

Daily Herald

Fan behavior on display
Cougars saw good, bad against USC **SPORTS, B1**

Vaccine mandate blocked
Federal judge impedes the enforcement of the controversial order in 10 states **NEWS, A3**

HAZE 50 • 31 FORECAST, A6 | **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2021** | heraldextra.com | \$1

New variant cause for concern, not panic, Biden tells US

BY ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden called the new coronavirus variant omicron a cause for concern but “not a cause for panic” Monday and said he was not considering any widespread U.S. lockdown. He urged Americans anew to get fully vaccinated, including booster shots, and return to face masks indoors

in public settings to slow any spread.

Speaking Monday at the White House, Biden said it was inevitable that the new variant would reach the U.S., but he also said the country has the tools necessary to protect Americans — particularly the approved vaccines and booster shots.

When omicron arrives, and it will, Biden said, America

will “face this new threat just as we’ve faced those that have come before it.”

He appealed to the roughly 80 million unvaccinated Americans aged 5 and up to get their shots, and for the rest of the country to seek out booster shots six months after their second dose. He also encouraged everyone to get back to wearing face masks in all indoor public settings — a

pandemic precaution that has fallen out of use across much of the country.

Separately, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention broadened its recommendation for COVID-19 booster shots to include all adults because of the new variant. The agency had previously approved boosters for all adults, but only recommended them for those 50 years and older or living in long-term

care settings.

“Everyone ages 18 and older should get a booster shot either when they are six months after their initial Pfizer or Moderna series or two months after their initial J&J vaccine,” CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said in a statement. Biden was joined by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert and the president’s COVID-19 ad-

viser, who said earlier Monday that scientists hope to know in the next week or two how well the existing COVID-19 vaccines protect against the variant, and how dangerous it is compared to earlier strains.

“We really don’t know,” Fauci told ABC’s “Good Morning America,” calling speculation premature.

Please see **VARIANT**, Page A4

LET'S GET ETHICAL



COURTESY ALESSIA LOVE

Two teams from Utah Valley University will move on to the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics' Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl national competition.

Two teams representing UVU qualify for national ethics bowl

BY ASHTYN ASAY
Daily Herald

Two teams representing Utah Valley University stood undefeated at the 2021 Wasatch Mountain Ethics Bowl on Nov. 13, earning themselves spots in the upcoming national competition.

The competition, organized by the Association for Practical and Professional Ethics, consisted of 16 student teams that

represented well-known universities like Harvard University and Colorado State University, as well as fellow Utah institutions like the University of Utah and Westminster College. A team from Westminster College also will move on to compete at the national level.

Six weeks before the competition, the 16 teams were assigned cases based on real-life

ethical dilemmas, which they then had to conduct an ethical analysis of. Some of these cases involved rock climbing on public land, U.S. Senate filibusters, vaccine patents and mandates, and ransomware attacks.

The winning team had to conduct the best and most sophisticated ethical analysis of the cases they were presented, then present and defend solutions for

their analysis in front of a panel of three judges.

Students also were awarded points for stopping to listen to their opponents, as well as acknowledging the strong points within their opponent’s argument. Overwhelming the other team is not the goal, as can happen during traditional debate events.

Please see **WOLVERINES**, Page A4

COVID-19 by the numbers

AREA	RECEIVED 1 DOSE	FULLY VACCINATED
Utah County	369,396	317,133
Central Utah	35,831	31,327
Wasatch County	20,621	18,295
Salt Lake County	805,316	707,737
Summit County	38,192	32,316
Davis County	226,147	202,891
Weber-Morgan	162,582	144,244
Bear River	107,965	94,080

	FULLY VACCINATED	PERCENT OF POP.
Utah	1,801,754	55.4%
United States	232,792,508	70.1%

	NEW CASES SINCE WED	NEW DEATHS SINCE WED
Utah	4,891	38
United States	244,348	2,924

Sources: Utah.gov, CDC
Data current through 1 p.m. Monday

Payson family needs help after paying for funeral

BY ASHTYN ASAY
Daily Herald



SUB FOR SANTA

Life for Mary and her family has been difficult since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, and they need a little help to make the holidays brighter this year.

Mary’s mother passed away earlier this year, and all of her family’s savings were used to help family in Mexico pay for her funeral

Please see **CHRISTMAS**, Page A3

Supreme Court set to take up all-or-nothing abortion fight



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Supreme Court is seen at dusk in Washington on Oct. 22

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Both sides are telling the Supreme Court there’s no middle ground in Wednesday’s showdown over abortion. The justices can either reaffirm the constitutional right to an abortion or wipe it away altogether.

Roe v. Wade, the landmark 1973 ruling that declared a nationwide right to abortion, is facing its most serious challenge in 30 years in front of a court with a 6-3 conservative majority that has been remade by three appointees of President Donald Trump.

“There are no half measures here,” said Sheriff Girgis, a Notre Dame law professor who once served as a law clerk for Justice Samuel Alito.

A ruling that overturned

Roe and the 1992 case of Planned Parenthood v. Casey would lead to outright bans or severe restrictions on abortion in 26 states, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights.

The case being argued Wednesday comes from Mississippi, where a 2018 law would ban abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, well before viability. The Supreme Court has never allowed states to ban abortion before the point at roughly 24 weeks when a fetus can survive outside the womb.

The justices are separately weighing disputes over Texas’ much earlier abortion ban, at roughly six weeks, though those cases turn on the unique structure of the law and how it can be challenged in court,

not the abortion right. Still, abortion rights advocates were troubled by the court’s 5-4 vote in September to allow the Texas law, which relies on citizen lawsuits to enforce it, to take effect in the first place.

“This is the most worried I’ve ever been,” said Shannon Brewer, who runs the only abortion clinic in Mississippi, the Jackson Women’s Health Organization.

The clinic offers abortions up to 16 weeks of pregnancy and about 10% of abortions it performs take place after the 15th week, Brewer said.

She also noted that since the Texas law took effect, the clinic has seen a substantial increase in patients, operating five days or six days a week instead of two or three.

Please see **ABORTION**, Page A6

DISCOVER DIGITAL

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COMICS B4-5 | OPINION A5
LEGAL A2-3 | TV SCHEDULE B2
OBITUARIES A4 | WEATHER A6



David Rex Eagar

1954 – 2021

David Rex Eagar, age 67 of Pleasant Grove, passed away Tuesday, November 23, 2021. Arrangements entrusted to Sundberg-Olpin Mortuary of Orem. 801-225-1530. To leave condolences please visit SundbergOlpinMortuary.com.



White House holiday decor honors frontline workers handling COVID

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Holiday decorations unveiled Monday for Joe and Jill Biden's first White House Christmas honor frontline workers who persevered during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nurses, doctors, teachers, grocery store workers and others are recognized in this year's gigantic Gingerbread White House, which was made into a 350-pound (158.76 kilograms) gingerbread village with the addition of a school and police, fire and gas stations as well as a hospital, a post office, a grocery store and a warehouse to honor workers who stayed on the job.

Fewer people are likely to see the decked-out mansion in person this year, with public tours still suspended because of the continuing threat from COVID-19. But videos, photos and other details are available at WhiteHouse.gov/Holidays. "Gifts from the Heart" is the theme.

In remarks thanking volunteers for decorating, the first lady explained the vision behind her theme, speaking of unity and her view that everyone comes together around faith, family and friendship, gratitude and service, and love for one's community.

"For all of our differences, we are united by what really matters," she said. "Like points on a star, we come together at the heart. That is what I wanted to reflect in our White House this year. In each room, we tell a story of gifts from the heart."

The first lady, a longtime community college professor, invited Maryland second graders for Monday's unveiling of the holiday decorations. They were inspired

by people the president and first lady met while traveling around the country this year, according to the White House.

Frontline workers are also represented in the iridescent doves and shooting stars that illuminate the East Colonnade hallway, "representing the peace and light brought to us by all the front-line workers and first responders during the pandemic," the guidebook says.

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the White House holiday season in other ways, though it remained unclear how parties and receptions may be tweaked to compensate for it.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki has said parties will be held, though they will be "different" from years past. Some indication will come Wednesday when the president and first lady and Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, light a menorah to celebrate Hanukkah. Emhoff, who is Jewish, helped light the National Menorah on the Ellipse on Sunday.

Volunteers who decorated the White House came only from the surrounding area, instead of from all over the United States as in past years, because of COVID-19 concerns.

The White House also wasn't spared the supply shortages that many Americans are contending with. Some topiary trees took a little longer to arrive, said social secretary Carlos Elizondo.

The other showstopper of holidays at the White House is the official Christmas tree, an 18-foot-tall (5.5-meter-tall) Fraser fir that commands the Blue Room and is trimmed with white doves and ribbon bearing the names of all U.S. states and

territories to celebrate peace and unity.

More than 100 volunteers decorated the White House, including the Oval Office, while the Bidens spent Thanksgiving week in Nantucket, Massachusetts. They trimmed 41 Christmas trees and hung some 6,000 feet (1,800 meters) of ribbon and more than 10,000 ornaments.

Twenty-five wreaths adorn the exterior of the White House, and nearly 79,000 lights illuminate the Christmas trees, garlands, wreaths and other holiday displays.

Christmas stockings for each of the Biden grandchildren — Naomi, Finnegan, Maisy, Natalie, Hunter and baby Beau — hang from the fireplace mantel in the State Dining Room, which celebrates family, while two trees in that stately room are decorated with framed Biden family photos and photos of other first families during the holiday season.

Many of the photos are personal favorites of Jill Biden, who picked them out of old family albums on trips home to Delaware, said Elizabeth Alexander, the first lady's communications director.

The decorations are the product of months of work by the first lady and her staff in the White House East Wing, starting as far back as June.

A second grade class from Malcolm Elementary School in Waldorf, Maryland, was invited to the White House and bantered with PBS Kids characters Martin and Chris Kratt from "Wild Kratts" and costumed characters Miss Elaina, Daniel Tiger, Molly of Denali, Arthur and Rosita from "Sesame Street."

The first lady then read her children's book, "Don't Forget, God Bless Our Troops."

Merriam-Webster chooses vaccine as the 2021 word of the year

BY LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — With an expanded definition to reflect the times, Merriam-Webster has declared an omnipresent truth as its 2021 word of the year: vaccine.

"This was a word that was extremely high in our data every single day in 2021," Peter Sokolowski, Merriam-Webster's editor-at-large, told The Associated Press ahead of Monday's announcement.

"It really represents two different stories. One is the science story, which is this remarkable speed with which the vaccines were developed. But there's also the debates regarding policy, politics and political affiliation. It's one word that carries these two huge stories," he said.

The selection follows "vax" as word of the year from the folks who publish the Oxford English Dictionary. And it comes after Merriam-Webster chose "pandemic" as tops in lookups last year on its online site.

"The pandemic was the gun going off and now we have the aftereffects," Sokolowski said.

At Merriam-Webster, lookups for "vaccine" increased 601% over 2020, when the first U.S. shot was administered in New York in December after quick development, and months of speculation and discussion over efficacy. The world's first jab occurred earlier that month in the UK.

Compared to 2019, when there was little urgency or

chatter about vaccines, Merriam-Webster logged an increase of 1,048% in lookups this year. Debates over inequitable distribution, vaccine mandates and boosters kept interest high, Sokolowski said. So did vaccine hesitancy and friction over vaccine passports.

The word "vaccine" wasn't birthed in a day, or due to a single pandemic. The first known use stretches back to 1882 but references pop up earlier related to fluid from cowpox pustules used in inoculations, Sokolowski said. It was borrowed from the New Latin "vaccina," which goes back to Latin's feminine "vaccinus," meaning "of or from a cow." The Latin for cow is "vacca," a word that might be akin to the Sanskrit "vasa," according to Merriam-Webster.

Inoculation, on the other hand, dates to 1714, in one sense referring to the act of injecting an "inoculum."

Earlier this year, Merriam-Webster added to its online entry for "vaccine" to cover all the talk of mRNA vaccines, or messenger vaccines such as those for COVID-19 developed by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. While other dictionary companies choose words of the year by committee, Merriam-Webster bases its selection on lookup data, paying close attention to spikes and, more recently, year-over-year increases in searches after weeding out evergreens. The company has been declaring a word of the year since 2008.

Variant

From A1

The new variant poses the latest test to Biden's efforts to contain the pandemic, mitigate its impacts on the economy and return a sense of normalcy to the U.S. during the holiday season.

"This variant is a cause for concern, not a cause for panic," Biden said, as U.S. financial markets rebounded Monday after falling sharply on Friday. The White House said there were no plans to curtail Biden's travel as a result of the new variant.

Biden last week moved to restrict travel from South Africa and seven other countries in southern Africa, effective Monday, in a bid to give scientists time to learn more about the new variant, and for more Americans to get vaccinated before it hits the U.S. South African officials have argued they are being punished for speedily identifying and reporting the new variant.

As omicron spreads across the globe, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday, "we will continue to assess what steps we need to take to protect the American people."

Some other nations are reinstating severe travel and business lockdowns to prevent the omicron variant from spreading, but Biden indicated the U.S. was not following suit.

"If people are vaccinated and wear their mask, there's no need for lockdowns," he said.



EVAN VUCCI, ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden speaks during a meeting with business leaders about the holiday shopping season, in the library of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building on the White House campus on Monday in Washington, as Josh Silverman, CEO of Etsy, center, and Carlos Castro, CEO of Todos Supermarket, listen.

Fauci said earlier on "CBS Mornings" that limiting travel from the countries where omicron was first identified "buys you a couple of weeks because if you can keep things out in force for a couple of weeks you can do a lot of things."

Pharmaceutical companies are already adjusting their existing COVID-19 vaccines to better attack the omicron variant, but Fauci said Americans should make it a priority to get either their first shots or a booster dose now, rather than waiting for a new formulation.

"I would strongly suggest you get boosted now," he said.

He added that depending on what scientists learn about the omicron variant in the coming weeks "we may not need" targeted boosters to contain that strain of the virus.

Biden said his administration was "sparing no effort at removing all roadblocks to keep the American people safe," including working with drug manufacturers on potential new boosters and testing targeted specifically at the new variant.

Any omicron-specific vaccine probably could not begin to be produced for another two or three months, so getting boosters now is a "very important initial line of defense," Dr. Paul Burton, chief medical officer for the vaccine-maker Moderna, said Monday.

Burton said Moderna and other vaccine companies are testing existing COVID-19 vaccines to determine how effective they are against the omicron variant.

"If we need to manufacture an omicron-specific variant, it's going to take some weeks, two to three months is probably what we're looking at to be able to really begin to manufacture," Burton told ABC.

Noting that the new variant, like earlier ones, sprang up overseas in areas with lower vaccination rates, Biden said it was both a moral imperative and in America's self-interest to speed up global vaccinations. He noted that the U.S. has already donated more than 275 million doses — more than the rest of the world combined — and is on pace to deliver

more than 1.1 billion doses globally by September 2022.

"Now we need the rest of the world to step up as well," Biden said. "We can't let up until the world is vaccinated."

As the holiday season got underway, Biden tried to reassure shoppers that his administration was working to ease supply chain problems. Businesses are working to overcome lingering effects of COVID-related shutdowns and now issues arising from the strong recovery that has generated more demand than many ports, manufacturers and retailers can handle.

The president spoke Monday with the CEOs of Best Buy, Food Lion, Samsung, Etsy and Walmart, among companies. The corporate leaders reassured Biden.

"While we're all concerned about the supply chain, we have more inventory than we did a year ago, and we have the inventory that we need to be able to support the business," said Walmart CEO Doug McMillon. "And we are seeing progress. The port and transit delays are improving."

Wolverines

From A1

"One of the concerns educators and citizens have is the tension and the polarization in our society. People can't talk to each other," said Karen Mizell, UVU faculty member and co-founder of the Wasatch Regional Ethics Bowl, in a press release. "The Ethics Bowl is golden for having students sit down and talk about issues in a healthy, rational way, and to listen to each other."

The UVU students who participated in the Wasatch Mountain Ethics Bowl were all enrolled in the Moral Reasoning Through Case Studies Ethics Bowl course, taught by Jeffrey Nielsen, senior lecturer in the UVU Department of Humanities and Philosophy. The course helps students learn about moral theory and prepare for the competition.

"This course is probably the most beneficial and helpful for my students in their university education and in their future careers," Niel-

sen said in the release. "I've had students who've been on the team, and then years later they'll let me know that in their jobs and their careers, the Ethics Bowl experience is what has given them the most help. They gain the ability to analyze a case and present a coherent argument about the right thing to do."

UVU's Ethics Bowl teams will compete alongside 34 other teams in the APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl national competition, which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, in February.

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