73 deaths were added for England and Wales only on Sunday, with numbers for Scotland and Northern Ireland to be announced after the holiday weekend.

About 1 in 25 people in England — or about 2 million people — had COVID-19 in

the week before Christmas, the Office of National Statistics estimated. In London, the figure was 1 in 15.

Cabinet Office Minister Stephen Barclay said there had already been "significant" absences and the government was preparing for "every eventuality."

"It's important that those contingency plans are refreshed and that we take measures to mitigate those impacts," Barclay said.

Ministers have cited increased support for more virus testing, better ventilation in schools and workplaces, and drafting former teachers or even volunteers to prevent absences from having a serious impact on schools.

Devolved authorities in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have imposed limits on events and social gatherings in the face of the fast-spreading omicron. But Health Secretary Sajid Javid says adding new restrictions is a "last resort" for England, despite the climbing daily infection rate. Barclay backed this strategy again Sunday, ar-

guing the reintroduction of light restrictions in December as omicron began to take hold had brought about a "significant behaviour change" with people reducing their social contacts.

The public had been advised to test themselves ahead of joining any New Year's celebrations.

National Health Service leaders say absences have already added to the heavy pressures on U.K. hospitals, even though the overall number of people being treated for COVID-19 remains much lower than last winter. NHS Providers chief executive Chris Hopson said staff have been working "flat out" and the early days of 2022 would be "crucial" in showing whether further measures are needed.

Secondary school students in England will be required to wear face masks when they return to classes after the Christmas holidays. Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi said the move was an attempt to "minimise disruption" and prevent teachers and pupils

from being forced to stay at home.

The U.K. Health Security Agency has maintained its support for the seven-day isolation period for those who have contracted the virus and are fully vaccinated. But Paul Hunter, a professor of health protection at the University of East Anglia, told ITV that the requirement should be reduced to five days as studies had shown people were "very unlikely" to be infectious after this point.

The number of COVID-19 patients requiring hospital treatment across Britain has increased much more slowly than new infections, but in the last week reached its highest level since February 2021.

The government's push to deliver COVID-19 boosters has now seen over 50 percent of the population receive a third dose.

Overall, the U.K. has reported more than 13.1 million infections and more than 149,000 deaths linked to COVID-19, the second highest death toll in Europe behind Russia.

Twitter bans Rep. Greene's personal account for COVID claims

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Twitter said Sunday it had banned the personal account of far-right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene for multiple violations of the platform's COVID-19 misinformation policy, the latest strike against the firebrand whose embrace of conspiracy theories has been called "a cancer" for the GOP and led the House to boot her from committees.

The Georgia Republican's account was permanently suspended under the "strike" system Twitter launched in March, which uses artificial intelligence to identify posts about the coronavirus that are misleading enough to cause harm to people. Two or three strikes earn a 12-hour account lock. Four strikes prompt a weeklong suspension. Five or more strikes can get someone permanently removed from Twitter.

In a statement on the messaging app Telegram, Greene blasted Twitter's move as un-American. She wrote that her account was suspended after tweeting statistics from the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, a government database that includes unverified raw data.

"Twitter is an enemy to

America and can't handle the truth," Greene said. "That's fine, I'll show America we don't need them and it's time to defeat our enemies."

Twitter had previously suspended Greene's personal account for periods ranging from 12 hours to a full week. The ban applies to Greene's personal account, @mtgreenee, but does not affect her official Twitter account, @RepMTG.

The first-term has repeatedly stirred controversy over inflammatory commentary.

On social media, she has voiced support for racist views, unfounded QAnon pro-Donald Trump conspiracy theories such as the lie that the 2020 election was stolen and calls for violence against Democratic politicians, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Last February, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell called her embrace of conspiracy theories and "loony lies" a "cancer for the Republican Party." The Democratic-led House that same month tossed her from her two committee assignments, the House Education and Labor Committee as well as the House Budget Committee.



J. Scott Applewhite / AP

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., listens during a news conference about the treatment of people being held in the District of Columbia jail who are charged with crimes in the Jan. 6 insurrection, at the Capitol in Washington on Dec. 7. Twitter on Sunday banned the personal account of Greene for multiple violations of its COVID-19 misinformation policy, according to a statement from the company.

EU draft on financing nuclear and gas plants raises criticism

By RAF CASERT
and KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Draft European Union plans that would allow nuclear and gas energy to remain part of the bloc's path to a climate-friendly future came under immediate criticism over the weekend from both environmentalists and some governing political parties in EU member nations.

In draft conclusions seen by The Associated Press, the EU's executive commission proposes a classification system for defining what counts as an investment in sustainable energy. Under certain conditions, it would allow gas and nuclear energy to be part of the mix.

The plans would have a huge impact on nuclear-fired economies like France and on Germany's gas-fueled power plants since they might have had to fundamentally change their strategies.

Energy use accounts for about three-quarters the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the EU and is thus instrumental to the 27-nation bloc's efforts to meet its commitments for curbing global warming.

The plans still need the backing of a large majority of the 27 member states and a simple majority in the European Parliament. But the



Julian Stratenschulte via AP

Steam rises from the cooling towers of the Grohnde nuclear power plant near Grohnde, Germany on Dec. 29.

initial thrust from the EU Commission is a key element of the procedure for passage.

"Classifying investments in gas and nuclear power as sustainable contradicts the Green Deal," the EU's initiative that is intended to make the bloc climate-neutral by 2050, said Ska Keller, the president of the Green group in the European Parliament.

France has asked for nuclear power to be included in the so-called "taxonomy" by the end of the year, leading the charge with several other EU countries that operate nuclear power plants and want to make it eligible for green financing.

French Minister for European Affairs Clement Beaune said the proposal is good on a technical level and insisted on Sunday that the bloc "cannot become carbon neutral by 2050 without nuclear energy.

Germany, the EU's biggest economy, is heading the other way, Germany shut down half of the six nuclear plants it still had in operation on Friday, a year before the country draws the final curtain on its decades-long use of atomic power.

Gas is a polluting fossil fuel, but it is still considered a bridge technology by the EU to reach a cleaner energy future.

German Economy Minister Robert Habeck criticized the plan to classify investments in gas and nuclear power plants as climate-friendly.

"The EU Commission's proposals water down the good label for sustainability," Habeck, who represents the Germany's environmentalist Greens in the country's coalition government, told German news agency dpa. "We don't see how to approve the new proposals of the EU Commission," he said.

Fauci: CDC mulling COVID test requirement for asymptomatic

By HOPE YEN
and AAMER MADHANI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the COVID-19 omicron variant surges across the United States, top federal health officials are looking to add a negative test along with its five-day isolation restrictions for asymptomatic Americans who catch the coronavirus, the White House's top medical adviser said Sunday.

Dr. Anthony Fauci said the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is now considering including the negative test as part of its guidance after getting significant "pushback" on its updated recommendations last week.

Under that Dec. 27 guidance, isolation restrictions for people infected with COVID-19 were shortened from 10 days to five days if they are no longer feeling symptoms or running a fever. After that period, they are asked to spend the following five days wearing a mask when around others.

The guidelines have since received criticism from many health professionals for not specifying a negative antigen test as a requirement for leaving isolation.

"There has been some concern about why we don't ask people at that five-day period to get tested," Fauci said. "Looking at it again, there

may be an option in that, that testing could be a part of that, and I think we're going to be hearing more about that in the next day or so from the CDC."

Fauci, the nation's top infectious diseases expert, said the U.S. has been seeing almost a "vertical increase" of new cases, now averaging 400,000 cases a day, with hospitalizations also up.

"We are definitely in the middle of a very severe surge and uptick in cases," he said. "The acceleration of cases that we've seen is really unprecedented, gone well beyond anything we've seen before."

Fauci said he's concerned that the omicron variant is overwhelming the health care system and causing a "major disruption" on other essential services.

"When I say major disruptions, you're certainly going to see stresses on the system and the system being people with any kind of jobs ... particularly with critical jobs to keep society functioning normally," Fauci said. "We already know that there are reports from fire departments, from police departments in different cities that 10, 20, 25 and sometimes 30 percent of the people are ill. That's something that we need to be concerned about, because we want to make sure that we don't have such an impact on society that

there really is a disruption. I hope that doesn't happen."

While there is "accumulating evidence" that omicron might lead to less severe illness, he cautioned that the data remains early. Fauci said he worries in particular about the tens of millions of unvaccinated Americans because "a fair number of them are going to get severe disease."

He urged Americans who have not yet gotten vaccinated and boosted to do so and to mask up indoors to protect themselves and blunt the current surge of U.S. cases.

The Food and Drug Administration last week said preliminary research indicates at-home rapid tests detect omicron, but may have reduced sensitivity. The agency noted it's still studying how the tests perform with the variant, which was first detected in late November.

Fauci said Americans "should not get the impression that those tests are not valuable."

"I think the confusion is that rapid antigen tests have never been as sensitive as the PCR test," Fauci said. "They're very good when they are given sequentially. So if you do them like maybe two or three times over a few-day period, at the end of the day, they are as good as the PCR. But as a single test, they are not as sensitive."

Brady rallies Bucs past Jets

Wide receiver Antonio Brown walks away from team after tirade on sideline

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
AP Pro Football Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Antonio Brown was apparently frustrated and angry. So he walked away. From the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. And possibly his NFL career.

The mercurial wide receiver was kicked off the Buccaneers after a bizarre, shirtless exit from the field before Tom Brady coolly led the Bucs on a 93-yard drive in the final minutes for a 28-24 victory over the New York Jets on Sunday.

Coach Bruce Arians said after the game Brown was off the team.

“He is no longer a Buc,” Arians said. “All right? That’s the end of the story. Let’s talk about the guys who went out there and won the game.”

Brown’s mid-game meltdown came late in the third quarter with Tampa Bay trailing 24-10. He appeared animated while talking to Mike Evans, who tried to calm his teammate. But Brown stripped off his pads, jersey, gloves and T-shirt — tossing the gloves and T-shirt into the stands — and then walked bare-chested down the sideline and into the end zone. He then waved to fans as jogged through the end zone and into the tunnel at MetLife Stadium.

It appeared to be a show of frustration by Brown, who had three catches for 26 yards.

“I’m not talking about it,” Arians said. “He’s not part of the Bucs.”

Brown was suspended last month for three games for violating the league’s COVID-19 protocols. He also has a history of personal conduct issues and bizarre behavior.



Tampa Bay Buccaneers tight end Cameron Brate (84) scores a touchdown during the second half of Sunday's game against the New York Jets in East Rutherford, N.J.

“It’s a difficult situation,” Brady said. “Everybody should do what they can to help him in ways that he really needs it. We all love him. We care about him deeply. We want to see him be at his best. Unfortunately, it won’t be with our team. ... I think everyone should be very compassionate and empathetic toward some very difficult things that are happening.”

Brady connected with Cameron Brate for a touchdown on fourth-and-goal from the 4 shortly after Brown’s exit, and the QB finished the Bucs’ rally with a 33-yard touchdown pass to Cyril Grayson with 15 seconds left.

The Bucs stuffed Jets QB Zach Wilson on fourth-and-2 at the 7 for no gain with New York trying to seal the victory. New York

coach Robert Saleh said the play should’ve been a reverse to wide receiver Braxton Berrios, but Wilson had the option to sneak it based on the look.

“We did a very poor job of communicating that,” Saleh said, adding that “it just makes you sick” because a handoff to Berrios would’ve likely been a first down.

Instead, it gave Brady and the Bucs the ball back with

2:12 left.

And that was more than enough time.

Brady marched the Buccaneers (12-4) down the field on nine plays, zipping a pass to Grayson — who was elevated from the practice squad — for the go-ahead score. It was Brady’s third TD pass of the game and 40th of the season, joining

See **BUCS**, page B3

Rivals meet again

Alabama takes on Georgia for the CFP title

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS — Alabama has a chance to repeat. Georgia has a chance for revenge.

The rematch is set, and it will decide the College Football Playoff national championship. After a pair of easy wins in the semifinals on Friday night, the Crimson Tide and the Bulldogs — the only two teams to be ranked No. 1 in the AP Top 25 this season — will meet again to decide the title on Jan. 10 in Indianapolis.

Alabama will be seeking a seventh national championship in the last 13 years under coach Nick Saban. Georgia is playing with hopes of claiming its first national title since Herschel Walker led the Bulldogs to the title in the 1980 season.

“I think we’re good enough,” Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett said in the din of the Orange Bowl postgame celebration. “Obviously, they’re a great team. But we’re going to enjoy this one tonight and start preparing for them tomorrow.”

This matchup comes after Alabama — big underdogs entering that game — had little trouble in what became a 41-24 win over Georgia in the SEC championship game back on Dec. 4, costing the Bulldogs a chance at an undefeated season and giving the defending national champion Crimson Tide a trip back into the playoff mix.

Alabama needed that win.

Weirdly, Georgia felt it needed that loss.

“For our team, it was a wake-up call,” Georgia offensive lineman Jamarie Salyer said that night. “I think we needed one. We got a wake-up call from a really good team. If we get a chance in the playoffs, I think that wake-up call will help propel us forward.”

Oh, the Bulldogs were awake on Friday night.

They blew out Michigan 34-11 in the Orange Bowl, taking the field not long after Alabama had little trouble dismissing Cincinnati 27-6 in the other CFP semifinal at the Cotton Bowl.

“To have another opportunity to play for a national championship ... it’s like a dream come true,” Alabama running back Brian Robinson Jr. said after the Cotton Bowl.

Predictably, the Tide didn’t do much talking about Georgia following their win. Most teams would never go down that road, talking about an opponent in tournament play before the next matchup is actually set. But Georgia, playing the later game on Friday, probably could have let Alabama begin entering its thoughts probably somewhere around halftime when the Bulldogs had a 27-3 lead over the Wolverines.

“We’ve got a lot of things to fix,” Georgia coach Kirby Smart said after the Orange Bowl. “We got to fix some of them over the break. They got about a five-, six-hour head start on us. We’ve

See **CFP**, page B3

2021 ALL-CHRONICLE CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS

Fastest from the county on any surface

By MATT PFIFFNER
Sports editor

Boys

Cody Bishir, senior, Citrus
Randall Luke, junior, Citrus
Brandon Rydzewski, senior, Lecanto
Logan Shaw, junior, Citrus
Miles Tobin, 8th grade, Seven Rivers Christian
Thomas Tyler, senior, Citrus
Tristan Woods, senior, Citrus

Boys Runner of the Year finalists
Brandon Rydzewski, Sr., Lecanto

The Panther senior won the Gulf Coast 8 Conference title this season, placed second in the Citrus County Championships, was 13th at districts and ninth at regionals, just missing out on qualifying for the state championships.

Thomas Tyler, Sr., Citrus

Was the leader of a strong Hurricanes team that made a return trip to state. Tyler was second in the GC8, won the county title, placed eighth at districts, 11th at regionals and paced Citrus at 3A state with a 29th-place effort.

Tristan Woods, Sr., Citrus

Pushed teammate Thomas Tyler for the top spot on the team all season. Woods was third in the GC8 and county meets, 14th at districts, 12th at regionals and finished off the season 42nd at the state finals.

Girls

Alex Garcia, senior, Lecanto
Kendall Gibson, senior, Citrus
Elise Leturno, senior, Lecanto
Frances Martins, sophomore, Citrus
Aubrey Mueller, junior, Citrus
Mackenzie Scordato, senior, Citrus
Catalina Veldwijk, sophomore, Lecanto

Girls Runner of the Year finalists
Kendall Gibson, Sr., Citrus

A strong performer for the Hurricanes her entire career, Gibson placed third in the Gulf Coast 8 Conference, was the county runner-up, placed 25th at districts and 47th at regionals.

Mackenzie Scordato, Sr., Citrus

The Hurricane closed out a stellar career with another outstanding season. She was runner-up in the GC8, won the Citrus County Championship, placed third at districts and 27th at regionals.

Catalina Veldwijk, So., Lecanto

The sophomore Panther won the GC8 championship this fall, placed fifth at districts and seventh at regionals to qualify for the Class 3A state championships, where she finished 43rd.

Note: The athlete of the year finalists and winners in each sport will be honored this spring at the annual Student Athletic Recognition banquet.



Brandon Rydzewski, senior, Lecanto



Thomas Tyler, senior, Citrus



Tristan Woods, senior, Citrus



Kendall Gibson, senior, Citrus



Mackenzie Scordato, senior, Citrus



Catalina Veldwijk, sophomore, Lecanto



WEEK 17

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-Buffalo	10	6	0	.625	456	279
x-New England	10	6	0	.625	438	270
e-Miami	8	8	0	.500	308	349
e-N.Y. Jets	4	12	0	.250	300	477
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Tennessee	11	5	0	.688	391	329
Indianapolis	9	7	0	.563	418	339
e-Houston	4	12	0	.250	255	424
e-Jacksonville	2	14	0	.125	227	446
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Cincinnati	10	6	0	.625	444	355
Pittsburgh	7	7	1	.500	301	371
Baltimore	8	8	0	.500	374	376
e-Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	314	329

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Kansas City	11	5	0	.688	452	340
L.A. Chargers	9	7	0	.563	442	424
Las Vegas	9	7	0	.563	339	407
Denver	7	9	0	.438	311	294

NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Dallas	11	5	0	.688	479	332
Phila.	9	7	0	.563	418	334
e-Washington	6	10	0	.375	313	427
e-N.Y. Giants	4	12	0	.250	251	394
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Tampa Bay	12	4	0	.750	470	336
New Orleans	8	8	0	.500	334	315
e-Atlanta	7	9	0	.438	293	429
e-Carolina	5	11	0	.313	287	363
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	383	324
Minnesota	7	8	0	.467	384	372
e-Chicago	6	10	0	.375	294	376
e-Detroit	2	13	1	.156	288	437
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-L.A. Rams	12	4	0	.750	436	345
x-Arizona	11	5	0	.688	419	328
San Francisco	9	7	0	.563	400	341
e-Seattle	6	10	0	.375	357	336

e-Eliminated from playoffs						
x-clinched playoff spot						
y-clinched division						

Sunday's Games						
Buffalo 29, Atlanta 15						
Chicago 29, N.Y. Giants 3						
Cincinnati 34, Kansas City 31						
L.A. Rams 20, Baltimore 19						
Las Vegas 23, Indianapolis 20						
New England 50, Jacksonville 10						
Phila. 20, Washington 16						
Tampa Bay 28, N.Y. Jets 24						
Tennessee 34, Miami 3						
L.A. Chargers 34, Denver 13						
San Francisco 23, Houston 7						
Arizona 25, Dallas 22						
New Orleans 18, Carolina 10						
Seattle 51, Detroit 29						
Minnesota at Green Bay						

Monday's Games						
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m.						
Sunday, Jan. 9						
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.						
Chicago at Minnesota, 1 p.m.						
Cincinnati at Cleveland, 1 p.m.						
Dallas at Phila., 1 p.m.						
Green Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.						
Indianapolis at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.						
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, 1 p.m.						
New England at Miami, 1 p.m.						
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1 p.m.						
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 1 p.m.						
Tennessee at Houston, 1 p.m.						
Washington at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.						
Kansas City at Denver, 4:25 p.m.						
L.A. Chargers at Las Vegas, 4:25 p.m.						
San Francisco at L.A. Rams, 4:25 p.m.						
Seattle at Arizona, 4:25 p.m.						

TAMPA BAY 28, N.Y. JETS 24						
Tampa Bay	7	3	7	11	—	28
N.Y. Jets	7	10	7	0	—	24
First Quarter						
NYJ—Berrios 1 run (Pineiro kick), 12:04.						
TB—Evans 4 pass from Brady (Succop kick), 5:43.						
Second Quarter						
NYJ—Berrios 9 pass from Wilson (Pineiro kick), 13:43.						
TB—FG Succop 39, 10:50.						
NYJ—FG Pineiro 51, :01.						
Third Quarter						
NYJ—Ty-Johnson 1 run (Pineiro kick), 6:56.						
TB—Brate 4 pass from Brady (Succop kick), :29.						
Fourth Quarter						
TB—FG Succop 27, 7:36.						
TB—Grayson 33 pass from Brady (Bell run), :15.						
A—72,243.						

	TB	NYJ
First downs	26	22
Total Net Yards	467	374
Rushes-yards	21-62	26-150
Passing	4-05	224
Punt Returns	1-3	0-0
Kickoff Returns	1-7	5-119
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-30
Comp-Att-Int	34-50-1	19-33-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-5	1-10
Punts	3-34.667	4-38.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	4-39	2-14
Time of Possession	33:03	26:57

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS						
Rushing—Tampa Bay, Vaughn 8-31, Jones 10-26, Bell 3-5. N.Y. Jets, Carter 3-54, Walter 14-49, Johnson 5-35, Berrios 2-12, Wilson 2-0.						
Passing—Tampa Bay, Brady 34-50-1-410. N.Y. Jets, Wilson 19-33-0-234.						
Receiving—Tampa Bay, Gronkowski 7-115, Grayson 6-81, Johnson 4-50, Evans 4-47, Bell 3-30, Brown 3-26, Perriman 2-41, Vaughn 2-14, Brate 2-5, Jones 1-1. N.Y. Jets, Berrios 8-65, Johnson 3-47, Yeboah 2-36, Cole 2-35, Brown 2-29, J.Smith 1-13, Carter 1-9.						
Missed Field Goals—None.						

TENNESSEE 34, MIAMI 3						
Miami	0	3	0	0	—	3
Tennessee	7	10	0	17	—	34
First Quarter						
Ten—Swain 1 pass from Tannehill (Bullock kick), 1:24.						
Second Quarter						
Ten—FG Bullock 23, 14:15.						
Mia—FG Sanders 39, 9:43.						
Ten—Foreman 21 run (Bullock kick), 3:18.						
Fourth Quarter						
Ten—Firkser 15 pass from Tannehill (Bullock kick), 7:42.						
Ten—FG Bullock 44, 2:58.						
Ten—Hilliard 39 run (Bullock kick), 1:53.						
A—69,091.						

	Mia	Ten
First downs	16	17
Total Net Yards	256	308
Rushes-yards	16-74	40-198
Passing	18-2	110
Punt Returns	2-15	3-28
Interceptions Ret.	2-34	1-24
Kickoff Returns	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	18-39-1	13-18-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-23	1-10
Punts	4-36.75	4-44.25
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-55	6-70
Time of Possession	26:48	32:58

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS						
Rushing—Miami, D.Johnson 7-49, Gaskin 5-23, Tagovailoa 2-1, Lindsay 2-1. Tennessee, Foreman 26-132, Hilliard 8-45, McNichols 2-14, Tannehill 4-7.						
Passing—Miami, Tagovailoa 18-38-1-205, Gesicki 0-1-0-0. Tennessee, Tannehill 13-18-0-120.						
Receiving—Miami, Gesicki 4-51, Parker 4-46, Waddle 3-47, Smythe 3-37, D.Johnson 2-16, Lindsay 1-8, Ford 1-0. Tennessee, Hilliard 3-33, Firkser 3-24, Swain 3-9, A.Brown 2-41, Rogers 2-13.						
Missed Field Goals—Miami, Sanders 53.						



Wade Payne / AP

Tennessee Titans wide receiver A.J. Brown (11) gets past Miami Dolphins defenders Miami Dolphins Xavier Howard (25) and Jevon Holland (8) in the first half of Sunday's game in Nashville, Tenn.

Titans clinch 2nd straight AFC South, beating Miami 34-3

By TERESA M. WALKER
AP Pro Football Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Tennessee Titans are dancing as back-to-back AFC South champs in a season when they lost the NFL's leading rusher at Halloween and have used 88 players – most ever in a non-strike season for the NFL.

Ryan Tannehill threw two touchdown passes as the Tennessee Titans clinched their second straight division title Sunday, snapping

the Miami Dolphins' seven-game winning streak with a 34-3 win.

Miami came in as the first team in NFL history to win seven straight after a seven-game skid. That surge helped push the Dolphins into the third and final wildcard spot in the AFC, but this loss seriously damaged their playoff hopes.

“Anytime you don’t have the performance that you’re looking for, you’re disappointed,” Miami coach Brian Flores said.

ARIZONA 25, DALLAS 22						
Arizona	3	10	9	3	—	25
Dallas	0	7	0	15	—	22
First Quarter						
Ari—FG Prater 24, 7:46.						
Second Quarter						
Ari—Wesley 1 pass from K.Murray (Prater kick), 5:27.						
Dal—Gault 21 pass from Prescott (Zuerlein kick), 1:25.						
Ari—FG Prater 53, :00.						
Third Quarter						
Ari—Wesley 19 pass from K.Murray (pass failed), 9:39.						
Ari—FG Prater 26, 4:01.						
Fourth Quarter						
Dal—C.Wilson 2 pass from Prescott (Zuerlein kick), 13:49.						
Ari—FG Prater 38, 8:32.						
Dal—Cooper 4 pass from Prescott (C.Wilson pass from Prescott), 4:42.						

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Tampa Bay	34	21	8	5	47	109	101
Florida	32	21	7	4	46	122	95
Toronto	31	21	8	2	44	104	76
Boston	28	16	10	2	34	80	73
Detroit	33	15	15	3	33	90	112
Buffalo	33	10	17	6	26	89	116
Ottawa	29	9	18	2	20	79	107
Montreal	34	7	23	4	18	73	123
Metropolitan Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Washington	34	20	6	8	48	119	89
Carolina	31	23	7	1	47	106	66
N.Y. Rangers	33	21	8	4	46	97	84
Pittsburgh	31	18	8	5	41	99	81
Philadelphia	32	13	13	6	32	85	106
Columbus	30	15	14	1	31	99	105
New Jersey	33	13	15	5	31	96	116
N.Y. Islanders	28	10	12	6	26	64	80

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	33	19	9	5	43	116	91
Nashville	33	20	11	2	42	101	89
Minnesota	31	19	10	2	40	116	98
Colorado	28	18	8	2	38	119	93
Winnipeg	31	15	11	5	35	95	91
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85
Chicago	32	11	17	4	26	74	108
Arizona	30	6	21	3	15	63	117

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Vegas	35	22	12	1	45	127	107
Anaheim	35	17	11	7	41	107	98
Calgary	30	17	7	6	40	98	67
Edmonton	32	18	12	2	38	110	103
Los Angeles	33	16	12	5	37	91	89
San Jose	33	17	15	1	35	94	102
Vancouver	34	16	15	3	35	89	95
Seattle	33	10	19	4	24	92	122

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Saturday's Games
Florida 5, Montreal 2
Carolina 7, Columbus 4
Boston 4, Buffalo 3, OT
N.Y. Islanders 3, Edmonton 2, OT
Nashville 6, Chicago 1
Toronto 6, Ottawa 0
St. Louis 6, Minnesota 4
Vancouver 5, Seattle 2
Los Angeles 6, Philadelphia 3

Sunday's Games
N.Y. Rangers 4, Tampa Bay 0
Pittsburgh 8, San Jose 5
Boston 5, Detroit 1
Colorado 4, Anaheim 2
New Jersey 4, Washington 3, OT
Winnipeg 5, Vegas 4, OT
Calgary 5, Chicago 1
Dallas at Arizona, ppd

Monday's Games
Edmonton at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Toronto, ppd
Minnesota at Ottawa, ppd

Tuesday's Games
Calgary at Florida, 7 p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Washington at Montreal, ppd
San Jose at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Winnipeg at Arizona, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Seattle, ppd
Nashville at Vegas, 10 p.m.
Philadelphia at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Edmonton at Toronto, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Pittsburgh, 7:30 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver, ppd

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE							
Atlantic Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Brooklyn	23	11	.676	—			
Phila.	19	16	.543	4½			
Boston	18	19	.486	6½			
Toronto	16	17	.485	6½			
New York	17	20	.459	7½			
Southeast Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Miami	23	14	.622	—			
Charlotte	19	18	.514	4			
Washington	18	18	.500	4½			
Atlanta	16	19	.457	6			
Orlando	7	30	.189	16			
Central Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Chicago	24	10	.706	—			
Milwaukee	25	13	.658	1			
Cleveland	21	16	.568	4½			
Indiana	14	23	.378	11½			
Detroit	6	28	.176	18			

WESTERN CONFERENCE							
Southwest Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Memphis	23	14	.622	—			
Dallas	18	18	.500	4½			
San Antonio	14	21	.400	8			
New Orleans	13	23	.361	9½			
Houston	10	27	.270	13			

Northwest Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Utah	26	10	.722	—			
Denver	18	16	.529	7			
Minnesota	16	19	.457	9½			
Portland	13	22	.371	12½			
Oklahoma City	13	23	.361	13			

Pacific Division							
	W	L	Pct	GB			
Golden State	28	7	.800	—			
Phoenix	28	8	.778	½			
L.A. Clippers	19	18	.514	10			
L.A. Lakers	18	19	.486	11			
Sacramento	16	22	.421	13½			

Saturday's Games
Milwaukee 136, New Orleans 113
Chicago 120, Washington 119
Detroit 117, San Antonio 116, OT
L.A. Clippers 120, Brooklyn 116
Denver 124, Houston 111
Golden State 123, Utah 116

Sunday's Games
Toronto 120, New York 105
Sacramento 115, Miami 113
Cleveland 108, Indiana 104
Boston 116, Orlando 111, OT
Dallas 95, Oklahoma City 86
Phoenix 133, Charlotte 99
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers

Monday's Games
Charlotte at Washington, 7 p.m.
Houston at Phila., 7 p.m.
Memphis at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.
Detroit at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Chicago, 8 p.m.
Utah at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Denver at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Atlanta at Portland, 10 p.m.
Miami at Golden State, 10 p.m.
Minnesota at L.A. Clippers, 10:30 p.m.

Tuesday's Games
Memphis at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Indiana at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at New Orleans, 8 p.m.
Sacramento at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday's Games
Detroit at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Houston at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phila. at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Indiana, 7:30 p.m.
Golden State at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
San Antonio at Boston, 7:30 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
Atlanta at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Miami at Portland, 10 p.m.
Utah at Denver, 10 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Men's scores	
EAST	
Arcadia 88, Immaculata 60	
Binghamton 68, Mass.-Lowell 63	
California (Pa.) 81, Kutztown 64	
Christopher Newport 85, Widener 47	
Colby 84, Maine Maritime 69	
Cornell 79, Dartmouth 71	
Houston 66, Temple 61	
Iona 69, Marist 66	
NJIT 69, Maine 66	
North Carolina 91, Boston College 65	
Penn 77, Brown 73	
Penn St. 61, Indiana 58	
Penn State-Erie 73, Carnegie Mellon 70	
Post (Conn.) 93, Holy Family 55	
Rhode Island 70, American International 55	
St. Lawrence 60, Elmira 57	
Susquehanna 86, Lebanon Valley 60	
Swarthmore 89, Stevens College 66	
Vassar 75, Moravian 64	
Wingate 93, Virginia-Wise 72	
SOUTH	
Auburn-Montgomery 68, Lee 61	
Barry 98, St. Leo 84	
Christian Brothers 69, West Georgia 65	
Coastal Carolina 76, Emory & Henry 62	
Delta St. 72, Mississippi College 66	
Emory 87, Oglethorpe 65	
Huntingdon 70, Mississippi Women Owls 67	
Louisville 67, Georgia Tech 64	
Lynn 81, Rollins 60	
Nova Southeastern 93, Embry-Riddle (AZ) 71	
Tampa 91, Palm Beach Atlantic 67	
West Alabama 84, Valdosta St. 74	

FLORIDA LOTTERY

Sunday's winning numbers

Cash4Life
08-14-19-27-28, Cash Ball: 2

Mega Millions jackpot
\$244 million

Pick 2 Evening
1-5, Fireball: 8

Pick 2 Midday
8-9, Fireball: 6

Pick 3 Evening
3-1-6, Fireball: 8

Pick 3 Midday
6-1-0, Fireball: 6

Pick 4 Evening
6-1-3-5, Fireball: 8

Pick 4 Midday
6-4-9-2, Fireball: 6

Pick 5 Evening
0-8-9-0-2, Fireball: 8

Pick 5 Midday
3-0-4-5-5, Fireball: 6

Powerball jackpot
\$522 million

ON THE AIRWAVES

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

7 p.m. (BTN): Wisconsin at Purdue
7 p.m. (ESPNU): West Virginia at TCU
9 p.m. (BTN): Maryland at Iowa

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

7 p.m. (SEC): Mississippi State at Kentucky
NBA

7:30 p.m. (NBA): Memphis Grizzlies at Brooklyn Nets
8 p.m. (BSFL): Orlando Magic at Chicago Bulls
10 p.m. (NBA): Miami Heat at Golden State Warriors

NFL

8 p.m. (ESPN, ESPN2): Cleveland Browns at Pittsburgh Steelers

HOCKEY

12 a.m. (NHL): Edmonton Oilers at New York Rangers
(Same-day Tape)

PREMIER LEAGUE SOCCER

12:30 p.m. (USA): Manchester United vs Wolverhampton Wanderers

MIDWEST

Augustana (SD) 71, Wayne St. (Neb.) 55
Bemidji St. 70, Minn.-Crookston 46
Capital 88, Olivet 80
Indiana St. 76, Bradley 71
Manchester 88, Transylvania 80
Michigan St. 73, Northwestern 67
Minnesota St. 92, Concordia (St.P.) 82
Missouri St. 61, Drake 56
Missouri-St. Louis 82, Rockhurst 62
N. Iowa 83, Evansville 61
Northern St. 83, Minn. St. (Moorhead) 80, 20T
Ohio St. 87, Nebraska 79
Quincy 71, Maryville (Mo.) 67
S. Indiana 68, McKendree 55
S.D. Mines 82, W. Colorado 77, OT
Saginaw Valley St. 92, Indiana-Northwest 68
Saint Louis 76, Richmond 69
Sioux Falls 72, SW Minnesota 71, OT
Truman St. 74, Lindenwood (Mo.) 56
Valparaiso 81, Illinois St. 76, OT
Winona St. 73, Upper Iowa 68, OT

SOUTHWEST

Ark.-Fort Smith 74, Cameron 63
Incarnate Word 90, Dallas Christian 45
SMU 72, UCF 60
St. Thomas (Texas) 81, Dallas Crusaders 72
Texas A&M Commerce 73, Dallas Baptist 64
Texas-Permian Basin 66, St. Edwards 65
Texas-Tyler 69, Midwestern St. 68
West Texas A&M 91, Oklahoma Christian 56

FAR WEST

CS Monterey Bay 75, San Francisco St. 74
CSU-Marcos 70, Cal State-LA 61
CSU-Chico 61, CS Stanislaus 55
California 74, Arizona St. 50
Humboldt St. 84, Sonoma St. 60
Schreiner 87, Colorado College 82

Women's scores

EAST

Army 69, Bucknell 62
Boston U. 82, Navy 58
Columbia 65, Yale 56
Cornell 45, Dartmouth 36
Fordham 63, Fairleigh Dickinson 36
Lehigh 72, Colgate 52
NJIT 67, Maine 59, OT
Penn 66, Brown 37
Princeton 68, Harvard 50
Stony Brook 77, Hartford 39
Villanova 70, St. John's 68

SOUTH

Alabama 56, Auburn 53
Duke 72, Notre Dame 70
Georgia 73, Florida 69
LSU 75, Texas A&M 66
Louisville 50, Georgia Tech 48
North Carolina 81, Clemson 62
South Carolina 80, Mississippi St. 68
Virginia Tech 66, Wake Forest 53
W. Carolina 79, Montreat 23

MIDWEST

Creighton 67, Xavier 51
IUPUI 77, Wright St. 62
Indiana 70, Maryland 63, OT
Iowa 93, Evansville 56
Iowa St. 88, West Virginia 72
Kansas St. 68, Baylor 59
Missouri St. 74, Valparaiso 62
Purdue 60, Rutgers 58
S. Illinois 63, Loyola Chicago 50

SOUTHWEST

Cent. Arkansas 71, Jarvis Christian 63
Oklahoma 97, Texas Tech 91
SMU 79, TCU 53
Tennessee 70, Arkansas 63
Texas 62, Oklahoma St. 51

FAR WEST
Oregon 88, Fighting Saints 57
Stanford 82, Washington St. 44

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Friday, Dec. 17
Bahamas Bowl
Nassau, Bahamas
Middle Tennessee 31, Toledo 24

Cure Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
Coastal Carolina 47, N. Illinois 41

Saturday, Dec. 18
Boca Raton Bowl
Boca Raton, Fla.
W. Kentucky 59, Appalachian St. 38

Celebration Bowl
Atlanta
SC State 31, Jackson St. 10

New Mexico Bowl
Albuquerque
Fresno St. 31, UTEP 24

Independence Bowl
Shreveport, La.
UAB 31, No. 12 BYU 28

LendingTree Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Liberty 56, E. Michigan 20

LA Bowl
Inglewood, Calif.
Utah St. 24, Oregon St. 13

New Orleans Bowl
New Orleans
No. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette 36, Marshall 21

Monday, Dec. 20
Myrtle Beach Bowl
Conway, S.C.
Tulsa 30, Old Dominion 17

Tuesday, Dec. 21
Famous Idaho Potato Bowl
Boise, Idaho
Wyoming 52, Kent State 38

Frisco Bowl
Frisco, Texas
San Diego St. 38, UTSA 24

Wednesday, Dec. 22
Armed Forces Bowl
Fort Worth, Texas
Army 24, Missouri 22

Thursday, Dec. 23
Frisco Football Classic
Frisco, Texas
Miami (Ohio) 27, North Texas 14

Gasparilla Bowl
Tampa, Fla.
UCF 29, Florida 17

Friday, Dec. 24
Hawaii Bowl
Honolulu
Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), canceled

Saturday, Dec. 25
Camellia Bowl
Montgomery, Ala.
Georgia St. 51, Ball St. 20

Monday, Dec. 27
Quick Lane Bowl
Detroit

W. Michigan 52, Nevada 24
Military Bowl
Annapolis, Md.
Boston College (6-6) vs. East Carolina (7-5), canceled

Tuesday, Dec. 28
Birmingham Bowl
Birmingham, Ala.
No. 21 Houston 17, Auburn 13

SERVPRO First Responder Bowl
Dallas
Air Force 31, Louisville 28

Liberty Bowl
Memphis, Tenn.
Texas Tech 34, Mississippi St. 7

Holiday Bowl
San Diego
UCLA (8-4) vs. No. 18 NC State (9-3), canceled

Guaranteed Rate Bowl
Phoenix
Minnesota 18, West Virginia 6

Wednesday, Dec. 29
Fenway Bowl
Boston
Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), canceled

Pinstripe Bowl
New York
Maryland 54, Virginia Tech 10

Cheez-It Bowl
Orlando, Fla.
No. 19 Clemson 20, Iowa St. 13

Alamo Bowl
San Antonio
No. 14 Oklahoma 47, No. 15 Oregon 32

Thursday, Dec. 30
Duke's Mayo Bowl
Charlotte, N.C.
South Carolina 38, North Carolina 21

Music City Bowl
Nashville
Purdue 48, Tennessee 45, OT

Peach Bowl
Atlanta
No. 11 Michigan St. 31, No. 13 Pittsburgh 21

Las Vegas Bowl
Las Vegas
Wisconsin 20, Arizona St. 13

Friday, Dec. 31
College Football Playoff Semifinal
Cotton Bowl Classic
Arlington, Texas
No. 1 Alabama 27, No. 4 Cincinnati 6

College Football Playoff Semifinal
Orange Bowl
Miami Gardens, Fla.
No. 3 Georgia 34, No. 2 Michigan 11

Gator Bowl
Jacksonville, Fla.
No. 20 Wake Forest 38, Rutgers 10

Sun Bowl
El Paso, Texas
Cent. Michigan 24, Washington St. 21

Arizona Bowl
Tucson, Ariz.
No. 20

Zibanejad has hat trick as Rangers beat Bolts

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Mika Zibanejad set up many of Chris Kreider’s team-leading 19 goals this season. On Sunday, it was Kreider getting assists on each of Zibanejad’s three scores.

Zibanejad had his eighth career hat trick, Igor Shesterkin stopped 38 shots for his second shutout of the season and the New York Rangers beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 4-0.

“First game of 2022, let’s flip that,” Zibanejad said of his play with Kreider. “He has that in his game as well. He’s a goal-scorer, but he makes great passes and you have to be ready for them. That was the case today.”

Ryan Strome also scored and Adam Fox had two assists to help New York win for the third time in five games (3-1-1). The Rangers beat the Lightning for the second time in three days after a 4-3 shootout victory at Tampa, Florida, on Friday night.

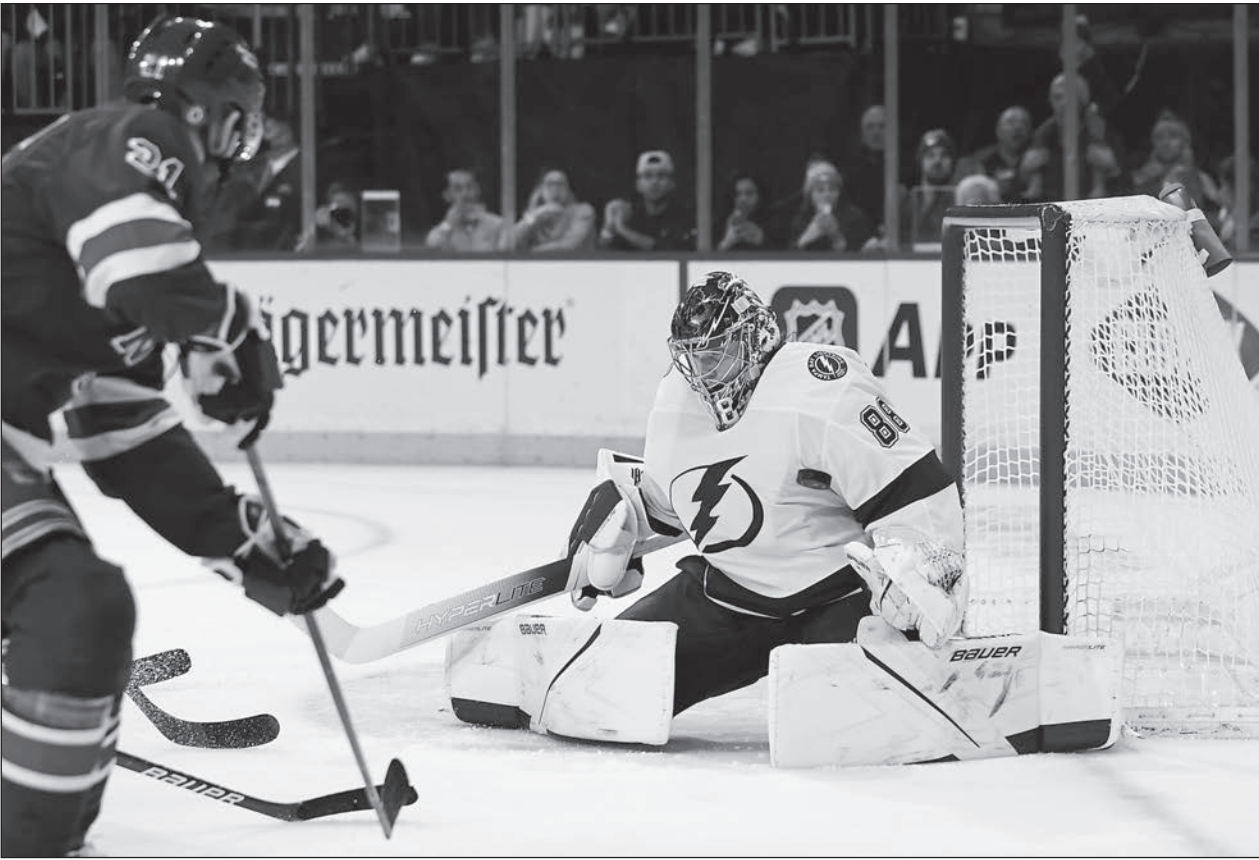
New York was without star forward Artemi Panarin, who was placed in COVID-19 protocols Sunday.

“All of our players stepped up,” Rangers coach Gerard Gallant said. “It’s very satisfying. You play a good team like that over there, they come at you, they have a lot of talent. ... Shesty played a great game, power play did its job. Everybody was ready to play today and compete.”

Shesterkin had 18 saves in the first period, 11 in the second and nine in the third for his fourth career shutout. He improved to 15-4-2 with a 2.09 goals-against average this season.

“I need to play even better than I did today,” Shesterkin said through an interpreter.

Andrei Vasilevskiy, playing for the first time in 12 days after coming off COVID-19 protocols earlier in the day, had 17 saves as the Lightning lost their third straight (0-2-1) after winning nine of 10.



Rich Schultz / AP

Tampa Bay Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevskiy (88) makes a save against a shot by New York Rangers center Barclay Goodrow (21) during the second period of Sunday’s game at Madison Square Garden in New York.

“It’s not like the guys weren’t trying, we just didn’t generate anything,” Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. “We were off. Give credit to the Rangers, they did a hell of a job. We did get chances, and the goalie was able to see them. We were a step slower, the reaction time was a little off. When that happens, this is the result.”

Zibanejad, who had the only goal of the shootout Friday, completed his hat trick late in the second period to put the Rangers up 4-0. He deflected Tampa Bay’s outlet pass in its defensive zone and charged toward the net. The puck came to Kreider, who spun way to the left and sent a pass that Zibanejad deflected past Vasilevskiy with 3:07 remaining for his 11th of the season.

The Lightning challenged for high-sticking on the play, but the goal stood after a review.

“When you’re in that kind of momentum, you just

seem to make the right decisions of where to go and pucks find you,” Zibanejad said.

It was Zibanejad’s his first hat trick since April 25 against Buffalo. He scored three goals three times last season, including a pair of three-goal, three-assist games.

The Rangers came in eighth in the NHL on the power play at 23.9 percent and went 2 for 3 against the Lightning.

With Tampa Bay’s Mikhail Sergachev off for hooking, Zibanejad got the Rangers on the scoreboard at 7:44 of the first as he fired a rising shot from the top of the left circle past Vasilevskiy into the top left corner.

Nearly five minutes later, the Rangers were on a 4-on-3 power play when Zibanejad’s pass for Kaapo Kakko on the right side was deflected by Lightning defenseman Ryan McDonagh past Vasilevskiy with 7:23 left.

Strome made it 3-0 when

he fired a shot from between the circles over Vasilevskiy’s glove for his seventh with 5:07 remaining in the opening period.

Shesterkin had six of his 18 saves of the first in the final minute, including a reaching glove stop on a slap shot by Sergachev in which the goalie ended up sprawled faced down in front of the goal with 16 seconds left, drawing chants of “I-gor! I-gor!” from the home crowd.

Penguins 8, Sharks 5

PITTSBURGH — Evan Rodrigues and Bryan Rust both finished off hat tricks in the third period and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the San Jose Sharks 8-5 Sunday for their eighth straight win.

Rodrigues and Rust each scored twice as the Pens built a 6-1 lead in the first period. Both added insurance goals in the final period, with Rodrigues completing his first career hat trick with 2:01 left and Rust scoring into an empty net with 11 seconds remaining. Rust had a career-best five points.

San Jose scored three times in the first 4:09 of the third period but couldn’t overcome the huge defi-

cit, which led to an early exit for goalie James Reimer. Alexander Barbanov, Brent Burns, Matt Nieto, Jacob Middleton and Logan Couture scored for the Sharks.

Casey DeSmith made 22 saves for Pittsburgh in place of starter Tristan Jarry, who is one of four Penguins in COVID-19 protocols. Pittsburgh hadn’t played since Dec. 19.

Flames 5, Blackhawks 1

CHICAGO — Johnny Gaudreau had a goal and two assists, Matthew Tkachuk scored for a third straight game and Calgary beat Chicago.

Elias Lindholm and Trevor Lewis also scored for Calgary. Oliver Kylington added a long empty-netter and Jacob Markstrom blocked 30 shots in the Flames’ second straight win.

Alex DeBrincat scored his team-leading 18th goal, but Chicago dropped its fourth straight.

Arvid Soderblom made his first NHL start with 37 saves, including one on Dillon Dube’s third-period penalty shot.

Devils 4, Capitals 3, OT

WASHINGTON — Nico Hischier scored his second goal of the game with 2:04 left in overtime to give New Jersey a victory over Washington.

Washington rallied late in regulation to force overtime, with Nic

Dowd pulling the Capitals within a goal with 6:38 remaining and Conor Sheary tying it with 3:47 left.

Yegor Sharangovich and Damon Severson scored in a 1:14 span of the first period for the Devils, and John Carlson connected for Washington with 47 seconds left in the period.

Mackenzie Blackwood made 27 saves for the Devils. Ilya Samsonov stopped 33 shots for the Capitals.

Avalanche 4, Ducks 2

DENVER — Logan O’Connor scored a tiebreaking goal late in the third period and Colorado rallied from two goals down past Anaheim.

Mikko Rantanen had a goal and two assists and Darcy Kuemper had 29 saves for the Avalanche, who were playing their first game in nearly three weeks due to COVID-19 cases.

Anaheim, which was playing its third game after having three postponements, grabbed a 2-0 lead on goals by Sam Carrick in the first and Cam Fowler in the second.

Josh Gibson made 32 saves and kept Colorado off the board until Devon Toews scored midway through the second period. Gabriel Landeskog tied it early in the third with his 10th of the season.

Bruins 5, Red Wings 1

DETROIT — Erik Haula scored a tiebreaking goal in the second period and Boston pulled away with three more in the third to beat Detroit.

Patrice Bergeron had his fifth goal in three games against Detroit this season. Charlie McAvoy, Trent Frederic and Tomas Nosek also scored for the Bruins.

Jeremy Swayman made 23 saves as Boston won for the second time in two days after six consecutive postponements due to COVID-19 outbreaks. The Bruins defeated Buffalo 4-3 in overtime Saturday.

Tyler Bertuzzi scored for the Red Wings. Alex Nedeljkovic, playing his first game since Dec. 16, stopped 32 shots.

Jets 5, Golden Knights 4, OT

LAS VEGAS — Kyle Connor scored in overtime and Winnipeg held off Vegas in its return from a two-week hiatus.

Mattias Janmark scored twice for Vegas in the third period, including a tying goal with 8.1 seconds left, but Winnipeg’s Connor Hellebuyck improved to 4-1-1 career against the Golden Knights by stopping 42 shots.

Jansen Harkins, Kristian Reichel, Andrew Copp and Paul Stastny also scored for the Jets.

Michael Amadio and Evgenii Dadonov also had goals for Vegas, and Laurent Brossoit made 32 saves.

Brown, Celts defeat Magic in OT

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON — Jaylen Brown scored a career-high 50 points, rallying the Boston Celtics from 14 points down late in the fourth quarter to a 116-111 overtime victory over the Orlando Magic on Sunday night.

Brown scored 21 in the fourth quarter, then opened OT with his fifth 3-pointer of the game. Brown, whose previous career high was 46 against the Knicks on Oct. 20, also finished with 11 rebounds as the Celtics avoided losing for the fourth time in five games.

“We needed to win. No way we could have lost this game. It wouldn’t have been good,” said Brown, who made nine of 12 shots in the fourth quarter while leading the Celtics on a frenzied comeback.

Marcus Smart added 17 points, seven assists and seven rebounds for the Celtics, who needed an 11-2 run down the stretch to force overtime. Dennis Schröder had 21 points and seven assists.

“We let the game come to us,” Smart said. “It wasn’t pretty. It was a little ugly. But we came out with the win and that’s because we kept our composure and we kept with it.”

Terrence Ross scored 33 for the Magic, who outscored Boston 35-20 in the third quarter. They closed the period on a 20-4 run to take a 77-65 lead into the fourth and were ahead 96-82 with a little more than 4 minutes remaining in regulation.

“Everybody was just going extreme tonight. We were playing with a lot of energy, a lot of hustle,” Ross said. “Any time you play like that, you’re going to give yourself a good chance.”

Shortly after missing the free throw on a three-point play attempt with 1:40 left,



Mary Schwalm / AP

Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown (7) drives the basket against Orlando Magic center Wendell Carter Jr. (34) during the second half of Sunday’s game in Boston.

Brown drove for a layup to tie it at 98-all with 38 seconds to go. He added another layup that briefly put Boston up 100-98 with 30 seconds remaining, but Tim Frazier tied it up again and the game was decided in overtime.

“We’ve just got to shake it off and learn from the situations that we were in, because we’ll find ourselves in more of these as the year goes on,” Orlando coach Jamahl Mosley said.

Boston, which beat one of the top teams in the league Friday with a 123-108 win over Phoenix, couldn’t stop the lowly Magic (8-29) two days later.

Both teams were without their top scorers. Cole Anthony was out for the Magic with a sprained right ankle and Boston’s Jayson Tatum missed his fourth straight game after being placed on the COVID-19 health and safety protocols list last week.

Gary Harris added 23 points and Wendell Carter Jr. finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds for Orlando. Frazier, who also scored 11 in the third, finished with 14 points.

Suns 133, Hornets 99

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Devin Booker scored 24 points, Jalen Smith tied a career high with 19 points and 12 rebounds and short-handed Phoenix hammered Charlotte.

Chris Paul had 16 assists to help the Suns improve to 28-8 – a half-game behind Golden State for the NBA lead – after they lost three of their previous four.

The Suns got 11 points and six rebounds from Bismack Biyombo, who signed a 10-day contract Saturday with four Phoenix players in the NBA’s health and safety protocols, including starting center Deandre Ayton, starting forward Jae Crowder and backup center JaVale McGee. Coach Monty Williams also is out.

LaMelo Ball had 17 points for the Hornets.

Mavericks 95, Thunder 86

OKLAHOMA CITY — Luka Dončić had 14 points, 10 assists and nine rebounds in his return from a 10-game absence, Marquese Chriss scored a season-high 15 points and Dallas beat Oklahoma City.

Dončić played with a long brace on his left knee and saw just over 31 minutes in his first game in 23 days. He was content with setting up teammates for baskets after missing five games with ankle soreness and five more games due to virus health and safety protocols.

Chriss, on his second 10-day contract after joining the Mavericks on Dec. 21, shot 6 of 9 from

the field, including three 3-pointers, and had seven rebounds.

Oklahoma City’s Josh Giddey, back after three games in the health and safety protocols, had 17 points, 14 assists and 13 rebounds for his first triple-double. He is the youngest NBA player to have a triple-double at 19 years, 2 months, 23 days.

Raptors 120, Knicks 105

TORONTO — Fred VanVleet scored 19 of his season-high 35 points in the third quarter, Pascal Siakam had 20 points and 14 rebounds and Toronto extended its home winning streak against New York to 11 games.

Evan Fournier led the depleted Knicks with 20 points. RJ Barrett and Obi Toppin each had 19.

Cavaliers 108, Pacers 104

CLEVELAND — Rookie Evan Mobley had 24 points and nine rebounds, Kevin Love scored 20 points and Cleveland beat Indiana to snap a three-game losing streak.

Domantas Sabonis had 32 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Pacers.

Kings 115, Heat 113

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — De’Aaron Fox scored 11 of his 24 points over the final six minutes, including two free throws with 6.2 seconds left, and Sacramento ended Miami’s five-game winning streak.

Tyler Herro and Omer Yurtseven had 22 points apiece for Miami. Kyle Lowry added 14 points and 12 assists.

Ohio St needs OT to knock off Nebraska



Rebecca S. Gratz / AP

Nebraska’s Lat Mayen (11) dunks against Ohio State during the second half of Sunday’s game in Lincoln, Neb. Ohio State defeated Nebraska 87-79 in overtime.

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb. — Freshman Malaki Branham scored 35 points, Jamari Wheeler made two 3-pointers early in overtime and No. 13 Ohio State beat Nebraska 87-79 Sunday night.

Ohio State (9-2, 3-0 Big Ten) hadn’t played since Dec. 11 because of a COVID-19 outbreak in their program. EJ Liddell, who came in averaging 21.6 points per game, was just 2 of 14 for Ohio State.

Bryce McGowens led the Huskers (6-8, 0-3) with 18 points.

Branham had scored in double figures only once prior to Sunday, and his breakout game was well-timed, getting 21 of the Buckeyes’ first 32 points.

No. 12 Houston 66, Temple 61

PHILADELPHIA — Fabian White Jr. had 15 points and 14 rebounds, and Jamal Sheard scored 14 points to lead depleted Houston over Temple.

Houston (12-2, 1-0 American Athletic Conference) had 10 players available and only seven played, which was enough against Temple (7-6, 1-1), but certainly won’t sustain the team through the meat of AAC schedule. Coach Kelvin Sampson was forced to use grad assistants and managers in practice over the

last week with so many players out with injuries or in COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

Damian Dunn scored 14 points and Nick Jourdain had 12 for Temple, which made a run at an upset.

Jahlil White buried a 3 that pulled the Owls to 57-54 with 6 minutes left and Jourdain followed with Temple’s 10th 3-pointer to make it 59-57 with 3:53 left in the game.

No. 10 Michigan State 73, Northwestern 67

EVANSTON, Ill. — Gabe Brown scored 20 points, Marcus Bingham Jr. added 13 and Michigan State rallied from a 13-point first-half deficit to beat Northwestern.

Max Christie had 11 points and Joey Hauser added 10 as the Spartans (12-2, 3-0 Big Ten) won their seventh straight.

Pete Nance had 13 points before fouling out and Boo Buie and Chase Audige had 12 points apiece for Northwestern (8-3, 1-1).

SMU 72, UCF 60

DALLAS — Kendrick Davis had 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists and SMU defeated Central Florida in American Athletic Conference play.

Davis made 9 of 10 from the free-throw line to help the Mustangs (11-3, 2-0) notch their eighth straight victory. Michael Weathers added 19 points, while Marcus Weathers totaled 10 points and eight rebounds. Zach Nuttall scored 10.

Brandon Mahan had 17 points for the Knights (9-3, 1-1), whose five-game win streak came to an end. Cheikh Mbacke Diong had 12 points and seven rebounds, while Darius Perry scored 12.

MONDAY EVENING JANUARY 3, 2022										C: Comcast, Citrus S: Spectrum D/I: Comcast, Dunnellon & Inglis					
	C	S	D/I	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
2	WESH	NBC	19	19	News	NBC News	Ent. Tonight	Hollywood	Kenan 'PG'	Kenan 'PG'	That's My Jam 'PG' 8	Ordinary Joe (N) '14'	News	J. Fallon	
3	WEDU	PBS	3	3	World News America	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) (In Stereo) 8		Antiques Roadshow (Season Premiere) (N) 'G'	Antiques Roadshow 'Bonanzaville Hour 1' 'G'	Il Volo -- Tribute to Ennio Morricone (In Stereo) 'G' 8			The Luminares 2021	
5	WUFT	PBS	5	5	DW News	BBC News	PBS NewsHour (N) 8		Antiques Roadshow 'G'	Antiques Roadshow 'G'	Mary Tyler Moore	BBC News	Old House		
8	WFLA	NBC	8	8	8	News	NBC Nightly News - Holt	NewsChannel 8	Ent. Tonight	Kenan (In Stereo) 'PG'	Kenan (N) 'PG'	That's My Jam Celebrities play music games. 'PG'	Ordinary Joe "Snow Globe" (N) (In Stereo) '14'	NewsChannel 8	Tonight Show
9	WFTV	ABC	20	7	20	News at 6pm	ABC World News	Jeopardy! (N) 'G' 8	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	The Bachelor (Season Premiere) love begins. (N) (In Stereo) 'PG' 8 (DVS)	Clayton's journey to find love begins. (N) (In Stereo) 'PG' 8 (DVS)	Abbott Elementary	black-ish (In Stereo) 'PG'	Eyewitness News 11PM	Jimmy Kimmel Live!
10	WTSP	CBS	10	10	10	10 Tampa Bay	CBS Evening News	Wheel of Fortune 'G'	Jeopardy! (N) 'G' 8	The Neighborhood '14'	Bob Hearts Abishola (N)	NCIS Classified Navy software is stolen. (N) '14'	NCIS: Hawai'i Contraband weapons are found. '14'	10 Tampa Bay	Late Show-Colbert
13	WTVT	FOX	13	13		FOX13 6:00 News (N)	FOX13 6:30 News (N)	Access Hollywood 'PG'	TMZ (N) 'PG' 8	9-1-1: Lone Star "The Big Chill" '14' 8 (DVS)	The Cleaning Lady Thony begins a double life. '14'	FOX13 10:00 News (N) (In Stereo) 8	FOX13 11:00 News (N) (In Stereo) 8		
20	WCJB	ABC			11	TV20 News	World News	Ent. Tonight	Inside Ed.	The Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N) (In Stereo) 'PG'	Abbott Elem	black-ish	News at 11	J. Kimmel	
22	WCLF	IND	2	2	2	Christian	Bridges	Jewish	Great Awakening with Citrus	Sully's Biz Brew	Miracles	Andrew	Freedom	Christ	Keith Moore
24	WYKE	FAM	16	16	16	Vegas Unveiled	Unveiled	Daily Flash	Citrus	Sully's Biz Brew	Small Town	L. McKenzie	Neighbor..	Madison	Citrus Court
28	WFTS	ABC	11	11		News	World News	Inside Ed.	The List (N)	The Bachelor (Season Premiere) (N) (In Stereo) 'PG'	Abbott Elem	black-ish	News	J. Kimmel	
32	WMOR	IND	12	12		Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Last Man	Creek	Creek	Big Bang
38	WTTA	MNT	6	6	6	Extra 'PG'	Ent. Tonight	Family Feud	Family Feud	NewsChannel 8	Noticias	Seinfeld	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	
40	WACX	TBN	21	21		S.Channel	The 700 Club 8	LoveIsrael	Love/Child	Kenneth Cox	Ministries	Living Room	SuperChannel Presents	Faith Build.	Prince
44	WTOG	CW	4	4	4	Mike & Molly '14'	Mike & Molly '14'	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	All American "Show Me a Good Time" '14' 8	4400 Civil servants deal with the refugees. 'PG'	Vencer el pasado (N)	La desalmada (N) '14'	Noticias	Noticiero
50	WVEA	UNI	15	15	15	Noticias	Noticiero	¿Qué le pasa a		La rosa de Guadalupe	Vencer el pasado (N)	La desalmada (N) '14'	Noticias	Noticiero	
51	WOGX	FOX			13	Fox 51 at 6	Fox 51	Big Bang	Big Bang	9-1-1: Lone Star '14'	The Cleaning Lady '14'	FOX 51 News	Dateline "The Farm"		
66	WXPX	ION			17	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'	NCIS: Los Angeles '14'		
	A&E		54	48	54	The First 48 'PG' 8	The First 48 'PG' 8	The First 48 '14' 8		The First 48 '14' 8		The First 48 '14' 8		The First 48 '14' 8	
	ACCN				99	College Basketball	College Football Military Bowl	-- Boston College vs East Carolina.		College Basketball Virginia at Syracuse.					
	AMC		55	64	55	** "Men in Black II" (2002)	Tommy Lee Jones.	** "Man of Steel" (2013, Action)	Henry Cavill, Amy Adams.	** "PG-13" 8		** "Batman & Robin" 8			
	ANI		52	35	52	Alaska: The Last Frontier	Alaska: The Last Frontier	Alaska: The Last Frontier	The Frozen Edge (N) '14'		Alaska: The Last Frontier 'PG' 8				
	BET		96	71	96	** "White Chicks" (2004, Comedy)	Shawn Wayans, Jaime King.	'PG-13' 8		** "Life" (1999, Comedy-Drama)	Eddie Murphy, Martin Lawrence.	'R' 8			
	BIGTEN		742	809		Campus	B1G Live (N)	College Basketball Wisconsin at Purdue. (N) 8		College Basketball Maryland at Iowa. (N) (Live) 8		B1G Live (N)	B1G Show		
	BRAVO		254	51	254	Below Deck '14' 8	Below Deck (N) '14' 8	Below Deck (N) '14' 8		To Be Announced	Watch What	Below Deck '14' 8			
	BSFL		35	39	35	AVP Pro Beach Volleyball	In Magic	Pregame	NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Chicago Bulls. (N) (Live)		Postgame	In Magic	Life		
	CG		27	61	27	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	Daily Show	Seinfeld	
	CMT		98	45	98	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Last Man	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	Mom '14'	
	CNN		40	29	40	Situation Room With Wolf	Erin Burnett OutFront (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Anderson Cooper 360 (N)	Don Lemon Tonight (N)		Don Lemon Tonight (N)			
	ESPN		33	27	33	Monday Night Countdown (N)	(Live) 8	NFL Football Cleveland Browns at Pittsburgh Steelers. (N) (Live)				Postgame	SportsC.		
	ESPN2		37	28	34	SportsCenter (N) 8	To Be Announced	Monday Night Football With Peyton and Eli (N) (Live)				Postgame	TBA		
	FBN		106	149	106	The Evening Edit (N)	Kennedy (N) 8	How America Works (N)	American	American	How America Works	American	American		
	FLIX		118	170		** "Love and Honor" (2012)	Liam Hemsworth.	** "The Spectacular Now" (2013)		** "The Kings of Summer" 'R'		"Sex-Videotape" 8			
	FNC		44	37	44	Special Report	FOX News Primetime (N)	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity (N) (Live) 8		The Ingraham Angle (N)	Gutfeld! (N) 8			
	FOOD		26	56	26	Chopped 'G' 8	Kids Baking	Kids Baking	Tiny Food	Tiny Food	Chopped 'G' 8	Chopped 'G' 8			
	FREEFORM		29	52	29	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office		
	FS1		732	112	732	Undisputed	NASCAR Beyond	Greatest Races: NASCAR From June 26, 2016. 8				NASCAR Race Hub 'PG'			
	FX		30	60	30	** "The Greatest Showman" (2017) 'PG' 8		*** "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" (2019) 'PG'				"A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" 8			
	GOLF		727	67	727	Golf Central 'G' 8	GOLF Films 'G' 8	GOLF Films	GOLF Films 'G' 8			Golf Central 'G' 8			
	HALL		59	68	39	"It Was Always You" (2021) Erin Krakow. 'NR'		"Love, Romance & Chocolate" (2019) Lacey Chabert.		Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls		
	HBO		302	201	302	*** "King Kong" (2005) Naomi Watts. 'PG-13'		** "Profile" (2018) Valene Kane. 'R' 8		** "High-Rise" (2015) Tom Hiddleston. 'R' 8					
	HBO2		303	202	303	** "Fast & Furious 6" (2013)	John Wilson	"Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street" (2021)		** "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey" 8					
	HGTV		23	57	23	Love It or List It 'PG'	Love It or List It 'PG'	Love It or List It 'PG'	Tough Love With Hilary	Ugliest	Hunters	Love It or List It 'PG'			
	HIST		51	54	51	Ancient Aliens 'PG' 8	Ancient Aliens 'PG'	Ancient Aliens 'PG'	Ancient Aliens 'PG'		Ancient Aliens 'PG'				
	LIFE		24	38	24	Castle 'PG' 8	Castle "Knockdown" '14'	Castle "Lucky Stiff" 'PG'	Castle '14' 8		Castle "Setup" 'PG'	Castle "Countdown" 'PG'			
	LMN		119	50	119	"Obsessed With the Babysitter" (2021) 'NR' 8		"Dangerous Snow Day" (2021) Nicolette Langley.		* "The Boy Next Door" (2015) Jennifer Lopez.					
	MSNBC		42	41	42	The Beat With Ari Melber	The ReidOut (N) 8	All In With Chris Hayes	Rachel Maddow Show			The 11th Hour (N) 8			
	NBCSN		448	26	730	SPORTS ARE HEADING TO USA NETWORK BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2022						SPORTS ARE HEADING TO USA NETWORK			
	NGEO		109	65	109	The '80s: Top Ten '14'	The '80s: Top Ten '14'	The '80s: Top Ten 'PG'	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'	The '80s: Top Ten (N) '14'	The '80s: Top Ten '14'			
	NICK		28	36	28	Loud House	Loud House	Loud House	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Friends '14'	Friends '14'	Friends '14'	Friends '14'	
	NWSNTN		18	18	18	The Donlon Report (N)	On Balance	Dan Abrams Live (N)	NewsNation Prime (N)	Banfield (N) 8		On Balance			
	OWN		125	24	103	Dr. Phil '14' 8	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime	Deadline: Crime			
	OXY		123	44	123	Snapped 'PG' 8	Snapped 'PG' 8	Snapped 'PG' 8	Snapped 'PG' 8	Dateline: Secrets Uncovered "Internal Affairs" 'PG'					
	PARMT		37	43	37	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Yellowstone 'MA' 8	Yellowstone 'MA' 8	** "The Magnificent Seven" (2016) 'PG-13'			
	SEC		745	72		The Paul Finebaum Show	Women's College Basketball	Bulldogs at Wildcats	SEC in 60 (N)	Billions 'MA' 8	Billions 'MA' 8	Yellowjackets 'MA' 8			
	SHOW		340	241	340	*** "Hereditary" (2018) Toni Collette. 'R' 8	Dexter: New Blood 'MA'	Billion 'MA' 8	Billions 'MA' 8	Inside HEAT	Pregame	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Golden State Warriors.			
	SUN		36	31	36	18 Holes	Breaking	American Ninja Warrior	American Ninja Warrior	Inside HEAT	Pregame	NBA Basketball Miami Heat at Golden State Warriors.			
	SYFY		31	59	31	*** "The Matrix Revolutions" (2003) Keanu Reeves. 'R' 8		King of Hill	King of Hill	Futurama	Burgers	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	
	TBS		49	23	49	Sheldon	Sheldon	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Big Bang	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	
	TCM		169	53	169	White Peril	"The Thing From Another World" 'NR'	** "Jewel Robbery" (1932) 'NR'		*** "Trouble in Paradise" 'NR'		*** "Raffles" (1930)			
	TDC		53	34	53	Street Outlaws	Street Outlaws	Street Outlaws (N) (In Stereo) '14'		Darcey & Stacey (N) '14'	90 Day Fiancé (N) '14'	1000-Lb. Sisters (N) '14'	Darcey & Stacey '14'		
	TLC		50	46	50	Darcey & Stacey (N) '14'	Darcey & Stacey (N) '14'	** "The Gentlemen" (2020) (In Stereo) 'R' 8		"Becky" (2020) Kevin James. 'R' 8		L.A. Conf.			
	TMC		350	261	350	"The Appearance" (2018) Jake Stormoen. 'NR' 8		*** "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (2014) Colin Firth. 'R'		** "The Hitman's Bodyguard" 'R'					
	TNT		48	33	48	*** "Avengers: Endgame" (2019) 'PG-13'		King of Hill	King of Hill	Futurama	Burgers	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	
	TOON		38	58	38	*** "Puss in Boots"	Bears	Total Drama							
	TRAV		9	106	9	Mysteries of the Unknown 'PG' 8		Mysteries of the Unknown (N) 'PG' 8		UFO Witness (N) '14'	UFO Witness '14' 8				
	truTV		25	55	25	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	Jokes	*** "Neighbors" (2014) Seth Rogen. 'R' 8		King	King		
	TVL		32	49	32	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond		
	USA		47	32	47	** "The Karate Kid Part II" (1986) 'PG' 8		WWE Monday Night RAW (N) (In Stereo Live) 'PG, V' 8		Raymond	Raymond	Chicago Fire "Pilot" '14'			
	WE		117	69	117	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'	Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'		Criminal Minds '14'			

BRIDGE

By PHILLIP ALDER

The Justin Lall Best Played Deal of the Year award from the International Bridge Press Association went to Sartaj Hans, with the journalist prize to Ron Klinger, both from Australia. However, that deal is too complicated for the space restrictions on this column.

I thought this runner-up instructive. It was played by Richard Pavlicek and written up by Jing Liu, both from the United States.

How did Pavlicek proceed in his contract of six no-trump after West led a safe spade?

In the auction, South's two-heart rebid was either natural or a balanced hand with 25 or more high-card points. (He added 1 point for his excellent five-card suit.) Two spades inquired, and six no-trump was quantitative. Reaching the laydown six diamonds proved too difficult.

Declarer started with 10 top tricks: three spades, five diamonds and two clubs. To gain two heart tricks, there seemed only one chance: that West had the heart jack. However, Pavlicek deftly decided to delay the decision.

South cashed his five diamond winners. East discarded three

North01-03-22

♠ K J 10

♥ K 10

♦ J 8 7 6 5

♣ 8 5 4

West

♠ 7 5 3

♥ A 5 2

♦ 10 3 2

♣ 9 9 3 2

East

♠ 8 6 4 2

♥ J 9 6 4 3

♦ —

♣ J 10 7 6

South

♠ A Q 9

♥ K 8 7

♦ A K Q 9 4

♣ A K

Dealer: West

Vulnerable: Both

South

West

North

East

2♣

Pass

2♠

Pass

2♥

Pass

2♣

Pass

2NT

Pass

6NT

All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ 3

spades, one heart and one club. West pitched a club and a spade.

Next, declarer took his last two spade tricks, ending in his hand. West threw a heart; East, a heart and a club.

Everyone had five cards left. Pavlicek felt sure that East had begun with five hearts and, because he retained three, that the heart jack was one of them. So, South played a heart to the king and continued with the 10, covered by East's jack and ducked by declarer. When the ace came down, Pavlicek claimed.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HLYSY

LIQTU

SAWELE

CPTIEK

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Print answer here:

Answers tomorrow

Saturday's

Jumbles: SCOUT OBESE BOTTLE FREELY

Answer: After alphabetizing all the books, the librarian was — OUT OF SORTS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

She definitely knows this!

Precedence. P-R-E-C-E-D-E-N-C-E Precedence.

Your word is, "Precedence."

THE SPELLING BEE CONTESTANT QUICKLY SPELLED THE WORD "PRECEDENCE" ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

“ ”

(Answers tomorrow)

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆

7		6	3	5			4
		2	1	9		3	
1	3	8			5	6	
		4		2	3		
4		7	6		9		2
		3	7	1			
3	7			4		2	1
5		1	2	8			9
		3	7	6			

1/3

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PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	2	4	9	5	8	1	3	6
9	8	3	4	6	1	5	7	2
1	5	6	7	3	2	9	4	8
4	7	1	5	9	6	2	8	3
5	3	8	1	2	4	6	9	7
6	9	2	3	8	7	4	1	5
3	4	7	6	1	5	8	2	9
2	1	5	8	7	9	3	6	4
8	6	9	2	4	3	7	5	1

HOW TO PLAY:

Each row, column and set of 3-by-3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 through 9 without repetition.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ V J N S N E S N V J S N N V J B L Y C G N L Z E L

K P F B V J F P G N L : T P M N V J N G , C X R R N S

R P S V J N G P S V X S L V J N G B L V P

T B V N S E V X S N . ” — C V N D J N L C V B T T C

Previous Solution: “Though no one can go back and make a brand-new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand-new ending.” — Carl Bard

TODAY'S CLUE: A sjenba W

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■ Find the daily crossword puzzle inside the Chronicle's classified pages, along with Sudoku, Wordy Gurdy and a word puzzle.

Words to avoid when consoling a friend

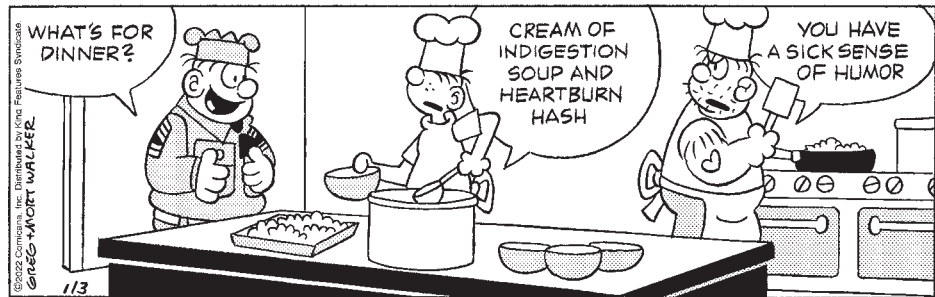
DEAR ANNIE: My husband and I enjoy your column and often read it out loud to each other and discuss possible answers before reading your response.

In regard to “Grossed Out in Georgia,” about the brother-in-law who licked his fingers or plate to “get every drop of dinner,” we would

Annie Lane
Dear Annie

Let me get you some more! I am so happy you like my cooking!” Then she could jump up and hold her hand out for his plate

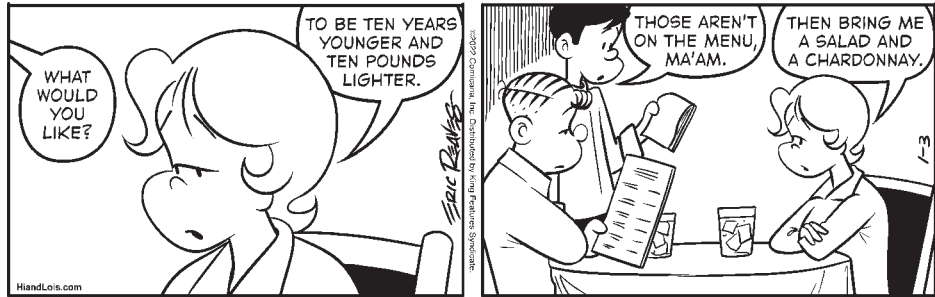
BEETLE BAILEY



BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



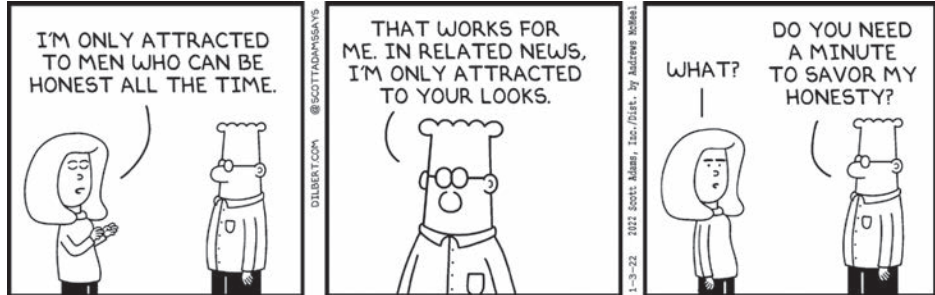
BC



WIZARD OF ID



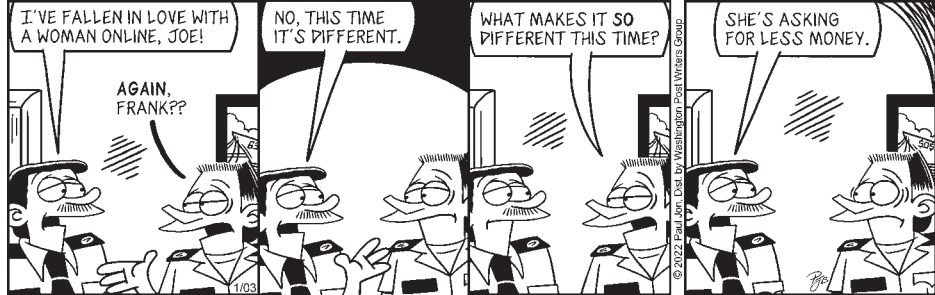
DILBERT



GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



ASTROGRAPH

By **EUGENIA LAST**

MONDAY, JANUARY 3
Take hold of situations and boldly move forward. A change that lightens emotional or financial stress will give you a new lease on life and encourage an overhaul that will contribute to a healthier future. Envision what you want and turn it into a reality. Don't let anyone push you in a direction that doesn't suit your needs.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A practical outlook will keep people from trying to manipulate you. Sticking to what feels comfortable will encourage better results and eliminate unnecessary stress. Know your limitations.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Don't be shy. Look at what's possible and dig in and do your best. Observing what others do will be a learning experience. Do your research and initiate your plans with confidence.
PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Dig in and make a difference. Encourage others to support your efforts. Steer clear of anyone who tries to mislead you. Maintaining a

healthy attitude and doing your research will pay off.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) You'll have to be sharp if you want to avoid trouble. Leave nothing to chance. Stay focused on what you want to achieve, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Confusion will set in if you let someone manipulate a situation. Be vocal and deliver the goods. It's up to you to set the standard. Self-improvement is encouraged.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Trust and believe in what you know and do best. Refuse to let anyone railroad you into something you don't want to pursue. You can push your way forward with a positive attitude.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) A positive change will develop if you use your ingenuity and branch out in a creative and trendy direction. Take a step forward, and you'll gain respect and the support you require.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Put more effort into getting along with the people you need in your corner to accomplish your

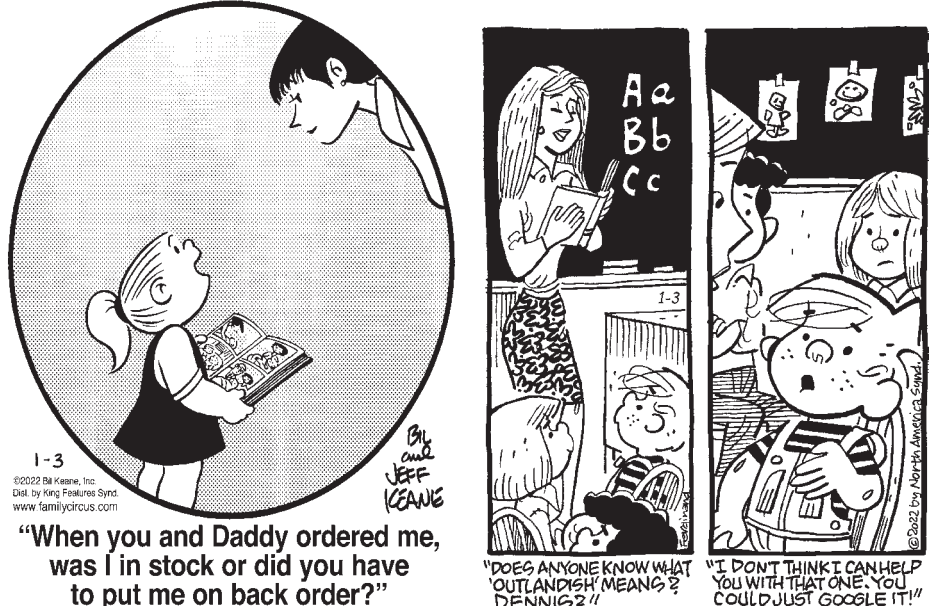
goals. Diplomacy will fetch better results than force. Speak from the heart and be ready to compromise.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Get out, network and gain experience. See the world through someone else's eyes, and you will gain perspective regarding what's possible. Refuse to let domestic situations get out of control.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) A passionate approach will be required if you want to overcome the trials and tribulations involved with certain joint ventures. You will need to be flexible, honest and direct.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Keep moving in a direction that offers satisfaction and makes you proud. Your efforts can make a difference and will eventually be recognized by your peers. Live life your way.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Put your energy where it brings the highest returns. Hard work will pay off and help you recognize and reject unreliable outside influences. Do the work and reap the rewards.

FAMILY CIRCUS

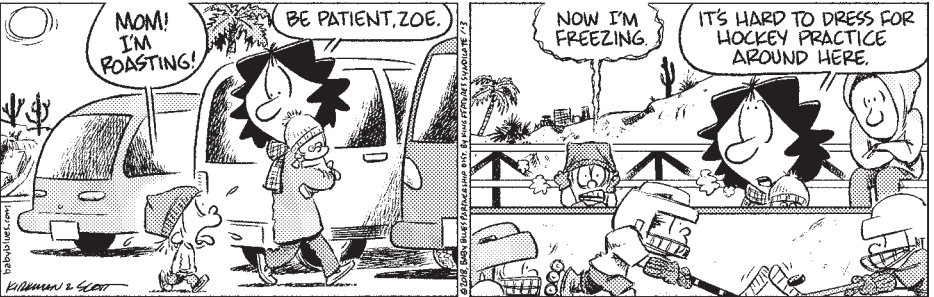
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By **Bil Keane**

DENNIS THE MENACE



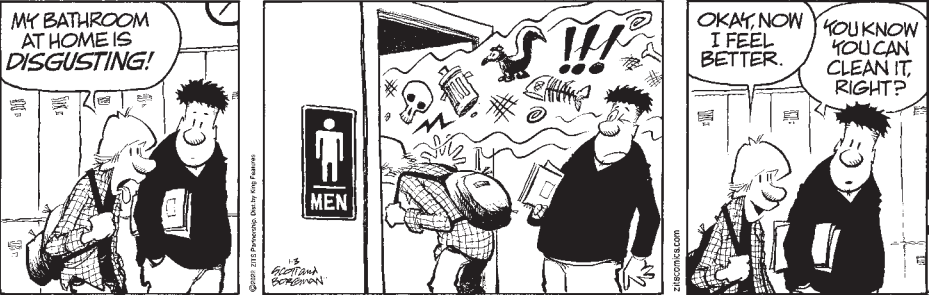
BABY BLUES



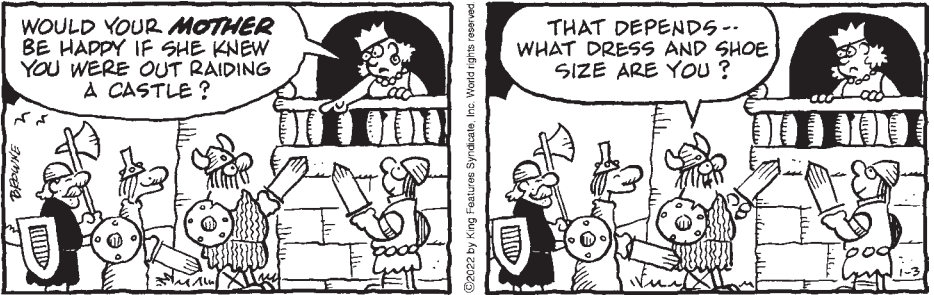
CURTIS



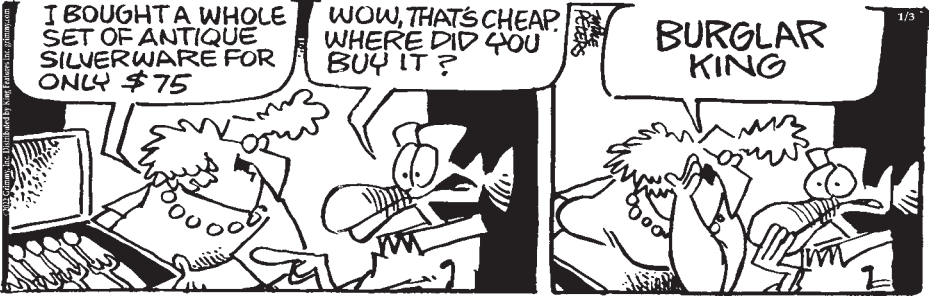
ZITS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH



MOVIE SCHEDULES

Citrus Cinemas 6 Inverness;
844-462-7342 Code 187
Monday, Jan. 3
"American Underdog" **PG:**
11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30 p.m.
"Sing 2" **PG:** 12:15, 3:30, 7:45 p.m.
"The King's Man" **R:** noon, 3:45, 7:15 p.m.
"The Matrix Resurrections" **R:**
11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45 p.m.
"Spider-Man: No Way Home" **PG13:** 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3, 6:30, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 4
"American Underdog" **PG:**
11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30 p.m.
"Sing 2" **PG:** 12:15, 3:30, 7:45 p.m.
"The King's Man" **R:** noon, 3:45, 7:15 p.m.
"The Matrix Resurrections" **R:**

11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45 p.m.
"Spider-Man: No Way Home" **PG13:** 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3, 6:30, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 5
"American Underdog" **PG:**
11:45 a.m., 3:15, 7:30 p.m.
"Sing 2" **PG:** 12:15, 3:30, 7:45 p.m.
"The King's Man" **R:** noon, 3:45, 7:15 p.m.
"The Matrix Resurrections" **R:**
11:15 a.m., 2:45, 6:45 p.m.
"Spider-Man: No Way Home" **PG13:** 11, 11:30 a.m., 2:30, 3, 6:30, 7 p.m.

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No movies announced at this time.

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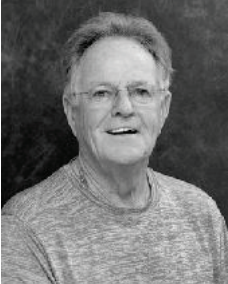
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..	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
..	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
..	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
..	30	31					

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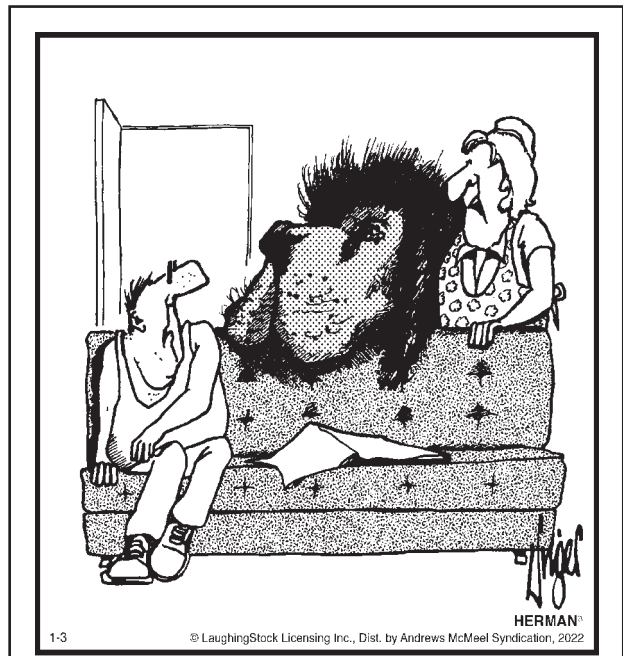
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Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

5	1					8		6
			3		6			
	6						5	
				3		6	1	
	4	5	8		1	7	2	
	8	6		2				
	3						4	
			7	3				
9		4					6	2

Solution to Saturday's puzzle 1/3/22

8	5	1	4	7	2	6	9	3
4	9	3	1	6	8	5	2	7
6	7	2	5	3	9	8	4	1
1	8	4	7	9	5	2	3	6
5	3	9	2	1	6	4	7	8
7	2	6	3	8	4	1	5	9
9	1	5	8	2	3	7	6	4
2	6	7	9	4	1	3	8	5
3	4	8	6	5	7	9	1	2

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk

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Monday, January 3, 2022

KATHLEEN SAXE

WORD GAME

TODAY'S WORD -- GOSLINGS

(GOSLINGS: GOZ-lings: Young geese.)

Average mark 15 words
Time limit 30 minutes

Can you find 19 or more words in GOSLINGS?
The list will be published tomorrow.

SATURDAY'S WORD -- SAPIENT

saint

sane

sate

satin

seat

sent

sepia

sept

sine

site

snap

snip

snipe

snit

span

spat

spate

spent

spin

spine

spinet

spit

spite

stain

stein

step

anise

ante

anti

apse

aspen

pain

paint

pane

pant

panties

past

paste

pate

paten

peat

pent

pest

pieta

pine

pint

pita

inapt

inept

inset

instep

east

nape

neap

neat

nest

tape

taps

tine

tinea

tisane

RULES OF THE GAME: 1. Words must be of four or more letters. 2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed. 3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. 4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed. Contact Word Game creator Kathleen Saxe at kzsaxe@gmail.com.

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ACROSS

1 Winter wear

5 Commuter vehicle

8 Kid around

12 BMW rival

13 "Yecch!"

14 Sts.

15 Grayish

16 Dot in the Seine

17 Cry

18 Rank

20 Trail mix

21 Skosh

22 Pleased sigh

23 Seltzers

26 Desperado

29 Toothy smile

30 Supreme Court count

31 Sheep call

33 Wool cap

34 Pool table cover

35 Elmer of cartoons

36 Bequest

38 Renowned

39 "Ew!"

40 Law (abbr.)

41 Kick a football

43 Baby bed

46 Wolf weapon

47 Short hairdo

48 Viscount's superior

50 Diet

51 Jackie's tycoon

52 Hoarfrost

53 Dumpster output

54 Ran into

55 PDQ

DOWN

1 No gentleman

2 Yours and mine

3 Father of Seth

4 Lama, usually

5 Put up

6 Ill-favored

7 Any woman

8 "Certainly!" in Bonn

9 Anon's companion

10 Percolate

11 Kitchen meas.

19 Refrain syllables

20 Palace entrance

22 Dad's sister

23 Mil. noncom

24 Face-to-face exam

25 Pocket change

26 Slick

27 Lean against

28 Play in the kiddie pool

30 Sweater feature

32 Attach

34 Piece of information

35 Alfalfa and clover

37 Spice rack item

38 Brady Bill opposer

40 Space shuttle's path

41 Forked over

42 Till

43 Apple remnant

44 Cafe additive

45 Humorist — Bombeck

46 Sitcom waitress

47 Loud thud

49 Authorize

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1-3

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WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

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1. "9-1-1" network door fasteners (1)

2. Tolerate harshly bright sunlight (1)

3. Pinch the bum of a kid lit Dr. (1)

4. Hoggish bald, pantless comics guy (2)

5. Persistently harass a moocher (2)

6. Cowardly modern-day pagan (2)

7. Traits of 1st words in rhymes 1-6 as a group (2)

1. FOX LOCKS 2. BEAR GLARE 3. GOOSE SEUSS 4. PIGGY ZIGGY 5. BADGER CADGER 6. CHICKEN WICCAN 7. CREATURES FEATURES

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1-3-22

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DUNNELLON, FL 34434

Published January 3 & 10, 2022

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DEPRESSION



Uncorrected hearing loss gives rise to poorer quality of life, isolation and reduced social activity, leading to depression.

ISOLATION

HEARING LOSS RESULTS IN SOCIAL ISOLATION.




Adults with untreated hearing loss tend to withdraw from engaging with family and friends.

ADULTS 50 AND OLDER,

with untreated hearing loss are more likely to report depression, anxiety, anger and frustration, emotional instability and paranoia, and are less likely to participate in social activities than those who wear hearing aids.


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90% OF PEOPLE WITH TINNITUS ALSO HAVE HEARING LOSS.



Tinnitus affects 1 in 5 people. Tinnitus can be caused by hearing loss, an ear injury or a circulatory system disorder.

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There is a significant association between high blood pressure and hearing loss. Hypertension can be an accelerating factor of hearing loss in adults.

COGNITIVE DECLINE



HEARING AIDS CAN REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S

Adults with hearing loss are more likely to develop problems thinking and remembering than adults whose hearing is normal. Degraded hearing may force the brain to devote too much of its energy to processing sound.

SAFETY AND BALANCE

PEOPLE WITH MILD HEARING LOSS (25dB) ARE 3 TIMES more likely to have a history of falling. Every additional 10 decibels of hearing loss increases the chances of falling by 1.4 times the original risk.



SEE REVERSE SIDE AND BACK PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A LOCATION NEAR YOU.

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NOT ALL HEARING AIDS ARE CREATED EQUAL.

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The power of AI at your fingertips

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Ask about Edge Mode

ViaEdge^{AI}



The world's first hearing aid with **fall detection** and alerts

ViaEdge^{AI} is the **first hearing aid that can detect when a hearing aid wearer has fallen** and immediately sends multiple alert messages to whoever you choose. **Loved ones, caregivers or nearby friends.** Fall alert is an easy to use feature that addresses a serious issue! It helps **patients maintain their independence** while giving **loved ones peace of mind.**

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Our 2.4 GHz accessories provide universal Bluetooth® connectivity making it easy for your hearing aids to work with your smartphone, television or media device.

Remote Microphone +

Enables easy audio streaming and one-on-one conversations in noisy environments.

Mini Remote Microphone Small,

easy-to-use. Clip it onto the clothing of the person you're talking to or use it as a TV streamer by placing it near the sound source.

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Our new remote includes updated features so you can control memory and volume, mute your hearing aids and turn other special features on and off.



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professional.**

***Fits mild to moderate
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up to 40 db.***

RISK FREE TRIAL

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ing aid is a Medical Device. It is critical that a hearing care professional is sure that the hearing aid is right for your hearing loss and be there to do initial fitting of the hearing aid. ***This is the only way to ensure that a hearing aid will not cause further damage to the patient's hearing or cause any physical pain or damage to the ear and ear canal!***

With literally dozens of different TV commercials advertising **"ONE SIZE FITS ALL AMPLIFIERS"** it can be confusing!

A hearing loss and the degree of hearing loss can only be determined through proper audiometric testing.

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Starting at **EACH**

MANUFACTURER INTRODUCTORY REBATE

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FREE HEARING TEST,

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BATTERY SPECIAL!
ONLY 75¢ up to 4 packs!



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ViaEdge^{AI}

is the World's First and **ONLY** 2.4 GHz Custom Rechargeable Hearing Aid

- Audibel's ViaEdge^{AI} technology is the **ONLY** rechargeable, custom made hearing aid that fits entirely in your ear canal.
- Up to 24 hours of power in a single charge.
- All-in-one charger holds enough charge to provide portable charging without plugging into the wall.

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The most advanced Technology ever created is now available in the most advanced hearing aid ever made.

AUDIBEL'S ViaEdge^{AI} Microchip
with Artificial Intelligence.

This technology was created by Audibel and can only be found at the Audibel locations listed below

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TRIAL
ON ALL HEARING AIDS**

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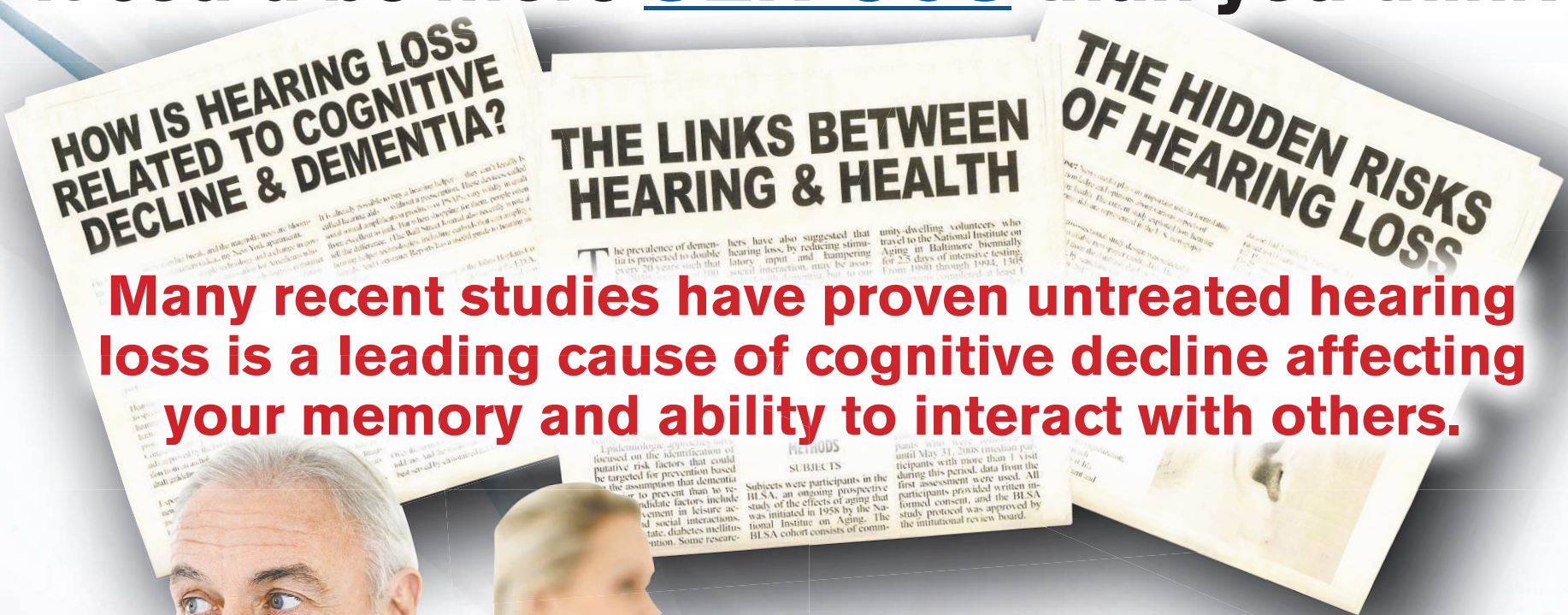


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If you're a **SENIOR** and have trouble **UNDERSTANDING SPEECH CLEARLY**, it could be more **SERIOUS** than you think.



Many recent studies have proven untreated hearing loss is a leading cause of cognitive decline affecting your memory and ability to interact with others.

The National Council on Aging says the isolation alone can be **DEVASTATING** when hearing loss is left **UNTREATED!**

DON'T IGNORE THE WARNING SIGNS!

WARNING

The use of any amplification device **WITHOUT** first having your **HEARING TESTED** by a hearing care professional can be **DANGEROUS** and potentially cause **IRREVERSIBLE DAMAGE** to your **HEARING!**

Call Audibel today to schedule your **FREE HEARING TEST**, performed by a qualified hearing care professional.

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