



# MICHAEL RAY'S KITCHEN

*"You Can Taste The Love"*

Michael Ray's Kitchen  
1200 N. Greene St., Greenville, NC 27834  
252-364-1468 • Open Early  
Mon. thru Sat. 6:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. • Closed Sunday

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE STREET SUMMIT JOB FAIR 2021

# PGV

Now Boarding...  
American Airlines



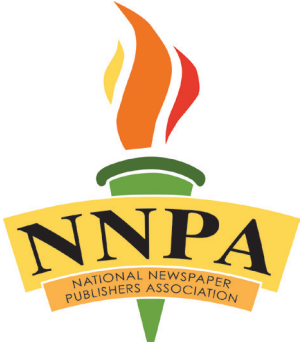
PITT-GREENVILLE  
AIRPORT

[www.flypgv.com](http://www.flypgv.com)

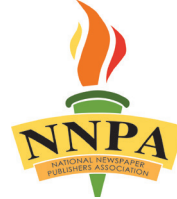
400 AIRPORT RD., GREENVILLE, NC 27834 • 252-902-2025



December 15 - 21, 2022



# TDD The Daily Drum



@thedailydrum  
[www.dailydrummedia.com](http://www.dailydrummedia.com)  
252-939-0057  
mobile

READ ONLINE

[www.dailydrummedia.com](http://www.dailydrummedia.com)

Quality is Our Standard, Integrity is Our Tradition.

A Biweekly Newspaper

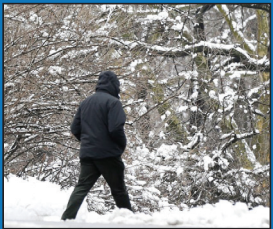
Serving Down East North Carolina

## BREAKING NEWS: WALGREENS, CVS AGREE TO \$10 BILLION SETTLEMENT IN OPIOID LAWSUITS

### INSIDE THIS EDITION:



Fed raises U.S. interest rates half a point to the highest rate in 15 years  
Page 4



Cold air from Siberia will send U.S. into deep freeze ahead of Christmas  
Page 6



Mississippi State football coach Mike Leach dies at 61  
Page 9



Seven dead as Peruvians protest ouster of former president Castillo  
Page 10



Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds is among three governors to ban TikTok from state-owned devices, adding to the growing list of Republican-led states to take similar actions. **File Photo by Chris Kleponis/UPI**

## More governors issue bans against TikTok on government devices

By Joe Fisher  
UPI

Three more governors joined the list of states with TikTok bans over a fear of national security risks.

The bans were issued for state-owned devices, barring state agencies from subscribing to the popular social media platform. Alabama, North Dakota and Iowa's governors are the latest to restrict use of the app, which is owned by ByteDance, a tech company based in Beijing.

Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey revealed her memorandum to prohibit TikTok on Monday.

"Disturbingly, TikTok harvests vast amounts of data from its users, much of which has no legitimate connection to the app's supposed purpose of video sharing," Ivey wrote.

Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' directive came with a similar message.

"It is clear that TikTok represents a national security risk to our country and I refuse to subject the citizens of Iowa to that risk," she said. "They trust us with their personal and confidential information and we will take every step possible to protect it, including from the Chinese

See TIKTOK, page 3

## Biden calls for assault gun ban in 10th anniversary of Sandy Hook shooting



President Joe Biden speaks during a press conference for union workers at the White House on December 8. Biden recognized the 10th anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting on Wednesday. **Photo by Bonnie Cash/UPI**

By Clyde Hughes  
UPI

In his message recognizing the 10th anniversary of the deadly shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, President Joe Biden renewed his call for the elimination of the assault weapons used to kill 26 people in the incident.

Calling the shooting "unthinkable," Biden said with a ban, similar mass school shootings could be avoided.

"We should have societal guilt for taking too long to deal with this problem," Biden said in a statement. "We have a moral obligation to pass and enforce laws that can prevent these things from happening again."

"We owe it to the courageous, young survivors and to the families who lost part of their soul 10 years ago to turn their pain into purpose."

The president said the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which he signed into law earlier, will help take so-called "ghost guns," weapons that are assembled by gun owners, off the streets.

"Enough is enough," Biden said. "Our obligation is clear. We must eliminate these weapons that have no purpose other than to kill people in large numbers. It is within our power to do this -- for the sake of not only the lives of the innocents lost, but for the survivors who still hope."

Biden also issued a proclamation, announcing a day of remembrance for the victims.

"Let us recognize the courage of survivors and families of victims, who continue working to rebuild their lives, and let us commit to eradicating gun violence and helping rebuild communities that have suffered so much," the proclamation said.



"CHOOSE PUGH'S"

[www.choosepughs.com](http://www.choosepughs.com)



FULL SYNTHETIC OIL CHANGE \$59.95

First Price....Right Price  
GUARANTEED

BRIDGESTONE Firestone MICHELIN GOODYEAR

GREENVILLE MALL  
252-355-6162

DICKINSON  
252-758-7044

WILLIAMSTON  
252-508-4691

MEMORIAL DRIVE  
252-756-7844

WASHINGTON  
252-940-1446

[www.dailydrummedia.com](http://www.dailydrummedia.com)

# OPINION

## Qatar: Best Supporting Actor for US in Arabian Gulf

I was born under a lucky star!

I had a wonderful opportunity to attend the 2022 FIFA World Cup hosted by Qatar as part of an official United States delegation. The FIFA World Cup is the Ursa Major of international athletic extravaganzas worthy of the cinematic genius of Cecil B. DeMille.

Despite the formidable logistics challenges, Qatar has harmonized the multiple moving parts in hosting the tournament with the proficiency of Arturo Toscanini conducting an orchestra.

I was privileged to enjoy considerable face time with the United States ambassador to Qatar, Timmy T. Davis, and the Qatar ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Sheikh Meshal Bin Hamad Al-Thani. Both are diplomats par excellence: engaging, informative, candid, undisputatious, debonair and unfailingly courteous. They refute the cynical British definition of an ambassador: "An honest man sent to lie abroad for the commonwealth."

If Oscars were given in international affairs, Qatar would win an award for best supporting actor to the United States in the Arabian Gulf.

President Joe Biden designated Qatar as a major non-NATO ally of the United States March 10, a designation richly deserved.

Qatar hosts the largest United States military base in the Middle East. The Al

Udeid Air Base in west Doha is home to the headquarters of United States Central Command and United State Air Force Central Command. The national security significance of the base cannot be overstated.

Yemen is a failed nation convulsed by civil war and sanctuary for the terrorist Houthis, a proxy

of Iran's radical Shiite Ayatollahs. Iran -- a state sponsor of terrorism -- resists renouncing its destabilizing nuclear ambitions. It has become a menacing regional hegemon asserting controlling military and political influence over Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

The Arabian Gulf, including the Strait of Hormuz, is indispensable to the international oil market and United States prosperity. Indeed, President Jimmy Carter in his 1980 State of the Union warned: "Let our position be absolutely clear: An attempt by any outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such an assault will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force."

Unlike some of its neighbors, Qatar has not been a fair-weather friend. It was a first responder in assisting

the United States' evacuation of tens of thousands from Afghanistan after the 2021 takeover of Kabul by the Taliban. Qatar served as a major gateway for 55,000 people airlifted out of the country -- nearly 50% of the total evacuated by U.S.-led forces. It conducted rescue missions on its own with a few hundred troops and military aircraft.

On Nov. 12, 2021, Qatar agreed to serve as the United States "protecting power" in Afghanistan to a regime not recognized by Biden.

Qatar abandoned OPEC to focus on natural gas. "Qatar will not rejoin OPEC because trying to sway global oil prices doesn't fit with its strategy," Energy Minister Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi explained.

Qatar features Al Jazeera Network, a journalist gem in a region notorious for censorship and the murder or torture of dissenters. Al Jazeera has won a cavalcade of coveted awards. Al Jazeera English, for example, was named Broadcaster of the Year at the 2022 New York Festivals TV & Film Awards for the sixth consecutive year. It rivals the BBC in worldwide audiences with an estimated 50 million viewers.

Al Jazeera is the nightmare of the many Middle East dictators. Its journalists have been detained for long years in Egypt for honest reporting. Tunisia has closed Al Jazeera's broadcast offices.

Qatar and the United States enjoy a religious affinity. We are both people

of the Book who believe in God. Christian churches and synagogues are permitted in Doha.

Qatar opposes radical Islam. It is an active participant in the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS and all the Defeat-ISIS working groups. It maintains an interagency National Counterterrorism Committee with representatives from more than 10 government agencies. The NCTC formulates Qatar's CT policy, ensuring interagency coordination, fulfilling Qatar's CT-related obligations under international conventions and participating in multilateral conferences on terrorism. Qatar restricts the overseas activities of Qatari charities, requiring all such activity to be conducted through one of four approved charities -- to prevent the hijacking of charitable giving to advance terrorism.

The media reporting on the 2022 World Cup has fixated on Qatar's migrant workers and LGBT proselytizing -- inflating fleas into elephants. The migrants voluntarily left their home countries for the greener and more welcoming pastures of Qatar. To the extent workers have been cheated or exploited, employment agencies in their home countries are overwhelmingly responsible. The migrants are nine times the number of Qataris, and its humane and responsible migrant employment regulations cannot be perfectly enforced.



ARMSTRONG WILLIAMS

## Big stories are hiding in plain sight on Ukraine, U.S. spending, royal family

By Harlan Ullman, Arnaud de Borchgrave Distinguished Columnist

In an instantly, intimately and interconnected world, every day one or more explosive news stories roil domestic and international politics from the war in Ukraine to the release of basketball star Brittney Grinner from a Russian jail.

But crucial aspects of many stories are hidden in plain sight and are missed both by leaders of government and the reporting media. Consider three.

President Joe Biden has 1.7 trillion reasons that could lead to his re-election if he chooses to run in 2024. Is anyone aware of them? Probably not. Why?

The 1.7 trillion refers to the number of dollars the administration will spend on the infrastructure and jobs, chips and science and inflation reduction acts. Properly employed, these resources will go a long way in modernizing U.S. society for 21st-century competition. Yet, the administration has not publicized or exploited this unprecedented opportunity. Indeed, does anyone know who is in charge of overseeing this expenditure or seen the plan for how this money will be spent?

Instead of hiding this opportunity in plain sight, the administration would be well advised to mount a major campaign to explain to the U.S. public what this \$1.7 trillion will achieve and what this means for the country and for individual citizens. And it should frequently update the public, as well as to ensure that this spending is fully visible.

A critical aspect of the Ukraine war is also hidden in plain sight. That is the sanctuary issue. Why does Russia have free license to attack without restriction Ukrainian civilians and civilian energy and water infrastructure and Ukraine is restrained in retaliating in kind? Last week, however, Ukraine launched two drone strikes against air bases several hundred kilometers inside Russia.

Whether Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will admit this or not, the war will end through negotiations. And, barring a miracle, Ukraine will not recover all of Donbas and Crimea, in part because substantial numbers of residents prefer to remain under Russian rule and because Vladimir Putin will not agree. That said, for psychological reasons, launching drone or missile attacks deep into Russia could hasten negotiations as the myth of Russian invulnerability will be shattered.

As the April 1942 Doolittle raid over Tokyo shocked and awed the Japanese, even the occasional strike on Red Square and the Kremlin could have similar effects. Many in the West fear this escalation could provoke Putin to respond with nuclear weapons. However, last week, Putin definitively rejected their use in Ukraine. Hence, denying Russia sanctuary is an acceptable risk, given the priority of ending the war on favorable terms for Ukraine and not keeping it hidden in plain sight.

Finally, social media is transfixed with the Netflix series on the former royals, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. What is hidden in plain sight is that Harry's relationship with Markle is not unique to the House of Windsor. Indeed, unsavory royal conduct is an old story.

Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 to marry the "woman he loved," twice divorced Wallis Simpson. That made his brother, George VI, monarch. George had two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret, and no sons. But Margaret disrupted royal life with her romance with Group Capt. Peter Townsend, who was married, and then with her stormy relationship with husband Tony Armstrong-Jones.

King Charles III as prince of Wales had a long-term affair with Camilla Parker-Bowles, the wife of a good friend. Charles' wife, Princess Diana, later complained that a "three-way" marriage could never work. Charles has since married Parker-Bowles. And, Charles' brother Prince Andrew has been banned from royal duties because of his friendship with the late Jeffrey Epstein, found guilty of crimes from rape to sex trafficking.

## Elon Musk's archaic management style prioritizes profit over people

By Eli Sopow, University Canada West

Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter has been rocky, to say the least.

Since taking over the company on Oct. 28, Musk has made a number of changes to the platform, resulting in widespread chaos and turmoil within the company.

Within days of taking over Twitter's operations, Musk fired top executives and half of the company's 7,500 employees, ignored advice to not disproportionately fire employees representing diversity and inclusion and has likely violated employment labor laws and breached employee contracts.

Then on Nov. 16, Musk sent an email to remaining workers with an ultimatum: Commit to being "extremely hardcore" or leave the company. The letter continued: "This will mean working long hours at high intensity. Only exceptional performance will constitute a passing grade." Some workers reportedly ended up sleeping in their offices.

None of this is new for Musk. He already had a history of dismissing executives on a whim and committing mass layoffs at Tesla.

Musk's cold, impersonal approach to management and leadership is antithetical to what we have learned about kinder, more humanistic approaches to work. Management approaches like Musk's threaten current business management practices that advocate for healthy, happy and engaged workplaces.

### COGS IN A MACHINE

Musk adheres to a mechanistic style of management that treats employees like cogs in a machine, rather than human beings. It's a well-meaning, but naive indulgence that sacrifices employee well-being

for the sake of profit.

The idea of workers being an inert, programmable tool of production has been around for at least a century. One of the earliest proponents of management theory was American engineer Frederick Taylor, who published the landmark text *The Principles of Scientific Management* in 1910. In it, Taylor wrote:

"In the past, man has been first. In the future, the system must be first... In our scheme, we do not ask for the initiative of our men. We do not want any initiative. All we want of them is to obey the orders we give them, do what we say and do it quick."

To Taylor's credit, the practical application of mechanistic management did result in significant increases in productivity and the economic performance of enterprises. The "people are just machines" approach, however, has a number of shortcomings.

The spread of mechanistic ideas led to employee exploitation, increased staff turnover, conflicts between management and workers and -- contrary to supporters of the mechanistic approach -- did not lead to the desired harmony and cooperation in enterprises.

This is largely due to the fact that the human factor was given a secondary role to machinery and equipment. This meant that the means of production were valued more than the emotional state of employees. As it turns out, workers are indeed emotional, sentient beings with minds of their own. They are better at their jobs when they are treated as such.

This approach didn't go unchallenged at the time, however. The rise of mechanistic management resulted in a major backlash from the widespread North American unionization movement.

### HUMAN-CENTRIC WORK

The humanistic approach to man-

agement arose in response to the pitfalls of mechanistic management. A humanistic approach prioritizes emotionally healthy workplaces, gender equity, respect, anti-harassment, employee engagement, the benefits of intrinsic over extrinsic rewards (feeling good about your work versus making lots of money) and conflict management.

Emotional intelligence, which includes concepts like compassion, empathy, respect and active listening, is also valued in human-centered workplaces. Extensive research on emotional intelligence, including my own, shows that it increases morale, productivity and goal achievement.

The concept of a more humanistic workplace, which is less linear, more organic and prone to evolving than a mechanistic one, has been growing exponentially since the pandemic started. Job dissatisfaction has resulted in employees demanding more human-centric workplaces and standing up for their rights in the workplace.

As business journalist Tom Gibby said in *Forbes*, employees "are being clear about their needs and wants. If their current employer doesn't meet those needs, they are finding a new one that does."

### REWRITING WORKPLACE RELATIONS

It's clear that Musk's workplace culture is anything but healthy. The government of Canada's Health Human Resource Strategy defines a healthy work environment as the following:

"A work setting that takes a strategic and comprehensive approach to providing the physical, cultural, psychological and work conditions that maximize the health and well-being of providers, improves the quality of care and optimizes organizational performance."



Daily Drum Media Group  
PO Box 965  
Greenville, NC 27835  
www.dailydrummedia.com  
tdd@dailydrummediagroup.com

Roger Johnson.....Publisher  
Ben Johnson.....CFO  
Alishia Albrooks.....Sales Consultant  
George Ayino.....Sales Consultant  
Ben Ayino.....Sales Consultant  
Data Group.....Web Host  
Jasmine Smith.....Accounting Consultant  
Restoration NewsMedia.....Graphic Design & Layout

THE DAILY DRUM IS PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY FOR \$25.00 (PLUS TAX) PER YEAR BY THE DAILY DRUM MEDIA GROUP, P.O. BOX 965, GREENVILLE, NC 27835. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT GREENVILLE, NC.

POSTMASTER: ADDRESS CHANGES TO THE DAILY DRUM, P.O. BOX 965, GREENVILLE, NC 27835.

**SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE TOWN OF WINTERVILLE**  
*Best Wishes for the Holiday Season*

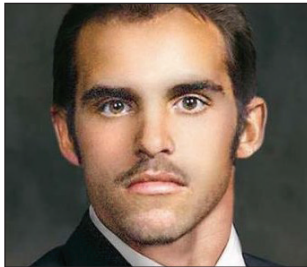
**HOLIDAY CLOSINGS**  
 Fri.- 23rd - 2022 • Mon.- 26th - 2022  
 Tue.- 27th - 2022 • Mon.- Jan. 2nd - 2023

visit the website for closing dates and events  
<http://www.Wintervillenc.com>  
 For More Info contact **252-756-2221**



# Remains in 31-year-old Ohio cold case identified

By Joe Fisher  
UPI



Robert A. Mullins

Investigators identified the skeletal remains found in a shallow grave in Ohio in 1991 as missing person Robert A. Mullins.

Mullins went missing in late 1988 or early 1989 according to his family. He would have been 21 years old at that time. The Pickaway County Sheriff's Office announced the results of the "multistep verification process" that confirmed the identity of the remains.

The remains were first

family waited for answers," said Ohio attorney general Dave Yost.

"When the results weren't immediate and the case grew cool, Pickaway County law enforcement dug in their heels and kept trying until the evolution of DNA technology finally yielded an identity for John Doe."

The investigation was shared across several agencies beyond Ohio's borders. The Ohio State Department of Anthropology became involved shortly after Mullin's body was discovered. In 2012 the remains were

brought to North Texas University for a DNA extraction. The DNA results confirmed the remains belonged to a male.

When Mullin's remains were found, investigators believed they belonged to a female because their height estimate was about 5-foot-1.

In 2021, researchers began investigating the genetic genealogy of the remains to identify possible relatives. The DNA was put into a database which revealed more information about Mullin's parents and other genetic

matches.

Nine people found to be genetic matches cooperated with the investigation to solidify a lead on Mullin's identity. His family was

found and submitted DNA samples for comparison.

Mullin's cause of death has not been revealed and a suspect is yet to be identified.

# TikTok

continued from page 1

government. The safety of Iowans is my number one priority and that includes their cybersecurity."

In November, FBI director Christopher Wray said there are several security concerns tied to TikTok. During a Homeland Security Committee meeting, he described the potential

risks the app imposes such as allowing the Chinese government to "control data on millions of users," control software or manipulate advertising algorithms.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum cited the concerns of the FBI in an executive order signed Tuesday.

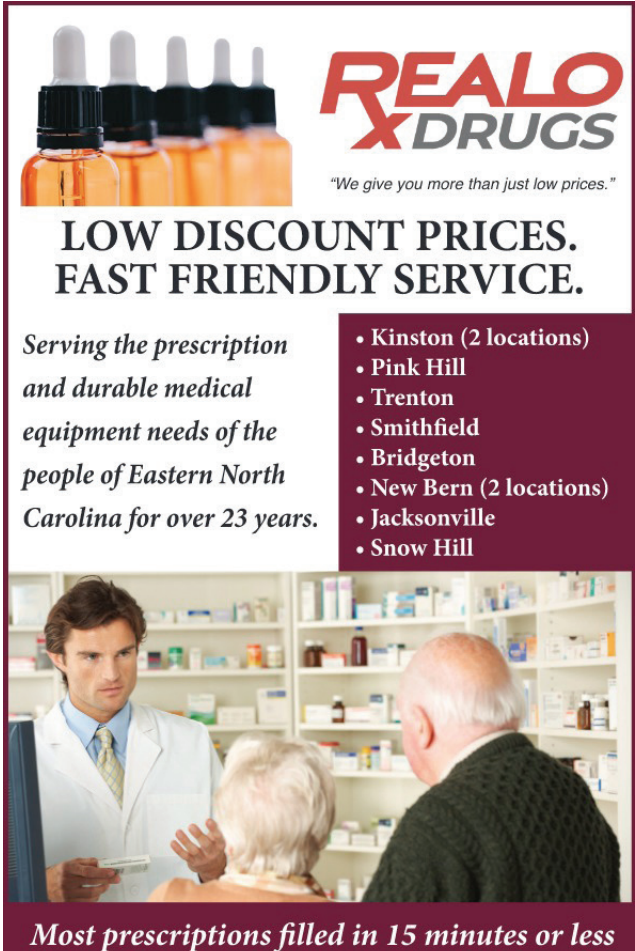
"Protecting citizens' data is our top priority, and our IT professionals have determined, in consultation with federal officials, that TikTok raises multiple flags in terms

of the amount of data it collects and how that data may be shared with and used by the Chinese government," he said. "Reducing this security risk is the right thing to do, and we would offer [North Dakota Information Technology's] support to assist and advise any partner entities that wish to pursue similar measures."

On Tuesday, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., introduced legislation to ban TikTok from operating in the Unit-

ed States. Reps. Mike Gallagher, R-Wisc., and Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., are introducing the legislation in the House as well.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered state agencies to immediately ban TikTok while calling for the state's public safety and information technology arms to prepare plans for at-risk agencies by Jan. 15. Maryland, South Carolina, Nebraska and South Dakota have taken similar measures.



**REALO XDRUGS**  
*"We give you more than just low prices."*

**LOW DISCOUNT PRICES. FAST FRIENDLY SERVICE.**

*Serving the prescription and durable medical equipment needs of the people of Eastern North Carolina for over 23 years.*

- Kinston (2 locations)
- Pink Hill
- Trenton
- Smithfield
- Bridgeton
- New Bern (2 locations)
- Jacksonville
- Snow Hill

*Most prescriptions filled in 15 minutes or less*



Don't miss a **MAGICAL MOMENT**

PROTECT YOURSELF WITH A FLU VACCINE

& A COVID VACCINE

Medicare wants to remind you to get the flu and COVID vaccines at no cost to you. The flu and COVID vaccines will help prevent you from getting seriously ill.



Medicare.gov

Paid for by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**KINGS**  
**BAR-B-QUE & CHICKEN**  
 Eat In-Take Out-Catering

405 E. New Bern Rd. Kinston, NC 28504 252-527-2101  
 2405 N. Queen St. Kinston, NC 28501 252-523-3303  
 910 W. Vernon Ave. Kinston, NC 28501 252-527-1661

World Famous Chicken & BAR\*B\*QUE Since 1936

# Fed raises U.S. interest rates half a point to the highest rate in 15 years

By Doug Cunningham  
 UPI

The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates by another half a percentage point, bringing the benchmark interest rate to the highest point in 15 years.

The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee announced the move Wednesday, brining the federal funds rate to a target range of 4.25% to 4.5%.

The Fed said in the statement that it “anticipates that ongoing increases in the target range will be appropriate in order to attain a stance of monetary policy that is sufficiently restrictive to return inflation to 2 percent over time.”

The Fed will raise interest rates up to the expected “terminal rate” of 5.1% in 2023 before its inflation battle ends, according to the Fed’s median forecast also released Wednesday. No reductions in interest rates are expected until 2024, according to the Fed.

Wednesday’s interest rate hike is the seventh this year and follows four consecutive

three-quarter-point interest rate increases. Stocks fell on the interest rate hike news, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average down about 300 points during volatile trading.

“Inflation data received so far for October and November show a welcome reduction in the monthly pace of price increases,” Fed Chair Jerome Powell said in a news conference Wednesday. “But it will take substantially more evidence to have confidence that inflation is on a sustained downward” path.

The Fed statement included an intention to continue what’s known as quantitative tightening of monetary policy.

“The Committee will continue reducing its holdings of Treasury securities and agency debt and agency mortgage-backed securities,” the FOMC statement said.

According to CNBC, the Fed is allowing a capped total of \$95 billion in maturing bonds to roll off its balance sheet each month.

While inflation may be easing, the U.S. economy was driven by it in 2022. In January 2022



The U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday raised interest rates another half point as it continues to battle inflation. Fed Chair Jerome Powell said during a news conference it will take more evidence that inflation is truly slowing on a sustained downward path before the Fed can stop the increases and begin to cut rates again. **Photo by Tasos Katopodis/UPI**

consumer inflation was at 7.5%, the highest since February 1982. By November it had declined slightly to 7.1%, still far above

the Fed’s goal of 2%. The FOMC lowered its GDP economic growth projections for 2023, forecasting growth of just

0.5%. The committee projected that unemployment would rise notably and is expected to be higher in 2024 and 2025.



## It Takes A Village.

Every person who influences a student’s life helps fuel their dreams. We put our trust in the office assistants, custodians, substitute teachers, and others who help keep our students safe, happy, and inspired to become their best. That’s why the North Carolina Education Lottery is proud to have contributed more than \$385 million last year to support the staff who each play a critical role helping our students get the most out of the school day.



Visit [NCLottery.com](http://NCLottery.com) to learn more.

MUST BE 18 TO PLAY. Problem Gambling Helpline: 877-718-5543.

# Researchers identify new 'immune culprit' in Alzheimer's disease

By Judy Packer-Tursman UPI

The fluid barrier between the brain and skull provides immune protection, as well as cushioning and nutrients -- and this fluid's immune system is "drastically altered" in people with cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease, a new study suggests.

The researchers said their discovery about cerebrospinal fluid -- and how immune cells in it become dysregulated and 'a little angry' as people age -- provides a new clue to the process of neurodegeneration.

And it may help treat inflammation of the brain -- or diagnose the level of such inflammation in people who have dementia.

Findings from the study, led by researchers at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, were published Tuesday in the journal Cell.

Researchers also are sharing their data publicly online.

"We still do not fully understand neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's disease. Recently, we have learned that the immune system might be involved," David Gate, the study's lead author and assistant professor of neurology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, told UPI via email.

According to Gate, the study offers new information on the role of the immune system in patients living with cognitive impairment, which is a symp-



Cerebrospinal fluid's immune system is 'drastically altered' in people with cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease, a new study suggests. Photo by Gerd Altmann/Pixabay

tom of Alzheimer's disease.

"We have also learned from this study that the immune system of the brain changes as we age. There is potential to target this immune system to promote healthy brain aging," he said.

The researchers used a technique called "single-cell RNA sequencing" to examine cerebrospinal fluid taken from the spines of 45 cognitively normal subjects who ranged from 54 to 82 years old, isolating their immune cells.

Next, the scientists compared this group to 14 people who were cognitively impaired, as was determined by their poor scores on memory tests.

The research team, including scientists from Stanford University, saw genetic changes in the cerebrospinal immune cells in older healthy individuals that made the cells appear more activated and inflamed with advanced age, a news release said.

As for the group of people who were cognitively im-

paired, the researchers found that inflamed T-cells clonned themselves and flowed into the cerebrospinal fluid and brain as though they were following a radio signal.

These cells had too much of a cell receptor, called CXCR6, that acts as an antenna, the release said. This receptor receives a signal, CXCL16, from the degenerating brain's microglia cells to enter the brain.

"We uncovered a signaling mechanism that allows certain immune cells to traffic to the brain. We believe this signaling can be disrupted to alter these cells' ability to home to the brain," Gates said.

And these results suggest that targeting the immune system could be beneficial for diseases like Alzheimer's, he said.

But potential therapies are not close at hand.

"As with any therapeutic development, it will take considerable time to design molecules that target this signaling pathway and to test therapeutics before they

go into patients," Gate said. "Yet, identifying the target, as we've done here, is the first step in that process."

Gate's laboratory will continue to explore the role of cerebrospinal fluid's immune cells in brain diseases such as Alzheimer's, and also will expand to include diseases such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, the release said.

Gate told UPI that the researchers have been focused on this area of biology for the past five years, and some of their findings have been unanticipated.

"We are continually surprised by our ability to identify distinct immune system changes in patients. Perhaps most surprising is that some of these patients have very early-stage cognitive impairment, and we can detect their immune changes using our sensitive methods," Gate said.

He added: "This suggests to us that these immune system changes are some of the first to occur in patients and give promise to the idea that we may be able to use immune system measurements to detect diseases in patients before they progress to aggressive dementia."

## OBITUARY

Angelia Collette Adams

Angelia Collette Adams, Viewing Friday 5pm until 7pm at BG Barrett Funeral Home, Funeral, Saturday 12 noon at True Temple Church 407 Hwy. 903 North







117 West 4th Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
Phone: 252-565-8562  
Residential, Commercial loan closing  
and home closings only



Steven R. Jones *Jones Law Firm-Go with a name you trust!*

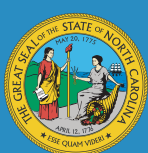
KNOW *Before* YOU GO  
• TO FAMILY GATHERINGS •

THE HOLIDAYS  
CAN FEEL LIKE  
HOME *Again*

BOOST YOUR AND  
YOUR FAMILY'S COVID-19  
PROTECTION THIS SEASON.

For more information visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://MySpot.nc.gov)  
or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Healthier **TOGETHER**  
A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES



# Cold air from Siberia will send U.S. into deep freeze ahead of Christmas

By Bill Deger  
Accuweather.com

December has begun on a fairly mild note across a large part of the United States, but a bitter blast of cold air that will flow into North America from Siberia is forecast to plunge the eastern two-thirds of the country into a deep freeze in the days leading up to Christmas.

The cold could challenge records that have stood since the 1980s, as subzero temperatures are expected to grip states from the northern Rockies to the East. AccuWeather long-range forecasters expect the mercury to be up to 40 degrees Fahrenheit below late-December averages in parts of the country.

Siberia is one of the coldest locations on the planet during the winter months. Earlier this week, the mercury plunged to an incredible 78 degrees Fahrenheit below zero in the city of Yakutsk on Monday, according to AccuWeather lead international forecaster Jason Nicholls.

The intense cold will arrive in North America in two waves, as atmospheric energy moves it along through northeastern parts of Asia and into the northwestern part of North America next week.

"By early next week, the atmospheric energy bringing the cold will dive south out of the Gulf of Alaska and into the Pacific Northwest," said AccuWeather meteorologist Brandon Buckingham. It will then proceed through the northern Rockies and Upper Midwest from Monday to Tuesday. Low temperatures with this push



of frigid air will not quite reach record levels, but low temperatures well below zero will be common in Montana and the Dakotas.

The subsequent push of cold air beginning in the middle of next week will make the first seem like an appetizer to the main course. The northern Rockies and northern Plains will bear the brunt of this bitter blast, which will try to expand south and east through the country in the days before Christmas.

"This could be one of the most extreme air masses that is observed all winter across portions of the north-central U.S.," Buckingham said. "I would not be surprised to see some areas in Montana or North Dakota approach 30 degrees Fahrenheit below zero, which would come close to some of the extreme cold observed back in 1983 and 1989."

Such temperatures would mean some of the coldest air on the planet will be in North America next week, as evidenced by

how strong the cold area of high pressure, a bona fide piece of the polar vortex, is forecast to be in the northern Rockies. Some projections indicate the magnitude of the high pressure will be more than 1070 millibars (31.60 inches of mercury) over Montana. If that verifies, it would beat the old high-pressure record for the state, which is 1064 millibars (31.42 inches of mercury) set Christmas Eve 1983 in Miles City.

From there, the bitter cold will expand into the central and southern Plains and Midwest during the second half of the week, with the East getting a taste by the end of the week and next weekend. The cold will have staying power, lasting beyond Christmas.

"While the push of extreme cold will not last as long as the extreme push seen in February 2021, temperatures will likely not begin to rebound until about Dec. 27," said AccuWeather lead long-range forecaster Paul Pastelok.

That push of bitterly cold air

in February 2021 stressed energy grids in the South, most notably in Texas, where there was a deadly, multiday power grid failure. "This round of cold will undoubtedly increase the energy demand across a wide swath of the nation due to the increased demand for heating purposes," Buckingham said.

This time around, Texans will likely find themselves shivering again. Low temperatures later next week are forecast to settle in the teens in Amarillo and in the lower 20s around Dallas. Near-freezing temperatures could also threaten crops in far southern Texas during Hanukkah and around Christmas.

In Chicago, there have been four instances when the mercury failed to reach 10 degrees Fahrenheit on Christmas Day, with the coldest reading coming in 1983 when it was below zero all day. Currently, temperatures are projected to just be in the teens for the holiday in the Windy City.

Records from the cold outbreaks of 1983 and 1989 still set the standard for cold air around Christmastime in much of the northern and eastern United States. In portions of Montana and North Dakota, the mercury dipped to between 35 and 50 below zero Fahrenheit for several days around Christmas those years. The cold air mass in 1983 even made it to the East Coast, with single-digit record lows in that timeframe still standing today in parts of the Carolinas.

While the bitter cold seems very likely to have pre-holiday revelers shivering in the north-cen-

tral United States, the bitter cold surviving in its most extreme form to the East Coast is not a sure bet. "Whenever there is a major blast of cold air on deck, there is usually the potential for a storm to accompany or precede it, delaying the arrival of the colder air," said AccuWeather senior meteorologist Alex Sosnowski.

"The air is also likely to take an indirect route to the East through the Great Lakes and would have a chance to moderate where there is little to no snow on the ground," Sosnowski added.

Despite that potential for a less severe outcome as the air mass moves east, it is almost certainly expected to be a colder Christmas than in recent years in many parts of the East. In New York City, for example, the high temperatures in the last three years have been 52 degrees Fahrenheit in 2021, 61 in 2020 and 47 in 2019. All of those high temperatures were above the average of 42 degrees Fahrenheit for the day.

AccuWeather's team of long-range meteorologists says there is the potential for a winter storm to form along the periphery of the colder air next week as it moves east, including in parts of the southern Plains and Southeast from Oklahoma to the Carolinas. The evolution of any potential storm will depend on the exact trajectory of the colder air and any atmospheric energy associated with it. Meteorologists believe a clearer picture of how the storm could take shape may be determined as early as this weekend.

## Chance dad encounter leads man to \$200,000 lottery prize

By Ben Hooper  
UPI

A South Carolina man said spotting his dad's car parked at a convenience store led to his winning a \$200,000 lottery prize.

The Anderson resident told South Carolina Education Lottery officials he was driving past MD Food Mart on Concord Road in Anderson recently when he saw his father's car parked at the business and decided to stop in to say hello.

The man said he decided to buy a \$5 Lady Luck scratch-off ticket while inside the store and scratched off a \$200,000 prize.

"I was speechless," the son said. "I got my dad's attention to come and see."

The winner said his father's reaction was equally shocked.

"His eyes got big and his jaw dropped," the winner recalled.

The man said some of his winnings will go toward paying for a new car.

## U.S. charges 7 with smuggling U.S. military, dual-use tech to Russia

By Darryl Coote  
UPI

Five Russians, a U.S. citizen and a New Hampshire resident have been indicted on charges of smuggling millions of dollars' worth of American-made military and dual-use technology to Russia's military, defense sector and research institutions.

The 16-count indictment charges the group of seven as being part of the so-called Serniya procurement network, which federal prosecutors say is operated under the direction of Russian intelligence to acquire sensitive military and dual-use materials, including advanced semiconductors, quantum computing testing equipment and hypersonic and nuclear weapons technology.

The illicit procurement network is believed to be headed by Russia's wholesale machinery and equipment company Serniya Engineering to gain the sensitive technology for state-owned defense conglomerates,

atomic and nuclear research agencies and the ministry of defense, among others.

"The industries that these illegal transfers could support ... pose great danger in the hands of our adversaries," FBI Director Christopher Wray said in a statement.

The United States had previously targeted the illicit network, and sanctioned it in late March following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Biden administration officials have accused the network of being instrumental to the Kremlin's "war machine."

The indictment, announced Tuesday by the Justice Department but unsealed a day prior, accuses the seven defendants of conspiring with the Serniya Network to smuggle sensitive technology from U.S. manufacturers in New York and elsewhere since at least 2017.

Prosecutors said the defendants layered transactions through a variety of front companies and bank accounts worldwide in order to have

U.S. companies sell products in violation of national security export laws.

The indictment details how the septuplet caused the U.S. companies to ship items to domestic and European locations that match fictitious addresses assigned to Serniya Network shell companies.

"Items were repackaged and reshipped to several intermediate locations in Europe and Asia before arriving in Russia," the charging document states, naming Estonia, Finland, Germany and Hong Kong as common shipping points.

Alexey Brayman, a 35-year-old lawful U.S. permanent residence of New Hampshire and an Israeli citizen, and U.S. citizen Vadim Yermolenko, 41, have been arrested by U.S. authorities.

Prosecutors have asked the court to set a bail at \$250,000 for Brayman and \$500,000 for Yermolenko and to confiscate their passports as they present flight risks and have significant ties to non-extradition countries.

## U.S. launches Space Force in South Korea to deter North Korean missile threats

By Thomas Maresca  
UPI

The United States military launched a Space Force unit in South Korea on Wednesday amid rising missile and nuclear threats from North Korea.

U.S. Space Forces Korea is the second overseas component of the Space Force, a military branch that was established in 2019. It will focus on real-time missile detection and tracking and will boost the deterrence capabilities of the Seoul-Washington alliance, U.S. Forces Korea said in a press release.

Seoul and Washington have ramped up their security cooperation amid a record-breaking number

of North Korean missile tests this year, including last month's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile believed to be capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

The new space unit also reflects the U.S. military's emphasis on multi-domain operations, a doctrine meant to address threats across all potential theaters of war, including air, land, sea, cyberspace and outer space.

U.S. Space Forces Korea joins the other components of the USFK, which includes the Eighth Army, Seventh Air Force, Naval Forces Korea, Marine Forces Korea and Special Operations Command Korea. It is headquartered at Osan Air Base in Pyeongtaek, about 40 miles



south of Seoul.

Earlier this month, South Korea's air force also estab-

lished a space operations

squadron at Osan in a show

American military.

USFK commander Gen. Paul LaCamera hosted a

launch ceremony at the air base Wednesday and said the Space Force "enhances our ability to defend the homelands and ensures peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia."

The new unit will be led by Lt. Col. Joshua McCullion.

"Our U.S. and Republic of Korea alliance was forged more than 70 years ago, as we stood shoulder to shoulder in war," McCullion said at the launch. "With the world around us evolving, so, too, must we."

"Just 48 miles north of us exists an existential threat -- a threat that we must be prepared to deter, defend against, and, if required, defeat," McCullion added, referring to the distance to the North Korean border.

**THE LAW OFFICE OF JOSEPH (JAY) DUPREE**  
**A POWERFUL LEGAL ADVOCATE**

PERSONAL INJURY • LICENSE RESTORATION • CRIMINAL DEFENSE  
 DWI • TRAFFIC TICKETS • BUSINESS LITIGATION • FAMILY LAW

123 W. THIRD STREET  
 GREENVILLE,  
 NC 27834  
 252-329-0993  
 WWW.JDUPREELAW.COM

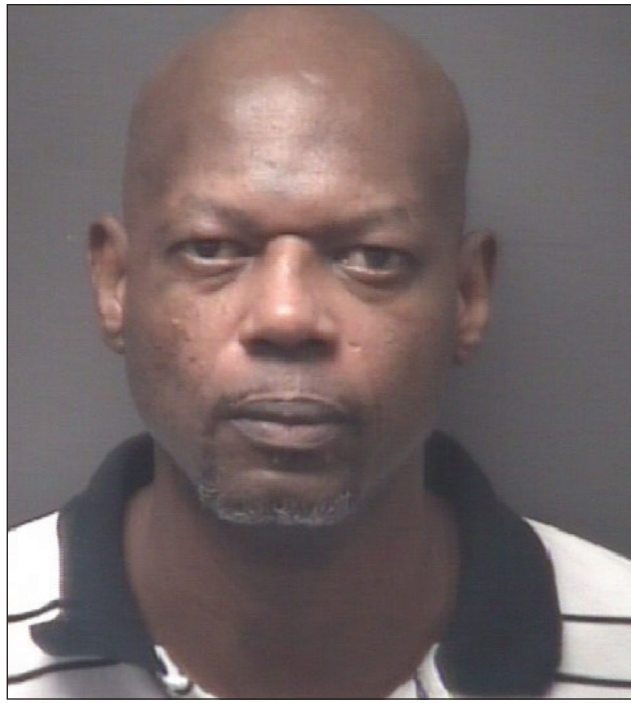
# Local detainees

Sponsored by Inner-City Return Service



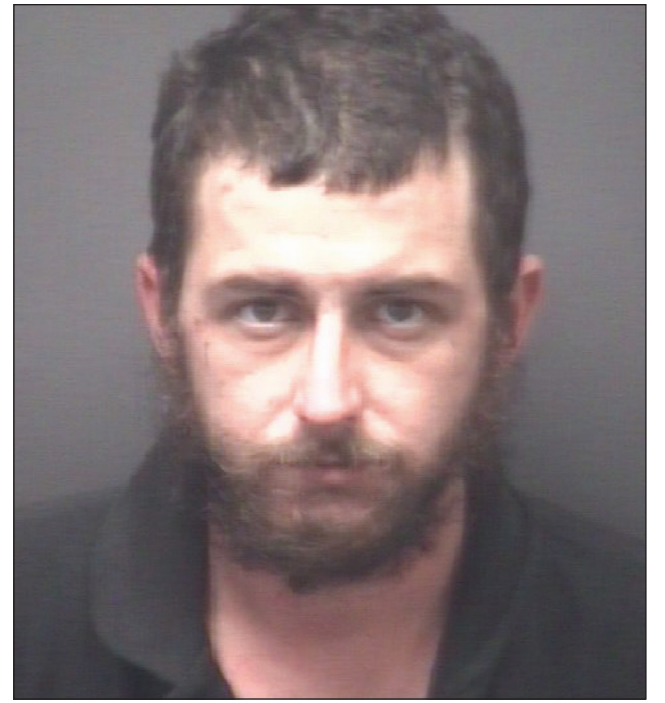
**KAYLA YVONNE ALLEY-GRIFFIN**

FTA-LARCENY – FELONY  
FTA-POSSESS STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE – FELONY



**MICHAEL LEE BAKER**

ASSAULT BY STRANGULATION – FELONY  
ASSAULT ON A FEMALE – MISDEMEANOR  
FALSE IMPRISONMENT – MISDEMEANOR



**JAMES ADAM BUTLER**

FAIL REPORT NEW ADDRESS-SEX OFF – FELONY  
FTA- POSS/RVC STOLEN PROP CERT FEL – FELONY  
FTA- POSSESS METHAMPHETAMINE – FELONY  
PROBATION VIOLATION – FELONY



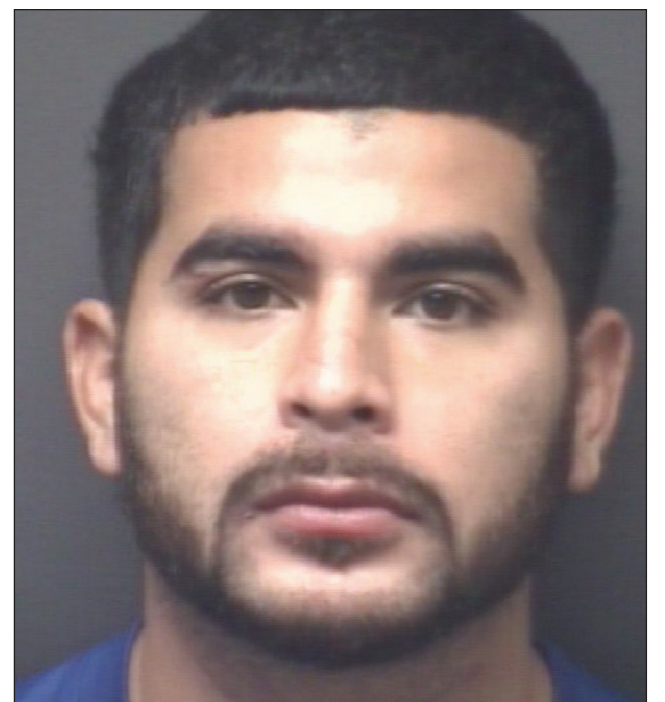
**BRANDON XAVIER BATTLE**

POSSESSION OF FIREARM BY FELON – FELONY  
PWISD MARIJUANA – FELONY  
FELONY POSSESSION MARIJUANA – FELONY  
CARRYING CONCEALED GUN – MISDEMEANOR



**ERIN NICOLE BAILEY**

COMMON LAW ROBBERY - PV – FELONY  
PWISD COUNTERFEIT CS - PV – FELONY



**CHRISTIAN SEGOVIA FLORES**

FTA-PWISD COCAINE – FELONY  
HIT/RUN LEAVE SCENE PROP DAM – MISDEMEANOR  
FTA-CARRYING CONCEALED WEAPON – MISDEMEANOR



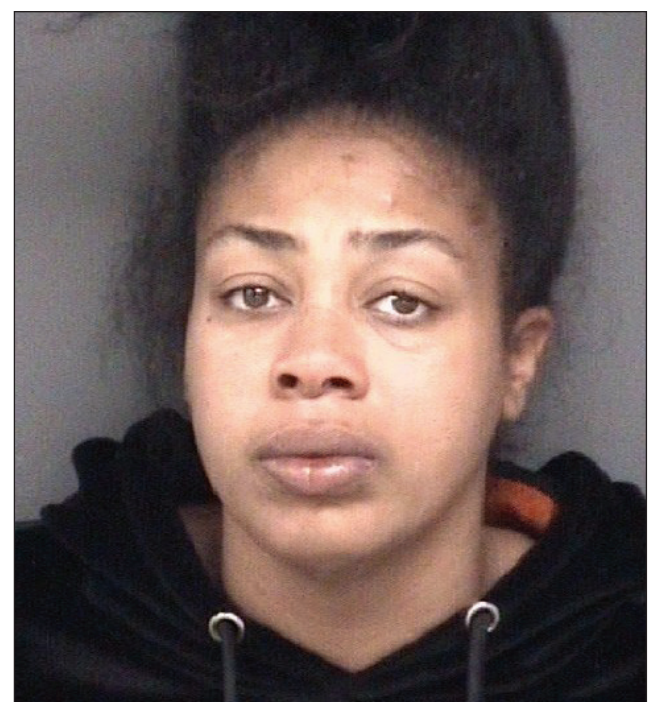
**QUAMAINE DESHAUN COOPER**

FTA-BREAKING AND OR ENTERING – FELONY  
HABITUAL BREAKING/ENTERING – FELONY  
LARCENY – MISDEMEANOR  
FTA-RESISTING PUBLIC OFFICER – MISDEMEANOR



**JOSHUA LAMONT BLOUNT**

SECOND DEGREE FORCIBLE RAPE-BMV – FELONY  
MISDEMEANOR PROBATION VIOL – MISDEMEANOR  
LARCENY FROM THE PERSON – MISDEMEANOR



**BRITTANY TIANA CAMPBELL**

BREAKING AND OR ENTERING – FELONY

# Fantasy football: Five running backs to avoid in Week 15

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Joe Mixon and Raheem Mostert are among my five running backs to avoid for Week 15 of the fantasy football season. Christian McCaffrey leads my Top 30 weekly rankings for the position.

Aaron Jones, Alvin Kamara and Antonio Gibson are among the other players I would lower my expectations for or try to keep out of my lineup.

Week 14 performance, opportunity, strength of Week 15 opponents and expected game script are among the factors I considered when determining the players to avoid. My full Top 30 rankings are below.

No NFL teams are on bye this week, meaning most fantasy football team owners will have all of their top players available.

## JOE MIXON

Mixon is still my No. 13 option for Week 15, but I wouldn't expect a huge performance from the Cincinnati Bengals running back Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Mixon is now part of a backfield timeshare with fellow Bengals running back Samaje Perine. Mixon totaled 14 carries for 96 yards in Week 14, while Perine received four carries and five targets.

Mixon likely will earn more carries than Perine, but I don't expect much production against the Buccaneers' strong defensive line.

The Buccaneers allowed the seventh-fewest fantasy points and the fewest receiving yards per game to running backs through 14 games.

Look for Mixon to total less than 70 yards from scrimmage in what should be a tight game in Tampa, Fla.

## AARON JONES

Jones is another player in a



backfield timeshare. He received just nine carries -- compared to A.J. Dillon's 18 -- in Week 13, but that was partially due to injury.

Jones also failed to eclipse 43 rushing yards in six of his last eight appearances. This week, the Packers will face the Los Angeles Rams. The Rams might be struggling on offense this season, but still own a decent run defense. They allowed the eighth-fewest fantasy points and 11th-fewest rushing yards per game to running backs through 14 weeks.

Jones, my No. 15 option, can still be used as a low-end RB2, but I am worried about his low floor and ceiling for point production.

## ALVIN KAMARA

Unlike the previous running backs mentioned, Kamara will get a good matchup in Week 15. Kamara's Saints will host the Atlanta Falcons on Sunday in New Orleans.

The Falcons allowed the 11th-most fantasy points and eighth-most rushing yards per game to running backs through 14 weeks.

Kamara, who totaled just 39 yards on nine carries against the Falcons in Week 1, didn't log more than 62 rushing yards in any of his last seven games. He also failed to total more than 50 receiving yards and didn't score a touchdown in

any of his last five games.

Kamara likely needs a touchdown to be worth a fantasy football start this week. He has been too unreliable this season to be counted on as a playoff asset. He is my No. 24 option.

## RAHEEM MOSTERT

Mostert is my No. 27 play for Week 15, as his Miami Dolphins prepare for a road meeting with the Buffalo Bills. The veteran running back ran for just 11 yards on eight carries in Week 3 against the Bills and averaged just 50 rushing yards per game over his last seven appearances.

The Bills also boast a decent run defense. They allowed the ninth-fewest fantasy points and eighth-fewest rushing yards per game to running backs so far this season.

Mostert is a risky RB2 play for the first round of the playoffs. He likely needs to reach the end zone to even live up to his No. 27 spot in my rankings.

## ANTONIO GIBSON

Gibson is another running back in a timeshare this season and continues to compete with rookie Brian Robinson Jr. for carries out of the Washington Commanders backfield.

Gibson failed to eclipse nine

## WEEK 15 FANTASY FOOTBALL RUNNING BACK RANKINGS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Christian McCaffrey, San Francisco 49ers at SEA    | vs. BAL  |
| 2. Dalvin Cook, Minnesota Vikings vs. IND             | 17. Kenneth Walker III, Seattle Seahawks vs. SF  |
| 3. Derrick Henry, Tennessee Titans at LAC             | 18. Najee Harris, Pittsburgh Steelers at CAR     |
| 4. Jonathan Taylor, Indianapolis Colts at MIN         | 19. Zonovan Knight, New York Jets vs. DET        |
| 5. Miles Sanders, Philadelphia Eagles at CHI          | 20. Travis Etienne, Jacksonville Jaguars vs. DAL |
| 6. Austin Ekeler, Los Angeles Chargers vs. TEN        | 21. D'Andre Swift, Detroit Lions at NYJ          |
| 7. Tony Pollard, Dallas Cowboys at JAX                | 22. Cam Akers, Los Angeles Rams at GB            |
| 8. Josh Jacobs, Las Vegas Raiders vs. NE              | 23. Rachaad White, Tampa Bay Buccaneers vs. CIN  |
| 9. Ezekiel Elliott, Dallas Cowboys at JAX             | 24. Alvin Kamara, New Orleans Saints vs. ATL     |
| 10. James Conner, Arizona Cardinals at DEN            | 25. David Montgomery, Chicago Bears vs. PHI      |
| 11. Saquon Barkley, New York Giants at WAS            | 26. D'Onta Foreman, Carolina Panthers vs. PIT    |
| 12. Brian Robinson Jr., Washington Commanders vs. NYG | 27. Raheem Mostert, Miami Dolphins at BUF        |
| 13. Joe Mixon, Cincinnati Bengals at TB               | 28. Jamaal Williams, Detroit Lions at NYJ        |
| 14. J.K. Dobbins, Baltimore Ravens at CLE             | 29. Isiah Pacheco, Kansas City Chiefs at HOU     |
| 15. Aaron Jones, Green Bay Packers vs. LAR            | 30. Latavius Murray, Denver Broncos vs. ARI      |
| 16. Nick Chubb, Cleveland Browns                      |  |

carries in either of his last two appearances. He also didn't run for more than 59 yards in 12 of his 13 appearances this season and had one rushing touchdown over his last 10 games.

Robinson led the Commanders with 21 carries in Week 13, before their Week 14 bye. He also went off for 125 yards from scrimmage and

a score on 20 touches in Week 12. The Commanders will face the New York Giants in Week 15. The Giants own one of the most generous run defenses in the NFL, allowing 123 rushing yards per game to opposing running backs. I believe Robinson will again lead the Commanders in carries and provide RB1 value.

**MOORE'S OLDE TYME BARBEQUE**  
CHICKEN & SEAFOOD  
DINE IN - TAKE OUT - CATERING

**HAPPY HOLIDAY**

From The Staff And Management Of Moores BBQ  
LET US CATER ALL OF YOUR HOLIDAY MEALS AND EVENTS

<p><b>JACKSONVILLE</b> COMING SOON!</p>	<p><b>MOREHEAD CITY</b> 5069 US 70 WEST MOREHEAD CITY, NC 28557 252-222-4744</p>	<p><b>NEW BERN</b> 3621 DOCTOR M.L.K. JR BLVD. NEW BERN, NC 28562 252-638-3937</p>
<p><b>SWANSBORO</b> 1103 WEST CORBETT AVE. SWANSBORO, NC 28584 910-326-4227</p>	<p><b>WINTERVILLE</b> 2043 CENTRAL PARK DR. WINTERVILLE, NC 28590 252-353-4227</p>	



## Capitals' Alex Ovechkin joins Gretzky, Howe as third NHL player with 800 goals

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Star winger Alex Ovechkin netted a hat trick to lead the Washington Capitals past the Chicago Blackhawks and join Wayne Gretzky and Gordie Howe as the only players in NHL history to score 800 career goals.

Ovechkin lit the lamp twice in the first period and again in the third period of the 7-3 triumph Tuesday the United Center in Chicago.

The 18-year veteran also logged an assist.

"It's a huge jump and the best company you could imagine," Ovechkin told reporters. "Without my teammates, organization, fans and my family, I would never get this number."

Defenseman John Carlson and winger Conor Sheary assisted Ovechkin's first goal just 24 seconds into the game. The Capitals captain reached around two defenders and flicked a shot inside the near post to beat Blackhawks goaltender Petr Mrazek for that score.

He found the net for a second time 8:14 into the period. Sheary and fellow winger Sonny Milano assisted that score, which came off a power play.

Ovechkin stood on the left post during that sequence. He then collected a pass from between the



Washington Capitals left wing Alex Ovechkin (pictured) needs just one goal to tie Gordie Howe for the second-most (801) in NHL history. **File Photo by Archie Carpenter/UPI**

circles and tapped the puck past a group of defenders.

Blackhawks center Tyler Johnson lit the lamp with 60 seconds left in the frame. Defenseman Trevor Van Riemsdyk gave a two-goal lead back to the Capitals with another score 4:56 into the second. Blackhawks center Jonathan Toews scored on a power play less than seven minutes later.

Capitals center Nic Dowd scored the final goal of the period with 2:42 remaining.

Ovechkin lit the lamp for the 800th time of his career 6:34 into the

third. Winger Anthony Mantha and center Evgeny Kuznetsov assisted that goal.

Mantha stole the puck behind the Blackhawks net to spark that goal. He then passed off to Kuznetsov, who couldn't find the net. Ovechkin then skated into the area and cleaned up a loose puck with a wrist shot past Mrazek.

Mantha found the net for a 6-2 Capitals lead about two minutes later. Center Max Domi answered with the Blackhawks' final goal with 1:09 remaining. Capitals defenseman Dmitry

Orlov scored the final goal of the night with 36 seconds remaining.

Ovechkin, 37, scored a team-high 20 goals and registered 14 assists through 31 games this season. The 12-time All-Star and three-time MVP needs one score to tie Howe for the second-most in NHL history. Gretzky's 894 scores are the most in league history.

The Capitals (15-12-4) will host the first-place Dallas Stars (17-8-5) at 7 p.m. EST Thursday at Capital One Arena in Washington, D.C.

## Mississippi State football coach Mike Leach dies at 61

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Mississippi State football coach Mike Leach, who was rushed to a Jackson, Miss., hospital earlier this week because of a heart issue, has died, the school announced Tuesday morning. He was 61.

Leach died Monday night at the Mississippi Medical Center. Mississippi State said Leach succumbed "following complications from a heart condition." He is survived by his wife, Sharon, and four children.

"Mike was a giving and attentive husband, father and grandfather," the Leach family said in a news release from the school.

"He was able to participate in organ donation at UMMC as a final act of charity. We are supported and uplifted by the outpouring of love and prayers from family, friends, Mississippi State University, the hospital staff and football fans around the world. Thank you for sharing in the joy of our beloved husband and father's life."

The veteran coach, known for his entertaining interviews and prolific offenses, posted a 158-107 record in 21 seasons at three programs. Leach led those teams to winning records in 17 of those campaigns.

Mississippi State announced Sunday night that Leach was transferred by ambulance from his home to the Mississippi Medical Center. The school said Leach sustained a "personal health issue" and remained in critical condition Monday morning.

"Coach Mike Leach cast a tremendous shadow not just over Mississippi State University, but over the entire college football landscape," Mississippi State president Mark E. Keenum said.

"His innovative 'Air Raid' offense changed the game. Mike's keen intellect and unvarnished candor made him one of the nation's true coaching legends.

"His passing brings great sadness to our university, to the Southeastern Conference, and to all who loved college football. I will miss Mike's profound curiosity, his honesty, and his wide-open approach to pursuing excellence in all things.



## Giants, free agent SS Carlos Correa agree to \$350M deal

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Carlos Correa and the San Francisco Giants agreed to a 13-year, \$350 million contract, taking one of the top free agents off the market making Correa the highest-paid shortstop in MLB history.

Sources told MLB.com, The Athletic and ESPN about the agreement Tuesday night. The pact includes no opt-out and a full no-trade clause.

Correa, 28, hit .291 with 22 home runs and 664 RBIs in 136 games last season with the Minnesota Twins. The eight-year veteran spent the 2015 through 2021 seasons with the Houston Astros. Correa signed a

one-year, \$35.1 million pact with the Twins last off-season.

The two-time All-Star was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2012 MLB Draft. Correa earned Rookie of the Year honors in 2015 and hit a career-high .315 with 24 home runs in 2017. He smacked a career-high 26 home runs and collected 92 RBIs in his final season with the Astros.

Correa also won a World Series in 2017 with the Astros. He owns a career .279 average over regular-season appearances.

The Giants also agreed to deals this off-season with starting pitchers Sean Manaea and Ross Stripling and outfielder Mitch Haniger. They also re-signed outfielder Joc Pederson.

## Twins, free agent catcher Christian Vazquez agree to \$30M deal

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Free agent catcher Christian Vazquez and the Minnesota Twins agreed to a three-year, \$30 million contract.

Sources told ESPN, the New York Post and MLB.com about the deal Monday night. Vazquez hit .274 with nine home runs and 52 RBIs in 119 games last season. The eight-year veteran started the year with the Boston Red Sox, but was traded in August to the Houston Astros.

Vazquez hit .235 with three RBIs in six

postseason games to help the Astros win the World Series. He also helped the Red Sox win the World Series in 2018.

The Puerto Rico native was a ninth-round pick by the Red Sox in the 2008 MLB Draft. He made his MLB debut in 2014. Vazquez hit a career-high .290 in 2017 with the Red Sox. He smacked a career-best 23 home runs and drove in 72 RBIs in 2019.

Vazquez is a career .261 hitter. He clubbed 55 home runs and logged 276 RBIs in his first 733 career appearances.

# Now hiring.

**PittCounty**  
North Carolina

"Opportunities to...  
...make a difference."

[www.PittCountyNC.gov/Jobs](http://www.PittCountyNC.gov/Jobs)

**Reasons to Join!**

- Benefits
- Health & Wellness
- Retirement
- Inclusive Programs
- Community Service
- Caring Leadership
- Dedicated Staff

## Seasons Greetings from the staff and management

**Edgecombe-Martin County Electric Membership Corporation**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE EMEMC.COM**  
Link to [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com)



Visit Our New Location At  
At El Azador  
*"You Can Feel The Grill"*



109 SE Greenville Blvd., Suite 124  
Greenville, NC 27858  
Daily Special Monday thru Friday  
Open Mon-Fri.  
11:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M.  
Saturday 10:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M.,  
Sunday 10:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M.

# La Voz Latina

## World Cup soccer: Messi, Argentina beat Croatia, advance to final

By Alex Butler  
UPI

Argentine sensation Lionel Messi will get another chance to add the most prestigious -- and elusive -- soccer title to his resume after helping Argentina beat Croatia in a World Cup semifinal Tuesday in Lusail, Qatar.

Messi logged a goal and an assist in the 3-0 triumph at Lusail Stadium. Fellow forward Julian Alvarez scored twice for the Argentines.

Argentina, the No. 2 team in the world, will face No. 4 France or No. 22 Morocco in the 2022 World Cup finale Sunday in Lusail.

Argentina will seek its third World Cup title, while Messi returns to soccer's biggest stage for the first time since a 1-0 loss to Germany in the 2014 finale.

No. 12 Croatia, the runner-up at the 2018 World Cup, failed to place a shot on target in the first half. They put two attempts on net in the second half, but couldn't



Julian Alvarez (R) of Argentina celebrates a goal against Croatia in a 2022 World Cup semifinal Tuesday in Lusail, Qatar. Photo by Chris Brunskill/UPI

beat Argentine goalie Emiliano Martinez.

Midfielder Enzo Fernandez put the first shot on the Croatian net in the 25th minute, but Croatian keeper Dominik Livakovic denied the attempt.

Less than 10 minutes later, a

Livakovic error led the Argentina's first score. The star goalie brought down Alvarez inside the box to prompt a penalty kick.

Messi calmly stepped up to the spot and blasted the attempt into the right side of the net, beating Livakovic for his fifth score of the

tournament in the 34th minute. He is now tied with France's Kylian Mbappe for the most goals at Qatar 2022.

Argentina doubled the advantage when Alvarez found the net about five minutes later. The Argentine's stole a Croatia corner kick to spark that score. Messi raced to the ball in transition and poked past a defender. Alvarez then picked up the pass just before midfield.

He dribbled by several defenders, then raced to his right as he neared the box. Alvarez briefly lost control inside the box, but got the ball back when it bounced off a defender. He finished the play with a right-footed shot right in front of Livakovic.

Argentina remained aggressive to start the second half, but couldn't beat Livakovic for most of the second half.

Croatia continued to struggle at placing a shot on net down the stretch. One of the Croatians' best chances came in the 62nd minute, when the

ball bounced around in the Argentine box after a free kick, but the Argentina defense provided a clutch clearance to maintain the shutout.

Messi and Alvarez teamed up for a third Argentina goal in the 69th minute. Messi beat several defenders as he carried a long dribble into the right side of the box.

Messi deployed a combination of hesitation moves and crafty touches to skate around Croatian fullback Josko Gvardiol before he reached the right end line and fired a pass in front of the net.

Alvarez finished the play with a one-touch blasted into the middle of the net for the final score of the night.

France will face Morocco in the other World Cup semifinal at 2 p.m. EST Wednesday on Fox. The winner will advance to face Argentina in the World Cup finale at 10 a.m. Sunday on Fox.

The loser of the France-Morocco game will play Croatia in the third-place game at 10 a.m. Saturday on Fox.

## Iran removed from U.N. commission that promotes women's rights



Demonstrations participate in a rally help by the Organization of Iranian-American Communities in support of a regime change in Iran, in Washington, D.C., on March 8, 2019. Iran was removed from a commission promoting gender equality. File Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI

By Clyde Hughes  
UPI

A United States-led pressure campaign to remove Iran from a United Nations panel for women's rights succeeded on Wednesday, a punishment for the Islamic nation's deadly crackdown on protests against its morality police.

The Commission on the Status of Women passed a resolution removing Iran 29-8 with 16 abstaining.

Iran continued to be beset by protests around the country over the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in the custody of its morality police on Sept. 16

for not wearing her hijab correctly. The regime has been blamed for additional deaths as authorities brutally cracked down on anti-government demonstrations over her death.

Iran has blamed the United States and other Western countries for the continued protests.

The Commission on the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women globally.

Activists and human rights groups have called Iran's role on the commission a farce, considering its reaction to

the protests. The Iranian representative on the panel, Amir Saied Irvani called the resolution a "hostile policy towards Iranian people."

Russia and China voted against the resolution. U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan, though, called the vote "historic."

"The United States is working with our allies and partners around the world to hold Iran accountable for the abuses it is committing against its own people, notably peaceful protesters, women and girls, and the violence it is enabling against the Ukrainian people, as well as its destabilizing actions throughout the Middle East region," he said.

## Seven dead as Peruvians protest ouster of former president Castillo

By Doug Cunningham  
UPI

Peruvian protests over the sudden ouster of former President Pedro Castillo spread Tuesday as seven demonstrators -- all teenagers -- have died and at least 15 police officers were injured. Castillo denies the conspiracy and rebellion charges against him.

Castillo, who was impeached and arrested hours after he made a televised announcement that he was dissolving Peru's congress just ahead of a scheduled impeachment vote, was in court Tuesday to appeal his 7-day detention order, which the judge denied.

"I have never committed the crime of conspiracy or rebellion," Castillo, who maintains he is still president, said during the hearing.

The presidents of Mexico, Argentina, Columbia and Bolivia said in a joint statement said in part, that Castillo remains the rightful president of Peru.

"We urge those who make up the institutions to refrain from reversing the popular will expressed with free suffrage. We request that the authorities fully respect the human rights of President Pedro Castillo and that he be guaranteed judicial protection."

Demonstrations continued to rage as protesters blockaded the Pan-American Highway south of Lima, forced flight cancellations at the Cusco airport and tried to reach the congress building in Lima's downtown.

Peru's airport was closed Monday after two were killed in the protests over Castillo's impeachment and arrest.

Amnesty International on Monday called on Peruvian authorities to refrain from using excessive force in response to the protests.

"State repression against protesters is only deepening the crisis in Peru. The authorities must put an end to the excessive use of force against demonstrations and guarantee the right to peaceful protest, using the legal and proportional means necessary to restore citizen security."