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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

**PACIFIC**

## More DODEA students return to class as virus threat eases

By **CATLIN DOORNBS**  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Though the fall semester for Defense Department schools began more than a month ago, students of the four base schools here on Monday returned to the classroom for the first time in more than six months.

Freshman Emma Snyder, 15, posed for a faux first-day-of-school photo with about 7:30

**‘Now I get to actually meet my friends and hang out with them.’**  
 a.m. before heading into Kinnick High School. While students at Kinnick, Yokosuka Middle and Sullivans and Ikego Elementary schools began remote learning in August, they hadn't been taught on campus since the coronavirus pandemic closed U.S. schools on military bases across Japan on March 19.

“Now I get to actually meet my friends and hang out with them,” Emma said.

The Department of Defense Education Activity requires all bases under Health Protection Condition-Charlie, which indicates a substantial risk of the coronavirus spreading, or higher to close their school buildings and instead provide online instruction.

Yokosuka was under condition Charlie in August when school began but moved to condition Bravo, a moderate risk, on Sept. 14. Teachers and administrators spent the following two weeks preparing for the return to in-person instruction, DODEA Pacific East Superintendent Judy Allen said in a letter to parents a day later.

SEE DODEA ON PAGE 7



ILLUSTRATION BASED ON AP PHOTOS BY NOGA AMI-RAW/Stars and Stripes

President Donald Trump speaks Sunday at the White House after a report alleged he paid \$750 in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017.

# Tax bombshell

According to NY Times report, Trump paid IRS \$750 in 2016, 2017

By **JOSH BOAK**  
*Associated Press*

President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president and in his first year in the White House, according to a report in The New York Times.

Trump, who has fiercely guarded his tax filings and is the only president in modern times not to make them public, paid no federal income taxes in 10 of the past 15 years.

The details of the tax filings published Sunday complicate Trump's description of himself

as a shrewd and patriotic businessman, revealing instead a series of financial losses and income from abroad that could come into conflict with his responsibilities as president. The president's financial disclosures indicated he earned at least \$434.9 million in 2018, but the tax filings reported a \$47.4 million loss.

The tax filings also illustrate how a reputed billionaire could pay little to nothing in taxes, while someone in the middle class could pay substantially more than him. Roughly half of Americans pay

SEE TAX ON PAGE 10

**IRS figures indicate that the average tax filer paid roughly \$12,200 in 2017, about 15 times more than what the president paid.**

**RELATED:** Tax revelation could tarnish image that fueled Trump's rise **Page 10**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Amazon plans fall Prime Day to spur holiday sales

By JOSEPH PISANI  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK** — Amazon is aiming to kickstart the holiday shopping season early this year.

The company is holding its annual Prime Day over two days in October this year, after the pandemic forced it to postpone the sales event from July. It's the first time Prime Day is being held in the fall, and Amazon is positioning it as a way to get people to start their holiday shopping.

Even before Amazon's announcement Monday, major retailers have said they plan to push shoppers to start their holiday shopping in October and offer deals earlier, hoping to avoid crowds in their stores in November and December.

Prime Day, which will run from Oct. 13 to Oct. 14 this year, is sure to put pressure on rivals to offer deals around the same time. In past years, Walmart, Best Buy and Target have offered their own online discounts during

Prime Day.

Amazon started the sales event in 2015 as its answer to Singles' Day, a shopping holiday in China popularized by Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba. Prime Day has become one of Amazon's biggest shopping days, since it offers some of its deepest discounts of the year.

Amazon also sees it as a way to get more people to sign up for its Prime membership, since only those paying \$12.99 a month or \$119 a year can access the deals.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 29)	\$1.14	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
Dollar buys (Sept. 29)	60.8356	British pound	\$1.2868
British pound (Sept. 29)	\$1.26	Canada (Dollar)	1.3372
Japanese yen (Sept. 29)	103.00	China (Yuan)	6.8149
South Korean won (Sept. 29)	1,144.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.3798
		Denmark (Krone)	15.9111
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1671/0.8569
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
		Hungary (Forint)	312.50
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4601
		Japan (Yen)	105.52
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3063
		Norway (Krone)	9.4882
		Philippines (Peso)	48.51
		Poland (Zloty)	3.92
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7598
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3739
		South Korea (Won)	1,169.69
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9273
		Thailand (Baht)	31.66
		Turkey (Lira)	7.7768

(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
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bond	0.10
30-year bond	1.40

## 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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CustomerService@stripes.com

ADVERTISING  
+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

ICHIRO  
KATAYANAGI

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

ADVERTISING

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DSN: 227.7313

## MILITARY

## Tours to N. Korea border village may resume soon

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Tours to the truce village that straddles the border with North Korea, which have been closed for about a year due to concerns about African swine fever and the coronavirus, may resume soon, the U.S.-led United Nations Command said Monday.

The Joint Security Area is the only point in the buffer zone that divides the peninsula where North Korean and U.N. troops come face to face.

Tours to the area, which is in the heart of the Demilitarized Zone and includes the iconic blue building where the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War was signed, have been extremely popular.

Authorities began limiting civilian access to the JSA and other points in the 155-mile long, 2.5-mile wide DMZ in September 2019 to prevent the spread of African swine fever after wild boars were found dead with the disease. The coronavirus pandemic further complicated efforts to reopen the area.

Citing “the successful containment efforts and the reduced number of infected swine in the region,” the command said it has agreed with the South Korean government that the area may be reopened.

Gen. Robert Abrams, who leads the U.N. Command and U.S. Forces Korea, has authorized the



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

A South Korean soldier stands in front of the Military Demarcation Line in the Joint Security Area in 2019. A North Korean tour group can be seen on the roof of the building in the background.

resumption of tours as part of its education and orientation program at the JSA, according to a press release.

The U.N. Command, which oversees the area under terms of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, said it is preparing for the formal restart including the implementation

of coronavirus prevention measures and will soon announce the reopening date to the general public.

“UNC will continue to work with the [South Korean government] as they monitor African swine fever and COVID-19 conditions to ensure all necessary mitigation measures are in place to

preserve the health and safety,” of visitors, the command said. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

Panmunjom has played a key role in inter-Korean peace negotiations and U.S.-led efforts to persuade the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

It was the site of a historic inter-

Korean summit in 2018 as well as an impromptu meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un last year when Trump became the first sitting U.S. president to step into the communist state.

gamel.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kingamel

## S. Korea repatriates remains of Chinese soldiers killed in Korean War

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea sent home the remains of 117 Chinese soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War, with a ceremony on Sunday attended by Chinese and United Nations Command officials.

It was the seventh such repatriation ceremony since China and South Korea agreed on the return of Chinese remains in 2014. In all, 716 sets of remains have been returned, the foreign ministry said.

Communist Chinese forces fought on behalf of North Korea against the U.S.-backed South in

the war, which ended in an armistice after the sides failed to agree on a peace treaty.

The ministry said 103 sets of remains returned Sunday were excavated last year from Arrowhead Ridge, a former battle-ground inside the Demilitarized Zone, a buffer zone that divides

the peninsula. Others were found elsewhere in South Korea.

“Our government will continue to repatriate the remains of Chinese troops that will be found in the future, and make efforts for the development of future-oriented relations between Beijing and Seoul,” the foreign ministry said.

The ceremony was held at Incheon International Airport near Seoul.

More than 7,500 American troops also remain missing from the war, most believed to have been lost in North Korea.

news@stripes.com

## New Navy destroyer named for former top enlistee, Pearl Harbor survivor

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ  
Stars and Stripes

The USS Delbert D. Black, the Navy’s newest destroyer, entered service Saturday, more than a year after being damaged in a shipyard collision.

The Black, the 68th Arleigh-Burke class destroyer, is the first destroyer commissioned by the Navy this year. The ceremony at Port Canaveral, Fla., was kept small and private, like many other Navy ceremonies this year, due to coronavirus restrictions.

The destroyer is named for former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Delbert D. Black, the first to hold that rank, and is equipped with the Aegis air-and-missile defense system. It’s the 32nd vessel of its class built by Ingalls Shipbuilding, according

to a company press release.

The next stop for the Black is its new homeport, just up the coast at Mayport Naval Station, Jacksonville, Fla.

Ima Black, Master Chief Black’s widow and a Navy veteran, gave the first order to “man our ship and bring her to life,” as sponsor. The principal speaker for the ceremony was Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith, Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite also spoke.

“Commissioning a ship after the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy is an honor without equal,” Braithwaite said during the ceremony, according to the Navy. “The Navy has always been and will always be indelibly influenced by the leadership of our senior enlisted sailors epitomized by Delbert Black.”

In March 2019, the Delbert D. Black had completed its acceptance trials from Ingalls’ shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., when a heavy-lift vessel, the M/V Hawk, delivering a floating dry dock, struck a testing barge alongside it, according to USNI News.

The barge in turn collided with and damaged the destroyer, which took on water, according to a statement from Huntington Ingalls Industries, the shipbuilders’ parent company.

The collision delayed the destroyer’s entry into service by nearly a year. The warship had been launched in 2017.

The 510-foot-long Black will be homeported alongside the destroyers USS Farragut, USS Lassen, USS The Sullivans, USS Thomas Hudner and USS Paul Ignatius.

Prior to the Black, the Paul Ignatius, commissioned in July 2019, most recently entered the Navy inventory. Ingalls has four more destroyers under construction and won a \$936 million contract for a fifth in June, according to an Ingalls news release.

Black was a World War II veteran who managed to survive the attack on Pearl Harbor and eventually reached the highest possible enlisted rank, master chief petty officer of the Navy.

Black defined the senior enlisted adviser position, established in the Navy in 1967, during the Vietnam War. He retired in 1971 after 30 years of naval service and died March 5, 2000. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

“Master Chief Black fought for

increased sea-pay, family support programs, expanded uniform guidance and a host of other issues that improved the quality of life of not only junior enlisted, but all sailors and officers,” Braithwaite said, according to the Navy. “By making life better for sailors, he made our Navy stronger for us all.”

lopez.christian@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Lopez\_Stripes

## Note to readers

The Korean harvest festival Chuseok will delay delivery of Stars and Stripes in South Korea between Sept. 30 to Oct. 2.

## WAR/MILITARY

## Carrier-launched airstrikes hit ISIS targets in Iraq

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

For the first time in over two years, carrier-launched U.S. aircraft conducted an airstrike against Islamic State targets in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the global coalition battling the terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

A pair of Navy F/A-18F Super Hornets from Carrier Air Wing 17, embarked on the USS Nimitz, conducted the strikes on Sept. 23, Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, confirmed via email on Monday.

"The last such strike was by USS Theodore Roosevelt in [March] 2018," said Rebarich, who said the Super Hornets' strike last Wednesday was carried out in Iraq.

A coalition strike that day, coordinated with the Iraqi military, took out a cave and three shelters used as ISIS hideouts in Iraq's Wadi al-Shai, a rural area in Kirkuk province, Inherent Resolve spokesman Army Col. Wayne Marotto said Thursday on



U.S. Navy/Twitter

**A pair of F/A-18F Super Hornets from Carrier Air Wing 17, USS Nimitz, conducted an airstrike against Islamic State targets in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on Sept. 23.**

#### Twitter

"Daesh operatives will continue to try and take advantage of safe havens, but there is no safe place for terrorists to hide," he said.

On Monday, Marotto confirmed to Stars and Stripes by email that the strike was carried out by the Navy jets from the Nimitz.

While there had been no carrier-launched strikes before last year for about 30 months, aircraft embarked on amphibious landing ships in the region have conducted strikes during that time, Rebarich said.

The Nimitz, which is the Navy's oldest carrier in operation, has

been deployed to the 5th Fleet area of operations since late July, accompanied by the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser USS Princeton, and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyers USS Sterett and USS Ralph Johnson.

On Sept. 18, the flattop entered

the Persian Gulf along with the Princeton, Sterett and the guided-missile cruiser USS Philipps Sea, becoming the first carrier strike group to operate in the Gulf since the Abraham Lincoln departed in late 2019, the Navy said earlier this month.

The patrol, meant to deter aggression and ensure the free flow of commerce, comes amid high tensions between Washington and Tehran that have been ongoing since President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from an Obama-era nuclear deal with Iran in May 2018.

A series of incidents since last year, including rocket attacks against bases and diplomatic compounds housing American and coalition personnel in Iraq, and U.S. strikes in response, have ramped up tensions in the region.

The U.S. reportedly warned Iraq over the weekend that it was preparing to pull out of its embassy in that country's capital if Baghdad does not do more to quell the attacks, which American officials have blamed on Iran-backed militias.

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## US warns Iraq of embassy closure if attacks continue

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Trump administration has warned Iraq that it will close its embassy in Baghdad if the government does not take swift and decisive action to end persistent rocket and other attacks by Iranian-backed militias and rogue armed elements on American and allied interests in the country, U.S. and other officials said Monday.

The warning came as Iraqi security officials said a Katyusha rocket hit near Baghdad airport, killing three Iraqi civilians and severely wounding two others.

A U.S. official said the administration's warning was clear and given to both Iraq's president and prime minister but that it was not an imminent ultimatum. There should be "no confusion" among Iraqi leaders about how seriously the U.S. takes the threat to its personnel and property, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The warning signals the administration's increasing frustration and anger with on-going rocket fire from Iranian-supported groups on or near the vast U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad as it steps up pres-

sure on Iran with the re-imposition of crippling sanctions. However, closing the embassy and withdrawing U.S. personnel from Baghdad would signal a significant retreat from a country in which successive administrations have invested massive amounts of money and lives.

The threat to evacuate the embassy, which has stoked concerns in Baghdad of a diplomatic crisis, was first delivered to President Barham Saleh on Tuesday in a phone call with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Iraqi officials said. Pompeo then repeated the warning to Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi on Saturday, the officials said.

Pompeo told Saleh that if the U.S. presence continues to be targeted, measures would be taken to close the embassy and a "strong and violent" response would follow against the groups responsible for the attacks, according to three Iraqi officials with knowledge of the call.

Pompeo went further with al-Kadhimi on Saturday, telling the prime minister that the U.S. will initiate plans to withdraw from the embassy, according to the Iraqi officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

An official announcement has not been

made by the Americans. But the Trump administration has not been shy about expressing its anger and concern about continuing rocket attacks by Iranian-backed groups on or near the embassy compound.

In a tangible sign of a strain in U.S.-Iraq relations, the State Department shortened an Iran sanctions waiver deadline by 60 days last week. The previous waiver, crucial for Iraq to import badly needed Iranian gas to meet power demands, gave the government 120 days.

Despite comments from U.S. officials that a deadline on closing the embassy is not in place, Iraqi officials appeared to be under the impression they have until the waiver expires in two months' time to take action.

Closing the facility, which is by physical size the largest U.S. diplomatic mission in the world, is expected to be a complex and time-consuming process. The embassy was already functioning at minimum levels since March due to the coronavirus and on-going security threats.

Diplomats were told the U.S. had already started the process of closing but would "re-evaluate while progressing," one Western official said, suggesting the decision was reversible if security inside the Green Zone improved.

Closing the embassy after the massive U.S. investment of lives and money in Iraq since 2003 would likely draw significant criticism from Trump allies in Congress, including lawmakers who supported the invasion and ouster of Saddam Hussein. Ahead of November's election, it is not clear if Trump would be willing to invite that criticism.

The State Department declined to comment on the calls between Pompeo and Iraq's leadership, but said the U.S. will not tolerate threats.

Meanwhile, attacks targeting convoys continue.

On Monday, three Iraqi civilians were killed and two severely wounded after a Katyusha rocket hit near Baghdad airport, two Iraqi security officials said.

The rocket targeted the international airport but struck a residential home close by instead, the security officials said. They requested anonymity in line with regulations.

Also on Monday, a roadside bomb targeted a convoy carrying materials destined for U.S. forces southwest of Baghdad, two Iraqi security officials said. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

## USAF F-16s deploy to Bulgaria for NATO air policing mission

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Air Force F-16s launched an air policing mission Monday in Bulgaria, where they will be responsible for guarding NATO airspace along the alliance's southern flank.

The four-week mission puts six F-16 Fighting Falcons at Graf Ignatievo Air Base in the center of the Balkan nation, where they

will operate alongside Bulgarian fighter jets, NATO's Allied Air Command said in a statement.

"In addition to ensuring the safety of Bulgaria's skies, the joint patrols will improve the ability of Bulgarian and U.S. pilots to work together," it said.

The F-16s are from the 555th Fighter Squadron, 31st Fighter Wing, Aviano Air Base, Italy, according to United States Air Force

in Europe — Air Forces Africa.

Among their tasks will be quick reaction flights when military or civilian aircraft are in distress or if they do not follow international flight regulations and approach allied airspace.

Allies have long patrolled the skies along NATO's northeastern flank, where a Baltic air policing mission has been in place since 2004. But the air policing cam-

paign in southern Europe is more recent — initiated two years after Russia's 2014 military intervention in Ukraine and annexation of that country's Crimea peninsula.

The mission expanded south amid concerns about a more aggressive Russia. Six Canadian F-18 jets, based in neighboring Romania, are also operating in the region, NATO said.

Both Romania and Bulgaria

are modernizing and beefing up their air forces.

During the past couple of years, NATO has lodged complaints against Russia for flying military aircraft without transponders, which makes them invisible to civilian air traffic control radar. In such instances, NATO scrambles its planes to intercept and identify the aircraft.

news@stripes.com

MILITARY

# Navy in Naples: Prepare to wait for flu vaccine

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — U.S. Navy health officials in Naples, Italy, have said they may not be able to start an annual influenza flu vaccination campaign for the community until as late as December amid uncertainty over when they will receive the vaccine.

“At this time, the hospital does not have a definitive delivery date for its annual shipment of the influenza vaccine, however we anticipate availability by December,” public health officials at U.S. Naval Hospital Naples said in a recent statement.

Flu vaccine could become available in Naples before then and a mass immunization exercise could be carried out earlier, said Christina Clarke, a spokes-

woman for USNH Naples.

But the hospital is “beholden to when the shipment is on-hand and temperature-verified for safety,” and there were no guarantees as to when that would happen, she said.

Getting a flu vaccine “is more important than ever” this year to help reduce the strain on health care systems responding to the coronavirus pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

Flu vaccination campaigns usually begin in October, and outbreaks tend to start to ramp up in December and run through the cold, winter months. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said immunization campaigns against the potentially deadly viral illness should continue “as long as flu viruses are circulating ... even in January or



KRISTOPHER RUZ/U.S. Navy

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class Ronald Valdez administers a flu shot to a sailor aboard the USS Gerald R. Ford, on Oct. 16, 2018.

weeks to come.

later.” The military elsewhere in Europe have already begun vaccination campaigns. At the Navy’s hospital in Rota, Spain, the first community flu shot event was held last week for active-duty members. More events are expected for others in the days and

Army health officials in Europe “don’t anticipate a delay at this point” and expect to begin vaccinations in late October, said Gino Mattorano, spokesman for Regional Health Command Europe, based in Sembach, Germany.

The CDC has said there are “no significant delays” reported

in vaccine deliveries, but delays could occur “because of the record number of doses being produced this season” which means production and distribution will occur over a longer period of time.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

# Ban on off-base bars breathes new life into on base clubs

By SETH ROBSON  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The Yokota Officers’ Club bar, closed for much of spring and summer at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo, was near capacity on Friday night.

The lounge, which reopened in August, is limited to 50 guests to help slow the spread of the coronavirus. But the crowd suggests there’s plenty of demand for a place to drink on base at a time when most members of the overseas military community are prohibited from visiting bars and nightclubs in the surrounding area.

“It’s nice to see people being able to interact as long as they are taking precautions,” said Jack Higbee, 72, a retiree who, along with his wife, librarian Bonnie Higbee, 70, was part of a healthy crowd at the “O Club” on Friday. It was only the second time the couple had come to the club since the pandemic began, he said.

The bar, built in 1975 on the site



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

People enjoy an evening at the Officers’ Club at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Friday.

of a 1930s-era Imperial Japanese Army officers’ club, includes a pool table, stage and big-screen television showing pro sports. Since reopening, it seems as lively as ever, although food is served by staff rather than spread out in

a buffet and members’ beer steins have been removed from the wall hooks.

“The clubs used to be rowdier,” Higbee said of on-base facilities he’s patronized over four decades working as a civilian on bases in

Japan, the Philippines and Bahrain. “In the old days alcohol wasn’t frowned on as much as it is now.”

Another patron, Air Force Maj. Julian Mapp, 35, of El Paso, Texas, who works at U.S. Forces Japan, said it’s good to have a place to go when off-base bars are off-limits.

“You have to balance safety with maintaining people’s sanity, and I think the O Club is a good balance,” he said.

The lively scene at the bar contrasts with a decline in the popularity of base clubs in recent years, according to Officers’ Club manager Charles Mecke, 48, of Baltimore, Md., who also oversees Yokota’s Enlisted Club.

The decline traces back to the 9/11 terror attacks, which resulted in more regulations, including tougher rules for bringing guests onto military bases, he said.

In the past, base clubs were venues for big-name entertainers touring overseas bases. But since the pandemic the tours have stopped, Mecke said.

“We have tried to get some entertainment,” he said. “A couple of weeks ago some guys from one of the squadrons played ‘90s rock.”

However, the clubs can’t book bands that might draw a large crowd due to the pandemic, he said.

Mecke’s last duty station was in Singapore, where he managed the Terror Club, named after the British warship HMS Terror and, at one time, featuring a pirate statue. The bar often hosted transient crews, including hard-drinking Australian and New Zealand sailors who celebrated ANZAC Day there with a haka war dance, he said.

Yokota has a more stable customer base, he said.

“We do offer a quality product,” he said. “We are able to provide that to our airmen and their families and that is what we are trying to do even now with reopening.”

robson.seth@stripes.com  
Twitter: @SethRobson1





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**STARS AND STRIPES**

## VIRUS OUTBREAK

## Guam's death toll on the rise as limits eased

Stars and Stripes

Guam's coronavirus death toll surged into the 40s on Friday, the same day Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero relaxed restrictions on nonessential businesses under a stay-at-home order that was shifted to an "advisory."

A 56-year-old woman died Friday evening at Guam Memorial Hospital, becoming the U.S. territory's 40th virus-related fatality. A 45-year-old man died of the illness about a half-hour later at the same facility.

On Saturday, the island announced two more coronavirus victims, an 83-year-old woman and a 53-year-old man. Three more deaths were announced Monday evening — a 58-year-old woman, a 79-year-old man and a 44-year-old woman — bringing Guam's pandemic death toll to 41.

"We cannot let our guard down," Guerrero said in a statement Monday announcing the latest deaths. "Our actions do not just affect us — they affect our family, friends, colleagues, and community. We need to do whatever we can to end our days of grief."

As of Monday evening, the island had recorded 2,390 coronavirus infections. At least 267 of those have been U.S. service members.

Guam has been under a government-mandated "Pandemic Condition of Readiness 1" and stay-at-home order since mid-August that shuttered businesses, forced schools to use virtual instruction, prohibited most public gatherings and closed parks and beaches.

As of noon Friday, the order became a "safer-at-home advisory," allowing some businesses to operate at 25% capacity. These include retail stores, personal care services, such as hair and nail salons, and "general office work." In-person outdoor dining is also

**‘Our actions do not just affect us — they affect our family, friends, colleagues, and community. We need to do whatever we can to end our days of grief.’**

Lou Leon Guerrero  
Guam governor

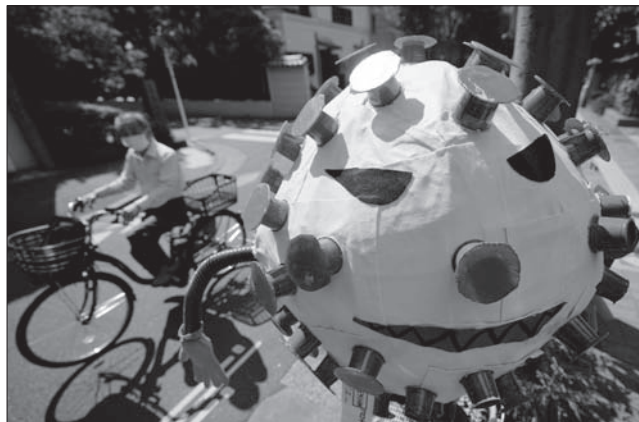
permitted.

"Diners must be members of the same household, tables are limited to 6 people, and there must be six feet of distance between tables," the order says. "Eating and drinking establishments must additionally keep a log of customers."

While public gatherings remain prohibited, recreational activities, including golf, tennis and scuba diving, are now permitted. After the new guidance was announced, the commander of Joint Region Marianas, which oversees Naval Base Guam and nearby Andersen Air Force Base, urged troops and their families not to let their guard down.

"It is likely that you, like me, are experiencing some level of 'COVID fatigue,'" Rear Adm. John Menoni said in a statement Friday, using the name of the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus. "This is normal, as for the past 7 months I have asked you to limit your travel and stay home when able, to physically distance, and wear protective face coverings. I know these mitigation measures are annoying but they are necessary to prevent the tragedies that some of us have experienced."

news@stripes.com



EUGENE HOSHIKO/AP

A man wearing a protective mask to help curb the spread of the coronavirus Monday rides a bicycle past a scarecrow depicting coronavirus displayed on a Tokyo street.

## 5 new cases for US forces in Japan

By JOSEPH DITZLER  
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. military in Japan since Friday has reported five new coronavirus cases, all of them recent arrivals and already in quarantine.

In Tokyo, the nation's capital, the metropolitan government Monday reported 78 new patients infected with the virus, according to public broadcaster NHK. It is the first daily count below 100 since Wednesday. At least 22,647 people have contracted the virus and 400 have died in Tokyo as a result of the pandemic, according to government data.

As of Sunday, Japan has reported 81,690 cases and 1,545 deaths, according to the World Health Organization.

Yokosuka Naval Base, the 7th Fleet's home south of Tokyo, reported two new patients, for a total of eight active cases on base. The new patients had tested positive since Sept. 22, according to a post on the base Facebook page Friday. Two other patients tested clear of the virus.

The base commander, Capt. Rich Jarrett, on Thursday broadened the travel limits for base personnel to include all of Kanagawa prefecture, where the base is located. The cities of Yokohama

and Kawasaki and Tokyo prefecture remain off-limits.

However, travel from Yokosuka is also permitted to Shizuoka, Yamanshi, Nagano, Niigata and Toyama prefectures.

Jarrett relaxed the restrictions on off-base onsens, public baths, swimming pools and fitness centers. Also, base personnel may dine indoors at hotels or traditional Japanese inns if they are registered guests, according to Jarrett's order.

On Saturday, the Marine Corps reported one new patient at Camp Foster, Okinawa, according to a Facebook post by Marine Corps Installations Pacific. That individual tested positive near the end of the mandated 14-day quarantine period. U.S. Forces Japan requires patients to test free of the virus before leaving isolation.

An unspecified number of that person's contacts were ordered into quarantine, according to the post.

On Sunday, Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni said two individuals tested positive, also near the end of their quarantine period, according to a post on the base Facebook page. The new patients

were recent arrivals to Iwakuni and went directly into quarantine; their recent contacts have also been quarantined, according

to the post.

The two arrived on "military-coordinated flights" and "the likelihood of further spread of the virus remains low," according to the base.

Meanwhile, Okinawa prefecture reported 14 new cases Monday, a public health official told Stars and Stripes by phone. Okinawa has reported 2,442 cases and 46 deaths during the pandemic.

The prefecture reported one death and 40 new coronavirus patients over the weekend, 20 each on Saturday and Sunday, the highest daily reports in nearly a month.

Okinawa is home to the bulk of U.S. forces, about 30,000 troops.

Also Sunday, a man in his 60s from Okinawa city who works at Kadena Air Base tested positive, according to the prefectural website. The prefecture is investigating his case, according to a statement on its website.

The air base in a Facebook post Monday said the man is in isolation but did not work in a customer service role and had no close contacts.

Stars and Stripes reporter Aya Ichihashi contributed to this report. ditzler.joseph@stripes.com  
Twitter: @josephditzler

## Five US troops test positive upon arrival in South Korea

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Five U.S. troops tested positive for the coronavirus after traveling to South Korea from the United States, the military said Monday, raising its total number of cases to 198.

South Korea, meanwhile, reports 50 new confirmed infections, its lowest daily toll since

before a new outbreak began last month. That raised its total to 23,661, with 406 deaths.

However, authorities expressed concern about continued cluster cases as South Korea braces for Chuseok, a major holiday that begins Wednesday and usually includes mass movement of people to visit family.

Four of the service members

arrived at Osan Air Base on U.S. government-chartered flights Sept. 10, 23, 24 and 25. U.S. Forces Korea said in a press release.

The other one arrived at Incheon International Airport on a commercial flight Sept. 11, it said.

Only 24 of the 198 patients affiliated with USFK contracted the respiratory virus locally, with

the most recent case in mid-April. The others were travelers who tested positive upon arrival.

U.S. Forces Korea said the troops posed no danger to the broader community because of a strict testing and two-week quarantine process that begins as soon as the plane lands.

Three of the latest cases received positive results on the

coronavirus test required upon arrival in South Korea, while two initially tested negative but were positive on the mandatory test needed to exit quarantine.

All have been transferred to isolation facilities designated for coronavirus patients on Camp Humphreys, the Army's main base in South Korea, USFK said.

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# VIRUS OUTBREAK

## DODEA: Normalcy sought by Yokosuka parents, students

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Extra precautions are required this year to prevent the coronavirus spread, such as social distancing, wearing face masks and regular hand-washing and sanitizing, according to DODEA's operational guidelines. In letters from the schools, parents were encouraged to teach their children what to expect.

Navy spouse Daren Poindexter's daughters Phoenix, 7, and Cadence, 8, were well aware of the new rules as they waited for class to begin at Yokosuka's Sullivans Elementary.

"Stay six feet away (from others)," Cadence said, while Phoenix worried her face mask would get "hot."

"I only got five masks, but we're going to get more," Phoenix said. "I've got one with dinosaurs."

Poindexter said he hoped returning to school would offer his daughters a sense of normalcy often lost during the pandemic.

"They need other people in their lives other than their parents and each other," he said.

Some parents, such as Navy spouse Ryoko Hahn, said the return to the classroom would bring some normalcy to their lives, as well. Hahn said she had to adjust her work schedule so her children wouldn't be home alone while schooling remotely.

"I'm really excited," she said. "It's been so long, and it felt like we were isolated. The kids missed being kids."

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos



Clockwise from top left: Safety patrol members look after their fellow Sullivans Elementary School students on the first day of in-person classes at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Monday; Sullivans students line up; students return to Nile C. Kinnick High School for the first time since March.

PHOTOS BY ANRUM ISHIKAWA  
Stars and Stripes

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK



LU WANG/AP

Ming Wang, 71, was sickened in March on a cruise with his wife. Though doctors tried various experimental approaches, Ming died June 8.

## Nearly 1 million who died also illuminated treatment process

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE  
Associated Press

The nearly 1 million people around the world who have lost their lives to COVID-19 have left the world a gift: Through desperate efforts to save their lives, scientists now better understand how to treat and prevent the disease — and millions of others may survive.

Ming Wang, 71, and his wife were on a cruise from Australia, taking a break after decades of running the family's Chinese restaurant in Papillion, Neb., when he was infected. In the 74 days he was hospitalized before his death in June, doctors frantically tried various experimental approaches, including enrolling him in a study of an antiviral drug that ultimately showed promise.

"It was just touch and go. Everything they wanted to try we said yes, do it," said Wang's daughter, Anne Peterson. "We would give anything to have him back, but if what we and he went through would help future patients, that's

what we want."

Patients are already benefiting. Though more deaths are expected this fall because of the recent surge in coronavirus infections in the United States and elsewhere, there also are signs that death rates are declining and that people who get the virus now are faring better than did those in the early months of the pandemic.

"Some of the reason we're doing better is because of the advances," Dr. Francis Collins, director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, told The Associated Press. Several drugs have proved useful and doctors know more about how to care for the sickest patients in hospitals, he said.

We're in the "stormy adolescence" phase of learning what treatments work — beyond infancy but not "all grown up either," Collins said.

The nearly 1 million deaths attributed to the coronavirus in nine months are far more than the 690,000 from AIDS or the 400,000 from malaria in all of

2019. They're trending just behind the 1.5 million from tuberculosis.

Wealth and power have not shielded rich countries from the awful power of the virus. The U.S. "has been the worst-hit country in the world" with more than 7 million coronavirus infections and more than 200,000 deaths, reflecting "the lack of success that we have had in containing this outbreak," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease specialist, told a Harvard Medical School audience earlier this month.

Although cases are rising, death rates seem to be falling, said Dr. Cyrus Shahpar, a former U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention scientist now at the nonprofit group Resolve to Save Lives.

It's clear that treatments also are affecting survival, many doctors said. People who have died from COVID-19, especially ones who took part in studies, have helped reveal what drugs do or do not help.

## India's confirmed case tally reaches 6 million people

By SHEKH SAALIQ  
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India's confirmed coronavirus tally reached 6 million on Monday, keeping the country second to the United States in number of reported cases.

The Health Ministry reported 82,170 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, driving the overall total to 6,074,703. At least 1,039 deaths were recorded in the same period, taking total fatalities up to 95,542.

New infections in India are currently being reported faster than anywhere else in the world. The world's second-most populous country is expected to become the pandemic's worst-hit country in coming weeks, surpassing the U.S., where more than 7.1 million infections have been reported.

In the past week, nearly one in every three new infections reported in the world and one in every five reported coronavirus deaths were in India, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. While most of India's deaths remain concentrated in its large cities, smaller urban centers across the country's vast landscape are also reporting a surge in infections.

Yet even as infections mount, India has the highest number of recovered patients in the world.

The Health Ministry on Monday said more than 5 million people have recovered from COVID-19, giving the country a recovery rate of 82.5%.

Health experts have warned about the potential for the virus to spread during the upcoming

religious festival season, which is marked by huge gatherings of people in temples and shopping districts.

Another potential risk is an election next month in eastern Bihar state, where about 72 million people will cast votes over three days.

But even as infections soar, most Indian states have completely opened up in an effort to repair an economy that is suffering its worst slump in decades after India imposed a draconian lockdown in late March.

The lockdown forced India's 1.4 billion people to remain indoors, closed businesses and triggered an exodus of millions of informal workers who lost their jobs in the cities. Many were forced to make grueling journeys back to their hometowns on foot.

Along with the resumption of economic activity has come a noticeable disregard of social distancing in public places. Many people can be seen with their masks lowered over their chins or with no masks at all.

"People are not able to understand the situation we are in and are ignoring the rules and roaming about," said Jarif Ahmed, a New Delhi resident.

The federal government, however, has been urging Indians to remain on guard.

On Sunday, health minister Harsh Vardhan stressed strict adherence to social distancing.

"We are far from having achieved any kind of herd immunity, which necessitates that all of us should continue following COVID-appropriate behavior," Vardhan said on Twitter.

**'People are not able to understand the situation we are in and are ignoring the rules and roaming about.'**

Jarif Ahmed  
New Delhi resident

## Brussels imposes curfew on bars as reported case numbers soar

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Facing a surge of new coronavirus cases far higher than in other parts of Belgium, Brussels authorities are closing bars early in the capital city.

Beginning Monday night, all bars and cafes were to close between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m., while any other businesses selling drinks or food were to shut down at 10 p.m. In addition, eating at street markets is now forbidden.

Local media said authorities thought about starting the bar curfew at 10 p.m. but the proposal was rejected to support virus-ravaged businesses. According to the Belgian cafes federation, half of the country's 12,000 bars may not survive the coronavirus crisis.

Since the start of the pandemic, more than 114,000 coronavirus infections have been recorded in hard-hit Belgium — a country of 11.5-million residents — includ-

ing 9,980 deaths. From Sept. 17-23, 11,934 new infections were diagnosed, with the biggest spike in Brussels, where the positive rate now averages 9.7% compared to 4.7% in the whole of Belgium.

"Currently in the Brussels region, we have roughly 10% of positive tests. This is extremely important and confirms that the virus is circulating in the capital, it's not only due to an increase in the number of tests," said Yves

Van Laethem, a spokesman from the COVID-19 crisis center.

Local authorities also announced increased testing across the city and will enforce the ban on gatherings of up to 10 people, especially when the bars close.

The move came only days after Prime Minister Sophie Wilmes relaxed some virus restrictions at a national level. Starting Thursday, Belgium no longer will require people to wear a mask

outdoors except in crowded places. The government also reduced the mandatory quarantine period from 14 days to one week for people with COVID-19 symptoms who eventually test negative for the virus.

Health experts urged Belgian residents and employers to keep implementing social distancing and back remote working when possible.



# VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

## La. official won't appeal election mail-in expansion

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana's top elections official won't challenge a federal judge's decision requiring him to offer more mail-in balloting options for the fall elections to people at higher risk to the coronavirus disease.

Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin said he must focus on implementing the required changes, suggesting an immediate appeal of U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick's Sept. 16 ruling could create confusion ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

"I and the voters deserve certainty," and the voters deserve certainty, told The Advocate. "My staff, the clerks and the (voter) registrars and their staffs need to know how we're conducting this election. And for us, we're conducting this election in accordance with what the judge ruled and current law."

Louisiana's absentee balloting procedure is usually limited to people 65 or older, members of the military, overseas voters, people who are hospitalized, people who are physically disabled and people who won't be in their parish for the election.

The expansion will allow people to seek an absentee ballot if they are at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because of medical conditions; are subject to a quarantine order; are advised by a health provider to self-quarantine; are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking medical confirmation; or are caring for someone who is isolated because of the disease.

Ardoin said he remains concerned that the number of absentee ballots will slow the tally of votes.

### Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Little Rock teachers won't show up for in-person classes due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus in schools, the head of the local teachers union said Sunday.

The Little Rock Education Association said its members are willing to teach classes virtually, but accused district administrators of not doing enough to prevent the virus' spread in their schools since they reopened Aug. 24.

"At this juncture, LEA members believe that our schools are not safe for in-person instruction and that the risk to our students, our staff members and our community is too great," the associa-

tion said in a news release. The union said the move was not a strike or a work stoppage.

It was not clear how many teachers in the district planned to not show up for classes, but the superintendent of the 21,000-student district said they were taking additional steps to ensure schools remain open for in-person classes.

### Delaware

DOVER — Delaware's Division of Public Health has reported more than 100 new coronavirus cases in the state.

The Delaware State News reported Sunday that the total number of cases is now 20,260.

The good news is that there were no new deaths reported. The state's total number of coronavirus-related deaths remained at 633.

The total number of people who are hospitalized with the coronavirus is 60. Sixteen of those cases are considered critical.

### Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As coronavirus cases spike among Florida State University students, local police said Sunday they broke up a party at an off-campus student apartment complex that involved about 700 attendees and more than 1,000 attendees.

Tallahassee police said it was one of a dozen large gatherings they broke up over the weekend, including one Sunday where two people were injured by gunfire.

Police said the vehicles at the student apartment complex were blocking travel lanes and a Leon County sheriff's helicopter was used to help disperse the crowd.

Florida State University reported that more than 1,400 students and 26 employees had tested positive for COVID-19 through Sept. 18. The university updates its coronavirus numbers weekly.

Florida has more than 700,000 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 14,200 people have died from the disease, according to statistics released by the state Department of Health on Sunday.

### Massachusetts

ABURN — Twenty students in Auburn Public Schools are being asked to quarantine after the district found that they were potentially exposed to a bus monitor who tested positive for



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Masked students walk through the campus of Ball State University in Muncie, Ind., on Sept. 10.

### COVID-19

In a letter sent to parents, Superintendent Casey Handfield said the bus monitor was removed from work Sept. 18 after complaining of symptoms associated with COVID-19, according to MassLive.com. The monitor tested negative for the coronavirus on Sept. 19 but tested positive Sept. 23.

The superintendent's letter said affected staff, students and siblings have been asked to quarantine "out of an abundance of caution" and to follow up with their medical providers.

### Montana

BILLINGS — The coronavirus pandemic in Montana continued to grow as the state recorded a record number of cases Saturday, surpassing the high marks reached two days earlier.

Montana recorded 346 new cases of COVID-19 Saturday morning, an increase from 323 cases Friday and 333 cases Thursday. The Billings Gazette reported Saturday.

Montana experienced a record number of new case totals in eight of the previous 11 days.

State health officials reported one new death from the virus Saturday, bringing the state's total to 171.

As of Saturday, Montana had 2,987 people known to be currently infected by COVID-19, with 147 people hospitalized.

### Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island will stay under its current

coronavirus restrictions for another month.

Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo has extended the restrictions under Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan, which were supposed to expire on Monday. Now the restrictions will remain in place until Oct. 28.

Under Phase 3, indoor catered events are limited to 50 people and outdoor events are limited to 100 people. Businesses can have up to 66% of workers on site at once as long as other virus guidance, such as physical distancing, is followed.

Raimondo signed the executive order extending Phase 3 on Friday.

### New York

NEW YORK — Coronavirus continues to spread "at an alarming rate" in several New York City neighborhoods, the city health department said Sunday, a day before it is expected to decide whether to shut down private schools and nonessential businesses there.

The COVID infection rate in Gravesend/Homestead is 6.75%, up from 6% last week; 5.34% in Midwood, up from 4.95%; and 4.41% in Borough Park, up from 3.53%, according to the Health Department.

It also flagged Kew Gardens, Edgemere/Far Rockaway, Bensonhurst/Mapleton, Gerritsen Beach/Homcrest/Sheepshead Bay and Flatlands/Midwood as areas of concern.

"Seven of the eight neighborhoods saw increases even from

the prior day's report, based on our preliminary data," the Health Department said in a statement.

### Nevada

CARSON CITY — Health officials on Sunday reported 373 new positive coronavirus cases in Nevada along with three additional deaths.

That increases the statewide totals to 78,728 cases and 1,585 known deaths since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Nevada Department of Health Services officials had reported 602 new cases on Saturday — the largest number since Aug. 29 — with nine additional deaths.

They said of the nearly 79,000 statewide cases, a majority have been in Clark County.

### Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Wisconsin health officials on Sunday reported 2,217 new cases of the coronavirus, the fourth day in a row the state has confirmed more than 2,000 positive tests.

The update shows a positivity rate of 27.6% for the more than 8,000 COVID-19 test results processed in the last day. A single-day record of 2,817 cases was reported Saturday.

The death toll remained at 1,281 people as no new fatalities were reported Sunday.

Wisconsin ranks third in the country behind North Dakota and South Dakota in the number of new virus cases per capita in the last two weeks, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

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NATION

# Tax revelation could tarnish Trump's image

By JILL COLVIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The bombshell revelations that President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for office and paid no income taxes at all in many others threaten to undercut a pillar of his appeal among blue-collar voters and provide a new opening for his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, on the eve of the first presidential debate.

Trump has worked for decades to build an image of himself as a hugely successful businessman — even choosing “mogul” as his Secret Service code name. But The New York Times on Sunday revealed that he paid just \$750 in federal income taxes in 2016, the year he won the presidency, and in 2017, his first year in office. He paid no income taxes whatsoever in 10 of the previous 15 years, largely because he reported losing more money than he made, according to the Times, which obtained years' worth of tax return data that the president had long fought to keep private.

The development comes at a particularly precarious moment for Trump, whose Republican campaign is struggling to overcome criticism of the president's handling of the pandemic. It hands Biden an easy attack line heading into Tuesday's debate. And with

early voting already happening in some states and Election Day just over a month away, Trump may be running out of time to turn his campaign around.

“Donald Trump needs this election to be about Joe Biden as a choice,” said longtime GOP consultant Alex Conant. “This keeps the focus squarely on Trump's character and the chaos going into the most important night of the campaign, the debate.”

Of course, Trump has repeatedly faced — and survived — devastating turns that would have sunk any other politician. That includes, most notably, the stunning “Access Hollywood” tape released in October 2016, in which Trump was recorded bragging about kissing and groping women without their permission. The video's release came just two days before Trump was set to face then-candidate Hillary Clinton in their second debate and was considered a death knell to his campaign at the time.

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany told “Fox & Friends” on Monday that Democrats are replaying “the same playbook they tried in 2016 — the same playbook that the American people rejected and will do so again.”

At this point in the race, with voting already underway in many states and so few voters still undecided, it is unclear whether any new discoveries about Trump would make any difference. Two

Trump's support over the years has remained remarkably consistent, polls over the course of his presidency have found.

The tax allegations go to the very heart of Trump's appeal, especially among the blue-collar voters in states like Pennsylvania, Wisconsin and Michigan who propelled him to the presidency in 2016. Trump was supported by about two-thirds of white voters without college degrees, according to an analysis by the Pew Research Center, versus only about 2 in 10 nonwhite noncollege graduates.

Indeed, in a Gallup poll from February 2016, Republicans who wanted to see Trump win their party's nomination cited his experience as a businessman as the second-most important reason they backed him, surpassed only by his status as a nonpolitician and an outsider.

Even today, when asked to explain their support for Trump, voters often point to his success in business as evidence of his acumen. And they often repeat his talking point that he gave up a great deal to serve as president, citing his sacrifice as evidence that he ran for the job not out of self-interest, but because he cares about improving the lives of people like them.

But the image of a man flying around in private jets from one luxury property to another and paying less in taxes than millions of Americans with far more

modest lifestyles could prompt a backlash similar to the one 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney faced after he was secretly recorded at a closed-door fundraiser saying that the 47% of Americans who don't pay income taxes were “dependent upon government” and would never vote for him.

“(M)jib you is not to worry about those people. I'll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives,” Romney said.

Roughly half of Americans pay no federal income taxes, but the average income tax paid in 2017 was nearly \$12,200, according to the IRS.

Democrats wasted no time in seizing on the news, with the Biden campaign's online store already selling stickers saying “I paid more income taxes than Donald Trump” on Sunday night.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer tweeted an emoji calling on followers to raise their hands “if you paid more in federal income tax than President Trump.”

“That's why he hid his tax returns. Because the whole time, he wasn't paying taxes. But you were,” added Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn.

And Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the new report highlights the importance of the House Democratic lawsuit against the Trump administration to access Trump's

tax returns.

“This reporting shines a stark light on the vastly different experience people with power and influence have when interacting with the Internal Revenue Service than the average American taxpayer does,” he said in a statement.

In addition to the news about Trump's annual payments, the Times found that many of his best-known businesses, including his golf courses, reported huge losses.

The development comes after Biden recently stepped up his efforts to paint Trump as a charlatan who has lied to his working-class supporters. In contrast, Biden has tried to highlight his own middle-class upbringing.

The election, Biden has said, is “Scranton vs. Park Avenue,” pitting Biden's boyhood hometown in Pennsylvania against Manhattan, where Trump built his branding empire and reality television career.

“This clearly plays straight into that contrast that Biden has opened up,” said Joe Trippi, a veteran strategist of multiple Democratic presidential campaigns.

Trippi said coming into the debate, Biden now has something he can concretely point to as he tries to sway the slim margin of voters who remain undecided.

“You move a few points of working class voters, and you're talking about Biden winning in places like Ohio,” Trippi said.

## Tax: Records also allege mounting loans and debt from two properties

FROM FRONT PAGE

no income taxes, primarily because of how low their incomes are. But IRS figures indicate that the average tax filer paid roughly \$12,200 in 2017, about 15 times more than what the president paid.

The disclosure, which the Times said comes from tax return data it obtained extending over two decades, comes at a pivotal moment ahead of the first presidential debate Tuesday and weeks before a divisive election against Democrat Joe Biden.

Speaking at a news conference Sunday at the White House, Trump dismissed the report as “fake news” and maintained he has paid taxes, though he gave no specifics. He also vowed that information about his taxes “will all be revealed,” but he offered no timeline for the disclosure and made similar promises during the 2016 campaign on which he never followed through.

In fact, the president has fielded court challenges against those seeking access to his returns, including the U.S. House, which is suing to get Trump's tax returns as part of congressional oversight.

During his first two years as president, Trump received \$73 million from foreign operations, which in addition to his golf properties in Scotland and Ireland included \$3 million from the Philippines, \$2.3 million from India and \$1 million from Turkey, among other nations. The president in 2017 paid \$145,400 in taxes in India and \$156,824 in the Philippines, compared to

just \$750 in U.S. income taxes. The Times said the tax records did not reveal any unreported connections to Russia.

Trump found multiple ways to reduce his tax bills. He has taken tax deductions on personal expenses, such as housing, aircraft and \$70,000 to style his hair while he filmed “The Apprentice.” Losses in the property businesses solely owned and managed by Trump appear to have offset income from his stake in “The Apprentice” and other entities with multiple owners.

During the first two years of his presidency, Trump relied on business tax credits to reduce his tax obligations. The Times said \$9.7 million worth of business investment credits that were submitted after Trump requested an extension to file his taxes allowed him to offset his obligations and pay just \$750 each in 2016 and 2017.

Income tax payments help finance the military and domestic programs.

Trump, starting in 2010, claimed and received an income tax refund that totaled \$72.9 million, which the Times said was at the core of an ongoing audit by the IRS. The Times said a ruling against Trump could cost him \$100 million over his presidency.

The president could also face mounting financial pressure in the years ahead. The tax records show he's carrying a total of \$421 million in loans and debt that are primarily due within four years. Most of that debt comes from the Doral golf resort in Florida (\$125 million) and Trump's Washington hotel (\$160 million), two prop-



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Donald Trump speaks Sunday at the White House, after the New York Times released a story on how much he paid in federal income taxes in 2016 and 2017.

erties that the Times said are struggling financially.

Trump dismissed the report in a series of tweets Monday claiming “The Fake News Media, just like Election time 2016, is bringing up my Taxes & all sorts of other nonsense with illegally obtained information & only bad intent.”

He said that he is entitled to take tax credits and account for depreciation. Richard Neal, D-Mass., the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee who has tried unsuccessfully to obtain Trump's tax records, said the Times report makes it even more essential for his committee to get the documents.

“It appears that the President has gamed the tax code to his advantage and used legal fights to delay or avoid paying what

he owes,” Neal wrote in a statement. “Now, Donald Trump is the boss of the agency he considers an adversary. It is essential that the IRS's presidential audit program remain free of interference.”

A lawyer for the Trump Organization, Alan Garten, told the Times that “most, if not all, of the facts appear to be inaccurate.”

He said in a statement to the news organization that the president “has paid tens of millions of dollars in personal taxes to the federal government, including paying millions in personal taxes since announcing his candidacy in 2015.”

The New York Times said it declined to provide Garten with the tax filings in order to protect its sources, but it said its sources had legal access to the records.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police: Man fled traffic stop, striking officer

**NJ** GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP — Authorities said a Philadelphia man fleeing a traffic stop in New Jersey struck a police officer before he was apprehended.

Gloucester Township police said the vehicle was stopped in the Sicklerville section of the township and officers suspected that the driver was under the influence of narcotics.

Police allege that the driver refused to get out of the vehicle and drove away, striking an officer with the car door and running over the officer's foot.

Police said the vehicle came to a stop 3 miles away due to a mechanical issue, and Oliver Lee, 20, of Philadelphia was taken into custody. The officer declined treatment.

## Motor Speedway Museum auctions cars

**IN** INDIANAPOLIS — Dozens of cars in the basement of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum are being auctioned off as the facility continues to revamp its collection.

Since mid-May, the museum has generated about \$320,000 after selling 14 vehicles, the Indiana Business Journal reported.

Most of the vehicles were early 20th century cars and Ford Model T's that had not been used during races.

More than 70 cars are expected to be sold through the end of 2021, with proceeds to be reinvested in the maintenance of the museum's remaining vehicles in addition to obtaining new memorabilia.

One of the cars already sold was a 1907 Franklin Model G the Speedway Foundation bought in 1961. The Franklin Model G was sold for \$51,111 on June 26.

## 2012 case closed after DNA links jailed suspect

**GA** LAWRENCEVILLE — An 8-year-old murder case in Georgia was closed after DNA linked an incarcerated suspect to the slaying, authorities said.

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Cold Case Unit has been investigating the Nov. 2, 2012, murder of Robert Mixon with the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office for years. Mixon was shot to death inside his apartment, according to a news release.

Detectives originally assigned to the case were never able to identify a suspect, but the Cold Case unit was able to find DNA evidence and other evidence that links Near Matheson to Mixon's death, the release said.

Matheson was already incarcerated for unrelated crimes in Georgia and now faces a murder charge, authorities said.

## Man killed when car crashes into residence

**OH** HOWLAND — A man who was in the basement of his home was killed when a car crashed into the residence



JOHN RUCOSKY, THE (JOHNSTOWN, PA.) TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT/AP

## Skeptical of the squash

**Bryce Weimert, 2, of Ebensburg, Pa., is not quite sure what to make of a watering pumpkin display during Spud Stroll in Ebensburg on Saturday. Spud Stroll replaced the borough's annual Potatofest due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**

and struck him, authorities said. The accident in Howland occurred when a car driven by Damien Fish, 24, of Warren, left the roadway and crashed into the home, according to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The car struck Matthew Burke, 45, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fish was treated at a hospital for injuries that were not considered life-threatening.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

## Man jailed for graffiti during community service

**VA** FREDERICKSBURG — A Virginia man accused of spray-painting property with graffiti while he was supposed to be performing community service for a vandalism conviction was sentenced to three years in jail.

The Free Lance-Star reported that Robert Singhass, 21, of Unionville bragged on social media about spray-painting the word "Robbo" on properties in Fredericksburg and drinking liquor when he was supposed to be picking up trash earlier this year.

"You were given a chance and you blew it," Fredericksburg Circuit Court Judge Gordon Willis told Singhass.

Singhass has served six months from a previous sentence and will only have to serve half of his three-year sentence because his convictions are for misdemeanor offenses, the newspaper reported.

## THE CENSUS

# 140

ties." The investigation, in cooperation with local police departments across the Phoenix area, resulted in the seizure of 131 firearms, 3,000 fentanyl pills and nearly \$150,000 in cash.

The number of suspects arrested in the Phoenix area as part of an effort to crack down on gang violence and crime. The U.S. Marshals Service said 51 of the suspects apprehended during "Operation Snake Eyes" were gang members. The suspects were identified as "violent fugitives."

## Buffalo roundup draws thousands of spectators

**SD** CUSTER — Thousands of people in South Dakota gathered to watch buffalo being herded into corrals at the annual Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup on Friday.

The event usually attracts between 19,000 and 20,000 people, the Rapid City Journal reported. Several participants in the roundup said the crowds this year looked bigger than in previous years. Officials at Custer State Park have not yet released an official estimate of the crowd size.

## Motorcyclist charged with assaulting ranger

**NC** DANBURY — A North Carolina man was arrested on charges he struck a park ranger with a motorcycle at a state park.

The charges against Kennan James Foster, 44, of Greensboro include felony assault with a dead-

ly weapon, assault on a law enforcement officer and fleeing the scene to elude arrest, the Stokes County Sheriff's Office said.

The park ranger was on duty at Hanging Rock Park on Sept. 6 when she heard a motorcycle on a walking trail at the park and briefly spoke to the rider before he allegedly struck her with the bike, park officials said.

## Former deputy accused in series of burglaries

**IA** LEMARIS — A former sheriff's deputy in northwestern Iowa faces several felony charges for burglaries and thefts that occurred while he was working as a deputy.

The Sioux City Journal reported that Aaron John Leusink, 41, is accused in a series of crimes that occurred between December 2017 and January of this year. Authorities said the thefts were related to prescription medications.

Leusink was working as a Plymouth County deputy at the time. Sheriff Michael Van Ot-

terloo asked the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation to investigate after the allegations against Leusink came to light in April.

Leusink was initially placed on administrative leave before being fired in April.

## Mansion that became restaurant being razed

**IN** VALPARAISO — A grand mansion in northwest Indiana that was visited by a parade of prominent guests before being turned into an upscale restaurant is meeting the wrecking ball after years of neglect.

Architectural salvage professionals rescued chandeliers, woodwork, hardware and other fixtures from the Victorian-era Calkins-Brown House before demolition work began recently in Valparaiso. The site is set to be redeveloped into townhomes in the city about 50 miles southeast of Chicago.

The four-story mansion was built around 1860. It was later owned by early Valparaiso University President Henry Baker Brown.

The Pappas family bought the property in 1942 and turned it into a fine-dining restaurant.

After the restaurant closed in 1995, the grand building was damaged by a fire three years later.

From wire reports

NATION

# 3rd judge bars cuts to pre-vote USPS deliveries

By Spencer S. Hsu  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A third federal judge on Sunday ordered the U.S. Postal Service to halt changes that have delayed mail delivery nationwide, handing the latest judicial rebuke to unilateral service cuts that critics say would suppress mail-in voting in November's elections.

U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan of the District of Columbia sided with the states of New York, Hawaii and New Jersey and the cities of New York and San Francisco. They say Postmaster General Louis DeJoy disrupted operations without first submitting changes to the Postal Regulatory Commission and told Congress that he had no intention of returning removed collection boxes or high-speed sorting equipment.

The opinion was the latest by a court to conclude that Postal Service changes were likely to risk the timely delivery of election mail and hinder state responses to the coronavirus pandemic.

"It is clearly in the public interest to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, to ensure safe alternatives to in-person voting, and to require that the USPS comply with the law," Sullivan wrote in a 39-page opinion, referring to the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Ten days earlier, a judge in Washington state entered a nationwide injunction against changes that he called "a politically motivated attack on the efficiency of the Postal Service" and that were likely to irreparably harm the ability of 14 suing states to administer the election.

Stanley Bastian, chief judge of



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

An employee loads vote-by-mail ballots into a truck for transport to a local U.S. Postal Service office at the Broward Supervisor of Elections Office on Thursday in Lauderdale, Fla.

the Eastern District of Washington, blocked DeJoy's limits on delivery trips, decommissioning any mailboxes and sorting machines, or reducing processing facilities and retail hours.

On Monday, Manhattan federal judge Victor Marrero entered a similar injunction, ordering the service to prioritize election mail and preapprove overtime requests for the two weeks surrounding Election Day.

In a House hearing last month, DeJoy rejected accusations that he was impeding the election. He testified that many policy changes were underway before he took

office June 15 and were needed to increase efficiency.

Nevertheless, talks Friday were nearing a settlement between the Postal Service and 19 states and D.C. over handling of mailed ballots and the suspension of the postmaster general's cost-cutting backlogs. The Postal Service has said it will continue to apply first-class mail delivery standards to election mail regardless of the paid class and to dedicate additional process, transportation, and delivery and collection trips for two weeks surrounding Election Day to accelerate the delivery of ballots.

## Judge postpones 1st Trump ban on TikTok

NEW YORK — A federal judge on Sunday postponed a Trump administration order that would have banned the popular video sharing app TikTok from U.S. smartphone app stores around midnight.

A more comprehensive ban remains scheduled for November, about a week after the presidential election. The judge, Carl Nichols of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, did not agree to postpone the later ban.

## Power cut to 195,000 in Calif. amid more fires

PG&E was cutting power to about 195,000 people across Northern California in an attempt to keep its power lines from sparking wildfires amid another round of extreme heat, dry weather and high winds. Blazes still erupted, triggering evacuations and burning thousands of acres.

As temperatures soared past 90 degrees Fahrenheit on Sunday, PG&E — the utility giant that went bankrupt last year after its equipment ignited catastrophic blazes, began a shut-off that will leave parts of 16 counties out of power until the end of Monday.

## Ore. governor seeks police response review

PORTLAND, Ore. — Criticism of the law enforcement response to a protest in Portland, Ore., late Saturday into early Sunday prompted Gov. Kate Brown to ask authorities to review "any alleged incidents" involving their officers.

Videos from the demonstration in downtown Portland showed police grabbing a news photographer and pushing him to the ground, as he was trying to document them tackling and detaining a person on a sidewalk, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

From wire reports

# Louisville protests continue in Taylor's name

By Dylan Lovan  
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A crowd marched in Louisville's streets chanting "Breonna Taylor, say her name" on Sunday evening, the fifth night of protests after a grand jury declined to charge officers in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer urged people to begin heading home about an hour before the

curfew was set to begin at 9 p.m. as the protesters continued to march. Earlier in the day, people were gathered at Jefferson Square Park, which has come to be called "Breonna's park" by demonstrators, as speakers condemned the grand jury's decision. The Courier Journal reported.

On Saturday, a diverse crowd of hundreds marched chanting "Black Lives Matter" and "No justice, no peace" as cars honked along a busy downtown artery in

this Kentucky city that has seen more than 120 days of demonstrations over the death of the 26-year-old Black woman in a police raid gone wrong.

Taylor was shot multiple times March 13 after her boyfriend fired at officers who had entered her home during a narcotics raid by white officers, authorities said. Taylor's boyfriend said he didn't know who was coming in and fired in self-defense, wounding one officer.

On Wednesday, Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron announced a grand jury indicted one officer on wanted endangerment charges, saying he fired gunshots into a neighboring home during the raid that didn't strike anyone. That officer has been fired.

Cameron said the other officers were not charged with Taylor's killing because they acted to protect themselves.

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WORLD

# Pakistani court OKs appeal by slain journalist's family

By KATHY GANNON  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday accepted an appeal by the family of slain American journalist Daniel Pearl seeking to keep a British-born Pakistani man on death row over the beheading of the Wall Street Journal reporter.

The court delayed until next week hearing the appeal over the lower-court acquittal of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who had been on death row since his conviction in 2002 over Pearl's killing.

Sheikh had been convicted of helping lure Pearl to a meeting in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi in which he was kidnapped. Pearl had been investi-

gating the link between Pakistani militants and Richard C. Reid, dubbed the "Shoe Bomber" after trying to blow up a flight from Paris to Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes.

The lower court's April ruling acquitted Sheikh and three other accomplices, who had been sentenced to life in jail for their role in the plot. The lower court found Sheikh guilty on a single lesser charge of abduction, which he is also appealing.

The acquittal stunned the U.S. government, Pearl's family and journalism advocacy groups.

"We felt like (it was) a thunderstorm that is about to reopen our pains of 2002," Pearl's father Judea Pearl told The Associated Press in an email Monday.

# Saudi Arabia: G-20 gathering of world leaders will be virtual

By AYA BATRAWY  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Saudi Arabia, which is presiding over the Group of 20 countries this year, said Monday that the upcoming November gathering of world leaders will be held virtually amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The kingdom had originally planned to host world leaders for the G-20 summit in Riyadh before the pandemic, offering Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman the chance to share handshakes and wide smiles with

presidents and prime ministers, such as Donald Trump, Russia's Vladimir Putin, India's Narendra Modi and China's Xi Jinping.

Instead, the planned virtual meet-up announced Monday strips the kingdom of the pomp that would have accompanied televised arrivals on Riyadh's tarmac just two years after the killing and dismemberment of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi stained the crown prince's reputation.

Saudi Arabia said the virtual summit Nov. 21-22 will be chaired by King Salman. The meeting will focus on "protecting lives and restoring growth by addressing vul-

nerabilities uncovered during the pandemic and by laying down the foundations for a better future," a Saudi statement said.

The statement added that G-20 countries, which represent the world's biggest and most powerful economies, have contributed over \$21 billion to support the production of vaccines and access to therapeutics, as well as injected \$11 trillion "to safeguard the global economy."

G-20 nations, however, have been criticized for not taking cohesive action against the virus and its economic impact.

# Australian amusement park owner fined \$2.5M over 4 river ride deaths

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — An Australian theme park owner was fined \$2.5 million on Monday for safety breaches that led to the deaths of four people on a river rapids ride in 2016.

Two men and two women died when their raft flipped on the Thunder River Rapids ride in Dreamworld park.

Ardent Leisure Group had pleaded guilty under workplace safety laws of failing to comply

with its health and safety duty and exposing individuals to a risk of serious injury or death.

Magistrate Pam Dowse told a Gold Coast court that Ardent knew the risks before the accident.

"Complete and blind trust

(was) placed in the defendant by every person who rode the Thunder River Rapids ride and those guests were extremely vulnerable," Dowse said.

The Sydney-based company, which also owns assets in the

United States and New Zealand, had faced a potential maximum fine of \$3.2 million.

The majority of families, first responders and others impacted by the tragedy had already received compensation, he said.





## SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation
944

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Members of Japanese pop music band ARASHI are, clockwise from upper left: Satoshi Ohno, Masaki Aiba, Kazunari Ninomiya, Jun Matsumoto and Sho Sakurai.

HIRO KOMAE/AP

# ARASHI plans surprise for fans

## Japanese pop band working with Bruno Mars on all-English single

By JUVON PARK AND CHISATO TANAKA  
Associated Press

Japanese pop sensation ARASHI has a big surprise for fans as they near their planned hiatus at year's end: a collaboration with Bruno Mars on their first all-English single.

The band told The Associated Press that multi-Grammy Award-winning musician Mars delved into ARASHI's back catalog to understand their unique sound while working on the single that was released last week.

"He took into consideration that we are going on hiatus," said Jun Matsumoto, adding he feels their song, "Whenever You Call," will appeal to both their hardcore fans and "those who do not know about us."

"We have been releasing music only in Japanese," Sho Sakurai explained. "In that sense, foreign audiences who can understand Japanese could recognize us. But this time we sang the song in English. Bruno provided us the opportunity to reach out to a foreign audience."

The group, which also includes Satoshi Ohno, Masaki Aiba and Kazunari Ninomiya, embodied their name — ARASHI means storm — by becoming one of Japan's boy band legends and maintaining their crown for more than two decades.

Their greatest hits album "5x20 All the BEST!! 1999-2019" sold 3.3 million copies and was last year's bestselling album worldwide, surpassing both BTS and Taylor Swift.

The band has released more than 400 songs, sold more than 41 million records and performed for 14 million people, according to their label, and they've also had parts in movies, Japanese

dramas and shows, and commercials.

Despite their success, ARASHI shocked fans by announcing their hiatus, halting all band activities at the end of this year.

The Netflix documentary about the band shows it wasn't an easy decision. In "ARASHI's Diary Voyage," Sakurai said his hands were "trembling" as he wrote down potential options, including disbanding and hiatus.

Naturally, questions about their life after hiatus have been dogging the band, but they said they don't really know. "I haven't been exactly thinking about it (the future), nor have time to think about it. (The upcoming) three or four months will be an extremely busy time for us, so we are unable to think that far," Aiba told AP.

Sakurai hinted the members might not pursue solo music careers after the hiatus.

"There are things that won't be accomplished if there aren't these five members. To simply put, it'd be like singing, dancing, connecting through music, et cetera," he said. "I think these things are difficult to pursue individually."

As for the most memorable moments from their career, Aiba fondly recalled concerts in Japanese National Stadium and Hawaii. Matsumoto described a trip to Los Angeles around two years ago, when they revisited and took identical photos at places they visited 20 years ago.

With about three months left until their hiatus, the band is keeping busy despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Matsumoto said the band might livestream a concert.

"I want to deliver our music to as many people as possible, so we are working hard on it," he told the AP.

## BTS announces new album slated for November release

K-pop stars BTS will drop their fifth full-length album "BE (Deluxe Edition)," on Nov. 20, the band's label, Big Hit Entertainment, said on Sunday.

BTS contributed to the album's concept, composition and design so it "contains the most 'BTS' music," read the announcement. "It is an album that conveys consolation to fans and the world, starting with the story of BTS. ... I hope you discover the traces of BTS' thoughts, emotions and worries through the album while also experiencing a richer musical spectrum."

The band recently appeared on the virtual version of NPR's Tiny Desk video series. BTS performed its latest hit single, "Dynamite," which recently broke records for views within its first 24 hours on YouTube, surpassing 100 million.

This week the band is scheduled to appear on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" for a weeklong special.

## 'Tenet' stays atop box office with no big movies challenging

The movie industry's path to recovery from COVID-19 is grinding to a halt, with the Warner Bros. feature "Tenet" ruling the box office for a fourth week because it has no major competition.

The sci-fi thriller sold an estimate \$3.4 million in tickets in North America this weekend, industry tracker Comscore Inc. said Sunday. The film from director Christopher Nolan has generated \$41.2 million in total domestic revenue so far and cost \$200 million to produce.

Among new movies that opened this weekend were the Sundance Film Festival favorite "Kajillionaire," a heist comedy that generated \$215,000 in domestic ticket sales. The Sony Pictures comedy-drama "The Last Shift" made \$235,000.

"Tenet" has made \$242 million overseas, bringing its global total to \$283.2 million.

## Alexie, Pilkey books among most 'challenged' of decade

Toni Morrison is on the list. So are John Green and Harper Lee. And John Steinbeck and Margaret Atwood. All wrote books that were among the 100 most subjected to censorship efforts over the past decade, as compiled by the American Library Association.

Sherman Alexie's prize-winning "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian" came in at No. 1, followed by Dav Pilkey's "Captain Underpants" picture book series and Jay Asher's young adult novel "Thirteen Reasons Why." Objections raised by parents and other community members have ranged from explicit language and depictions of drug use in Alexie's list to Asher's theme of suicide.

The list was announced Monday as the library association prepares to mark its annual Banned Books Week.

From wire reports

# Dwayne Johnson breaks political silence with Biden endorsement

Los Angeles Times

After briefly flirting with the idea of a 2020 presidential run himself, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson has officially endorsed former Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Kamala Harris, his first time publicly backing a political candidate.

"Now this is something that I've certainly not done in the past, so I'm going to go big," he said in a video posted to Instagram. "You guys know me, if I go, I go big!"

The actor, who said he has "friends in all parties," posted a virtual conversation between himself and the Democratic candidates, in which he complimented Biden's "great compassion, heart, drive and soul" and called Harris "a certified badass."

"As a political independent and centrist for many years, I've voted for Democrats in the past as well as Republican," Johnson captioned the video. "In this critical election, I believe Joe Biden and Kamala Harris are the best to lead our country and

as my first ever (public) presidential endorsement. I proudly endorse them for the presidential office of our United States."

While Johnson has seemed mostly apolitical in the public eye, he has been outspoken about President Donald Trump's response to the civil unrest sparked by the police killing of George Floyd, sharing a lengthy video message in June.

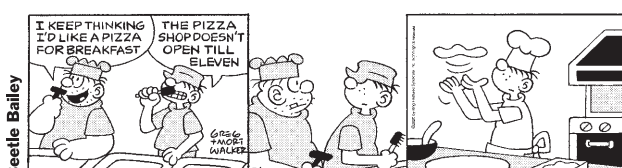
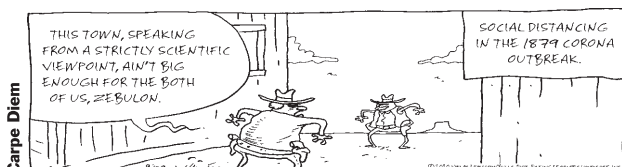
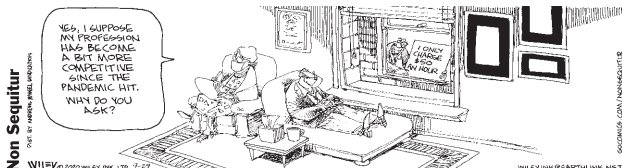
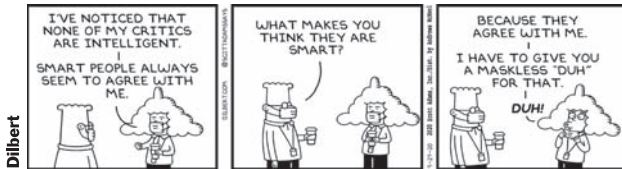
"Where are you?" he asked Trump in the video. "Where is our leader at this time ... when our country is down

on its knees, begging, pleading, hurt, angry, frustrated, in pain ... just wanting to be heard. Begging and pleading and praying for change. Where are you? Where is our association leader who's going to step up to our country?"

He added: "I'm not the president of the United States. But I am a man, and I am a father who cares so deeply about my family, about my children and the world that they live in. I care so deeply about our country and every single person in it."



Johnson



**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Yonder item
  - 5 Pair
  - 8 Colorless
  - 12 Billions of years
  - 13 Ecol. watchdog
  - 14 Nevada city
  - 15 Red Mustang convertible, for some
  - 17 Black, in verse
  - 18 Cutting tool
  - 19 Scrap
  - 20 Nasality
  - 21 Calendar box
  - 22 Twitch
  - 23 "You're So Vain" singer
  - 26 Cure-all
  - 30 Scrambled wd.
  - 31 Mess up
  - 32 "The Addams Family" actor
  - 33 Louis Armstrong's nickname
  - 35 Category
  - 36 Feedbag bit
  - 37 Coquettish
  - 38 Honeycomb compartments
  - 41 Bro or sis
  - 42 Savings plan acronym
  - 45 Skater's leap
  - 46 Annual tennis championship
  - 48 — colada
  - 49 Frazier foe
  - 50 Cincinnati team
  - 51 Luminary

- DOWN**
- 2 Actor/director
  - 3 Airline to Sweden
  - 4 — jiffy
  - 5 Yoga pad
  - 6 Expert
  - 7 Soup container
  - 8 Where Ger. is
  - 9 Pub order
  - 10 3191 responder
  - 11 Possesses screening org.
  - 12 Belittle
  - 13 — the crack of dawn
  - 14 37 Beanies
  - 15 39 Way out
  - 16 40 Sultry Horne
  - 17 41 Auction
  - 18 "Law & Order: SVU" actor
  - 19 Ms. McEntire
  - 20 Soon, poetically
  - 21 Head shop purchase
  - 22 44 Church section
  - 23 46 Weir
  - 24 47 Soon-to-be grads

- Answer to Previous Puzzle**
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**9-29 CRYPTOQUIP**

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 W A N H Q V W Q D G B A G R P T I P F A  
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SBAD OP? FPTJSPW QJMVWOI.  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: GEMSTONE THAT'S A QUITE DELIGHTFUL COMBINATION OF PALE BLUE AND DEEP RED COLORS: AQUA-MAROON.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: M equals Z

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
 +49(0)631.3615.9350  
 Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
 leonard.terry@stripes.com  
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 reid.robert@stripes.com  
 Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
 croley.tina@stripes.com  
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
 moores.sean@stripes.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
 gromelski.joe@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 Cacioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
 cacioli.joseph@stripes.com  
 (+1)202/886-0033  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

**CIRCULATION**

**Mideast**  
 Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
 robert.l.reisman.naf@gmail.com  
 reisman@stripes.com  
 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**  
 Mar Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
 +81-3 6385.3171, DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

**Washington**  
 202-886-0023  
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

**Reader letters**  
 letters@stripes.com

**Additional contacts**  
 stripes.com/contact

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OPINION

There's room for surprises from Barrett

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN  
 Bloomberg Opinion

Here is a paradox. It is pretty easy to predict the voting patterns of new Supreme Court justices. But it can be exceedingly difficult to predict the votes of justices in specific cases, which means that it can be difficult as well to predict how those cases are going to be decided.

When President Bill Clinton appointed Stephen Breyer to the Supreme Court in 1994, those who knew Breyer's work knew that his voting patterns would be moderately liberal — more centrist than those of progressive heroes Justices Thurgood Marshall and William Brennan, but to the left, for sure, of Justice Antonin Scalia. And when President George W. Bush appointed John Roberts as chief justice in 2005, it was clear from Roberts' record that his voting patterns would be moderately conservative — distinctly more conservative than those of Breyer, but distinctly less so than those of Scalia.

Something similar can be said about every Supreme Court nominee over the last half-century.

At the same time, the court is capable of big surprises. For example, many experts did not predict that in 2015, it would rule in favor of same-sex marriage, that in 2020, it would strike down President Donald Trump's decision to repeal President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, designed to protect some unauthorized aliens from removal, or that in the same year, it would interpret the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to forbid discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Indeed, a careful effort to test whether legal experts are good at forecasting the decisions of the Supreme Court found that

such experts were right just 59.1% of the time. That's about as flipping a coin — but it's a lot better.

Judge Amy Coney Barrett's background shows unmistakably conservative inclinations, and it is a good bet that she would court, broadly speaking, as a conservative justice. But would she vote to strike down the Affordable Care Act, the 2010 health care law widely known as Obamacare? Would she vote to overrule Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that women have a constitutional right to have an abortion? To forbid any and all affirmative action programs? Would she take a strong stand against gun control laws? Would she give more protection to commercial advertising?

On these questions, any answer would be speculative. Even though Barrett is highly likely to show conservative voting patterns, and even if we know the same about the five other Republican appointees, it is hard to be certain about her vote in individual cases. There are three main reasons.

The first is that even if justices can be characterized as conservative, they might have very different views about their appropriate judicial role and in particular about their obligation to respect the court's own precedents. For example, Roberts insists on that obligation — far more so than (say) Justice Clarence Thomas, who is not reluctant to overrule precedents if he thinks that they are wrong. (The record of a lower court judge is not very informative, because such judges are bound by Supreme Court rulings.)

Preliminary signs suggest that with respect to precedent, Justice Brett Kavanaugh may be aligned with Roberts, and that Justice Neil Gorsuch may take Thomas' approach. On this count, Barrett's approach remains unclear.

The second reason is that even if a justice's voting patterns are predictably con-

servative or liberal, his or her views on a particular issue, or on a particular case, might turn out to be surprising. For example, Scalia liked to invoke the "rule of lenity," which tells courts to rule in favor of criminal defendants when statutes are ambiguous.

It looks as if Gorsuch may have libertarian leanings, helping to explain his decisive vote, in 2020, to protect a Native American against prosecution in state court. "Today we are asked whether the land these treaties promised remains an Indian reservation for purposes of federal criminal law," Gorsuch wrote. "Because Congress has not said otherwise, we hold the government to its word."

Does Barrett have libertarian leanings as well? That, too, is unclear.

The third reason is that the specifics matter whether they involve law or fact. A justice might show broadly conservative voting patterns, but in a particular case might encounter a convincing argument that the stereotypically conservative position is wrong — whether the issue involves sex equality, presidential power or environmental protection. The logic of the argument, and the particular dispute, might move any justice in what might seem to be an uncharacteristic direction.

In an unusual public statement in 2019, Roberts said, "We do not have Obama judges or Trump judges, Bush judges or Clinton judges." He wasn't entirely right, but he wasn't entirely wrong, either.

Elections have consequences, and presidents almost always get the kind of justices that they want. But it's also important, and perhaps a consolation, to say that on particular occasions, they are going to be surprised — and disappointed.

Cass R. Sunstein, a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, is the author of "Too Much Information" and a co-author of "Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness."

Romney comfortable as DC's lone ranger

By KATHLEEN PARKER  
 Washington Post Writers Group

Some have said that, in a fair and righteous world, the seat held by the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg would be filled next January by the recently elected president of the United States.

But we know our world to be otherwise and the seat will be filled as soon as possible, thanks to Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, whose decision not to block a vote before the election gave Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the green light to proceed with the nomination process.

It seems to be Romney's fate to be permanently affixed to the public whipping post, no matter what he does. He's the guy who can't please anyone, and who, unbeknownst to most, is humble enough to accept that fate. In that rarest of qualities among politicians, his conscience truly is his guide.

I say this from having known Romney for more than a decade. Though he often has trouble connecting to voters in public venues, this private man is among the very few to whom I would ascribe noble intentions. Maybe it's his Mormon faith, but Romney has no affinity for the easy path. Indeed, at this point, self-immolation might hold some appeal.

His choice to follow President Donald Trump's lead and allow the confirmation process to go forward has only earned him

new enemies. In the nation's capital, Romney remains the loneliest ranger — loved by none, hated — by turns — by nearly all.

In February, when he was the sole Republican to vote for Trump's conviction in his impeachment trial, Romney briefly enjoyed the adoration of the left. Profiles in courage were written, and the Utah senator was feted as the right kind of Republican, one who votes his conscience even when it hurts him personally.

At the same time, the right pilloried and reviled him. Trump backers deemed him a traitor and a self-serving revenge-seeker.

That was then. Today, Romney is reviled by the left and center for clearing a way for the 6-to-5 conservative majority on the Supreme Court and yet the right still despises him. One thing you can say about conservatives: They are loath to liberate a grudge. Sometimes wrong but never in doubt, Republicans can zip up a tent so tight that a mosquito can't get in. The warmer-blooded Democrats, though perhaps utilitarian at heart, will leave the flap open on the chance a potential convert wanders by.

Some may claim that Romney's ultimate decision was never in doubt. Power is power. But this would misunderstand the man and how he operates. His closest associates have spoken often of his sometimes aggravating decision-making style, which is to tackle any issue as though he were writing a dissertation on the subject.

As governor of Massachusetts, he sought tutoring and aid from scientists and bioethicists when considering legislation

related to stem cell research. During the impeachment, he requested transcripts of testimony, studying (and praying) late into the night. People close to him during his latest deliberations tell me he was, once more, concerned about making the right choice. He stakes seemed almost insurmountable: Not only would his decision affect the high court for decades, but also the pushback, either way, would be ferocious and unyielding.

Both sides brought pressure to bear during his days of rumination, including from trusted advisers urging him to vote no.

True enough, Romney wouldn't have wanted to help Trump win reelection. Everyone knows he's not a Trump buddy. Since he was elected in 2016, Trump has made no attempt to conceal his contempt for Romney, whom he pretended to woo as a possible pick for secretary of state. Everyone knew that nomination was never going to happen. And when Trump rejected Romney just as most had predicted, the senator handled it with characteristic grace even if the humiliation had to sting.

It is the essence of irony that Romney should now be on the side of his nemesis. But the long-sought goal of a conservative court — to serve as bulwark against progressive domination in other branches of government — ultimately guided Romney to yes.

Someday, perhaps, Republicans may show some gratitude for what was never an easy call. Either way, Romney I know doesn't care. It was never personal.



# Looking at the news

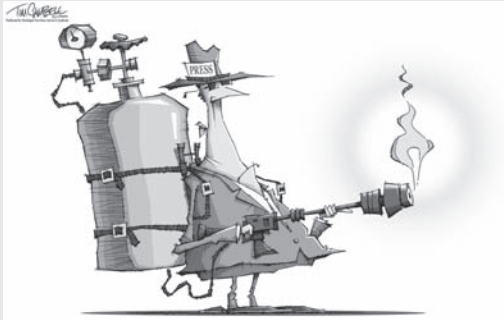
## A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



JACK OHMAN/Washington Post Writers



JACK OHMAN/Washington Post Writers



PREPARING TO SHED SOME LIGHT ON TRUMP'S SCOTUS NOMINEE

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post Writers Group



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WALT HANDELMAN/Tribune Content Agency



# NBA PLAYOFFS/NHL PLAYOFFS/NASCAR



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

**Miami Heat's Bam Adebayo, on the court, celebrates with a teammate after their series-clinching 125-113 win over the Boston Celtics in the NBA Eastern Conference final Sunday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.**

## Heat force way into finals

Adebayo has 32 points, 14 rebounds as Miami ousts Boston in Game 6

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — It was exactly one year ago Sunday when Jimmy Butler walked into the Miami Heat practice gym, took a seat on a makeshift stage and said he wanted to be part of the team's next title run.

He'll have that chance. The Heat are going to the NBA Finals — surprising many, perhaps, but not themselves. Bam Adebayo scored a season-high 32 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Butler scored 22 points and Miami won the Eastern Conference finals for the sixth time by topping the Boston Celtics 125-113 on Sunday night.

"A great series. It was so competitive," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I mean, in many ways, this was a seven-game series, just how competitive it was. Extremely well-coached and well-pitted together and we are just honored to be a part of that type of series in the conference finals, and then we get an opportunity for the next stage. Our guys will look forward to it. We're going to try to enjoy it for a night."

Miami won the series 4-2 — and now, waiting on that next stage to decide the NBA title, are LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers. Game 1 is Wednesday night.

Tyler Herro scored 19 points, Duncan Robinson and Andre Iguodala each had 15 and Goran Dragic added 13 for the Heat.

"We deserve to be here," Dragic said. Jaylen Brown scored 26 points, Jayson Tatum had 24 and a career-high 11 assists, and Marcus Smart and Kemba Walker each scored 20 points for Boston — which fell in the East finals for the third time in the last four seasons.

"Miami deserves a lot of credit,"

Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "They're super physical, super tough, very, very savvy. I think they're the best team in the East and deserve to be representing the East in the way that they have played."

The Heat were down by six early in the fourth before regaining control. A 6-0 burst — Herro had the last five of those points, needing only 31 seconds to do so — tied it at 96. Boston took the lead twice more, with Adebayo answering both times, first with a dunk, then a go-ahead three-point play with 6:16 left.

He smacked the floor in celebration. It's like Miami knew what was coming. It never trailed again. Herro had a pair of baskets in a 9-0 burst that put the Heat up by 10, Adebayo found Butler for a layup and a 116-102 lead and everyone on the team's bench was on their feet.

"This means everything," Herro said. And before long, all the Celtics could do was offer their congratulations.

"Regrets, I don't have any," Walker said. "I don't have any, man. I thought we fought hard. A lot of credit to Miami. Those guys are really good."

The Heat are the only NBA franchise with six Finals appearances in the last 15 years. They're seeking their fourth title, and this chance didn't come easily.

Miami had a 5-for-5 stretch from three-point range in the first quarter, but otherwise struggled again from beyond the arc in the first half. The Heat were 6-for-14 from deep in the first 24 minutes, Boston was 11-for-23 before the break and Miami took a 62-60 lead into halftime.

And the margin remained two going into the fourth.

## NBA scoreboard

**Playoffs**  
**CONFERENCE FINALS**  
**(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)**

**Eastern Conference**  
**Miami 4, Boston 2**

Miami 117, Boston 114, OT  
Miami 106, Boston 103  
Boston 117, Miami 106  
Miami 112, Boston 109  
Boston 121, Miami 108  
Sunday: Miami 125, Boston 113

**Western Conference**  
**L.A. Lakers 4, Denver 1**

L.A. Lakers 109, Denver 114  
L.A. Lakers 105, Denver 103  
Denver 114, L.A. Lakers 106  
L.A. Lakers 114, Denver 108  
L.A. Lakers 117, Denver 110

**NBA FINALS**  
**(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)**

**L.A. Lakers vs. Miami**  
Wednesday: Game 1  
Friday: Game 2  
Sunday: Game 3  
Tuesday, Oct. 6: Game 4  
x-Friday, Oct. 9: Game 5  
x-Sunday, Oct. 11: Game 6  
x-Tuesday, Oct. 13: Game 7

**Sunday**  
**Heat 125, Celtics 113**

Boston — Brown 10-17 3-3 26, Tatum 9-26 3-24, Thesis 2-3 2-2 6, Smart 8-22 0-9 20, Walker 7-15 3-4 20, Hayward 5-12 0-2 0 2, Williams 0-0 0-0 0, Williams III 11-0 4-9 2, Kanter 1-2 1-2 3, Wanamaker 0-1 0-0 0, Total: 93-99 12-15 11

Miami — Butler 19-19 6-7 32, Crowder 4-9 0-5, Adebayo 11-15 10-11 32, Dragic 11-21 3-13, Robinson 5-8 0-0 15, Hill 0-2 0-0 0, Iguodala 5-5 1-2 15, Herro 8-13 2-2 19, Total: 105-98 27-33 26

**Boston** 27 33 26 27-113  
**Miami** 33 29 26 37-125

**Three-Point Goals—Boston** 15-46 (Smart 4-13, Brown 3-7, Tatum 3-10, Walker 2-10, Hayward 5-5), **Miami** 15-27 (Robinson 5-7, Iguodala 4-4, Dragic 2-5, Herro 1-3, Crowder 1-5, Butler 0-3). Fouled Out—Boston 1 (Thesis), Miami None. Rebounds—Boston 42 (Brown, Smart 8), Miami 40 (Adebayo 14), Assists—Boston 26 (Tatum 11), Miami 30 (Butler 8). Total Fouls—Boston 21, Miami 13.

Iguodala's fourth three-point — in as many attempts — with 4:20 left in the third put the Heat up eight, before Brown had five points in a 10-2 Celtics spurt to tie it. Dragic had a go-ahead layup on Miami's final shot of the quarter and it was 88-86 Heat with 12 minutes remaining.

The Heat scored 35 of the game's final 52 points.

## Bubba won't return for 2020-21 season

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**  
Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The 64 days spent in the NHL playoff bubble feel like six months to Barclay Goodrow.

"It's tough," the Tampa Bay Lightning forward said. "It's been a grind."

It's a grind he and players won't do again next season. The league and Players' Association will meet within the next two weeks to discuss the many possibilities of what the 2020-21 season could look like, but there's no desire to stage it entirely within quarantined bubbles.

"Certainly not for a season, of course not," NHLPA executive director Don Fehr told The Associated Press on Sunday. "Nobody is going to do that for four months or six months or something like that. Whether we could create some protected environments that people would be tested and they'd be clean when they came in and lasted for some substantially shorter period of time with people cycling in and out is one of the things I suspect we will examine."

Not long after the Stanley Cup is awarded, which could be as soon as Monday night if the Lightning beat the Dallas Stars in Game 6 of the final, the two sides will talk about when next season might

## NHL scoreboard

**Stanley Cup Final**  
**(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)**  
**At Edmonton, Alberta**

**Tampa Bay 3, Dallas 2**

Dallas 4, Tampa Bay 3  
Tampa Bay 3, Dallas 2  
Tampa Bay 4, Dallas 2  
Tampa Bay 5, Dallas 4, OT  
Dallas 3, Tampa Bay 2, 2OT  
Monday: Game 6  
x-Wednesday: Game 7

start, how many games might be possible, what testing and protocols might be required and whether fans might be allowed into buildings at some capacity at some point.

A week after Commissioner Gary Bettman said a mid-to-late December or January start was possible, Fehr agreed that the tentative Dec. 1 opening night target date was the "earliest conceivable date" the season could start and there's good reason to believe it'll be later.

The NHLPA is in the process of finalizing a committee to start answering the myriad of questions hockey faces in trying to get another season going. And while that and negotiations will begin quickly, the league and players are on the same page, that just like the return to play plan, they want to take time to get this right. "Nobody is going to rush it," Fehr said.

## Hometown victor: Busch finally wins in Las Vegas

By **JENNA FRYER**  
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Two decades of heartbreak at his home track finally ended for Kurt Busch with a little bit of luck fell his way at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Busch happened to be the leader when a late caution Sunday night jumbled the field and put him in control of his 0-for-21 losing streak in his hometown. He had three magnificent restarts, including one in overtime, to steal a vital playoff race.

The good timing helped Busch sneak his way into the third round of the NASCAR Cup playoffs. He had been ranked last among the 12 title contenders before the race; now he's guaranteed a slot in the round of eight.

"This is 20 years of agony and defeat and today triumph," Busch said. "I don't know if I have any gas left or if I just filled my tank up to go win every race. This is my hometown and I have so many people to thank and I know they are watching on television so proud of their hometown driver."

The win, the first of the season for the 2004 Cup champion, was celebrated alongside younger brother, Kyle. The reigning NASCAR champion slammed doors with his big brother on the cool-

down lap. Busch then took the checkered flag to the finish line and smacked it on each of the letters in Las Vegas.

"This is what kids dream of when they grow up racing. You dream of winning at your hometown track," said Busch, "and for two decades, it's kicked my butt."

It was the first win of the year for Chip Ganassi Racing and the first in the playoffs for a Chevrolet driver. Busch happened to be the leader during a round of green flag pit stops interrupted with 37 laps remaining by just the fifth caution of the race. It cycled him to the lead for the ensuing restart and he had an incredible jump to control the front.

Busch did it two more times, including a final restart in overtime, to deny the challengers.

Matt DiBenedetto, eliminated from the playoffs last weekend, finished second in a Ford for Wood Brothers Racing in his best finish of the season. After the race, he reiterated he wants an extension to continue driving the No. 21 next season.

"I love driving for the Wood Brothers, I want that (win) No. 100 for them so bad," DiBenedetto said. The team has a deadline this week to inform DiBenedetto if he's being extended for next year.

NFL SCOREBOARD

American League
East Division
x-Tampa Bay 40 20 567 ---
z-Louisville 25 20 550 7
z-Toronto 25 28 533 8
Baltimore 23 28 515 15
New York Yankees 24 40 460 16

National League
East Division
x-Atlanta 39 21 517 4
z-Miami 31 29 517 4
Philadelphia 28 32 467 7
San Francisco 29 32 433 9
New York 29 34 433 9

Sunday's games
Kansas City 3, Detroit 1
Baltimore 8, Pittsburgh 5
L.A. Dodgers 5, L.A. Angels 0
Tampa Bay 5, Philadelphia 0
Washington 5, Toronto 5

Sunday
Rays 5, Phillies 0
Philadelphia Tampa Bay
MCCrhen J 4 0 0 TSSp 3b-H 5 0 0

Nationals 15, Mets 5
Washington Philadelphia
Philadelphia Tampa Bay
MCCrhen J 4 0 0 TSSp 3b-H 5 0 0

Nationals 15, Mets 5
Washington Philadelphia
Philadelphia Tampa Bay
MCCrhen J 4 0 0 TSSp 3b-H 5 0 0

New York
New York 1,34
Brach 0 0 3 3 3 3 0 0

Athletics 6, Mariners 2
Seattle Oakland
Crawford 5 4 1 2 Semien SS 5 0 1 0

Royals 3, Tigers 1
Detroit Kansas City
Reyes CF 4 0 1 0 Gordon IF 1 0 0 0

Padres 5, Giants 4
San Diego San Francisco
Strahm-pf 0 0 0 0 Slater dh 5 0 0 0

Reds 5, Twins 3 (10)
Cincinnati Minnesota
Jglesias-p 0 0 0 0 Kepler R 4 1 0 0

Orioles 7, Blue Jays 5
Baltimore Toronto
Hays IF 4 1 1 0 Biggio 3b 3 0 0 0

Red Sox 9, Braves 1
Boston Atlanta
Bradley CF 6 2 3 1 Altuzar 5 0 1 0

Pittsburgh Cleveland
Frizer 2b 5 1 2 2 Lindor ss 5 0 0 0

Rangers 8, Astros 4
Houston Texas
Springer CF 3 0 0 0 Choo dh 1 0 1 0

Arizona Diamondbacks mascot
D. Baxter, top, throws impostor mascot Rat Leon to the floor.

Cardinals 5, Braves 2
Milwaukee St. Louis
Milwaukee CF 3 0 0 0 Wong 2b r h bi

Marlins 5, Yankees 0
Miami New York
Dickerson dh 5 0 1 0 LeMahieu 1b 3 0 2 0

Diamondbacks 11, Rockies 3
Colorado Arizona
Tapia IF 4 1 2 0 Lester-IFr 5 1 2 0

Dodgers 5, Angels 0
Los Angeles Los Angeles
Fletcher 3b 4 0 0 Pollock CF 3 2 3 3

Calendar
Sept. 29 - AL wild card series start.
Oct. 5 - AL Division Series start.

MLB

# Batting champs in short season unlike others

LeMahieu is 1st to win undisputed titles in both leagues, Soto is youngest NL champ

By RONALD BLUM  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — DJ LeMahieu became the first player to win undisputed batting titles in both leagues and Juan Soto the youngest NL champion as Major League Baseball's shortest regular season since 1878 ended Sunday.

Home runs were down from last year's record level in a mini-season of diminished offense. The 245 Big league batting average was the lowest since .237 in 1966 and down from .252 last year. Indians ace Shane Bieber finished with a 1.63 ERA, the lowest figure to lead the American League since Luis Tiant's 1.60 for Cleveland in 1968, a year of pitching dominance that caused baseball officials to lower the mound the following year.

The average time of a nine-inning game set another new high, at 3 hours, 7 minutes, 46 seconds, up from 3:05:35 last year. While a three-batter minimum was instituted, active rosters expanded from 25 to 28 for the 60-game season and gave managers more pitching options.

LeMahieu hit .364 for the New York Yankees, the highest for an AL batting champion since Minnesota's Joe Mauer hit .365 in 2009 and well ahead of 2019 AL batting champion Tim Anderson of the Chicago White Sox, who finished second at .322. LeMahieu won the NL batting title with Colorado in 2016.

"I wish it were over 162 games. I wish

there were fans in the stands but it is what it is," LeMahieu said. "I'm definitely proud of it."

He became just the fourth Yankees player to lead the majors in batting average after Lou Gehrig in 1934, Joe DiMaggio in 1939 and Mickey Mantle in 1956. Despite the shorter schedule, no one approached becoming the first 400 hitter since Ted Williams batted .406 in 1941.

Ed Delahanty hit .410 for the Philadelphia Phillies to win the NL batting championship in 1899 and is credited by some researchers with the 1902 AL crown at .376, while others accept Nap Lajoie as winning that title at .378 despite lacking the plate appearances required in more modern times.

Luke Voit joined Babe Ruth, Gehrig, DiMaggio, Mantle, Roger Maris and Alex Rodriguez as New York Yankees to top the majors in home runs. Voit's total of 22 was the fewest for a major league leader since 1918 at the end of the dead ball era but extrapolates to 59 over a full season.

LeMahieu and Voit became the first teammates to win batting and home run titles in the same season since the Milwaukee Braves' Hank Aaron (.355) and Eddie Mathews (.46) in 1959. They are just the fifth pair of teammates to do it, a group that includes Cincinnati's Cy Seymour and Fred Odell in 1905, Philadelphia's Billy Hamilton and Delahanty in 1893 and the Chicago White Stockings' Cap Anson and Jimmy Ryan in 1888.

"Obviously, everybody wishes this year wouldn't have been so weird," Voit said. "You've got to just roll with it."

Soto batted .351 for Washington and at 21 years, 11 months, 2 days became the youngest NL batting champion. He surpassed Pete Reiser, who was 22 years, 195 days when he won for Brooklyn in 1941. Al Kaline is the youngest batting champion, winning the 1955 AL title for Detroit at 20 years, 9 months, 6 days. Soto walked and singled Sunday, then came out of the game with a lead over Atlanta's Freddie Freeman, who finished second at .341.

"It's a little different, because we just played 60 games — and I didn't get to play all the 60 games," said Soto, who tested positive for the coronavirus on opening day. "You just feel good about it, because you see how consistent you've got to be to win it. It means you've got to be consistent the whole two months. So it just feels good. I've never won one in 162 games, so I can't tell you if it feels the same."

Atlanta's Marcell Ozuna led the NL with 18 homers and 56 RBIs. Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox led the major leagues with 60 RBIs after topping the AL last year with 123.

After strikeouts set a record for the 12th straight season last year at an average of 8.81 per team per game, they declined slightly to 8.68.

But the gap between hits and strikeouts got even wider despite the short season. Strikeouts had a 189 advantage when they



Nick Wass/AP

Washington Nationals' Juan Soto, left, reacts at first after a single Sunday as Nationals first base coach Bob Henley, right, looks on. Soto, only 21, won the NL batting title with a .351 average.

exceeded hits for the first time in 2018, the gap grew to 783 last year and to 1,147 this year despite only 37% of a normal season's games. With no fans in ballparks and a revised schedule that restricted teams to their geographic regions — East vs. West, Central vs. Central and West vs. West — home teams had a bigger advantage than usual. Home teams went 500-398 for a .557 winning percentage, the highest since .559 in 2010.

## Fitting: With no days off, pitching is paramount in wild card

FROM BACK PAGE

"You had to throw some of the expectations out the window not knowing what to expect after taking those couple weeks off and all those doubleheaders and so many new guys," Cardinals first baseman Paul Goldschmidt said. "It was very different, very fulfilling to make the playoffs."

All matchups are best-of-three, with every game hosted by the top seed in ballparks without fans. With no days off, pitching strategies will be paramount, particularly how managers use their bullpens. Following the wild-card rounds, the remaining clubs will move to neutral site bubbles in Texas and Southern California to crown a champion.

The biggest losers Sunday were Philadelphia and the Giants. As it turned out, either team would've gotten in with a win.

"It's tough sitting here and not thinking (about the playoffs)," Phillies slugger Bryce Harper said after a 5-0 loss at Tampa Bay. "We had opportunities to win games and we just didn't get it done."

October on deck means the end of seven-inning games and no more automatic runners at second base to begin the 10th, but other new rules implemented this season apply: designated hitters in the National League and relievers must face three batters or end the inning.

Nothing else kooky in this 16-team tournament, though. Like, no penalty at-bats to decide extra long games.

"It's going to be wild, everything about it," Rays outfielder Kevin Kiermaier said as the playoffs approached.

"Anything can happen, we all know that, and that's why I think it's going to be must-see TV throughout both leagues. It is. I think there's going to be a lot of surprises, American League, National League, just with the three-game format for the first round," he said.



MIKE CARLSON/AP

Phillies players react at the end of a 5-0 loss Sunday to the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla. A win would have placed the Phillies in the wild-card playoffs.

Nothing scheduled for Monday, but the day after the season is typically busy, too, especially for managers on shaky ground. The Red Sox said Sunday that Ron Roenicke won't be back next year, and the Angels fired general manager Billy Eppler.

Every team, meanwhile, hopes to be healthy. Star outfielders Mookie Betts of the Dodgers and Ronald Acuna Jr. of the Braves are ailing, Marlins outfielder Starling Marte and pitcher Jose Urena left Sunday's game with injuries.

"Kind of your biggest fear on a day like today," Marlins manager Don Mattingly said after a 5-0 win at Yankee Stadium. "You hate to be playing your guys almost."

Dodgers newcomer David Price, Cardinals reliever Jordan Hicks and White Sox pitcher Michael Kopec are among the players who opted out before the season began and will be absent in the playoffs. Atlanta outfielder Nick Markakis chose not to play, then returned in early August.

NL batting champion Juan Soto and the World Series champion Washington Nationals missed the playoffs, as did three-time AL MVP Mike Trout.

## Scoreboard

Playoffs	
<b>WILD CARD SERIES</b> (Best-of-three, 1-1 necessary)	
<b>American League</b>	
Tampa Bay vs. Toronto	
Tuesday:	Game 1, Toronto (TBD) at Tampa Bay 8:15 p.m. (ET)
Wednesday:	Game 2, Toronto (TBD) at Tampa Bay (8:15 p.m. ET)
Thursday:	Game 3, Toronto (TBD) at Tampa Bay (8:15 p.m. ET)
Oakland vs. Chicago White Sox	
Tuesday:	Game 1, Chicago White Sox (8:15 p.m. ET) at Oakland (8:15 p.m. ET)
Wednesday:	Game 2, Chicago White Sox (8:15 p.m. ET) at Oakland (8:15 p.m. ET)
Thursday:	Game 3, Chicago White Sox (8:15 p.m. ET) at Oakland (8:15 p.m. ET)
Minnesota vs. Houston	
Tuesday:	Game 1, Houston (Greinke 3-3) at Minnesota (Medina 6-1) (AFN Sports 8 p.m. Tuesday CET; 3 a.m. Wednesday JTK)
Wednesday:	Game 2, Houston (TBD) at Minnesota (Berrios 5-4)
Thursday:	Game 3, Houston (TBD) at Minnesota (Pineda 2-0)
Cleveland vs. New York Yankees	
Tuesday:	Game 1, New York Yankees (Cole 7-3) at Cleveland (Bieber 8-1) (AFN Sports 8 p.m. Tuesday CET; 9 a.m. Wednesday JTK)
Wednesday:	Game 2, New York Yankees (Tanaka 3-3) at Cleveland (Carrasco 3-4)
Thursday:	Game 3, New York Yankees (Glasnow 2-2) or Garcia 3-3) at Cleveland (Plesac 4-2)
National League	
Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Milwaukee	
Wednesday:	Game 1, Cincinnati (Bauer 1-0) (Buehler 1-0)
Thursday:	Game 2, Milwaukee (at Los Angeles) (Gardner 1-0)
Friday:	Game 3
Atlanta vs. Cincinnati	
Wednesday:	Game 1, Cincinnati (Bauer 1-0) (Buehler 1-0)
Thursday:	Game 2, Cincinnati (at Atlanta)
Friday:	Game 3
Chicago Cubs vs. Miami	
Wednesday:	Game 1, Miami (TBD) at Chicago (Bryant 1-0) (Hendricks 6-5) (8-3)
Thursday:	Game 2, Miami (TBD) at Chicago (Cubs) (Darvish 8-3 or Hendricks 6-5)
Friday:	Game 3
San Diego vs. St. Louis	
Wednesday:	Game 1, St. Louis (TBD) at San Diego (Lumet 3-0)
Thursday:	Game 2
Friday:	Game 3



NFL

# Wilson's 5 TD passes lead Seattle past Dallas

## Seahawks QB sets record with 14 in 1st 3 games

By **TIM BOOTH**  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — DK Metcalf made an unforgivable blunder by starting his celebration too soon, a textbook example of what not to do.

His coach told him so. So did his quarterback.

“He had that fluke play today and I told him, never do it again,” Russell Wilson said.

Given the chance to redeem himself, Metcalf came through in the final minutes and this time there was no question about the celebration. Metcalf caught a 29-yard touchdown pass from Wilson with 1:47 remaining, and the Seattle Seahawks held off the Dallas Cowboys 38-31 on Sunday.

“The fact that he came back, of course he did. He’s such a great competitor,” Seattle coach Pete Carroll said.

Wilson threw five touchdown passes, setting a record for most scoring passes in the first three games of a season with 14. Patrick Mahomes threw for 13 TDs in three games to launch his MVP season in 2018. Wilson became the first QB to have at least four TD passes in each of the first three games.

Metcalf appeared to have a walk-in touchdown after hauling in a deep pass from Wilson late in the first quarter. But he was careless with the ball in the final

few steps before the goal line, and cornerback Trevon Diggs came up from behind and knocked the ball free. It went out of the end zone for a touchback.

Instead of a touchdown and 16-3 lead, it was a 62-yard reception and a forgettable moment.

“The lesson learned will help everybody and fortunately we overcame it and didn’t wreck the game for us,” Carroll said. “But it’s a terrible play. It really is because he’s got a touchdown, just finish it off, and he started celebrating too early.”

Metcalf was mostly quiet after his mistake as Tyler Lockett became the favorite target for Wilson. But when the Seahawks needed a big play late, Wilson floated a pass into the end zone for Metcalf.

Wilson was 27-for-40 for 315 yards. His latest bit of fourth-quarter magic ruined Dak Prescott’s attempt at a second straight major comeback.

“They made more key plays than we did,” Dallas coach Mike McCarthy said. “We had a lot of production, but the key plays in the game, I think you’ve got to give those guys credit.”

The Cowboys trailed 30-15 after Prescott fumbled on the first play of the second half and Wilson subsequently threw his fourth TD pass. But Prescott threw TD passes of 42 yards to Cedrick Wilson and 43 yards to Michael Gal-



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**Seattle Seahawks wide receiver DK Metcalf, right, catches a pass for a 29-yard touchdown ahead of Dallas Cowboys strong safety Darian Thompson during the Seahawks’ 38-31 win Sunday at home.**

lop, and Greg Zuerlein’s 42-yard field goal with 4:03 left gave Dallas a 31-30 lead.

Prescott had one last chance after Metcalf’s TD reception. He led the Cowboys to the Seattle 22 but was sacked by rookie Alton Robinson on second down, and the Cowboys had to use their final timeout with 16 seconds left. On third down, Prescott’s desperation throw to the end zone was intercepted by Ryan Neal.

Prescott finished 37-for-57 for 472 yards, with three touch-

downs and two interceptions. He set career highs for yards and attempts.

“I want to make those throws and I want to have that opportunity,” Prescott said. “We’ve just got to be better starting with myself of converting those and making more of these one-score games wins for us.”

While Prescott became the latest QB to have a big day against Seattle’s leaky secondary, the Seahawks held Ezekiel Elliott in check. Elliott finished with 34

## Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 22

**Browns 34, Washington 20**  
Washington 7 0 0-20  
Cleveland 17 17 10-34

**First Quarter**  
Was—Inman 17 pass from Haskins (Hopkins kick), 1:44.

**Second Quarter**  
Cle—FG Parkey 42, 10:46.  
Cle—Chubb 16 run (Parkey kick), 5:58.  
Cle—Hunt 9 pass from Mayfield (Parkey kick), 3:22.

**Third Quarter**  
Was—Gibson 2 run (kick failed), 9:05.  
Was—Inman 11 pass from Haskins (Hopkins kick), 2:20.

**Fourth Quarter**  
Cle—Bryant 3 pass from Mayfield (Parkey kick), 11:14.  
Cle—Chubb 20 run (Parkey kick), 8:40.  
Cle—FG Parkey 30, 1:10.  
A—6—6.

	Was	Cle
First downs	15	13
Total Net Yards	309	309
Rushes-yards	22-103	37-158
Passing	206	142
Punt Returns	3-23	2-11
Kickoff Returns	0-0	1-31
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	3-51
Comp-Att-Int	21-37-3	16-23-0
Fumbles-Yards Lost	3-18	2-14
Penalties-Yards	3-49-0	5-45-0
Fumbles-Lost	2	1-0
Turnovers	4-40	6-58
Time of Possession	32:10	30:57

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**RUSHING**—Houston, Da.Johnson 3-49; Gandy-Golden 1-22; McKissic 15-115; Wright 1-6; Barber 3-6; McClain 1-3; Haskins 2-2.  
**RECEIVING**—Washington, Haskins 21-37; 3-224; Cleveland, Mayfield 16-23-0-156.  
**DEFENSE**—Washington, McClain 4-83; Thomas 4-31; Wright 4-24; Inman 3-38; McKissic 3-37; Gibson 3-11.  
**CLEVELAND**—Chubb 4-50; Lane 4-36; Hoyer 3-25; Hunt 2-18; Janovich 1-13; Bryant 1-3; Chubb 1-2.

**Steelers 28, Texans 21**  
Houston 7 14 0 0-21  
Pittsburgh 3 14 3 3-28

**First Quarter**  
Hou—Cobb 28 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 6:01.

**Second Quarter**  
Pit—Da.Johnson 2 run (Fairbairn kick), 11:32.  
Pit—Ebron 10 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 5:05.

**Third Quarter**  
Pit—Smith-Schuster 26 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 1:14.  
Hou—Fuller 14 pass from Watson (Fairbairn kick), 2:20.

**Fourth Quarter**  
Pit—Conner 12 run (Smith-Schuster pass from Roethlisberger), 6:24.

	Hou	Pit
First downs	19	10
Total Net Yards	260	367
Rushes-yards	15-29	38-169
Passing	231	211
Punt Returns	3-17	2-25
Kickoff Returns	3-57	2-47
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-8
Comp-Att-Int	19-27-1	23-36-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-33	2-19
Fumbles-Lost	6-48-5	4-44-3
Penalties-Yards	4-49	2-14
Time of Possession	30:09	36:51

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
**RUSHING**—Houston, Da.Johnson 13-23; Conner 1-9; McFarland 6-42; Snell 1-7; Johnson 1-9; Samuels 1-1; Roethlisberger 5-33.  
**PASSING**—Houston, Watson 19-27-1-26; Deshaun Watson 19-23-0-237.  
**RECEIVING**—Houston, Cobb 4-95; Fuller 4-54; Stills 3-35; Cooks 3-23; Alkins 2-28; Da.Johnson 2-22; Gillaspia 1-6; McDonald 3-52; Washington, Smith-Schuster 4-43; Conner 4-40; McDonald 3-35; Claypool 1-24; McFarland 1-7.

## Packers’ Rodgers outduels Saints, Brees

By **BRETT MARTEL**

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers scored three touchdowns with the scheme and play-calling philosophy of second-year head coach Matt LaFleur.

The Packers are unbeaten and putting up some of the best offensive numbers in the NFL. So why not?

Rodgers passed for 283 yards and three touchdowns, and Green Bay scored 10 points in the final nine minutes to pull out a 37-30 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Sunday night.

“We’ve gotten in a good flow,” Rodgers said. “I feel so much more comfortable in the offense this year, and I think Matt has really settled in to the rhythm of the play calling, and it’s made my job a lot easier.”

With Packers top receiver Davante Adams unable to play because of a hamstring injury, Rodgers nonetheless found ways to attack New Orleans (1-2) with a variety of passes, short and long.

Allen Lazard caught six passes for 146 yards for Green Bay (3-0),



BURCH DILLAP

**Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 283 yards and three touchdowns in a 37-30 win Sunday at New Orleans.**

including gains of 48 and 72 yards on throws deep downfield that each set up touchdowns.

“We have the best deep ball thrower in the league if not NFL history,” Lazard said. “To be able to go out there and connect on

those plays I think is huge. It’s demoralizing for the defense.”

Rodgers’ scoring passes went for 5 yards to Lazard, 18 yards to tight end Marcedes Lewis and 1 yard to tight end Robert Tonyan. Lazard’s longest catch set up Aaron Jones’ 1-yard TD run.

“I really like the timing on certain calls,” Rodgers said. “Sometimes, you’ve got to kind of dig deep at certain times and hold on to something and trust the playmaker. I really appreciate the flow that we had tonight and the trust in us to make the plays.”

“We’re not playing well enough. Let’s not fool ourselves. We’re making too many mistakes,” Saints coach Sean Payton said. “We’re not playing disciplined enough on both sides of the ball.”

New Orleans running back Alvin Kamara built on a sensational start to the season, gaining 197 yards from scrimmage and scoring twice on short passes from Drew Brees, with shifty, tackle-slipping runs after the catch.

“It’s nice when you’ve got a weapon like that, that you just get the ball in his hands in space and he’s tough to tackle,” Brees said.

# SPORTS



**Hot when it counted**  
Miami pushes past Boston,  
into finals vs. Lakers » **NBA, Page 19**



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The St. Louis Cardinals celebrate after defeating the Milwaukee Brewers on Sunday to clinch a playoff berth. The Brewers also reached the playoffs despite a losing record.

# ‘Fitting for 2020’

## Pandemic playoffs set with two losing teams

By **BEN WALKER**  
Associated Press

Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers got off to a ragged start this year. They never got above .500. And they dropped their last game to finish with a losing record.

Guess what? They're going to the playoffs. "Weird. I guess that's the only way to describe it. It's fitting for 2020," Yelich said Sunday.

A pandemic-altered, 60-game regular season that many believed would never get completed and saw games postponed because of virus outbreaks, racial injustice protests and a hurricane went into the final day without a single playoff matchup set.

Then, in a flurry and fury, the entire, expanded 16-team postseason field was full.

Not a bad way to start, either: Gerrit Cole vs. Shane Bieber in a megawatt duel as the New York Yankees face the Cleveland Indians

in the best-of-three wild-card round Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the NL gets going. That's when the Brewers, at 29-31, open their series against Los Angeles ace Walker Buehler.

In a win-and-you're-in game, St. Louis clinched by beating Milwaukee 5-2. But the Brewers also made it when San Francisco lost 5-4 to San Diego for the last wild-card spot.

Yelich, the former MVP who hit .205 this year after winning the last two NL batting titles, and the Brewers happily posed for a team picture in their playoff-clinch T-shirts on the Busch Stadium field.

The Astros and first-year manager Dusty Baker also are in at 29-31. Houston got its spot by finishing second in the AL West, drawing an automatic berth.

The only other team in major league history to reach the playoffs with a losing record was the 1981 Kansas City Royals — at 50-53 overall, they made it by winning the second half in a strike-split season.

"It's a celebration. We're in. We're in the playoffs. That's how you see it," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "There's no reason to apologize for getting into the playoffs."

"The record's kind of irrelevant in my opinion," he said.

The other AL pairings: Top-seeded Tampa Bay-No. 8 Toronto, No. 2 Oakland-No. 7 Chicago White Sox and No. 3 Minnesota-No. 6 Houston, with all openers Tuesday.

In the NL, it's No. 1 Dodgers-No. 8 Brewers, No. 2 Atlanta-No. 7 Cincinnati, No. 3 Chicago Cubs-No. 6 Miami and No. 4 San Diego-No. 5 St. Louis on Wednesday.

Yadier Molina and the Cardinals claimed their spot despite missing 2½ weeks into August after the club was hit by a virus outbreak. St. Louis played a total of 58 games — it was prepared for a doubleheader in Detroit on Monday if needed to settle the playoff picture.

**SEE FITTING ON PAGE 21**

### By the numbers

# 8

The lowest number of wins to lead the majors, reached by Shane Bieber and Yu Darvish.

# 45

The number of games postponed for COVID-19-related reasons.

# .245

The batting average in the majors this season, the lowest since .237 in 1968.

SOURCE: Associated Press

QBs Wilson, Rodgers shine in leading teams to victories in shootouts » **NFL, Page 23**

Restarts help Busch end 0-for-21 skid at home track » **NASCAR, Page 19**

