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Radio News Reporting

2021 Subdistrict - Async Round 2

# International

## Kurds and government end rival sieges in northern Syria

Kurdish forces in northern Syria ended a weekslong siege of government-held neighborhoods in two northeastern cities Tuesday, they said, as part of a deal brokered by Russia. As part of the agreement with Kurdish forces, Syrian government troops allowed supplies to enter Kurdish-held areas in the northern province of Aleppo, an opposition activist group reported. The deal to end the sieges by government forces and Kurdish fighters in different parts of the war-torn country's north came two days after Kurdish fighters shot one person dead during a pro-government protest. The deal was brokered by Russia, an opposition war monitor said. Local Kurdish police said in a statement they would end the siege on government-held parts of the provincial capital of Hassakeh province that carries the same name as well and the city of Qamishli along the border with Turkey. Areas held by the government in Hassakeh and Qamishli are known as the security square. State institutions still function in the areas despite the fact the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led fighters control much of the region. The Kurds, Syria’s largest ethnic minority, have carved out a semi-autonomous enclave in Syria’s north after the start of the civil war in 2011. In the area, the Kurds run their own affairs and control most of the country’s oil resources. In both Hassakeh and Qamishli cities, they share control with government forces, which have a presence in security zones, near the airport and in some neighborhoods. Both cities have a sizeable Kurdish population. “We at the Internal Security Forces are committed to the unity of Syrian blood,” the local Kurdish police force said, blaming government forces for tension in the cities. On Sunday, Kurdish forces shot dead a pro-government protester in Hassakeh during a demonstration against the siege. The police force said life returned to normal on Tuesday with the siege lifted and material will be allowed to flow into government-held areas. During the siege that lasted several weeks, Kurdish fighters prevented the flow of flour and fuel into government-held areas. In Aleppo province, government forces allowed food and fuel to enter Kurdish held areas for the first time in weeks as part of a Russian-brokered deal, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said. There was no comment from the government. Tensions are not uncommon between the two sides in northern Syria and Kurdish officials have said their moves are in retaliation for a government siege on Kurdish areas in the northern province of Aleppo. Kurdish fighters, who are backed and armed by the U.S., played an instrumental role in defeating the Islamic State group in Syria. In March 2019, Kurdish fighters captured the eastern Syrian village of Baghouz that was the last sliver of land controlled by IS that once held large parts of Syria and Iraq. The U.S.-led coalition still has forces in Kurdish-controlled areas in Syria, citing continued joint efforts to weed out the militants’ remnants. The presence of U.S. troops is another reason for tension between the Kurdish and government forces.

## Captain Tom, Centenarian Who Inspired With His Fundraising Walks, Has Died

Capt. Sir Tom Moore, who as he approached his 100th birthday gained fame and affection by walking sponsored laps in his garden to raise funds for charity, has died, his foundation announced Tuesday. Moore was hospitalized Sunday for COVID-19, his daughter said via Twitter. He was three months shy of 101 at the time of his death. The British veteran of World War II became an international sensation last spring when his modest offer to raise money for the U.K.'s National Health Service ultimately collected more than $40 million in pledges. He did it by asking donors to sponsor walks he took in his garden in England. Queen Elizabeth II knighted Moore in July at a private ceremony at Windsor Castle and he became Sir Tom. Moore, who lives in Bedfordshire, around 50 miles northwest of London, traveled to Barbados during the Christmas holidays. At the time, he thanked British Airways and tourism officials for helping him scratch an item off his bucket list. In addition to his fundraising walks, Moore also became a surprise top-selling singer last year, thanks to his recording of "You'll Never Walk Alone," performed with singer Michael Ball and an NHS Voices of Care choir. Like his walks, it raised money for NHS Charities Together. "He became not just a national inspiration but a beacon of hope for the world," British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in a statement, according to Reuters.

## Canada to quarantine travelers, suspend flights south

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday announced stricter restrictions on travelers in response to new, likely more contagious variants of the novel coronavirus — including making it mandatory for travelers to quarantine in a hotel at their own expense when they arrive in Canada and suspending airline service to Mexico and all Caribbean destinations until April 30. Trudeau said in addition to the pre-boarding test Canada already requires, the government will be introducing mandatory PCR testing at the airport for people returning to Canada. “Travelers will then have to wait for up to three days at an approved hotel for their test results, at their own expense, which is expected to be more than $2,000,” Trudeau said. “Those with negative test results will then be able to quarantine at home under significantly increased surveillance and enforcement.” He said the measure will be take effect “in the coming weeks.” The steep cost for the hotel stay includes the cost for a private PCR test, security, food and the cost of measures the designated hotels will have to take to keep their workers safe. “The cost is a ballparking. This isn’t like any other facility. This is one where there has to be infection prevention control measures, security and other costs as well. It’s not just a regular stay at a hotel,” said Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada’s chief public health officer. Tam also said a test will be required on the 10th day after people return. The prime minister said those with positive tests will be immediately required to quarantine in designated government facilities to make sure they’re not carrying variants of particular concern. Trudeau also said the government and Canada’s main airlines have agreed to suspend service to sun destinations right away. He said Air Canada, WestJet, Sunwing, and Air Transat are cancelling air service to all Caribbean destinations and Mexico starting Sunday until April 30. “They will be making arrangements with their customers who are currently on a trip in these regions to organize their return flights,” Trudeau said. Mexico’s Foreign Relations Department said in a statement that “the government of Mexico expresses its hope that the measure recently announced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau can be withdrawn as soon as possible, in order to avoid a deep economic crisis in the North American Region.” Trudeau said starting next week, all international passenger flights to Canada must land at four airports: Vancouver, Toronto, Calgary and Montreal. “We will also, in the coming weeks, be requiring nonessential travelers to show a negative test before entry at the land border with the US, and we are working to stand up additional testing requirements for land travel,” Trudeau said. Canada already requires those entering the country to self-isolate for 14 days and to present a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days before arrival. Tam, Canada’s top health official, said that security contractors will be going door-to-door to check on returnees who are isolating at home. The move to require a hotel stay upon return would discourage vacations as people would not want to have to quarantine at a hotel at their own expense upon return. “It’s excellent. It’s a shame it’s this late. This is something they could have done ages ago,” said Dr. Andrew Morris, a professor of infectious diseases at the University of Toronto and the medical director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at Sinai-University Health Network. “This is definitely a step in the right direction.” More and more governments are thinking about ways to be more aggressive because of the new variants, delays in vaccines, the challenges with getting the population vaccinated and the strains on health care systems.

## Lebanon raises price of bread amid worsening economic crisis

Lebanon's caretaker government raised the price of subsidized bread and flour on Monday for the fourth time in less than a year amid a crippling economic crisis. Lebanon was grappling with the worst economic crisis in its history even before the public health crisis caused by the pandemic. The government defaulted on its foreign debt last year amid growing public debt, dwindling revenues and foreign currency. Banks closed their doors for two weeks and restricted transfers and withdrawals as nationwide protests spread and the local currency tumbled. Pegged to the dollar for nearly 30 years, the Lebanese pound has now lost 80% of its value as a black market thrives. Unemployment worsened, inflation soared and nearly half of the population is now living below the poverty line. Repeated lockdowns and restrictions because of surge in coronavirus cases has added to the hardship. In a sign of the deepening crisis, the government in June raised the price of flatbread, a staple in Lebanon, for the first time in a decade by more than 30%. It has since raised the price twice before Monday. Economy minister Raoul Nehme said Monday the price of a bag of flatbread would be revisited if the local currency gains strength in the face of the dollar or if the price of wheat worldwide decreases. For now, Nehme said a small bag of flatbread will sell at 1,750 Lebanese pounds (20 cents at black market rate), up from 1,250 pounds (14 cents.) The weight of the bag would increase by 50 grams (1.7 ounces). The owner of a well-known nationwide bakery, Assaad Bou Habib, said he expects yet another price hike soon as the government's foreign reserves dwindle. He said his business, Wooden Bakery, is surviving only because of franchises it has elsewhere in the region. “If we didn't have branches abroad, our situation in Lebanon would have been catastrophic,” Bou Habib said. Bou Habib's bakery, which also sells other baked goods, has mainly been selling basic bread as consumers struggle economically. He said he has already had to tap into his company's reserves and has stopped making a profit. To make matters worse, ingredients essential for baking, such as sugar and yeast, are also in short supply, Bou Habib said. “This is a danger for every bakery,” he said.

# National

## Wall Street’s GameStop bug may have mutated; silver surges

The erratic trading in shares of underdog companies like GameStop that turned markets combustible last week appears to have migrated to commodities, sending silver prices surging to an eight-year high. Silver futures jumped more than 9% on Monday to $29.42 per ounce with #silversqueeze trending on Twitter. That exuberance spread to companies that mine precious metals, especially silver. Shares of Pan American Silver surged about 12%, First Majestic Silver rose 22% and Hecla Mining spiked 28%. Last week, there were messages on the Reddit forum WallStreet Bets and other places on social media encouraging small investors to buy silver. The metal shot up Monday, but many of the online investors said it wasn’t them bidding up the price. An online army of Reddit traders banded together for the past week to snap up thousands of shares of GameStop, AMC and other struggling chains, stocks that have been heavily shorted (bets that the stock will fall) by a number of hedge funds. In the process, they’ve done heavy damage to those hedge funds in a stunning reversal of financial power on Wall Street. Some of these smaller traders believe the hedge funds that were pillaged last week are behind the surge in silver. Communications on messaging boards claim hedge funds have now become active on Reddit anonymously, attempting to drive them out of GameStop bets and into silver, but only after hedge funds had taken huge positions. Meanwhile, GameStop shares dropped 28% to $233 but the stock price has been tremendously volatile of late. Last week a 44% drop on Thursday was followed by a 68% jump Friday. The number of GameStop shares that have been shorted (bets that the stock will fall), were slashed by more than half in recent days, according to a report Monday by the analytics firm S3 Partners. Last week’s turmoil caused hedge funds to pull back on their investments by the sharpest degree since February 2009, during the market collapse caused by the financial crisis, according to Goldman Sachs, which provides services such as clearing and consulting to hedge funds. Goldman says hedge funds have have been getting out of both short sales, where they’re betting a stock will fall, and more traditional investments that bank on rising prices “in every sector,” according to a Goldman Sachs report Monday. Even so, hedge funds’ exposure to the stock market remains close to record levels. That means there’s still risk for more sell-offs by hedge funds. The story has also moved out of Reddit chatrooms and into places where silver actually trades hands. Coin dealers are being overwhelmed by orders Monday. The Silver Mountain, a Netherlands-based bullion dealer, said on its website that, “Due to extreme market volatility we cannot accept any new orders at this moment,” adding it hoped to reopen by the afternoon.

## Tony Bennett Has Alzheimer's Disease

The family of legendary singer Tony Bennett — a staple presence who introduced generations to the American songbook and pop standards — says he has Alzheimer's disease. The announcement was made in a profile of Bennett published by AARP The Magazine on Monday; his wife, Susan Benedetto, says that he was diagnosed with the debilitating disease in 2016. On Monday morning, Bennett's Twitter account posted a note in the singer's name, writing: "Life is a gift - even with Alzheimer's. Thank you to Susan and my family for their support, and AARP The Magazine for telling my story." Benedetto also gave an interview to CBS This Morning on Monday, saying that Bennett is still able to rehearse twice a week at home, singing for an hour or so at a time. Benedetto told AARP that the singer is often disoriented and sometimes doesn't recognize the utility of household objects such as forks or keys, but that he still recognizes family members. Despite his battle, Bennett has recorded a new album of duets with Lady Gaga as a follow-up to their 2014 project, Cheek to Cheek. According to AARP, the new material was recorded "in widely spaced sessions" between 2018 and early last year and Gaga was aware of his disease while they were recording. When the AARP journalist asked the singer in early November 2020 if he was excited about the project, however, Bennett "stared silently." The family — chiefly his wife and his son, Danny, who has managed Bennett's career for the past 40 years (and who led the Verve record label between 2016 and 2019) — told AARP that they felt that with this new — and perhaps final — album scheduled for release this spring, it was time to disclose his condition.

## Amanda Gorman recites powerful original poem at Super Bowl LV

Activist and poet Amanda Gorman, who was the country's first ever National Youth Poet Laureate, recited an original poem before Sunday's Super Bowl game between the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Gorman's poem, "Chorus of the Captains," celebrated and introduced the three honorary captains — Pittsburgh-based Marine veteran James Martin, who volunteers with the Wounded Warrior Project and works with at-risk kids, Los Angeles educator Trimaine Davis and Tampa ICU nurse manager Suzie Dorner — who were specially invited to the game by the NFL. Gorman, 22, is the first poet ever to recite a poem at a Super Bowl game. "These are the moments I strive for in my lifetime, which is to bring poetry into places that we least expect it, so we can fully kind of grapple with the ways in which it can heal us and kind of resurrect us," she told Trevor Noah on "The Daily Show." The young activist, who has recited multiple original works commissioned by "CBS This Morning," became a viral sensation when she performed her original poem "The Hill We Climb" at President Biden's inauguration. She is also the youngest poet to recite a poem at a presidential inauguration. She told "CBS This Morning" co-host Anthony Mason then: "Poetry is a weapon. It is an instrument of social change...and poetry is one of the most political arts out there because it demands that you rupture and destabilize the language in which you're working with. "Inherently, you are pushing against the status quo. And so for me, it's always existed in that tradition of truth-telling." Gorman's poem followed musical performances from Grammy-winning artist H.E.R., R&B and pop star Jazmine Sullivan and the Grammy-nominated country singer Eric Church. Grammy-winning H.E.R. sang "America The Beautiful," while Sullivan and Church gave an original rendition of the national anthem. ASL performer Warren "Wawa" Snipe signed the two songs as well.

## Rural community in shock after Georgia raids clinic vaccinating teachers

## ELBERTON, Ga. — This small city was still in shock Friday, days after state health workers raided the busiest medical clinic in the county and seized its Covid-19 vaccine supply because staffers had given doses to teachers. Some 470 shots of the Pfizer vaccine were confiscated from the Medical Center of Elberton, a private clinic that had been the largest provider of vaccinations in Elbert County, leaving behind just enough medicine to guarantee second doses to people who have already been inoculated. "Everything that we had tried to do up until now to vaccinate our county was just laid to waste," Dr. Jonathan Poon, who works at the clinic, told NBC News. In addition, the Georgia Department of Public Health said it would not be providing any more vaccines to the medical center for the next six months until July 27. "DPH took the action after learning the provider had been vaccinating individuals in the Elbert County School District who were outside of the current Phase 1A+ eligible population," the agency said in a statement. "There is no other reason for the suspension than what we have previously stated." But in a Jan. 29 letter to the center, the department gave no warning it was going to seize the remaining shots Tuesday. "Moving outside the phases disrupts the allocation process and creates the potential for many elderly citizens to not receive a vaccination in a timely manner," the department stated. "Upon enrollment in Georgia’s COVID Vaccine Program, you signed a COVID Vaccination Provider Agreement which stated you and your practice would not violate any state or federal rules related to the program." In an interview, Dr. Chris Rustin of the Department of Public Health, said the clinic's actions left them no choice. "Going outside of the phase in almost a deliberate manner was something that we could not ignore," he said. "And we needed to make sure that others that are vaccinating understand that we have such limitations on our vaccine supply that we have to follow a plan that's been clearly communicated." Still, as recently as Dec. 7, educators were considered by the state to be in that "essential group," Poon said, adding that they were able to vaccinate about 177 school workers before the public health department shut them down. "We felt, you know, with the state’s guidance, that teachers were a part of that group," he said. "So as soon as we were able to move to vaccinate the essential workers, that’s what we did." The first inkling that they might have run afoul of the state was Jan. 26 when the department called "asking whether or not we had vaccinated teachers," the doctor said. "And at the time we, of course, believed that that was part of the proper procedure, so we said yes," Poon said. "And in less than 48 hours, the state handed down a ruling that our vaccine status was suspended and that we would no longer be able to vaccinate individuals." The community’s reaction? "Shock," he said. Terrie Glaude, a teacher in Elbert County, managed to squeeze in her second shot just days before the department descended on the clinic. "I was very lucky not to have to worry about that," she said. She said she was taken aback by news of the raid and doesn’t agree "with the state mandate that teachers shouldn’t have been in the first wave of vaccinations." "Everyone wants their kids in school," Glaude said. "And the way to keep them in school is to let our teachers be vaccinated along with the elderly population and then move down, you know, as it’s appropriate." Marlene Lord, who is 68 and got her second dose at the clinic Thursday, said she would have gladly given her vaccination to a teacher. "Being retired, I have the ability to stay away from it more than they do," she said. "I want the kids in school. And I think the more protection there is, the better it is." Lord also said the public health department did a disservice to the community by taking the vaccines from the clinic. "If something was done wrong, you know, it should have been just corrected," she said. "People here are not out to do something wrong. They have the best interest of the community in heart. You know?" Because of the vaccine shortage, public health agencies and providers often have to make tough choices, Jennifer Kates, a public policy expert at the Kaiser Family Foundation, told NBC News. "There’s almost like a ‘Sophie’s Choice’ having to choose between some who’s senior who we know, if they get infected with coronavirus, has a much higher likelihood of getting sick and even dying, or someone who’s a frontline worker that we need in society," she said. DPH spokeswoman Nancy Nydam said they gave the clinic 30 minutes notice Tuesday that they were coming to collect the vaccines.

#  State/Local

## 'Hope And Uncertainty': 2021 Could Bring Better Farm Margins

Wisconsin agricultural economists say they’re hopeful 2021 will bring better margins for farmers. But questions about how quickly U.S. consumers and world markets will recover from the coronavirus pandemic mean the future remains uncertain. Paul Mitchell, director of the Renk Agribusiness Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said farmers, like many people, faced a lot of stress in 2020. He said the pandemic brought both emotional stress, as COVID-19 spread in rural areas, and stress for their profession, due to disruptions to supply chains and consumer eating habits. But Mitchell said financial support from federal and state levels and an improvement in crop prices last fall has helped many producers start this year with a strong financial outlook. "The outlook really is hope and uncertainty. There are several reasons to be hopeful for 2021: commodity price trends look promising, margins look profitable for some farmers this year, particularly in the grains but I think even in the livestock," Mitchell said. Mitchell points out that agricultural land prices in the state have held steady in recent months and farm debt at commercial banks across the country declined by 8 percent over 2020. He said the rate at which Wisconsin dairy farms are closing has also slowed. The number of registered dairy herds in the state this month was down about 5 percent compared to January 2020. Last year, that number had declined by 10 percent from the previous year. "That back-to-normal dairy attrition rate, to me, is a very promising sign for 2021. And in general, the U.S. food system has adapted to the COVID pandemic," Mitchell said. But Mark Stephenson, director of dairy policy analysis at UW-Madison, said the dairy industry is not facing the same promising prices, mainly due to an increase in U.S. milk production. "Milk production is well up. It’s been more than a 2 percent increase nationally since September," Stephenson said. "When you get above that 1.5 to 2 percent level, it means we aren't going to consume all of that product. We’ve really got to think about exporting it." Because of this oversupply, Stephenson projects prices could fall as much as 30 cents per hundredweight, or 100 pounds of milk, in 2021. And he expects prices will be volatile throughout the year. "We’ve got so much milk on the marketplace and questions about where we’re going to be competitive and how we’re going to become competitive," Stephenson said. "We may actually see some of our cooperatives again pulling the trigger on base/excess plans." Base/excess plans are a way for cooperatives to manage their milk supply, by paying farmers a lower price for extra milk beyond their usual production level. Some cooperatives used these plans in June as COVID-19 created disruptions for the industry. Mitchell said other areas of the agriculture industry will likely see similar volatility in prices. "Everything is so uncertain. How fast will the economy recover? We’ve got vaccines coming out, we’ve got variants that the vaccines may or may not work against," Mitchell said. "How have consumer preferences changed? That's been a big issue. I just don't think we know yet. There’s been a lot of changes in how we buy and make food." He said the reduction in travel during the pandemic means many U.S. exporters don't have a good understanding of the market needs in other countries.

## Teachers suspended after lesson asks: How to punish a slave?

Administrators at a Wisconsin middle school said Monday they have suspended teachers who were involved in an activity for sixth graders that included a question about how the students would punish slaves. An email to parents at Patrick Marsh Middle School in Sun Prairie, about 15 miles (24.14 kilometers) from Madison, apologized for a “grave error in judgment” during the social studies class and said an unnamed number of teachers have been placed on administrative leave. The lesson was meant to show the politics of ancient Mesopotamia and included one scenario that stated, ”A slave stands before you. This slave has disrespected his master by telling him ‘You are not my master’ How will you punish this slave?” It further explained that under Hammurabi’s Code the slave would be put to death. Principal Rebecca Zahn and Associate Principal Amy Schernecker said the assignment was upsetting to parents and students. They said they will be following up with students about the event and offering services to those who need additional support. Michael Johnson, president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Dane County, said the assignment was “insensitive” and “totally inappropriate,” especially on the first day of Black History Month.

## UW System nursing students helping with Covid vaccinations set to receive financial breaks

While there’s a short supply of Covid-19 vaccines in Wisconsin, people are stepping up to help administer them including students at the University of Wisconsin System Schools. The release of two vaccines and others on the way gives hope that the end of the pandemic is in sight. Nursing students enrolled in UW system schools have a financial incentive to help. “Let’s use our students to help out, assist the hospitals, assist the nursing homes, and be able to help the people of the state of Wisconsin to get this vaccination done [and] completed so we can say goodbye to Covid-19,” UW System Schools President Tommy Thompson said. Thompson announced nursing students who participate in Covid-19 vaccination clinics will get a $500 credit towards their tuition. There’s one such clinic already at UWGB in partnership with Prevea Health. This was welcomed news for the UWGB nursing students who are already licensed and are currently working on their bachelor’s and master’s degrees. “Many of our students really rely on financial aid, they rely on their ability to work to help pay for their education,” Dr. Christine Vandenhouten, UWGB Chair of Nursing and Health Studies, said. Last month, the university system did something similar offering a $500 tuition credit for students working in health care settings. That means some students can have $1,000 taken off their spring tuition bill, according to Vandenhouten. Thompson aspires for UW system schools to be vaccination hubs. “I’m hoping and praying that their going to give us enough vaccine on all of our campuses so we can be a vaccination site for all the state,” he said. Eligible students must be licensed and work at least 16 hours at a vaccination clinic from January 1 to March 31.

## Evers issues new mask mandate order after Assembly votes to end the old one

Less than two hours after the Wisconsin Assembly voted to repeal Gov. Tony Evers’ emergency order that included a mask mandate and Republican leaders announced they expected the order to fall the next day, the governor’s office fired back with a new emergency order. On Thursday afternoon, Evers issued a new public health emergency order and followed it up immediately with a re-issuance of Executive Order #1, the one that Assembly members just voted to end. The executive order requires face coverings whenever someone who is five or older is in an enclosed space that is not a private residence or they are in the same room or enclosed space with someone who is not a member of their household. The order does list exceptions, such as for eating, drinking, sleeping, swimming, or when communicating with someone who is hard of hearing. A full list of exemptions is available in the order.

# Sports

## MLB proposes delaying start to April 28, cut to 154 games

Major League Baseball has proposed a one-month delay in starting spring training due to the coronavirus pandemic and pushing back opening day to April 28, two people familiar with the plan told The Associated Press. Under the plan presented to the players’ union on Friday, the regular season would be cut from 162 games to 154. Also, the playoffs would be expanded from 10 teams to 14, the designated hitter would extend to the National League for the second straight season and MLB would keep the experimental rules for seven-inning doubleheaders and beginning extra innings with a runner on second base. All players would report for spring training on March 22, back from the current calendar that calls a voluntary reporting date of Feb. 17 for pitchers, catchers and injured players, and Feb. 22 for others. Opening day would be pushed back 27 days from its currently scheduled April 1 and the regular season would end Oct. 10 instead of Oct. 3. The postseason would extend into November. The people familiar with the plan spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday because no announcements were made. The sides have not discussed the proposal with each other since MLB made it. A day before the plan was presented, Commissioner Rob Manfred said he would like to know by his regular Monday call with owners if the union had interest in delaying the start of spring training. The reasoning behind the delay would be to gain time for more vaccinations and better assess the health situation. Seven teams in each league would make the playoffs, and only the division winner with the best record would receive a bye in the best-of-three first round. There would be a selection show in which the seeded teams would be able to, in order of percentage, select their first-round opponent. The three advancing teams in each league and the one with a bye would advance to the best-of-five Division Series, starting the traditional rounds of the postseason. While the plan says players would receive 100% of pay if all 154 scheduled games are played, Manfred would have an expanded right to stop spring training, the regular season or the postseason under certain conditions. Those would be if government restrictions prevent five or more teams from playing home games even without fans, if government rules restrict travel in the United States, if Manfred determines after consultation with medical experts and the union there is an unreasonable safety risk to players or staff or if the number of regular major leaguers unavailable because of COVID-19 undermines completive integrity. Each team would start with 18 scheduled days off, and each team would be allowed to be scheduled up to 12 split doubleheaders. Players usually are reluctant to agree to split doubleheaders because of the lengthy day at the ballpark each entails The regular season would be compressed to 154 games in 166 days from 162 games in 186 days. The World Series would be scheduled to end in the Nov. 10 range, with the exact time depending on discussions with broadcast partners. As part of the plan, owners would guarantee a postseason players’ pool of 60% of the gate of the first two first-round games plus $80 million for the remainder of the postseason, matching the 2019 pool. Players previously rejected a proposal teams made Jan. 5 for expanded playoffs in exchange for extending the DH to the National League. Last season was cut from 162 games per team to 60, and the postseason was expanded to 16 teams and ended Oct. 27 when the Los Angeles Dodges beat the Tampa Bay Rays in World Series Game 6. Players received 60/162nds of their salaries.

## Brady Bunch: QB has taken over 200 teammates to Super Bowl

Some are Hall of Famers who are among the biggest names in the sport. Others are anonymous role players whose contributions went mostly unnoticed by outsiders. There are veterans who joined up for one final run at the title, and wide-eyed rookies who were thrust into the Super Bowl spotlight. Their first names range from A to Z with eight guys named Brandon — a ninth named Brandin — and five guys named Kyle. They all are part of the Brady Bunch, the 218 players who have appeared in a Super Bowl as Tom Brady’s teammate in his record nine previous trips to the title game with New England. That list will grow by more than 40 names next Sunday when Brady plays in his 10th Super Bowl and first with his new team in Tampa. Of those players who have been part of Brady’s supporting cast, 164 got a Super Bowl ring out of the trip, accounting for nearly one-quarter of the players who were on a winning team in the Super Bowl since Brady became a starter in 2001. Some went along for the ride and barely made an impact on those six titles Brady won. Others delivered the key plays that decided those games, whether it was Malcolm Butler’s game-sealing interception at the goal line against Seattle, or Adam Vinatieri’s inning kicks against St. Louis and Carolina.

No one has played in more Super Bowls with Brady than Stephen Gostkowski, who went with him six times during their tenures in New England. Rob Gronkowski can join a group right behind Gostkowski this year with his fifth appearance, matching the number for Matt Light, Devin McCourty, Patrick Chung and Matthew Slater. There are 26 players who have played in three Super Bowl wins as Brady’s teammates, with Gronkowski hoping to join that group this year. Gronkowski played in Super Bowl wins following the 2014 and ’18 seasons but missed the epic comeback against Atlanta following the 2016 season with an injury.

Three of Brady’s Super Bowl teammates have already been inducted into the Hall of Fame with more likely to come down the road. Ty Law, who played on the first three title teams in New England, was inducted to the Canton, Ohio shrine in 2019 and is the only one of the three to get there based mostly on their careers with Brady. Randy Moss and Junior Seau joined up with Brady late in their careers and both made big impacts during the perfect 16-0 regular season in 2007, but came up short in their only trip to the Super Bowl. Richard Seymour is a Hall of Fame finalist this year and others such as Gronkowski, Vinatieri and Darrelle Revis could follow in upcoming years.

# Weather

* Tonight: A chance of rain, freezing rain, and sleet before 11pm, then freezing rain likely, possibly mixed with sleet. Some thunder is also possible. Cloudy, with a low around 29. North wind 10 to 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total nighttime ice accumulation of around a 0.1 of an inch possible. Little or no sleet accumulation expected.
* Thursday: Freezing rain likely, possibly mixed with sleet before 11am, then a slight chance of freezing rain between 11am and 1pm. Some thunder is also possible. Cloudy, with a high near 35. North wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New ice accumulation of less than a 0.1 of an inch possible. Little or no sleet accumulation expected.
* Thursday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 29. North wind 10 to 15 mph.
* Friday: Cloudy, with a high near 33. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.
* Friday Night: Cloudy, with a low around 27. North wind 10 to 15 mph.
* Saturday: A slight chance of freezing rain after 7am. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 30. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
* Saturday Night: A slight chance of freezing rain before 7pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 23. North wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
* Sunday: A 20 percent chance of snow after 1pm. Cloudy and cold, with a high near 30. North northeast wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

# Commercials

## PSA: Number One Killer

Selling alcohol to people under 21 is illegal, yet today alcohol is the number one killer of teens in our nation. Students Against Destructive Decisions is asking the community to put a stop to underage drinking. We are working with Licensed Beverage Outlets in the community on a campaign entitled 21 or Bust. [INSERT STATION NAME/CALL LETTERS] and SADD want you to know that selling or providing alcohol to someone under 21 can result in fines, imprisonment, a permanent criminal record, or even a death. Do your part to spread the warning message – 21 or Bust.

## Robert Haack Diamonds

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\* We are locally owned since 1947

\*We have a BBB A Plus rating.

\*We have been secret shopped by the media, including the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

\*Ask your friends, they probably sold to us.

\*Only store that recommends that you shop around before you sell.

\*We offer a $20 price beat guarantee.

Step 1: Come on in!

Step 2: Show us what you want to sell!

Step 3: Collect cash!

Robert Haack Diamonds