

# Ionia couple has Bothwell's first baby of 2023



Topped with dark brown hair, Hadley Lee Reichert, less than 24 hours old, rests in her parents' arms Monday afternoon at Bothwell Regional Health Center. Hadley, the first child for Kelsey and T.J. Reichert of Ionia, was also the first baby born in the New Year at Bothwell. T.J. is a chiropractor with Back in Action in Sedalia and Kelsey is a physical therapy assistant with CenterWell Home Health in Osage Beach.



New parents T.J. and Kelsey Reichert, of Ionia, hold their daughter, Hadley, Monday at Bothwell Regional Health Center. Hadley was born at 6:15 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 1, weighed 8 pounds, 6 ounces and was 20.5 inches long.



Hadley Lee Reichert sleeps peacefully in her father's arms Monday afternoon. Visiting Sedalia's first baby of 2023 was her grandmother Denise Lock, of Republic, and her great-aunt, Debbie Miller, of Springfield.

PHOTOS BY FAITH BEMISS | DEMOCRAT

## Traffic stop leads to search warrant

By Chris Howell  
chrish@sedaliademocrat.com

A Sedalia man was arrested after detectives with the Sedalia Police Department's Crime Resolution Unit attempted a traffic stop for improper registration Friday morning.

"The Crime Resolution Unit and patrol officers with the Sedalia Police Department issued a traffic stop (at 8:37 a.m.) on a subject suspected of dealing narcotics," Cpl. Kevin Tyler said Monday. "The subject was also driving a vehicle with improper registration and was known to have a suspended driver's license."

Tyler said the trust members of the CRU have built with Sedalia's citizens and information gathered through investigation may have led to the CRU suspecting 29-year-old Terrell A. Robinson Sr. of dealing drugs.

"They have the pulse of the community," Tyler said. "All the complaints

that come in from our citizens are routed over to that Crime Resolution Unit. They take complaints from folks who have called in possible drug activity."

CRU officers respond to complaints of drug activity from tips and keep their eyes out for dealers and suspicious people. Responding to complaints with follow-up calls also builds trust as citizens learn of the results of their complaints.

"They're following up on all those calls from the citizens as well," Tyler said. "Once they saw him, they recognized him as someone they knew, and they knew he had a revoked license."

Robinson fled from police and a short pursuit was initiated. He drove into a yard and jumped from his vehicle while it was still in motion.

As one detective chased Robinson on foot, another stopped the suspect's runaway vehicle.

**See STOP | 6A**

## Warsaw Wildcat Band performs at Liberty Bowl

By Skye Melcher  
skym@sedaliademocrat.com

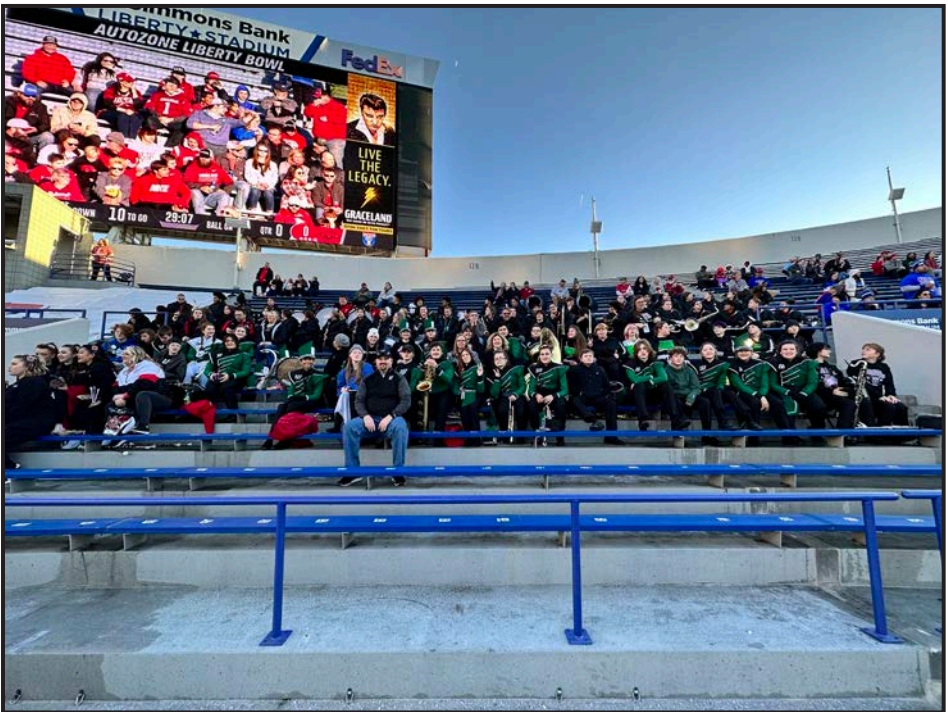
On Wednesday, Dec. 28, the Warsaw Wildcat Band performed at the Liberty Bowl halftime show in Memphis, Tennessee.

The Liberty Bowl was played by the Kansas University Jayhawks and the University of Arkansas Razorbacks. The Razorbacks managed to win the game by just two points after three overtime periods, beating the Jayhawks 55-53.

In between cheering on the collegiate football teams, the Warsaw High School band, along with six other schools, put on a musical performance during halftime.

Warsaw R-IX School District Superintendent Scott Gemes said the Wildcat Band did a lot of events while in Memphis. Gemes accompanied the band on the trip as the former band director resigned on Dec. 1.

"We did the parade down Beale Street and that was on Tuesday and then we got to perform



The Warsaw Wildcat Band sits together with parents and supporters to get a group photo at the Liberty Bowl on Dec. 28. The band traveled all the way to Memphis, Tennessee, to participate in the halftime show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARSAW R-IX SCHOOL DISTRICT

at halftime at the Liberty Bowl with Starship," Gemes said.

The halftime performance featured the Warsaw Wildcat Band, six other high school bands and the Grammy-nominated rock band Starship featuring Mickey Thomas.

A year ago, the Wildcat Band got permission from the Warsaw Board of Education to go on a trip and then connected with WorldStrides, the largest educational travel company in the nation.

"They were able to pick the Liberty Bowl for us to go to," Gemes added. "That's how the process got started. The kids started fundraising and

the booster club started getting ready to go and we got to go this week (Dec. 26-30)."

The band won the Spirit Award for being the most spirit during the Liberty Bowl at the awards ceremony on Dec. 29.

**See BAND | 6A**



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OBITUARIES

Edward Lee Williams

Edward Lee Williams went to be with Jesus on Saturday, December 24, 2022, after a 30-year-plus battle with cancer. He was 51 years old and leaves behind the love of his life, his wife, Courtney Williams of the home.

Ed had many interests over the years, but above all else, he loved the outdoors. He was an avid deer hunter all of his life until his health would no longer allow it.

He leaves behind



his parents, Phillip and Daveta Williams, two brothers, a daughter, two stepdaughters, two grandchildren and several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Marvin and Patsy Williams and David and Teddy Brown and one uncle, Steve Williams.

He will be cremated as per his wishes and there will be a celebration of life service held at a later date.

DEATH NOTICE

Knight

Celia Earlene Knight, 89, of Sedalia, died Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, at Cedarhurst Assisted Living.

Funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, 2023, at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until service time. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

FUNERALS

**Beecher, Connie Sue (Reed)**  
11 a.m. today at Sacred Heart Chapel of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

**Phillips, Steven Junior**  
2 p.m. today at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

**Mark, Ruby Evelyn**  
10:30 a.m. Wednesday at Wesley United Methodist Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of McLaughlin Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

**Hartley, Tammy Sue**  
3 p.m. Wednesday at Christ Trinity Lutheran Church. Arrangements are

under the direction of Rea Funeral Chapel in Sedalia.

**Goodwin, Renee L.**  
5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home and Cremation Service.

**Hausam, Elizabeth A. “Betty,”**  
11 a.m. Saturday at Broadway Presbyterian Church in Sedalia. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home in Sedalia.

**Knight, Celia Earlene**  
11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14 at Heckart Funeral Home. Visitation will be 10 a.m. until service time. Arrangements are under the direction of Heckart Funeral Home.

CRASH REPORTS

**Warsaw woman in serious condition after Benton County motorcycle accident**

Christina K. Ballew, 45, of Warsaw, sustained serious injuries at 12:30 p.m. New Year’s Day in a Benton County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Joseph D. Foster, 52, of Warsaw, was driving a 2002 Harley Davidson motorcycle south on Highway U, north of Von Holten Road, when he failed to negotiate a curve, traveled off the right side of the roadway and overturned.

Both occupants were wearing helmets. Ballew was transported by Cole Camp Ambulance District to Bothwell Regional Health Center.

**Knob Noster woman in serious condition after Johnson accident**

Cynthia J. Biggs, 35, of Knob Noster, sustained serious injuries at 1:33 p.m. New Year’s Eve in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Biggs was driving a 2003 Saturn Ion east on Route E

when she crossed the center-line, left the roadway, struck a ditch, and overturned.

She was wearing a seat belt and was transported to KU Medical Center in Kansas City by Life Flight.

**Man from Whiteman Air Force Base hurt in Johnson accident**

Ahn N. Le, 25, of Whiteman Air Force Base, sustained minor injuries at 7:15 p.m. New Year’s Eve in a Johnson County accident.

According to a Missouri State Highway Patrol report, Le was driving a 2017 Hyundai Elantra south on Route D at Route Y when he failed to stop at a stop sign, traveled across the roadway, traveled off the right side of the road, and struck a ditch.

He was wearing a seat belt and was transported to Western Missouri Medical Center in Warrensburg by private vehicle.

Information is taken from preliminary Missouri State Highway Patrol reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved.

*Compiled by Chris Howell.*



POLICE REPORTS

This list is a sampling of crime in Sedalia and the surrounding area. Information is taken from official police reports, which do not necessarily contain statements from all parties involved in each case.

**Missouri State Highway Patrol Arrests Dec. 30**  
2:16 p.m.: David A. Burch, 39, of Springfield, was arrested in Benton County for driving while intoxicated and speeding. He was transported to the Benton County Jail.

8:17 p.m.: Crystal C. Roberts, 39, of Warsaw, was arrested in Benton County for a felony Clay County warrant, failing

to yield to an emergency vehicle and no valid operator’s license. She was transported to the Benton County Jail.

**Dec. 31**  
12:30 a.m.: Eric S. Voss, 31, of Greenwood, was arrested in Johnson County for driving while intoxicated and exceeding the posted speed limit by more than 26 miles per hour. He was transported to the Warrensburg Police Department and released.

12:18 p.m.: Kyler C. Greeson, 23, of Russellville, Alabama, was arrested in Henry County for resisting arrest by fleeing, felony leaving the scene of an accident, second-degree assault, failure to display valid plates, failure to

signal, failure to stop at a stop sign, failure to drive on the right half of the roadway, passing a vehicle and interfered with approaching traffic, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle with lights and sirens, and operating a vehicle on a highway with no valid driver’s license. He was transported to the Bates County Sheriff’s Department and placed on a 24-hour hold.

10:47 p.m.: Galen R. McCarty, 30, of Carthage, was arrested in Morgan County for driving with a revoked driver’s license and failure to dim lights to an oncoming vehicle. He was released on summons.

**Jan. 1**  
1:02 a.m.: Paul J. Landsberg, 20, of Clinton, was arrested in Henry County for driving while intoxicated and failure to register a motor vehicle. He was transported to the Henry County Jail and released.

4:56 p.m.: Jessica E. Ventura, 33, of DeSoto, was arrested in Johnson County for littering in Jefferson County. She was transported to the Jefferson County Jail.

6:48 p.m.: Jody L. Manuel, 58, of Sweet Springs, was arrested in Saline County for driving while intoxicated. He was transported to the Saline County Jail and released.

*Compiled by Chris Howell.*

Taxes fall, wages rise and jaywalking OK'd by new state laws

By David A. Lieb and Geoff Mulvihill  
Associated Press

given with a physician present. But advocates on both sides of the issue believe the effect will be minimal because a ban on abortions throughout pregnancy went into effect after the Supreme Court's ruling.

**TAXES**  
Thanks to large budget surpluses, about two-thirds of the states approved permanent tax cuts or one-time rebates last year. Several of those will take effect in January.

Income tax cuts mean less money will be withheld from workers' paychecks in Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina and South Carolina. An Arizona income tax rate reduction to a flat 2.5% also will take effect in January, a year before originally scheduled because of strong state revenues.

Iowa will revamp its income tax brackets as a first step toward an eventual flat tax, and it will stop taxing retirement income.

Kansas will reduce its sales tax on groceries. Virginia will lower the tax on groceries and personal hygiene products. Colorado also will remove taxes from hygiene products, but will impose a 10-cent fee on plastic bags as a precursor to their elimination in 2024.

Other states are providing tax incentives for law-and-order professions. Rhode Island will exempt military pensions from tax. Georgia will offer a tax credit for donations to local law enforcement foundations.

But not all taxes will be going down. A voter-approved "millionaire tax" will take effect in Massachusetts, imposing a 4% surcharge on income of more than \$1 million.

Wyoming is taking steps to collect taxes more quickly. Producers of coal, oil, gas and uranium will have to pay taxes monthly, instead of up to 18 months after extraction. The change comes after some

counties had difficulty collecting millions of dollars owed by coal companies that went bankrupt.

**WAGES**  
Minimum wage workers will get a pay raise in 23 states as a result of laws passed in previous years, some of which provide annual inflationary adjustments. The increases range from an extra 23 cents in Michigan to an additional \$1.50 in Nebraska, where a ballot measure approved in November will raise the minimum wage from \$8 to \$9.50 an hour.

The gap continues to grow between the 20 states following the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour and the 30 others requiring more. The highest state minimum wage now will be \$15.74 an hour in Washington — more than double the federal rate.

Another law taking effect with the new year will require employers in Washington to include salary and benefits information in job postings, rather than waiting until a job offer to reveal such information. Similar salary transparency laws are in place in half a dozen other states.

Workers in Colorado and Oregon will start seeing paycheck deductions in January to fund new paid family leave programs. But Oregon residents will have to wait until September and Colorado residents until 2024 before they can claim paid time off following a serious illness in their family, the arrival of new children or recovery from sexual assault, domestic violence, harassment or stalking.

Ohio will offer a new way for people to spend their paychecks. Sports betting will become legal, joining more than 30 states that have adopted similar laws since a 2018 U.S. Supreme Court ruling said it was OK.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**  
A new law in Illinois is supposed to eliminate cash bail for people accused of crimes,

but a judge put that on hold in late December after 64 counties challenged it as unconstitutional. Requiring bonds to be posted has long been a way to ensure people who are arrested show up for their trials, but critics say the system penalizes the poor. Eliminating cash bail would put Illinois in a group of states including California, Indiana, New Jersey, Nebraska and New York that have prohibited or restricted the practice.

Another area where social justice meets criminal justice is relaxing marijuana laws.

In November, voters made Maryland the 21st state to legalize recreational use by adults. That begins on July 1, 2023. As an interim step at the start of the year, possession by adults of up to 1.5 ounces of cannabis will become a civil offense punishable with a maximum fine of \$100.

In Connecticut, some provisions of a 2021 law that legalized recreational marijuana also kick in, including automatic expungement of convictions for possession of less than 4 ounces of marijuana that were imposed from 2000 through September 2015. According to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, 21 other states have expungement laws.

Alabama will become the 25th state where it will be legal to carry a concealed handgun without a permit.

A new Missouri law will prohibit homeless people from sleeping on state land without permission. Violators could face up to 15 days in jail and a \$500 fine after an initial warning. The law also prohibits state funding from being used for permanent housing for homeless people, instead directing it toward temporary shelters and assistance with substance use and mental health treatment.

*Associated Press writers from across the U.S. contributed to this report.*



# FCS Financial names new CEO

Rob Guinn has been named the Chief Executive Officer of FCS Financial effective Jan. 1. The Board of Directors selected Guinn after former CEO David Janish announced his intent to retire after 10 years as CEO and 42 years of service to the Farm Credit System.

Guinn's career has been focused on the Farm Credit System and serving agriculture. He joined FCS Financial in 1993 after graduating from the University of Missouri with a degree in agricultural economics. His career started as a loan officer working directly with farmers and ranchers. Over his 30-year tenure, Guinn has served the cooperative through several leadership positions, most recently, as the Executive Vice President and Chief Marketplace Officer.

"Rob's experience and knowledge will be invaluable in leading the cooperative forward. He understands agriculture, credit and, most importantly, our member-owners," Kenny Bergmann, FCS Financial Board Chair, said. "He also recognizes and appreciates the value of collaborations and partnerships that provide unquestionable progress for those we serve in agriculture and rural communities."

Guinn grew up on a dairy and cow-calf operation in southwest Missouri, where he and his family produced milk, feeder calves, hay and



Rob Guinn

silage. That rural background has remained with him and has shaped his life and professional career. He and his wife, Jill, have four children.

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve Missouri's agriculture industry and have the opportunity to work with an extraordinary team at FCS Financial," Guinn said. "I am looking forward to moving the cooperative forward for the benefit of our member-owners and rural communities."

FCS Financial is a member of the Farm Credit System. The system is a nationwide network of cooperative lending institutions that provides credit and financial services to farmers, ranchers, rural residents and agribusinesses. With more than 105 years of agricultural lending experience, the Farm Credit System is the largest single provider of agricultural credit in the United States. FCS Financial serves 102 counties in Missouri through 21 branch office locations.

*Release courtesy of FCS Financial.*

# Top baby names of 2022 at Bothwell Regional Health Center

The list of top names for babies born at Bothwell Regional Health Center in 2022 includes classics and new selections. Five girl and five boy names hold the title of most popular compiled from the list of the 413 babies born through Dec. 26 at Bothwell.

The most popular girl names were Amelia, Cora, Mackenzie, Olivia and Sophia. The most popular boy names for the year were Jackson, Everett, Matthew, Josiah and Nathan. Olivia and Jackson were the only names to also appear on the 2021 list.

"It's always fun to review the list of different baby names and see which ones were most popular," said Lori Wightman, Bothwell CEO. "We are humbled to play such an important role in welcoming future generations into our community."

Three girl names at Bothwell overlap with the

babycenter.com top 10 U.S. national trend list, which include Amelia, Olivia and Sophia. No boy names overlap with the national list.

All babies born at Bothwell receive a special "Delivered by Bothwell" baby blanket, packages of diapers and wipes, and safe sleep information provided by the Bothwell Foundation. New this year is a photo wall located in Women's Health and Newborn Care where families can take their own special keepsake "Delivered by Bothwell" photos as they leave the hospital. This project was also funded by the Bothwell Foundation.

"The birth of a baby is such a joyous time," Wightman said. "We thank these families for choosing Bothwell and allowing us to be a part of their special moments this year."

*Release courtesy of Bothwell Regional Health Center.*

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# REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

## Dec. 19

Austin Tyler Blake and Sheridan Luanne Steen-burgen to Aaron and Timothy Kranz, Clifton Woods Addition, block 4, lots 5, 6.

Andrew S. DeMasters, Emily O'Brien DeMasters, Ayumi Kurosu and William E. O'Brien to Jerian Miller, section 4; township 45; range 21; Martin and Smith 2nd Addition, block 17.

Chelsea L. Clark Dameron and John Dameron to Nadine Johnson, section 3; township 45; range 21; Hale RL Addition, block 4, lot 1.

Anna C. Buchanan to Nicci Ragsdale, Hunter's

Ridge 2nd Subdivision, lot 27.

Bryan K. and Kelly D. Arnold to Elizabeth and Jacob Jolley, section 21; township 45; range 21.

Abraham N. and Marsha L. Azan to Abraham N. Azan Trustee, Marcia L. Azan Trustee and the Azan Revocable Trust, section 22; township 45; range 21.

## Dec. 20

Sean B. Killion to Kaitlyn N. and Seth M. Garri-son, Houstonia, block 4, lots 1, 2.

Dorel and Oksana Chobanu to Luis Diego Resendiz, Dundee Place, block 21.

Lacey Jewel Seward to

Justin Chad Gemes, La Monte, block L, lots 160, 161.

Jackie Marie Haynes to Caleb and Tabbitha Hol-land, section 14; township 46; range 23.

Austin Bryan and Shelby Carney to Nathan Walsh, section 33; town-ship 46; range 20.

Anastasia Tarasov to Christine R. Frazier, McVey's 3rd Addition, block 3, lots 1, 2.

## Dec. 21

Next Home Properties LLC to Luz Elena Fragosos, Covered Bridge Estates Plat 2, lot 25.

Josephine C. Dey and Jane Dorothy Elbert to Nucor Steel Sedalia LLC,

section 27; township 46; range 21.

## Dec. 22

Don Christopher and Heather Blanchard to Abdul Rivas Merlos, West View Addition, block 2, lot 18. Janis D. Morgan and Shawn M. Woolery to Jennifer and Nathaniel Schaffer, section 17; town-ship 45; range 21; Gables Phase I, lot 13.

Jordan C. Reich to Adam and Leah Buck, section 15; township 46; range 23.

Cannon Holding and Enterprises LLC to Shaw-na V. and Steven L. Can-non, section 12; township 44; range 23.



Simmons Bank representatives present a check for \$2,500 to the New Growth Women's Business Center. PHOTO COURTESY OF WEST CENTRAL MISSOURI COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

# Simmons Bank helps support women's business center

Simmons Bank recently presented a check for \$2,500 to the New Growth Women's Business Center in support of its work across its 15-county west central Missouri and southeastern Kansas service area.

Rick Brown, Community President of Simmons Bank in Stockton, presented the check along with Heather Kenney, Assistant Financial Center Manager.

The New Growth Women's Business Center provides rural men and women with business counseling, assistance with writing business plans, credit building counseling and

assistance, help with access to capital, and connection to resources for help with exporting, patents, finding suitable commercial real estate, and other individualized services. It is operated by community development corporation New Growth, an affiliate of West Central Missouri Community Action Agency.

New Growth's Chief Community Wealth Building Officer Sheridan Garman-Neeman said, "This money goes to support operations of the WBC so that business counselors can continue to help entrepreneurs grow and find the resources

they need to thrive."

West Central CEO Chris Thompson commented, "We really appreciate Simmons Bank's support for the Women's Business Center as one of the few rural and remote designated business centers in the US. We want to continue to grow our offerings for rural entrepreneurs and value the partnership in this instance and hopefully others to ensure we have new, innovative and bankable businesses for our communities."

The New Growth Women's Business Center has served more than 323 rural entrepreneurs since it began

operation in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a new and needed resource for aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, both male and female, in underserved rural communities.

The New Growth Women's Business Center service area includes west central Missouri counties Barton, Bates, Benton, Camden, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Morgan, Polk, St. Clair, and Vernon and southeastern Kansas counties Bourbon and Crawford.

*Release courtesy of West Central Missouri Community Action Agency.*

# Full speed ahead: 'Avatar' sequel again dominates box office

NEW YORK (AP) — "Avatar: The Way of Water" is the box office king for a third straight week, and shows no sign of slowing down.

James Cameron's long-awaited sequel to the first "Avatar" film brought in an estimated \$63 million over the holiday weekend, roughly the same as the previous week, and now has made more than \$400 million domestically and more than \$1.3 billion globally. "The Way of Water" is already the 15th highest global release ever, just behind the first "Black Panther."

Numbers released Sunday by Comscore showed "Avatar" far ahead of the runner-up, Universal's "Shrek"

spinoff "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," which made an estimated \$16 million, and Disney's "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," which brought in around \$4.8 million.

The Sony biopic "Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody" made \$4.2 million in its second week of release. "Babylon," the epic of early Hollywood starring Brad Pitt and Margot Robbie, continued to fare badly despite its five Golden Globe nominations. The Paramount release earned just \$2.7 million in its second week, a 24% drop, and averaged just \$815 per location. By comparison, the new "Avatar," a 20th Century Studios film, averaged more

than \$15,000.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Avatar: The Way of Water," \$63 million.
2. "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish," \$16 million.
3. "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," \$4.8 million.

4. "I Wanna Dance With Somebody," \$4.2 million.
5. "Babylon," \$2.7 million.
6. "Violent Night," \$2.1 million.
7. "The Whale," \$1.3 million.
8. "The Fabelmans," \$1.1 million.
9. "The Menu," \$1.1 million.
10. "Strange World," \$538,000.

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**December 31, 2022**

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2. Spot
5. Sleep

**DOWN:**

1. Rest
2. Spice
3. Topic

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# Time zone by time zone, another new year sweeps into view

By Bobby Caina Calvan  
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New Year's celebrations swept across the globe, ushering in 2023 with countdowns and fireworks — and marking an end to a year that brought war in Europe, a new chapter in the British monarchy and global worries over inflation.

The new year began in the tiny atoll nation of Kiribati in the central Pacific, then moved across Russia and New Zealand before heading deeper, time zone by time zone, through Asia and Europe and into the Americas.

The ball dropped on New York City's iconic Times Square as huge crowds counted down the seconds into 2023, culminating in raucous cheers and a deluge of confetti glittering amid jumbo screens, neon, pulsing lights and soggy streets.

A man wielding a machete attacked three police officers near the celebration, authorities said, striking two of them in the head before an officer shot the man in the shoulder about eight blocks from Times Square, just outside the high-security zone. The two officers were hospitalized, one with a fractured skull and the other with a bad cut, but expected to recover. The 19-year-old suspect was also expected to recover.

Across the world, at least for a day, thoughts focused on possibilities, even elusive ones like world peace, and mustering — finally — a resolve to keep the next array of resolutions.

In a sign of that hope, children met St. Nicholas in a crowded metro station in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Yet Russian attacks continued New Year's Eve. At midnight, the streets of the capital, Kyiv, were desolate. The only sign of a new year came from local residents shouting from their balconies, "Happy New Year!" and "Glory to Ukraine!" And only half an hour into 2023,



Revellers gather under the rain as they wait for the countdown during the New Year's Eve celebrations in Times Square on Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, in New York.

PHOTO BY ANDRES KUDACKI | AP PHOTO

air raid sirens rang across Ukraine's capital, followed by the sound of explosions.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko reported an explosion in Holo-siivskyi district, and authorities reported that fragments of a missile that had been shot down had damaged a car in a central district.

In Paris, thousands celebrated on the Champs Elysees, while French President Emmanuel Macron pledged continuing support for Ukraine in a televised New Year's address.

"During the coming year, we will be unfailingly at your side," Macron said. "We will help you until victory and we will be together to build a just and lasting peace. Count on France and count on Europe."

Big Ben chimed as more than 100,000 revelers gathered along the River Thames to watch a spectacular fireworks show around the London Eye. The display featured a drone light display of a crown and Queen Elizabeth II's portrait on a coin hovering in the sky, paying tribute to

Britain's longest-serving monarch who died in September.

Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach welcomed a small crowd of a few thousand for a short fireworks display, and several Brazilian cities canceled celebrations this year due to concern about the coronavirus. The Brazilian capital's New Year's bash usually drew more than 2 million people to Copacabana before the pandemic.

Turkey's most populous city, Istanbul, brought in 2023 with street festivities and fireworks. At St. Antuan Catholic Church, dozens of Christians prayed for the new year and marked former Pope Benedict XVI's passing. The Vatican announced Benedict died Saturday at age 95.

In New York, rain that was fierce at times did not deter the crowd at a dazzling Saturday night spectacle kicking off celebrations across the United States. The Times Square party culminated with the descent from One Times Square of a glowing sphere 12 feet (3.6 meters) in diameter

and comprised of nearly 2,700 Waterford crystals.

"I just wish everyone a lot of prosperity peace and love," reveler Tina Wright, who was visiting from the Phoenix area, said after the countdown. "And let's just get things moving in the world right now."

Last year, a scaled-back crowd of about 15,000 in-person mask-wearing spectators watched the ball descend while basking in the lights and hoopla. Because of pandemic rules, it was far fewer than the tens of thousands of revelers who usually descend on the world-famous square.

Before the ball dropped, there were heavy thoughts about the past year and the new one to come.

"2023 is about resurgence — resurgence of the world after COVID-19 and after the war in Ukraine. We want it to end," said Arjun Singh as he took in the scene at Times Square.

In Australia, more than 1 million people crowded along Sydney's waterfront for a multi-million dollar

celebration based around the themes of diversity and inclusion. More than 7,000 fireworks were launched from the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge and another 2,000 from the nearby Opera House.

"We have had a couple of fairly difficult years; we're absolutely delighted this year to be able to welcome people back to the foreshores of Sydney Harbor for Sydney's world-famous New Year's Eve celebrations," Stephen Gilby, the city's producer of major events and festivals, told The Sydney Morning Herald.

In Auckland, New Zealand, large crowds gathered below the Sky Tower, where a 10-second countdown to midnight preceded fireworks. The celebrations in New Zealand's largest city returned after COVID-19 forced them to be canceled a year ago.

Chinese cautiously looked forward to 2023 after a recent easing of pandemic restrictions unleashed the virus but also signaled a return to normal life. Like many, salesperson Hong Xinyu

stayed close to home over the past year in part because of curbs on travel.

"As the new year begins, we seem to see the light," he said at a countdown show that lit up the towering structures of a former steel mill in Beijing. "We are hopeful that there will be more freedom in the future."

Concerns about the Ukraine war and the economic shocks it has spawned across the globe were felt in Tokyo, where Shigeki Kawamura has seen better times but said he needed a free, hot meal this New Year's.

"I hope the war will be over in Ukraine so prices will stabilize," he said.

—

*Associated Press journalists around the globe contributed to this report, including Liu Zheng in Beijing, Renata Brito and Hanna Arhrova in Kyiv, Yuri Kagayema in Tokyo, Grant Peck in Bangkok, Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul, Thomas Adamson in Paris, Sylvia Hui in London and Robert Bumsted in New York.*

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## Transgender woman's scheduled execution would be US first

By Jim Salter  
Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Unless Missouri Gov. Mike Parson grants clemency, Amber McLaughlin, 49, will become the first openly transgender woman executed in the U.S. She is scheduled to die by injection Tuesday for killing a former girlfriend in 2003.

McLaughlin's attorney, Larry Komp, said there are no court appeals pending.

The clemency request focuses on several issues,

including McLaughlin's traumatic childhood and mental health issues, which the jury never heard in her trial. A foster parent rubbed feces in her face when she was a toddler and her adoptive father used a stun gun on her, according to the clemency petition. It says she suffers from depression and attempted suicide multiple times.

The petition also includes reports citing a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, a condition that causes anguish and other symptoms as a result of a disparity between a person's gender identity and their assigned sex at birth.

"We think Amber has demonstrated incredible courage because I can tell you there's a lot of hate when it comes to that issue," her attorney, Larry

Komp, said Monday. But, he said, McLaughlin's sexual identity is "not the main focus" of the clemency request.

Parson's spokesperson, Kelli Jones, said the review process for the clemency request is still underway.

There is no known case of an openly transgender inmate being executed in the U.S. before, according to the anti-execution Death Penalty Information Center. A friend in prison says she saw McLaughlin's personality blossom during her gender transition.

Before transitioning, McLaughlin was in a relationship with girlfriend Beverly Guenther. McLaughlin would show up at the suburban St. Louis office where the 45-year-old Guenther worked, sometimes hiding inside the building, according to court records. Guenther obtained a restraining order, and police officers occasionally escorted her to her car after work.

Guenther's neighbors called police the night of Nov. 20, 2003, when she failed to return home. Officers went to the office building, where they found a broken knife handle near her car and a trail of blood. A day later, McLaughlin led police to a location near the Mississippi River in St. Louis, where the body had been dumped.

McLaughlin was convicted of first-degree murder in 2006. A judge sentenced McLaughlin to death after a jury deadlocked on the sentence. A court in 2016 ordered a new sentencing hearing, but a federal appeals court panel reinstated the death penalty in 2021.

One person who knew Amber before she transitioned is Jessica Hicklin, 43, who spent 26 years in prison for a drug-related killing in western Missouri in 1995. She was 16. Because of her age when the crime occurred,



# First

From Page 4A

she was granted release in January 2022.

Hicklin, 43, began transitioning while in prison and in 2016 sued the Missouri Department of Corrections, challenging a policy that prohibited hormone therapy for inmates who weren't receiving it before being incarcerated. She won the lawsuit in 2018 and became a mentor to other transgender inmates, including McLaughlin.

Though imprisoned together for around a decade, Hicklin said McLaughlin was so shy they rarely interacted. But as McLaughlin began transitioning about three years ago, she turned to Hicklin for guidance on issues such as mental health counseling and getting help to ensure her safety inside a male-dominated maximum-security prison.

"There's always paperwork and bureaucracy, so I spent time helping her learn to file the right things and talk to the right people," Hicklin said.

In the process, a friendship developed.

"We would sit down once a week and have what I referred to as girl talk," Hicklin said. "She always had a smile and a

dad joke. If you ever talked to her, it was always with the dad jokes."

They also discussed the challenges a transgender inmate faces in a male prison — things like how to obtain feminine items, dealing with rude comments, and staying safe.

McLaughlin still had insecurities, especially about her well-being, Hicklin said.

"Definitely a vulnerable person," Hicklin said. "Definitely afraid of being assaulted or victimized, which is more common for trans folks in Department of Corrections."

The only woman ever executed in Missouri was Bonnie B. Heady, put to death on Dec. 18, 1953, for kidnapping and killing a 6-year-old boy. Heady was executed in the gas chamber, side by side with the other kidnapper and killer, Carl Austin Hall.

Nationally, 18 people were executed in 2022, including two in Missouri. Kevin Johnson, 37, was put to death Nov. 29 for the ambush killing of a Kirkwood, Missouri, police officer. Carmen Deck was executed in May for killing James and Zelma Long during a robbery at their home in De Soto, Missouri.

Another Missouri inmate, Leonard Taylor, is scheduled to die Feb. 7 for killing his girlfriend and her three young children.

# Tradition of hiking in the new year reaches all 50 US states

By Mark Pratt  
Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A simple plan to get more people enjoying the outdoors on New Year's Day has become a nationwide movement after a hike at a Massachusetts park more than three decades ago.

Just 380 people participated in the initial First Day Hike in 1992 at the nearly 7,000-acre Blue Hills Reservation just south of Boston. On Sunday, tens of thousands of people are expected to take part in First Day Hikes at hundreds of parks in all 50 states.

A vigorous walk is a great way to start the new year on the right foot — literally — and get outdoors, enjoy nature, spend time with family and friends and maybe start working on that New Year's resolution to get in shape, park officials and participants said.

"It's all about mind, body and soul," said Rodney Franklin, director of parks

for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The late Patrick Flynn, the former supervisor at Blue Hills, came up with the original plan.

"He wanted a way to bring people into the parks in the winter time because so many people think of parks as just a summertime place," said Priscilla Geigis, deputy commissioner for conservation and resource stewardship at the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Steve Olanoff, 77, took part in that inaugural event at Blue Hills back in 1992 and is now a volunteer who helps shepherd hikers along the park's trails each year.

"Back then, there was nothing to do on New Year's Day," he said. "Everyone just sat home and watched television. When I heard there was an opportunity to go for a hike I said, 'Well, I'll try that.' It's really amazing that so many people are doing this now."

Over the years, more

Massachusetts state parks joined in. Then, parks in other states came on board. In 2012, First Day Hikes went nationwide when the National Association of State Park Directors endorsed the idea.

"It just goes to show that one person can have an idea that can spread like that," Geigis said.

Some states have added their own twists. At Ink Lake State Park in Burnet County, Texas, northwest of Austin, participants can go for a first day run, bike ride, or paddle in a canoe or kayak.

Snowshoes or cross country skis may be required at some Oregon locations, said Jason Resch, marketing manager for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Elijah Bristow State Park near Eugene is even offering a first day horseback ride.

"Just bring your own horse," Resch said.

Some hikes are guided by park rangers or volunteers who teach about the history,

geography, flora and fauna of a particular park. That in turn promotes stewardship, and a commitment to protect parks and open spaces, Geigis said. Refreshments are offered at many sites.

And people of all ability levels are welcome.

"We want to appeal to as many people as possible," Franklin said. "So you'll have some of our hikes that take place on paved, flat surfaces that are not very long, but if you want a brisk, longer hike, you can do that."

Families with babies, seniors, and people with their dogs have participated in the First Day Hike at the Chester Blandford State Forest in Massachusetts, said Elizabeth Massa, president of the Western Mass Hilltown Hikers, who guides the 1.5-mile jaunt.

"If your New Year's resolution is the get more exercise, lose weight, get healthier, then this is your opportunity," she said.

## STATE BRIEF

### Judge overturns Missouri man's conviction in 2011 killing

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A judge overturned a Missouri man's murder conviction in a case in which investigators failed to reveal that a witness was in a romantic relationship with the lead detective.

Judge Timothy Boyer on Friday overturned Lamont Cambell's conviction in the death of Lenny Gregory III,

the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported. Gregory, the son of a retired St. Louis police officer, was found shot in an SUV in south St. Louis in July 2011.

Cambell was 17 when the shooting happened. A jury failed to reach a unanimous verdict after a 2013 trial. Prosecutors tried him again in 2016 and this time won a conviction. Cambell was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Cambell, now 28, subsequently argued that his attor-

ney was ineffective.

A witness identification expert, Jennifer Dysart, testified to Boyer in spring 2022 that the witness' accounts were unreliable due to poor lighting the night of the shooting. Two witnesses were married, allowing them to compare their stories, and descriptions of the shooter's height varied, Dysart said.

The ex-wife of lead detective Jeff Hyatt testified that she learned in 2017 her husband was having an affair with one witness. Text mes-

sages showed the affair had been going on since at least July 2016, before Cambell's trial. Boyer wrote that the relationship should have been disclosed to the defense.

Mary Fox, who represented Cambell at trial and now leads the state public defender's office, told the judge that she could have done more to investigate the possibility of another perpetrator. She said she learned after the trial that a neighbor saw multiple people fighting with Gregory the night he was killed.

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# Band

## From Page 1A

The band performed “Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis during the parade on Beale Street and “We Built This City” and “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now” with Starship during the halftime show.

Gemes said this was an experience that the students in the band can never replicate.

“It’s one of those best situations for the students, is to get out of the school building and experience something that they are going to remember for the rest of their lives,” Gemes added. “We can’t thank the parents and everybody enough that supported this, in order for this to happen for the kids because it’s an awesome thing.”

Gemes said the band members are relieved now that their performance is

complete. The kids were nervous and focused on what was happening, so once halftime was over, they were able to enjoy everything.

Head Drum Major Alyson Alcantara, a junior, said performing at the Liberty Bowl was exciting.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for all of us,” Alcantara added. “The crowd was great. It was so great to be a part of something that big and I think everyone would agree with me that we were very stressed and nervous but I wouldn’t change it. The excitement was fantastic.”

She said performing with the other bands was great, and that it allowed her to meet a lot of different and interesting people.

“I never thought I would do this,” Alcantara said. “But I’m very grateful for the opportunity and the experience I had.”

*Skye Melcher can be reached at 660-530-0144.*



The Warsaw Wildcat Band performs on Beale Street during the parade on Dec. 27. PHOTO COURTESY OF WARSAW R-XI SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Stop

## From Page 1A

Robinson was apprehended a short time later and crack cocaine was located.

“Obviously, the vehicle stop and the short pursuit where he tried to run from them led to an investigation,” Tyler noted.

Detectives from the CRU and the latent investigations unit then served a search warrant on Robinson’s residence. Cocaine, crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia were found.

Robinson has been charged with second-degree trafficking drugs, delivery of a controlled substance, manufacturing

a controlled substance, and resisting/interfering with arrest for a felony. He has been issued an \$80,000 bond, cash or surety. No information was available on online court records regarding a scheduled hearing or arraignment.

Anyone with information regarding drug activity or any illegal activity is encouraged to contact the Sedalia Police Department at 660-827-7823, Pettis County Joint Communication at 660-826-8100, Pettis County tips hotline at 660-827-TIPS (8477), the Mid-Missouri Drug Task Force tips hotline at 660-281-1803, or local law enforcement.

*Chris Howell can be reached at 660-530-0146.*

# Chief justice: Judges' safety 'essential' to court system

By Jessica Gresko  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With security threats to Supreme Court justices still fresh memories, Chief Justice John Roberts on Saturday praised programs that protect judges, saying that “we must support judges by ensuring their safety.”

Roberts and other conservative Supreme Court justices were the subject of protests, some at their homes, after the May leak of the court’s decision that ultimately stripped away constitutional protections for abortion. Justice Samuel Alito has said that the leak made conservative justices “targets for assassination.” And in June, a man carrying a gun, knife and zip ties was arrested near Justice Brett Kavanaugh’s house after threatening to kill the justice, whose vote was key to overturning the court’s Roe v. Wade decision.

Roberts, writing in an annual year-end report about the federal judiciary, did not specifically mention the abortion decision, but the

case and the reaction to it seemed clearly on his mind.

“Judicial opinions speak for themselves, and there is no obligation in our free country to agree with them. Indeed, we judges frequently dissent — sometimes strongly — from our colleagues’ opinions, and we explain why in public writings about the cases before us,” Roberts wrote.

Polls following the abortion decision show public trust in the court is at historic lows. And two of Roberts’ liberal colleagues who dissented in the abortion case, Justices Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor, have said the court needs to be concerned about overturning precedent and appearing political.

After the leak and threat to Kavanaugh, lawmakers passed legislation increasing security protection for the justices and their families. Separately, in December, lawmakers passed legislation protecting the personal information of federal judges including their addresses.

The law is named for the son of U.S. District Judge

Esther Salas, 20-year-old Daniel Anderl, who was killed at the family’s New Jersey home by a man who previously had a case before her.

Roberts thanked members of Congress “who are attending to judicial security needs.” And he said programs that protect judges are “essential to run a system of courts.”

In writing about judicial security, Roberts told the story of Judge Ronald N. Davies, who in September 1957 ordered the integration of Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. Davies’ decision followed the Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education ruling that segregated schools were unconstitutional and rejected Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus’ attempt to stop school integration.

Davies “was physically threatened for following the law,” but the judge was “uncowed,” Roberts said.

“A judicial system cannot and should not live in fear. The events of Little Rock teach about the importance of rule by law instead of by

mob,” he wrote.

Roberts noted that officials are currently working to replicate the courtroom Davies presided over in 1957. Roberts said the judge’s bench used by Davies and other artifacts from the courtroom have been preserved and will be installed in the re-created courtroom in a federal courthouse in Little Rock “so that these important artifacts will be used to hold court once again.”

Before that happens, however, the judge’s bench will be on display as part of an exhibit at the Supreme Court beginning in the fall and for the next several years, he said.

“The exhibit will introduce visitors to how the system of federal courts works, to the history of racial segregation and desegregation in our country, and to Thurgood Marshall’s towering contributions as an advocate,” Roberts said. Marshall, who argued Brown v. Board of Education, became the Supreme Court’s first Black justice in 1967.

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# THE WEATHER

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST

TODAY

56 29

Partly sunny and breezy

WEDNESDAY

38 28

Mostly cloudy and colder

THURSDAY

32 26

Some clouds, then sunshine

FRIDAY

49 40

Milder; rain at night

SATURDAY

42 21

Mostly sunny and cooler

SUNDAY

35 25

Plenty of sunshine

MONDAY

46 31

Sunny

**SUN AND MOON**

Sunrise today 7:31 a.m.

Sunset tonight 5:04 p.m.

Moonrise today 2:24 p.m.

Moonset today 4:47 a.m.

Full Jan 6

Last Jan 14

New Jan 21

First Jan 28

**WEATHER HISTORY**

On Jan. 3, 1777, George Washington noticed it would freeze that night. He ordered bonfires built as a decoy. When the ground froze, Washington’s men outflanked the British.

**ALMANAC**

Sedalia Regional Airport Sunday

**TEMPERATURES**

High	63
Low	38
Normal high	39
Normal low	20
Record high	68 in 2005
Record low	-18 in 1974

**PRECIPITATION**

Sunday	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal m-t-d	0.07"
Year to date	0.00"
Normal y-t-d	0.07"

**HEATING DEGREE DAYS**

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was below 65 degrees for the day.

Sunday	14
Month to date	14
Season to date	1847
Normal season to date	2079
Last season to date	1322

**RIVER LEVELS**

In feet as of 7 a.m. Monday

Blackwater	Stage	Chg	Fld Stg
Blue Lick	7.33	+0.14	24
Valley City	3.10	-0.08	22

**Lamine**

Oterville	0.93	-0.02	15
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**Missouri**

Boonville	1.58	-1.83	21
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Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2023

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**BRANSON**

**High:** 63. **Low:** 31. Mostly sunny and mild today. Partly cloudy tonight. Partly sunny tomorrow. Thursday: plenty of sunshine. Friday: partial sunshine.

**KANSAS CITY**

**High:** 51. **Low:** 29. Mostly cloudy and breezy today. Low clouds tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow. Thursday: partly sunny. Friday: intervals of clouds and sun.

**ST. LOUIS**

**High:** 70. **Low:** 36. Breezy today with increasing amounts of sunshine. Partly cloudy tonight. Mostly cloudy tomorrow; breezy in the afternoon.

**NEW YORK CITY**

**High:** 56. **Low:** 52. Mild today with occasional rain and drizzle, becoming breezy in the afternoon. A little rain late tonight. Brief showers tomorrow.

**LOS ANGELES**

**High:** 61. **Low:** 54. A shower in places in the morning; otherwise, cloudy and cool today. Occasional rain late tonight. Periods of rain tomorrow.

**NATIONAL WEATHER**

	Today	Wednesday
Atlanta	69/62/t	69/45/r
Baltimore	65/58/r	67/50/sh
Billings	35/21/s	37/23/s
Boston	49/47/r	55/39/sh
Buffalo	50/42/r	47/39/sh
Charlotte	67/60/c	68/48/t
Chicago	55/36/sh	39/29/c
Cleveland	64/56/sh	58/37/sh
Dallas	69/42/pc	60/38/s
Denver	31/18/c	40/19/s
Detroit	57/46/r	50/35/sh
Honolulu	83/70/s	82/67/pc
Houston	76/52/sh	72/43/pc
Indianapolis	65/47/sh	52/34/c
Las Vegas	55/41/pc	51/45/c

	Today	Wednesday
Milwaukee	42/38/sh	41/31/sn
Nashville	70/58/r	68/39/r
New Orleans	74/63/t	76/51/t
Norfolk	70/60/pc	74/59/t
Oklahoma City	54/29/s	50/29/s
Orlando	83/67/pc	83/66/t
Phoenix	59/47/r	63/46/c
Pittsburgh	64/55/r	60/39/sh
Portland, ME	40/36/r	44/29/r
Portland, OR	47/37/c	45/41/sh
Sacramento	51/42/c	55/51/r
St. Louis	70/36/pc	43/31/c
San Francisco	55/49/c	58/51/r
Seattle	48/38/c	47/40/sh
Washington, DC	65/60/c	69/54/sh

Weather (W): s - sunny, pc - partly cloudy, c - cloudy, sh - showers, t - thunderstorms, r - rain, sf - snow flurries, sn - snow, i - ice

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation today. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

**Summary:** A large storm will continue to produce severe weather in the Southeast and snow over the North Central states today. The same storm will bring rain to the Northeast and snow showers to the interior West.





Denver Broncos wide receiver Courtland Sutton (14) is stopped by Kansas City Chiefs safety Juan Thornhill (22) and cornerback L'Jarius Sneed (38) after catching a pass during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Kansas City, Mo. PHOTO BY CHARLIE RIEDEL | AP PHOTO

# Chiefs keep stacking wins after difficult offseason decision

By Dave Skretta  
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs keep winning and Patrick Mahomes keeps making history.

Both are doing so despite some difficult offseason decisions that have prolonged their ability to do so.

The biggest, of course, was the decision to trade Tyreek Hill to the Dolphins, rather than lavish on the game-breaking wide receiver a massive contract that would have made it difficult to maneuver financially for years to come.

The Chiefs not only gained salary cap flexibility with the move, but also five draft picks that helped to fortify other areas of the roster.

That includes the

defense, which is vastly improved and has helped the Chiefs squeak out wins — such as their 27-24 victory over the Denver Broncos on Sunday — even when their high-octane offense starts to sputter.

“When you win and you don’t play your best ball — you don’t feel like you play your best ball — that’s always a good thing,” Mahomes said afterward. “Fourth quarter, we played well. But at the end of the day we have to find a way that for four quarters we play our best football whenever we get to the playoffs, and I feel like we still haven’t done that yet.”

Yet they’ve played well enough to start the season 13-3, clinch the AFC West with plenty of time to spare,

See CHIEFS | 9A



St. Louis Blues' Ryan O'Reilly, left, is congratulated by Niko Mikkola after scoring during the second period of an NHL hockey game against the Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2022, in St. Louis. PHOTO BY JEFF ROBERSON | AP PHOTO

# Banged-up Blues put O'Reilly, Tarasenko on injured reserve

By Stephen Whyno  
AP Hockey Writer

Ryan O'Reilly and Vladimir Tarasenko are the latest St. Louis Blues players to land on the injured list, though general manager Doug Armstrong is not conceding this might not be the year for a team that was built to contend in the Western Conference.

The Blues put both their captain and their most prolific scoring winger on IR on Monday, less than a week after defenseman Torey Krug was ruled out for more than a month because of a lower-body injury. With O'Reilly missing the next six weeks because of a broken foot and Tarasenko the next four with a hand injury, big absences are piling up for St. Louis near the midway point of the season.

“It’s a great opportunity

for a lot of different players,” said Armstrong, who has been the Blues’ GM for more than a decade. “Pro sports, injuries are part of the profession, part of the game, and winning people and winning organizations don’t dwell on what they don’t have. They look forward to working with the things that they do have.”

What the Blues have is a roster with a handful of underachieving veterans, whom Armstrong expects to raise their game down the stretch with the team sitting a few points outside a playoff position — 10th out of 16 in the West. He singled out forwards Brayden Schenn and Brandon Saad and defensemen Colton Parayko and Nick Leddy as players who “aren’t playing to the standards that they set for themselves.”

SEE BLUES | 12A



Tulane head coach Willie Fritz celebrates with the trophy after the Cotton Bowl NCAA college football game against Southern California, Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in Arlington, Texas. PHOTO BY SAM HODDE | AP PHOTO

# Ex-Mules Fritz, Svoboda conduct Cotton Bowl comeback

By Joe Andrews  
joea@warrensburgstarjournal.com

Orchestrated by former Central Missouri head coach Willie Fritz, Tulane completed the biggest turnaround between back-to-back seasons in college football.

The Green Wave trailed by two or more possessions three different times, including a 15-point difference with 4:30 remaining before completing their comeback to beat USC 46-45 in Monday afternoon’s Cotton Bowl contest.

A six-yard touchdown from quarterback Michael Pratt to Alex Bauman with just nine seconds left put a cap on the dramatic win at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas. The game-winning catch was initially ruled incomplete, though a video review illustrated that the ball did not hit the ground as Bauman

and Trojans linebacker Eric Gentry tumbled in the end zone and it was overturned.

“I’m still trying to soak it all in right now,” Fritz said. “The big touchdown there at the end, Alex had the catch, I just wish they didn’t have any time left on the clock.”

Tulane’s impressive season began back in January 2022, when a series of changes occurred within its coaching staff.

Of them included Fritz hiring fellow former UCM head coach Jim Svoboda to be his offensive coordinator. The UCM connections only grew, with former Mules offensive coordinator John McMenamin joining the team as a wide receivers coach.

The Tulane offense finished Monday with 539 yards, including 205 rushing yards and four touchdowns from running back Tyjae Spears.

His last score came with 4:07 remaining. Less than a minute later, the defense came up with a safety to bring the contest within seven points.

“It was kind of 50/50 on kicking it deep or onside kicking it on that one,” Fritz said. “We kicked it deep and we got a fortunate outcome. Ball on the one, got the big safety ... The guys really executed each play the way they needed to execute.”

Spears helped the Green Wave keep up with 2022 Heisman Winner quarterback Caleb Williams, who completed 37-of-52 passes for 462 yards and five touchdowns.

Williams threw the game’s first two touchdowns to put USC up 14-0. Tulane tied it up by the midway mark of the second quarter, with Spears scoring on a 3-yard run and Pratt hitting wide receiver Jha’Quan Jackson

for an 87-yard score.

The 14-14 tie marked the closest the game was until Tulane went ahead for its first lead of the game with nine seconds remaining. USC’s largest lead peaked at 45-30 with 4:30 left in the fourth.

“There’s a reason why [Pratt] won the Heisman Trophy,” Fritz said. “He’s a pretty good player. H’s’e’s hard to get down. I don’t know how many sacks we almost had with him. It’s always tough when you haven’t played for a month and you get out and play and some tackles probably tackle better than other guys in the ball game. They’re a great team.”

The win accounts for Fritz’ second against a Power Five opponent. The first arrived earlier this season as Tulane beat Kansas State 17-10 on Sept. 17, in Manhattan, Kansas.

See BOWL | 12A

# Duggan vs. Bennett: 2 onetime underdogs fight for CFP title

By David Brandt  
AP Sports Writer

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP) — TCU thought so much of Max Duggan at the beginning of the season that he lost his job. Georgia seemed like it spent years trying to give its starting quarterback job to anyone not named Stetson Bennett.

If they gave out five stars for resiliency, these two guys would have been some of the highest-rated recruits in the country.

Now the underdogs-turned-legends at their respective schools will fight it out for the national championship on Jan. 9 in Inglewood, California. No. 3 TCU upset No. 2 Michigan 51-45 and No. 1 Georgia rallied to beat No. 4 Ohio State 42-41 on Saturday in a pair of semifinal games that were among the best the College Football Playoff ever has produced.



TCU quarterback Max Duggan (15) throws against Michigan during the first half of the Fiesta Bowl NCAA college football semifinal playoff game, Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022, in Glendale, Ariz. PHOTO BY ROSS D. FRANKLIN | AP PHOTO

The encore awaits. It will be the eighth straight title game with at least one team from the Southeastern Conference. The SEC has won 15 games in the CFP’s history while every other conference has combined for 11

wins. “Now we’ve got to take care of business,” Bennett said. “We’ve got to prepare. We’ve got nine days or whatever to play a really good TCU team.”

If anyone expected Duggan or Bennett to

give exuberant soundbites following their thrilling semifinal wins, well, that’s just not how these guys are wired. The two veterans talk more like 10-year NFL veterans than a couple of college guys.

See TITLE | 12A



# Purdue at No. 1, Charleston ranked for 1st time in 20 years

By John Marshall  
AP Basketball Writer

Purdue solidified its No. 1 ranking in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll following UConn's first loss of the season, while No. 23 Charleston moved into the rankings for the first time in 20 years.

The Boilermakers remained No. 1 for the fourth straight week, receiving all but one first-place vote from a 61-person media panel in the poll released Monday. No. 2 Houston and No. 3 Kansas each moved up a spot, and No. 4 UConn dropped two spots after losing to Xavier, which moved up from No. 22 to No. 18. Arizona rounded out the top five.

Purdue lasted only one week after hitting No. 1 for the first time last season, but it has tightened its grip this season since moving to the top spot on Dec. 12.

The Boilermakers (13-0, 2-0 Big Ten) dominated Florida A&M 82-49 last Thursday in its first game in eight days to join No. 21 New Mexico as the nation's only remaining undefeated Division I teams.

"Competition is going to get harder and teams are going to know what to scout," Purdue's Mason Gillis said. "There are going to be closer games down toward the end. We'll find out who can play under pressure."

UConn (14-1, 3-1 Big East) had been off to its best start since 1998 before losing 83-73 to Xavier,



Florida A&M forward Saiyd Burnside, left, attempts to strip the ball from Purdue forward Trey Kaufman-Renn (4) during the second half of an NCAA college basketball game Thursday, Dec. 29, 2022, in West Lafayette, Ind.

PHOTO BY DOUG MCSCHOOLER | AP PHOTO

which has won eight straight.

### CHARLESTON CHARTING

Charleston put together a solid first season under Pat Kelsey a year ago, winning 17 games. The Cougars almost have matched that already this season to enter the AP Top 25 for the first time since a one-week stint at No. 25 in 2002-03.

Charleston (14-1, 2-0 CAA) lost to then-No. 1 North Carolina in its second game and has since

reeled off 13 straight wins. The Cougars outlasted Colonial Athletic Association preseason favorite Towson 76-74 in overtime on Saturday.

### LOBOS RISING

New Mexico cracked the AP Top 25 for the first time in eight years last week and won both of its games.

The Lobos beat Colorado State 88-69 on Thursday in front of more than 15,000 people, the largest crowd at The Pit in seven years. They then pulled

out a 76-75 win at Wyoming on Saturday for their best start since going 17-0 in 1967-68.

### RISING/FALLING

No. 18 Xavier had the largest jump within the poll, climbing four spots after its win over UConn. No. 11 Virginia and No. 12 Miami were the only other teams to climb more than one spot, each moving up two.

No. 19 Baylor had the biggest drop, losing seven places after a 15-point loss to Iowa State, which went

from unranked to No. 25. No. 13 Arkansas dropped four spots following a 60-57 loss at LSU.

### IN AND OUT

No. 20 Missouri is ranked for the first time since 2020-21 after returning from its holiday break to beat Kentucky by 14.

No. 24 Ohio State returned to the poll after a two-week absence following wins over Alabama A&M and Northwestern. No. 25 Iowa State is back after three unranked weeks, thanks to its win

over Baylor.

Kentucky is unranked for the first time in two years, dropping out from No. 19 after its loss to Missouri. Mississippi State fell out from No. 21 following a loss to No. 7 Alabama.

North Carolina's return to the poll didn't last long.

The Tar Heels, the pre-season No. 1, moved back into the poll at No. 25 last week after a tumultuous start to the season. North Carolina is again outside looking in, dropping out after losing to Pittsburgh.

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### Tuesday ON TAP HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Slater at Smithton  
Lincoln at Skyline  
Northwest at Jamestown

### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Smith-Cotton at Jefferson City  
Green Ridge at Stover  
Cole Camp vs Holden (at Stover)  
Slater at Smithton

Concordia at Tipton  
Adrian at Windsor  
Northwest at Jamestown

### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING

Windsor at Eldon

### ON AIR COLLEGE BASKETBALL (MEN'S)

5:30 p.m. FS1 — Marquette at St. John's  
6 p.m. ACCN — Notre Dame at Boston College  
BTN — Nebraska at

Michigan St.

CBSSN — Ball St. at Toledo

ESPN2 — Mississippi St. at Tennessee

ESPNU — Syracuse at Louisville

SECN — South Carolina at Vanderbilt

7 p.m. ESPN — LSU at Kentucky

7:30 p.m. FS1 — Seton Hall at Creighton

8 p.m. ACCN — Virginia at Pittsburgh

BTN — Minnesota at Wisconsin

CBSSN — Utah St. at Air Force

ESPN2 — Kansas at Texas Tech

SECN — Mississippi at Alabama

10 p.m. CBSSN — New Mexico at Fresno St.

### COLLEGE BASKETBALL (WOMEN'S)

4 p.m. ESPNU — Temple at South Florida

### HIGH SCHOOL

### FOOTBALL

4 p.m. ESPN — Under Armour Next All-America Football Game: Team Icon vs. Team Legends, Orlando, Fla.

### NBA BASKETBALL

7 p.m. NBATV — Washington at Milwaukee

### NHL HOCKEY

9 p.m. ESPN — Dallas at Los Angeles

### SOCCER (MEN'S)

1:45 p.m. USA — Premier League: Newcastle United at Arsenal

### TENNIS

5 a.m. TENNIS — United Cup: Group Stage; Adelaide-ATP/WT, Auckland-WTA, Pune-ATP Early Rounds

5 p.m. TENNIS — United Cup: Group Stage; Adelaide-ATP/WT, Auckland-WTA, Pune-ATP Early Rounds

5 a.m. (Wednesday)

TENNIS — United Cup: Group Stage City Finals; Adelaide-ATP/WT, Auckland-WTA, Pune-ATP Early Rounds

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HOROSCOPES

By Georgia Nicols

Moon Alert: There are no restrictions to shopping or important decisions today. The Moon is in Gemini.

Happy Birthday for Tuesday, Jan. 3, 2023:

You are passionate about everything you do, and sometimes reckless and impulsive. But you take responsibility for your actions. You are determined and undaunted by challenges. This year is a slower-paced time to rejuvenate yourself. Concentrate on your past relationships, your needs and what brings you happiness.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ Today you are upbeat and energetic, especially mentally. (Clever you.) You're full of ideas, and you want others to listen to them. However, you might come on a bit strong. Nevertheless, your take on things will be positive and enthusiastic, especially about travel, social media and education. Tonight: Study.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You will work hard to boost your earnings today, because this is important to you. (Today you're keeping score.) Your wealth or earnings seem to be a measure of your work. Something going on behind the scenes, possibly assistance from a group, might help you. Tonight: Count your money.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Today the Moon is in your sign lined up with fiery Mars, which makes you fast-talking, fast-acting and slightly irritable with anyone who isn't moving as fast as you. \*ey, cut people some slack. Actually, this is an excellent day to interact with groups, conferences and organizations. Tonight: You win.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ You feel agitated about something going on behind the scenes today. This is why you might be impatient with others. I once heard a wise teacher say, "Negativity is wanting things to be different from the way they are." Why not try to switch gears? Appreciate what works. Tonight: Solitude.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You're effective (and possibly, a bit bossy) when dealing with groups of people today or when interacting with a friend. Quite likely, you are carried away with your own enthusiasm about something because you want others to climb on board. You're thinking big! This might involve the media or travel. Tonight: Be friendly.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ People notice you today because you're pumped and raring to go! Actually, your strong ambitious energy might be a tad aggressive when viewed by a boss or someone in authority. (Might they feel threatened?) Keep this in mind. Nevertheless, today you can effectively influence groups. Use this wisely. Tonight: You're noticed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You have a strong urge to travel or do something different today because you're hungry for a change of scenery. You're restless. You need the thrill of doing something exciting. You want adventure! ("Shall we dance?") Guard against being so impulsive that you might have regrets later. Tonight: Explore!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★ You are prepared to fight for your rights today, especially in discussions about shared property, inheritances, taxes, debt or insurance issues. (All that red-tape stuff.) You feel strongly about getting your fair share of something, which is why you're ready to speak up. Tonight: Check your finances.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Be patient with others today. You might meet someone who is aggressive. If you're lucky, they're just enthusiastic. If you're not so lucky, they're definitely in your face. Take a breath and scope out the situation until you know what's going on. Get the full picture. Tonight: Cooperate.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ You're keen to work today. In fact, you might feel driven. It's important to know that you will probably accomplish more by cooperating with others and engineering a group effort. "More hands make light work." Tonight: Work.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ This is a playful, romantic, passionate day! That's why you will go out of your way to have fun. It's also a strong day for sports and competitive athletics, because you want to win. (You certainly don't want to lose.) Enlist the help of others, if you can. Tonight: Play!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★ You want to do things a certain way today, especially at home or with your family. This is why you might be coming on a bit strong. Let's face it, you've got an agenda, and you want the cooperation of others to meet your requirements and wishes. Good luck! Tonight: Cocoon.

BORN TODAY

Environmental activist Greta Thunberg (2003), actress Florence Pugh (1996), actor Mel Gibson (1956)



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady celebrates after scoring during the second half of an NFL football game between the Carolina Panthers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023, in Tampa, Fla. PHOTO BY CHRIS O'MEARA | AP PHOTO

NFC is wide open heading into final weekend of NFL

By Rob Maaddi

AP Pro Football Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady again was at his best when the Tampa Bay Buccaneers needed him most.

The 45-year-old, seven-time Super Bowl champion had one of the best statistical games of his legendary 23-year career in a 30-24 victory over the Carolina Panthers on Sunday that clinched Tampa's second straight NFC South title.

Another old quarterback who also wears No. 12 is one way win away from joining Brady in the playoffs. Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay Packers routed Minnesota 41-17 for their fourth straight win. One more next week at home against Detroit secures a wild-card spot that seemed improbable when the Packers were 4-8.

On a day where the NFC's top teams struggled, the Buccaneers (8-8) and Packers (8-8) were victorious in must-win games and proved they can't be counted out despite mediocre records.

"Playoffs start a clean

slate for everybody," Buccaneers coach Todd Bowles said. "You've got a three-game elimination tournament and it doesn't matter where you are."

Brady rekindled his connection to Mike Evans, hitting the four-time Pro Bowl receiver in stride three times for touchdown passes of 63, 57 and 30 yards. He finished 34 of 45 for 432 yards, tying the fifth-highest output in his career.

"Mike played awesome, like he always does," Brady said. "I love playing out there with him and he's an amazing player. I've missed him too many times this year, so it was nice to connect with him and hopefully we can keep that going. I think we will."

Brady became the first player in league history to complete at least 30 passes in five consecutive games and the first player with at least 30 completions in 10 games within a single season. His completion percentage of 75.6% was his highest in a game with at least 45 pass attempts in his career.

Evans had 10 catches for 207 yards to surpass

1,000 yards receiving for the ninth straight season, extending his own NFL record to begin a career.

"Tom was just dropping dimes," Evans said. "Those were some really, really good balls. One of the best games I've seen Tom play since he has been here. They were falling right in the breadbasket every time. He had an unbelievable game."

Brady has now led the Buccaneers to three comebacks wins when trailing by double digits in the fourth quarter, including two in a row.

With Brady and Evans back in sync and Tampa's defense playing tough, the Buccaneers are a dangerous team in the playoffs.

Same for Rodgers and the Packers.

A ball-hawking defense helped Green Bay dismantle NFC North champion Minnesota. Two-time Pro Bowl cornerback Jaire Alexander and the secondary held star receiver Justin Jefferson to just one catch. Rodgers was efficient, Aaron Jones ran for 111 yards and the defense forced four turnovers, including a pick-6 by Darnell Savage.

Now, after several outcomes around the league went their way over the past few weeks, the Packers just have to beat the Lions (8-8) to get in.

"I know not many people in that locker room and definitely not many of you people believed we'd be sitting here at 8-8 with control of our own destiny going into Week 18," Rodgers said. "That's pretty special."

Suddenly, the NFC seems wide open after the Philadelphia Eagles (13-3) lost their second straight game without Jalen Hurts, the Vikings (12-4) were blown out and the San Francisco 49ers (12-4) needed overtime to beat Las Vegas after surrendering 500 yards to Jarrett Stidham and the Raiders' offense.

The Eagles would secure the No. 1 seed with a win over the playoff-bound New York Giants (9-6-1), who are locked into the sixth seed. The Dallas Cowboys (12-4) need a win over Washington and Philadelphia to lose to overtake the Eagles.

Anything is possible in the NFL this season.

Chiefs

From Page 7A

and head into their regular-season finale Saturday in Las Vegas knowing a win could give them the No. 1 seed and a postseason bye.

Not many thought the Chiefs would be in that situation when they traded Hill in the offseason.

Nor did many people think Mahomes would put up MVP-caliber numbers again.

He's thrown for 5,048 yards to join Drew Brees and Tom Brady as the only quarterbacks with multiple seasons of at least 5,000 yards. He has 40 touchdown tosses, joining Brees as the only QBs with two seasons of 5,000 yards and 40 TD passes. And he needs 186 yards running and passing to surpass Brees for the most combined in an NFL season.

"He ended up 28 for 41, still over 100.0 passer rating and 322 yards," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said after the win over the Broncos. "There were some plays that he definitely would like to have back, but that's how picky we are, right? You start nitpicking these things, as he does. But that's what great players do."

WHAT'S WORKING

The Chiefs were desperate to improve one of the league's worst pass rushes in the offseason, so they drafted George Karlaftis in the first round and signed Carlos Dunlap in free agency. Both have been hits. Karlaftis in particular has five sacks in his past six games, and the Chiefs have 49 on the season, trailing only the Eagles, Patriots and Cowboys.

WHAT NEEDS HELP

The Chiefs committed two more turnovers Sunday and both were costly. Mahomes threw

an interception in the end zone to keep Kansas City from extending its lead and Kadarius Toney fumbled a punt return deep in his own territory, which Russell Wilson immediately turned into a 16-yard touchdown run for the Broncos.

STOCK UP

Jerick McKinnon's stock continues to soar. He has eight touchdowns total in the past five games, and with two TD catches Sunday, he became the first running back since 1947 with at least one in five consecutive games.

STOCK DOWN

Rookie cornerback Joshua Williams struggled in crunch time Sunday. On the drive that Denver scored to make it 27-24 with 6:14 to go, Williams was flagged twice: the first for pass interference on a third-down incompleteness that kept the drive alive, and the second for illegal hands to the face when

Nick Bolton had intercepted a fourth-down throw.

INJURED

LG Joe Thuney, who reinjured his left ankle against the Broncos, was due for an MRI; he tried to return to the game but was soon ruled out. WR Skyy Moore also was ruled out with a laceration on the inside of his right hand.

KEY NUMBER

808 — Travis Kelce had seven catches against Denver to pass Jason Witten (806) for the most receptions by an NFL tight end in his first 10 seasons. Kelce did it despite missing 15 games of his rookie season to a knee injury, too.

NEXT STEPS

The Raiders-Chiefs game was one of two that the NFL moved to Saturday. That means Buffalo, which also is in the running for the No. 1 seed, will know its situation before taking the field against New England on Sunday.

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## BY DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



## BY TOM ARMSTRONG



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concentis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

By Dave Green

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1/03

### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9
7
8
3
1
5
4
2



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Bowl

From Page 7A

The Green Wave lost to Southern Mississippi 27-24 a week later, only one of two losses they had in 2022. They also lost to UCF 38-31 on Nov. 12, though they went on to avenge the loss in the AAC Conference championship game.

UCF is one of three AAC teams departing for the Big 12 on July 1, 2023. Tulane beat Cincinnati 27-24 and Houston 27-24.

The Green Wave's

second 12-win season in school history arrived a year after going 2-10. That 10-win increase is the biggest turnaround in NCAA D-I Football Bowl Subdivision history.

"It's a huge win," Fritz said. "It's a huge win for the program, it's a huge win for the city. We represent New Orleans, we represent Tulane University, we represent our football program. I think we've seen this year what a great football season and competing at a high level can do for an institution."

*Joe Andrews can be reached at 660-747-8123.*

Blues

From Page 7A

"Players are going to go through ebbs and flows, and right now we need our veteran players to lead the group, and I know they can do it and I know they want to do it," Armstrong said on a conference call from Halifax, Nova Scotia, where he is scouting the world junior championship.

"The challenge for them is to get their game back on par and lead us, and then we have an opportunity for younger players."

The next opportunities belong to big center Logan Brown, who will get more ice time, and rookie forward Jake Neighbors, who was recalled from Springfield of the American Hockey League.

Without naming names, Armstrong said, "Guys that have been pining for more ice time are going to get them."

It's still tough to replace O'Reilly and Tarasenko, who were key parts of St. Louis' franchise-first Stanley Cup-winning team in 2019 and still remain important years later. But each player is in the final year of his contract and could be dealt before the March 3 trade deadline if new deals aren't done and Armstrong decides the Blues are sellers.

They haven't been in quite some time. St. Louis has made the playoffs in 10 of the past 11 seasons and missed out by one point the only other year during that stretch.

"Your record indicates what you do at deadlines, and then ultimately it takes two to make a trade," Armstrong said. "We have to want the players other teams are trading and vice versa. They have to want what we're considering trading, and our record will dictate what we do at those times."

Title

From Page 7A

"I just try to do my job," Bennett said.

Despite the setbacks in their careers, the two Heisman Trophy finalists do their jobs very, very well.

Duggan accounted for four touchdowns in TCU's win over Michigan, throwing for two and running for two more. Bennett threw for 398 yards and three touchdowns in the Bulldogs' win over Ohio State, including a brilliant final drive that resulted in a 10-yard touchdown completion to Adonai Mitchell with 54 seconds remaining.

"I looked around, and there was just a whole bunch of just determined, strong stares from all the dudes," Bennett said. "It gave me confidence, and everybody else had confidence when we went down the field."

Duggan is in his fourth season starting for TCU after coming to the school as a four-star recruit, but the journey hasn't been without hiccups. The 21-year-old needed heart surgery before his sophomore year and played most of last season with a broken bone in his foot.

When new coach Sonny Dykes and offensive coordinator Garrett Riley initially chose redshirt freshman Chandler Morris as their starting quarterback this summer, Duggan was disappointed in himself. He said he wasn't mad at the new coaches, and he never considered leaving TCU.

"You get over it pretty quickly," Duggan said. "Because there's a season to be played."

Morris got hurt in the opener against Colorado, moving Duggan back into

a starting role. He has had by far his most productive season, with 3,546 passing yards, 32 touchdowns and six interceptions. The Horned Frogs won all 12 games in the regular season before falling to Kansas State in the Big 12 championship game.

They still earned a spot in the CFP bracket and as Saturday's win over Michigan proved, they were deserving.

"I think a lot of people were emotional, because you get so close to a league championship," Duggan said. "And then for us to battle back and kind of avenge that loss and be able to win this one tonight against a great opponent and have the opportunity to go play for a national championship, I think just means so much to the guys up here, the guys in the locker room, our coaching staff, our fans, our university."

As for Bennett, the 25-year-old has never had prototypical size or arm strength, especially for the leader of one of the most talented rosters in the country. The former walk-on who took a detour through junior college has been an unlikely leader of a team packed with blue-chip recruits.

He took hold of the starting job early last season and guided the Bulldogs to their first national championship since 1980. Now he's got a chance for a second title.

No matter what happens on Jan. 9, it's safe to say Duggan and Bennett won't have to pay for a cold beverage in Fort Worth or Athens anytime soon.

The two standouts have one more college game remaining.

"We know that we got a bigger one coming up," Duggan said. "And that's the one we really want."



LSU wide receiver Malik Nabers (8) runs past Purdue cornerback Bryce Hampton, left, and safety Sanoussi Kane (21) on his way to a 75-yard touchdown on a pass play during the second half of the Citrus Bowl NCAA college football game Monday, Jan. 2, 2023, in Orlando, Fla.

PHOTO BY JOHN RAOUX | AP PHOTO

Nabers helps No. 16 LSU rout Purdue 63-7 in Citrus Bowl

By Alanis Thames  
AP Sports Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — LSU has had plenty of talent come through its receiver room in recent years: Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry. Ja'Marr Chase and Justin Jefferson. For most of this season it was Kayshon Boutte.

Malik Nabers made a bid to join those names on Monday, when he threw for a touchdown, caught one and had 163 yards receiving in the No. 16 Tigers' 63-7 rout of Purdue in the Citrus Bowl.

"That's kind of the mantle of LSU wide receivers," Tigers coach Brian Kelly said of Nabers, who was the game's MVP. "It's his opportunity now, and you can see that he wanted to make sure that he made a statement out there today."

LSU never trailed, recording 594 yards of offense and concluding the scoring with Quad Wilson's 99-yard interception return for a touchdown.

The Tigers (10-4) finished with at least 10 wins for the first time since the 2019 season, when Joe Burrow, Chase and Jefferson led undefeated LSU to a national title.

The Boilermakers (8-6) were led by interim coach Brian Brohm after his brother, Jeff, left at

the end of the regular season to take Louisville's head coaching job. Ryan Walters, formerly the defensive coordinator at Illinois, will now take over as Purdue's coach.

Purdue had an up-and-down year, starting 1-2 before rallying to win the Big Ten West and reach the conference title game, where it lost 43-22 to Michigan. The Boilermakers were playing in their first Citrus Bowl.

"I feel like the program is in a good spot," Brian Brohm said. "Coach Walters is gonna inherit a program of guys that are tough, want to play hard and want to win. I hope that he's able to keep it going and take it to the next level."

LSU, after a year in which it beat Alabama and reached the Southeastern Conference title game, controlled the game from the start. And nothing changed when starting quarterback Jayden Daniels was relieved by backup Garrett Nussmeier. After punting on their first drive, the Tigers scored touchdowns on seven of their next eight possessions to take a 49-0 lead.

Daniels led four scoring drives, going 12 of 17 for 139 yards and a touchdown. He also had 67 yards rushing and caught the TD pass from Nabers.

Nussmeier finished 11 of 15 for 173 yards and two TDs. He threw a second-half interception, but LSU was already leading 42-0 at the time and the Tigers' defense followed by forcing a three-and-out.

Nabers, LSU's leading receiver this season, had season highs in yards and catches (nine), and his TD toss wasn't even his most impressive pass of the day. After running wide on a jet sweep, he threw an on-target deep ball to Kyren Lacy for a 45-yard completion that set up a touchdown in the first half.

After the game, he first lamented three passes he felt he should have caught. Still, he has high hopes for next season.

"This performance shows that I'm able to come out here and perform at a high level with anybody," Nabers said.

John Emery Jr. had a 1-yard TD rush, Derrick Davis Jr. had a 12-yard rushing score and Noah Cain had two rushing TDs, which gave the Tigers a school-record 39 rushing TDs for the year.

Austin Burton made his third career start at quarterback for the Boilermakers in place of Aidan O'Connell, who opted out to prepare for the NFL draft. Burton completed 12 of 24 passes for 74 yards with an interception.

Michael Alaimo relieved Burton in the second half and threw a 16-yard TD pass to T.J. Sheffield. Alaimo finished 4 of 11 for 31 yards with an interception.

Purdue crossed midfield four times. The first was on a drive set up by a fake punt, but that ended when Burton threw a pick. The other three ended in a touchdown, interception and turnover on downs. Purdue's first nine possessions resulted in six punts and three turnovers.

**SCARY INJURY**

Purdue receiver Deion Burks took a scary hit and had his head stabilized as he was loaded onto a stretcher, carted off the field and taken to Orlando Regional Medical Center. Burks flashed a thumbs-up on his way off the field, and Purdue officials told ABC reporters that he had movement in his extremities.

**THE TAKEAWAY**

LSU: The Tigers were without several players, including Boutte, who recently declared for the NFL draft, but their success demonstrated the program's depth. LSU had 27 first downs and was 6 of 7 in the red zone.

Purdue: The Boilermakers were outmatched with a roster depleted by opt-outs. Purdue had just 17 first downs.

Martina Navratilova diagnosed with throat, breast cancer

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Tennis great Martina Navratilova said Monday that she has been diagnosed with throat cancer and breast cancer.

In a statement released by her representative, the 18-time Grand Slam singles champion and member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame said her prognosis is good and she will start treatment this month.

"This double whammy is serious but still fixable, and I'm hoping for

a favorable outcome," the 66-year-old Navratilova said. "It's going to stink for a while but I'll fight with all have I got."

She said she noticed an enlarged lymph node in her neck while attending the season-ending WTA Finals in Fort Worth, Texas, in November, and a biopsy showed early stage throat cancer. While Navratilova was undergoing tests on her throat, she said, the unrelated, early stage breast cancer was discovered.

"Needless to say my phone and twitter are both blowing up so I will say again - thank you

all for your support and I am not done yet," she tweeted Monday.

Navratilova was diagnosed with a noninvasive form of breast cancer in 2010 and had a lumpectomy.

She won 59 Grand Slam titles overall, including 31 in women's doubles and 10 in mixed doubles. The last was a mixed doubles championship with Bob Bryan at the 2006 U.S. Open, a month shy of her 50th birthday.

Navratilova originally retired in 1994, after a record 167 singles titles and 331 weeks at No. 1

in the WTA rankings. She returned to the tour to play doubles in 2000 and occasionally competed in singles, too.

Navratilova was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 2000. She has worked as a TV analyst in recent years.

The statement issued Monday said Navratilova would not be a regular part of Tennis Channel's coverage of the Australian Open later this month "but hopes to be able to join in from time to time" via video conference.

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