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Radio News Reporting

2021 Subdistrict - Async Round 3

# International

## Pakistan Court Orders Release Of Man Accused Of Killing Reporter

Pakistan's Supreme Court ordered the release on Thursday of a British national who was convicted of kidnapping and murdering Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in 2002. The decision comes nearly two decades after the journalist's body was found in a shallow grave in the Pakistani port city of Karachi. He was killed five months after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. A videotape showing the aftermath of Pearl's beheading was sent to the U.S. Consulate in Karachi and posted on the Internet, a portent of the cinematic violence committed by Islamic extremist groups in the coming years. The 2-1 decision was on an appeal by the Pearl family and the Pakistani government against the ruling of a provincial court last April that overturned Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh's murder conviction and the convictions of three accomplices. Thursday's ruling was immediately denounced by the Pearl family, who described it as "a complete travesty of justice." They urged the U.S. to take action. "The release of these killers puts in danger journalists everywhere and the people of Pakistan. We urge the US government to take all necessary actions under the law to correct this injustice," the family said in a statement. "We also hope that the Pakistani authorities will take all necessary steps to rectify this travesty of justice. No amount of injustice will defeat our resolve to fight for justice for Daniel Pearl." White House press secretary Jen Psaki said in her daily briefing that the court's ruling was "an affront to terror victims everywhere." Psaki asked the Pakistani government to consider other legal options that could be taken against the acquitted men, including the United States prosecuting them. Acting U.S. Attorney General Monty Wilkinson reiterated an earlier Justice Department statement that it is "ready to take custody of Sheikh to stand trial here" as the alleged killer of an American. It was not immediately clear when Sheikh would be released from Karachi's main jail. Calls to the jail were not immediately answered. Sheikh's attorney said he expected to see his client freed as soon as Friday. In April, the Sindh High Court ruled that Sheikh was innocent of Pearl's murder but guilty of his kidnapping – and that his seven-year sentence for that crime had long since been served. The court's decision blindsided the Pearl family, who had believed Sheikh would remain behind bars for life. Despite the decision in April, government authorities kept Sheikh and the others in detention, arguing that their release presented a risk to public safety. Sindh Prosecutor General Faiz Shah, who handled the Pearl family's appeal, told NPR that the judges ruled immediately after the lawyers finished presenting their arguments. He said they're still waiting for a written verdict to be issued. Once they have it, they will file an application with the Supreme Court to review the entire petition. Those applications, however, rarely result in a decision being overturned. The Supreme Court's decision came a day after Sheikh admitted to having a "minor" role in Pearl's death – reversing 18 years of denials. The Associated Press said that his handwritten letter was submitted to the court two weeks ago. Sheikh also wrote that he knew who killed Pearl: Pakistani militant Atta-ur-Rahman, alias Naeem Bokhari. The AP reported that Atta-ur-Rahman was executed in connection with an attack on a paramilitary base in southern Karachi. Sheikh's attorney, Mehmood A. Sheikh — the two are not related — said the letter was written under duress. He did not provide further details.

## New Vaccine Promising for Iran

Iran has unveiled its second homemade coronavirus vaccine and says it has begun human trials, state TV reported Sunday. The Razi Cov Pars vaccine manufactured by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute is both injectable and inhalable. Ali Eshaqi, the institute’s manager, said the vaccine will be tested on 13 people within eight days and then if there are no serious reactions, it will be tested on groups of 20 to 120 persons. Eshaqi said the vaccine has already been tested on animals including mice, rabbits, hamsters and monkeys. The country is also working on a joint vaccine with Cuba. Iran plans to import 17 million doses of vaccine from the international COVAX program and millions more from other countries. Iran, with a population of more than 83 million, has struggled with the worst outbreak in the Middle East. Its confirmed virus death toll is 58,469.

## Israel Loosens Lockdown Restrictions

Israel has started to ease restrictions nearly six weeks after entering its third nationwide lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Some businesses began reopening on Sunday and people are now allowed to move more than a kilometer (half a mile) from their homes. But schools remain shuttered and international flights are severely restricted. Israel instituted its third national lockdown in late December as new infections spiraled out of control. Israel has recorded over 686,000 cases of COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic last year and 5,074 deaths, according to Health Ministry figures. At the same time, the country has launched a major vaccination campaign. More than 3.4 million Israelis have received the first shot of the Pfizer vaccine, and at least 2 million have received a second dose.

## 59 homes lost, more threatened in Australian wildfire

An out-of-control wildfire burning northeast of the Australian west coast city of Perth has destroyed at least 59 homes and was threatening more Tuesday, with many residents across the region told it is too late to leave. The 7,000-hectare (17,000-acre) blaze, which has a 80-kilometer (50-mile) perimeter, began on Monday and raged through the night near the town of Wooroloo, with the shires of Mundaring, Chittering, Northam, and the city of Swan affected. “Firefighters have done a remarkable job in some of the most challenging conditions that we’ve experienced in the metropolitan region for some time,” Western Australia state Department of Fire and Emergency Services Commissioner Darren Klemm said. “Tragically, 59 properties have been lost in this fire and that number may increase as we continue to assess the extent of the damage," Klemm added. Six firefighters sustained minor injuries, Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported. No other injuries were reported. The fire doubled in size overnight and burned through 7,366 hectares (18,202 acres) of farm and woodland, officials said. State Premier Mark McGowan said 80% of all properties at Tilden Park near Gidgegannup on Perth's northeast rural fringe have been lost. McGowan said a large aerial tanker was flying from the Australian east coast to help fight the blaze.“This is an extremely dangerous fire and a serious situation. Weather conditions are extremely volatile,” McGowan said. “Please do everything you can to keep you and your family safe and look after each other,” he added. People in a 25-kilometer (16-mile) stretch west from Wooroloo to the Walyunga National Park northeast of Perth were told Tuesday it had become too dangerous to leave their homes. “You must shelter before the fire arrives, as the extreme heat will kill you well before the flames reach you,” a warning said. Roads out of semi-rural suburb The Vines on Perth’s northern outskirts were bumper-to-bumper with traffic, making some people choose to stay. Melissa Stahl, 49, heeded a text telling her to evacuate. “I could smell the fire and went out the back and the whole yard was filled with smoke,” she said. “We grabbed bedding, photos, the two kids and the dog and got out of there.” A warning to other threatened areas told people to leave if they are not prepared to fight the blaze. The bushfire is unpredictable and weather conditions are rapidly changing, the warning said, urging people to stay vigilant. The cause of the blaze was unknown. Department of Fire and Emergency Services Superintendent Peter Sutton said about 250 firefighters had been battling the erratic fire.

# National

## General Motors Aims To Be Carbon Neutral By 2040

Automaker General Motors has announced aspirations of achieving carbon neutrality by 2040. On the way to that goal, the company hopes to eliminate tailpipe emissions by 2035. GM said Thursday it will take a science-based approach to become carbon neutral, balancing carbon dioxide emissions and removal efforts. Furthermore, it plans to eliminate gas-powered, light-duty vehicle production by 2035, it said. It intends that by 2025, 40% of its vehicles will be battery powered. "General Motors is joining governments and companies around the globe working to establish a safer, greener and better world," said Mary Barra, GM chairman and CEO. "We encourage others to follow suit and make a significant impact on our industry and on the economy as a whole." Transportation is the largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, just over 28%, the Environmental Protection Agency reported. Which is why GM and other industry leaders have joined the Science Based Targets initiative, which calls on businesses to take action to combat climate change. Sam Abuelsamid, principal research analyst at Guidehouse Insights, said initiative participants cannot make empty promises. Their results will be independently verified to hold them accountable. Carbon emissions in vehicles and factories are easily measured. "They're no longer saying that it's not really a problem," he said. "Companies across the spectrum are making changes because they know that in the long term if they don't make changes, if all of society doesn't make changes, it will have negative effects on their business." A clear step for GM to become carbon neutral is to transition from internal combustion engines to electric vehicles. Traditional gas vehicles make up about 75% of GM's greenhouse emissions, the company said. Their production facilities make up the other 25%, which the manufacturer aims to eliminate by using wind and solar energy. GM said it will power its U.S. sites with 100% renewable energy by 2030 and globally by 2035. It's a tall order, Abuelsamid admitted, but it's possible. GM said it is working with EVgo vehicle charging stations to add "more than 2,700 new fast chargers by the end of 2025 ... powered by 100 percent renewable energy." The bigger obstacle falls on the consumer. An electric vehicle is significantly more expensive. The Natural Resources Defense Council says the average electric car costs $19,000 more than a gasoline-powered car. But GM has spent years improving its battery technology, which may be why it is confident it can eliminate tailpipe emissions in the next 14 years. 'To do that and be successful they will have to make [electric cars] prices competitive," Abuelsamid said. "GM is confidant they can do that, they think they have the technology to do that. But we will have to see."

## Man wins lottery for the sixth time with $250,000 jackpot prize

Money doesn’t grow on trees but it comes awfully close for a man in Idaho who won the lottery -- for the sixth time. Bryan Moss, from Meridian, Idaho, won a quarter of a million dollars on the Idaho Lottery Scratch Game $250,000 Crossword on Thursday, Jan. 28 -- his sixth big prize lottery win but his first time winning the jackpot, according to the Idaho Lottery. “I’m proud to help support Idaho public schools, that’s really why I play,” said Moss who owns the Newko Sport and Nutrition health store in Meridian. Don’t bother asking him to play for you though. “I’ve tried playing for others,” Ross said in a thread on his Facebook page announcing the big win. “It doesn’t work.” His winning ticket was purchased at the ExtraMile on Eagle Road and Goldstone in Meridian and for their part in selling the winning ticket, ExtraMile will receive a bonus payment of $20,000 from the Idaho Lottery. As for what he will do with the money, Moss already knows. “He plans to put his winnings aside for his daughter’s future education,” according to the statement from the Idaho Lottery confirming Moss’ sixth win. Since it began in 1989, the Idaho Lottery says it has “sold over $4.2 billion in products, awarded more than $2.6 billion in prizes to players, returned $249 million in retail commissions, and distributed $961.5 million in Lottery dividends to Idaho public schools and buildings.”

## Pelican named Arvy survives frostbite, sent to sanctuary

KILLINGWORTH, Conn. (AP) — A pelican that got blown off course and was rescued in chilly Connecticut has been flown to Florida, where he is recovering from pneumonia and frostbite. The brown pelican, nicknamed Arvy, was rescued from the icy Connecticut River on Jan. 27. The bird, whose species is not typically seen in the Northeast, was taken to a bird rehabilitation facility in Killingworth, Connecticut, suffering from severe hypothermia. ’So when Arvy first arrived, this poor bird couldn’t even stand, couldn’t lift his head,” Christine Cummings, president of A Place Called Hope, told TV station WTNH. Cummings cared for the wayward bird nearly around the clock for about a week, feeding him fluids and food every three hours. The shorebird consumed some 4 pounds of fish daily with its 11-inch bill, Cummings told the New Haven Register. Then on Thursday, volunteer pilots flew Arvy to his new home at Busch Wildlife Sanctuary in Jupiter, Florida, where he will continue recuperating until he is well enough to be released into the wild. “Arvy looks good!” Stephanie Franczak, the sanctuary’s hospital director, told the Register. “His frostbite is minimal, but he has some wicked pneumonia from the cold. We will be providing fluid therapy, nebulizing treatments and supportive care while he is with us.” His rescuers believe Arvy was blown north from Virginia Beach during a storm at sea. “He is a Southern bird, he is not supposed to be north of the Carolinas and Virginia,” Carolina Young, spokesperson for the Florida sanctuary, told the Register. “I’m sure he was in shock when he was in that river.”

## U.S. Cuts $231 Million Deal To Provide 15-Minute COVID-19 At-Home Tests

The Biden administration has made a $231.8 million deal with an Australian company to boost availability of the first at-home rapid test for the coronavirus which causes COVID-19 that is available without a prescription. The test, made by Ellume, can send results to a smartphone within 15 minutes of receiving a sample. The Food and Drug Administration gave emergency authorization to Ellume's rapid test in December, after it showed 96% accuracy in a U.S. clinical study. Those trials included both adults and children of ages 2 years and older. In a press release, the company said its contract, with the U.S. Defense Department, will help fund construction of Ellume's first manufacturing plant in the U.S. Once completed, it will produce more than 500,000 tests per day, according to the company. The test uses a relatively short nasal swab to collect a sample. The sample is put into a digital analyzer linked to a smartphone app. In December, the company told NPR that the test would be available for about $30. In October, the company received a $30 million grant from the U.S. National Institutes of Health Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics initiative to support clinical testing and manufacture of the test. As part of the new contract, Ellume has committed to providing 8.5 million tests to the federal government, said Andy Slavitt, senior adviser to the White House COVID-19 Response Team. Suzanne Sterns, a spokesperson for Ellume, told NPR the company "will be delivering 100,000 tests per month from the Australian manufacturing facility until the U.S. facility is built. At full capacity, the U.S facility will be able to produce up to 19 million tests per month. The 8.5M tests for the US government is a portion of the overall manufacturing." "The first shipment of product to the DOD and HHS will commence in February," Sterns said, "with 100,000 tests to be shipped to the US Government by the end of the month." Sterns said the test is not yet commercially available in the U.S. or elsewhere, but that the company would "be making further announcements around [the] rollout and retail plans in the coming weeks." The Biden administration is trying to bolster testing efforts in the U.S., the worst-hit country in the world, as new variants of the SARS-CoV-2 virus threaten to make it even more difficult to bring the pandemic under control. The U.S. average daily testing rate now stands at 550 per 100,000 people, according to a seven-day moving average computed by Johns Hopkins University. That rate compares well with those of a number of smaller countries, but it sharply lags the U.K. — another nation hit hard by the pandemic — which has been testing an average of 986 people per 100,000. Because of the expected $30 cost and the need for a smartphone to receive results, this particular test is unlikely to be the game-changer several public health experts have been calling for — a test that families could use routinely at home before leaving the house, to prevent silent spread. The Ellume contract is "a step in the right direction towards identifying fast tools that can actually help serve to identify and slow spread," says Dr. Michael Mina, a Harvard epidemiologist who has been a vocal advocate for widespread rapid tests. What's needed, he says, are "tests that are highly accessible, abundant, can be used frequently, provide immediately actionable results and are $5 [or less] per test. A test that does not meet each of these [criteria] will not perform well as a public health test to fight this pandemic."

#  State/Local

## Wis. First Female Chief Forester Says Profession Must Become More Diverse

Achieving a social, economic and ecological balance is critical when it comes to managing Wisconsin’s 17 million acres of forest, says Chief State Forester Heather Berklund. She was named to the role with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in October, becoming the first woman to hold the position. Berklund, who grew up in the Driftless Area and studied forestry at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, told WPR’s "The Morning Show" that forestry hasn’t historically been a diverse profession, but it’s important that changes moving forward. "Hopefully, I can be that face and get people excited, just recognizing that diversity and people working together is where we need to go in the future," she said. For future foresters, Berklund recommends taking the time to observe trees. Sometimes it can be hard to see, but they do evolve over time. "So just thinking about that when you’re out recreating or walking down your city block and just appreciating that tree and what it gives us," she said. Most of Wisconsin’s forests are privately owned, Berklund noted. And they contain many different species, with oak-hickory forest in the south, walnut in the southwest and northern hardwoods in the north. Berklund is based in Rhinelander, and she’s spent most of her 20-year career with the DNR in the Northwoods. She said building partnerships is important for managing the state’s forests. Wisconsin’s forest industry contributes $24 billion annually to the state’s economy and employs about 60,000 people, Berklund said. "So it is critical that we have a healthy, robust and diverse industry for long-term sustainable forestry," she said. But forest recreation typically generates more than $5 billion for the state’s economy each year, so it’s important to strike a balance between industry and recreation, she said. Previously, Berklund served as the DNR’s deputy division administrator of field operations, leading the state’s public and private lands programs, forest certification and fire prevention programs, according to a news release from the agency. Wisconsin experiences hundreds of fires each year, Berklund said. Though the landscape and climate are different from the western United States, which was ravaged by wildfires last year, fire prevention is still a concern in Wisconsin, she said. The Germann Road Fire, which consumed nearly 7,500 acres in 2013, was one of the largest in the state’s history. Mitigating the affects of climate change will also be important moving forward, Berklund said. In two decades with the DNR, she’s already seen signs of it. "We feel that much of sustainable management and the things we're doing in the state will complement climate mitigation in the future," she said. DNR Secretary Preston Cole appointed Berklund to her new role. "She brings years of on-the-ground Wisconsin forest management and fire control experience to this position," he said in a news release. "As the first woman in Wisconsin’s history to hold this role, I know she will bring diverse perspectives to the table in her work."

## State To Launch Online Vaccine Appointment Portal In February

Beginning next month, Wisconsinites will be able to sign up online for vaccination appointments. The state is contracting with Microsoft to create the new online signup system. In a Friday call with reporters, state Deputy Health Secretary Julie Willems Van Dijk said it will launch in 10 Wisconsin communities beginning Feb. 15. The state plans to use that first week to work out any problems with the software before launching it statewide. The interface will be similar to the state's COVID Connect website, which was used to speed the process of testing for COVID-19 across the state. Users will answer questions about their age and profession to determine their eligibility for the vaccine. The site will include information on vaccination clinics around the state, and users can register for an appointment. "If you're not eligible yet, the system will put you on a waiting list," Willems Van Dijk said. "You'll be notified when you are eligible and you can go back into the system and schedule your appointment." Wisconsin's efforts to vaccinate health care workers began in late 2020. The state is also vaccinating first responders, police and fire personnel and corrections workers, and the largest currently eligible group: adults over 65. Eligibility is tentatively slated to expand to many essential workers beginning March 1. Willems Van Dijk said the state has the infrastructure and capacity to ramp up the administration of vaccines. What it doesn't have is the supply. That means in the near term, for many, appointments scheduled through the new site will likely come with long wait times. "Right now, we just don't have enough vaccine," she said. "And so many of (the vaccination sites) will be working much fewer days or shorter hours than they may be able to work, because the vaccine supply is limited." According to an NPR state vaccination tracker, as of Friday, Wisconsin has vaccinated 5.2 percent of its population and has used 46 percent of its allotted doses. But Willems Van Dijk cautioned that national data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is used by many tracking sites set up by news media, lags behind Wisconsin's actual vaccination totals. Wisconsin has administered 476,855 doses of COVID-19 vaccine as of Friday, according to the Department of Health Services. Of those, 91,058 were second doses, meaning those people are fully vaccinated against the disease.

## De Pere votes to bring 7-12th grade students back to the classroom

Members of the Unified School District of De Pere School Board voted Monday night to bring 7th through 12th grade students to in-person classes five days a week. Starting February 15, students will return back to the De Pere Middle and High Schools. Those students have been learning in a hybrid model, where they attend school in-person for two days - with half of the school population attending on alternating days - and learn from home three days each week. During the meeting, board members discussed the mental health of students who have not had the normal amount of social interactions, as well as the physical safety of staff and students. In the end, they voted to bring students back full time by a 5-2 vote. “I think it is time to get back. I’ve always said five days a week is best if we can get kids back when it’s safe,” said board member Jeff Mirkes. Board Vice President Mark Meneau also sounded off about the decision. “I do like the plan that we have. I think it encompasses a lot of the things that we’re looking for,” said Meneau. The model created by the district requires masks in all school buildings and social distancing when possible. That means students will have seats four feet apart. Families who are uncomfortable going back to school in-person can still choose virtual options. As Action 2 News previously reported, the school board approved the return to in-person learning for 4K-6th grade students on December 15, and those students returned to the classroom on January 11.The School Board voted in early August on a plan on how to begin the 2020-2021 school year, but as Action 2 News first reported in September, the district switched to virtual learning due to too many students and staff out on quarantine.

## Tools, equipment a total loss in Sparta area shed fire

A large machine shed is destroyed by fire Sunday morning near Sparta. Chief Mike Arnold said crews from the Sparta Area Fire District were called to 15545 County A at 9:37 a.m. for the fire. The building was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived Chief Arnold said. Power lines were also downed around the shed. Everything inside the shed-tools, a pickup, and other pieces of equipment were destroyed by the fire. Chief Arnold said he believes the fire began at the north end of the shed where a wood burning stove was located. About an hour after firefighters arrived, another call came in at 7769 Garnett Avenue for a skid steer on fire inside a shed. Some of the crews at the one fire were sent to the other one. Before they arrived, the owners were able to pull the skid steer out of the shed. Firefighters put out the fire and checked the shed to see if the fire had spread. Only minor smoke damage was reported. Chief Arnold said that crews battled -20 degree temperatures when fighting the fires. The photos that accompany this story are courtesy of Chief Arnold and the Sparta Area Fire District.

# Sports

## Packers not bringing back DC Pettine for '21

Veteran defensive coordinator Mike Pettine, one of the few assistant coaches Matt LaFleur retained from the previous Green Bay Packers coaching staff, is out after three years with the team and two under LaFleur, the team announced Friday. The move comes despite Pettine getting the Packers back into the top 10 in overall defense; they ranked ninth during the 2020 season. Pettine, 54, never signed a contract extension that was offered to him after last season, meaning he was in the final year of his deal, a source told ESPN earlier in the week, making it a cleaner split. Most coordinators and position coaches always have two years on their deals with the Packers, but Pettine chose to go into the last year of his contract and see how things played out. "We want to thank Mike for his commitment to the Packers for the last three seasons. He was an important part of our success," LaFleur said in a statement. "As a first-time head coach, he was also an invaluable resource for us during our time together." It means the Packers will have two new coordinators next season. Earlier in the week, they fired special-teams coordinator Shawn Mennenga and will promote assistant Maurice Drayton to replace him. After LaFleur publicly criticized a defensive playcall from the Jan. 24 loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who scored on a 39-yard touchdown pass with one second left in the first half of the NFC Championship Game, this move seemed inevitable. LaFleur never specifically said whether Pettine -- who calls the defensive plays -- made the call on his own or in consultation with LaFleur. "It was man coverage -- definitely not the right call for the situation and you can't do stuff like that against a good football team and expect to win," LaFleur said after the game, calling that one of a couple of plays that made the difference in the game. "You just can't do that stuff. I blame us as coaches for putting our guys in that situation. That's inexcusable. That should not have happened. So we've got to take a look at it, do some self-reflection and try to figure out ways on how that can't happen again." Pettine, who was hired by former coach Mike McCarthy in 2018, is the third straight defensive coordinator to be fired or let go by the Packers without a head-coaching change. That includes McCarthy's first two defensive coordinators, Bob Sanders and Dom Capers. Before being hired by McCarthy, Pettine had been out of coaching following his two-year stint as the Cleveland Browns' head coach in 2014-15.

## Phillies, SS Didi Gregorius agree on 2-year deal

The Philadelphia Phillies and shortstop Didi Gregorius have agreed on a two-year, $28 million contract, according to a person familiar with the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Saturday because the deal is pending Gregorius passing a physical. Gregorius, who turns 31 next month, batted .284 with 10 homers, 40 RBIs and an .827 OPS in 60 games in his first season with the Phillies. Gregorius hit .274 and averaged 20 homers and 75 RBIs over four seasons with the Yankees between 2015-18. He hit 16 homers and drove in 61 runs in 82 games in 2019 after Tommy John surgery on Oct. 17, 2018, to repair a torn elbow ligament. The Phillies signed two-time All-Star catcher J.T. Realmuto to a five-year, $115.5 million deal earlier in the week. Philadelphia hasn’t reached the postseason since 2011, the last year it had a winning record. The Phillies finished 28-32 in a pandemic-shortenened 2020 season, missing a wild-card berth by one game in the expanded playoff format.

## White streamlines life on road to ’22 Olympics

With the mountains closed and the halfpipes shuttered during a pandemic that turned the world and its sports upside down, Shaun White put double-corks on hold and saved his most intense workouts for his mind. He’d be the first to concede he needed that kind of break. Now 34, and gearing up for a run at a fourth Olympic gold medal, White looked around after his latest victory, in 2018, and saw too much — on his calendar, coming out of his pocketbook, in the way he lived. What has followed over the ensuing three years was a reboot in the way he thinks, does business and defines success in a snowboarding career that, by almost any measure, is the most successful in history. “I know how it sounds,” White said in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press on the eve of the Winter X Games. “But more isn’t always better. I had six cars. I thought, ‘Dude, I only have one ass.’ ... Our culture in the U.S. is, get the big house, get this, get that. But your world becomes cluttered that way.” It wasn’t only the physical possessions that started to feel a bit overwhelming. It was the calendar, too. White struggled at the 2014 Olympics. During the run-up to those games in Russia, he committed to trying to win two gold medals — in halfpipe and the newly introduced slopestyle competition. But he ended up with none. He rebooted that time, too, and focused only on the halfpipe for 2018. When the chips were down in Pyeongchang, White had just enough left in the tank at the end of that contest to throw the best, most-difficult run of his life and win his third gold. In the aftermath, he saw his plate filling up again — namely in a quest to compete in skateboarding at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. It became too unwieldy and too unrealistic a project. “I thought, ’I don’t know if I want to bet fully on this, and snowboard was sitting there, so I decided I had to make some tough decisions and I’m going to focus on snowboard,” White said. Now, the clock is ticking. There are less than 13 months until the start of the Beijing Games. White practiced at the X Games and was planning to compete, but hours before Sunday’s contest he said he “tweaked” his knee during practice and was pulling out. In the interview with AP, he said he came to Aspen not so much concerned with a result, but just for a chance to check out the competition and also “to show the general population who might think I’m not riding anymore, that I’m very, very much still into it.” White came to the X Games without a snowboard deal for the first time since he was 7. It allowed him to plaster a picture of his niece, Charli, on a bottom panel that, for decades, featured the word “Burton.” He’s now tinkering with his own snowboard designs. He admits to having no preconceived notions about where that will go. He considers himself less of a pitchman these days, more of a behind-the-scenes investor. His guitar career has long been on hold, and though the series of Air & Style events he co-owns remains a working operation, much of that has also been put on the back burner because of the pandemic. “I’m a snowboarder,” he says when asked what, exactly, he considers himself. “And I hate to say ‘entrepreneur,’ but it’s just investing in brands and keeping the rest of the slate clean right now. Instead of looking at the short term, it’s looking at the next 10 years and seeing things I might want to be part of in the long run.”

# Weather

* Tonight: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 10. North wind 5 to 8 mph.
* Tuesday: Partly sunny, with a high near 21. Wind chill values as low as zero. North wind around 8 mph.
* Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 15. Northeast wind 6 to 9 mph.
* Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 23. Northeast wind 6 to 8 mph.
* Wednesday Night: A slight chance of snow after 1am. Cloudy, with a low around 16. Northeast wind 5 to 8 mph. Chance of precipitation is 20%.
* Thursday: a chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 21. Chance of precipitation is 40%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.
* Thursday Night: A chance of snow before 1am. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 7. Chance of precipitation is 30%.
* Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 15.
* Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 4.

# Commercials

## PSA - Students Against Destructive Decisions

[INSERT STATION NAME/CALL LETTERS] and Students Against Destructive Decisions want the community to know we are working with local law enforcement on a campaign to prevent the sale of alcohol to those under 21. As part of our campaign, SADD is partnering with Licensed Beverage Outlets in the community on a campaign entitled 21 or Bust to remind everyone that selling or providing alcohol to someone under the age of 21 is illegal. Every 53 minutes, someone dies in an alcohol-related crash. You, your family, or your friends could be affected next. Most parents think their teens aren't drinking. Think again. Do your part to spread the warning message – 21 or Bust.

##

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