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STARS AND STRIPES

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



AFGHANISTAN

Strict but fair?

Taliban security has brought end to 'mafia' style protection

By KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

It wasn't 7 a.m. yet and already the line outside the police station's gates was long, with men bringing their complaints and demands for justice to Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers.

Something new they immediately found: The Taliban fighters who are now the policemen don't demand bribes like police officers did under the U.S.-backed government of the past 20 years.

"Before, everyone was stealing our money," said Hajj Ahmad Khan, who was among those in line at the Kabul District 8 police station on a recent day. "Everywhere in our villages and in government

SEE STRICT ON PAGE 6

A boy looks as an Afghan fighter rides in the back of a vehicle during a police patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan, last month.

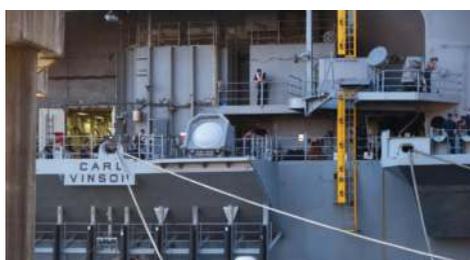
FELIPE DANA/AP

Navy corruption scandal has echoes of 'Fat Leonard'

By CRAIG WHITLOCK
The Washington Post

Federal agents are investigating a new U.S. Navy corruption case that has strong echoes of the Fat Leonard scandal, with a defense contractor facing accusations that he delivered cash bribes and bilked the Navy out of at least \$50 million to service its ships in foreign ports, according to recently unsealed court records.

The Justice Department is trying to extradite the contractor — Frank Rafaraci, chief executive of Multinational Logistics



DANIEL BETANCOURT/Stars and Stripes

Billing related to a 2015 visit by the USS Carl Vinson, pictured, to Bahrain is mentioned in unsealed court documents.

Services, or MLS — from Malta, the Mediterranean island where he was arrested last week after an international manhunt.

Rafaraci, 68, is a dual U.S.-Italian citizen who splits his time between the United Arab Emirates and Sicily. Since 2010, the Navy and federal agencies have awarded MLS about \$1.3 billion in contracts to resupply and refuel U.S. warships in the Middle East, Asia and other regions.

According to an arrest warrant unsealed last week in U.S. District Court in Washington, Rafaraci and MLS defrauded the Navy

of at least \$50 million by inflating invoices for port services between 2011 and 2018.

In one instance, when the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson visited Manama, capital of the Persian Gulf kingdom of Bahrain, in January 2015, MLS billed the Navy for more than \$231,000 in "port authority fees," even though the Manama port authority charged only \$12,686, the court documents show.

Federal authorities are also seeking Rafaraci's extradition on suspicion of money

SEE ECHOES ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Firms face liability threat over counterfeit goods

The Washington Post

By now you've probably heard about the fight over Section 230, the law shielding websites from lawsuits over what their users post, which has been under constant attack in Washington. But there's another high-stakes yet lower-profile feud brewing in Congress over platforms' liability.

Lawmakers on the House Judiciary Committee on Wednesday advanced legislation that could open up e-commerce giants like Amazon and Walmart to lawsuits

over the sale of counterfeit goods on their sites if they don't meet a set of "best practices" to combat them.

Its proponents say passing the proposal—the SHOP SAFE Act—is critical to holding digital platforms accountable for the distribution of fake products on their sites and to give consumers peace of mind when shopping online.

Eric Goldman, a law professor at Santa Clara University, wrote in a blistering post this week that the proposal would "drive most or all online marketplaces out of the in-

dustry" by imposing "onerous and expensive compliance obligations" that make it "impossible" to avoid liability.

The compliance requirements include verifying a third-party seller's identity and mandating that sellers can verify or vouch for the authenticity of their goods. If companies take those and other steps, they would be immunized from liability over the sale of counterfeit goods by third-party vendors on their platforms under the bill.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 5)	\$1.14
Dollar buys (Oct. 5)	0.8375
British pound (Oct. 5)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Oct. 5)	109.00
South Korean won (Oct. 5)	1157.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain(Dinar)	.3770
Britain (Pound)	1.3622
Canada (Dollar)	1.2566
China(Yuan)	6.4467
Denmark (Krone)	6.3957
Egypt (Pound)	15.6999
Euro	.8598
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7869
Hungary (Forint)	306.47
Israel (Shekel)	3.2173
Japan (Yen)	111.15
Kuwait(Dinar)	.3014
Norway (Krone)	8.5586
Philippines (Peso)	50.78
Poland (Zloty)	3.93
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3559

South Korea (Won)	1180.64
Switzerland (Franc)	.9247
Thailand (Baht)	33.75
Turkey (NewLira)	8.8553

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	2.05

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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ADVERTISING
CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING
CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING
PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | +81 (42) 552.2511
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MILITARY

3 aircraft carriers train together near Okinawa

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

Three aircraft carriers — two American and one British — were among an armada of 17 warships from six countries that trained together over the weekend in the Philippine Sea.

The USS Ronald Reagan, fresh off its deployment to the Middle East, met the USS Carl Vinson and HMS Queen Elizabeth on Saturday southwest of Okinawa, according to a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force news release Monday. They were accompanied by other vessels from the United States, Japan, United Kingdom, New Zealand, Netherlands and

Canada.

The training, which included air defense, anti-submarine warfare, tactical maneuvers and communication drills, continued through Sunday, the release said.

Seventh Fleet on Monday referred questions about the exercise to the Hawaii-based U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, which did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

U.S. Navy ships involved in the exercise included the guided-missile destroyers USS Shiloh, USS Chafee, USS The Sullivans and the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain, according to the release. The other nations' vessels

included destroyers, frigates and replenishment ships.

Photos of the training showed the three carriers, along with Japan's flattop helicopter destroyer JS Ise, leading the 13 other vessels through the sea.

The exercise wrapped up as the Chinese military flew 16 warplanes over waters south of Taiwan, less than 400 nautical miles from Okinawa.

China sent 38 warplanes into the area on Friday and 39 aircraft on Saturday, the most in a single day since Taiwan began releasing reports on flights in September 2020. The flights came in daytime and nighttime sorties.



JAPAN MARITIME SELF-DEFENSE FORCE

The aircraft carriers USS Ronald Reagan, USS Carl Vinson and HMS Queen Elizabeth join the Japanese helicopter destroyer JS Ise in leading vessels from six nations in the Philippine Sea near Okinawa.

A statement from U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price warned that China's military activity near Taiwan risks miscalculation and undermines regional peace and stability.

"We urge Beijing to cease its

military, diplomatic, and economic pressure and coercion against Taiwan," the statement said.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.
wilson.alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexMNWilson

Another defendant sentenced in ID theft of troops, vets

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

A former U.S. Army medical records administrator in South Korea was ordered to serve more than 12 years in prison for his role in an identity theft scheme that targeted military members and their families, including elderly and disabled veterans.

Fredrick Brown, 40, of Las Vegas, was sentenced last week, nearly two years after pleading guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, according to a Justice Department statement.

Brown was also ordered to pay

more than \$2.3 million in restitution.

The victims, who included eight general officers and numerous disabled veterans, lost more than \$1.5 million, according to the Justice Department.

Brown had access to personal identifying information while working as a civilian medical records technician and administrator with the Army's 65th Medical Brigade at Yongsan Garrison in Seoul.

He admitted in court that between July 2014 and September 2015 he stole names, Social Security numbers, military ID numbers, dates of birth and contact informa-

tion for thousands of service members, civilians, veterans and their families.

He captured the information by taking digital photographs of his computer screen while he was logged into a military electronic health records database, according to court documents.

He provided the stolen data to co-defendant Robert Wayne Boling Jr., a U.S. military dependent raised in South Korea and living in the Philippines who was described in court documents as the scheme's ringleader.

Boling and others used the information to access Defense Department and Veterans Affairs

benefits sites to steal or attempt to steal millions of dollars in pensions and disability benefits.

They also stole from personal bank accounts, in some cases contacting banks and other financial institutions and posing as military-affiliated individuals, according to court documents.

In July 2020, the Justice Department said Boling and two other foreign co-defendants in the Philippines were still in that country, where measures were being taken to transfer them to the United States for legal proceedings.

The Justice Department statement on Brown's sentencing included no update on the efforts to

prosecute Boling and the other two defendants who were in the Philippines.

They are charged with conspiracy, wire fraud and aggravated identity theft.

Another co-defendant, Trorice Crawford, 34, of San Diego, was sentenced in 2020 to 46 months in federal prison, according to the Justice Department.

Crawford recruited and supervised people who provided their bank accounts to be used to receive stolen funds, according to court documents.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown

Echoes: Arrested contractor's firm replaced Francis' on many US contracts

FROM PAGE 1

laundering and bribery. The arrest warrant alleges that he met with an unnamed U.S. Navy official at the Diplomat Hotel in Manama in August 2015, handed over an envelope stuffed with \$20,000 in cash and told the official to "keep up the good work."

Three years later, at a Miami hotel, Rafaraci passed another envelope to the same U.S. official that contained \$13,500, according to the arrest warrant.

The unnamed U.S. Navy official served for several years as a liaison officer in Bahrain before taking a job with the U.S. Army. Court papers show that the official pleaded guilty in June to a bribery charge in U.S. District Court in Washington and agreed to become a cooperating witness for the government. His identity and his criminal case file remain under seal.

In many ways, the allegations against Rafaraci and MLS mirror the "Fat Leonard" corruption scandal that has rocked the Navy since 2013.

In that case, a rotund Malaysian defense contractor, Leonard Glenn Francis, pleaded guilty to bribing scores of Navy officials with cash, prostitutes, extravagant meals and other favors so he could overcharge the Navy for port services in Asia. Several hundred Navy officials came under investigation, and 27 people have pleaded guilty in federal court to corruption-related charges.

Seven more defendants — all current or retired Navy officers — are scheduled to go on trial in San Diego in February.

Navy officials pledged to clean up their contracting processes in response to the Fat Leonard scandal, but the case against Rafaraci

alleges that corruption persists.

MLS took over numerous U.S. government contracts that had been handled by Francis's Singapore-based firm, Glenn Defense Marine Asia, and became the largest provider of port services to the Navy in the world. It operates throughout Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. The Navy relies on private contractors to supply fresh water, fuel, food, security, tugboats, barges and other equipment and services in foreign ports.

The Navy suspended MLS and Rafaraci on Friday from doing future business with any federal agency, though they will be allowed to fulfill their current contracts with the Navy, according to Cmdr. Courtney Hillson, a spokeswoman for the branch.

The Navy "expects all individuals and companies with whom it conducts business to act with the

highest degree of integrity and to have effective standards of conduct," she said.

Hillson said agents from the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service uncovered the alleged wrongdoing and "have been actively coordinating with other law-enforcement authorities around the globe."

It can be difficult to extradite international defense contractors to the United States. Francis, a Malaysian citizen, was arrested in a sting operation in 2013 after NCIS and DCIS agents lured him to San Diego on the pretense of meeting with Navy admirals to discuss expanded business opportunities. He had been under criminal investigation for several years, and federal authorities at one point considered capturing him aboard a U.S. Navy warship in Singapore and bringing him to the United

States against his will.

Rafaraci lives primarily in Dubai, but the United States does not have an extradition treaty with the United Arab Emirates.

Federal agents had been tracking his movements and learned last month that he was planning a brief visit to Malta, where MLS is headquartered. He arrived in Malta on Sept. 26 and was arrested hours later by local authorities at a hotel in St. Julian's, a town on the east coast near the capital, Valletta.

Since then, efforts by Maltese and U.S. officials to keep him in custody have gone awry. At Rafaraci's initial court appearance, on Sept. 27, a Maltese magistrate ruled that the businessman could remain free while his extradition proceedings unfold.

Rafaraci is scheduled to have another court hearing Monday.

PACIFIC

N. Korea restores hotline, answers call from South

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Communication hotlines between the two Koreas were restored at 9 a.m. Monday after lying dormant since this summer, according to South Korea's Ministry of Unification.

An opening call was made from the joint liaison office channel, laying a "foundation for stabilizing the situation on the Korean Peninsula and restoring inter-Korean relations," the ministry said in a statement Monday.

The South Korean government expects "practical discussions" to restore relations between the two countries, the statement added.

North Korea's state-run Korean Central News Agency announced the hotlines' restoration in a report early Monday, noting that Seoul "should keep in mind the meaning of reopening of the communication lines and make active efforts to solve pending important issues for saving the inter-Korean relations and opening its bright prospect."

China's special envoy to the Korean Peninsula, Liu Xiaoming, who held talks about inter-Korean relations with South Korean officials last week, described the restoration as "remarkable progress," in a tweet Monday.

The nearly 50 communication channels between the two Koreas are intended to reduce tensions during a crisis and to build a dialogue for better relations. The countries conduct two calls each morning and afternoon. South Korea, regardless of the North's bellicose statements, attempts to contact its neighbor at the same time every day.

The lines have been cut and restored many times throughout the

years, as relations soured and improved between Seoul and Pyongyang.

North Korea discontinued the daily calls last year after anti-North Korean protesters and defectors flew propaganda leaflets across the border. Communication was reinstated in July, but Pyongyang severed them again after two weeks in an apparent protest over joint U.S.-South Korean military drills.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in a speech last month signaled the hotlines would be restored by early October "to improve the current strained ties," but also called the United States' policy toward his country "hostile."

The reconnection of the hotlines comes as both Koreas have publicly shown interest in formally ending the Korean War. They technically remain at war after the 1950-53 conflict ended with the signing of an armistice agreement instead of a peace treaty.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in floated the idea in a speech before the United Nations General Assembly last month, and Kim Yo Jong, a senior North Korean official and the North Korean leader's sister, described the proposal as "not bad."

Despite the overtures from Pyongyang, the communist regime has raised tensions with a series of weapons tests in recent weeks.

North Korea conducted four tests in a span of a month, including a surface-to-air missile; a ballistic missile launched from a train; a long-range cruise missile capable of reaching Japan; and a hypersonic short-range missile.

choi.david@stripes.com
Twitter: @choibboy



DANIEL BETANCOURT/Stars and Stripes

The guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson arrives at its new homeport, Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday.

One of 'newest and most capable' destroyers joins 7th Fleet in Japan

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Ralph Johnson steamed into Yokosuka on Monday, completing a nearly three-week journey from the United States to its new homeport in Japan.

The guided-missile destroyer arrived at 10 a.m. with more than 100 sailors manning the rails and working the decks. It departed its former home, Naval Station Everett in Washington state, on Sept. 15.

"Ralph Johnson comes over as one of the newest and most capable destroyers in the U.S. Navy," Capt. Chase Sargeant, commander of Destroyer Squadron 15, said in a Navy new release. "The addition of Ralph Johnson demonstrates our unwavering commitment to maintain maritime security in the Indo-Pacific alongside our alliances and partnerships."

The ship is replacing the USS Mustin, which departed Yokosuka for San Diego in June.

Commissioned in March 2018, the Ralph Johnson boasts one of the newest versions of the Aegis Combat System. Those ballistic-missile defense capabilities can make significant contributions to the 7th Fleet, according to executive officer Cmdr. Isaiah Infante.

"It has the upgraded baseline, which obviously has different capabilities when it comes to missile defense," he told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

The Baseline 9 system, launched in 2015, features remote launching capabilities, improved target identification and better performance against "more advanced threats," according to a Sept. 30 report from the Congressional Research Service.

The USS Rafael Peralta, which joined 7th Fleet in February, is also equipped with the Baseline 9

system.

The Ralph Johnson arrives in the wake of a series of North Korean missile tests over the past few weeks, the most recent of which launched Sept. 30. Those weapons include short-range hypersonic, long-range cruise and anti-aircraft missiles.

En route to Yokosuka, the Ralph Johnson's crew received a crash course in Western Pacific weather while navigating around Typhoon Mindulle.

"That's just part of working out here in the 7th Fleet area of operations," Infante said.

Now that they've safely arrived, Infante said the crew is looking forward to learning more about the area.

"We're happy to be here, and we're looking forward to getting to know our new home," he said.

wilson.alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexMNWilson

Army helicopters damaged after heavy storm pelts base in S. Korea

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Several Army helicopters were damaged in a storm that battered the U.S. base 40 miles south of Seoul on Friday evening, according to the 2nd Infantry Division.

The division declined to provide specifics on the damage, citing operational security policies, but the command was "conducting maintenance checks across the fleet," according to a statement to Stars and Stripes on Monday.

The helicopters were not in the air during the storm and no injuries were reported, Lt. Col. Ryan Donald, the division's public affairs director, said Saturday.

The garrison said in a public notice Saturday on Facebook that it was continuing to clean up from the storm and encouraged residents with damaged property to contact public works.

Humphreys is home to the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, which routinely trains with Black Hawk, Apache and Chinook helicopters.

Photos and videos of the area showed heavy wind, rain and hail,

along with collapsed buildings and signs. Some images showed the caved-in front wall of a tire shop less than a mile from the installation.

The lion's share of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in South Korea are assigned to Humphreys, which is home to 2nd ID, Eighth Army and U.S. Forces Korea.

More than 32,000 people access the installation, the largest U.S. military installation overseas, on a daily basis.

choi.david@stripes.com
Twitter: @choibboy



RIE MORRISON

Photos and videos from near Camp Humphreys, South Korea, show collapsed buildings and signs from a heavy storm on Friday.

MILITARY

Afghan refugees in Germany get taste of America

By **KARIN ZEITVOGEL**
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The sounds of gleefully screaming children rose from a large tent that had been transformed from a dining hall to a party venue on a fall evening on Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

A DJ spun Afghan and American tunes, a machine spewed out bubbles, disco lights threw off shafts of color, and kids lined up for fresh popcorn and slushies that didn't quite freeze, provided by the USO.

Sgt. Michael Daniels, a lead firefighter with the 23rd Ordnance Company out of Grafenwoehr in Bavaria, who has been working with the 5,400 evacuees at ROB, roused the crowd while DJ Corey Mackey sorted out some electrical and WiFi problems.

"I do this because I love the kids and love having the opportunity to share joy with them," Daniels said.

"I know they have been through a difficult situation and want to allow them to be kids again, having fun, dancing," he said before marching to the far end of the tent, clapping and shouting, "Hey! Let's go!" as a group of children followed him.

The glee at ROB contrasted sharply with the situation in Afghanistan, where in the six weeks since the Taliban returned to power, music and dancing have been severely limited.

Schools have reopened, but the future of education for girls remains uncertain. Food is so scarce the United Nations and aid agencies are warning that many Afghans could starve when winter comes, and the country's economy

is on the brink of collapse.

"Getting out of Afghanistan was very hard — Taliban were everywhere and we had to walk through a canal filled with waste — but now we have opportunities and we are with friends," said an Afghan father who has been at ROB for a month.

Flights from overseas bases to the U.S. were temporarily halted last month after some evacuees were diagnosed with measles. They could resume over the Columbus Day weekend, Lt. Col. Will Powell, spokesman for the 86th Airlift Wing, said in a statement sent to Stars and Stripes.

As the Afghans wait to move on, they are being introduced to aspects of American life — things like popcorn, slushies and different ways of doing things, like teaching.

"In Afghanistan, some of the teaching methods are too difficult for kids," said the Afghan father, who worked as an interpreter for U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Army personnel asked that he not be identified to protect family and colleagues still in the country.

"But the way the teachers here on ROB teach is the way they teach in the States, so our kids will learn good stuff," he said. "And American teachers are so kind. The teachers in Afghanistan, most are very good and kind but some of them beat the kids and shout at them."

Behind him, eager children ran toward two large Army tents where classes are held. In one tent, American Red Cross volunteer Yuki Hwong was introducing the kids to puppet shows and bingo games.



PHOTOS BY **KARIN ZEITVOGEL**/Stars and Stripes

Volunteer teacher Morgan Guinn, center, leads an English language class for Afghan refugee children at Rhine Ordnance Barracks in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Sept. 23, with help from Tammy Cortez-Janes, back left.



An Afghan girl writes on a whiteboard during an English lesson at Rhine Ordnance Barracks.

"We saw that the kids really needed some play," Hwong said. "We're working to help them express their emotions and what they're going through, to deal with the trauma and stress of their situation."

After the puppet show was over, Morgan Guinn taught the children

English, and Faiza Nguyen sang songs and told stories in the tent next door.

Girls sat next to boys, and sometimes outnumbered them. Military cots served as desks or seats. Whiteboards, pens and erasers were handed out at the start of Guinn's class and collected at the

end, ready for the next students.

The children mimicked Guinn's tone and gestures as she taught them to count and write the numbers one through five. Thirteen-year-old Edris helped keep the class under control. He wants to settle in California and become a doctor, he said. Several other teenage boys at ROB said they want to join the U.S. military when they grow up.

In another part of the camp, dozens of men gathered for an English class, taught by an Afghan who had worked as an interpreter for U.S. forces. Separate classes are held for women.

The day's lesson focused on pronouns and enriching the men's vocabulary.

"We are students," they chanted in unison after their teacher.

"We are refugees," they said next, hesitating briefly, as if they didn't fully understand the word or the situation they have found themselves in since fleeing the Taliban more than a month ago.

zeitvogel.karin@stripes.com
Twitter: @StripesZeit

American, Japanese students bond at camp on Iwakuni

By **JONATHAN SNYDER**
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Thirty American and Japanese students gathered at this base near Hiroshima over the weekend for a cultural immersion program designed to help them grow as global thinkers.

Two-day Global Friendship Camps are taking place at several U.S. military bases in Japan, the Department of Defense Education Activity announced last month. They involve hands-on activities that aim to develop problem-solving skills, encourage a diverse perspective on the world and sensitivity to accept others' differences.

At MCAS Iwakuni's camp on Saturday

and Sunday at Matthew C. Perry High School, students taught each other greetings in their native languages before working in teams to design and create artworks representing the friendship between the United States and Japan.

One group incorporated a white snake, which is native to the Iwakuni area and is considered to bring good fortune. It was included with the American and Japanese flags drawn into the shape of a heart.

"It can be very nerve-wracking at first to talk with people, but once you do it's just like talking with anyone else," ninth-grader Teresa Taylor, 14, told Stars and Stripes on Sunday. "There is a little bit of a language barrier, but we work towards a middle ground. I

learned how to get out of my shell, and I also learned more about Iwakuni from a different perspective."

The students were also given free time to talk and interact.

"One of the things I've enjoyed watching most about this is the unstructured activities, where the students are exchanging social media contacts and just engaging in play by themselves without scripting and just building those relationships with high-fiving and cheering each other on," M.C. Perry principal Latressa Renee Cobb told Stars and Stripes on Sunday. "It's a great partnership we see developing over the two days."

The event ended Sunday with a ceremony where students received awards for their

projects from Iwakuni city major Yoshihiko Fukuda, MCAS Iwakuni commander Col. Lance Lewis and DODEA-Pacific chief of staff Todd Schlitz.

Upcoming camps are slated for Oct. 23-25 and Feb. 5-6 at Sasebo Naval Base; Nov. 6-7 at MCAS Iwakuni; Dec. 4-5 at Misawa Air Base; and Jan. 22-23 at Yokosuka Naval Base.

Middle and high school students can apply for the program, and the Japanese students, who must have some English-speaking ability, are chosen from schools near the bases that are hosting the event.

snyder.jonathan@stripes.com
Twitter: @Jon_E_Snyder

MILITARY

Confederate flag flying at Vilseck prompts probe

BY IMMANUEL JOHNSON

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Military police are investigating after a Confederate flag was found flying from a flagpole outside 2nd Cavalry Regiment headquarters Monday and removed upon discovery, Army officials said.

An American flag and a German flag also were stolen from

inside the headquarters building in Vilseck sometime between Sunday night and Monday morning by an unknown person, regiment spokesman Maj. John Ambelang said.

The incident at Rose Barracks, which is home to a regiment of about 4,800 soldiers, comes more than a year after the Defense Department effectively banned the Confederate flags

and other symbols deemed divisive from public display on military bases.

“The regiment takes this misconduct very seriously,” Ambelang said in a statement. “Should the culprit be identified, the command will take appropriate action after considering all the facts surrounding the incident.”

Commanders across the regiment conveyed the serious-

ness of the situation to soldiers at a morning formation, the statement said.

Neither the theft nor the display of the Confederate battle flag reflect the Army’s values, Ambelang said.

Earlier this year, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin directed the military to conduct training to address extremism in the ranks. Service members gave

the training mixed reviews.

The regiment is working with military police to review base camera footage, Ambelang said. Officials have also asked anyone with information on the incident to contact the Department of Emergency Services on Rose Barracks at +49 966-283-3397.

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com
Twitter: @Manny_Stripes

Strict: Taliban have said their punishment methods will return

FROM PAGE 1

offices, everyone had their hands out,” he said.

Many Afghans fear the harsh ways of the Taliban, their hard-line ideology or their severe restrictions of women’s freedoms. But the movement does bring a reputation for not being corrupt, a stark contrast to the government it ousted, which was notoriously rife with bribery, embezzlement and graft.

Even residents who shudder at the potential return of punishments — such as chopping off the hands of thieves — say some security has returned to Kabul since the Taliban swept in on Aug. 15. Under the previous government, gangs of thieves had driven most people off the streets by dark. Several roads between cities are again open and have even been given the green light for travel by some international aid organizations.

Still, there are dangers. On Sunday, a bomb outside Kabul’s Eid Gah mosque killed several civilians and targeted Taliban members attending a memorial service. No one took responsibility for the bombing, but the rival Islamic State group has ramped up attacks

against the Taliban in an ISIS-K stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

During their last time in power in the late 1990s, the Taliban offered a trade-off: They brought a stability Afghans desperately sought and eliminated corruption, but they also imposed their harsh interpretation of Islamic law. That included punishments like the hand amputations, executions of murderers with a single bullet to the head, most often by a relative of the murder victim, and all carried out in public. Religious police beat men for trimming their beards or for not attending prayers.

In the past week, the Taliban arrested 85 alleged criminals, some accused of petty crimes, and others of murder, kidnapping and robbery, said Noor Ahmad Rabbani of the Taliban’s anti-crime department.

The Taliban have said they will bring back their previous punishments. The only question is whether or not they will carry them out publicly, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, former justice minister and current official in charge of prisons, told The Associated Press.



FELIPE DANA/AP

An Afghan boy watches last month as Taliban fighters search for a man accused of stabbing in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Some punishments have already reappeared. The bodies of four men were hung from cranes in the center of the city of Herat, after being killed by Taliban while allegedly attempting a kidnapping. On at least two occasions in Kabul, petty thieves were paraded around the streets to shame them, handcuffed, with their faces painted or with stale bread stuffed in their mouths.

Gun-toting Taliban have taken up positions at checkpoints across Kabul and gradually some have been made to wear uniforms — the beginnings of a new national security force, officials have said.

For many Kabul residents — particularly the young who grew up on horror stories about the previous period of Taliban rule — the sight of the fighters is frightening as they roam the streets freely, with their signature long hair, traditional dress and Kalashnikov rifles hanging by their sides.

But so far, they appear to have brought relief from corruption. Before the Taliban takeover in August, people had to pay bribes simply to settle a utility bill. Rampant fraud in the military was one reason it collapsed so quickly in the face of the advancing Taliban. Despite the overt graft, the United

States and Europe poured billions of dollars into the government with little oversight.

As in the past, the Taliban have turned to tribal elders to settle disputes. Last week, a group of elders gathered in a Kabul mosque to adjudicate a stabbing attack that caused minor injuries. The elders ordered the culprit’s father to pay the victim the equivalent of nearly \$400, enough to cover the medical expenses.

Muhammed Yousef Jawid accepted his punishment.

“It’s fast, and much less expensive than it was under the previous system,” he said.

Navy awards \$122M contract to build gun range for Marines on Guam

BY ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy awarded a \$122 million contract to a Guam-based construction company to build a machine-gun range at Andersen Air Force Base that will support the new Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz.

The new facility will include a multilane, multipurpose gun range, a range control tower, an ammunition distribution point and covered bleachers. The project is expected to be completed in Octo-

ber 2024.

The Navy gave the firm-fixed price contract to Black Construction Corp., based at Harmon, Guam, on Tuesday, according to a news release from Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific.

Blaz’s commander, Col. Christopher Bopp, called the range a “significant step” toward completing the installation.

“This range will provide critical training capabilities to our forces while ensuring our continued oper-

ational readiness to respond to any crisis or contingency in the region,” he said in the release.

It will be part a larger complex known as the Mason Live-Fire Training Range at Andersen’s Northwest Field.

The Navy previously awarded Black Construction a \$78 million contract in August 2017 to build four other ranges and supporting facilities for the complex.

The other ranges are for rifles, pistols, non-standard small arms and a modified record fire, a spo-

keswoman for Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific, Krista Cummins, told Stars and Stripes in an email Friday.

The announcement follows a slew of other projects on Guam recently announced by the Navy as part of the camp’s ongoing construction. Blaz, activated in October 2020, is the first newly commissioned Marine Corps base since 1952.

The Navy has awarded more than \$1 billion in contracts to build medical and logistics facilities, bar-

racks and officer quarters.

Blaz and the associated projects are part of the Defense Policy Review Initiative, a deal between the United States and Japan that includes the relocation of 5,000 members of the III Marine Expeditionary Force from Okinawa to Guam.

Under the deal, Japan is paying \$3 billion to build portions of Blaz, while the U.S. is spending another \$5.7 billion.

wilson.alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexMNWilson

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Vaccine mandate in effect for NYC teachers

By KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City teachers and other school staff members were all supposed to be vaccinated against COVID-19 when the bell rang Monday morning in one of the first school district mandates in the country requiring employees to be inoculated against the coronavirus.

Mayor Bill de Blasio gave a final warning to the city's roughly 148,000 public school staffers on Friday, saying unvaccinated employees would be placed on unpaid leave and not be allowed to work this week. The city planned to bring in substitutes where needed.

The mandate spurred many teachers to get vaccinated as the deadline approached. United Federation of Teachers president Michael Mulgrew said 97% of his union's members had received at least one vaccine dose as of Monday morning.

That's up from Friday, when de Blasio said 93% of teachers had received at least one shot. The mayor said Friday that 90% of all Department of Education employees had received at least one vaccine dose, including 98% of principals.

Implementing the mandate smoothly will be a test for de Blasio, a Democrat who has boasted of the city's record of keeping school buildings open during most of the last school year when other districts went to all-remote instruction. New York City is not offering a remote option this year.

The vaccination mandate in the nation's largest school system does not include a test-out option, but

does allow for medical and religious exemptions. It was supposed to go into effect last week but was delayed when a federal appeals court granted a temporary injunction. An appeals panel reversed that decision three days later.

A similar mandate is set to go into effect in Los Angeles on Oct. 15.

Mark Cannizzaro, president of the Council of Schools Supervisors and Administrators, said that despite a surge in vaccinations last week, some principals were having difficulty finding enough staff to replace unvaccinated workers.

"While we're thankful that the percentage of vaccinated staff has increased systemwide since the deadline was extended, there are still too many school leaders that have been unable to find qualified substitutes for Monday," Cannizzaro said.

A group of teachers and other school employees who had sued over the school vaccine mandate asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday for an emergency injunction blocking its implementation. The request was denied on Friday.

Many students and parents support the vaccine mandate as the best way to keep schools open during the pandemic.

"It's safer for our kids," said Joyce Ramirez, 28, who was picking up her three children from a Bronx elementary school last week.

Ramirez said she hopes the requirement will lessen the chances of teachers contracting the virus and prompting classroom or school shutdowns.



JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Michael Mulgrew, president of the United Federation of Teachers, a New York City teachers union, said that 97% of his union's members had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose as of Monday morning. New York City teachers and other school staff members are supposed to be vaccinated as of Monday.

Cody Miller, a 15-year-old sophomore at a high school in Manhattan, said teachers should all be vaccinated. "I think they should," said the teen, who got vaccinated himself as soon as the Pfizer shot was approved for people 12 and up. "It's so many kids, it's a big environment, you know?"

But Mally Diroche, another Bronx parent, had mixed feelings. "I kind of feel like that's a decision they should be able to make on their own," said the mom of three boys between 3 and 12. Diroche, 29, said she feels that masks and other precautions can check the virus's

spread within schools.

Some educators have reservations about the mandate but are complying.

Maurice Jones, 46, a support staff member at a Manhattan middle school, said he got vaccinated months ago but he sympathizes with co-workers who have not gotten the shots. "If they've got to get tested more they've got to get tested more," Jones said. "I don't think they should lose their job."

Roxanne Rizzi, who teaches technology at an elementary school in Queens, waited until Friday to get her first coronavirus vaccine

shot.

"I had to do it for the finances of my family," she said.

Rizzi, 55, had resisted the vaccine because she contracted COVID-19 in November and believed natural immunity would protect her. She said she would continue to protest the mandate.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, people should get vaccinated even if they have already been infected by the virus. The agency says COVID-19 vaccines offer better protection than natural immunity and help prevent getting infected again.

New Zealand admits delta variant bested zero-tolerance approach

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — New Zealand's government acknowledged Monday what most other countries did long ago: It can no longer completely get rid of the coronavirus.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a cautious plan to ease lockdown restrictions in Auckland, despite an outbreak there that continues to simmer.

Since early in the pandemic, New Zealand had pursued an unusual zero-tolerance approach to the virus through strict lockdowns and aggressive contact tracing. Until recently, that elimination strategy had worked remarkably well for the country of 5 million, which has reported just 27 virus deaths. While other nations faced rising death tolls and disrupted lives, New Zealanders went back to workplaces, school yards and sports stadiums

safe from any community spread.

But that all changed when the more contagious delta variant somehow escaped from a quarantine facility in August after it was brought into the country from a traveler returning from Australia. Despite New Zealand going into the strictest form of lockdown after just a single local case was detected, it ultimately wasn't enough to crush the outbreak entirely.

One factor may have been that the disease spread among some groups that are typically more wary of authorities, including gang members and homeless people living in transitional housing.

The outbreak has grown to more than 1,300 cases, with 29 more detected on Monday. A few cases have been found outside of Auckland.

Ardern said that seven weeks of lockdown restrictions in Auckland had helped keep the outbreak under control.

"For this outbreak, it's clear that long periods of heavy restrictions has not got us to zero cases," Ardern said. "But that is OK. Elimination was important because we didn't have vaccines. Now we do, so we can begin to change the way we do things."

New Zealand began its vaccination campaign slowly compared to most other developed nations. Rates rocketed in August after the outbreak began but have dropped off significantly again since then.

About 65% of New Zealanders have had at least one dose and 40% are fully vaccinated. Among people age 12 and older, about 79% have had at least a single jab.

Ardern said the elimination strategy had served the country incredibly well but the government always intended to eventually transition to the protection of vaccines, a change hastened by the delta variant "game changer."

Russia hits record number of daily COVID-19 deaths

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia on Sunday reported a record daily death toll from COVID-19, the fifth time in a week that deaths have hit a new high.

The national coronavirus task force said 890 deaths were recorded over the past day, exceeding the 887 reported on Friday. The task force also said the number of new infections in the past day was the second-highest of the year at 25,769.

Overall, Russia, a nation of 146 million people, has Europe's highest death toll from the pandemic, nearly 210,000 people.

Yet despite the country's persistent rise in daily deaths and new cases, Russian officials say there are no plans to impose a lockdown. Mask-wearing regulations are in place but are loosely enforced.

Moscow briefly tried during the summer to require proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test for indoor customers at restaurants and bars,

but abandoned the program after business owners complained of reduced revenues.

Even though Russia boasted of creating the world's first coronavirus vaccine, Sputnik V, only 32.5% of its people have gotten at least one vaccine shot; only 28% are fully vaccinated. Critics have blamed a botched vaccine rollout and mixed messages authorities have been sending about the outbreak.

In addition, coronavirus antibody tests are popular in Russia and some observers suggest this contributes to the low vaccination numbers. Western health experts say the antibody tests are unreliable either for diagnosing COVID-19 or assessing immunity to it.

President Vladimir Putin has observed periods of self-isolation since mid-September after dozens of people in the Kremlin were found to be infected. Putin met with Turkey's leader last week after coming out of his latest isolation period.

NATION

Report shows how the rich shield assets

Associated Press

A new report sheds light on how world leaders, powerful politicians, billionaires and others have used offshore accounts to shield assets collectively worth trillions of dollars over the past quarter-century.

The report by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists brought promises of tax reform and demands for resignations and investigations, as well as explanations and denials from those targeted.

The investigation, dubbed the Pandora Papers, was published late Sunday and involved 600 journalists from 150 media outlets in 117 countries.

Hundreds of politicians, celebrities, religious leaders and drug dealers have been hiding their investments in mansions, exclusive beachfront property, yachts and other assets, according to a review of nearly 12 million files obtained from 14 firms located around the world. Much of the activity did not appear to be illegal.

The more than 330 current and former politicians identified as beneficiaries of the secret accounts include Jordan's King Abdullah II, former U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair, Czech Republic Prime Minister Andrej Babis, Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, Ecuador's President Guillermo Lasso, and associates of both Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The billionaires called out in the report include Turkish construction mogul Erman Ilıcak and Robert T. Brockman, the former CEO of software maker Reynolds &

Reynolds.

Many of the accounts were designed to evade taxes and conceal assets for other reasons, according to the report. Some of those targeted strongly denied the claims on Monday.

"The new data leak must be a wake-up call," said Sven Giegold, a Green party lawmaker in the European Parliament. "Global tax evasion fuels global inequality. We need to expand and sharpen the countermeasures now."

Oxfam International, a British consortium of charities, applauded the Pandora Papers for exposing brazen examples of greed that deprived countries of tax revenue that could be used to finance programs and projects for the greater good.

"This is where our missing hospitals are," Oxfam said in a statement. "This is where the pay-packets sit of all the extra teachers and firefighters and public servants we need."

The European Commission, the 27-nation European Union's executive arm, said in response to the revelations that it is preparing new legislative proposals to enhance tax transparency and reinforce the fight against tax evasion.

The Pandora Papers are a follow-up to a similar project released in 2016 called the "Panama Papers" compiled by the same journalistic group.

The latest bombshell is even more expansive, relying on data leaked from 14 different service providers doing business in 38 different jurisdictions. The records date back to the 1970s, but most are from 1996 to 2020.



Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP

Oil is shown washed up in Huntington Beach, Calif., on Sunday.

Response time questioned in Southern California oil spill

Associated Press

HUNTINGTON BEACH, Calif. — Some residents, business owners and environmentalists questioned whether authorities reacted quickly enough to contain one of the largest oil spills in recent California history, caused by a suspected leak in an underwater pipeline that fouled the sands of famed Huntington Beach and could keep the beaches there closed for weeks or longer.

Booms were deployed on the ocean surface Sunday to try to contain the oil while divers sought to determine where and why the leak occurred. On land, there was a race to find animals harmed by the oil and to keep the spill from harming any more sensitive marshland.

People who live and work in the area said they noticed an oil sheen and a heavy petroleum smell Friday evening.

But it wasn't until Saturday afternoon that the Coast Guard said an oil slick had been spotted and a unified command established to

respond. And it took until Saturday night for the company that operates the pipeline believed responsible for the leak to shut down operations.

Rick Torgerson, owner of Blue Star Yacht Charter said on Friday evening "people were emailing, and the neighbors were asking, 'do you smell that?'" By Saturday morning, boats were returning to the marina with their hulls covered in oil, he said.

Garry Brown, president of the environmental group Orange County Coastkeeper, decried a lack of initial coordination among the Coast Guard and local officials in dealing with the spreading oil slick.

"By the time it comes to the beach, it's done tremendous damage. Our frustration is, it could have been averted if there was a quick response," said Brown, who lives in Huntington Beach.

An estimated 126,000 gallons of heavy crude leaked into the water and some washed up on the shores of Orange County. The city and

state beaches at Huntington Beach were closed, and late Sunday the city of Laguna Beach, just to the south, said its beaches also were shuttered.

Huntington Beach Mayor Kim Carr said the beaches of the community nicknamed "Surf City" could remain closed for weeks or even months.

Some birds and fish were caught in the muck and died, Orange County Supervisor Katrina Foley said. But by early afternoon Saturday, the U.S. Coast Guard said so far there was just one ruddy duck that was covered in oil and receiving veterinary care.

The leaking pipeline connects to an oil production platform named Elly, which in turn is connected by a walkway to a drilling platform named Ellen. Those two platforms and another nearby platform are in federal waters and owned by Amplify Energy Corp.

Amplify CEO Martyn Willsher said the pipeline and three platforms were shutdown Saturday night.

Henrietta Lacks' estate sues company over use of her cells

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

Associated Press

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The estate of Henrietta Lacks sued a pharmaceutical company on Monday, accusing it of selling cells that doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital took from the Black woman in 1951 without her knowledge or consent.

The cells taken from the woman who died of cervical cancer, known as HeLa cells, have been reproduced infinitely ever since, used in countless scientific and

medical innovations including the development of the polio vaccine and gene mapping.

The "HeLa cell line, became the first human cells successfully cloned and have since been used continually "for research that has touched nearly every realm of medicine," lawyers for the estate said in a news release.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc., of Waltham, Mass., knowingly mass produced and sold tissue that was taken from Lacks by doctors at the hospital and "a racially

unjust medical system," her estate's federal lawsuit alleges.

The lawsuit asks the court in Baltimore to order Thermo Fisher Scientific to "disgorge the full amount of its net profits obtained by commercializing the HeLa cell line to the Estate of Henrietta Lacks." It also seeks an order permanently enjoining Thermo Fisher Scientific from using the HeLa cell line without the estate's permission.

On its website, the company says it generates approximately

\$35 billion in annual revenue. A company spokesman reached didn't immediately comment on the lawsuit.

The remarkable science — and the impact on the Lacks family — have been documented in a bestselling book, "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks." Oprah Winfrey portrayed her daughter in an HBO movie about the story.

A group of white doctors at Johns Hopkins in the 1950s preyed on Black women with cervical cancer, cutting away tissue sam-

ples from their patients' cervixes without their patients' knowledge or consent, the lawsuit says.

"The exploitation of Henrietta Lacks represents the unfortunately common struggle experienced by Black people throughout history," the suit says. "Indeed, Black suffering has fueled innumerable medical progress and profit, without just compensation or recognition. Various studies, both documented and undocumented, have thrived off the dehumanization of Black people."

NATION

Biden's agenda depends on Democrats unifying

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's one of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's favorite sayings, a guidepost for Democrats in trying times: "Our diversity is our strength. Our unity is our power."

But as Democrats try to usher President Joe Biden's expansive federal government overhaul into law, it's the party's diversity of progressive and conservative views that's pulling them apart.

And only by staying unified does their no-votes-to-spare majority have any hope of pushing his rebuilding agenda into law.

Biden will travel to Michigan on Tuesday to speak directly to the American people on his vision: It's time to tax big business and the wealthy and invest that money into child care, health care, education and tackling climate change — what he sees as some of the nation's most press-

ing priorities.

Together, Biden, Pelosi and other Democrats are entering a highly uncertain time, the messy throes of legislating, in what will now be a longer-haul pursuit that could stretch for weeks, if not months, of negotiations.

"Let me just tell you about negotiating: At the end, that's when you really have to weigh in," Pelosi said recently. "You cannot tire. You cannot concede."

"This," she added on a day when negotiations would stretch to midnight, "this is the fun part."

The product — or the colossal failure to reach a deal — will define not only the first year of Biden's presidency, but the legacy of Pelosi and a generation of lawmakers in Congress, with ramifications for next year's midterm elections. At stake is not only the scaled-back \$3.5 trillion plan, but also the slimmer \$1 trillion public works bill that is now stalled, in-

tractably linked to the bigger bill.

As Democrats in Congress regroup, having blown Pelosi's self-imposed Friday deadline for passing legislation in the House amid bitter finger-pointing, they now face a new one, Oct. 31, to make gains on Biden's big plans. The \$3.5 trillion package is being chiseled back to around \$2 trillion and final approval of the Senate-passed \$1 trillion public works bill is on hold, for now.

Attention remains squarely focused on two key holdouts, Sens. Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema, who along with a small band of conservative House Democrats are the linchpins to any deal.

Biden is expected to be in touch as the senators return Monday to Washington. Pelosi has been in conversations with both West Virginia's Manchin and Arizona's Sinema.

"The president wants both bills and he expects to get both bills,"



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

The Capitol is seen at dawn in Washington, on Sept. 27.

Biden adviser Cedric Richmond said on "Fox News Sunday." "We're going to continue to work on both."

The inability to win over Manchin and Sinema to support Biden's broader vision contributed to the collapse last week of a promised House vote on their preferred \$1 trillion public works bill, which they had negotiated with Biden.

Tempers flared and accusations flew over who was to blame. Progressives lashed out at the two senators for holding up Biden's big agenda; the centrists blamed

Pelosi for renegeing on the promised vote; and progressives were both celebrated and scolded for playing hardball, withholding their votes on the public works bill to force a broader agreement.

Ultimately Biden arrived on Capitol Hill late Friday afternoon to deliver a tough-love message to all of them — telling centrists they would not get their vote on the bipartisan deal he helped broker until the progressives had a commitment on the broader package and warning progressives the big bill's price tag would likely come down to around \$2 trillion.

Soviet sub heads to scrap yard as it slowly decays

By JOHN WILKENS
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — For 15 years, visitors to the Maritime Museum on San Diego's downtown waterfront could climb aboard a retired Soviet attack submarine known as B-39 and learn about the hidden world of undersea warfare.

Now the sub is destined for a place where it will disappear for all time — the scrap yard.

The outer skin of the 1970s-era Foxtrot-class vessel has been deteriorating for some time, its once sleek black profile disfigured by holes, rust and orange protective netting. Salt water and the occasional severe storm have not been kind.

Museum officials said the sub is not as bad as it looks — that the pressure hull remains stable, making B-39 as seaworthy as it was when it debuted at the Embarcadero in 2005.

"But that doesn't make its condition cosmetically acceptable in so prominent a location," said Raymond Ashley, president and CEO of the museum.

It detracts, he added, from the beauty of the other ships in the museum's collection. They include the iron-hulled sailing ship Star of India, the steam ferry Berkeley, the replica frigate HMS Surprise, and another submarine, the USS Dolphin.

So B-39, closed to the public since the coronavirus pandemic started more than a year ago, is headed to Ensenada, where it will be scrapped and recycled, Ashley said. The museum is awaiting approval from the U.S. Coast Guard for a towing permit.

Although it was never the most celebrated of the museum's holdings, the 300-foot-long sub proved popular with tourists — so popular that what had been planned initially as a two-year stay in San Diego got extended indefinitely.



NELVIN C. CEPEDA, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

The B-39, a former Soviet attack submarine, went on display at the Maritime Museum of San Diego in 2005. Now it's headed for the scrap yard.

Visitors immersed themselves in "To the Brink of War," a dramatic exhibit based on events during the October 1962 Cuban missile crisis, when other Foxtrot submarines armed with nuclear-tipped torpedoes got into a nifty cat-and-mouse game with U.S. Navy ships lobbying practice depth charges.

B-39 also had its moment in the Hollywood sun. In 2013, it was used to film large chunks of "Phantom," a box-office dud starring Ed Harris and David Duchovny.

Launched in 1967, the diesel-electric powered sub spent about 20 years in the Silent Service while assigned to the Soviet Pacific fleet and based in Vladivostok. It carried 78 crew members, 24 torpedoes, and could dive to 985 feet. The museum's website describes it as "low-tech but lethal."

After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, various pieces of military hardware wound up in private hands. B-39 was sold in the mid-1990s to a Canadian consortium, which brought it to Vancouver with plans to put it on display. It went from there to Seattle and then to San Diego, towed here on a 7-knot journey that took eight days.

Ex-Facebook manager alleges social network fed Jan. 6 Capitol riot

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A data scientist who was revealed Sunday as the Facebook whistleblower says that whenever there was a conflict between the public good and what benefited the company, the social media giant would choose its own interests.

Frances Haugen was identified in a "60 Minutes" interview Sunday as the woman who anonymously filed complaints with federal law enforcement that the company's own research shows how it magnifies hate and misinformation.

Haugen, who worked at Google and Pinterest before joining Facebook in 2019, said she had asked to work in an area of the company that fights misinformation, since she lost a friend to online conspiracy theories.

"Facebook, over and over again, has shown it chooses profit over safety," she said. Haugen, who will testify before Congress this week, said she hopes that by coming forward the government will put regulations in place to govern the company's activities.

She said Facebook prematurely turned off safeguards designed to thwart misinformation and rabble rousing after Joe Biden defeated

Donald Trump in the presidential election last year, alleging that contributed to the deadly Jan. 6 invasion of the U.S. Capitol.

Post-election, the company dissolved a unit on civic integrity where she had been working, which Haugen said was the moment she realized "I don't trust that they're willing to actually invest what needs to be invested to keep Facebook from being dangerous."

At issue are algorithms that govern what shows up on users' news feeds, and how they favor hateful content. Haugen said a 2018 change to the content flow contributed to more divisiveness and ill will in a network ostensibly created to bring people closer together.

Despite the enmity that the new algorithms were feeding, Facebook found that they helped keep people coming back — a pattern that helped the Menlo Park, Calif., social media giant sell more of the digital ads that generate most of its advertising.

Facebook's annual revenue has more than doubled from \$56 billion in 2018 to a projected \$119 billion this year, based on the estimates of analysts surveyed by FactSet.

NATION

2 win Nobel Prize, show how we react to heat and touch

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM—Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for their discoveries into how the human body perceives temperature and touch, revelations that could lead to new ways of treating pain or even heart disease.

Americans David Julius and Ardem Patapoutian identified receptors in the skin that respond to heat and pressure. Their work is focused on the field of somatosensation, which explores the ability of specialized organs such as eyes, ears and skin to see, hear and feel.

“This really unlocks one of the secrets of nature,” said Thomas Perlmann, secretary-general of the Nobel Committee, in announcing the winners. “It’s actually something that is crucial for our survival, so it’s a very important and profound discovery.”

The committee said Julius, who was born in New York and now works at the University of California at San Francisco, used capsaicin, the active component in chili peppers, to identify the nerve sensors that allow the skin to respond to heat.

Patapoutian, who was born in Lebanon and now works at Scripps Research Institute at La Jolla, Calif., found separate pressure-sensitive sensors in cells that respond to mechanical stimulation, it said.

“In our daily lives we take these sensations (of temperature and touch) for granted, but how are nerve impulses initiated so that temperature and pressure can be perceived?” the committee wrote in the announcement. “This question has been solved by this year’s Nobel Prize Laureates.”

Perlmann said he managed to get hold of both of the winners —



Jessica Gow, TT/AP

Nobel Committee member Patrik Ernfors, right, explains the 2021 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine during a press conference at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm on Monday.

who shared the prestigious Kavli Award for Neuroscience last year — before Monday’s announcement.

“I ... only had a few minutes to talk to them, but they were incredibly happy,” he said. “And as far as

I could tell they were very surprised and a little bit shocked, maybe.”

The prestigious award comes with a gold medal and over \$1.14 million. The prize money comes from a bequest left by the prize’s

creator, Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel, who died in 1895.

The prize is the first to be awarded this year. The other prizes are for outstanding work in the fields of physics, chemistry, literature, peace and economics.

Supreme Court justices back on bench for new term

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has begun a momentous new term, back in the courtroom after a nearly 19-month absence because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Abortion, guns and religion all are on the agenda for a court with a rightward tilt, including three justices appointed by former President Donald Trump.

Eight of the nine justices took the bench at 10 a.m. EDT Monday for the first arguments of the new term. Justice Brett Kavanaugh is participating remotely from his home after testing positive for CO-

VID-19 late last week. Kavanaugh, who was vaccinated in January, is showing no symptoms, the court said. All the other justices also have been vaccinated.

In two cases announced early Monday, the court said it would not get involved in a lawsuit over a disputed Pentagon cloud computing contract, a decision that follows the contract’s cancellation earlier this year.

The case was one of hundreds the high court said it wouldn’t hear Monday.

The Pentagon in July announced it was canceling its contract with Microsoft for the Joint Enterprise

Defense Infrastructure Cloud computing project. At the time, it said it would instead pursue a deal with both Microsoft and Amazon and possibly other cloud service providers.

The Biden administration had told the high court that the case was moot.

The court also affirmed a lower court ruling that said District of Columbia residents are not entitled to voting representation in the House of Representatives.

Residents had asked the high court to hear the issue. The court’s four-sentence order cited a case from 2000 in which the justices said

the same thing.

With a nod to the persistence of the virus, the court remains closed to the public. The court’s hallways, normally bustling on mornings when the court is in session, were eerily quiet. A portrait of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who died just over a year ago, hangs in a main corridor, directly across from her friend and colleague who died in 2016, Justice Antonin Scalia. As visitors enter the building from its north side, Ginsburg’s portrait is on the left, Scalia’s on the right — in death as in life.

Only lawyers involved in the cases and reporters who regularly

cover the court are on hand, and anyone not arguing has to wear a mask. The court is also requiring negative COVID-19 tests from lawyers and reporters who want to be in the courtroom.

Lawyers who test positive will be able to present their arguments via telephone, the court said. That’s the way lawyers had been arguing before the court because of the pandemic.

The public can listen live to the proceedings, another change made during the pandemic, but Monday is the first time live audio of courtroom proceedings is available, via a link on the court’s website.

Alaska’s vanishing salmon push Yukon River tribes to brink

Associated Press

STEVENS VILLAGE, Alaska — In a normal year, the smokehouses and drying racks that Alaska Natives use to prepare salmon to tide them through the winter would be heavy with fish meat, the fruits of a summer spent fishing on the Yukon River like generations before them.

This year, there are no fish. For the first time in memory, both king and chum salmon have dwindled to almost nothing and the state has banned salmon fishing on the Yukon, even the subsistence harvests that Alaska Natives rely on to fill their freezers and pantries for win-

ter. The remote communities that dot the river and live off its bounty — far from road systems and easy, affordable shopping — are desperate and doubling down on moose and caribou hunts in the waning days of fall.

“Nobody has fish in their freezer right now. Nobody,” said Giovanna Stevens, 38, a member of the Stevens Village tribe who grew up harvesting salmon at her family’s fish camp. “We have to fill that void quickly before winter gets here.”

Opinions on what led to the catastrophe vary, but those studying it generally agree human-caused

climate change is playing a role as the river and the Bering Sea warm, altering the food chain in ways that aren’t yet fully understood. Many believe commercial trawling operations that scoop up wild salmon along with their intended catch, as well as competition from hatchery-raised salmon in the ocean, have compounded global warming’s effects on one of North America’s longest rivers.

The assumption that salmon which aren’t fished make it back to their native river to lay eggs may no longer hold up because of changes in both the ocean and river environments, said Stephanie

Quinn-Davidson, who has worked on Yukon River salmon issues for a decade and is the Alaska Venture Fund’s program director for fisheries and communities.

King, or chinook, salmon have been in decline for more than a decade, but chum salmon were more plentiful until last year. This year, summer chum numbers plummeted and numbers of fall chum — which travel farther upriver — are dangerously low.

“Everyone wants to know, ‘What is the one smoking gun? What is the one thing we can point to and stop?’ ” Quinn-Davidson said of the collapse. “People are reluctant to

point to climate change because there isn’t a clear solution ... but it’s probably the biggest factor here.”

Many Alaska Native communities are outraged they are paying the price for generations of practices beyond their control that have caused climate change — and many feel state and federal authorities aren’t doing enough to bring Indigenous voices to the table. The scarcity has made raw strong emotions about who should have the right to fish in a state that supplies the world with salmon, and underscores the powerlessness many Alaska Natives feel as traditional resources dwindle.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

New landmark recognizes Chinese contributions

CA YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — A century-old building originally used as a laundry by Chinese workers at Yosemite's iconic Wawona Hotel has been restored and turned into a visitor's attraction, recognizing Chinese Americans' contributions to the early history of the national park.

Officials unveiled a new sign Friday marking the Chinese Laundry Building in Yosemite Valley, the Fresno Bee reported. New exhibits inside tell the story of Chinese workers who helped build Tioga Road and Wawona Road, critical infrastructure that made tourism to the park possible.

The building — later used as a storage facility — is part of a cluster of structures that will make up the new Yosemite History Center, which will tell the histories of immigrants who made the park what it is today, said Park Ranger Adam Ramsey.

According to research conducted by Park Ranger Yen-Yen Chan, Chinese workers helped build the 56-mile Tioga Road in just 130 days in 1883. The stunning route across the Sierra Nevada reaches 10,000 feet in elevation and serves as one of the park's main roads.

Over 175 bronze vases stolen from cemeteries

LA LAKE CHARLES — At least one person has been arrested after more than 175 bronze vases were stolen off graves in two southwest Louisiana cemeteries.

More than 100 vases were stolen from Consolata Cemetery in Lake Charles and, next door, nearly 70 vases were taken from Prien Memorial Park.

At least one arrest has been made in connection with the investigation: Kenneth Stillson, 36, of Ragley. He faces several charges including aggravated assault with a motor vehicle, desecration of graves, obstruction of justice, aggravated flight from an officer and illegal possession of stolen things. He was being held without bond at the Calcasieu Parish Jail.

All 112 vases stolen from Consolata Cemetery have been recovered, and 34 of the stolen vases from Prien Memorial Park Cemetery have also been recovered, authorities said.

Sheriff looking into stolen and vandalized road signs

ND SOLEN — The Morton County Sheriff's Office is seeking information about the vandalism and theft of road signs in south-central North Dakota, near the South Dakota border.

The Bismarck Tribune reported road crews on Thursday found that about 15 signs at intersections on a 6-mile stretch north of Solen had been run over or stolen.

Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier said



JACQUELINE DORMER, REPUBLICAN-HERALD/AP

Having a gourd time

Elizabeth Niedzwiecki, of Minersville, Pa., helps Ryker Snyder, 1, paint a pumpkin during the Frackville Pumpkin Festival in Frackville, Pa., on Saturday.

THE CENSUS

40 The number of years in jail each of the two men who admitted to the fatal shooting of an armored truck guard at a New Orleans bank in 2013 have received. U.S. District Judge Lance Africk sentenced Chukwudi Ofofata, 34, and Lilbear George, 31, on Wednesday. Both men pleaded guilty in May to the killing of Hector Trochez, 45, The Times Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate reported. Prosecutors alleged the guard was killed in a shootout with Ofofata, George and Curtis Johnson Jr. outside a branch of Chase Bank. A jury deadlocked in Johnson's trial in July, and his retrial is scheduled for November.

replacement of each sign costs about \$250, and the vandalism also "causes a significant risk for motorists relying on those signs."

Anyone who has seen suspicious activity or noticed vehicles with damage or paint transfer is asked to contact the sheriff's office.

Oldest living American celebrates 115th birthday

NE OMAHA — A Nebraska woman who is believed by many to be the oldest living American has celebrated her 115th birthday.

The Omaha World-Herald reported that Thelma Sutcliffe marked her birthday quietly at the facility where she lives in Omaha.

Sutcliffe was born Oct. 1, 1906, in Benson, Neb. (now part of Omaha). Her parents owned a farm. At age 17, she married Bill Sutcliffe, who worked for the Postal Service. He died in the early 1970s.

The Gerontology Research Group said Sutcliffe became the nation's oldest living person on April 17 when Hester Ford died in North Carolina at age 115. The oldest person in the world is believed to be 118-year-old Kane Tanaka of Japan, who was born Jan. 2, 1903.

County gets new sheriff after ex-sheriff ousted

WA KENNEWICK — A former sheriff's supervisor who left the Benton

County Sheriff's Office over "horrible working conditions" created by his embattled boss is the new sheriff.

Tom Croskrey was temporarily in charge of the agency in fall 2019 when then-Sheriff Jerry Hatcher took a leave of absence because of domestic violence and witness tampering allegations related to his divorce, The Tri-City Herald reported.

Croskrey was unanimously appointed Tuesday by Benton County commissioners. The appointment comes two months after Hatcher was recalled with 74% of the vote.

Hatcher faced recall when an employee accused Hatcher of intimidating witnesses and public servants in investigations, retal-

iating against them, tampering with physical evidence and violating his oath of office.

Man dies after falling off top of NYC subway train

NY NEW YORK — A man who was riding atop a subway train as it crossed the Williamsburg Bridge in New York City was killed early Saturday when he fell off and was run over by the train, city police said.

The 35-year-old man was "surfing" on top of a J train heading into Manhattan when he lost his balance and fell onto the tracks at about 4:30 a.m., police said.

Witnesses reporting seeing the man "falling from the train and getting run over," a police spokesperson said.

The man was pronounced dead at the scene. His name was withheld pending notification of relatives, officials said.

Subway service over the bridge was suspended for about two hours after the incident.

Semi crash spills liquid manure, injures driver

WI MADISON — Authorities said about 5,500 gallons of liquid manure spilled after a semi-tractor overturned in Decatur, injuring the driver.

The Wisconsin State Journal reported deputies from the Green County Sheriff's Office responded to the crash at about 12:44 p.m. Friday.

Authorities said Jeffrey M. Brewer, of Evansville, was driving a semi-tractor hauling the fertilizer and failed to negotiate a curve. The semi-tractor went off the road and into a ditch where it overturned.

Authorities said the driver suffered minor injuries.

State upping child care aid rates for providers

TN NASHVILLE — Tennessee officials said they are increasing the reimbursement rate the state pays child care providers on behalf of families who need help shouldering the cost of care.

The Tennessee Department of Human Services said child care payment assistance rates will increase by 10% across all categories of care in the Child Care Certificate Program beginning Friday.

Families must be enrolled and meet the income and work or education requirements of the program. State officials said the rate increase will help many families save on child care tuition by reducing their share of the overall cost.

On the same day, the state will start providing 15% rate bonuses to child care agencies who care for children with disabilities or special needs.

WORLD

Blaze damages historic bridge spanning Tiber River in Rome



MAURO SCROBIGNA, L'ESPRESSO/AP

People look at flames engulfing the Industry Bridge in Rome, early Sunday. No one was injured in the fire, Italian state TV said.

Associated Press
 ROME — A blaze, possibly sparked by a gas canister explosion, destroyed part of a historic bridge spanning the Tiber River in Rome before firefighters extinguished the flames early Sunday.

Firefighters said the fire erupted before midnight Saturday near the Ostiense neighborhood, and they had completed their work by 4 a.m. Sunday.

No one was injured in the fire that involved the Industry Bridge, but three nightclubs near the riv-

erside neighborhood popular with young people were evacuated as a precaution, Italian state TV said.

The blaze appeared to have started in an area of shacks occupied by homeless people on the river banks near Industry Bridge before spreading to the span itself. State radio said authorities believe the fire might have been started by an explosion of a cooking gas canister by one of the homeless people.

A section of the bridge's outer pedestrian walkway and stretch under the roadbed carrying utility

lines broke off and fell into the Tiber. State radio noted that another fire several years ago had also involved the shacks.

Firefighters said in a tweet that the bridge is currently too dangerous to be used. They also banned any navigation under it until the span can be repaired.

Pope Pius IX attended the 1863 inauguration of the bridge, one of the last major construction works in Rome in the waning years of the papal state controlling the city, which would soon become the cap-

ital of unified Italy.

Dubbed by Romans the "Iron Bridge," the span originally

served as a railway bridge. It was later outfitted to instead serve cars and foot traffic.

Plane crashes into building near Milan, killing all 8 people aboard

Associated Press
 ROME — A small, single-engine plane carrying six passengers and two crew crashed Sunday into a vacant two-story office building in a Milan suburb, and authorities said all eight people aboard died.

Investigators opened a probe into what caused the private plane to crash shortly after takeoff from Milan's Linate Airport en route to Olbia

Airport on the Italian island of Sardinia. A thick column of dark smoke rose from the crash site and was visible for kilometers. Several parked cars nearby went up in flames.

Firefighters tweeted that no one else but those on board were hurt in the early afternoon crash near a subway station in San Donato Milanese, a small town near Milan.

Milan Prosecutor Tiziana Sicilia-

no told reporters at the scene that the plane was proceeding on its flight until "a certain point, then an anomaly appeared on the radar screen and it plunged," striking the building's roof.

Control tower officials reported the anomaly, she said, but further details on that weren't immediately given.

The prosecutor said the plane

didn't send out any alarm. It was too early to cite any possible cause for the crash, Siciliano said, adding that the flight recorder has been retrieved.

By early evening, only two of the eight dead had been identified, since they carried documents on them, Siciliano said. Those aboard were "all foreigners," she said, including the pilot, who was Roma-

nian. The aircraft was registered in Romania, the prosecutor said. Later, the Romanian Foreign Ministry said two Romanians with dual citizenship were among the dead.

Italian news reports said the 30-year-old pilot also had German citizenship. A second victim was a Romanian woman in her 60s who also held French citizenship, the reports said.

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WORLD

Japan's parliament elects ex-diplomat Kishida as new PM

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's parliament on Monday elected Fumio Kishida, a former moderate turned hawk, as prime minister. He'll face an economy battered by the pandemic, security threats from China and North Korea and leadership of a political party whose popularity is sagging ahead of a fast-approaching crucial national election.

With his party and its coalition partner holding a majority in both houses, Kishida won by a comfortable margin against Yukio Edano, head of the largest opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan. After being sworn in at a ceremony in the royal palace, Kishida was to hold his first news conference as prime minister and

chair his first Cabinet meeting later Monday.

He replaces Yoshihide Suga, who resigned after only one year in office as his support plunged over his government's handling of the pandemic and insistence on holding the Tokyo Olympics as the virus spread.

Kishida is expected to make a policy speech in parliament on Friday but is looking to dissolve the lower house to hold elections on Oct. 31, Japanese media reported. Observers see the early date as a move to take advantage of his government's fresh image to rally support.

Jun Azumi, senior Constitutional Democratic Party lawmaker, criticized Kishida over his plan to dissolve the house in just over a week. "It's like a delicatessen that



Kyodo News/AP

TV sets show a live footage of Fumio Kishida as he is named as Japan's new prime minister, at an electric store in Fukuoka, southern Japan, on Monday.

forces customers to buy without a chance to try samples."

A former foreign minister, Kishida, 64, used to be known as a moderate but turned hawkish on security and more conservative on gender equality and other issues, apparently to show loyalty to influential conservatives in the Liberal Democratic Party and win their support. He is firmly entrenched in the conservative establishment, and his victory in last week's vote to replace Suga as the

party's leader was a choice for continuity and stability over change.

Kishida replaced all but two of Suga's 20 Cabinet members and 13 will hold ministerial posts for the first time, according to the lineup announced by new Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno. Most of the posts went to powerful factions that voted for Kishida in the party election. Only three women are included, up from two in Suga's government.

Russia tests hypersonic missile from submarine

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A prospective Russian hypersonic missile has been successfully test-fired from a nuclear submarine for the first time, the military said Monday.

The Russian Defense Ministry said that the Severodvinsk submarine performed two launches of the Zircon cruise missile at mock targets in the Barents Sea.

It first test-fired Zircon from the surface, and then launched another missile from a submerged position in the White Sea. The launch marked Zircon's first launch from a submarine. It previously has been test-fired from a navy frigate, most recently in July.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Zircon would be capable of flying at nine times the speed of sound and have a range of 620 miles. Officials said Zircon will be commissioned by the Russian navy in 2022.

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PATTI PERRET, AMAZON STUDIOS/TNS

Amazon Prime's "Welcome to the Blumhouse" anthology of horror films includes "Black as Night," about teens battling vampires.

'Welcome to the Blumhouse'

Horror mega-producer Jason Blum aims to highlight 'underrepresented' filmmakers through streamed series

BY JAMI GANZ

New York Daily News

Jason Blum is at the top of the horror hierarchy, but he doesn't want to put the same scares — or filmmakers — in front of audiences time after time.

The second installment of Amazon Prime's "Welcome to the Blumhouse" anthology of fright films, which hit the streamer Oct. 1, is the mega-producer's answer to that.

"There are a lot of scripts that we see on the movie side of the company that are movies that should get made. They aren't necessarily right for Universal but they should be made, and this would give me a way to make them," said Blum, the Blumhouse Productions CEO and founder, of the collection's origins, which he credits to Amazon Studios Chief Jen Salke.

Blum — a three-time Academy Award nominee for producing Best Picture noms "Whiplash," "Get Out" and "BlacKkKlansman" — and Salke quickly decided they would "choose all the filmmakers from underrepresented groups of people."

"Welcome to the Blumhouse" debuted in 2020 with four films, including "The Killing" creator Veena Sud's "The Lie," starring Joey King, and "Black Box," starring Phylicia Rashad.

Premiering Oct. 1 were Gigi Saul Guerrero's "Bingo Hell," about

a senior citizen trying to protect her community from the deadly force that's overtaken the local bingo hall; and Maritte Lee Go's "Black as Night," about teens battling vampires in New Orleans.

This Friday will usher in Ryan Zaragoza's "Madres," about a Mexican American couple who, in the 1970s, move to a California migrant farming community where they contend with bizarre symptoms and unsettling visions while awaiting the birth of their first child; and Axelle Carolyn's "The Manor," starring Barbara Hershey as a woman who believes a supernatural force is killing her fellow nursing home residents.

Sending these movies straight to streaming, the "Paranormal Activity" producer explained, enables filmmakers to be "more free creatively" than they would be with a theatrical release, which forces them to "work within pretty narrow parameters."

"It's really hard to play with tone. It's very hard to sell a horror comedy theatrically, but on streaming, they work great. So like Gigi's movie, 'Bingo Hell,' like that tone is so broad and crazy," said Blum. "It's very, very hard to sell that in a 15- or 30-second spot and get and get, you know, 2 million people to show up. But on streaming, you can do it. And these movies can be discovered over time."

For Blum, "The key to a good horror story is obviously [that] it's got to be super scary, intense and thrilling" and, ideally, "It has to feel original.

"A lot of horror movies that you see just really feel like they've been done before," said Blum. "And I don't want to pretend, you know, we've made some of those too. I wish we hadn't, you know; you can't get it right all the time. But our goal is to make scary movies to feel different and original and like no one's ever seen before, and I certainly think these four movies fit that goal."

'Venom 2' sets another pandemic box office record

BY CHRISTI CARRAS

Los Angeles Times

"Venom: Let There Be Carnage" — the highly anticipated sequel to Marvel and Sony Pictures' irreverent antihero origin story — devoured its prey at the North American box office this weekend, debuting at \$90.1 million, according to estimates from measurement firm Comscore.

In addition to outperforming other new releases, the edgy film about the relationship between a troubled journalist and his parasitic alien symbiote (both played by Tom Hardy) also beat the pandemic-era three-day opening weekend record previously set by fellow Marvel blockbuster "Black Widow," which opened domestically at \$80 million in July.

The extra box office revenue "Black Widow" likely forfeited due to its simultaneous release on Disney+ later became the subject of a lawsuit brought by star/executive producer Scarlett Johansson against Disney, which was settled last week. By contrast, "Let There Be Carnage" debuted in theaters only, as will the rest of Sony's fall slate.

"The exclusivity in theaters just can't go unnoticed because that is really a pillar of our strategy in terms of this big IP [intellectual property]," said Sanford Panitch, president of Sony Pictures Entertainment Motion Picture Group. "They're made for theaters, and it's just so great to see the audience being willing to come out to enjoy it."

The second installment in the "Venom" franchise also surpassed its predecessor's massive debut haul of \$80 million, which set an October opening weekend record at the domestic box office in 2018.

Overseas, the long-delayed James Bond entry "No Time to Die" is on track for an impressive international opening of \$119.1 million, becoming the first film since the COVID-19 crisis to launch at more than \$100 million abroad without playing in China.

"The Addams Family 2" secured second place this weekend at the North American box office, collecting \$18 million.

In third, "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings" took in \$6 million this weekend for a North American cumulative total of \$206.1 million.

What does Couric think about Lauer? It's complicated

BY CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA

Los Angeles Times

Katie Couric is sharing her thoughts about former "Today" co-host Matt Lauer. And, well, it's complicated.

The two journalists co-anchored the morning show — no, not "The Morning Show," no matter the resonance in story lines — from 1997 to 2006. In her upcoming memoir, "Going There," she writes about what she knew, when she knew it and how long it took her to process what happened when he was fired abruptly in November 2017 amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Couric said she texted Lauer after hearing the news.

"I am crushed. I love you and care about you deeply. I am here. Please let me know if you want to talk. There will be better days ahead," she wrote, according to the Daily Mail, which obtained a galley of the book, due out Oct. 26. Lauer responded with a blowing-kisses emoji, according to Couric.

She said it felt "heartless to abandon him, someone who'd been by my side, literally, for so many years."

But she also said she had heard "the whispers" about Lauer's dalliances.

She mentioned a phone call from his wife to the control room seeking the phone number of a woman he was allegedly having

sex with, and a wayward email mistakenly sent to a "Today" producer suggesting she "spread butter on her thighs" and "wear that skirt that came off so easily." Turns out the producer had the same last name as a production assistant Lauer was having an affair with.

Couric said her former co-anchor "ultimately turned out to be two very different people, in terms of my relationship with him versus some of the other things that were going on." She also noted that the culture was different when they were working together, writing, "The general rule at that time was: it's none of your business."

In 2018, Couric told People magazine that the Lauer situation had "been very painful" for her.

"The accounts I've read and heard have been disturbing, distressing and disorienting and it's completely unacceptable that any woman at the 'Today' show experienced this kind of treatment," she said. "I had no idea this was going on during my tenure or after I left."

Lauer was later accused of an offense far worse than having an affair: In Ronan Farrow's book "Catch and Kill," former NBC News staffer Brooke Nevils described being raped by Lauer during the 2014 Sochi Olympics.

In a Mediaite essay, Lauer dis-

puted that description of events.

"At no time did Brooke Nevils ever use the words 'assault' or 'rape' in regards to any accusation against me while filing her complaint with NBC in November of 2017," he wrote. "That has been confirmed publicly."

He then criticized Farrow's work, saying the writer "was hardly an unbiased journalist when it came to anything to do with NBC," which had canceled Farrow's show and reportedly spiked a story about Harvey Weinstein, which was later taken to the New Yorker.

Lauer was once the highest-paid anchor in morning TV, making \$25 million a year.

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Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com

Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com

Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavin.erik@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)(202)886-0033

Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast

David Schultz, District Manager
schultz.david@stripes.com
xsscirculation@stripes.com
+49(0)152.5672.5036; DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
memberservices@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090; DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

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Warning: Jan. 6 was not a one-time event

By DOYLE McMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Nine months ago, when followers of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol to halt the election of Joe Biden, the insurrection appeared to be the work of an extremist fringe led by right-wing militias and pro-Trump zealots.

But election denialism, the movement that spawned the uprising, has turned out to be much larger, more durable and every bit as worrisome as the violence of Jan. 6.

Stoked relentlessly by Trump, the belief that Biden stole the election has become a tenet of faith for most Republican voters. In fact, Biden won the election decisively — whether measured by the popular vote (where his margin was a healthy 7 million) or by electoral votes (where he won by the same majority Trump did four years before). It was not a close election.

Since Election Day, more evidence has proved that Trump's claims of fraud are groundless. The former president's lawyers filed 65 lawsuits to challenge the results and lost 64. (The single win wasn't about fraud; it was a suit to stop Pennsylvania from letting voters correct errors on mail-in ballots.)

Last month, a shambolic GOP "audit" of votes in Arizona's largest county found that Biden actually won more votes than had initially been counted.

None of that has stopped Trump from continuing to proclaim his spurious gospel of fraud.

"We won on the Arizona forensic audit yesterday at a level that you wouldn't believe," he told supporters in Georgia. "[Biden] didn't win in Arizona; he lost."

Biden won Arizona by more than 10,000 votes.

Unfortunately, the former president's

disinformation campaign is succeeding — at least among the voters and donors he will need if he runs again. And it's making violence around future elections more likely.

A CNN poll last month found that 78% of Republicans say Biden lost the election. Almost 6 in 10 said "believing that Donald Trump won the 2020 election" is an important part of being Republican — right up there with low taxes and limited government.

Another survey, the Economist/YouGov poll, found that election denialism has been growing. In January, only 33% of Republicans said Biden won the presidency "legitimately"; last month, it was down to 26%.

It's tempting to consider this merely more evidence of what psychologists call "motivated reasoning," the tendency to believe only those facts (in this case, imaginary facts) that conform with your partisan views. But it's more dangerous than that. It means a Jan. 6-style insurrection could happen again.

"About 65 million Americans believe that Joe Biden stole the election and is an illegitimate president," Robert A. Pape, a terrorism expert at the University of Chicago, told me last week. "That's a lot of people."

Of those 65 million, he added, about 21 million believe violence is justified to restore Trump to the presidency, based on polling conducted by Pape's Chicago Project on Security and Threats. That number, he said, "is the pool of potential recruits" for a future insurrection.

"We know that only a small fraction of people who say they are willing to engage in violence will ultimately do so," he added. "So the size of the pool is important."

"Think about this as if it were a wildfire. Wildfires are often set off by lightning

strikes, but there will always be lightning. The important question is how much dry wood is on the ground when it strikes. The tinder is more important than the match."

In other words, the growing pool of election denialists is like a thickening layer of dry wood on a forest floor.

One more finding from Pape's research: Most of the rioters arrested after the Jan. 6 insurrection aren't militia members or marginal cranks.

"More than half are business owners, executives or white-collar professionals — doctors, lawyers, accountants," he said. "Only 14% are members of militia groups, which means almost 90% are not. This is more a mainstream set of people than a fringe."

If Republicans lose any close congressional elections in 2022, or if Trump or any other GOP candidate loses the presidential race in 2024, a large pool of voters is primed to believe the only explanation must be fraud — and some are willing to resort to violence to reverse the result.

Americans once saw Election Day as an occasion that bound the nation together, the culmination of a peaceful competition that ended with a graceful concession speech from the loser — an essential declaration of faith in the democratic system.

Trump still hasn't conceded the 2020 race.

Thanks to him and his abettors, our next few elections will be dangerous opportunities for turmoil, instability — even, perhaps, another insurrection. It may not come in the same shape as Jan. 6; the Capitol Police may be better prepared next time. But Trump's disinformation campaign isn't a victimless crime. It has already made post-election violence more likely.

Doyle McManus is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

R. Kelly was not a casualty of racism. His victims were.

By SOLOMON JONES

The Philadelphia Inquirer

When jurors in New York found R. Kelly guilty of federal racketeering and sex trafficking charges, the verdict not only laid bare Kelly's own perversion, it also revealed much about our society.

For decades, the 54-year-old Kelly had faced allegations that he was a child molester. He was tried in 2008 on child pornography charges, but with his acquittal in that case, the sense that he was untouchable seemed to only be magnified. Kelly, after all, was a celebrity, and not even the existence of videos chronicling his sexual abuse of underaged girls could convince America of his guilt. Instead of condemning his predatory actions, we praised Kelly's singular talent as a songwriter and performer and excused the behavior that was right before our eyes. Some even blamed the victims for placing themselves in Kelly's orbit.

The victims. That's who this was always about — and our failure to recognize what was happening was tied up in their identities. The vast majority of Kelly's accusers were young Black girls, and as such, their credibility was always in question. Their value was never affirmed. Their virtue was never protected, because in a society where racism and misogyny so often intersect, Black women

and girls seldom receive sympathy — and that's why it took so long for Kelly to be convicted of his crimes.

If Kelly's victims were white women, there would have likely been a much different reaction to those earlier accusations. The authorities, the media and society as a whole would have moved heaven and Earth to take a measure of justice. That's because the stories of white women who are victims of crime take priority over cases involving nearly every other demographic in America — a media fixation so pronounced that it has a name: Missing White Woman Syndrome. For proof look no further than the latest example — the case of Gabby Petito.

Petito was blonde and attractive — a travel blogger who used YouTube and Instagram to document her trips, including her latest cross-country jaunt with her fiancé, Brian Laundrie. When Petito disappeared, her story received exhaustive coverage. When her remains were found, the bright lights only intensified, and now, as the authorities search for Laundrie, who is a person of interest in Petito's death, the story has become larger than life. However, when Black women and girls are in danger, their stories are too-often cast aside.

In the case of R. Kelly, Jim DeRogatis, a white music critic, told the sordid tale in a book called "Soulless: The Case Against R.

Kelly." And Black women in media took Kelly's story a step further — the filmmaker Dream Hampton interviewed the women whose accusations eventually brought down the singer for the documentary "Surviving R. Kelly." And shortly after Kelly was charged, Gayle King of CBS News conducted an explosive, prime-time interview in which Kelly denied any wrongdoing.

Still, some in the Black community refused to believe what they were seeing. Scarred by historical precedents of false rape allegations that led to the wrongful convictions of Black men, some viewed the accusations Kelly faced with suspicion.

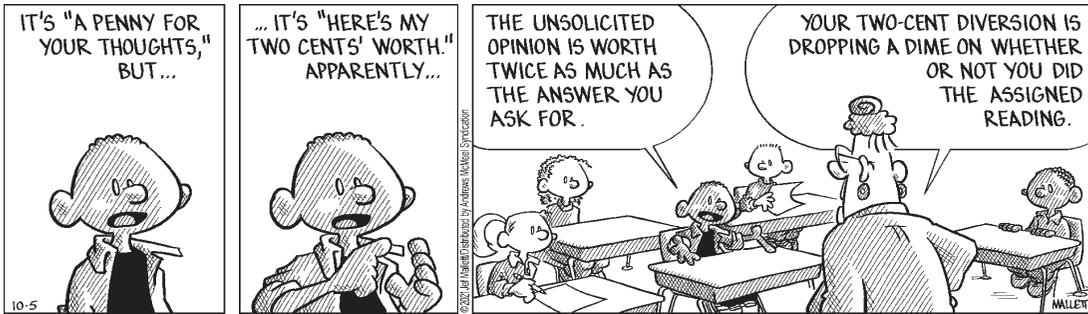
Kelly was not a casualty of racism. His victims were the casualties. Now these Black women must go forward with the scars he left them, and the rest of us must go forward knowing we didn't do enough to protect them.

In the wake of Kelly's conviction, King and Hampton — the two Black women who persisted in telling the R. Kelly story — spoke to one another on "CBS Mornings." Hampton discussed Kelly's conviction with an abiding hope.

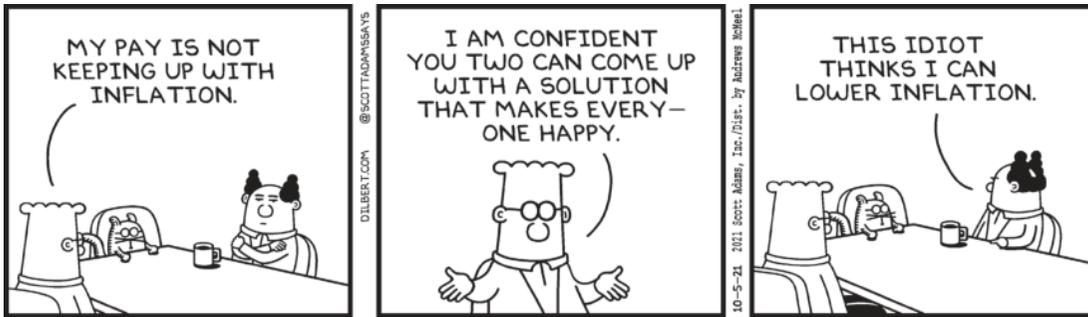
"I want to believe that this means Black women and girls will be heard," she said, "but I don't want it to be dependent on a piece of media going viral."

Solomon Jones is a Philadelphia Inquirer columnist.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
33			34	35					36	37		
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47						48				49		
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

ACROSS

- 1 Cattle group
- 5 ACLU issues
- 8 Merit badge holder
- 12 Done with
- 13 Mouths (Lat.)
- 14 Twice cuatro
- 15 Pedestal
- 16 "Titanic" star Leonardo
- 18 Toronto's province
- 20 Wheat bundle
- 21 Calendar abbr.
- 22 Enjoy Vail
- 23 Rap star West
- 26 Actress Dawson
- 30 Jr.'s son
- 31 Society newcomer
- 32 Glacial
- 33 Rice in a risotto recipe
- 36 Student
- 38 Fix illegally
- 39 Corn core
- 40 Put into law
- 43 "Ta-ta!"
- 47 Casanova
- 49 Boulder
- 50 Spumante source
- 51 Scratch the surface
- 52 And others (Lat.)
- 53 Honey drink

DOWN

- 1 Vagrant
- 2 Author Hunter
- 3 Take it easy
- 4 So-o-o-o attractive
- 5 "The Thinker" sculptor
- 6 Half a sextet
- 7 Pouch
- 8 Legendary Loren
- 9 Land measure
- 10 Actor LaBeouf
- 11 Horseshoe site
- 17 Requests
- 19 Caviar
- 22 Cry
- 23 Sportage maker
- 24 Football filler
- 25 Pen tip
- 26 — Speedwagon
- 27 Shred
- 28 Here, to Henri
- 29 Popeye's Olive
- 31 Use a shovel
- 34 Corsage flower
- 35 Ms. Hayworth
- 36 "Ulalume" writer
- 37 Used a modern car service
- 39 Triad, in music
- 40 Biblical kingdom
- 41 Proboscis
- 42 "— girl!"
- 43 Pisa farewell
- 44 Indian flatbread
- 45 Optimist's credo
- 46 Tex. neighbor
- 48 Apt. divisions

Answer to Previous Puzzle

D	R	A	G		B	A	G		A	J	A	R
R	U	B	Y		A	B	A		R	O	B	E
A	L	U	M		R	U	S	T	B	E	L	T
W	E	T	R	A	G		P	O	O	P	E	D
					A	L	A	I		P	R	E
D	U	S	T	B	I	N	S		S	S	N	S
A	N	I		A	N	D	I	E		C	U	T
N	I	G	H		S	U	S	T	A	I	N	S
					H	E	R		S	T	E	T
I	N	T	A	K	E		E	S	T	E	E	M
C	U	S	T	O	M	E	R		A	L	G	A
A	D	E	E		M	E	L		C	L	A	P
N	E	E	D		A	N	Y		K	E	D	S

10-5

CRYPTOQUIP

QL WTXQJQRE GPVS KPI P
 GMU APSQOX QOEZMITVEMZN
 ZYAPZSR LMZ P RKMB, BMTJI
 KY UY YAVYY IYAWRYN?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC AESOP FABLE ABOUT A YOUNG KID WHO KEPT BARKING LIKE A DOG: "THE BOY WHO CRIED WOOF."
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals J

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 2, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Alabama (53)	5-0	1541	1
2. Georgia (9)	5-0	1497	2
3. Iowa	5-0	1381	5
4. Penn St.	5-0	1360	4
5. Cincinnati	4-0	1320	7
6. Oklahoma	5-0	1248	6
7. Ohio St.	4-1	1094	11
8. Oregon	4-1	1069	3
9. Michigan	5-0	1053	14
10. BYU	5-0	990	13
11. Michigan St.	5-0	852	17
12. Oklahoma St.	5-0	749	19
13. Arkansas	4-1	745	8
14. Notre Dame	4-1	701	9
15. Coastal Carolina	5-0	694	16
16. Kentucky	5-0	662	-
17. Mississippi	3-1	601	12
18. Auburn	4-1	448	22
19. Wake Forest	5-0	412	24
20. Florida	3-2	343	10
21. Texas	4-1	303	-
22. Arizona St.	4-1	297	-
23. NC State	4-1	279	23
24. SMU	5-0	136	-
25. San Diego St.	4-0	111	-

Others receiving votes: Clemson 96, Texas A&M 41, Oregon St. 27, Baylor 24, Mississippi St. 18, Virginia Tech 13, Stanford 11, UTSA 10, Pittsburgh 6, Fresno St. 5, Texas Tech 4, W. Michigan 3, Kansas St. 2, Appalachian St. 2, UCLA 1, Boston College 1.

USA Today Coaches Poll

The USA TODAY Sports AFCA Coaches Poll Top 25 with team's records FROM THROUGH SATURDAY in parentheses, total points based on 25 for first place through one point for 25th, ranking in last year's final poll and first-place votes received.

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (63)	5-0	1623	1
2. Georgia (2)	5-0	1562	2
3. Iowa	5-0	1429	5
4. Penn State	5-0	1397	6
5. Oklahoma	5-0	1380	4
6. Cincinnati	4-0	1358	8
7. Ohio State	4-1	1172	10
8. Michigan	5-0	1125	14
9. Oregon	4-1	1000	3
10. Brigham Young	5-0	968	15
11. Michigan State	5-0	911	16
12. Oklahoma State	5-0	798	18
13. Notre Dame	4-1	777	7
14. Kentucky	5-0	758	23
15. Coastal Carolina	5-0	699	16
16. Arkansas	4-1	652	11
17. Mississippi	3-1	629	12
18. Florida	3-2	464	9

19. Auburn	4-1	463	22
20. Wake Forest	5-0	441	25
21. Clemson	3-2	288	19
22. North Carolina State	4-1	257	NR
23. Texas	4-1	256	NR
24. SMU	5-0	142	NR
25. Arizona State	4-1	141	NR

Dropped out: No. 13 Texas A&M (3-2); No. 20 UCLA (3-2); No. 21 Fresno State (4-2); No. 24 Baylor (4-1).

Others receiving votes: Texas A&M (3-2) 105; San Diego State (4-0) 103; Baylor (4-1) 40; Pittsburgh (4-1) 34; Iowa State (3-2) 27; Oregon State (4-1) 27; Virginia Tech (3-1) 24; Boston College (4-1) 14; Texas-San Antonio (5-0) 13; Appalachian State (4-1) 11; Fresno State (4-2) 8; Liberty (4-1) 7; Mississippi State (3-2) 6; Maryland (4-1) 5; North Carolina (3-2) 5; Texas Tech (4-1) 2; Western Michigan (4-1) 2; Louisiana-Lafayette (4-1) 1; Nevada (3-1) 1.

AP Top 25 Fared

Saturday
 No. 1 Alabama (5-0) beat No. 12 Mississippi 42-21. Next: at No. 15 Texas A&M, Saturday.
 No. 2 Georgia (5-0) beat No. 8 Arkansas 37-0. Next: at No. 22 Auburn, Saturday.
 No. 3 Oregon (4-1) lost to Stanford 31-24, OT. Next: vs. California, Friday, Oct. 15.
 No. 4 Penn St. (5-0) beat Indiana 24-0. Next: at No. 5 Iowa, Saturday.
 No. 5 Iowa (5-0) beat Maryland 51-14, Friday. Next: vs. No. 4 Penn St., Saturday.
 No. 6 Oklahoma (5-0) beat Kansas St. 37-31. Next: at Texas, Saturday.
 No. 7 Cincinnati (4-0) beat No. 9 Notre Dame 24-13. Next: vs. Temple, Friday.
 No. 8 Arkansas (4-1) lost to No. 2 Georgia 37-0. Next: at No. 12 Mississippi, Saturday.
 No. 9 Notre Dame (4-1) lost to No. 7 Cincinnati 24-13. Next: at Virginia Tech, Saturday.
 No. 10 Florida (3-2) lost to Kentucky 20-13. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Saturday.
 No. 11 Ohio St. (4-1) beat Rutgers 52-13. Next: vs. Maryland, Saturday.
 No. 12 Mississippi (3-1) lost to No. 1 Alabama 42-21. Next: vs. No. 8 Arkansas, Saturday.
 No. 13 BYU (5-0) beat Utah St. 34-20, Friday. Next: vs. Boise St., Saturday.
 No. 14 Michigan (5-0) beat Wisconsin 38-17. Next: at Nebraska, Saturday.
 No. 15 Texas A&M (3-2) lost to Mississippi St. 26-22. Next: vs. No. 1 Alabama, Saturday.
 No. 16 Coastal Carolina (5-0) beat Louisiana-Monroe 59-6. Next: at Arkansas St., Thursday.
 No. 17 Michigan St. (5-0) beat W. Kentucky 48-31. Next: at Rutgers, Saturday.
 No. 18 Fresno St. (4-2) lost to Hawaii 27-24. Next: at Wyoming, Saturday, Oct. 16.
 No. 19 Oklahoma St. (5-0) beat No. 21 Baylor 24-14. Next: at Texas, Saturday, Oct. 16.
 No. 20 UCLA (3-2) lost to Arizona St. 42-23. Next: at Arizona, Saturday.
 No. 21 Baylor (4-1) lost to No. 19 Oklahoma St. 24-14. Next: vs. West Virginia, Saturday.
 No. 22 Auburn (4-1) beat LSU 24-19. Next: vs. No. 2 Georgia, Saturday.
 No. 23 NC State (4-1) beat Louisiana Tech 34-27. Next: at Boston College, Saturday, Oct. 16.
 No. 24 Wake Forest (5-0) beat Louisville 37-34. Next: at Syracuse, Saturday.
 No. 25 Clemson (3-2) beat Boston College 19-13. Next: at Syracuse, Friday, Oct. 15.

PRO SOCCER

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	20	4	5	65	57	34
Nashville	11	3	14	47	46	26
Philadelphia	11	7	9	42	36	26
Orlando City	11	8	9	42	41	41
D.C. United	12	12	4	40	49	41
NYFC	11	10	7	40	44	32
CF Montréal	11	10	7	40	40	37
Atlanta	10	9	9	39	37	33
New York	9	11	7	34	33	30
Columbus	9	12	7	34	32	39
Inter Miami CF	9	13	5	32	25	42
Chicago	7	16	6	27	29	46
Toronto FC	6	15	7	25	34	54
Cincinnati	4	15	8	20	28	52

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	16	5	6	54	44	22
Sporting KC	15	6	7	52	51	31
Colorado	13	5	9	48	38	27
Portland	14	10	4	46	45	44
Real Salt Lake	11	11	6	39	45	44
LA Galaxy	11	11	6	39	39	45
Minnesota	10	9	8	38	30	32
Vancouver	9	8	10	37	34	34
LAF	9	12	7	34	40	41
San Jose	8	11	9	33	35	44
FC Dallas	6	13	10	28	39	47
Houston	5	12	12	27	33	45
Austin FC	7	17	4	25	29	44

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Austin FC 2, Real Salt Lake 1
 CF Montréal 2, Atlanta 1
 Orlando City 2, D.C. United 1
 New York 1, Cincinnati 0
 Minnesota 0, FC Dallas 0, tie
 Vancouver 3, San Jose 0

Sunday's games

Nashville 0, New York City FC 0, tie
 Philadelphia 3, Columbus 0
 Toronto FC 3, Chicago 1
 Sporting Kansas City 4, Houston 2
 Portland 1, Miami 0
 Los Angeles FC 1, LA Galaxy 1, tie
 Seattle 3, Colorado 0

Saturday, Oct. 9

Miami at New York
 Philadelphia at Cincinnati
 Vancouver at Seattle

Sunday, Oct. 10

Colorado at Minnesota

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Portland	12	5	2	38	29	13
Reign FC	11	7	2	35	30	19
North Carolina	8	6	5	29	23	13
Chicago	8	7	5	29	22	24
Orlando	7	6	7	28	24	24
Washington	7	7	5	26	21	25
Houston	7	7	5	26	24	23
Gotham FC	6	5	7	25	20	16
Louisville	4	10	5	17	15	31
Kansas City	2	12	5	11	10	30

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

Orlando at Chicago ppd.
 Houston at Kansas City ppd.
 Reign FC at Portland ppd.

Wednesday's games

Louisville at North Carolina
 Washington at Gotham FC
 Houston at Portland

Saturday's games

Gotham FC at Orlando
 Louisville at Washington
 North Carolina at Houston

Sunday, Oct. 10

Chicago at Reign FC
 Portland at Kansas City

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA Playoffs

Semifinals (Best-of-5)

No. 6 Chicago 2, No. 1 Connecticut 1
 Tuesday, Sept. 28: Chicago 101, Connecticut 95, 2OT

Thursday, Sept. 30: Connecticut 79, Chicago 68

Sunday's game: Chicago 86, Connecticut 83

Wednesday's game: Connecticut at Chicago

x-Friday's game: Chicago at Connecticut

No. 5 Phoenix 2, No. 2 Las Vegas 1
 Tuesday, Sept. 28: Las Vegas 96, Phoenix 90

Thursday, Sept. 30: Phoenix 117, Las Vegas 91

Sunday's game: Phoenix 87, Las Vegas 60

Wednesday's game: Las Vegas at Phoenix

x-Friday's game: Phoenix at Las Vegas

DEALS

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated RHP Garrett Whitlock from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Eduard Bazarzo to Worcester (Triple-A East).

HOUSTON ASTROS — Reinstated RHP Zack Greinke from the 10-day IL. Optioned RHP Brandon Bielak to Sugar Land (Triple-A West).

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Recalled LHP Reid Detmers from Salt Lake (Triple-A West). Reinstated LHP Junior Guerra from the 10-day IL. Placed RF Taylor Ward on the 10-day IL. Optioned LHP Jhonathan Diaz to Salt Lake.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Transferred 1B Luke Voit from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Placed INF DJ LeMahieu on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Luis Gil from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A East). Optioned RHP Brody Koerner to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.

TEXAS RANGERS — Reinstated RHP Matt Bush from the 60-day IL. Designated LHP Wes Benjamin for assignment. Optioned Glenn Otto to Round Rock (Triple-A West).

National League

ATLANTA BRAVES — Sent LHP Tucker Davidson to Gwinnett (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment.

CHICAGO CUBS — Placed C Willson Contreras on the 10-day IL. Transferred 1B Alfonso Rivas from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Selected the contract of C Tyler Payne from Iowa (Triple-A East).

COLORADO ROCKIES — Recalled RHPs Justin Lawrence and Antonio Santos from Albuquerque (Triple-A West). Optioned 2B Rio Ruiz to Albuquerque. Designated RHP Chi Chi Gonzalez for assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Recalled RHP Andre Jackson from Oklahoma City (Triple-A West). Optioned RHP Mitch White to Oklahoma City.

MIAMI MARLINS — Reinstated RHP Pablo Lopez from the 60-day IL. Transferred 1B Jesus Aguilar from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Placed LHP Sean Guenther on the 10-day IL.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Sent RHP Jake Cousins to Nashville (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Recalled RHP Jay Jackson from Sacramento (Triple-A West). Optioned LHP Sammy Long to Sacramento. LHP Jose Quintana has cleared waivers and has been outrighted to Sacramento.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Recalled RHP Joan Adon from Rochester (Triple-A East). Placed SS Luis Garcia on the 10-day IL.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CALGARY FLAMES — Sent C Mathias Emilio Pettersen and LW Jakob Pelletier to Stockton (AHL).

EDMONTON OILERS — Waived C Cooper Marody and Seth Griffith. Sent Ds Philip Broberg, Filip Berglund and G Ilya Kononov to Bakersfield (AHL).

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Released C J.C. Beaudin and D Tobie Bisson. Sent D Corey Schueneman to Laval (AHL). Agreed to a three-year contract extension with C Jake Evans. Waived LW Brandon Baddock, Cs Laurent Dauphin, Jean-Sebastien Dea and G Michael McNiven.

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Sent LW Grant Mismash, C Patrick Harper, D Marc Del Gaizo and G Tomas Vornacka to Milwaukee (AHL). Released Fs Robert Carpenter, Joseph LaBate, Mitch McLain, Cole Schneider, Zach Solow, Ds Xavier Bouchard, Jake McLaughlin and G Parker Gahagen from tryouts. Waived C Anthony Richard.

NEW JERSEY DEVILS — Claimed D Mason Geertsen off waivers. Waived D Brian Flynn and D Robbie Russo. Sent D Nate Schnarr to Utica (AHL). Assigned RW Chase Stillman to Sudbury (OHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Sent Ds Braden Schneider, Matthew Robertson, Gs Tyler Wall, Adam Huska, RW Lauri Pajuniemi to Hartford (AHL). Assigned LW William Cuyille to Windsor (OHL). Waived C Greg McKeeg.

OTTAWA SENATORS — Assigned C Zack Ostapchuk to Vancouver (WHL). Reinstated C Ridly Greig from suspension and assigned to Brandon (WHL). Sent LWs Egor Sokolov, Cole Reinhardt, Ds Lassi Thomson, Maxence Guenette, Jacob Bernard-Docker, Jonathan Aspirot, C Mark Kastelic and G Kevin Mandolese to Belleville (AHL). Waived RWs Kole Sherwood, Pontus Aberg and D Dillon Heatherington.

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Waived D Tommy Cross.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Waived Ds Sean Day, Darren Raddysh, C Gabriel Dumont and LW Charles Hudon.

WASHINGTON CAPITALS — Waived Axel Jonsson-Fjallby.

HOCKEY

NHL Preseason

Sunday's games

Pittsburgh 5, Detroit 1
 Dallas 6, Arizona 3
 Vancouver 3, Winnipeg 2

Monday's games

Boston at Philadelphia
 Columbus at Buffalo
 Washington at New Jersey
 Chicago at Detroit
 Toronto at Ottawa
 Colorado at Minnesota
 Calgary at Edmonton
 Anaheim at San Jose



JEFF CHIU/AP

Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins, right, is eligible to play in home games after receiving his COVID-19 vaccine.

BRIEFLY

Warriors' Wiggins gets COVID shot

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Golden State Warriors forward Andrew Wiggins has received his COVID-19 vaccine and will be eligible to play in all games.

The Warriors said coach Steve Kerr made the announcement to reporters Sunday after practice before the team traveled to Portland to play its first preseason game.

Wiggins faced the possibility of not being allowed into Golden State's home building at Chase Center for games starting Oct. 13 when the San Francisco Department of Public Health begins requiring proof of vaccination for large indoor events.

NHL reaches out to Lehrer after accusations

The NHL has reached out to Robin Lehner to set up an interview after the goaltender made several accusations on social media, including that teams give players drugs without a doctor's consent, a league spokesman confirmed to The Associated Press.

In a series of tweets Saturday, Lehner said he knows "many" teams that give sedatives and anxiety pills to players without a doctor's prescription. He referenced the Philadelphia Flyers and coach Alain Vigneault and claimed to have proof.

NWSL shakes up executive group

PORTLAND, Ore. — Following the resignation of the National Women's Soccer League commissioner amid a sexual harassment and misconduct scandal involving a longtime coach, a three-woman executive committee has been formed to oversee league operations.

MLB

Turner, Gurriel win 1st batting titles

BY RONALD BLUM

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Trea Turner of the Los Angeles Dodgers and Houston's Yuli Gurriel won their first batting titles Sunday in a season of boom and bust that saw four teams lose 100 games for only the third time, and four 90-game winners in the AL East alone.

Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels was a singular sensation with a superlative two-way season, unmatched even by Babe Ruth.

Turner hit .328 to top defending NL batting champion Juan Soto of Washington, who hit .313.

"It's consistency, which I pride myself on and showing up every day," said the 28-year-old Turner, traded from Washington to Los Angeles in late July. "You've got to qualify for certain awards and have a certain amount of at-bats, and it's hard if you're not out there on the field. That's part of being prepared and being lucky. It's been a good season from a health standpoint."

Gurriel batted .319 to lead the AL; Astros teammate Michael Brantley was second at .311, just ahead of Toronto's Vladimir Guerrero Jr., also at .311. Gurriel entered as a defensive replacement in the ninth inning Sunday and hit a game-ending single that beat Oakland 7-6.

"It's something really important," Gurriel said through a translator. "I think everybody knows it's a big deal and it's tough to win a batting title."

At 37, he is the second-oldest batting champion behind 38-year-old Barry Bonds in 2002.

"It says a lot about the fact that veteran players still have a lot to offer in this game," Gurriel said.



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

The Dodgers' Trea Turner hits a grand slam against the Milwaukee Brewers during the fifth inning on Sunday in Los Angeles.

The 27-year-old Ohtani was second in the AL to Guerrero Jr. with a .592 slugging percentage. Ohtani led the AL with eight triples and was third in the major leagues with 46 home runs. He hit .257 with 100 RBIs and 26 stolen bases.

On the mound, he paced AL pitchers with a .122 opponents' batting average with runners in scoring position. Batters hit .087 (11-for-127) against his splitter, the lowest for any pitcher in the majors with a minimum 110 plate appearances.

On the basepaths, his 4.09 seconds sprint time from home to first was the fastest in the big leagues.

Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez and Guerrero tied for the major league home run title with 48 each, two more than Ohtani had, and San Diego's Fernando

Tatis Jr. topped the NL with 42. Perez also led the AL with 121 RBIs and Adam Duvall led the NL with 113 for Miami and Atlanta.

Standings reflected the trend to teams going all in or bailing out and tearing down. San Francisco (107), the Los Angeles Dodgers (106) and Tampa Bay (100) gave the major leagues three 100-win teams for the fourth straight full season. Before this run it occurred only in 1942, 1977, 1998, 2002 and 2003.

The Dodgers set a record for the most wins by a second-place team, topping the 104 of the 1909 Chicago Cubs and 1942 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Every team in the AL East other than the Orioles won at least 90 games, the first time that happened since the leagues split into three divisions each in 1994 and



ERIC CHRISTIAN SMITH/AP

The Astros' Yuli Gurriel, center, celebrates his winning hit during the ninth inning against the Athletics on Sunday in Houston. Gurriel led the AL in batting, and teammate Michael Brantley was second.

only the second time after the 1978 AL East with New York, Boston, Milwaukee and Baltimore.

Arizona and Baltimore (both 110), Texas (102) and Pittsburgh (100) made it the second straight full season with four 100-game losers. Before then, it only happened once, in 2002.

Julio Urías of the Dodgers was the only 20-game winner, the fewest in a full season since there were none for the fourth time in 2017. Gerrit Cole's 16 wins for the Yankees were the fewest to lead the AL in a full season.

Toronto lefty Robbie Ray became the first pitcher to lead the AL in innings without reaching 200 in a full season, at 193⅓. Ray topped the AL with 248 strikeouts and a 2.84 ERA. Philadelphia's Zack Wheeler paced the NL with

247 strikeouts, and Milwaukee's Corbin Burnes led with a 2.43 ERA.

San Diego's Mark Melancon led the NL with 39 saves, and Chicago's Liam Hendriks had the most in the AL with 38.

Starling Marte led the majors in steals with 47 for Miami and Oakland.

There were nine postponements for COVID-19 reasons among 2,430 scheduled games, down from 45 in last year's shortened 900-game schedule.

This season had 233 games go to extra innings, up from 78 in last year's shortened season. The longest in the second season of the pandemic rule of placing a runner on second base in each extra frame was the Dodgers' 16-inning win at the Padres on Aug. 25.

Showdown: Four-way AL wild-card tie narrowly averted

FROM PAGE 24

The Giants clinched the NL West with their franchise-record 107th win, routing San Diego 11-4 behind Posey's three RBIs. They needed all of those victories to hold off the World Series champion Dodgers.

"You're going to be hard pressed to see another race like this for quite a while," said Posey, the three-time champion catcher who sat out last season because of COVID-19 concerns.

The Dodgers dropped into the NL wild-card game Wednesday night, when they'll host the hard-charging St. Louis Cardinals. Pretty neat tilt, too: Max Scherzer vs. Adam Wainwright.

The best-of-five Division Series begin Thursday with a pair of AL games.

It'll be 76-year-old Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa leading the Chicago White Sox into Houston to match wits with 72-year-old skipper Dusty Baker and the Astros.

Also, 20-year-old rookie sensation Wan-



FRANK FRANKLIN II / AP

The Yankees' Aaron Judge, right, gestures to fans after New York's victory against the Tampa Bay Rays on Sunday.

der Franco and the Tampa Bay Rays will welcome the AL wild-card winner.

On Friday, the NL series start up with Charlie Morton and the Atlanta Braves vis-

iting Corbin Burnes and the pitching-rich Milwaukee Brewers, who are still bidding for their first World Series crown.

Posey and the Giants will play the wild-card winner at Oracle Park.

By design, all 15 games on the last day of the regular season began at roughly the same time. That was set up to create an inning-by-inning, back-and-forth scramble.

And the possibility for a tangle loomed large: The Yankees and Red Sox began the afternoon tied for the two AL wild cards, with Toronto and Seattle a game behind.

Down 5-1 going into the sixth inning at Washington, the Red Sox rallied. Devers launched his second homer of the game, a tiebreaking, two-run drive in the ninth that capped a four-hit, four-RBI performance in a 7-5 win.

At Yankee Stadium, it was scoreless until the ninth. With one out and runners on second and third, Judge hit a liner off reliever Andrew Kittredge's glove for a single and, remarkably, his first career walk-off hit in

AL Wild Card New York Yankees at Boston Red Sox

AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Wednesday CET
9 a.m. Wednesday JKT

NL Wild Card St. Louis Cardinals at L.A. Dodgers

AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Thursday CET
9 a.m. Thursday JKT

the majors.

"I wouldn't say we exhaled," Judge said. "We still have a lot of work to do."

Guerrero hit his 48th home run, tying Kansas City catcher Salvador Perez for the major league lead, and Springer hit a grand slam and a solo shot in a 12-4 romp over the Orioles.

The Mariners' 20-year postseason drought continued when Shohei Ohtani hit his 46th homer and reached 100 RBIs as the Los Angeles Angels beat Seattle 7-3.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	100	62	.617	—
y-Boston	92	70	.568	8
y-New York	92	70	.568	8
Toronto	91	71	.562	9
Baltimore	52	110	.321	48
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	93	69	.574	—
Cleveland	80	82	.494	13
Detroit	77	85	.475	16
Kansas City	74	88	.457	19
Minnesota	73	89	.451	20
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Houston	95	67	.586	—
Seattle	90	72	.556	5
Oakland	86	76	.531	9
Los Angeles	77	85	.475	18
Texas	60	102	.370	35

National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	88	73	.547	—
Philadelphia	82	80	.506	6½
New York	77	85	.475	11½
Miami	67	95	.414	21½
Washington	65	97	.401	23½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	95	67	.586	—
y-St. Louis	90	72	.556	5
Cincinnati	83	79	.512	12
Chicago	71	91	.438	24
Pittsburgh	61	101	.377	34
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-San Francisco	107	55	.660	—
y-Los Angeles	106	56	.654	1
San Diego	79	83	.488	28
Colorado	74	87	.460	32½
Arizona	52	110	.321	55

x-clinched division
y-clinched wild card

Sunday's games
Cleveland 6, Texas 0
Houston 7, Oakland 6
N.Y. Yankees 1, Tampa Bay 0
Minnesota 7, Kansas City 3
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 2
Toronto 12, Baltimore 4
Boston 7, Washington 5
L.A. Angels 7, Seattle 3
Chicago Cubs 3, St. Louis 2, 7 innings
Atlanta 5, N.Y. Mets 0
Miami 5, Philadelphia 4
San Francisco 11, San Diego 4
Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 3
L.A. Dodgers 10, Milwaukee 3
Arizona 5, Colorado 4

Postseason
Wild Card
Tuesday: New York (Cole 16-8) at Boston (Eovaldi 11-9)
Wednesday: St. Louis (Wainwright 17-7) at Los Angeles (Scherzer 15-4)

Division Series (Best-of-5)
American League
Tampa Bay vs. Boston-New York winner
Thursday: at Tampa Bay
Friday: at Tampa Bay
Sunday, Oct. 10: at Boston-New York winner
x-Monday, Oct. 11: at Boston-New York winner
x-Wednesday, Oct. 13: at Tampa Bay

Houston vs. Chicago
Thursday: Chicago (TBD) at Houston (McCullers 13-5)
Friday, Oct. 8: at Houston
Sunday, Oct. 10: at Chicago
x-Monday, Oct. 11: at Chicago
x-Wednesday, Oct. 12: at Houston

National League
San Francisco vs. LA-St. Louis winner
Friday: at San Francisco
Saturday: at San Francisco
Monday, Oct. 11: at Los Angeles-St. Louis winner
x-Tuesday, Oct. 12: at Los Angeles-St. Louis winner
x-Thursday, Oct. 14: at San Francisco

Milwaukee vs. Atlanta
Friday: Atlanta (Morton 14-6) at Milwaukee (Burnes 11-5)
Saturday: at Milwaukee
Monday, Oct. 11: at Atlanta
x-Tuesday, Oct. 12: at Atlanta
x-Thursday, Oct. 14: at Milwaukee
x-if necessary



JOHN HEFT/AP

The Giants celebrate after defeating the San Diego Padres Sunday in San Francisco. The Giants won 11-4 to clinch the NL West title.

ROUNDUP

Giants beat Padres, win NL West

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco finally won the NL West without needing to wait for the rival Dodgers' result on the season's final day, pounding the San Diego Padres 11-4 on Sunday for a franchise-record 107th victory to top the 1904 New York team.

Logan Webb (11-3) allowed four runs and six hits in seven-plus innings, struck out eight, walked one and hit his first big league homer, a two-run drive in the fifth. Buster Posey drove in three runs on a pair of singles and got his 1,500th hit.

The Giants finished with one more win than Los Angeles and will host the winner of Wednesday night's wild-card game between the Dodgers and Cardinals for Game 1 of the NL Division Series.

Reiss Knehr (1-2) allowed two runs in three innings. San Diego lost eight of their final nine and at 79-83 finished below .500 for the 10th time in 11 years.

Dodgers 10, Brewers 3: Trea Turner hit his second grand slam in less than 48 hours and won the NL batting title at .328 but host Los Angeles finished as the winningest second-place team in major league history.

The Dodgers' streak of eight straight NL West titles over, they will host St. Louis in the NL wild card game on Wednesday.

Walker Buehler (16-4) allowed one run and three hits in five innings of his career-high 33rd start. He struck out a season high-tying 11.

Aaron Ashby (3-2) was the loser. Milwaukee hosts Atlanta in the Division Series starting Friday.

Red Sox 7, Nationals 5: Rafael

Devers' second home run of the game and 38th this season, a two-run drive in the ninth off Kyle Finnegan (5-9), lifted visiting Boston into the AL wild game game against the Yankees at Fenway Park on Tuesday night.

The Red Sox finished second at 92-70, eight games behind AL champion Tampa Bay, and will host because they won the season series from New York 10-9 and the Yankees finished with the same record.

Eduardo Rodriguez (13-8), who started and won at Washington on Friday night, threw a perfect eighth and Nick Pivetta, a starter who pitched Thursday, came on for the ninth inning and collected his first save since 2019.

J.D. Martinez left in the sixth inning with a sprained left ankle.

Yankees 1, Rays 0: Aaron Judge had his first big league walkoff hit, a one-out single in the ninth off Andrew Kittredge after Rougned Odor led off the inning against Josh Fleming (10-8) with host New York's second hit.

Angels 7, Mariners 3: Shohei Ohtani led off the game with his 46th home run to reach 100 RBIs, Jared Walsh added a two-run shot in the fourth and host Seattle (90-72) was unable to end a playoff drought that reached 20 years.

The Mariners finished two games behind Boston and New York. Their absence from the postseason is the longest in any of the four major pro sports in North America.

Blue Jays 12, Orioles 4: George Springer hit two home runs, including a grand slam, and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. launched his

48th homer but host Toronto finished with 91 wins, one short of the Yankees and Red Sox.

The Blue Jays went 25-11 at home after moving back to Rogers Centre.

Indians 6, Rangers 0: Visiting Cleveland closed its 107th and final season as the Indians with a win as Aaron Civale (12-5) allowed only three singles and Yu Chang homered. The team will become the Guardians by next season.

Astros 7, Athletics 6: Yuli Gurriel hit a winning RBI single in the ninth inning as AL West champion Houston finished with a home win before starting the Division Series at home against the Chicago White Sox on Thursday.

Tigers 5, White Sox 2: Daz Cameron homered off Reynaldo Lopez (4-4) leading off the ninth to spark Detroit's three-run inning in a win at Chicago.

Reds 6, Pirates 3: Joey Votto capped off a resurgent season by hitting his 36th home run, and Nick Castellanos reached the 100-RBI plateau for the second time in his career, helping visiting Cincinnati finish over .500 (83-29) over the course of a 162-game season for the first time since 2013.

Pittsburgh's 61-101 mark is the franchise's worst since 2010.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 4: Josh VanMeter hit a tiebreaking homer off Carlos Estevez (3-5) with two outs in the ninth, a rare happy moment as host Arizona finished 52-110 and tied with Baltimore for the worst record in the majors. Colorado went 74-87.

Braves 5, Mets 0: Austin Riley drove in two runs with two hits for host Atlanta.

New York finished with three hits and ended at 77-85 after leading the division for 90 consecutive days, leaving manager Luis Rojas unsure of his fate under new owner Steven Cohen.

Noah Syndergaard (0-1) allowed two runs, including a lead-off homer to Jorge Soler, in his one scheduled inning during his second start after returning from Tommy John surgery.

Cubs 3, Cardinals 2: Matt Duffy extended his hitting streak to a career-high 13 games with a pair of run-scoring singles in a game shortened to seven innings by rain as Chicago won at St. Louis.

The Cubs lost 91 games, the most since they went 66-96 in 2013, and used a major league-record 69 players

Marlins 5, Phillies 4: Nick Fortes hit a tiebreaking two-run home run in the fourth off Hector Neris (4-7) and host Miami finished its 11th losing season in 12 years with a win.

Bryce Harper doubled and walked before being replaced in the bottom of the third. A contender for NL MVP, he hit .309 with 35 homers, 84 RBIs and a major league-best 1.044 OPS.

Twins 7, Royals 3: Byron Buxton and Jorge Polanco homered as host Minnesota got to rookie Jackson Kowar (0-6) by scoring five runs in the first inning, three on Polanco's homer

Nick Vincent (1-0) got the win after throwing two scoreless innings for the Twins, last in the AL Central at 73-89 in the AL Central after winning the division the previous two years. Kansas City went 74-88.

NFL

Wilson, Seahawks rally past 49ers

Seattle ends rare losing streak at 2 games

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Russell Wilson spun away from a sack and delivered a perfect strike for another TD pass.

Seattle's sluggish start and rare losing streak were a thing of the past thanks to another vintage performance from its star quarterback.

Wilson overcame a rough opening to the game by throwing for two touchdowns and running for a third and the Seahawks rebounded from back-to-back losses by beating the San Francisco 49ers 28-21 on Sunday.

"I thought Russ was spectacular today," coach Pete Carroll said. "It was so hard early. He just stayed the course, stayed with it and really kind of recaptured a chance to win this game when you wouldn't think there was any way. It just didn't look like it was going to happen."

Seattle (2-2) went three-and-out on its first five drives of the game and appeared in danger of its first three-game losing streak in nine seasons with Wilson at quarter-

back. But Wilson recovered and won for the 100th time as a starter in the regular season, joining Peyton Manning as the only quarterbacks ever to do that in their first 10 seasons.

"I'm excited about the next hundred," Wilson said. "There's more championships. There's more things we want to do."

Wilson connected on a 12-yard TD pass to DK Metcalf late in the first half and then produced two touchdowns in a span of less than a minute in the third quarter with a 16-yard run and 13-yard pass to Freddie Swain around a fumbled kickoff by Trenton Cannon.

The TD pass to Swain was vintage Wilson, who spun away from a blitzing Dontae Johnson and avoided Nick Bosa before finding Swain for the TD that Wilson ranked as one of the top 10 plays of his career.

"I was speechless, man," left tackle Duane Brown said. "It was one of the best plays I've seen from him in my time here. It's just commonplace for him."

Alex Collins added a 14-yard TD run early in the fourth quarter and



TONY AVELAR/AP

Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson runs for a touchdown past San Francisco 49ers defensive tackle Javon Kinlaw. Wilson also had two touchdown passes in a 28-21 win Sunday in Santa Clara, Calif.

the 49ers (2-2) were unable to overcome it after losing starting quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo to a calf injury at halftime and playing without injured kicker Robbie Gould all game.

Garoppolo threw a 21-yard TD pass to Ross Dwelley on the opening drive but did little else before leaving with the injury.

"I thought I could keep trying to go," Garoppolo said. "It just kept

getting worse and worse, traveling down to the Achilles a little bit. But we'll get more information tomorrow with the MRI and everything. Hoping for the best right now."

Rookie Trey Lance took over and connected on a 76-yard touchdown pass to Deebo Samuel but San Francisco only crossed midfield one other time before scoring on another TD pass to Samuel with 1:20 remaining. The Seahawks re-

covered the onside kick to seal the game.

Lance finished 9-for-18 for 157 yards with two TDs, 41 yards rushing and a two-point conversion run.

"I think there were plays, good and bad, throughout the half," Lance said. "I missed some big ones, missed some easy ones, missed some checkdowns. Just definitely a few plays that I want back."

Ravens hand Broncos their first defeat

By ARNIE STAPLETON
Associated Press

DENVER — Lamar Jackson won this one with his right arm. He used his quick feet to crown Baltimore's 23-7 thumping of the Denver Broncos and tie an NFL rushing record.

The Ravens (3-1) were in danger of coming up just short of matching the Steelers' longstanding mark for consecutive games with at least 100 yards rushing before Baltimore cornerback Anthony Averett intercepted Broncos backup QB Drew Lock in the end zone with 3 seconds left.

Rather than take a knee, Jackson took the shotgun snap and hustled around left end for 5 yards as time expired. That gave the Ravens 102 yards on the ground, their 43rd consecutive 100-yard rushing game, tying the mark set by Pittsburgh from 1974-77.

"Oh yeah, 100% my call," Baltimore coach John Harbaugh said unapologetically. "That's one of those things that's meaningful. As a head coach you have to be mindful of your team and your players and what it means to them. It's a very, very tough record to accomplish and it's a long-term record."

"I'm not going to say it's more important than winning the game, for sure, it's certainly not," Harbaugh added. "But as a head coach you do that for your players and you do that for your coaches and it's something they'll have for the rest of their lives."

Harbaugh's players appreciated their coach letting them go for the record.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Teddy Bridgewater is hit by Baltimore Ravens linebacker Odafe Oweh. Bridgewater was knocked out of the game with a concussion on the play.

"Whenever you're in the record books, it's important, so it's great to get it, said receiver Marquis Brown, who caught Jackson's 49-yard TD pass one week after dropping a trio of long passes.

"I wasn't thinking about the record," Jackson said. "I was thinking about getting the win."

Jackson missed two practices last week with a sore back, but it didn't look as if it affected him at all Sunday.

"I'm feeling good," he said. "Did I look good?" Although he was held to 28 yards rushing, Jackson threw for 316 yards.

"We wanted to limit his opportunities to carry it and scramble," Denver coach Vic Fangio said. "We did that. But they were able to complete the long passes, which negated that."

Garoppolo injures calf; Montgomery hurts knee

Associated Press

San Francisco turned to rookie quarterback Trey Lance when starter Jimmy Garoppolo suffered a calf injury.

Garoppolo threw a TD on the opening drive but struggled after that for San Francisco. Lance had played only seven offensive snaps the first three games in a situational role. The No. 3 pick in the draft started the second half for the 49ers on Sunday and finished 9 for 18 for 157 yards with two TDs, 41 yards rushing and a 2-point conversion run.

The 49ers also lost kicker Robbie Gould to a groin injury in warmups.

Garoppolo wasn't the only QB to go down on Sunday. Denver Broncos quarterback Teddy Bridgewater suffered a concussion and didn't play in the second half against Baltimore.

The Broncos, already short-handed at receiver, lost Dontae Spencer to a chest injury a play before Bridgewater got hurt.

Chicago running back David Montgomery had a huge game with 106 yards rushing and two touchdowns before injuring his knee in the fourth quarter. Bears coach Matt Nagy said he wasn't sure how

serious the injury is.

Detroit Lions edge rusher Romeo Okwara injured his leg in the same game.

Washington rallied to beat Atlanta, but did it without tight end Logan Thomas for most of the game. He left in the first quarter after playing just five snaps with a hamstring injury. Guard Brandon Scherff (knee) and receiver Dyami Brown (knee) were ruled out, as well.

Other injuries Sunday included Miami receiver Will Fuller (hand) and cornerback Byron Jones (quad). The Giants lost safety Jabrill Peppers to a hamstring injury. The Saints lost running back Tony Jones Jr. in that game to an ankle injury. He was carted off the field in the second quarter.

The Jets lost cornerback Brandin Echols to a concussion Minnesota Vikings cornerback Bashaud Breeland (illness) and defensive tackle Michael Pierce (elbow) left early in their loss to the Browns. Coach Mike Zimmer said Pierce is going to get an MRI on his elbow.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, already thin at cornerback, lost starter Carlton Davis III to a quad injury in the second quarter.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	3	1	0	.750	134	44
Miami	1	3	0	.250	62	109
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	47	94
New England	1	3	0	.250	71	70
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	2	2	0	.500	95	111
Houston	1	3	0	.250	67	116
Indianapolis	1	3	0	.250	83	97
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	74	115
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	105	92
Cincinnati	3	1	0	.750	92	75
Cleveland	3	1	0	.750	100	67
Pittsburgh	1	3	0	.250	67	93
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Las Vegas	3	0	0	1.000	90	72
Denver	3	1	0	.750	83	49
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	67	60
Kansas City	2	2	0	.500	134	125

National Conference

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	126	97
Washington	2	2	0	.500	101	122
N.Y. Giants	1	3	0	.250	83	95
Philadelphia	1	3	0	.250	94	106
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	3	1	0	.750	97	66
Tampa Bay	3	1	0	.750	122	105
New Orleans	2	2	0	.500	94	69
Atlanta	1	3	0	.250	78	128
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	3	1	0	.750	95	100
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	64	91
Minnesota	1	3	0	.250	94	92
Detroit	0	4	0	.000	81	119
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	4	0	0	1.000	140	85
L.A. Rams	3	1	0	.750	115	99
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	107	102
Seattle	2	2	0	.500	103	100

Sept. 30

Cincinnati 24, Jacksonville 21
Sunday's games

Buffalo 40, Houston 0
 Chicago 24, Detroit 14
 Cleveland 14, Minnesota 7
 Dallas 36, Carolina 28
 Indianapolis 27, Miami 17
 Kansas City 42, Philadelphia 30
 N.Y. Giants 27, New Orleans 21, OT
 N.Y. Jets 27, Tennessee 24, OT
 Washington 34, Atlanta 30
 Arizona 37, L.A. Rams 20
 Seattle 28, San Francisco 21
 Baltimore 23, Denver 7
 Green Bay 27, Pittsburgh 17
 Tampa Bay 19, New England 17

Monday's games

Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers
Thursday's game

L.A. Rams at Seattle

Sunday, Oct. 10

N.Y. Jets vs Atlanta at London, UK
 Denver at Pittsburgh
 Detroit at Minnesota
 Green Bay at Cincinnati
 Miami at Tampa Bay
 New England at Houston
 New Orleans at Washington
 Philadelphia at Carolina
 Tennessee at Jacksonville
 Chicago at Las Vegas
 Cleveland at L.A. Chargers
 N.Y. Giants at Dallas
 San Francisco at Arizona
 Buffalo at Kansas City

Monday, Oct. 11

Indianapolis at Baltimore

420

Career touchdown passes for Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, tying him with Dan Marino for sixth on the all-time list.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Chiefs' Mahomes tosses 5 TDs in win

Reid earns 100th victory with Kansas City — against his former team

By ROB MAADDI
 Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Patrick Mahomes, Tyreek Hill and the Kansas City Chiefs gave Andy Reid a record-setting homecoming.

Mahomes threw five touchdown passes three different ways, including three to Hill, and the Chiefs beat the Philadelphia Eagles 42-30 on Sunday.

Reid returned to Philadelphia and earned his 100th career win with Kansas City, becoming the first coach in NFL history to win 100 games with two teams. Reid's 140 victories with the Eagles are the most in franchise history.

"The people here have been phenomenal since I got here," said Reid, who was briefly hospitalized after last week's loss to the Chargers. "My room was loaded with food so it was good to have a cheesesteak and a lot of other things. It's good to be back."

Asked if coming back to Philadelphia made him emotional, the normally stoic Reid joked: "I'm pretty good. You want me to cry up here?"

Jalen Hurts threw for a career-high 387 yards and two TDs but the Eagles (1-3) couldn't keep up with the Chiefs' high-powered offense. Philadelphia had three touchdowns negated by penalty and settled for field goals three times in-



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, left, threw for 278 yards, including three touchdown passes to Tyreek Hill, in a 42-30 win Sunday at Philadelphia.

side the red zone.

"You're furious that you're 1-3," Eagles rookie coach Nick Sirianni said. "The self-inflicted wounds have got to stop."

Two-time defending AFC champion Kansas City (2-2) snapped a two-game losing streak after entering with a losing record for the first time since they were 4-5 in 2015.

Mahomes tossed TD passes un-

derhanded, overhanded and shoveled one on the Chiefs' three possessions in the first half. He finished with 278 yards passing and his interception was the only possession Kansas City didn't score a TD on. Hill had 11 catches for 186 yards.

Mahomes flipped a 1-yard TD pass underhanded to Clyde Edwards-Helaire for a 7-3 lead in the

first quarter.

Mahomes said Travis Kelce designed that play with himself serving as the decoy. Edwards-Helaire gave away the name of the play: "Tom and Jerry."

"When you have receivers coming up and saying, 'If I do this, it'll get someone else open,' that's a special group of guys," Mahomes said.

Rodgers-Cobb connection paces Packers

By STEVE MEGARGEE
 Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Randall Cobb demonstrated why Aaron Rodgers wanted the veteran receiver back in Green Bay.

Rodgers connected with Cobb for two touchdowns and ran for another score as the Packers won their third straight, 27-17 over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday.

Cobb began his career in Green Bay and played for the Packers from 2011-18 before landing in Dallas in 2019 and Houston last year. The Packers reacquired Cobb at the start of training camp at Rodgers' request.

"He's still a really good player," Rodgers said.

Cobb caught a 23-yard touchdown pass in the second quarter to put Green Bay (3-1) ahead for good and scored again on a 1-yard reception that made it 27-10 in the third period. That short throw was the 420th TD pass of Rodgers' career, tying Dan Marino for sixth all-time.

Cobb said it didn't take long for him to adapt to playing alongside Rodgers again.

"He understands how I move, so whenever I'm getting ready to break on my route, he knows," Cobb said. "It's muscle memory. It's been a couple of years, but it's kind of like when you get back around your friends and you remember things that you hadn't even thought about in so long. It's kind of that con-



MIKE ROEMER/AP

The Packers' Randall Cobb, right, celebrates a touchdown catch with Aaron Rodgers during the first half. Cobb had another TD catch in a 27-17 win over the Pittsburgh Steelers on Sunday in Green Bay, Wis.

nection that we have."

Through the first three games, Cobb had four catches for 58 yards. He caught five passes for 69 yards Sunday.

Rodgers and Cobb connected on two third-down completions that set up the Packers' touchdown. Cobb's go-ahead score also came on third down.

"I pride myself in being the third-down guy," Cobb said.

Rodgers went 20-for-36 for 248 yards and scored Green Bay's first points on a 4-yard rush in his first home start against the Steelers, the only team he hadn't faced at Lambeau Field.

After falling behind 7-0, the Packers scored 27 of the next 30 points to seize control.

The list of Green Bay players unable to play Sunday included linebacker Krys Barnes, offensive lineman Elgton Jenkins, cornerback Kevin King and receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling. The team has been missing All-Pro left tackle David Bakhtiari all season and hasn't had outside linebacker Za'Darius Smith since the opening week.

"I thought that was a mature win," coach Matt LaFleur said. "Just our whole mentality all week, it was very workmanlike. Guys came in very focused. I felt the energy was great."

Pittsburgh (1-3) has lost three straight, failing to top 17 points in each game, after a surprising season-opening win at Buffalo. Since opening the 2020 season with 11 straight wins, the Steelers have lost eight of 10.

"It's still super early in the season," Pittsburgh outside linebacker T.J. Watt said. "At home next week, and just like every week, it's a got-to-have-it. But this feeling definitely sucks."

NFL



ASHLEY LANDIS/AP

Cardinals quarterback Kyle Murray evades the tackle attempt from Rams linebacker Obo Okoronkwo during the first half on Sunday. Murray passed for 268 yards and two TDs to help Arizona improve to 4-0.

Murray keeps Cardinals unbeaten with rout of Rams

BY GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — In every quarter of a dominant victory on the Rams' home turf, Kyle Murray and the Arizona Cardinals confirmed they're no longer the annual afterthought in the NFC West.

The unbeaten Cards have shoved their way to the front of this ultracompetitive division with an offense that could run up the score on anybody, combined with a defense that finally managed to outsmart Sean McVay.

Murray passed for 268 yards and two touchdowns and ran for 39 more yards, and the team extended its longest perfect start since 2012 with a 37-20 win over Los Angeles on Sunday.

A.J. Green caught a 41-yard TD pass, Chase Edmonds ran for 120 yards and James Conner rushed for two short scores for Arizona (4-0), which ended the Rams' streak of eight consecutive victories in the rivalry during McVay's career.

The Cards haven't won the division or had a winning record since 2015, but they're off to a roaring start to 2021 highlighted by this blowout of previously unbeaten Los Angeles.

"I feel like as a team, we're building towards something," said cornerback Byron Murphy Jr., who made an interception in the first half. "We hadn't beaten the Rams in how many years? I don't know the exact number. Five years? But this is something definitely growing."

Kliff Kingsbury's team won with

style, lighting up Los Angeles defense for 465 total yards and scoring touchdowns after two early takeaways to affirm their status as a contender despite playing three of their first four games on the road.

"Not really too worried about what other people think," Murray said. "I think the guys in the locker room understand what we're doing, what we're capable of and where we can take it."

Maxx Williams caught a TD pass from Murray, who went 24-for-32 and repeatedly frustrated the Rams' defense while Arizona scored on seven of eight possessions after a game-opening punt. The Cards' defense made several big plays, and they sealed the team's first victory over Los Angeles since Jan. 1, 2017, by stopping Matthew Stafford and the LA offense on downs at the 1 with 12:05 to play.

The NFL's only remaining unbeaten teams are Arizona and Las Vegas, which faced the Chargers at SoFi Stadium on Monday night. The Cardinals celebrated their win on the same field, but were mostly buttoned up in their postgame comments.

"Not a statement," Kingsbury said. "We wanted to get a week better. Division games are important. We've got to continue to play physical football and clean some stuff up."

Stafford went 26-for-41 for 280 yards and two touchdowns in his first ineffective game for the Rams (3-1), who failed to start 4-0 for the first time since 2018. One week after a statement victory over de-

fending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay on the same field, Los Angeles produced an ugly performance on both sides of the ball.

"This is a prove-it (sport), and you've got to go out there and do it every time," Stafford said. "I wasn't good enough at doing that today. I think as a team, we probably weren't good enough as far as going out in every single play and executing it."

Van Jefferson caught an early TD pass and Robert Woods made a TD grab with 1:14 to play, but Stafford was frequently off in his connections with his receivers. McVay regularly abandoned his running game despite Darrell Henderson's 89 yards — the second-best performance of his career — on just 14 carries against a defense that hasn't stopped the run well this season.

The Rams had the NFL's No. 1 defense in yards allowed and points allowed last season, but they've given up 911 yards and 61 points in the last two weeks. Los Angeles' defense had few answers for Murray, who consistently found open receivers or picked up his own yardage.

"That's the athleticism and just the great playmaker that he is," McVay said. "There were a couple instances where we feel like we could have been better, but you've got to give him credit. He's a playmaker."

Arizona scored touchdowns after both of Los Angeles' turnovers in the first half, and the Cardinals now have a plus-5 turnover differential this season.

NFL Today

STARS

Passing

■ Daniel Jones, Giants, went 28 of 40 for a career-high 402 yards and two touchdowns in a 27-21 overtime win over New Orleans.

■ Jalen Hurts, Eagles, passed for a career-high 387 yards and two touchdowns in a 42-30 loss to Kansas City.

■ Lamar Jackson, Ravens, threw for 312 yards and a touchdown in a 23-7 win over Denver.

■ Taylor Heinicke, Washington, went 23 of 33 for 290 yards with three touchdowns and no interceptions in a 34-30 win over Atlanta.

Rushing

■ Derrick Henry, Titans, rushed for 157 yards on 33 carries in a 27-24 overtime loss to the New York Jets.

■ Ezekiel Elliott, Cowboys, had 20 carries for 143 yards and a touchdown in a 36-28 victory over Carolina.

■ Alvin Kamara, Saints, had 26 carries for 120 yards in a 27-21 overtime loss to the New York Giants.

■ Chase Edmonds, Cardinals, had 12 carries for 120 yards in a 37-20 win over the Rams.

■ David Montgomery, Bears, rushed for 106 yards and two touchdowns before leaving a 24-14 win over Detroit with a knee injury.

■ Jonathan Taylor, Colts, had 16 carries for 103 yards and a touchdown in a 27-17 win over Miami.

■ Nick Chubb, Browns, had 100 yards on 21 carries in a 14-7 win over Minnesota.

Receiving

■ Deebo Samuel, 49ers, caught eight passes for 156 yards and two touchdowns, including a 76-yarder, in a 28-21 loss to Seattle.

■ Darnell Mooney, Bears, was quarterback Justin Fields' favorite target, catching five passes and accounting for 125 of Fields' 209 yards in a 24-14 win over Detroit.

■ Terry McLaurin, Washington, had six catches for 123 yards and two touchdowns in a 34-30 victory over Atlanta.

■ DeVonta Smith, Eagles, had a career-high 122 yards receiving on seven receptions in the loss to the Chiefs.

■ Kenny Golladay, Giants, caught six passes for 116 yards in a 27-21 overtime victory over New Orleans.

■ Stefon Diggs, Bills, had seven receptions for 114 yards in a 40-0 win over Houston.

■ DJ Moore, Panthers, had eight receptions for 113 yards and two touchdowns in a 36-28 loss to Dallas.

■ Cordarrelle Patterson, Falcons, caught five passes, three of them for touchdowns, and finished with 82 yards in a 34-30 loss to Washington.

Special Teams

■ DeAndre Carter, Washington, returned a kickoff 101 yards for a touchdown in Washington's 34-30 win over Atlanta.

■ Tyler Bass, Bills, was 4-for-4 on field goals — with a long of 33 yards — and made all four of his extra points in a 40-0 win over Houston.

■ Rigoberto Sanchez, Colts, averaged 50.0 yards on four punts, placing two inside the 20, in a 27-17 win over Miami.

Defense

■ Trevon Diggs, Cowboys, had two interceptions in a 36-28 win over Carolina.

■ Randy Gregory, Cowboys, had two of his team's five sacks.

■ Mike Danna, Chiefs, had two sacks in a 42-30 win over Philadelphia.

■ Quinnen Williams, Jets, had two of his team's seven sacks in a 27-21 overtime win over Tennessee.

■ Kemoko Turray, Colts, had two sacks in a 27-17 win over Miami.

■ T.J. Watt, Steelers, had two sacks in a 27-17 loss to Green Bay.

MILESTONES

Tom Brady became the NFL's all-time passing leader in the first quarter of his return to New England, breaking Drew Brees' record with a 28-yard pass to Tampa Bay Buccaneers teammate Mike Evans in the first quarter against the Patriots. Brady finished the game with 80,560 yards. Brees had 80,358.

... Brady also became the fourth quarterback with wins over all 32 teams, joining Brees, Brett Favre and Peyton Manning. ... In his return to Philadelphia, coach Andy Reid won his 100th game with the Chiefs, becoming the first coach to win at least 100 with two teams. Reid had 140 wins with the Eagles. ... The Baltimore Ravens had at least 100 yards rushing for the 43rd consecutive game, tying the record set by the Pittsburgh Steelers from 1974-77. Instead of kneeling down on the game's final play, Lamar Jackson gained 5 yards to give the Ravens 102 and prolong the streak. ... Ben Roethlisberger surpassed Dan Marino for the sixth-most passing yards in NFL history. He also became the eighth quarterback with 400 touchdown passes. ... Aaron Rodgers threw his 420th TD pass, tying Marino for sixth all-time.

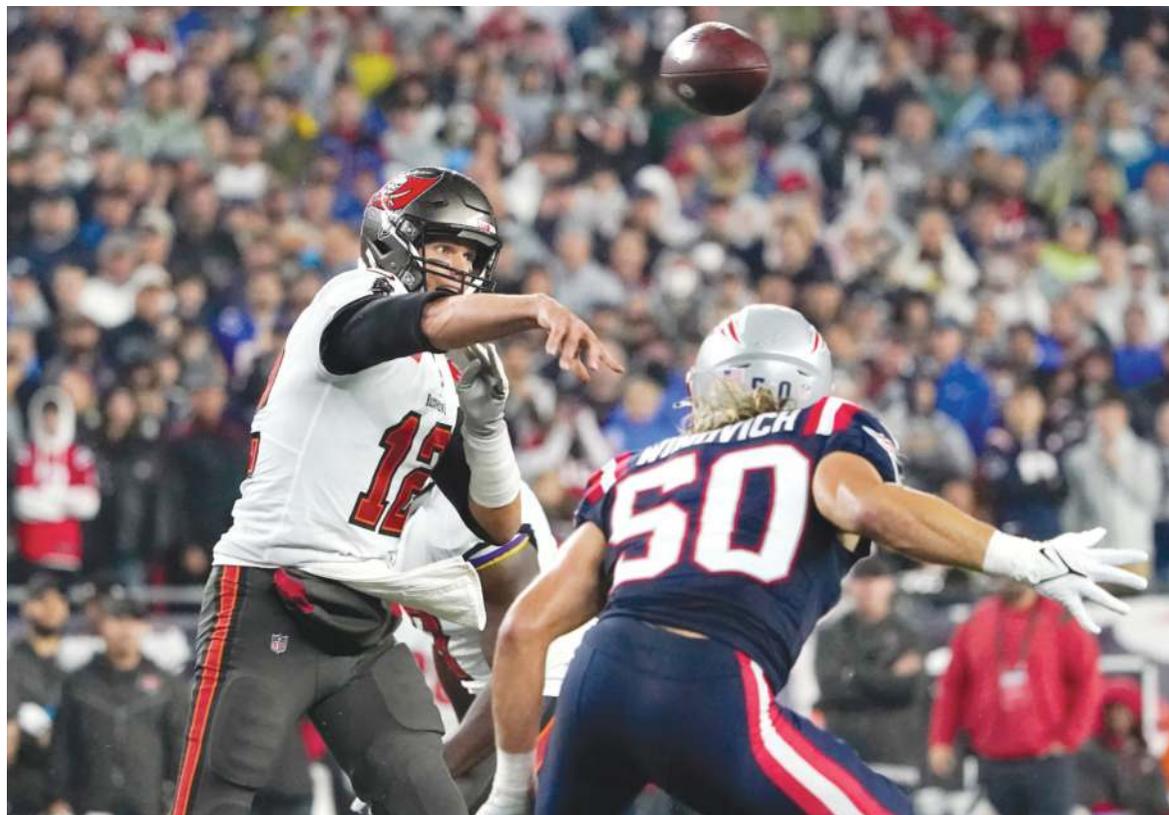
STREAKS & STATS

The Bills' 40-0 win over the Texans was their second shutout of the season, the first time they've done that since 1990, and Buffalo also scored 40 or more points in consecutive weeks for the first time since that same season, when the Bills reached the Super Bowl. The last team to post two shutouts by 35 or more points was the 2009 New York Jets. ... Dallas' Trevon Diggs had two interceptions and leads the league with five while becoming the first Cowboys player with a pick in each of the first four games since linebacker Chuck Howley in 1968. ... Carolina's Sam Darnold became the first quarterback in NFL history with five rushing touchdowns in his team's first four games. ... Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes improved to 40-10 as a starter, joining Ken Stabler (40-9-1) as the only QBs in the Super Bowl era to win 40 of their first 50 starts.

New York, New York

The Giants and Jets both started the season 0-3, but avoided 0-4 with overtime wins. Saquon Barkley scored on a 6-yard run on the first possession of overtime to give the Giants a win at New Orleans. Playing at the New York teams' shared MetLife Stadium home, the Jets needed a little more good fortune, beating the Titans after Randy Bullock's tying attempt from 49 yards was wide left.

NFL



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady throws while under pressure from New England Patriots defensive end Chase Winovich. Brady threw for 269 yards in a 19-14 win Sunday in Foxboro, Mass.

Brady gets win, passing mark in return to Gillette

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — From the moment the NFL schedule came out with the Buccaneers playing at New England, to the rainy night that concluded with, of course, a victory at Gillette Stadium, Tom Brady knew this would be very different.

He admitted to getting emotional about facing the Patriots on Sunday night in “a great stadium for me.” He mentioned the “Patriots-type weather” and the supportive crowd — for the home team, not for the visiting quarterback.

He even recognized how annoying “the foghorn” that rallies the New England defense can be.

Oh yeah, he also cherished a 19-17 victory that was anything but vintage Brady, but was good enough.

“These are people I shared my life with and I’m grateful for everything they contributed to my life,” Brady said. “I feel like I always will be a part of the community.”

“It was just emotional moments thinking about coming up here and playing. It’s a tough football environment. The crowd was into it.”

The seven-time Super Bowl champion, six with the Patriots, struggled in the rainy conditions much of the evening. He was booed — often.

Being Brady, he also won.

Brady took Tampa Bay on a 45-

yard drive aided by a 31-yard pass interference penalty, and Ryan Succop made a 48-yard field goal for a 19-17 victory. While most of the game was not a classic for the 44-year-old quarterback, the march to victory seemed fitting in a place Brady has won 135 of 158 games.

“That was pretty cool,” Brady said. “It’s been my home for 20 years. I have the best memories. My kids were born here. It’s just a great town, a great city, a great area. I love it up here. I have so many people I have relationships with, but this was about this team coming up here to win. This wasn’t about one player. This was about our entire team going on the road beating a good team.”

Brady threw for 269 yards, but the Bucs (3-1) scored only one touchdown, on an 8-yard run by Ronald Jones. With the game in the balance, he watched from an unfamiliar sideline as Nick Folk had a 56-yard field goal hit the left upright in the final minute for New England.

Brady then hugged dozens of his former teammates and coaches at midfield — a quick one with Bill Belichick — as the rain intensified and Gillette Stadium emptied in silence.

“My football journey took me somewhere else,” Brady noted, the ball with which he set the NFL career passing yardage record at his side at a crowded news conference.

Even when the Tampa Bay



STEVEN SENNE/AP

It was Brady’s first game back at New England after he left following the 2019 season.

quarterback got that record on a 28-yard completion to Mike Evans in the first quarter, there was a mixture of cheers and applause along with the jeers. Brady, 44, reached 80,359 yards through the air and then called a timeout before the next play — though no announcement had been made about setting the mark. That came during the timeout.

Despite soaring expectations and hype, this was no classic. Indeed, when Brady was sacked by Matt Judon in the second quarter, the crowd went wild.

Brady now has beaten all 32 NFL teams, equaling an achievement by Brett Favre, Peyton Manning and Brees.

Brady adds Belichick to his coaching victims

By JIMMY GOLEN
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Put another mark in the win column for Tom Brady in his lingering grudge with Bill Belichick.

The Buccaneers quarterback, who has already won a Super Bowl since leaving his longtime coach behind, won his first matchup against Belichick on Sunday night when he led Tampa Bay to a 19-17 victory over the New England Patriots. Brady is the fourth quarterback with wins against all 32 NFL teams, and he has now beaten every team in the NFL, and Belichick is the 100th opposing coach he has victimized.

In his return to New England, where he played 20 seasons and won six Super Bowls, Brady completed 22 of 43 passes for 269 yards, with no interceptions but no touchdowns. He also led the Buccaneers (3-1) to the go-ahead field goal with 2 minutes left in the game.

Belichick gave Brady a very brief hug at midfield after the game but said little about it afterward.

“We went against Tom Brady every day, every day in practice defensively. So it’s not like we’ve never seen Tom Brady before,” Belichick told reporters. “They are a good football team and he’s a great quarterback, and I think that’s all — goes without saying.”

But Belichick also visited Brady in the visitor’s locker room, staying for about 20 minutes. Brady also caught up with Patriots offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and former teammates including David Andrews and Devin McCourty.

And he exchanged a handshake with new New England quarterback Mac Jones, a first-round draft pick who is the team’s latest attempt to replace the future Hall of Famer. “He just told me to keep my head up and keep working,” Jones said.

A sixth-round draft pick who developed into the most accomplished quarterback in NFL history — he added another record, for

the most regular-season passing yards, on Sunday night — Brady led the Patriots to nine Super Bowls in 20 years.

But he left as a free agent for Tampa Bay after Belichick balked at committing to him into his mid-40s. Brady insisted that reports of animosity are overblown.

“So much is made of our relationship,” he said. “But nothing is really accurate that I ever see. It definitely doesn’t come from my personal feelings or beliefs.”

While Brady won his seventh NFL title last year, New England went 7-9 with Cam Newton as quarterback. The team drafted Jones 15th overall this year and turned the offense over to him.

Jones completed 31 of 40 passes for 275 yards and two touchdowns, and he also threw one interception. He took over right after Ryan Succop’s 48-yard field goal gave the Buccaneers a 19-17 lead at the two minute warning, and efficiently led the Patriots across midfield.

With a first down at the Tampa Bay 44, Jones threw one incomple- tion, then hit Jacobi Meyers for 7 yards before another incomple- tion. That left Nick Folk, who had made 36 consecutive field goal at- tempts, with a 56-yarder to take the lead; he hit the left upright.

“The blessing is it was nice for Tom,” Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians said, adding that Brady was careful not to make any mis- takes that could cost the team the game. “It was a big week for him, but it was a bigger week for the team.”

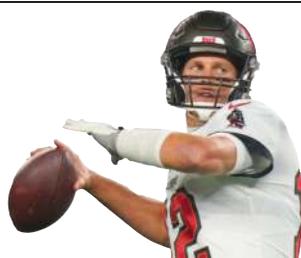
“I was very, very frustrated with everybody saying this was a quarterback and a coach. This is a team sport. The Bucs won this game. We beat the Patriots,” he said. “We were losing sight that this is a team game. Everybody wanted to make this all about Brady and Belichick. I don’t think Bill played a snap. He had 22 guys out there playing their (butts) off, and I knew he would. We had 22 guys out there playing their (butts) off. One of them just happened to be named Brady.”



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

New England coach Bill Belichick lost in his first game against his former quarterback. Tom Brady has won games against 100 coaches.

SPORTS



Familiar feeling

Bucs beat Pats, Brady sets passing record in return to New England » **NFL, Page 23**

Boston's Rafael Devers celebrates his two-run home run during the ninth inning of Sunday's 7-2 win over the Washington Nationals that secured the Red Sox a spot in the AL wild-card game.

NICK WASS/AP



MLB PLAYOFFS

No need to scramble

Red Sox, Yankees win to set up wild-card showdown; Giants take NL West

By BEN WALKER
Associated Press

Rafael Devers delivered big time for the Boston Red Sox. Aaron Judge did just enough for the New York Yankees. And Buster Posey boosted the San Francisco Giants to the NL West crown, dropping the 106-win Dodgers into a dangerous wild-card game.

In a flash, the Major League Baseball playoff field was all settled Sunday.

No crazy tiebreaker scenarios. No chaos on the final day. And for fans who wanted drama — no problem, that's on deck.

Yankees-Red Sox to start the postseason in an

all-or-nothing October duel at Fenway Park. Sound familiar?

"We'll be ready," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "It should be fun."

The Red Sox and New York both scored the winning run in the ninth inning in Game 162 to seal their spots in the AL wild-card matchup Tuesday night, when it'll be Yankees ace Gerrit Cole against Nathan Eovaldi.

So between now and then, count on seeing endless replays of Bucky Dent's home run over the Green Monster that lifted New York over Boston in their famed 1978 one-game meeting for the AL East title.

Shut out of this year's postseason party



were Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and his Toronto Blue Jays, along with the Seattle Mariners; they each needed a loss by either the Red Sox or Yankees to have a chance.

"Unfortunately, our fate was in the hands of another team," said George Springer, who homered twice in Toronto's win over Baltimore. "We were hoping for something, but obviously it didn't happen."

SEE SHOWDOWN ON PAGE 18

Giants closer Dominic Leone celebrates defeating the San Diego Padres on Sunday in San Francisco to win the NL West title.

JOHN HEFTY/AP

Turner, Gurriel earn first batting titles » MLB, Page 18

