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STARS AND STRIPES

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ANALYSIS

Despite apology, Korea tensions rise over killing of man at sea

By **KIM GAMEL**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Despite a rare North Korean apology, Seoul and Pyongyang continued to spar Sunday over the North's killing of a South Korean official at sea.

The North accused South Korean ships of crossing a disputed maritime boundary to search for the man's body, warning it "may lead to an escalation of tensions."

President Moon Jae-in's administration, meanwhile, called on the communist state to participate in a joint investigation into the killing and to reopen a military hotline to facilitate the probe.

The dispute began last week when North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean fisheries inspector who had floated into their waters. He had been in a patrol boat in the Yellow Sea off the peninsula's west coast. It is not clear how he ended up adrift.

Both sides were struggling to respond because the incident caught them by surprise as opposed to past planned provocations, according to John Delury, a North Korea expert at Yonsei University in Seoul.

"I think probably since neither side planned it, it's more about deescalating and managing without looking weak, without losing face internally and externally," he said in a telephone interview.

South Korean military officials said the North Koreans shot the 47-year-old man in the water after a six-hour interrogation as he remained in the water, then burned his body in line with coronavirus prevention measures.

In an earlier message, the North insisted its troops had shot an "illegal intruder" who refused to answer questions and tried to escape.

SEE TENSIONS ON PAGE 4



DESERT STORM

In Arizona, the Army prepares to fight much faster with artificial intelligence

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**
Stars and Stripes

TYUMA PROVING GROUND, Ariz. owin a fight against a foe with similar weapons and capabilities, the U.S. military's ability to find and strike that enemy must become exponentially faster, and at this austere weapons testing range in southern Arizona, the Army is leveraging new technology to do just that.

With a room full of top officers from the Army and all of its sister military services watching last week, Army Brig. Gen. Ross Coffman led demonstrations illustrating precisely how the service intends to slash its targeting process from tens of minutes to tens of seconds. Coffman, who for the last six weeks has run the Army's Project Convergence at Yuma Proving Ground, said the key is new technology — artificial intelligence — that can gather and process massive

An autonomous vehicle is ready for a practice run during a Project Convergence event at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. Project Convergence is a multipatform initiative being developed to keep pace with technological change and help the Army rapidly operate across the land, air, sea, space and cyberspace domains.

CARLOS CUEBAS FANTAUZZI
U.S. Army

streams of data faster than teams of humans ever could.

"We're going to be able to put fires on the enemy faster than the enemy fires on us," Coffman said Sept. 21 after the first of two Project Convergence demonstrations last week. The second was held at Yuma on Wednesday. "We're going to be able to see him first, we're going to be able to decide what we want to do first, and we're going to be able to engage first."

In a series of tests Sept. 21, intelligence-gathering sensors on space-based satellites, low-flying drones and military ground vehicles located mockups representing enemy air defense systems, tanks and other hostile targets spread across the Yuma desert range. The sensors relayed the target information to computer systems, which then identified the target and determined the best means to kill it — long-range artillery, a drone-fired missile, traditional mortar rounds or machine-gun fire.

SEE DESERT ON PAGE 6

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US restricts technology exports to Chinese firm

The Washington Post

The Trump administration has issued new restrictions on U.S. technology exports to China's biggest semiconductor manufacturer, warning that the exports could benefit China's military.

The Commerce Department on Friday notified U.S. companies that they will now need a license to export certain technology to Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp., or SMIC, according to a copy of the Com-

merce Department letter reviewed by The Washington Post.

The letter said the licensing regime will be in place "pending the U.S. government's review of SMIC and its subsidiaries."

The Pentagon earlier this month said the Trump administration was considering adding SMIC to the Entity List, a trade blacklist that would block U.S. technology sales unless companies receive a license.

The Commerce Department "has determined that exports to

SMIC or its subsidiaries, including those listed above, may pose an unacceptable risk of diversion to a military end use in the People's Republic of China pending the U.S. government's review of SMIC and its subsidiaries," said the letter, which was reported earlier by the Financial Times and The Wall Street Journal.

SMIC and other chip manufacturers depend on U.S. software and chip-making machinery to produce semiconductors.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Sept. 28)	\$1.14	Switzerland (Franc)
Dollar buys (Sept. 28)	€0.8369	Thailand (Baht)
British pound (Sept. 28)	\$1.24	Turkey (Lira)
Japanese yen (Sept. 28)	103.00	(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.)
South Korean won (Sept. 28)	1,140.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3767	
British pound	\$1.2730	
Canada (Dollar)	1.3395	
China (Yuan)	6.8238	
Denmark (Krone)	6.4062	
Egypt (Pound)	15.7740	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1625/0.8603	
India (Rupee)	75.502	
Israel (Shekel)	3.4809	
Japan (Yen)	105.69	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3064	
Norway (Krone)	9.5835	
Philippines (Peso)	48.46	
Poland (Zloty)	3.92	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3782	
South Korea (Won)	1,175.71	

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

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY 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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KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

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CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

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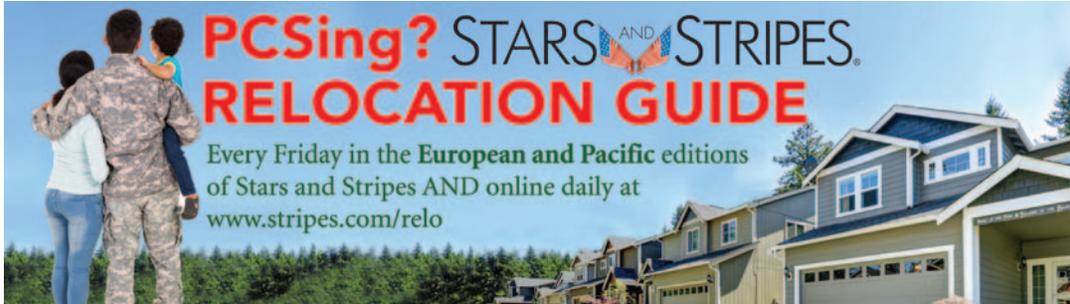
ICHIRO KATAYANAGI

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313
DSN: 227.7313

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

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MILITARY

USAF lab looks at how to get humans to trust robots

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

A gangling robot rolls down an office hallway, turning into rooms to search with its cameras and sensors for signs of life.

"Search complete. No humans found during my search activity," the robot reports after returning to a human operator, later explaining its deviations from a planned search pattern.

It looks like an iPad mated with a Roomba and sounds somewhat like one of the laser-armed robots designed to guard nuclear weapons in the 1986 movie "Short Circuit."

But this robot, whose movements were shot in 10 videos produced for the Air Force Research Laboratory, is designed with future technology in mind. Researchers want to test how troops might react to artificial intelligence when it behaves independently, and in unexpected ways.

"This is going to happen, it's going to happen frequently, especially as we field autonomy," said Joseph Lyons, a scientist with the lab at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. "How does the machine, the technology, come back and explain ... I did

this and here's why?"

Researchers plan to show the videos to focus groups, whose feedback will contribute to the design of future Air Force systems, and possibly the prototype autonomous "Skyborg" combat drone that AFRL plans to field by 2023.

Earlier this month, four-legged security robots resembling man's best friend had grabbed headlines after being pictured during an Air Force exercise in Nevada. Defense Secretary Mark Esper also warned that thinking machines have the potential to reshape military operations.

"Artificial intelligence is in a league of its own, with the potential to transform nearly every aspect of the battlefield," Esper said at a symposium Sept. 9.

The United States "cannot afford to cede the high ground to revisionist powers" such as China, which are already leveraging AI capabilities, he said.

But while many efforts have been focused on the technical side of developing systems and capabilities, Lyons said he's focused on how humans will respond to what the machines tell them.

"If people don't resonate with it, or if it kind of makes people



CORY D. PAYNE/U.S. Air Force

Tech. Sgt. John Rodriguez, 321st Contingency Response Squadron security team, patrols with a Ghost Robotics Vision 60 prototype at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., on Thursday, Sept. 3.

unset or people can't trust it, then it doesn't really do a lot of good from an operational standpoint," Lyons said.

Although the robot searches nondescript government offices in the videos, a similar scenario could play out in the future with machines' assisting rescuers while they search for earthquake or fire survivors.

A system might detect invisible signs of human activity — heat or a cell signal — and that could cause it to deviate from a path it was instructed to follow in order to check out the new information.

Like a junior airman reporting to a superior, it'll need to justify itself.

"I am aware that I did not follow the route you requested for me," the robot says in one of the study's videos. "I followed this route because I have your best interest in mind and I felt this route was best for your goals."

In one video that also includes the robot's infrared sensor readings, a reticle on the display from the robot's video camera feed homes in on a ceramic mug spotted on a vacant desk.

"I followed this route because

I detected a hot coffee cup at the new location, which could signify the presence of a human," the robot explains.

Researchers will begin collecting data from focus groups soon and will likely have results in the next few months, Lyons said, adding that the research is still in its earliest stages.

"What are the standards for this space? We're kind of building them as we go," he said.

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

3 Army brigades to deploy to S. Korea, Europe, Afghanistan

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Despite the coronavirus pandemic, the Army announced it will deploy a brigade to Europe, another to South Korea and a third to Afghanistan.

The fall deployments are part of regular rotations to the three locations, according to the Army's announcement Thursday.

About 700 soldiers from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division from Fort Drum, N.Y., will replace the division's 1st Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan. Maj. Harold Huff, a 10th Mountain Division spokesman, wrote Friday in an email. The soldiers will be stationed in a number of locations across the country for a nine-month deployment supporting Operation Freedom Sentinel to conduct "command and control, force protection, and logistical support functions," he said.

The United States is drawing down forces in Afghanistan following a Feb. 29 peace agreement with the Taliban. Troop levels in the country are expected to be reduced to between 4,000 to 5,000 service members by the end of November, and Defense Secretary Mark Esper has not issued an order to reduce that number any further, said David Helvey, who is performing the duties of assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific security affairs at the Defense Department.

A full withdrawal of U.S. and allied troops is planned by May 2021 as part of the peace agreement, but it would be dependent on the Taliban meeting its obligations and commitments of the agreement. Helvey said Tuesday during a congressional hearing that the Taliban is still not fully compliant.

The 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas, will deploy to Europe for nine months with about 3,700 soldiers, who will participate in Atlantic Re-



JEREMY J. HARRIS/U.S. Army

A U.S. soldier assigned to the 10th Mountain Division surveys the back of a CH-47 Chinook during flight over Kabul, Afghanistan, in March.

solve exercises, including the multinational exercise Combined Resolve, said Lt. Col. Chris Brautigam, a 1st Cavalry Division spokesman. The exercises are "in support of the United States' commitment to NATO allies and partners," according to the Army announcement.

The brigade will be replacing 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga. About 3,600 soldiers from the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., will deploy to South Korea for a rotation, said Lt. Col. Lindsey Elder, a 3rd Infantry Division spokeswoman, replacing 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division from Fort Riley, Kan.

The nine-month rotation is to "support the United States' commitment to southeast Asia partners and allies," the announcement states.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @caitlincmkenney

Pollution warning near Aviano lifted

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Local authorities lifted a warning to avoid touching grass and soil due to contamination fears, following a blaze at a waste treatment plant last weekend about 6 miles from the U.S. base.

On Friday, regional Deputy Gov. Riccardo Riccardi said local mayors would be advised that an ordinance in response to the fire, which included a warning to avoid eating homegrown vegetables, poultry and eggs, was no longer in effect, the *Il Gazzettino* newspaper reported.

Pollutant levels in air samples analyzed during the fire, which began Sept. 19, were four times above normal, the environmental agency for the Friuli Venezia Giulia region said. But followup testing Thursday found that pollution had decreased significantly, Riccardi said, adding that it was safe again to consume garden-grown food.

An investigation into the causes of the blaze at the Servizio Nettezza Urbana Ed Affini plant was launched soon after the fire was extinguished Monday. A similar fire damaged the waste treatment facility in October.

news@stripes.com

MILITARY

China's aircraft carriers complete September drills

By CATLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

China's two aircraft carriers, the Liaoning and the Shandong, recently completed military drills in the South China Sea, according to a statement by the Chinese Ministry of Defense on Thursday.

It was the first time the Chinese navy has sent two carriers to sea at once, though the ships did not train together. The Shandong was commissioned in December; the Liaoning was commissioned in 2012.

While at sea, the Liaoning com-

pleted "regular exercises" while the Shandong conducted sea trials, according to a Thursday article by the Chinese state-run newspaper Global Times. Sea trials are a testing phase of ships and their systems.

"The moves aimed to test the equipment's performance and troops' training results, and boost their capability to carry out missions," Defense Ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Tan Keifei said at a press conference Thursday, according to the Global Times.

Both of the carriers went to sea in early September, accord-

ing to the newspaper. The Shandong steamed into the Bohai Sea and the Liaoning was seen in the Yellow Sea, according to the Global Times.

The Chinese military also completed combat exercises near the Taiwan Strait last weekend that were "meant to target foreign interference and Taiwan separatists," Tan said Thursday, according to the Chinese Communist Party-owned China Daily news.

"If Taiwan separatist forces dare to attempt Taiwan's secession under any circumstances, we will do whatever it takes to thwart

their efforts," Tan said, according to China Daily.

The exercises came a day after U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., introduced the "Taiwan Invasion Prevention Act" into the Senate.

The bill would pledge to help Taiwan "counter Communist China's military buildup across the Taiwan straits," authorize the president to use military force to protect Taiwan and encourage the Defense Department to send "appropriate personnel" to Taiwan's National Defense Academy, according to a Sept. 17 statement by Scott's office.

"Communist China continues to threaten our important ally — a threat not only to the people of Taiwan, but to the United States and our allies around the globe," Scott said in the statement.

"We must do everything we can to discourage Communist China from using military force against a peaceful democratic power, and the Taiwan Invasion Prevention Act demonstrates our commitment to Taiwan and to the importance of freedom and democracy," he added.

doornbos.catlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CatlinDoornbos

Baker's 'cake cups' lighten quarantine in S. Korea

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Over her summer break from school, Kiri Peterson, 16, began making cake parfaits for troops and their families serving out their mandatory two-week coronavirus quarantine at Camp Humphreys.

What started as about 30 of the cake-in-a-cup desserts every week has blossomed into more than 3,800 so far, donated and delivered to quarantine quarters on base.

"My family has always been pretty big about service, so it makes me happy that I can do that for other people and bring joy," said Peterson, who lives with her family outside the installation.

The Petersons are now serving hundreds each week through her charity Facebook page, Operation Cake for Quarantine. Their most recent and largest delivery to date went to more than 540 people.

"It's a gift that's unexpected," said Kiri's father, Army Capt. Jason Peterson of United Nations



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

Kiri Peterson, her family and friends have been serving desserts to hundreds of people at Camp Humphreys, South Korea

Command, in a video posted on Eighth Army's Facebook page. "So, when it comes and it's sweet and it's yummy and it tastes good, I think that's what touches people. I know that's what would touch us as a family."

The young baker is no culinary novice. From a single bak-

ing lesson from an aunt in Utah three years ago, Kiri Peterson started her own home-based custom cake business. But she usually had chunks of cake left over after designing and trimming her creations.

To make the cake parfaits, Peterson stuffed those leftovers into

small plastic cups, added frosting and toppings and Voila! "cake cups." The operation has evolved into a kitchen assembly line that employs her dad, mom Angela, and six siblings, Jaron, Makelle, Keali, Kyan, Hailey and Abby.

Cake requests are submitted through her Facebook page and each cup is marked with the recipient's name and room number.

Her home-based operation has drawn tremendous support, and now donations help the Petersons keep up with the growing demand.

"It's amazing to see the community reach out to help," Kiri Peterson said. "I've had neighbors ring my doorbell out of the blue with boxes, stacks of eggs, even cash to help us. Perfect strangers will meet us in the parking lot and hand us bags of supplies. It's truly heartwarming to see people want to help."

"We are starting to get so many people asking how they can help, local friends, Facebook friends, local bakers, even the USO!"

The program has grown so much that the Army accepted it

into its Volunteer Management Information System, a digital storehouse for the Army Volunteer Corps. Positions available within Peterson's cake campaign include baker, delivery person, assembly and donation management.

Many of the same people who requested a dessert in quarantine are helping Peterson keep the cakes coming.

"We've found that these families really were touched by receiving our cake cups and are anxious for a chance to pay it forward," she said.

Although school is back in session, in an online setting for now, the Petersons said they will continue to bake and bring the sweet treats to quarantine facilities across the garrison.

"It just makes me feel good, makes me feel happier that I am bringing happiness into someone else's life," Kiri Peterson said. "So yeah, we are going to continue as long as we are still here, and people have to go through quarantine."

keeler.matthew@stripes.com
Twitter: @MattKeeler1231

Tensions: N. Korea's apology over killing at sea leads to mixed responses

FROM FRONT PAGE

It also denied burning the body, saying the troops had set fire to the bloodied flotation device but that the man was no longer on it.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "feels very sorry to have disappointed President Moon, Joe-in and other South Korean compatriots because of an unexpected, unfortunate incident," according to the message, which was read by a senior presidential adviser.

Kim's rare apology was seen as an attempt to prevent the shooting from boiling over into conflict as his regime struggles with economic woes caused by U.S.-led sanctions over his banned nuclear program, as well as the coronavirus pandemic.

"While reassuring for inter-Korean diplomacy, the North Korean version of events still unsettles me," Jean Lee of the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C.,

wrote on Twitter.

She said the way the North Korean soldiers handled the incident revealed how brutal and violent daily life is in North Korea.

"This is the reality for North Koreans," she wrote.

The apology also failed to quell outrage in the South, with conservative opposition parties stepping up criticism of Moon's handling of the situation.

Moon's office tried to strike a delicate balance following an emergency security meeting on Sunday, as it welcomed the North's "speedy apology" but demanded a joint investigation into the killing.

Suh Choo-suk, deputy director of the national security office, said the most urgent task is to retrieve the official's body and belongings to aid in the probe and in consideration of his bereaved family members, according to the

Yonhap News Agency.

The statement came hours after the North accused the South of violating its territorial waters.

"We urge the south side to immediately halt the intrusion across the military demarcation line in the west sea that may lead to escalation of tensions," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Sunday.

South Korean officials said naval ships and aircraft have been mobilized to search in the area, but insisted that the vessels had remained south of the Northern Limit Line, a de facto maritime boundary that's disputed by the North.

The Yellow Sea has been a constant flashpoint in the conflict between the two Koreas, which remain technically at war after their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

North Korea has rejected the Northern Limit Line, saying it was unilaterally drawn by the U.S.-led United Nations Command after the war. It wasn't mentioned in the armistice agreement.

The area has been the site of frequent clashes, including the 2010 North Korean shelling of the Yeonpyeong Island that killed four South Koreans and the sinking of a South Korean ship that killed 46 sailors the same year.

"Unfortunately, it is of little surprise that North Korea prioritizes its draconian border control and anti-epidemic procedures over the life of a civilian drifting into its waters," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"It is understandable for Seoul to call for a joint probe and demand that the North adjust its rules of engagement to avoid a re-occurrence," he said in an email.

"But there is little chance Pyongyang will offer further cooperation or contrition."

"The United States has supported its ally's legal position and likely provided intelligence, but is not interested in seeing search and recovery operations escalate into a naval incident," Easley added.

The Transitional Justice Working Group, a Seoul-based nongovernmental organization, said the killing and burning of the body may have violated the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Conventions.

The group, which documents human rights abuses, called for an international fact-finding mission, punishment of perpetrators and a guarantee that it won't happen again.

gamei.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgamei

MILITARY

Sailors, civilians salute Sasebo's exiting captain

By JAMES BOLINGER
Stars and Stripes

Capt. Brad Stallings handed off command of Sasebo Naval Base in southern Japan on Friday, ending a three-year tenure capped by a fight against the coronavirus.

Capt. David Adams, most recently the reactor officer aboard the nuclear-powered carrier USS John C. Stennis, took over from Stallings at a ceremony reduced to just 50 attendees due to coronavirus restrictions.

"It is my great honor to stand before you as the successor to a great lineage of commanders who set the example and guarded

against external threats, preserved an amazing relationship with our Japanese friends, and secured a peaceful development and progress

for over seven decades," Adams said during his address inside the base fitness center Friday.

Adams, a native of Beaumont, Texas, graduated in 1997 from the University of San Diego with a bachelor's in business administration and a commission through Naval ROTC, according to a Navy statement issued Friday.

Stars and Stripes was provided with copies of Adams' and

Stallings' speeches prior to the ceremony.

Stallings' next assignment is not far away. He's heading to Yokosuka Naval Base, south of Tokyo, to serve as chief of staff to Rear Adm. Brian Fort, the commander of Naval Forces Japan.

A native of Attica, Ohio, Stallings holds masters' degrees in electrical engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School and in military studies from the Command and Staff College. He was commissioned through the Enlisted Commissioning program, according to the Navy. He has also served in South Korea and Afghanistan.

Fort, guest speaker at the ceremony, presented Stallings with the Legion of Merit for his service at Sasebo, about 30 miles northwest of Nagasaki.

"I am one of many who are exceptionally proud of this entire team, your contributions to the mission, and your strengthening of the relationship between the United States and Japan," Fort said to Stallings, according to the Navy. "Success is always a team sport and you played it well."

Though the ceremony was sparsely attended, many sailors and civilians lined the street, properly spaced and wearing masks, to render salutes and farewell waves as Stallings drove past, according to a video posted Friday on the base Facebook page.

It was definitely not a traditional change-of-command ceremony, Stallings said during his



U.S. Navy.

Capt. Brad Stallings on Friday yielded command of Sasebo Naval Base to become chief of staff for Naval Forces Japan at Yokosuka Naval Base.

remarks.

"In order to keep the numbers down, there is no band, there were no side boys posted for a formal entrance of the official party," he said, "as you can see there are very few guests, there are no flowers to hand out and there is no reception."

Sasebo is homeport for the amphibious assault ship USS America, the flagship of an amphibious readiness group, along with 48 tenant commands and 7,400 sailors, civilian employees and family members, according to the Navy. Keeping the coronavirus off the base, and out of the amphibious group warships, became Stallings' daily first priority.

The base reported a relatively low number of coronavirus cases as the pandemic moved across Japan. Meanwhile, Stallings on social media posted regular, personalized messages to encourage or scold, as the circumstances required. He was often blunt.

He also held frequent town-hall meetings via Facebook Live to pass information and answer questions about the coronavirus and base policies.

At the start of a livestream session April 23, he tallied up the U.S. dead from the virus, a number then nearly equal to the Americans killed in the Vietnam War. In a subsequent session, Stallings shared the fact that because of travel restrictions he could not attend the funeral of a cousin who had succumbed to the virus.

In May, Stallings barred several civilians from the base after they violated a prohibition on patronizing area bars and restaurants in order to curb the virus' spread.

"COVID-19 has changed how we operate," Stallings said during his address, "and we live in a very different world as compared to just seven months ago."

bolinger.james@stripes.com
Twitter: @bolinger2004

Roosevelt returns to sea after outbreak

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

Though the crew of the USS Theodore Roosevelt completed a six-month deployment this year, the aircraft carrier returned to sea once again last week.

The ship recently completed a maintenance period after returning to its San Diego, Calif., homeport on July 9, according to a Navy statement released Wednesday. The Roosevelt had been gone since Jan. 17 on a deployment to the Western Pacific during which more than 1,150 of its sailors tested positive for coronavirus — one of whom died.

The Roosevelt spent about a month in Guam after the outbreak during that deployment as it underwent sanitization and sailors were tested, treated and isolated.

While the carrier is at sea, pilots attached to the Roosevelt will conduct carrier-landing qualifications, "relying on the systems and personnel on the ship to safely guide them to the flight deck during hot day and night-time operations," according to the Navy statement.

"Conducting carrier qualifications for two fleet replacement squadrons has a two-fold benefit," the Roosevelt's commander, Capt. Eric Anduze, said in the statement. "It generates readiness for the fleet by providing aviators capable of supporting currently deployed squadrons and it sharpens the skills of my crew before we set sail over the horizon again in support of our nation's defense."

Anduze in August took over the ship's command from Capt. Carlos Sardiello, who oversaw recovery efforts aboard the carrier and its eventual return to San Diego. Sardiello was assigned to the ship in April after its former commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, was relieved by then-acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly.

"The Navy did not say when the ship plans to leave for another patrol, but carrier flight operations are typically one of the final steps in the workup to a deployment. The Navy by policy does not discuss future ship movements, citing security risks.

"The Navy is proud within the carrier's community," told Navy Times the ship will deploy "anywhere from November to January," the newspaper reported Saturday.

The Roosevelt's return to sea comes as the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower does the same, just over a month after returning from a 10-month deployment on Aug. 9, according to the Eisenhower's Facebook page.

The Eisenhower spent a record-breaking 206 consecutive days at sea during that deployment due to the Navy-wide cancellation of port visits in response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Navy.



Adams

Guam Coast Guard receives 1st of three cutters

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The first of three 154-foot, fast-response Coast Guard cutters arrived Thursday in Guam after completing a two-month, 10,000-nautical-mile journey from the mainland.

The crew of the Myrtle Hazard sailed from Key West, Fla., to the cutter's new homeport in Santa Rita, the Coast Guard said in a statement Thursday.

The three Sentinel-class cutters will eventually replace Guam's 110-foot Island-class patrol boats that the Coast Guard has been using for about three decades, the statement said. The arrival dates of the final two cutters had not been specified.

The Coast Guard has home-ported almost 40 of the 58 fast-response cutters the service is acquiring for a modernization intended to allow greater flexibility in missions. Three have been home-ported already in Honolulu, with two others in Alaska.

The Coast Guard took delivery of the Myrtle Hazard from Louisiana-based Bollinger Shipyards in May, according to news reports.



MACADAM KANE WEISSMAN/U.S. Navy

Coast Guard cutter Myrtle Hazard steams through Apra Harbor before arriving at its new homeport in Santa Rita, Guam.

Fast-response cutters are equipped with advanced systems used for command, communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

They also have superior speed and range, reaching speeds of up to 28 knots and enduring five days out at sea while covering over 2,500 nautical miles, the statement said. They are armed with four 50-caliber machine guns and a remote-controlled 25-millimeter

cannon.

The cutters can be used for drug interdiction, defense operations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, marine safety and environmental protection, the statement said.

"[Fast-response cutters] in Guam strengthen and affirm the U.S. Coast Guard's operational presence in Oceania," Lt. Tony Seleznick, commander of the Myrtle Hazard, said in the statement. "We increase the fleet's range, endurance, and capabilities to deter illegal behavior, support Search and Rescue, promote maritime stability, and strengthen partnerships."

Fast-response cutters carry a 24-person crew.

A fleet of three fast-response cutters in Guam will mean an additional 70 Coast Guard members and about 100 family members, the statement said.

The cutter's namesake was the first woman to enlist in the Coast Guard. Myrtle Hazard enlisted in January 1918 and became a radio operator during World War I, the statement said. She ended her service in 1919 as an electrician's mate 1st class.

MILITARY

Desert: Army's latest weapon commands all domains

FROM FRONT PAGE

In one demonstration, sensors on a low-Earth orbit satellite spotted an object, which was determined by an artificial intelligence program called Firestorm to be an enemy air defense weapon. Firestorm then prioritized that target as necessary to destroy and recommended long-range artillery — in this case, a self-propelled Howitzer cannon — to shoot. At that point, a human finally became involved in the process: A commander made the ultimate decision to strike, and the soldiers in the cannon fired. The entire process took less than one minute.

Project Convergence is the Army's answer to learning to fight the conflict that top Pentagon officials have long feared could be their next major war — a high-end conflict stretching across multiple domains against a near-peer competitor that boasts advanced weaponry. The program aims to provide the technology to command and control operations and assets across all of those domains — land, air, space, sea and cyberspace.

The program, run by the Army's Futures Command, features elements from most of the Army's critical modernization efforts — including programs aimed at producing the next generations of long-range artillery, Army helicopters and unmanned aerial systems, ground combat vehicles and the communications network — to link everything. Ultimately, it hopes to link all of those capabilities via a massive network of sensors ranging from outer space to front-line soldiers' combat kits. As important as those modernization programs are to the service, Gen. Mike Murray, commander of Army Futures Command, said Wednesday that Project Convergence might be the most critical ongoing effort within the Army, outside of protecting its soldiers on real-world battlefields today. He believes it could drive change at a level the service has not seen in four decades.

Like other key Pentagon programs, Project Convergence is driven by the 2018 National Defense Strategy, which places

power competition against China and Russia as the preliminary threat to America's national security. Both emerging powers have invested heavily in recent years in military power, and possess technologies that could challenge U.S. battlefield supremacy.

Firestorm

The critical link powering Project Convergence is an artificial intelligence platform called Firestorm, which Coffman and other Army officials described as the brains behind the quick-targeting process.

Firestorm is the computer system that absorbs data from the military's sensors, processes it and provides its results — essentially targeting recommendations — to the Army commander for decision-making about identified targets. It also gathers terrain and other data to provide soldiers with a common picture of the battle space, to help them work together to target enemies, avoid detection and avoid airspace collisions, Coffman said.

That technology could prove to be the Army's real "game-changer" for how the United States conducts war, said Gen. Joseph Martin, Army vice chief of staff, who traveled to Yuma on Sept. 21 to witness the Project Convergence tests.

"Firestorm is to multi-domain or joint all-domain command and control as the wheel is to transportation," Martin said. "It will give us the ability to decide faster than any adversary and apply the full power of the Joint Force in all domains. That's what I walked away with today."

Like a human, Firestorm learns enemy weapons systems and other information through repeated exposure. Its algorithm finds characteristics of items that its sensors detect in a battle space and decides with confidence if that item is a target — a specific model of an enemy's tank, for example. It then identifies for the commander which asset of all the weapons available is the best to use to destroy the target, considering all of the conditions at that moment.

In the future, Martin said, it could link an Army commander



PHOTOS BY CARLOS CUEBAS FANTAUZZI/U.S. Army

Luke Travisano, engineer with Robotic Research LLC, conducts a test run of the autonomous system Pegasus, during the Project Convergence capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz.

It will give us the ability to decide faster than any adversary and apply the full power of the Joint Force in all domains. ♪

Gen. Joseph Martin
U.S. Army vice chief of staff

with Navy destroyers at sea or with Marine F-35B fighter jets to launch critical attacks in less than 30 seconds.

Coffman said the system could keep soldiers safer on the front lines because it could allow autonomous drones or ground robots to engage with the enemy forces. It could allow the military to conserve ammunition, by picking the most likely weapon to destroy a target in as few shots as possible, he said. It may also allow soldiers to remain concealed from the enemy longer, as other platforms fire on a target instead of those front-line forces.

"So technology is allowing us to pair the best shooter to eradicate

the targets, allowing our most effective killers to go after the highest priority target," Coffman said. "And when you can do that, you go from tens of minutes to tens of seconds. Now you can make decisions faster than your enemy. And they're reacting to you rather than you reacting to them."

The human element

The Army is committed to ensuring the ultimate decision to pull a trigger, to fire a missile or drop a bomb, is made by a human.

"There will always be, when you have a lethal decision, a human involved," Murray said Wednesday after the second Project Convergence demonstration at Yuma.

Army leaders believe artificial intelligence will enable humans to make quicker, better decisions. But technology, like humans, is not infallible.

"There are some things machines just do better and faster than a human can do," Murray said. "And so a lot of this is keeping a human in the loop and allowing those humans to do what they do best and allow machines to do what they do best."

The technology remains a prototype and is years from reaching the Army's operational combat units. U.S. soldiers training around the world today are focused on perfecting the tactics they would need to fight a near-peer adversary, but they are doing so with proven, but often dated, technology, Martin said.

It could be a decade before soldiers on rotation at one of the Army's key combat training centers are using technology like Firestorm.

"They're fighting with what we have," Martin said. "We incrementally have introduced different mission command capabilities, different technologies, different weapon systems. But what we saw [Monday] is prototype technology, not sufficiently at a level of maturity ... to start building a program, and we're not there yet with that."

Martin, the Army's No. 2 general, said he wished his career would last long enough to see the technology arrive in those soldiers' hands.

"I wish I had 10 to 15 more years in the Army to see this through personally because this is the direction we're going," he said. "We've got to get there, [and] it'll be a lot faster than that, but just think about how quickly technology's evolving. This is incredible stuff."



Travisano conducts a test run of the autonomous system Pegasus, during the Project Convergence capstone event.



The TAROT drone conducts a practice run during the Project Convergence capstone event.

MILITARY



U.S. Africa Command

The joint operations center at U.S. Africa Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, is shown. The command should swap Stuttgart for Charleston, say two South Carolina senators, whose sales pitch is likely to be the first of many, as the military searches for a new headquarters home.

SC makes its pitch as AFRICOM searches for new headquarters

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command should swap Stuttgart for Charleston, say two South Carolina senators whose pitch is likely to be the first among many as the military searches for a new headquarters home.

In a joint letter to Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Sens. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott touted Joint Base Charleston as an ideal location for AFRICOM headquarters if a location in Africa isn't an option.

"One specific benefit is that JBC offers direct airlift and sea-lift to Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, as well as road, and rail assets to provide a rapid response should immediate actions be required," the senators wrote in a joint letter.

In July, the Pentagon announced plans to remove 12,000 troops from Germany after President Donald Trump ordered a drawdown in the country. Numerous units will be affected if the plan, which would take years, is put into action. The Pentagon has not yet detailed when unit moves would begin, but AFRICOM and its 1,400 personnel were among those pegged for relocation.

AFRICOM in July said that it had launched its search for a new home. At the time, the command made no mention of locations in Africa as a possibility, saying it was focused on sites in Europe and the United States.

While Graham and Scott said it would be ideal to set up a headquarters someplace in Africa,

which would emphasize America's commitment on a continent where China has significantly boosted its economic and political clout, they "acknowledge the logistic and strategic challenges associated with this relocation."

When compared to Stuttgart, Charleston "would offer the personnel assigned to AFRICOM headquarters and their dependents a lower cost of living with a diverse range of options for housing, educational opportunities and spousal employment," the letter said.

If AFRICOM decides it wants to move elsewhere in Europe, keeping it in closer proximity to Africa, it could run into resistance from some in Congress. Given the financial stakes involved, more states are likely to follow South Carolina's lead with basing offers.

When AFRICOM's headquarters location was up for debate in years past, lawmakers from Virginia and Georgia also lobbied for the command, which was viewed as a boon for local jobs and the economy. In 2012, the issue faded from Congress' military agenda after a Pentagon review decided to keep the headquarters in Stuttgart, citing the high startup costs connected to a relocation.

But the General Accountability Office in 2013 took issue with that DOD decision, saying a move to the U.S. could save between \$60 million and \$70 million annually. AFRICOM's potential local economic impact ranged from \$350 million to \$450 million, the GAO report said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @joh_n_vandiver

Sailor drops 94 pounds to remain in the service

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew O'Brien returned from leave last summer weighing in at 310 pounds and needing to shed a lot of weight to stay in the Navy. Then the pandemic hit.

Despite coronavirus-related disruptions to gym access and fitness programs, O'Brien lost more than 90 pounds in 12 months with help from dietitians at Naval Support Activity Naples, the service said in a statement.

"I was tired of being the size I was," O'Brien said in the statement. "I was tired of not being able to do the things I wanted to do."

While all the services have seen an increase in overweight personnel, a Pentagon report last year found 22% of sailors were obese in 2018, the highest rate for any of the services and above the Defense Department average of about 17%.

To fight growing waistlines, the Navy began increased access to dietitians in July 2018 by sending them into sailor's workspaces on temporary duty assignments at a commander's request.

In the first half of this fiscal year, 56 commanders requested dietitian support and 1,300 sailors received nutritional information, said Lt. Cmdr. Pamela Gregory, a registered dietitian who had man-

aged the Navy Nutrition Program when it launched.

The experts can provide guidance on eating for weight management, better athletic performance and disease prevention, as well as help galley staff improve the



O'Brien

quality and nutrition of meals, Gregory said in a phone interview.

It didn't take much for O'Brien to begin seeing rapid results, said Gregory, one of two dietitians who advised him during the process.

As an information systems technician in the final year of his tour in Naples, O'Brien was far outside height and weight standards, meaning he could be prevented from advancement or reenlistment.

One of the first steps was to begin tracking what he ate — there are a variety of smartphone apps to help do so — and he then got help figuring out how much he could cut from his diet.

"At once you realize how much you're eating and not really exercising," O'Brien said.

He added daily workouts to his routine to help burn more calo-

ries, but Gregory said diet is a bigger part of weight loss. Many young sailors eat too many highly processed foods that may feel good for "a hot minute," but don't provide what their bodies need, she said.

A prior enlisted corpsman who'd tried a variety of diets herself before studying nutrition, Gregory encourages her clients to eat more nutrient-rich whole fruits and vegetables and to be mindful of why they're eating and when they're satisfied.

After losing nearly 40 pounds in the first couple months, O'Brien had started to slip back into old patterns by October, Gregory said, but she urged him to keep up his new healthier habits. When they met again in November, he'd shed another 15 pounds.

When Italy became an epicenter for the pandemic in March, he wasn't able to go to the gym, so he focused on his eating plan.

By July, shortly before transferring to the Everett, Wash.-based USS Sampson, he was within standards "and in some of the best shape of my life," he said.

"If you work hard enough at something, there are rewards," he said. "Right now my reward is to go back to the fleet and back home to the U.S."

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

Ramstein school to close for several days after 3 teachers test positive

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Three teachers at Ramstein Intermediate School have tested positive for the coronavirus, prompting the school's closure to complete contact tracing and any needed testing, officials said.

The Department of Defense Education Activity school, which comprises grades 3, 4 and 5 on Ramstein Air Base, closed Friday and will reopen Monday, Oct. 5, said Stephen Smith, a DODEA-Europe spokesman.

The three confirmed cases are the first involving teaching staff at a DODEA-Europe school this year, Smith said. There have been no reports that the employees have been hospitalized, he said.

Teachers will be in contact with students to provide some online assignments, but the school will not transition to full-time remote learning, Smith said. The school provided more details in an email to parents Friday.

The decision to keep students and staff out of school next week

was made in consultation with public health experts, who are working through "how far contact tracing may need to go," Smith said.

The cases at RIS may involve more contacts than the handful reported so far this year at other DODEA schools in Germany, which were more isolated, he said.

Positive cases — all involving students — were reported at Kaiserslautern Middle School and Sembach Elementary School shortly after school started in August, and in early September at three schools in Bavaria: Grafenwoehr Elementary School on Tower Barracks and the elementary and middle schools at Netzberg.

KMS was the only school to close, for one day only, so the school could be thoroughly cleaned.

The first case at RIS was announced Wednesday in a letter from principal Caryn Currie emailed to parents. Currie announced the other two cases in a letter Thursday night.

"We are working closely with military leaders and public health officials to support contact tracing efforts and will continue to keep you updated as necessary," Currie said. "Depending upon the findings of the contact tracing process, some of our students and staff may be quarantined."

Most schools overseen by DODEA-Europe resumed classroom learning in late August after switching to online classes last spring, due to the pandemic.

Several schools in locations where the risk of the virus spreading was still high opted to begin the year with remote learning.

DODEA has urged parents to keep their children home if exhibiting any symptoms and encouraged teachers to do the same if feeling ill.

For the most part, families and staff having been "following the protocols," Smith said. "We very much appreciate their diligence as well as the continued support we received from all of our partners."

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @strispesktown

NATION

Trump caps judiciary remake with Barrett pick

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, capping a dramatic reshaping of the federal judiciary that will resonate for a generation and that he hopes will provide a needed boost to his reelection effort.

Barrett, a former clerk to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, said Saturday that she was “truly humbled” by the nomination and quickly aligned herself with Scalia’s conservative approach to the law, saying his “judicial philosophy is mine, too.”

Barrett, 48, was joined in the Rose Garden by her husband and seven children. If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill the seat vacated by liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

She would be the sixth justice on the nine-member court to be appointed by a Republican president, and the third of Trump’s first term in office.

Trump hailed Barrett as “a woman of remarkable intellect and character,” saying he had studied her record closely before making the pick.

Republican senators are lining up for a swift confirmation of Barrett ahead of the Nov. 3 election, as they aim to lock in conservative gains in the federal judiciary before a potential transition of power. Trump, meanwhile, is hoping the nomination will galvanize his supporters as he looks to fend off Democrat Joe Biden.

For Trump, whose 2016 victory hinged in large part on reluctant support from white evangelicals on the promise of filling Scalia’s seat with a conservative, the latest nomination in some ways brings his first term full circle. Even before Ginsburg’s death, Trump was running on having confirmed in excess of 200 federal judges, fulfilling a generational aim of conservative legal activists.

Trump joked that the confirmation process ahead “should be easy” and “extremely noncontroversial,” though it is likely to be anything but. No court nominee has been considered so close to a presidential election before, with early voting already underway. He encouraged legislators to take up her nomination swiftly and asked Democrats to “refrain from personal and partisan attacks.”

In 2016, Republicans blocked Obama’s nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court to fill the election-year vacancy,



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Judge Amy Coney Barrett speaks after President Donald Trump announced Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court in the Rose Garden at the White House on Saturday.

saying voters should have a say in the lifetime appointment. Senate Republicans say they will move ahead this time, arguing the circumstances are different now that the White House and Senate are controlled by the same party.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate will vote “in the weeks ahead” on Barrett’s confirmation. Barrett is expected to make her first appearance Tuesday on Capitol Hill, where she will meet with McConnell; Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, the chair of the Judiciary Committee; and others. Hearings are set to begin Oct. 12, and Graham said he hoped to have Barrett’s nomination out of the committee by Oct. 26.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and House

Speaker Nancy Pelosi warned that a vote to confirm Barrett to the high court would be a vote to strike down the Affordable Care Act. Schumer added that the president was once again putting “Americans’ healthcare in the crosshairs” even while the coronavirus pandemic rages.

Biden took that route of criticism, as well, framing Trump’s choice as another move in Republicans’ effort to scrap the 2010 health care law passed by his former boss, President Barack Obama. The court is expected to take up a case against it this fall.

The set design at the Rose Garden, with large American flags hung between the colonnades, appeared to be modeled on the way the White House was decorated when President Bill Clinton nomi-

nated Ginsburg in 1993.

Barrett, recognizing that flags were still lowered in recognition of Ginsburg’s death, said she would be “mindful of who came before me.” Although they have different judicial philosophies, Barrett praised Ginsburg as a trailblazer for women and for her friendship with Scalia, saying, “She has won the admiration of women across the country and indeed all across the world.”

Within hours of Ginsburg’s death, Trump made clear he would nominate a woman for the seat. Barrett was the early favorite and the only one to meet with Trump.

Barrett has been a judge since 2017, when Trump nominated her to the Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

What’s next move for President’s Supreme Court pick?

By MARY CLARE JALONICK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has chosen Judge Amy Coney Barrett to replace the late Ruth Bader Ginsburg, sending the nomination to the Senate with hopes of a quick confirmation fewer than 40 days before the presidential election.

Republicans are eyeing a vote in late October, though Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell hasn’t yet said for certain whether a final vote will come before or after the Nov. 3 election.

A confirmation vote so close to a presidential election would be unprecedented, creating significant political risk and uncertainty for both parties. Early voting is underway in some states in the races for the White House and control of Congress.

A look at the confirmation process and what we know and don’t know about what’s to come:

■ **What happens next?**

Senate Judiciary Committee Chair Lindsey Graham says his panel will hold four days of confirmation hearings the week of Oct. 12.

Once the committee approves the nomination, it goes to the Senate floor for a final

vote. This could all happen by Nov. 3 if the process goes smoothly. Graham said he hopes the committee can move the nomination to the Senate floor by the week of Oct. 26 for a confirmation vote.

Barrett is expected to make her first appearance on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, meeting with McConnell, Graham and other members.

■ **Does the Senate have enough votes to move forward and confirm?**

McConnell does appear to have the votes, for now. Republicans control the Senate by a 53-47 margin, meaning he could lose up to three Republican votes and still confirm a justice, if Vice President Mike Pence were to break a 50-50 tie.

At this point, McConnell seems to have lost the support of two Republicans — Maine Sen. Susan Collins and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, both of whom have said they don’t think the Senate should take up the nomination before the election. Collins has said the next president should fill the court seat, and she will vote “no” on Trump’s nominee on principle.

■ **Can the Democrats stop the vote?**

There isn’t much they can do. Republicans are in charge and make the rules, and they appear to have the votes for Trump’s nominee, at least for now. Democrats have

vowed to oppose the nomination, and they are likely to use an assortment of delaying tactics. None of those efforts can stop the nomination, however.

But Democrats will also make the case against the nomination to voters as the confirmation battle stretches into the final weeks — and maybe even the final days — of the election season. They say health care protections and abortion rights are on the line, and argue the Republicans’ vow to move forward is “hypocrisy” after McConnell refused to consider President Barack Obama’s nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, several months before the 2016 election.

■ **Could the Senate fill the vacancy after the election?**

Yes. Republicans could still vote on Trump’s nominee in what’s known as the lame-duck session that takes place after the November election and before the next Congress takes office on Jan. 3. No matter what happens in this year’s election, Republicans are still expected to be in charge of the Senate during that period.

The Senate would have until Jan. 20, the date of the presidential inauguration, to act on Trump’s nominee. If Trump were reelected and Barrett had not been confirmed by the inauguration, he could re-nominate her as soon as his second term

begins.

■ **Didn’t McConnell say in 2016 that the Senate shouldn’t hold Supreme Court votes in a presidential election year?**

He did. McConnell stumped Washington in the hours after the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February 2016 when he announced the Senate would not vote on Obama’s potential nominee because the voters should have their say by electing the next president.

McConnell’s strategy paid off, royally, for his party. Obama nominated Garland to fill the seat, but he never received a hearing or a vote. Soon after his inauguration, Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch to fill Scalia’s seat.

■ **So what has changed since 2016?**

McConnell says it’s different this time because the Senate and the presidency are held by the same party, which was not the case when a vacancy opened under Obama in 2016. It was a rationale McConnell laid out during the 2016 fight and other Republican senators have invoked it this year when supporting a vote on Trump’s nominee.

Democrats say this reasoning is laughable and the vacancy should be kept open until after the inauguration.

NATION

Late night protest in Portland declared unlawful

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
AND SALLY HO
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Law enforcement declared an unlawful assembly late Saturday, forcing protesters from downtown Portland, Ore., and making several arrests just hours after demonstrations ended earlier in the day without many reports of violence.

Hundreds of people were gathered downtown in Oregon's largest city when the unlawful assembly was announced just before midnight by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Images showed protesters crowded in and around a park near the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse — the same courthouse that had been the scene of nightly unrest over the summer. A protester was seen burning an American flag.

Earlier, protesters had shot fireworks at police. Video posted by KOIN-TV showed officers warn that protesters who hurl projectiles will be subject to arrest.

Several arrests were made, according to reporters at the scene, but a specific number was not immediately available.

The unrest came just hours after a right-wing rally and counter-protesters largely dispersed without serious violence. Police were, however, investigating an

assault after one person who was documenting the event was pushed to the ground and kicked in the face.

Separately, police said a criminal citation was issued after officials confiscated firearms, paintball guns, baseball bats and shields from a pickup that was initially stopped for having obscured license plates as it left the rally.

Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton and Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese praised the minimal violence in a joint statement late Saturday.

"Our Unified Command worked well to prevent violence before it started," Hampton said in the statement. "Law enforcement officers performed a number of traffic stops and took weapons off the streets."

"On Saturday, Oregonians denounced hate, racism and violence," Reese stated, adding that, "the Unified Command was able to help keep the peace."

Several hundred people, dozens of them wearing militarized body armor, gathered to support President Donald Trump and his "law and order" reelection campaign Saturday afternoon. The attendance was far fewer than the 10,000 organizers had expected after tensions boiled over nationwide following the decision not to



ALLISON DINNER/AP

Portland Police line up blocking the street while protesters rally in front of them at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse on Saturday in Portland, Ore.

charge officers in Louisville, Ky., for the killing of Breonna Taylor.

Organized by the Proud Boys, a group that has been designated as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center, the rally was described as a free speech event to

support Trump and police and condemn anti-fascists and "violent gangs of rioting felons" in the streets.

Local and state elected officials condemned the event and rushed to shore up law enforce-

ment ranks as left-wing groups organized several rallies to oppose the Proud Boys' message. About 1,000 counter-protesters gathered at another park.

The events began at noon and were largely dispersed by 3 p.m.

Deadly microbe water warning lifted for all but 1 Texas city

Associated Press

LAKE JACKSON, Texas — Texas officials on Saturday lifted a warning for all but one Houston-area community to stop using tap water because it might be tainted with a deadly brain-eating microbe.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality warned the Brazosport Water Authority late Friday of the potential contamination of its water supply by naegleria fowleri.

The authority initially warned

eight communities not to use tap water for any reason except to flush toilets, but on Saturday it lifted that warning for all communities but Lake Jackson. The city of more than 27,000 residents is the site of the authority's water treatment plant. The advisory was also canceled for two state prisons and Dow Chemical's massive Freeport works.

The advisory will remain in place until the authority's water system has been thoroughly flushed and tests on water sam-

ples show the system's water is again safe to use. The authority said in a statement that it was unclear how long it would be before the tap water was safe again.

The authority's water source is the Brazos River.

Earlier this month, 6-year-old Josh McIntyre died after contracting the microbe. The investigation into his death led to the detection of the amoeba after health officials conducted water sample tests, Lake Jackson City Manager Modesto Mundo said in

a news release Saturday.

Three of 11 sample tests indicated preliminary positive results for the brain-eating microbe, with one sample coming from the boy's home hose bib, Mundo said.

Naegleria fowleri is a free-living microscopic amoeba, or single-celled living organism commonly found in warm freshwater and soil, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It usually infects people when contaminated water enters the body through the nose.

From there, it travels to the brain and can cause a rare and debilitating disease called primary amebic meningoencephalitis.

The infection is usually fatal and typically occurs when people go swimming or diving in warm freshwater places such as lakes and rivers. In very rare instances, naegleria infections may also occur when contaminated water from other sources (such as inadequately chlorinated swimming pool water or heated and contaminated tap water) enters the nose.

Power company announces series of shutoffs to help prevent wildfires

BY JOHN ANTZACK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One of California's largest power companies announced Saturday that it plans to temporarily shut off power to residents of 16 counties and a tribe to prevent wildfires sparked by electrical equipment.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said it will initially shut off power to about 15,000 customers in Butte, Plumas, Shasta and Tehama counties starting midnight Saturday. Power will be shut off to another 74,000 customers in 12 other counties and one tribe on Sunday evening, the company said.

The customers are expected to get power back on Monday night, the company said.

Pacific Gas & Electric said during the outage customers will check power lines for any damage. The company has opened up 28 community resource centers to help customers who lost power.

The shutoffs come as fire-weary California prepared for a new siege of hot, dry weather with potentially strong winds that could cause power lines to arc and spark new blazes in parched vegetation that's ready to burn.

Red Flag warnings for extreme fire weather conditions were to go into effect in northern and central areas of the state at 9 p.m. Satur-

day and last into Monday, the National Weather Service said.

A second burst of winds was expected in those regions late Sunday into Monday. In Southern California, the most critical wind conditions were expected Monday, although it was unclear how strong they would be.

More than 8,000 California wildfires so far this year have scorched 5,600 square miles, destroyed more than 7,000 buildings and killed 26 people.

Most of the loss has occurred since a massive outbreak of fires ignited by a freakish frenzy of dry lightning strikes in mid-August. The causes of other fires remain under investigation, and authori-

ties have said one was caused by a pyrotechnic device at a gender reveal event.

The renewed concern came with some 17,000 firefighters still on the lines of 25 major wildfires statewide, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

Recent weather has been moderate, and Cal Fire said in a statement Saturday that firefighters have made "excellent progress."

The so-called Public Safety Power Shutoff programs used by PG&E and other utilities have been developed in response to disasters. Wildfires sparked by PG&E equipment include the

wind-driven 2018 Camp Fire that destroyed much of the Sierra Nevada foothills town of Paradise and killed 85 people.

PG&E has said it is refining the process to narrow the scope and shorten the length of power cuts after being sharply criticized for intentional outages last year that affected millions of people and sometimes lasted for days. When high winds were predicted earlier this month, the utility was able to implement a shutdown that affected just 167,000 customers.

The utility also began airing 30-minute radio and TV programs during the weekend to familiarize customers with its wildfire safety process.

NATION

Taylor protesters out past curfew, multiple fires set

By DYLAN LOVAN
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A diverse crowd of hundreds marched in Louisville's streets chanting "Black Lives Matter" on Saturday night, the fourth night of protests after a grand jury declined to charge officers in the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor.

People in the crowd also chanted "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.

A few police officers followed behind, with officers telling protesters to stay on the sidewalk and out of the street before the march ended. Many briefly ended up back at a downtown square that has been a focal point of protests.

But as a 9 p.m. curfew time approached, a police loudspeaker announced that anyone who remained in the park would be arrested for a curfew violation. The square emptied out as people departed, many dispersing though one group headed to a nearby church where protesters had found refuge on previous nights.

As a crowd gathered outside the First Unitarian Church late Saturday, fires were set in a street nearby after 11 p.m. Police said fireworks burned a car, and windows had been broken at Spalding University and Presentation Academy buildings close by.

Some demonstrators were seen with makeshift shields made of

plywood. Others took shelter inside the church, which closed its doors around midnight.

About 100 people remained inside the church, Jud Hendrix, executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, told WDRB-TV around 1 a.m. Sunday. Hendrix said he was working with police to determine if people could leave the church to go home without being arrested.

"People inside the church were asked to remain there while police were conducting the investigation and securing the area," the police department said in a tweet, sharing aerial and ground video of the fires that were set, windows that were broken and graffiti that had been spray painted.

As of the 2:20 a.m. tweet, 28 people had been arrested, the police department said.

A previous protest on Friday night was peaceful though police arrested 22 people for curfew violations. A police spokesman said some also were charged with failure to disperse.

Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer had urged continued peaceful protests in an appearance at a news conference Saturday evening.

"I'm mindful that many in our community are hurting and angry about the decisions announced this week," Fischer said. The mayor said he supports protesters' First Amendment rights to protest though "we just ask you to do that peacefully please."

Taylor was shot multiple times March 13 after her boyfriend fired at officers who had entered



Victoria Gunther marches with Black Lives Matter protesters Friday, in Louisville.

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 wanton 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.

Taylor's mother, Tamika Palmer, visited a downtown park on Friday with family and her lawyers, and called on Kentucky officials to release all body camera footage, police files and the transcripts of the grand jury proceed-

ings, Palmer said in a statement read by a family member that she felt the criminal justice system had failed her. Palmer marched at the head of Friday's protest march.

The grand jury's ruling weighed heavily on protesters like Amber Brown. A central figure in the downtown demonstrations, Brown said she was angry.

"It feels like we went backward," she said Friday night. "I think people are still in shock and we're not sure how to move forward."

Brown criticized the police crackdown in the downtown area that has been in effect since early in the week.

"People are afraid to exercise their First Amendment right," she said. "Since when does protest have a curfew? Since when does freedom and civil rights have a curfew?"

Calif. will house trans inmates by gender ID

By ADAM BEAM
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a law on Saturday requiring California to house transgender inmates in prisons based on their gender identity — but only if the state does not have "management or security concerns."

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation houses men and women in separate facilities. Transgender inmates are often housed based on their sex assigned at birth. Advocates say this is dangerous, particularly for transgender women housed in facilities for men.

The law Newsom signed Saturday says officers must ask inmates privately during the intake process if they identify as transgender, nonbinary or intersex. Those inmates can then request to be placed in a facility that houses either men or women.

The law says the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation cannot deny those requests solely because of inmates' anatomy, sexual orientation or "a factor present" among other inmates at the facility.

But the state can deny those requests if it has "management or security concerns." If a request is denied, the state must give the inmate a written statement explaining the decision and give the inmate a "meaningful opportunity" to object.

Sen. Scott Wiener, a Democrat from San Francisco who authored the bill, said he doesn't expect that exception to be used very often.

It's still a false narrative about transgender people and about transgender women in particular that they're somehow not really women and are just trying to scam their way into women's bathrooms or facilities in order to do bad things," Wiener said. "Overwhelmingly the people who are being victimized are trans people."

At any time, if inmates raise concerns about their health or safety, the law says the state must reassess where they are housed.

"It means a lot to me and my sisters," said Michelle Calvin, a transgender woman incarcerated at Mule Creek State Prison who recently called into a news conference about the bill. "I've been in for 15 years. I've been through the abuse, I've been through the disrespect of staff not addressing me for who I am because I am a woman."

And Newsom signed a law authored by Assemblyman Miguel Santiago that sets up a Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund to provide grants to organizations that support the transgender community.

Tour of Georgia detention site raises concerns

By DON BARWIN
Associated Press

Several members of Congress called for a detention facility in Georgia to be shut down pending investigation after women detainees told them of being forced into unnecessary gynecological procedures with dirty equipment that left serious infections amid conditions so unsanitary that some began to be deported.

"This is a horror show, it truly is worse than I expected," Rep. Juan Vargas, a California Democrat, said Saturday after talking to several detainees on the visit to the Irwin County Detention Center, where both detainees for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and inmates for the U.S. Marshals Service are housed.

While many of the allegations was by the woman centered on Dr. Mahendra Amin, a gynecologist accused of performing surgeries without their consent, members of the Congressional delegation recounted stories about conditions and treatment that extended beyond those accusations — starting with the al-

leged failure to take even the most basic steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

They said, for example, that the women reported they were issued one paper mask and were forced to wear it for weeks at a time before they were finally given new masks the day before at least 10 members of Congress paid a visit.

"They make their living by feasting off the misery of detainees, so cost-cutting is the norm here," Rep. Hank Johnson Jr., a Georgia Democrat, said of the facility operated by LaSalle Corrections.

They also reported accounts of unsanitary and filthy conditions that put the detainees at risk of becoming seriously ill. Rep. Raul Ruiz, a California Democrat who is also an emergency physician, said he saw in shower stalls the kind of black mold that can cause or exacerbate serious pulmonary diseases.

But much of what they were told reiterated the allegations of other women held at the facility who have come forward complaining that Amin performed hysterectomies and other procedures that they did not understand

or agree to.

Many of the allegations against the doctor were first revealed in a recent complaint filed by a nurse at the detention center, Dawn Wooten, who alleged that many detained women were taken to an unnamed gynecologist whom she labeled the "uterus collector" because of how many hysterectomies he performed.

The Associated Press subsequently reported that at least eight women since 2017 had been taken to see Amin for gynecological treatment, though it did not find evidence of mass hysterectomies as alleged in the complaint. Andrew Free, an attorney taking part in an investigation of medical care at the detention center, said a team of lawyers had heard concerns about the doctor from dozens of women.

Bryan Cox, a spokesman for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, confirmed that Amin would no longer be seeing patients from the detention center, but declined to comment further, citing an ongoing investigation by the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Uptick: New York records more than 1,000 daily cases

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 1,000 New Yorkers tested positive for COVID-19 in a single day, marking the first time since June 5 the state has seen a daily number that high.

The number of positive tests reported daily in the state has been steadily inching up in recent weeks, a trend possibly related to increasing numbers of businesses reopening, college campuses reopening and children returning to school. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday there were 1,005 positive cases tallied on the previous day, Friday, out of 99,953 tests, for a 1% positive rate.

From late July through the start of September, the state was seeing an average of around 660 people test positive per day. In the seven-day period that ended Friday, the state had averaged 817 positive tests per day.

Gov. Cuomo said Gareth Rhodes stressed Saturday that the new positive-case number came out of nearly 100,000 tests, compared to about 60,000 tests daily in June.

Rhodes also noted improving numbers among college-aged people, suggesting better compliance on campuses.

Massachusetts

AUBURN — 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 COVID-19.

In a letter sent to parents Friday, 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. The letter said school officials would stay in contact with anyone affected until they are cleared to return to school.

Classrooms in Swanson Road Intermediate School and Auburn High School are being cleaned in response to the case, and district officials said they are meeting with the bus company to review protocols.

Arizona

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation health officials reported 32 new confirmed cases of the

coronavirus, but no additional deaths.

The latest figures released Saturday night bring the total number of cases to 10,269 with the known death toll at 552.

Tribal officials said 104,746 people have been tested on the vast reservation that covers parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, and 72,250 have recovered from COVID-19.

The Navajo Nation has implemented a stricter weekend lockdown as it looks into new clusters of coronavirus cases from family gatherings and off-reservation travel.

Residents are now being required to stay home from Friday evening until early Monday morning. More recent weekend lockdowns were a day shorter.

New Hampshire

CONCORD — The governor's economic reopening task force has approved updated guidance allowing full capacity at retail stores, which have been hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Retailers have been limited to half capacity, and while some sectors like garden centers have done well, some clothing stores have seen sales drop by 80%.

Nancy Kyle, head of the state's retail association, told the task force that allowing stores to return to 100% capacity will be critical to the holiday shopping season. Many stores will be starting holiday sales earlier than usual in hopes of recouping losses, she said.

The task force set its recommendations to the governor and public health officials for approval.

California

Two prisoners were died at hospitals of coronavirus-related complications, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported Saturday.

One prisoner was at the California Institution for Men in Chico. He was the 22nd inmate at the prison to die of coronavirus complications, the department said. The second prisoner was at Avenal State Prison in Avenal. He was the sixth inmate to die of complications from the virus at the facility, the department said.

The department did not provide more details about the deaths.

Meanwhile, all California State University, Long Beach students who live on campus have been placed in quarantine, and all in-person instruction will be halted for two weeks because five students tested positive for COVID-19, the school's top official said Saturday.



GEOFF CRIMMINS, THE MOSCOW-PULLMAN DAILY NEWS/AP

Iaho Freedom Foundation President Wayne Hoffman, center, speaks at a protest against a public health order requiring face masks or social distancing on Saturday outside City Hall in Moscow, Idaho.

University President Jane Close Conoley said in a statement that the school became aware late Friday of "a number of students who have not heeded our guidance related to COVID-19 precautions and congregated socially off campus earlier this month."

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — The number of reported Arkansas coronavirus cases has topped 80,000 after the addition Saturday of 809 cases of the virus that causes COVID-19, the Arkansas Department of Health reported.

Those new cases brought the state's total caseload since tracking of the pandemic began in March to 80,755, including 2,495 probable cases. The actual number of cases in Arkansas is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel sick.

Active cases rose by 165 to 7,414. There have also been 19 COVID-19 deaths reported Saturday, bringing the state's death toll to 1,285.

Arkansas ranks third in the country for new cases per capita, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University. A White House task force this week applauded the state's mitigation efforts, but also said stronger compliance was needed.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson said with the latest figures the test had exceeded its goal of 200,000 tests for the month, and that the state was working to increase its testing capacity.

Connecticut

HAMDEN — Quinnipiac University has sent home or sus-

pended more than 20 students in recent days for violating visitor and other policies, both on- and off-campus, that are aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus, a top school official said.

Tom Ellett, the school's chief experience officer, said in an email sent Thursday to students that 11 undergraduates have been sent home for four weeks and a dozen off-campus students were suspended. He said they've been accused of violating the school's no visitor policy for residence halls, having non-Quinnipiac University guests on campus and/or exceeding capacity limits on indoor gatherings.

As of Friday, there has been only one positive case of COVID-19 at the school. More than 11,500 tests have been conducted since Aug. 5. The university's COVID-19 dashboard states the school is currently at low risk level for infection.

North Dakota

BISMARCK — North Dakota reported 497 people who have tested positive for the coronavirus on Saturday, contributing to an all-time high for active coronavirus cases statewide at 3,672.

The state also reported one of the largest single-day tallies for deaths from COVID-19, with eight people dying from the disease. The waves of cases and hospitalizations have prompted concerns that hospitals are nearing their capacity, the Bismark Tribune reported.

There are currently 104 people in hospitals statewide with COVID-19. They occupy roughly 5% of the state's total hospital beds, but employees of hospitals in the Bismark area told the COVID-19 task force for Burleigh

and Morton counties that the influx in patients has disrupted hospital operations.

North Dakota has reported the nation's highest number of new cases per capita in the last two weeks, at roughly 684 new cases per 100,000 people.

The Department of Health reported the results of 7,747 total tests and a positivity rate of 6.9%.

Wisconsin

MADISON — Wisconsin on Saturday hit a record for coronavirus cases reported in a single day as health officials reported that 2,817 people have tested positive for the virus.

The state has seen some of the nation's fastest coronavirus spread over the last two weeks. The rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by 950, an increase of nearly 97%, according to Johns Hopkins researchers. In that time, the state has reported the nation's third-highest number of new cases per capita, with about 423 new cases per 100,000 people.

In another troubling trend, the positivity rate for coronavirus testing has also been among the country's highest. That's an indicator that many more people have infections than tests are revealing. The seven-day positivity rate is currently over 17%, according to the COVID Tracking Project. Saturday's positivity rate for testing was even higher at 22%.

Over the course of the pandemic, 113,645 people have tested positive for the coronavirus in Wisconsin. About 83% of those people have recovered, while over 18,000 have active infections and 1,281 have died. The Department of Health Services on Saturday reported seven new deaths.

MIDEAST

Taliban says no ceasefire until political settlement

KABUL — As violence escalates across Afghanistan, the U.S. envoy for Afghan reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, said the Taliban would not accept a comprehensive and permanent ceasefire until a political settlement has been reached with the Afghan government.

Speaking with the U.S. broadcaster PBS on Friday night, Khalilzad said that the militants could, however, reduce their attacks in the meantime.

"I think they can do a reduction of violence. They have said they will consider it, depending on what the proposal is. The gov-

ernment is supportive of it, too," he said.

When asked why the militants have not yet publicly cut ties with the terror network of al-Qaida as set out in their deal with the U.S., Khalilzad said that Washington will assess the situation in the next couple of months after the number of its troops in Afghanistan fell to 4,000-5,000 from the current level of 8,500.

The comments came as dozens of members of the Afghan security forces were killed or wounded across the country in non-stop Taliban attacks.

Only on Wednesday, the Taliban killed 28 members of the

security forces in southern Uruzgan province even after they laid down their guns.

On Saturday, the Taliban claimed to have killed a number of troops in central Bamyan and northeastern Badakhshan provinces.

A spokesman for the group, Zabullah Mujahid, also posted photos of their fighters in northeastern Panjshir province, an area considered the center of anti-Taliban resistance during the 1990s.

The Afghan teams have not yet been able to finalize a negotiating method even after two weeks of talks in Doha.



TAMANA SARWARY/AP

Afghan Sikh men mourn March 26 during a funeral procession for those who were killed by a lone Islamic State gunman who rampaged through a Sikh house of worship, in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Facing ISIS, embattled Sikhs, Hindus leaving Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's dwindling community of Sikhs and Hindus is shrinking to its lowest levels. With growing threats from the local Islamic State affiliate, many are choosing to leave the country of their birth to escape the insecurity and a once-thriving community of as many as 250,000 members now counts fewer than 700.

The community's numbers have been declining for years because of deep-rooted discrimination in the majority Muslim country. But, without what they say is adequate protection from the government, the attacks by the Islamic State group may complete the exodus.

"We are no longer able to stay here," said a member of the tiny community, who asked to be identified only by his last name, Hamdard, out of fear he may be targeted for speaking out. Hamdard said seven relatives of his, including his sister, nephews, and son-in-law were killed by Islamic State gunmen in an attack on the community's temple in March, which killed 25 Sikhs.

Hamdard said that fleeing his homeland is as difficult as leaving a mother behind. Still, he joined a group of Sikhs and Hindus who left Afghanistan last month for India, from where they will eventually move on to a third country.

The community has suffered widespread discrimination in the conservative Muslim country, with each government "threatening us their own way," said Hamdard, whose home was seized by warlords after the U.S. invasion in 2001, forcing him to live in one of two Sikh temples in the Afghan capital of Kabul.

Under Taliban rule in the late 1990s, Sikhs and Hindus were asked to identify themselves by wearing yellow armbands, but after a global outcry, the rule was not enforced. Also driving the exodus is the inability to reclaim Sikh homes, businesses and houses of worship that were illegally seized years ago.

For Afghan Sikhs, the thought of being uprooted is painful, despite the circumstances. "It's hard to leave our birthplace but we have no other option," said Hamdard. "Afghanistan does not want us anymore."

UN: Yemen warring factions agree to exchange of more than 1,000 prisoners

By SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

CAIRO — The United Nations says Yemen's warring sides agreed Sunday to exchange more than 1,000 prisoners, marking the first phase of a prisoner-release plan reached earlier this year.

The U.N. mission in Yemen said the internationally recognized government that was driven from the capital six years ago and the Houthi rebels agreed "to immediately release a first group of 1,081 conflict-related detainees and prisoners, in accordance with the lists of agreed-upon names."

The prisoner-swap deal was seen as a breakthrough during 2018 peace talks in Sweden. Both parties agreed then to several confidence-building measures,

including a cease-fire in the strategic port city of Hodeida. Implementation of the tentative peace plan, however, stumbled amid ongoing military offensives and distrust between the two sides.

The war in Yemen has spawned the world's worst humanitarian crisis, leaving millions suffering from food and medical shortages. It has killed over 100,000 people, including fighters and civilians.

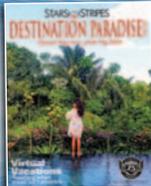
"Today is an important day for over a thousand families who can expect to welcome back their loved ones hopefully very soon," said the U.N. Special Envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths.

Sunday's deal came at the conclusion of a week-long meeting in Gion, Switzerland that was co-chaired by Griffiths' office and the International Committee of

the Red Cross. Representatives from the Saudi-led coalition also attended, the U.N. said.

Yemen's Foreign Minister Mohammed Abdullah al-Hadrami welcomed the deal on Twitter and called for its full implementation without delay. He said most of the prisoners the government wants released are "civilians, activists and forcibly disappeared," in addition to four top officials detained since the beginning of the war.

Houthi officials said the deal includes the release of more than 680 rebel prisoners in return for at least 400 from the government, including Saudi and Sudanese troops who were fighting on the side of the Saudi-led coalition. The officials said the swap would start on Oct. 15.



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WORLD

Azerbaijan, Armenia clash over disputed region kills 2

Associated Press

YEREVAN, Armenia — Fighting erupted anew Sunday between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenia said a woman and a child were killed in the area by shelling from Azerbaijani forces and Azerbaijan's president said his military has suffered losses.

Armenia also claimed that two Azerbaijani helicopters were shot down and three Azerbaijani tanks

were hit by artillery, but Azerbaijan's defense ministry rejected that claim.

Heavy fighting broke out in the morning in the region that lies within Azerbaijan but has been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since 1994 at the end of a separatist war. It was not immediately clear what sparked the fighting, the heaviest since clashes in July killed 16 people from both sides.

Nagorno-Karabakh authorities reported that shelling hit the re-

gion's capital of Stepanakert and the towns of Martakert and Martuni. Armenian Defense Ministry spokesman Artsrun Hovhannissyan also said Azerbaijani shelling hit within Armenian territory near the town of Vardenis.

Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev said in a televised address that "there are losses among the Azerbaijani forces and the civilian population as a result of the Armenian bombardment" but did not give further details.



ARMENIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY/AP

Footage released by Armenian Defense Ministry on Sunday shows Armenian forces destroying an Azerbaijani tank at the contact line of the self-proclaimed Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, Azerbaijan.

Yom Kippur begins under sweeping virus lockdowns in Israel

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The solemn Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, which annually sees Israel's life grind to a halt, began Sunday in a nation already under a sweeping coronavirus lockdown.

Every year, businesses shut down, roads empty out and even radio and TV stations

go silent as the faithful fast for 25 hours and hold intensive prayers of atonement on the holiest day in the Jewish calendar. The more secular-minded can be seen riding bikes or even picnicking on deserted highways. The holiday began at sundown on Sunday.

But this year all non-essential businesses

have already been forced to close, and Israelis have been ordered to stay within 1,000 yards of their homes throughout the High Holidays, which continue to mid-October.

It's the second nationwide lockdown since the pandemic began, an attempt to contain one of the most severe outbreaks in the world. Israel, with a population of just 9

million, is reporting more than 7,000 new cases a day, raising fears its hospitals could be overwhelmed.

In a message to the nation, Israel's figurehead president, Reuven Rivlin, called on people to light a candle in memory of the more than 1,400 Israelis who have died from COVID-19.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation
944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Neighbor calls 911 after hearing ‘Shoot! Shoot!’

FL TAMPA — A neighbor called sheriff’s deputies on some rabid Tampa Bay Lightning fans who were screaming “Shoot! Shoot!” as they watched Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final on television.

The call prompted several Hillsborough County Sheriff’s deputies to show up at Devon Garnett’s apartment door.

The caller told dispatchers someone was yelling loudly in the apartment above, according to Hillsborough County Sheriff’s spokesperson Natalia Verdina.

According to a sheriff’s office dispatch report, the complainant told police he heard a couple screaming at each other, with one yelling, “I dare you to shoot!”

3 suspended for New York cave under terminal

NY NEW YORK — Three railroad workers were suspended for turning a storage room under New York’s Grand Central Terminal into an unauthorized “man cave” with a television, a refrigerator, a microwave and a futon couch, officials said.

A Metropolitan Transportation Authority investigation found that managers at Metro-North Railroad were unaware of the hideaway beneath Track 114.

“Many a New Yorker has fantasized about kicking back with a cold beer in a prime piece of Manhattan real estate — especially one this close to good transportation,” MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny said in a news release. “But few would have the chutzpah to commandeer a secret room beneath Grand Central Terminal.”

Officer rearrested in theft of cash at pot farm

CA LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles police officer was arrested for a second time for allegedly stealing cash from the backpack of an employee at a cannabis grow facility, prosecutors and police said.

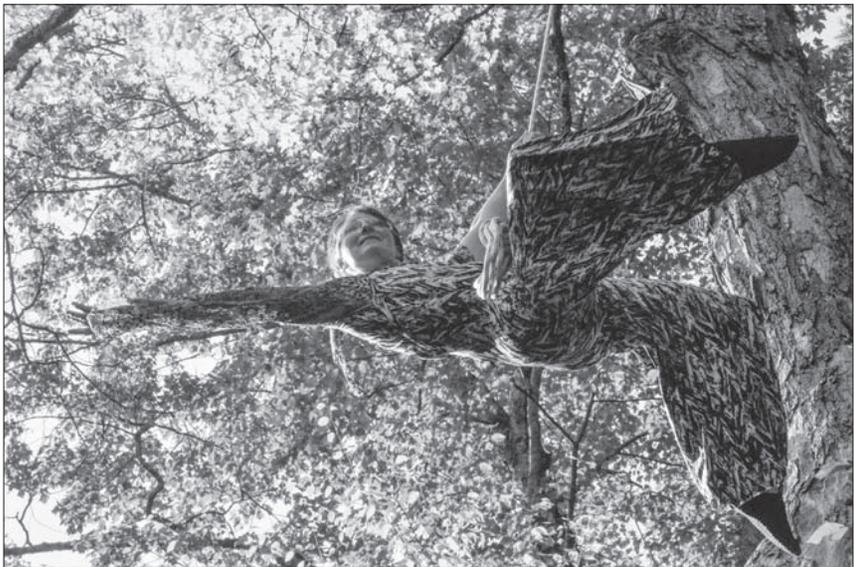
Officer Luis Mota was initially charged with misdemeanor theft after his first arrest in January. Following his arrest last week, the 46-year-old was charged with felony burglary, the Los Angeles Times reported.

An employee at the facility alerted an LAPD supervisor that money was missing from her backpack after police conducted enforcement at the pot grow, the newspaper said. Surveillance video pointed to Mota as the alleged thief, prosecutors said.

Police: 2-year-old found gun, shot cousin, 12

AL MOBILE — A 2-year-old in Alabama was able to gain access to a handgun and accidentally shoot his 12-year-old cousin, according to authorities.

Mobile police responded to a report of a shooting, where the 12-year-old’s mother told officers her toddler nephew had found a gun on a bed and accidentally



KRISTOPHER RADER, THE BRATTLEBORO (Vt.) REFORMER/AP

Backyard performance

Serenity Smith Forchion, Founder and Producing Director for the New England Center for the Circus Arts in Brattleboro, Vt., swings from a tree in her yard in Brattleboro as she rehearses for an event called ‘Circus in Place’ that will be held on the first weekend in October. Local performance artists will set up multiple stages in their backyards as audiences travel around.

shot her son, news outlets reported, citing the agency.

The juvenile suffered wounds that were not considered life-threatening, police said.

3 dozen graves to move from eroding cemetery

NH STARK — Residents of a New Hampshire town voted to move the remains of around three dozen people from a cemetery that is eroding into a river.

In a secret ballot last week, residents of Stark voted 34 to 1 to discontinue Blake Cemetery as a town cemetery and move the remains of the people buried there — including Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers — to another cemetery, the Caledonian Record reported.

The cemetery is on a bluff overlooking the Upper Ammonoosuc River. The ground has eroded, toppling headstones into the water and exposing human remains.

Police: Man shot, killed bear his dog confronted

CT THOMASTON — A Connecticut man shot and killed a black bear that his dog confronted near his yard, police said.

William O’Connor, 26, of Thomaston, will appear in court on a summons for illegally killing the animal, the Republican-American reported. It is illegal to shoot bears in Connecticut with few

THE CENSUS

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The amount 4 crime victim groups will split after the money was seized from an illegal gambling operation in Savannah, Ga. WTOG-TV reported Chatham County District Attorney Meg Hea was recently notified that her office could distribute the money. The Rape Crisis Center, Coastal Children’s Advocacy Center, Safe Shelter and the Chatham County Family Justice Center will each get \$500,000. The four agencies each say they’ve been struggling to raise money this year because of COVID-19. “We were going to go into 2021 \$300,000 in debt because we couldn’t have our gala,” Safe Shelter Executive Director Cheryl Branch said.

exceptions.

O’Connor let his dog out of his home when it confronted a black bear and her two cubs at the edge of his property, the state’s environmental conservation police said.

O’Connor got a .22 caliber rifle and shot at the bear to scare it. “The shot struck the bear, which moved about 30 yards to a neighboring property’s driveway, collapsed, and eventually died,” Will Healey, a spokesperson for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said.

Small hamlet named Swastika keeps name

NY SWASTIKA — The rural upstate New York hamlet of Swastika is keeping its name, despite a complaint that it symbolizes the hate and intolerance of the Nazi regime.

The unincorporated crossroads in the Adirondack Mountain town of Black Brook, about 85 miles south of the U.S.-Canada border, has been known as Swastika for

more than a century.

But town council members considered a name change after a visitor from New York City said it was offensive.

Council members met and unanimously nixed a name change. Black Brook supervisor Jon Douglas told NPR the council did not see a reason for a name change despite its use as a symbol of hate.

Farm device triggers cop response to shooting call

KS WICHITA — Authorities responding to a call about deputies being shot at briefly shut down the Kansas Turnpike and sent an armored vehicle and drone to the scene.

It turned out the ruckus was coming from a propane cannon an 87-year-old watermelon farmer uses to scare away raccoons and coyotes from his crops near Haysville, the Wichita Eagle reported.

About 10-12 watermelons were

disappearing each night, so about a week ago Kenneth Simmons put a propane cannon in their field to scare off the predators, said his wife, Ester.

Officers were originally called about shots fired, said Sedgewick County Lt. Benjamin Blick. Two deputies made their way toward an abandoned vehicle and announced their presence.

“Their announcement was met with what they believed to be three gunshots,” Blick said in an email.

Another baby orca born to endangered pod

WA SEATTLE — The Center for Whale Research has confirmed that another baby orca was born to a pod of endangered southern resident orcas that frequent Puget Sound.

It’s the second calf born this month for J pod, according to director Ken Balcomb, who confirmed the birth in a text message to The Seattle Times on Friday.

“We confirm that there is a new calf in J pod and the mother is J41,” Balcomb wrote.

There are now 74 southern residents in the J, K, and L pods. Threats to their survival include boat noise and vessel disturbance; pollution; and lack of food, especially chinook salmon.

From wire reports

FACES

Underwood gives early 'Gift' for troubled times

Q&A: Country star talks new Christmas album, her little drummer boy

By MESPIN FEKADU
Associated Press

The Grammy Award for cutest collaboration of the year goes to Carrie Underwood and her 5-year-old son, Isaiah.

He's the little singing boy providing the adorable vocals on "Little Drummer Boy," one of the 11 tracks on the country superstar's new Christmas album, "My Gift," which was released Friday.

Underwood initially recorded the song alone, but said she constantly thought of her son when hearing the popular Christmas tune about a poor young boy who plays his drum for Jesus.

"(Isaiah) loves to sing. He loves music. He definitely has that passion and I asked him, 'Would you ever want to go in and sing with Mommy?' He said, 'Yes,' " Underwood said. "I told everybody, 'This might not even work. This might be a terrible idea.' ... (And) he went in and he did such a great job. He was throwing his hands up in the air and was so excited and had all these cute 5-year-old emotions just pouring out of him."

"It was just such a proud moment for me as a mom."

Isaiah isn't the only guest on "My Gift." John Legend appears on the original track he co-wrote, "Hallelujah," and the album was produced by Greg Wells, who has worked with Katy Perry and Adele and won a Grammy for producing "The Greatest Showman" soundtrack.

"My Gift," Underwood's first Christmas album, was mostly recorded during the pandemic. She and Legend recorded separately, trading vocals over email; in Zoom sessions she co-wrote the tracks "Let There Be Peace" and "Sweet Baby Jesus" and took direction from Wells; and the orchestra musicians wore masks while recording for the album, which features gospel quartet the McCrary Sisters on background vocals.

Underwood will get to sing songs from the album—including classics like "Silent Night," "O Holy Night" and more — on



Carrie Underwood is pictured with her husband, Mike Fisher, and their son, Isaiah, in 2018. Isaiah sang on "Little Drummer Boy," one of the 11 tracks on the country superstar's new Christmas album, "My Gift."

her upcoming HBO Max holiday special, which will tape this fall and air during the holidays.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday, Underwood talked about her new album, planning for the holidays and offering some light to the world in a year of darkness.

AP: What was your husband's response to Isaiah's singing?

Underwood: Oh, we were all just so excited. I was like, "I'm not going to send it to him right when I got it." I was like, "I'm going to go home and we're all going to listen to it in the car." That's where I always listen to my stuff that I record. We went in the car and Isaiah got to hear himself back for the first time. It was just a great moment for all of us — sitting in my SUV listening to his sweet little voice.

What was it like recording an album during the pandemic?

At the very beginning we weren't wearing masks yet. After it all got shut down we said, "OK, we can do one of two things:

Scrap it and maybe hope to do it later or we can push through." I feel like I had enough of the groundwork laid that I'm like, "Well what else am I going to do? Everybody else is in quarantine." We scaled everything back and just found new ways to do things. We couldn't have some giant studio and a bunch of musicians in all the time and whatever.

It ended up turning out great and it was good to not let this year be a complete deal-breaker. We had our hurdles and we pushed through and we got to make this album, which was such a bright point for me in the year. It was something that I was excited to get up and go. I was very blessed to have that going on.

It's only September and you're releasing a Christmas album. It's been such a troubling and divisive year — are you hoping this album can bring light to people?

Oh yeah. Yeah for sure. We definitely wanted to just be positive in all of what we're doing. You look at "Let There Be Peace" ... I felt like we were kind of eas-

ing people into Christmas with that one because it's not "Christmas, Christmas, Christmas." It's just a hope for the world. You want people to love each other. It kind of has that "it's going to start with me" kind of vibe. I want to do these things to make the world a better place. If we'd all do that, even if there's small things on a daily basis that we could do, the world would slowly start to get a little more joyous and a little more happy and have a little more understanding. I feel like that's what we wanted in every step of the way when we were making this album.

I feel like we ended up with something that we're really proud of and hopefully can be a little soundtrack to hopefully a joyous, happy little this year. We all need it. We need something to look forward to. I've always said, too, Christmas kind of marks the end of the year. You get Christmas done, you got the presents, you got the food, it's over. Let's welcome in the next year. I feel like people are looking forward to that finish line.

Spending the holidays with family members won't be easy this year because of the pandemic. Are you looking forward to the holidays?

I feel unsure, like everybody else, as far as what our plans are going to be. But I'm excited for this time of year. It is a time of hope and joy and love. My husband's family, our family's in Canada so I have no idea if we're going to be able to go up there. They have so many more restrictions as far as travel and stuff like that. You get there, then you have to be there for two weeks without seeing anybody and then you can see people, so you're basically going to be there for a month. I'm not really sure what that's going to hold for us. We're still three months out, as we know a million things can change just like that. But we'll be together, my husband, myself, our kids. Hopefully I can go see my family in Oklahoma 'cause I really haven't; I've seen my mom once this year. They're in a little more at-risk group 'cause they're older. I'm like, "I don't want to bring our germs to you."

We're just like everybody else, going to figure it out. But it is a special time of year regardless. At the end of the day we're celebrating the birth of Jesus. That's always a good thing, no matter what year you live in, or where you are. I am more than happy to say, "Thank you God for the gift of Jesus."

Evel Knievel's son suing Disney over 'Toy Story 4' character

Associated Press

Evel Knievel's son is on a collision course with the Walt Disney Co. and Pixar.

A federal trademark infringement lawsuit filed in Las Vegas accuses the movie company of improperly basing the Duke Caboom character in last year's "Toy Story 4" on Knievel, whose famous stunts included motorcycle jumps over the Caesars Palace fountain in Las Vegas and a row of buses at Wembley Stadium in London, and a rocket shot into Snake River Canyon in Idaho.

Las Vegas-based K and K Promotions accuses Disney-owned Pixar of intentionally modeling the Caboom character, voiced by Keanu Reeves in the movie, after Knievel, although Knievel's name was never mentioned.

Kelly Knievel, head of K and K,



Left: Evel Knievel in 1974. Right: "Toy Story 4" character Duke Caboom. Knievel's son accuses Pixar of profiting from his famous father's image in a trademark infringement lawsuit.

said Thursday the moviemakers never sought permission to use his father's likeness.

The Walt Disney Co., in a statement from corporate spokesman Jeffrey R. Epstein, said it will defend itself vigorously against what it called Knievel's meritless claims.

Knievel is seeking unspecified

damages on allegations that also include false endorsement and unjust enrichment.

The Caboom character is described by Disney Pixar as a 1970s motorcycle-riding toy based on "Canada's greatest stuntman," according to the lawsuit.

Photos in the court filing put Caboom side-by-side with Knievel, who became an American icon after his near-fatal 1967 Caesars Palace crash.

"Evel Knievel did not thrill millions around the world, break his bones and spill his blood just as Disney could make a bunch of money," Kelly Knievel said in a statement.

Knievel was seriously injured many times during more than 75 motorcycle jumps. He died in 2007 at 69 in Florida of lung disease.

Lovato, Ehrich call offengers

Singer-engender Demi Lovato and Max Ehrich have called off their engagement after two months, according to a person close to Lovato who spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

The couple, who began dating this year, announced their engagement on Instagram in July. Lovato, 28, has released a number of gold and platinum albums and singles.

This year, she released several singles, performed the national anthem at the Super Bowl and sang at the Grammys.

Ehrich, 29, who's earned multiple Daytime Emmy nominations for his work in "The Young and the Restless," has appeared on

various TV shows and films and also has released music.

Other news

■ Model Gigi Hadid and her musician boyfriend Zayn Malik took to social media to celebrate the arrival of an infant girl, with dad saying he's "grateful" and "thankful." Neither parent revealed the baby's name. Hadid, 25, and Malik, 27, have been dating off-and-on for several years. She has become one of the world's most in-demand models and he was the first to leave One Direction to strike out as a solo artist.

■ Actress Billie Lourd announced on her social media Friday that she and her fiancé, Austen Rydell, welcomed their newborn son into the world. Lourd is the daughter of the late Carrie Fisher.

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Crowley, Managing Editor for Content
crowley.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)631.3615.9390, DSN (314)583.9350

Pacific
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81-42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)277.380

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
tel: +1 202 462-0023
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters
letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

Polls show Trump trailing — and flailing

By DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

Where the shore meets the sea, in the hours just before or just after a storm, you may find, flung over the sand, tufts and clumps of green-brown foam. These all — most weightless remnants left of wild and turbulent activity out on the deep. But onshore, the froth deflates and what abides is the permanent sea, rocking back and forth against the beach.

So what is foam, and what is sea in the presidential campaign of 2020? As a candidate in 2016 and as president ever since, Donald Trump has shown himself to be among the strongest foam-stirring storms in U.S. political history. Evidence of his hurricane is blown across every newscast and newspaper, every controversy and conversation, every morning and every night.

But for all the froth spread over social media and television, the permanent sea — the slow rise and fall of public opinion — has told one story relentlessly. The RealClearPolitics rolling average of countless polls going back for a year — long before the start of the pandemic — tolls the knell of Trump. Even in January, when the stock market blazed to new records and unemployment fell to rare depths; when the Democratic impeachment project was in shambles and Trump looked triumphant even then, if you ignored the foam and studied only the sea of public opinion, one saw that Trump was four percentage points behind.

People say: Wait! Remember that Trump won in 2016 while losing the popular vote. He's a magician whose dark arts can't be measured in conventional ways.

Perhaps. But Trump has never won

like this. Not from four points behind, six points behind, eight points behind, 10 points behind. That's where he has been, without exception, according to RealClearPolitics, for more than a year. Never fewer than four points back, sometimes trailing by double-digits.

Trump's unconventional convention in August was a bold attempt to reverse the tide. Having posed before Mount Rushmore during Fourth of July celebrations (without stirring a wave), the president courted the national capital region for additional patriotic backdrops for his nomination speech, including Fort McHenry of "Star-Spangled Banner" fame and the White House itself. Across four nights of television, every stumble and humiliation of the Trump presidency was recast with an alternative history. Trump's pandemic response has been masterful. He has a secret plan to bring people together. He has a secret plan to get the economy started. He just shrugged. Polling averages remained essentially unchanged, with Trump trailing by five to seven percentage points.

With fewer than 40 days remaining in the race, the president is down to his last chances to stir a sea change. If his daily havoc just flows weightlessly down the beach, and if his grand spectacles fail to make waves, what's left?

The debates, especially the first one on Tuesday, could close the gap. Trump supporters are hoping desperately that Democratic nominee Joe Biden will lapse into a senior moment under the glare of the nation's scrutiny, or that he will somehow reveal himself to be the puppet of the same left-wing that he trounced in winning the Democratic nomination.

Biden could blow the debates. He is not an especially strong candidate. I've been watching him run for president since 1987

Voters want a clean debate. Biden can ensure it.

By COLBERT I. KING

The Washington Post

Tuesday's presidential debate at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland is not expected to be anything like the "Rumble in the Jungle" between boxers Muhammad Ali and George Foreman on Oct. 30, 1974, in what was then known as Zaire. But if President Donald Trump behaves true to form in his first face-to-face exchange with former Vice President Joe Biden, count on an onstage spectacle just like the same.

Fox News' Steve Wallace will moderate, and once again Trump just can't resist the urge to try to work the referee, as he did when NBC's Lester Holt moderated Trump's September 2016 debate with Hillary Clinton. In advance of that event, Trump accused Holt of being a Democrat set on rigging the debate and running "a very unfair system." Holt, a veteran journalist (who had been a registered Republican since 2003), played it straight, holding Trump and Clinton to the same standard. This time, Trump is best assured that the "radical left" he's not known to have a lot of sway at Fox — will somehow force Wallace to go easy on Biden.

Wallace, who also moderated the Trump-Clinton faceoff held Oct. 19, 2016, at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, knows that Trump loves to throw low blows and hit where he's hurt. He's seen his hand. Wallace is ready for the displays of incivility that attend so much of Trump's life. Hope it's true, too, of the moderators in the debates to follow.

What you aren't likely to see Tuesday is a repeat of Trump's attempts at intimidation. In the 2016 election, Trump left his seat and invaded Clinton's personal

space to hulk over the shorter Clinton as she answered questions. Against Biden, he wouldn't dare try that without Secret Service agents at his side. Undoubtedly there will be other Trump stunts.

The question is whether Biden is prepared for the insults, untruths and uncouth behavior set to come his way. Either way, let's hope Wallace doesn't put up with Trump's distractions for long, because the designated debate topics offer a rich field for exploration. The voters want and deserve a clean debate.

Voters will want to hear out Trump and Biden on the handling of COVID-19, on racial reckoning and urban unrest, on the economy, on free and fair elections, and on the nominees' records of service. The public can decide how well Trump and Biden's positions hold up under close scrutiny and cross-examination — provided the candidates stick with the issues.

A night of gloves-off combativeness would only shed more light on the vulgarity that Trump has brought to the presidency.

Biden's challenge is to not take the bait or let Trump pull him into an ugly wrestling match.

Recall Trump's reference to the size of his penis in the Republican debate in Detroit in March 2016? During an earlier Republican primary campaign appearance, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida responded to Trump having called him "Little Marco" by joking: "Have you seen his hands? And you know what they say about men with small hands ..." Trump jumped to the defense of his manhood.

Biden shouldn't descend to schoolyard stuff, trading Trump insult for insult.

Keep attention where it belongs: Trump's outrageous claims and monstrous failures. Trump's idiotic assertion that he has

— a year in which the Bangles' "Walk Like an Egyptian" topped the charts. He hasn't delivered a single great debate performance.

More likely than disaster, though, is a series of draws. The former vice president will surely be well prepared, ready to parry Trump's haymakers with jobs at Trump's own vulnerabilities: on health care, on Social Security funding, on management style. The president will be tempted to deliver his usual performance borrowed from pro wrestling and "reality" TV: bluster, aggressive, exaggerated, taunting. It will delight his base, which is already delighted, while annoying the larger public that is plumb tired of the chaos.

In other words, more foam. Millions of early votes will be cast by the time the third and last debate concludes on Oct. 22. If the tide of public opinion hasn't turned in Trump's favor by then, his last chance to alter the outcome will come through the voter-turnout competitions already underway.

It may offer a distinct advantage — if they can avoid the lax oversight that doomed Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. That deep sea of public opinion has Biden well-positioned in a long list of states won by Trump last time: Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Florida, North Carolina, Arizona. Polls suggest that he's in striking distance in Republican strongholds such as Georgia, Iowa and even Texas. Biden has a dozen ways to win if his team puts in the work. Trump must go to the same states that elected him and win nearly all of them again.

He's running out of time.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

more for African Americans than any president since Abraham Lincoln ought to get him laughed offstage. Biden only needs to point to Harry Truman, the first president to personally and publicly commit his striking distance in Republican strongholds such as Georgia, Iowa and even Texas. Biden has a dozen ways to win if his team puts in the work. Trump must go to the same states that elected him and win nearly all of them again.

Time to think of it, the "Rumble in the Jungle" pitted the incumbent champion Foreman hoping to land haymakers against a savvy Ali, skilled in deflecting wild shots. Didn't turn out so well for Foreman, who lost his title that night.

Tune in to Cleveland on Tuesday. It may not be the "Debate of the Century," but perhaps another titleholder will go down for the count.

Colbert I. King is a Washington Post columnist.

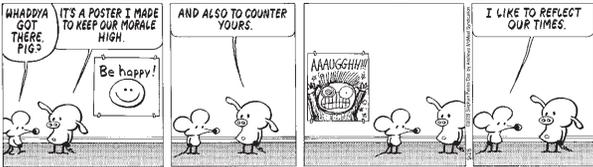
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



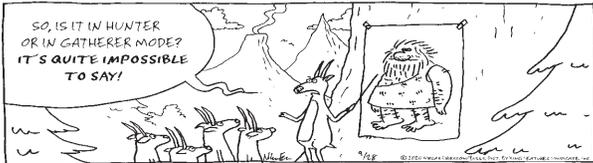
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



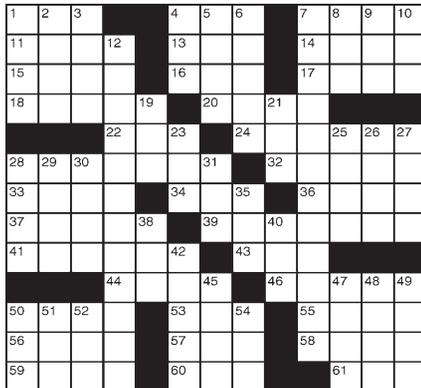
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Little rascal
- 4 Computer key
- 7 Judy's daughter
- 11 Tidy
- 13 Speedometer stat
- 14 Mid-month date
- 15 Moolah
- 16 — chi
- 17 Vanished
- 20 Screen material
- 22 Egggy quaff
- 24 Exercise-tracking device
- 28 Coffee mug parts
- 32 Carroll critter
- 33 Skin soother
- 34 Corn serving
- 36 "Yeah, right!"
- 37 Hear again
- 39 Testimony giver
- 41 Headache aid
- 43 Plead
- 44 Big-screen format
- 46 Monastery VIP
- 50 Scoff
- 53 Bikini half
- 55 Arm bone
- 56 Secondhand
- 57 Legislation
- 58 Equipment

DOWN

- 59 Hair goops
- 60 CBS logo
- 61 "CSI" evidence
- 25 Innocent one
- 26 Enrages
- 27 B'way booth sign
- 28 Mata —
- 29 Actor Guinness
- 30 Memorandum
- 31 Cutting tool
- 35 Tease
- 38 Candied veggie
- 40 Earl Grey, for one
- 42 Roof feature
- 45 MRI forerunner
- 47 Ran in the wash
- 48 — incline (tilled)
- 49 Skater Lipinski
- 50 Moonshine vessel
- 51 Jargon suffix
- 52 Snaky fish
- 54 Shock partner

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-28

CRYPTOQUIP

HPVBAIQP ANZA'B Z KEJAP
MPUJHNALEU TIVXJQZAIQ IL
FZUP XUEP ZQM MPPF SPM

TIUISB: ZKEZ-VZSIIQ.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY SCHEDULES MEALS WITH A BENEFACTOR, I WOULD SAY THEY'VE MADE DONOR RESERVATIONS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals O

SCOREBOARD/STARS' VASILEVSKI CUP FINALS

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Columbus	9	1	2	3	22	5	9
Chicago Fire	7	3	4	2	16	24	24
Philadelphia Union	7	2	4	2	25	21	21
Toronto FC	6	4	3	2	12	14	12
New York City FC	6	6	2	2	10	14	11
New England Revolution	4	6	6	2	18	13	17
Portland Timbers	4	7	1	1	16	19	17
Nashville SC	4	7	2	1	14	13	17
Atlanta United	4	7	2	1	14	13	17
Cincinnati	3	7	3	1	12	22	22
D.C. United	3	8	3	1	11	18	18
Inter Miami	3	8	3	1	11	18	19
WESTERN CONFERENCE		W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Seattle	6	3	3	2	21	26	24
Portland	6	3	3	2	21	26	24
Sporting KC	6	5	2	2	20	24	20
San Jose	6	5	2	2	20	24	20
Colorado	6	5	4	1	19	25	20
Los Angeles FC	6	5	3	3	18	24	21
Minnesota United	6	5	3	3	18	24	21
Real Salt Lake	4	4	4	5	17	21	21
Houston Dynamo	4	4	4	5	17	21	21
Vancouver Whitecaps	2	6	0	15	17	30	30
San Jose	2	5	3	16	24	24	24
San Jose	2	6	0	15	17	30	30
Seattle	2	6	0	15	17	30	30

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

Saturday's games

Houston 1, Nashville 1
New York City FC, Cincinnati 0
Sunday's games
Montreal at New York
Portland at D.C. United
Miami at Philadelphia
Atlanta at Chicago
Columbus at Toronto FC
Atlanta at Atlanta United
Sporting City at FC Dallas
Orlando City at Colorado
Portland at Vancouver
San Jose at Los Angeles FC
Seattle at LA Galaxy

NWSL

W	L	T	PTS	GF	GA
Chicago	1	0	1	4	3
North Carolina	1	0	1	4	3
Portland	1	0	1	4	3
San Diego	1	0	1	4	3
Bay FC	1	0	1	4	3
Reign FC	1	0	1	4	3
Utah	0	1	1	3	4

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

Saturday's games

Washington 1, Chicago 1
Utah 2, Utah 2
Houston 3, Orlando 1
Wednesday's game
Reign FC at Portland

Golf

Corales Puntacana Resort

Saturday
At Corales Golf Club
La Altagracia, Dominican Republic
Parc. 54
Yardage: 7,666; Par: 72
Third Round
Adam Long 70-65-64=199 -17
Hudson Swafford 67-69-69=205 -15
Mackenzie Hughes 68-67-70=202 -18
Xinjun Zhang 66-69-69=203 -13
Wade Leshon 68-71-65=204 -12
Sean O'Hair 67-77-70=204 -12
Jordan Spieth 68-69-67=204 -12
Tyrler McCumber 67-65-69=201 -15
Luke List 67-67=201 -15
Mikhael Choudhury 67-71=201 -15
Emiliano Grillo 70-68=206=206 -10
Sergio Garcia 68-69=207 -9
Kelly Kraft 68-70=206 -10
Justin Thomas 67-68=207 -9
Ryan Brehm 67-72=207 -10
Sepp Straka 65-70=207 -9

Pro basketball

WNBA playoffs

Seeding in parentheses
All games played at Orlando, Fla.
Semifinals
(Best-of-five; 2 if necessary)
C1 Connecticut 2, Las Vegas 1
Connecticut 87, Las Vegas 62
Las Vegas 83, Connecticut 75
Connecticut 77, Las Vegas 68
Wednesday's game
C2 Seattle 4, Minnesota 0
Thursday: Seattle 88, Minnesota 79
Saturday Game 3
C1 Connecticut 87, Las Vegas 62
C2 Seattle 4, Minnesota 0
X-Tie: Game 5

Deals

Saturday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball
MLB — Suspended Jimmy Cordero for three games and an undisclosed fine for intentionally hitting Wilson Contreras of Chicago Cubs in a game on Sept. 25. Suspended manager Kirk Ribertera for the same and an undisclosed fine for Cordero's actions. Announced pitching coach Dan Gooch and receive an undisclosed fine for American's actions.

BOSTON RED SOX

Activated RHP Andrew Triggs from the 10-day IL. Optioned LHP Jeffrey Springs to alternate training site.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS

Placed INF Luis Rengifo on the 10-day IL. Recalled 2B Jahmal Jones and RHP Luke Bard from alternate training site. Optioned RHP Jaime Barria to alternate training site.

MINNESOTA TWINS

Placed INF Luis Arraez from the 10-day IL. Recalled LHP David Smetzer from alternate training site. Optioned RHP Edward Colina and OF LaMonte Wade Jr. to alternate training site.

NEW YORK YANKEES

Optioned RHP Michael Tonry to alternate training site. **OAKLAND ATHLETICS** — Recalled RHP Paul Blackburn from alternate training site.

SEATTLE MARINERS

Recalled RHP Seth Frankoff from alternate training site.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS

Signed manager Dave Martinez to a multi-year contract extension. Recalled C Raudy Rodriguez from alternate training site.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Optioned LHP Travis Berger to alternate training site.

ATLANTA BRAVES

Optioned RHP Muscar Vito to alternate training site. Recalled LHP Tucker Davidson from alternate training site.

COLORADO ROCKIES

Optioned RHPs CH Rich Gonzalez, Jesus Tinoco and Antonio Santos to alternate training sites. Recalled RHP Ashton Goudeau from alternate training site.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS

Optioned RHP P.J. Feyerherm to alternate training site. Activated RHP Freddy Peraza from the paterally list. Optioned LHP Eric Lauer from alternate training site.

NEW YORK METS

Recalled C Al Sanchez from alternate training site. Placed INF Andres Gimenez on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of RF Ryan Cordell from alternate training site. Transferred RHP Robert Gsellman from the 10-day IL to the 60-day list.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

Optioned RHP Daniel Ponce de Leon to alternate training site.

SAN DIEGO PADRES

Optioned RHP LHP Travis Berger to alternate training site. **SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** — Designated INF Andres Gimenez on the 10-day IL. Placed RHP Sam Coonrod on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Rico Garcia from alternate training site.

FOOTBALL

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Activated RB Jonathan Ward from the practice squad. **ATLANTA FALCONS** — Activated RB Terrell on the injured reserve COVID 19 list.

BUFFALO BILLS

Activated LB Deon Leary from the practice squad.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

Activated RB Reggie Bonnafant from the practice squad.

Auto racing

Also 300

NASCAR-Xfinity

Saturday
At Las Vegas Motor Speedway
Las Vegas, Nev.
Laps: 145 (Start position in parentheses)
1. (1) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 200 laps, 60 points
2. (6) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 200, 51
3. (14) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 200, 41
4. (3) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 200, 35
5. (12) Ryan Sieg, Chevrolet, 200, 47
6. (2) Austin Cindric, Ford, 200, 43
7. (13) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 200, 41
8. (8) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 200, 41
9. (10) Harrison Burton, Toyota, 200, 28
10. (5) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 200, 36
11. (7) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 200, 32
12. (9) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 200, 27
13. (15) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 200, 27
14. (20) Brett Moffitt, Chevrolet, 200, 0
22. (11) Brent Brannan, Chevrolet, 200, 0
23. (16) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 200, 0
24. (19) Austin Hill, Toyota, 199, 0
18. (18) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 199, 19
19. (32) Myatt Snider, Chevrolet, 199, 19
20. (26) Stefan Parsons, Toyota, 199, 19
21. (25) Colby Howard, Chevrolet, 198, 18
22. (22) Tommy Joe Martins, Chevrolet, 198, 18
23. (24) Jesse Little, Chevrolet, 198, 14
24. (17) Gaud Gaudin, Chevrolet, 197, 0
25. (13) Bayley Currey, Chevrolet, 197, 0

CINCINNATI BENGALS — Activated DT Kahil McKenzie from the practice squad.
CLEVELAND BROWNS — Activated CB A.J. Green from the practice squad.
DALLAS COWBOYS — Placed CB Chidozie Awaziem on injured reserve. Activated DBs Salvon Mitchell, Deante Burton and Eric Smith from the practice squad.
DENVER BRONCOS — Activated RB LeVante Bellamy and CB Kevin Toliver II from the practice squad.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Activated DT Billy Winn from the practice squad. Signed TE John Lovett and WR Darrius Shepherd from the practice squad.
HOUSTON TEXANS — Activated RB C.J. Proise from the practice squad.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed LB Matthew Adams on injured reserve.
LOS ANGELES CHARGERS — Placed LB Asmar Bilal, DE Melvin Ingram III and DT Justin Jones on injured reserve. Activated G Ryan Gray, LB Malik Jefferson, RB Darrius Brownell, S Jahleel Addae and DE Jessie Lemmonier from the practice squad.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Activated S George Iloka and CB Mark Fields from the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed C David Andrews and LB Josh Uche on injured reserve. Activated C James Ferentz, WR Isaiah Williams and DT Nick Taylor from the practice squad.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Signed WR Bennie Fowler and DE Marquis Hunt from the practice squad. Placed RB Ty Montgomery on injured reserve. Waived G/C Will Clapp.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Activated WR John Hootman from the practice squad.
NEW YORK JETS — Activated WR Lawrence Cager and C Jimmy Murray from their practice squad.
LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Activated LB Kyle Emanuel and CB Madie Harper from the practice squad.
PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Activated WR Deontay Barnett and S Graydon Arnold from the practice squad.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed RB Tevin Coleman on injured reserve. Activated RB Brandon Aiyuk and LB Joe Walker from the practice squad.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Activated LB Shaquon Griffin and LB Ryan Neal from the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Activated RB Kenjon Barner from the practice squad.
TENNESSEE TITANS — Activated WR Cameron Batson from the practice squad.
WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Activated LB Jordan Knisky, G Joshua Kohn and Jarek Norris from the practice squad.

National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Signed C Turner Elson to a one-year contract.

Major League Soccer

MLB — Announced postponement of Colorado Rapids vs. Sporting Kansas City match on Sept. 27. Due to confirmed COVID-19 testing.

26. (28) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, 197, 11
27. (27) Joe Graf Jr., Chevrolet, 196, 10
28. (11) Timmy Hill, Toyota, 186, 0
29. (30) Dexter Bean, Chevrolet, 195, 8
30. (23) Matt Mills, Toyota, 184, 7
31. (34) Cody Vandever, Chevrolet, 191, 6
32. (15) Alex Lally, Chevrolet, electrical, 191, 6
33. (15) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, club, 179, 5
34. (15) Jeffery Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 166, 4
35. (34) Vince Miller, Toyota, garage, 166, 4
36. (36) Chad Finchum, Toyota, sponsorship, 166, 4
37. (33) Kyle Weatherman, Chevrolet, accident, 7, 1

Race Statistics

Average Speed of Race Winner: 172.98 mph
Time of Race: 2 hours, 20 minutes, 51 seconds
Caution Flags: 1:37.0 seconds
Lead Changes: 8 among 5 drivers
Lap Leaders: C-Briscoe 0-13; A-Cindric 14-23; R-Chastain 24-38; C-Briscoe 39-50; S-Sieg 51-59; P-Points 1; C-Cindric 60-69; M-Monette 150-157; C-Briscoe 158-200
Laps Led: C-Briscoe, 4 times for 164 laps; R-Chastain, 1 time for 13 laps; A-Cindric, 1 time for 10 laps; P-Points, 1 time for 8 laps; R-Sieg, 2 times for 3 laps.

Fastest Lap: C-Briscoe, 1:18.98
Most Green Flags: A-Cindric, 5
Yellow Flags: J-Allgaier, 3; B-Jones, 3; N-Gragson, 2; J-Haley, 2; H-Burton, 2; A-Allmeindinger, 1
Top 16 in Points: 1. C-Briscoe, 202; 2. A-Cindric, 209; 3. N-Gragson, 207; 4. A-Allmeindinger, 205; 5. H-Burton, 202; 6. R-Sieg, 204; 8. H-Burton, 204; 9. R-Chastain, 204; 10. J-Monette, 203; 11. S-Sieg, 202; 12. B-Brown, 202; 13. J-Clements, 53; 14. W-Williams, 47; 15. M-Snider, 46; 16. A-Lally, 46.



Stars right wing Corey Perry, top left, scores past Lightning goaltender Andrei Vasilevski during the second overtime in Game 5 of the Stanley Cup Finals on Saturday in Edmonton, Alberta.

Stars stay alive with 2o victory

By STEPHEN WYMON
Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — More than a decade since Corey Perry won the Stanley Cup as a young player and years after Joe Pavelski fell two wins short, the greybeards aren't ready to leave the bubble and give up on another opportunity for a championship. Pavelski tied it with 6:45 left in the regulation, laid out to block a shot in the first overtime and Perry's second goal of the game came in double OT to give the Dallas Stars a 3-2 win over Tampa Bay and force a Game 6 in the Stanley Cup Final.

"Get one, keep going," Perry said. "We start building here, and I think we're starting to do something special."

Anton Khudobin made 39 saves and Perry's winner 9:23 into the second OT was a name that redemption for the Stars a year after they lost in OT on a questionable penalty call when the Lightning scored on the ensuing power play. Game 6 is Monday night.

The 36-year-old Pavelski and 35-year-old Perry have combined for the last six Dallas goals.

So much for hockey being a young man's game.

"With how they play, I don't know if you can call them old," Stars center Tyler Seguin said. "They seem to have the best endurance of all of us. Joe keeps getting the late goals and Perry played a great game."

Dallas stayed alive despite going down to five defensemen for half of regulation when Andrej Sekera was injured blocking a shot midway through the first. Sekera returned for the third, a guy performance that may have saved a team that looked to be running on fumes. "That shows you his compete," Stars coach Rick Bowness said. "Give him a ton of credit for coming back. That was tough." Dallas didn't have much time to regroup from Friday night's loss,

not with the NHL scheduling the first back-to-back games in the final since 2009 and just the second time since the mid-1950s. On a night where both teams at times looked worn down, the Stars were able to respond in a big way against a healthier opponent.

"They're a good team," Lightning defenseman Victor Hedman said. "They fought back."

Pavelski led the way. In the final for the second time in his career after losing in 2016 with San Jose, he followed his two-goal performance in Game 5 with a season-saver 24 hours later by scoring on a rare juicy rebound allowed by Andrei Vasilevski.

Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper compared his team's situation now to the Eastern Conference final when an overtime loss to the New York Islanders in Game 5 extended the series. The Lightning finished that series off in six.

"We've felt this feeling before," Cooper said. "We have felt this sting and then we've rebounded."

Scoreboard

Stanley Cup Final (Best-of-seven; 4 if necessary) At Edmonton, Alberta

Game	1	2	3	OT	SO
Tampa Bay 3, Dallas 2	1	0	1	0	2
Tampa Bay 3, Dallas 2	0	1	1	0	2
Tampa Bay 5, Dallas 2	1	0	1	0	2
Tampa Bay 5, Dallas 4, OT	1	0	1	2	0
Tampa Bay 5, Dallas 2, 2OT	1	0	1	0	2
Monday: Game 6 (AFN, Sports 2, a.m.) Tuesday: Game 7 (JFK)					

Saturday Stars 3, Lightning 2

Player	1	2	3	OT	SO
Dallas	1	0	1	0	3
Tampa Bay	0	1	1	0	2
3rd Period — Dallas, 0-1 (0-2) (Kucherov, Point), Tampa Bay, 1-0 (Seguin, Seguin), 1:52					
4th Period — Dallas, 0-1 (0-2) (Kucherov, Point), 4:37					
3rd Period — Tampa Bay, 1-0 (Seguin, Seguin), 13:15					
Power Play — Dallas, Perry 5 (Heiskanen, Seguin), 13:15					
4th Period — Dallas, Perry 5 (Seguin, Lindell), 9:23					
5th Period — Tampa Bay, 1-0 (0-2) (Kucherov, Seguin), 8:13-24=33					
Tampa Bay 10-13-7-7-4=41					
Dallas didn't have much time to regroup from Friday night's loss, 17-5-2 (33-30).					

NFL/MMA

Magic: 2 of Jackson's 3 losses as Ravens starter are to Chiefs

FROM BACK PAGE

Mahomes last season led the Chiefs to their first NFL championship since 1970 and was the Super Bowl MVP. Jackson guided the Ravens to a 14-2 regular-season record, set the league mark for yards rushing by a quarterback and directed the most prolific running attack in NFL history. Baltimore closed the regular season with 12 consecutive victories to earn the top seed in the AFC, but bowed out with an upset loss at home to Tennessee.

Mahomes and the Chiefs went the distance, and they'll bring an 11-game winning streak into Monday night's showdown.

Jackson is 21-3 as a starter during the regular season, with two of those losses coming against Kansas City and Mahomes in 2018 (27-24 in overtime) and 2019 (33-28). But, even though this is the first game in NFL history featuring two MVPs under the age of 26, Jackson waved off the notion that this is solely about him versus Mahomes.

"I don't have to focus on Mahomes. I've got to focus on their defense. I've got to focus on scoring. I've got to focus on my job," Jackson insisted. "My defense has to worry about him."

There's plenty of reason for the Baltimore defense to be concerned, even though the unit has been exceptional this far in lopsided wins over Cleveland and Houston. Mahomes threw for 377 yards and two TDs in that 2018 game, and last year pierced the Ravens for 374 yards and three scores.

"He has all these tools, and he has so much talent around him," Humphrey said. "With Mahomes, as good as he is in the pocket, he's just as good — probably better — outside the pocket, which is the craziest thing about his game. So, preparing for him, it's really tough."

Getting their kicks

Not only does this game feature two of the league's best quarterbacks, but two of the finest kickers will be ready to roll if a field-goal try is required for the win.

Kansas City's Harrison Butker banged home two field goals of 58 yards last week in an overtime

victory over the Chargers. He's been perfect this season, led the league in scoring last year and has amassed 445 points, most ever by a kicker after 47 games.

Justin Tucker, meanwhile, is the most accurate kicker in NFL history (90.9% on field goals). He's never missed from inside 29 yards, is 226-for-237 from inside 49 yards and has clicked on 71% of his tries from at least 50 yards.

No home crowd

The Ravens have been waiting since 2017 to host a Monday night game, and now that they got one, they'll be forced to play without their fans. Attendance will be zero because of the pandemic.

So, the Ravens won't enjoy the advantage the Chiefs had while playing at home against Baltimore in each of the past two seasons. This will be the third consecutive game for the Ravens without fans in the stadium.

"Sometimes you say, 'We'll play them anywhere. We'll play them in a parking lot. We'll play them anywhere. No fans, we don't care,'" Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "Well, here we are. We're playing basically in a parking lot right now — with no fans."

Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "It's weird. I've been doing this a couple weeks now and you get out there and it seems like you can hear every penny drop."

Look and see

One of the problems the Kansas City offense has faced through two games has been defenses showing completely different looks from the past. Teams that have run man coverage have gone to zones, and the blitz looks that Houston and Los Angeles have used in the past have been replaced — all in an effort to confuse Mahomes.

Expect the Ravens to do the same, given how much they've played each other the past few years.

"It's going to be all about execution," Mahomes said. "When you play a defense like this that's very mobile, multiple, you have to be ready to go and have answers for everything. Whenever they give us an un-scouted look, try to have a positive game, go to the sideline and try to figure it out."

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

Team	East		Pct	PF	PA
	W	L			
Buffalo	1	1	1.000	58	45
New England	1	1	.500	51	46
Cincinnati	1	0	.333	40	35
N.Y. Jets	0	2	.000	30	58
South					
Tennessee	2	0	1.000	49	44
Indianapolis	1	1	.500	48	38
Jacksonville	1	0	.333	40	36
Houston	0	2	.000	36	67
West					
Baltimore	2	0	1.000	71	22
Pittsburgh	2	0	1.000	62	37
Cleveland	1	1	.500	41	38
Cincinnati	0	2	.000	43	51
West					
Kansas City	2	0	1.000	57	40
Las Vegas	1	1	1.000	58	54
L.A. Chargers	1	0	.500	36	36
Denver	0	2	.000	35	42

National Conference

Team	East		Pct	PF	PA
	W	L			
Dallas	1	1	.500	57	59
Washington	1	1	.500	29	47
N.Y. Giants	1	0	.333	29	43
Philadelphia	0	2	.000	36	64
South					
New Orleans	1	1	.500	58	57
Tampa Bay	1	0	.333	50	51
Atlanta	0	2	.000	64	78
Carolina	0	2	.000	47	65
North					
Chicago	2	0	1.000	44	36
Green Bay	2	0	.000	29	35
Detroit	0	2	.000	44	69
Minnesota	0	2	.000	45	71
West					
Arizona	2	0	1.000	54	35
L.A. Rams	2	0	1.000	57	36
Seattle	2	0	1.000	51	39
San Francisco	2	0	1.000	51	35

Thursday's game

Sunday's games

Miami 31, Pittsburgh 13

Houston at Minnesota

Tennessee at Philadelphia

Chicago at Atlanta

Washington at Cleveland

Las Vegas at New England

L.A. Rams at Buffalo

San Francisco at N.Y. Giants

N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis

Carolina at L.A. Chargers

Tampa Bay at Denver

Detroit at Arizona

Dallas at Seattle

Green Bay at New Orleans

Kansas City at Baltimore (AFN-Sports, 2:15 a.m. Tuesday CET; 9:15 a.m. Tuesday JTK)

Monday's game

Denver at St. Louis

Thursday, Oct. 1

Sunday, Oct. 4

L.A. Chargers at Tampa Bay

Cleveland at Dallas

Buffalo at Washington

Pittsburgh at Tennessee

Arizona at Carolina

New Orleans at Detroit

Jacksonville at Cincinnati

Minnesota at Houston

Seattle at Miami

Indianapolis at Chicago

N.Y. Giants at L.A. Rams

Buffalo at Las Vegas

Philadelphia at San Francisco

Monday, Oct. 5

Atlanta at Green Bay

Injury report

MONDAY

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS RB BALTIMORE RAVENS — (knee, ankle): LB Dorian O'Daniel (knee, ankle); DE Alex Okafor (hamstring); LIMITED: CB Charvarius Ward (hand); WR Sammy Watkins (concussion, nose); WR Frank Clark (illness); CB Antonio Hamilton (groin); DT Derrick Nnadi (ankle); C Austin Reiter (knee); S Juan Thornhill (knee); RB Darrel Williams (ankle); RAVENS: DNP: DT Brandon Williams (not injury related); CB Tavon Young (knee); LIMITED: S Anthony Johnson (calf); WR Chris Moore (finger); FULL: RB Justice Hill (hamstring).

Adesanya dominates Costa to retain belt

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Unbeaten Israel Adesanya defended his middleweight title in style with a dominant second-round stoppage of Paulo Costa at UFC 253 on Sunday.

Poland's Jan Blachowicz also stopped Dominick Reyes late in the second round on Fight Island, the mixed martial arts promotion's bubble performance venue in the Middle East, to claim the light heavyweight title vacated by Jon Jones.

Adesanya (20-0) carved up his previously unbeaten Brazilian opponent with flair and ease, battering Costa with leg kicks before ending it late in the second round. Adesanya crumpled Costa with a combination at the center of the octagon, and the champion finished on the ground with 61 seconds left in the round.

"I told you guys that it was going to be violent, and it was going to end fast," Adesanya said. "That's what I did. It was a little bit sloppy, but I'm a dog, so I do what I do."

The win was the ninth straight in the UFC for Adesanya, the Nigeria-born, New Zealand-based phenomenon who has soared to prominence in mixed martial arts over the past three years.

In UFC 253's co-main event, the 37-year-old Blachowicz (27-8) capped his late-career surge by winning his first UFC title.

After controlling most of the action in a slow first round, Blachowicz apparently broke Reyes' nose during the second round, and he abruptly ended it when he landed a high left hook to the side of Reyes' head. Reyes wobbled, stumbled and fell, and Blachowicz promptly finished him on the ground with 24 seconds left in the round.

"I still don't believe it, but it's here," Blachowicz said. "It's not a dream, right? It happened. I have the legendary Polish power. I proved it one more time. ... Even a pandemic can't stop me right now."

Unheralded flyweight Brandon Royval also had a highlight-reel win on Fight Island, stopping Kai

Kara-France with a guillotine choke in the second round.

Adesanya won his title last year by beating Robert Whittaker, but he was in need of a redemptive performance after defending his belt last March with a stupendously boring decision over Yoel Romero in Las Vegas.

The champion known as "The Last Stylebender" reminded the UFC just what he can do while dispatching Costa with ease.

The heavily muscled Costa opened the fight with a cocky swagger, daring Adesanya to kick his lead leg by putting his hands behind his back. Adesanya preened back at Costa, but largely kept his distance and tagged Costa with kicks, while Costa's own kicks were less successful.

Costa's striking game never got going, and Adesanya wore him down before finishing the fight.

"I built a beachfront condo inside his head from the first time we met," Adesanya said. "The way he was fighting, you just want me to stand there so you can punch me. I'm not stupid, dummy."

While Adesanya was a favorite, Blachowicz's victory was a surprise. He is the first fighter other than Jones or Daniel Cormier to hold the UFC light heavyweight title since 2011, when Jones began his rocky reign.

Jones vacated his belt three times during the ensuing nine years for doping offenses and criminal misbehaviors, but always reclaimed it. But he voluntarily relinquished the title earlier this year after lengthy negotiations over the future of his career with the UFC, apparently receiving the financial incentive to move to heavyweight.

But Jones doesn't have a fight booked at heavyweight, and Blachowicz isn't buying the move.

"Only one man is in my mind," Blachowicz said. "Jon Jones, where are you? Don't be a quitter. This is how we do it in Poland. I'm waiting for you."

Blachowicz earned this title shot with three straight wins, including stoppages of former champion Luke Rockhold and Corey Anderson.

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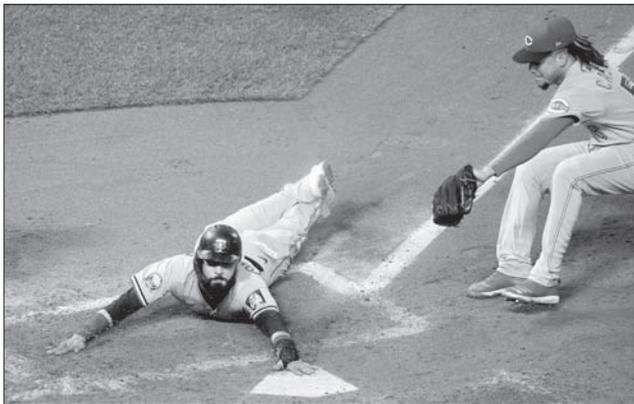


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MLB



Jim Monahan/AP

The Twins' Marwin Gonzalez scores on a wild pitch by Cincinnati Reds pitcher Luis Castillo, right, who covers the plate during the Twins' 7-3 win Saturday in Minneapolis.

Roundup

Arraez has 4 hits, 3 RBIs, Twins clinch 1st round home-field edge

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Luis Arraez matched career highs with four hits and three RBIs in his return to the lineup, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-3 Saturday to clinch home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Minnesota maintained its one-game lead in the AL Central over the Chicago White Sox. The Twins can wrap up their second consecutive division crown — and the No. 2 seed in the American League — with another win Sunday against Cincinnati or a White Sox loss.

If the teams finish tied, Chicago wins the division because it holds the tiebreaker over the Twins.

White Sox 9, Cubs 5: Yoan Moncada homered, Jose Abreu hit a three-run double and the playoff-bound White Sox beat the NL Central champion Cubs 9-5 at Guaranteed Rate Field to snap a season-high six-game skid.

The crosstown Cubs clinched their third division title in five years when St. Louis lost 3-0 to Milwaukee. They will be home at Wrigley Field for a best-of-three playoff series beginning Wednesday.

Brewers 3, Cardinals 0: Brandon Woodruff allowed two hits in eight innings and Milwaukee won at St. Louis to boost its playoff prospects in a big way. Ryan Braun and Daniel Vogelbach hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth for Milwaukee.

Rays 4, Phillies 3: Mike Zunino, Brandon Lowe and Willy Adams each hit a run-scoring single with two outs in the fifth inning as AL East champion Tampa Bay damaged visiting Philadelphia's postseason hopes. Andrew McCutchen had four

hits for the Phillies, who have lost six of seven. But Philadelphia avoided elimination when San Francisco lost to San Diego later. Heading into the final day of the regular season, the Phillies need a win over the Rays and losses by the Giants and Brewers to grab the final NL wild card.

Nationals 4-5, Mets 3-3: New York was eliminated from playoff contention in a mistake-filled loss at Washington in the opener of a doubleheader, and not much changed in the nightcap as an error extended a big inning with Washington (25-34) in the NL East cellar.

Pirates 8, Indians 0: Cleveland had a setback in its bid to host a first-round playoff series, losing to Joe Musgrove and visiting Pittsburgh. Musgrove (1-5) earned his first victory in a year.

Padres 6, Giants 2: Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his 17th home run and San Diego left San Francisco in second help to make the playoffs. The Giants fell to 29-30 and are tied with Milwaukee for the final NL playoff spot. San Francisco needs a win Sunday over San Diego and a Brewers loss to St. Louis to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

Dodgers 7, Angels 6: Mookie Betts exited early after getting hit by a pitch, giving the Dodgers a scare with the playoffs approaching, but they beat the Angels following a power outage in the Dodgers' ballpark.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2: Cavan Biggio broke up a no-hit bid with a solo home run in the sixth inning. Randal Grichuk added a three-run shot and Toronto beat visiting Baltimore for its fourth straight win. The Blue Jays need a victory in Sunday's regular-season finale, and a Miami win over the Yankees in New York, to move up to second place in the AL East and the fifth seed in the league.

Mariners 5-12, Athletics 1-3: J.P. Crawford hit an RBI double in an eight-run third inning as Seattle completed a doubleheader sweep at AL West champion Oakland.

Robbie Grossman provided a pair of home runs in his first career multihomer game for the A's. In the opener, Crawford hit a tying single in the sixth inning and a go-ahead single in the eighth inning for the Mariners.

Rangers 6, Astros 1: Jeff Mathis hit a tiebreaking, three-run home run and Leody Taveras followed with a solo shot, all in a five-run seventh inning, as host Texas beat playoff-bound Houston.

Red Sox 8, Braves 2: Rookie right-hander Tanner Houck struck out 10 in another dominant performance. Christian Vazquez capped a big inning with a grand slam, and Boston won at Atlanta.

Tigers 4, Royals 3: Niko Goodrum and Austin Romine keyed a three-run first inning and Detroit won at Kansas City. Adalberto Mondesi homered in the first for the Royals and had an RBI double in the third.

Rockies 10, Diamondbacks 3: Elias Diaz and Ryan McMahon each hit two-run homers, German Marquez threw seven impressive innings and Colorado overcame sloppy fielding to win at Arizona.

LeMahieu closes in on AL batting title, Yanks rout Marlins

By RONALD BLUM
Associated Press

NEW YORK — DJ LeMahieu is on the verge of a first in more than a century of Major League Baseball: the first player to win undisputed batting titles in both the American and National Leagues.

Luke Voit is about to become a more common name atop the leaderboards but part of an illustrious list, joining Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Alex Rodriguez as New York Yankees to top the majors in home runs.

"I've always admired the Babe," Voit said after the Yankees woke up from their latest slump to beat the Miami Marlins 11-4 Saturday and kept their hold on the AL's No. 5 postseason seed going into the final day. "It's just awesome company. That guy hit 700 home runs (714 to be exact). That means I got to start hitting like 150 a year to catch up to him. So that's never going to happen."

Voit hit his major league-leading 22nd homer. Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox is second with 19.

LeMahieu had his fourth fourth-inning and three RBIs while raising his average to .359. He passed Washington's Juan Soto (.346) for the big league lead and opened a large margin over defending AL batting champion Tim Anderson of the White Sox, second in the AL at .328 after an

0-for-5 night.

"This game's been around for a long time, and I think anyone who's watched knows just how special a player DJ LeMahieu's been for us in these two years," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

LeMahieu won the 2016 NL batting title with a .348 average for Colorado. Ed Delahanty hit .410 for the Philadelphia Phillies to win the NL championship in 1899; he is credited by some researchers with the 1902 AL championship at .376, while others accept Nap Lajoie as winning that title at .378 despite lacking the plate appearances required in more modern times.

"Guys don't win batting titles in both leagues because you win it in one league, they probably keep you," said Marlins manager Don Mattingly, the 1984 AL batting champion with the Yankees. "It's a different game nowadays."

A 32-year-old infielder in his second season with the Yankees, LeMahieu will become New York's first batting champion since Bernie Williams in 1998.

Voit hit a three-run drive against Nick Vincent in a seven-run sixth for a 10-3 lead. He has made 38 consecutive starts, including 19 straight at first base, despite an injured foot.

"I've been trying to transform myself into a better power hitter and this year was another stepping stone for me," Voit said.



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NBA PLAYOFFS/FRENCH OPEN/HIGH SCHOOL

Lakers advance to finals

LeBron has triple-double in 117-107 defeat of Nuggets

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Here's a list of just some of the things the Los Angeles Lakers have gone through in the last 12 months: playing through a politically charged situation in China during the preseason and more massive fallout after returning home, the death of Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash, a pandemic and four-plus-month suspension of play, the season being moved to a bubble 2,500 miles from their homes, the ongoing battle against racial inequality in this country and emotions fraying to the point where giving up was considered.

And here they are. After all that drama, all that angst, all those challenges, the NBA Finals await.

A most unpredictable season has a very predictable finalist. LeBron James, the once-penniless Beast of the East, is now the Best in the West. James and the Lakers are the Western Conference champions, the team's best playoff now set to go to the finals for the 10th time — the first nine of those coming during his Eastern Conference stints with Cleveland and Miami — and his team set to hit the title series for the first time in 10 years, when Bryant won his fifth and final championship.

"Every time you put on purple and gold, you think about his legacy," James said. "You think about him and what he meant to this franchise for 20-plus years. What he stood for, both on the floor and off the floor. What he demanded out of his teammates, what he demanded out of himself. We have some similarities in that sense."

James had 37 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists as Los Angeles clinched that finals berth Saturday night, ousting Denver 117-107 in Game 5 of the West finals, the game just happening to be 365 days removed from the team's first media session to start this season. Yes, that means this season is now stretching into a second year for the Lakers.

"Get four more wins, and a season filled with anguish will have the sweetest possible finish.

"This is what I came here for," James said.

James is making his ninth finals trip in the last 10 seasons; the lone exception in that stretch was last year when Los Angeles didn't make the playoffs. Anthony Davis, who had 27 points Saturday, is going to the title round for the first time. So is Frank Vogel as the coach, after having three excellent chances with Indiana in 2012, 2013 and 2014 thwarted by James and the Heat in each of those seasons.

James has often said that he's been motivated by doubters who said he couldn't lead the Lakers back to the top. Vogel has seen how that motiva-



The Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, left, shoots over the Denver Nuggets' Michael Porter Jr. during the Lakers' series-clinching 117-110 win Saturday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

MARK J. TERRILL/AP

By the numbers

9

NBA Finals appearances for LeBron James in his past 10 seasons, the lone exception being last season with the Lakers.

NBA scoreboard

Playoffs

CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-seven; x if necessary)	
Eastern Conference	Miami 2, Boston 2
Miami 117, Boston 114, OT	Miami 106, Boston 101
Western Conference	Miami 112, Boston 109
Friday: Detroit 121, Miami 108	Sunday: Game 6
x-Two Playoffs	
Western Conference	L.A. Lakers 4, Denver 1
L.A. Lakers 126, Denver 114	L.A. Lakers 105, Denver 103
Denver 114, L.A. Lakers 106	L.A. Lakers 114, Denver 108
Saturday: L.A. Lakers 117, Denver 110	

Saturday

Lakers 117, Nuggets 107
DENVER — Grant 7-18 4-4 20, Millsap 1-8 10-11 13, Jokic 9-16 1-1 20, Harris 1-4 0-3 3, Murray 7-17 5-15 9, Craig 0-1 0-0 0, Dozier 2-3 0-0 5, Porter Jr. 4-7 0-2 10, Plumlee 3-7 1-1 10, Morris 4-9 2-2 10, Totals 39-90 23-26 107.

L.A. LAKERS — Davis 8-16 9-9 27, James 15-25 7-8 38, Howard 3-4 3-6 9, Caldwell-Pope 1-2 0-0 1, Green 2-7 0-4 11, Kuzma 3-7 1-1 8, Ma-Morris 1-3 0-3, McGehee 0-1 0-0 0, Carruso 5-7 1-1 11, Rondo 3-5 0-0 8, Totals 42-77 24-29 117.

Denver — 30 21 33 107
L.A. Lakers 25 28 30-117
Three-Point Goals — Denver 8-30 (Porter Jr. 2-4, Grant 2-8, Harris 1-3, Jokic 1-4, Millsap 1-5, Murray 0-4), L.A. Lakers 9-24 (Davis 2-4, Green 2-4, Rondo 2-4, Kuzma 3-3, Ma-Morris 1-3, James 1-4). Fouled Out — None. Rebounds — Denver 36 (Grant 9), L.A. Lakers 43 (James 16). Assists — Denver 23 (Murray 8), L.A. Lakers 24 (James 10). Total Fouls — Denver 25, L.A. Lakers 26.

2010

The last year the Los Angeles Lakers reached the NBA Finals, when Kobe Bryant won his fifth and final championship.

SOURCE: Associated Press

tion drove him all season. "So much respect for him and love for him," Vogel said. "He's empowered this whole group with just buying into the plan that we had with how we wanted to play this year and getting the whole group to buy in."

The NBA Finals will have a made-for-TV matchup, no matter what happens in the remaining one or two games of the East finals.

Miami leads Boston 3-2 in that series; if the Heat advance, it'll be James vs. the franchise that helped him win his first two rings during the famed "Big 3" era there from 2011 through 2014, and Heat President Pat Riley going up against an organization that started him on his path toward becoming one of the best winners in the history of the game when



MICHEL EILLEN/AP

Venus Williams plays a shot against Anna Karolina Schmiedlova in a first-round straight-set loss at the French Open on Sunday.

Halep wins handily; Venus out early again

By **JEROME PUGMIRE**
Associated Press

PARIS — Top-seeded Simona Halep won 10 straight games in beating Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-4, 6-0 to reach the second round of the French Open on Sunday and extend her winning streak to 15 matches.

Halep won on her 29th birthday, but with minimal celebrations planned.

"It was really special day playing on Roland Garros on my birthday," she said. "I cannot celebrate much because I have to stay in the room, so I will have a bottle of water."

Wearing thick black leggings and a long-sleeved pink jersey to combat the chilly conditions on Court Philippe Chatrier, the 2018 champion made a series of unforced errors and trailed 4-2.

"I felt the cold. I'm not very happy with the cold in general,"

Halep said. "So it was a little bit tough, I struggled."

But then she found her range, clinching the first set with a hold to love and sealing victory on her first match point when her Spanish opponent clipped a forehand wide.

Venus Williams was knocked out in the first round for the third straight year, losing 6-4, 6-4 to Anna Karolina Schmiedlova.

"Even on my really good shots she had a lot of amazing replies that just kind of came out of nowhere," Williams said. "Give her credit to playing an amazing match."

The 40-year-old Williams is 0-3 in Grand Slam tournaments this year following the Australian Open and the U.S. Open. Since the start of 2018, the seven-time Grand Slam champion has lost in the first round in seven of the past 11 major tournaments.

Cold, rain just another hurdle as season starts

By **IMMANUEL JOHNSON**
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — Running on a cold and rainy day while trying to maintain social distancing during a global pandemic helped to make the first cross-country meet of the season even more daunting on Saturday.

Runners from Wiesbaden, Ansbach, Hohenfels and Vilseck were socially distanced before, during and after the race and wore masks during warmups and after they completed the course.

"Times are completely different now and everyone has a mask and whatnot," Vilseck coach Mitch Moellendick said. "We came to a compromise and can't start everyone from the line."

In previous years, the race started with everyone crowded at the starting line.

But competitors lined up across a wide starting line Saturday, with the top runner based on practice times from each school in front. Subsequent runners lined up behind with 6 feet separating each one, creating a large grid.

After the first runners left, other lines would start together

30 seconds later. Wiesbaden's Kaitlyn Taylor sped off from the beginning and never looked back in the girls race, winning in 21 minutes, 18 seconds.

Wiesbaden sophomore Manzi Sibbo, who competed for Mile C. Kinnick in Japan a year ago, won the boys race in 17:57.

"I came from Japan before I came to Germany and it was hard [today] since I am not used to racing in this weather," Sibbo said. "It was a lot warmer in Japan, but today's rain made it tougher."

Rain turned parts of the hilly course into mud and made it a bit harder to navigate, Sibbo said. Despite the conditions, Sibbo agreed that he would much rather be competing outside than being stuck inside not doing anything.

"He said he and his teammates 'are looking really forward to the season.' Moellendick was also happy to see the season get started. "It brings some sense of normality having the kids out here," he said. "If we can at least do something, then let's do something."

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com
Twitter: Manny_Stripes

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



JAY LAPRETE/AP

Cincinnati defensive end Michael Pitts, left, and defensive lineman Curtis Brooks, center, sack Army quarterback Christian Anderson during the Bearcats' 24-10 win Saturday in Cincinnati.

No. 14 Cincinnati stops No. 22 Army

By JEFF WALLNER
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati wanted to add a game to its non-conference schedule after some games were lost due to concerns over the coronavirus pandemic. When the Bearcats decided to put Army on the slate, Cincinnati coach Luke Fickell knew it would be a challenge.

"I tried to reiterate that to our guys all week," Fickell said. "We tried to prepare them for that." Desmond Ridder passed for 258 yards and two touchdowns as No. 14 Bearcats defeated No. 22 Army 24-10 in the first matchup of ranked teams at Nippert Stadium since 2008.

The Black Knights' vaunted triple-option offense came in averaging 389.5 rushing yards, but Cincinnati held Army to 182, 81 from junior QB Christian Anderson, who also passed for 94 yards on nine completions.

"I'm not sure we could have done much better," Fickell said of the defensive effort. "They gave us new wrinkles, some passes we hadn't seen. We didn't panic ... and found a way to make the plays."

Army (2-1) shocked the Bearcats with a defensive touchdown just 51 seconds into the game. Ridder ran an option to the left, but his pitch to running back Charles McClelland was deflected by Black Knights defensive back Jabari Moore, who recovered the ball and ran untouched 42 yards for a touchdown to put his team ahead 7-0. Moore also had an interception in the first quarter.

"We played our butts off," said Army coach Jeff Monken. "That is a very good football team. They are physical and got off of blocks. We wanted to establish the full-

back, but they took him away. I'm disappointed but not frustrated." Cincinnati bounced back when Ridder completed a 45-yard pass to Jayshon Jackson and two plays later found Michael Young for a 12-yard TD, his first as a Bearcat, putting his team ahead 10-7 in the second quarter.

"We expected to be open," said Young, who had five catches for 60 yards. "We wanted to take what they gave us. We knew that we would have the opportunity in the red zone to get those one-on-one looks."

Cincinnati finished with only 69 yards rushing but made the necessary adjustments.

"We talked about taking what they were giving us," Fickell said.

"It was tough sledding in there. They have big, physical strong guys. I don't know that we ever felt comfortable that we could establish the running game."

The Bearcats (2-0) made a big special teams play late in the half when Ethan Tucky blocked a Black Knights punt, giving Cincinnati possession at the 7. But Army held on fourth-and-goal from the 1.

The Black Knights' defense, which ranked fifth nationally against the run, held the Bearcats to only 6 rushing yards in the first half. But momentum swung in Cincinnati's favor early in the third quarter when Anderson's fumble was recovered by linebacker Joel Dublanko near midfield.

The Bearcats rushed for 42 yards during a 60-yard scoring drive capped by Alabama transfer Jerome Ford's 4-yard run extending the lead to 17-7. Cincinnati sealed the victory with a 60-yard TD pass from Ridder to running back Gerrid Doaks with 6:55 left. Army couldn't muster enough on offense to mount a comeback.

Top 25 takeaways

No. 6 LSU gets Air Raided, No. 3 Sooners collapse late

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

The Pirate plundered the defending national champions. Oklahoma got its annual faceplant as a big favorite out of the way early. Texas made a crazy comeback to keep the Big 12 from going up in flames.

College football was batty on Saturday, which for the first time in a season that was never a certainty, made things feel normal.

The Southeastern Conference finally kicked off with a stunner. No. 6 LSU got Air Raided by Mississippi State in the debut of Bulldogs coach Mike Leach, who has put together a Hall of Fame resume turning out-of-control programs into consistent winners with record-setting offenses. First it was Texas Tech. Then it was Washington State. So far, so good at Mississippi State.

The pandemic cost the pirate-loving, oodball coach a normal off-season to implement his Air Raid offense. Quarterback K.J. Costello, a transfer from Stanford, didn't arrive in Starkville until the summer.

Surely, there would be some glitches early for the Bulldogs. Especially, in the vaunted SEC.

Hardly. "It's better than average," Leach said of his return to the nation's toughest conference.

Costello passed for 623 yards, breaking a 27-year-old Southeastern Conference record held by Georgia's Eric Zeier by 79 yards. For perspective, in five games during an injury-riddled 2019 at Stanford, Costello passed for 1,038 yards and five scores.

As for Leach, his act won't play everywhere. He can be a wildly entertaining eccentric at times and a thin-skinned bully at others.

His personality and prolific passing attacks — developed in the SEC as an assistant for Hal Mumme at Kentucky in the late 1990s — overshadow his greatest talent: Doing more with less. He never had a losing season in 10 years at Texas Tech. The Red Raiders have had six losing seasons since its messy divorce with Leach in 2009.

Washington State had won nine games in five years before Leach arrived in 2012. He won at least that many in four seasons with the Cougars.

He never did win a conference championship outright and it's unlikely he will suddenly make Mississippi State — the Texas Tech or Washington State of the SEC West — a serious threat to Alabama.

But if form holds, the Bulldogs will put up gaudy passing stats and pull off the occasional big upset.

Scoreboard

AP Top 25 Fared

- No. 1 Clemson (2-0) did not play. Next vs. Virginia, Saturday.
- No. 2 Alabama (1-0) beat Missouri 38-19. Next vs. No. 10 Texas A&M, Saturday.
- No. 3 Oklahoma (1-1) lost to Kansas State (35-38). Next: at Iowa State, Saturday, Oct. 10.
- No. 8 Texas (2-0) beat Texas Tech 63-56. Next vs. TCU, Saturday.
- No. 9 Auburn (1-0) beat No. 23 Kentucky (29-13). Next: at No. 4 Georgia, Saturday.
- No. 10 Texas A&M (1-0) beat Vanderbilt 17-12. Next: at No. 2 Alabama, Saturday.
- No. 11 North Carolina (1-0) did not play. Next: at Boston College, Saturday.
- No. 12 Miami (3-0) beat Florida State 52-28. Next: at No. 1 Clemson, Saturday, Oct. 10.
- No. 13 UCF (2-0) beat East Carolina (51-28). Next vs. Tulsa, Saturday.
- No. 14 Cincinnati (2-0) beat No. 22 Army 24-10. Next vs. South Florida, Saturday.
- No. 15 Oklahoma State (2-0) beat West Virginia 27-13. Next: at Kansas, Saturday, Oct. 10.
- No. 16 Tennessee (1-0) beat South Carolina (29-13). Next: at Missouri, Saturday.
- No. 17 Memphis (1-0) did not play. Next: at SMU, Saturday.
- No. 18 Troy (4-0). Next vs. Louisiana Tech, Friday.
- No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette (3-0) beat Georgia Southern (20-18). Next: at Appalachian State, Saturday, Oct. 17.
- No. 20 Virginia Tech (1-0) beat NC State 45-24. Next: at Duke, Saturday.
- No. 21 Pittsburgh (3-0) beat No. 24 Louisville (23-20). Next vs. NC State, Saturday.
- No. 22 Army (2-14) lost to No. 14 Cincinnati 24-10. Next vs. Abilene Christian, Saturday.
- No. 23 Kentucky (0-1) lost to No. 8 Auburn (38-28). Next vs. Mississippi, Saturday.
- No. 24 Louisville (1-2) lost to No. 21 Pittsburgh (20-23). Next: at Georgia Tech, Friday, Oct. 30.
- No. 25 Marshall (2-0) did not play. Next vs. Rice, Saturday.

Saturday's scores

- EAST**
- Boston College 24, Texas State 21
- Penn State 23, Louisville 20
- Syracuse 37, Georgia Tech 20
- SOUTH**
- Appalachian St. 52, Campbell 21
- Auburn 29, Kentucky 13
- Georgia Tech 27, The Citadel 14
- Florida 51, Mississippi 35
- Lynchburg 29, North Carolina 20
- Louisiana Tech 66, Houston Baptist 38
- Louisiana-Lafayette 20, Georgia Southern 15
- Miami 52, Florida State 10
- Mississippi 24, LSU 34
- Tennessee 31, South Carolina 27
- West Virginia 27, West Virginia 13
- UCF 51, East Carolina 28
- UPPER**
- UTEP 31, Louisiana-Monroe 6
- Virginia Tech 45, NC State 24
- SOUTHWEST**
- Baylor 47, Kansas 11
- Cent. Ark. 27, Missouri 17
- Georgia 37, Arkansas 10
- Kansas 34, Kansas State 24
- Kansas St. 38, Oklahoma 35
- Missouri 24, West Virginia 13
- SMU 50, Stephen F. Austin 7
- Texas 63, Texas Tech 56, OT
- Texas Tech 63, Texas Tech 56, OT
- FAR WEST**
- BYU 48, Troy 7

Oh no, OU

The defending national champions were only the second-highest ranked team to lose Saturday. No. 3 Oklahoma jumped out to a 35-14 lead on the road late in the third quarter behind quarter-

back Spencer Rattler. Then it all fell apart as the Wildcats, playing without several key defensive players because of COVID-19, beat the Sooners for the second straight season.

According to ESPN, this was Oklahoma's sixth loss as a 20-point favorite since the start of the 2009 season. No other team has more than three of those losses.

It's the same 'ol same 'ol for the Sooners.

They miss tackles, blow coverages and just don't get enough stops. Yes, the offense short-circuited in the fourth quarter with a chance to dodge the upset, but it's always the offense hauling out the defense for the Sooners.

There were signs that it might get better early last year after Alex Grinch was brought in to be the coordinator. But by the end of the season, Oklahoma was getting steamrolled by LSU.

The Sooners have won five straight Big 12 titles and made the playoff four times in that span. Counting out the team after one loss doesn't make sense because the last four years it has lost a Big 12 game as a heavy favorite before winning the conference.

Hot take

If this is what the Big 12's best teams are going to be like, and the Pac-12 champion is going to play seven games tops, there is no reason the American Athletic Conference can't produce a champion worthy of serious playoff consideration. Both No. 13 UCF and No. 14 Cincinnati look legit.

Around the country

Kudos to Louisiana-Lafayette kicker Nate Snyder. He was 3-for-6 on field goals before drilling a 53-yarder as time expired against Georgia Southern to keep the 19th-ranked Ragin' Cajuns unbeaten. No. 21 Pitt's defense appears to be no joke. The Panthers smothered No. 24 Louisville to start 3-0 for the first time since 2014. Pitt had seven sacks and allowed 223 yards, 75 on one touchdown run. ... Now that LSU has lost the longest winning streaks in the nation belong to Notre Dame (eight) and Tennessee, which extended its roll to seven. ... Maybe the most impressive performance of the day came in Blacksburg, Va.: The No. 20 Hokies had two games postponed because of COVID-19 and played their first game missing almost two dozen players, their defensive coordinator and the assistant who most likely would have replaced their defensive coordinator. Virginia Tech posted a 35-14 rout to run North Carolina State out of Lane Stadium.

SPORTS



Excitement Central

Twins clinch home field in 1st round, close in on division repeat » **MLB, Page 21**

NFL



Patrick Mahomes last season led the Chiefs to their first Super Bowl title since 1970.

KYUSUNG GONG/AP

HISTORIC DISPLAY OF HARDWARE

Monday night's game is the first in NFL history to feature two league MVPs under the age of 26. Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes won the honor in 2018, and Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson was last year's recipient.

SOURCE: Associated Press

MAGIC SHOW

Chiefs and Mahomes meet Ravens and Jackson in enticing MNF showdown

By DAVID GINSBURG
Associated Press

It's the defending Super Bowl champions against a team that's won 14 consecutive regular-season games.

Or maybe it's a preview of the AFC title game — a matchup many expected to see last January. Most of all, the intrigue surrounding Monday night's game between the Kansas City Chiefs (2-0) and Baltimore Ravens (2-0) is directed at the quarterbacks: 2018 NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes and 2019 MVP Lamar Jackson.

"When those two quarterbacks are on the field, it's magic on both sides," Ravens cornerback Marlon Humphrey said. "I see every week what Lamar can do, and I always see some highlight or something of what Mahomes can do. So, when you have two superstar quarterbacks like that, it's going to be a fun game."

SEE MAGIC ON PAGE 19



Lamar Jackson led the Ravens to a 14-2 regular-season record last season and rushed for 1,206 yards, the most ever by a quarterback.

JULIO CORTES/AP

No. 3 Oklahoma upset by K-State, No. 6 LSU gets Air Raided by The Pirate » **College football, Page 23**

Lakers reach NBA Finals for 1st time since 2010 » **Page 22**

