

MLB
Depth shows up for Cardinals during 16-game win streak
Page 24



NATION
GOP blocks bill to avoid shutdown; Dems to try again
Page 9



FACES
New this week: Jon Stewart returns, 'Sopranos' prequel
Page 18

North Korea test-fires another unidentified projectile into sea » Page 4

STARS AND STRIPES

stars and stripes.com

Volume 80 Edition 118 ©SS 2021 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

平成12年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

AFGHANISTAN



SARAHBETH MANEY/AP

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin arrives for a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and plans for future counterterrorism operations Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Austin defends Kabul airlift execution

Pentagon chief says noncombatant evacuation planned in months before chaotic mission

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon began planning for the possibility of a noncombatant evacuation from Afghanistan “as far back as this spring,” Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

The evacuation mission, which began Aug. 13 — just two days before the Taliban captured Afghanistan’s capital of Kabul, was numerically a success with more than 124,000 Americans and U.S. allies, including Afghans, evacuated from the country before the last U.S. troops left the country Aug. 30, Austin said.



Milley wanted to keep troops in Afghanistan
Page 5

“It was the largest airlift conducted in U.S. history, and it was executed in just 17 days,” Austin said. “Was it perfect? Of course not. We moved so many people so quickly out of Kabul that we ran into capacity and screening prob-

lems at intermediate staging bases outside of Afghanistan.”

However, congressional lawmakers have criticized its execution, which Austin said in its first days saw “several” desperate Afghans clinging to the sides of military aircraft at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul and falling to their deaths. In the evacuation’s final days, 13 troops died when Islamic State terrorists detonated an explosive vest and fired into the crowds at the airport’s Abbey gate on Aug. 26.

“To be clear, those first two days were diffi-

SEE AUSTIN ON PAGE 5

Marine of viral video fame now in the brig

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A Marine officer whose video calling out senior military and civilian leaders over the American withdrawal from Afghanistan created an online sensation has landed in the brig after violating a gag order.

Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller Jr. is in pretrial confinement at Camp Lejeune, N.C., said Capt. Sam Stephenson, a spokesman for the service’s Training and Education Command. He’s being held pending an Article 32 hearing, the military equivalent of a grand jury proceeding.



Scheller

Scheller has not been charged, Stephenson said in an email, but “the general nature of the offenses” the hearing will consider are contempt toward officials, willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, failure to obey lawful general orders and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

In Facebook and LinkedIn posts Saturday, Scheller appeared to quote from the text of a gag order imposed by the Marine Corps, stating that he was “hereby ordered to refrain from posting any and all material, in any form without exception, to any social media,” including through proxies or third parties.

Scheller, who suggested he’s been advised that he faces felony charges that could “ruin your whole life,” went on to critique former Presidents Donald Trump and Barack Obama, as well as a

SEE MARINE ON PAGE 3

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Ford to add jobs making electric cars, batteries

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ky. — Ford and a partner company said they plan to build three major electric-vehicle battery factories and an auto assembly plant by 2025 — a dramatic investment in the future of EV technology that will create an estimated 10,800 jobs and shift the automaker's future manufacturing footprint toward the South.

The factories, to be built on sites in Kentucky and Tennessee, will make batteries for the next generation of Ford and Lincoln electric

vehicles that will be produced in North America. Combined, they mark the single largest manufacturing investment the 118-year-old company has ever made and are among the largest factory outlays in the world.

Notably, the new factories will provide a vast new supply of jobs that will likely pay solid wages. Most of the new jobs will be full time, with a relatively small percentage having temporary status to fill in for vacations and absent workers.

Together with its battery partner, SK Innovation of South Korea, Ford said it will spend \$5.6 billion in rural Stanton, Tenn., where it will build a factory to produce electric F-Series pickups. A joint venture called BlueOvalSK will construct a battery factory on the same site near Memphis, plus twin battery plants in Glendale, Ky., near Louisville. Ford estimated the Kentucky investment at \$5.8 billion and that the company's share of the total would be \$7 billion.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		South Korea (Won)	
Euro costs (Sept. 29)	\$1.14	Switzerland (Franc)	1,188.35
Dollar buys (Sept. 29)	0.8346	Thailand (Baht)	33.85
British pound (Sept. 29)	\$1.33	Turkey (New Lira)	8.8755
Japanese yen (Sept. 29)	108.00		
South Korean won (Sept. 29)	1,152.00		
Commercial rates		(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.)	
Bahrain (Dinar)	.3769	INTEREST RATES	
Britain (Pound)	1.3546	Prime rate	3.25
Canada (Dollar)	1.2675	Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
China (Yuan)	6.4611	Federal funds market rate	0.09
Denmark (Krone)	6.3663	3-month bill	0.04
Egypt (Pound)	15.7180	30-year bond	1.99
Euro	.8561		
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7834		
Hungary (Forint)	307.98		
Israel (Shekel)	3.2134		
Japan (Yen)	111.54		
Kuwait (Dinar)	.3015		
Norway (Krone)	8.6371		
Philippines (Peso)	51.15		
Poland (Zloty)	3.97		
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7512		
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3579		

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 11
- Classified 13
- Comics 16
- Crossword 16
- Faces 18
- Opinion 14
- Sports 19-24

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

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

MIDDLE EAST

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

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING
 PacificAdvertising@stripes.com | +81 (42) 552.2511
 DSN: 315.227.7310

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

Also available on mobile apps for Android and iOS.

STARS AND STRIPES
 Mobile • Online • Print

MILITARY

Milley defends calls to general in China

BY COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

Army Gen. Mark Milley on Tuesday told senators that he never attempted to “usurp authority” from President Donald Trump during the final months of his presidency, labeling calls with China’s top general as needed to calm fears of an imminent U.S. attack.

“I am certain that President Trump did not intend to attack the Chinese, and it was my direct responsibility [from] the [defense] secretary to convey that intent to the Chinese,” the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told the Senate Armed Services Committee, addressing allegations raised in the new book “Peril.” “My task at that time was to de-escalate. My message, again, was consistent: ‘Stay calm, steady and de-escalate. We are not going to attack you.’”

Bob Woodward and Robert Costa first reported in their book the calls on Oct. 30 and Jan. 8 between Milley and his Chinese counterpart Gen. Li Zuocheng. The Washington Post journalists wrote Milley assured Li that he would warn him ahead of time if Trump decided to attack China. The authors also claimed Milley took other steps — some potentially illegal — to work around Trump after his Nov. 20 election loss, and the general agreed with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., that Trump was “crazy.”

Milley admitted Tuesday that he spoke with Woodward before the book’s publication. He told senators that he had not read the book, however, and could not comment on the accuracy of its portrayal of his actions.

Some Republicans, including Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, have cited the book’s contents in recent calls for Milley’s removal from his position. President Joe Biden has said he remains confident in Mil-



SARAHBETH MANEY, THE NEW YORK TIMES/AP

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley listens during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on the conclusion of military operations in Afghanistan and plans for future counterterrorism operations Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

ley and had no intention of firing the general, who became chairman of the Joint Chiefs in 2019 when he was hand-picked by Trump against the recommendations of his former defense secretary Jim Mattis.

In a statement after the book’s contents were reported, Trump called Milley a “dumbass” and suggested he had committed treason if the reporting was accurate.

Milley’s appearance Tuesday on Capitol Hill was the first time that the general offered an extended defense of his actions in Trump’s final months in the White House. He testified alongside Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in the hearing to examine the chaotic withdrawal of American forces from Afghanistan. Austin was not expected to address the allegations against Milley during the hearing, but a senior defense official said the defense secretary remains confident in his top general.

In Milley’s opening statement, he adamantly denied wrongdoing.

He told senators that he was strongly committed to his oath to uphold the U.S. Constitution and would never undermine presidential authority.

“At no time was I attempting to change or influence the process, usurp authority or insert myself into the chain of command, but I am expected to give my advice and ensure the president is fully informed,” Milley said. “My oath is to support the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic, and I will never turn my back on that oath. I firmly believe in civilian control of the military as a bedrock principle essential to the health of this republic, and I’m committed to ensuring the military stays clear of domestic politics.”

The job of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff was created in 1949 to provide the president and defense secretary a top uniformed adviser who is not within the chain of command. Milley is the 20th

Joint Chiefs chairman and about two years into a four-year term. No Joint Chiefs chairman has ever been fired by a president.

Milley said the two calls in question were properly coordinated with the defense secretaries at the time and included other top Pentagon officials on the call. The general said he briefed then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and then-White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows shortly after the Jan. 9 call.

Milley disputed the allegations that he agreed with Pelosi’s assertion that Trump was “crazy,” but confirmed the House speaker shared concerns about the president and she made “various personal references characterizing the president.”

“I am not qualified to determine the mental health of the president of the United States,” he said Tuesday.

Senators, especially Republicans, were expected to question Milley about his late 2020 and

early 2021 actions during the Senate hearing.

Only two raised the issue during the first round of questioning, however, which lasted more than three hours.

Sen. Rick Scott of Florida did not ask a specific question, instead telling Milley that he hoped the general would discuss the calls “at some point.” Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., asked Milley whether he had spoken with authors of recent books, including Woodward and Costa.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., chairman of the committee, said the hearing would include a second round of questioning Tuesday afternoon.

Milley, who commissioned into the Army after graduating from Princeton University in 1980, served extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a Green Beret who previously served as the Army chief of staff and commanded U.S. troops at every level.

He is also no stranger to controversy. Milley faced criticism last year for accompanying Trump on his infamous walk across Lafayette Square outside the White House amid racial protests. Milley later apologized for appearing during the incident, which he worried undermined the apolitical nature of the U.S. military.

Milley has also faced criticism recently from Republicans for the Pentagon’s efforts to address extremism in the ranks and promote racial equity in the ranks.

He told senators on Tuesday discussions of the intelligence related to the two calls with China would need to be discussed in a classified briefing. He told them that he would provide them “any emails, phone logs, memoranda, witnesses or anything else you need to understand these events.”

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Marine: Officer in video says he is facing felony charges

FROM PAGE 1

number of active and retired generals, including former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

“Please have the MPs waiting for me at 0800 on Monday,” Scheller wrote while addressing his commanding officer. “I’m ready for jail.”

The 17-year infantry officer had already been fired from command of the service’s Advanced Infantry Training Battalion at Camp Lejeune for posting his viral video critique in the wake of the Aug. 26 bombing at Kabul’s international airport. The blast killed 11 Marines, a sailor, a soldier and at least

169 Afghans.

He promised in a follow-up video that he would resign his commission and refuse any benefits.

That video raised concerns because in it, Scheller invited his followers to help him “bring the whole (expletive) system down.” In a later post, he said they’d do so “in a constitutional manner.”

Earlier this month, he posted video and text messages about plans to prefer a dozen charges of dereliction of duty against the head of U.S. Central Command, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie.

Critics have questioned his methods and his mental health,

while supporters have praised him as courageous for sacrificing his military career and retirement for his principles.

His Facebook, LinkedIn and YouTube accounts have gained tens of thousands of followers, and his posts routinely get thousands of likes and hundreds of comments.

At one point, he said that friends, family and legal advisers had told him to stop posting and he even went back on his own promise to take a break from social media.

He was detained Monday after violating the Marine Corps’ order

to stop, his father Stu Scheller Sr., said in a LinkedIn comment co-signed with his wife, Cathy.

Their son’s command “seems to be concerned” about him, but lacks “the tools to support him,” the parents said. They added that “incarceration appears to be their only solution.”

The Pipe Hitter Foundation, an organization run by former Navy SEAL Eddie Gallagher and his wife, began raising funds to back Scheller’s transition out of the military and provide other support, including assistance with “mounting legal expenses,” it said in a statement last week.

The former SEAL, who was court-martialed on war crimes allegations in 2019 and acquitted of most of the charges, appeared Monday on KUSI News in San Diego’s morning program with his wife, Andrea, to discuss their support for Scheller.

“He wants to retire honorably,” said Andrea Gallagher. “It’s the fact that he called the leadership of the military into question, demanded accountability, that he is going to be basically used as a scapegoat.”

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

PACIFIC

N. Korea fires suspected ballistic missile

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

On the same day his country test-fired another missile, North Korea's ambassador to the United Nations accused the United States of more than 70 years of antagonism toward the communist state.

Ambassador Kim Song lambasted the U.S.'s "hostile policy" of stationing troops on the Korean Peninsula and its joint military exercises with South Korea in a speech before the U.N. General Assembly on Monday in New York.

North Korea frequently rails against the deployment of U.S. troops in South Korea and the allies' joint military exercises, which it views as preparation for an invasion of its country. Roughly 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in the South, most of them 40 miles from Seoul at Camp Humphreys.

Kim also made an apparent jab at the U.S. envoy for North Korea, who repeatedly said in recent months that he was willing to meet with his counterparts "any time without preconditions."

"If the U.S. shows its bold deci-

sion to give up its hostile policy, we are also prepared to respond willingly at any time," Kim said. "But it is our judgment that there is no prospect at the present stage for the U.S. to really withdraw its hostile policy towards [North Korea]."

Kim's comments came as North Korea launched what the South believes to be a short-range missile into the sea off its eastern coast on Tuesday. South Korean military officials told reporters the regime had fired the presumptive missile off its eastern coast at 6:40 a.m.

Officials declined to provide additional details Tuesday afternoon but noted U.S. and South Korean intelligence agencies were conducting a "detailed analysis."

U.S. Indo-Pacific Command in a statement said the missile launch did "not pose an immediate threat to U.S. personnel or territory" and that it was indicative of "the destabilizing impact of [North Korea's] illicit weapons program."

South Korean President Moon Jae-in was briefed on the launch and directed the National Security Council to "come up with countermeasures by comprehensively

and closely analyzing recent statements of North Korea and situations in relation to the missile launch," the presidential Blue House said in a statement.

Following a National Security Council meeting on Tuesday morning, the Blue House said in a separate statement that senior officials "expressed regret" that the launch took place at "a very imperative time to have a stable situation on the Korean Peninsula."

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
choi.david@stripes.com
Twitter: @choiboy

Hunter-killer Reaper drones debut in Hawaii

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII — Three Air Force MQ-9 drones have been flying a dozen training sorties a day out of Marine Corps Base Hawaii since the hunter-killer Reapers arrived in the state for the first time ever earlier this month.

The drones are here until Oct. 8 as part of the monthlong Exercise ACE Reaper, and local media were invited to the base's flight line Monday to witness a Reaper take off into the partly cloudy sky.

Two of the Reapers arrived in Hawaii a few weeks ago after roughly 13-hour flights, one from Creech Air Force Base, Nev., the other from Holloman Air Force Base, N.M.

It marked the first time the MQ-9 had been flown to the state from the continental U.S., Col. Ryan Keeney, commander of the 49th Wing at Holloman in New Mexico, told reporters Monday.

The third drone arrived in the usual manner used for long trips: disassembled, crated and hauled in a cargo plane.

Among the goals of the exercise is tailoring the drone's capabilities to fit the Air Force's agile combat employment, or ACE, concept, Keeney said. Similar exercises happened last year in Cali-

fornia.

"Agile combat employment means a lot of things to a lot of different people, and you'll see it defined differently all over," he said.

Applied to MQ-9s specifically, the concept means the ability to use any runway of sufficient length to land, maintain and re-launch Reapers as rapidly as possible with a minimum number of people, Keeney said.

The Hawaii exercise is the chance to continue finding ways to reduce the amount of equipment and personnel needed for recovery and launch as the Air Force adapts the MQ-9 for the ACE concept in the vast Pacific. ACE is a response to China's emerging military ambitions in the Indo-Pacific.

"The MQ-9, for a long time, has been the most requested asset in [Central Command's] Middle East theater of operations," Keeney said. They have been operating out of large, fixed bases that have changed little over the years, he said.

"We know that as we start moving away from the Middle East that we're going to be required to be in many different places on a rapid timeline," he said. "How do we go from setting up a base in weeks, to days, to hours?" he said.

The Air Force announced in Ju-



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Technicians prepare an Air Force MQ-9 Reaper drone for take-off Monday at Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

ly that it had successfully tested automatic takeoff and landing for the MQ-9. That new capability allows an aircrew to land the drone anywhere via satellite, whereas before the aircraft could land only at the airfield of operation.

The new auto feature is "kind of a game-changer" for reducing the footprint of recovery and launch, Lt. Col. Jaime Olivares, commander of 9th Attack Squadron, told reporters Monday. The squadron is a training unit for drone pilots and sensor operators at Holloman.

"What we've been doing here specifically is taking a five-person team to watch an aircraft when it

comes back and lands, service it, and take it off," Olivares said. "So, our goal was to do that in less than an hour, and we've exceeded that greatly."

About half the sorties have been over the sea, while many others are over the Pohakuloa Training Area on the big island of Hawaii. The training scenarios simulate the types of weapons Reapers could potentially carry, which include laser-guided missiles. No live weapons are being used.

Once the drones have been launched in Hawaii, airmen who are being trained at Holloman and Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D., take over flying them during each

sortie, Keeney said.

The exercise is also a chance for aviators at the Marine Corps Base Hawaii's air station to familiarize themselves with the drones before they get their own.

The base is slated to receive six Reapers beginning in 2023 after completion of an environmental impact study.

"This is a good opportunity for us to expose them to the 20-plus years that we've had working on MQ-9s and how they can set up their base to succeed as they get them in the future," Keeney said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWilson

China condemns UK warship's 'insidious' trip through Taiwan Strait

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

Beijing has condemned the Royal Navy's first trip through the Taiwan Strait in more than a decade as a "meaningless display," according to Chinese media.

The HMS Richmond, part of the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth's strike group, steamed through the contentious, 110-mile-wide waterway Monday on its way to

rendezvous with the Vietnamese navy. The ship's presence in the region provoked accusations of belligerence from China.

Beijing dispatched vessels and aircraft to "track and monitor the British warship" through the Taiwan Strait, according to a Monday report in China Military Online, the official news site of the People's Liberation Army.

Such "ill-intentioned behavior un-

dermines peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and fully exposes its speculative mentality," the report quoted Senior Col. Shi Yi, spokesman for the army's Eastern Theater Command, as saying.

The state-sponsored China Daily newspaper also quoted Shi: "The U.K. is carrying out a meaningless display of presence with an insidious intention."

The Chinese government similarly

condemns the passage of U.S. Navy warships through politically sensitive waterway that separates Taiwan from mainland China. Although the strait is considered international waters, China views the presence of foreign warships there as a provocation.

Beijing considers democratic Taiwan a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, possibly by force.

The United Kingdom denied the

Richmond's passage was intended to provoke enmity from Beijing.

In a statement mirroring the typical U.S. Navy response to such criticism from China, an unnamed Ministry of Defence spokesperson told Stars and Stripes in an email Monday that the transit was "in compliance with international law."

wilson.alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexMNVilson

AFGHANISTAN

Milley, McKenzie opposed troop withdrawal

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Gens. Mark Milley and Frank McKenzie were against withdrawing all troops from Afghanistan for fear the country would fall to the Taliban, the Joint Staff chief and head of U.S. Central Command told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday.

Though they personally believed about 2,500 troops should remain in Afghanistan to prevent the fall of the Afghan government, Milley and McKenzie declined to tell senators whether they advised President Joe Biden to keep troops there before he made the April decision to completely withdraw from the country.

However, McKenzie said it would be “reasonable for the committee to assume” that Biden was informed of the generals’ opinion.

That’s counter to Biden’s claim that no military advisers warned against withdrawing from Afghanistan in an Aug. 18 interview with ABC News.

“No one said that to me that I can recall,” Biden told ABC News when asked whether he was advised to keep 2,500 troops on the ground.

Republican legislators, including Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo. expressed outrage that Biden reportedly decided against advice not to withdraw from Afghanistan, calling the hearings’ revelations



PATRICK SEMANSKY / AP

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley arrives before a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Tuesday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

“extraordinary.”

“The president of the United States lied to the American people about the advice that you gave him about the military judgment that you provided him,” Hawley said.

Milley said he’d been against withdrawing from Afghanistan since last fall when then-President Donald Trump considered ending the war before his presidential term expired. Trump on

Nov. 11 issued an order to withdraw from Afghanistan “no later than Jan. 15, 2021,” Milley said, but Trump rescinded the order two days later “after further discussions regarding the risks associated with such a withdrawal.”

“My analysis was that an accelerated withdrawal, without meeting specific and necessary conditions, risks losing the substantial gains made in Afghanistan [and]

damaging U.S. worldwide credibility,” McKenzie said.

While not admitting to counseling Biden against the withdrawal, Milley said it is the president’s prerogative to decide whether to adhere to military leaders’ advice. When asked why he didn’t resign after his wishes were ignored, Milley said it would have been “an incredible act of political defiance for a commissioned officer to just

resign because my advice is not taken.”

“This country doesn’t want generals figuring out what orders we’re going to accept and do or not; that’s not our job,” Milley said. “[Civilians] having control of the military is absolute — it’s critical to this republic.”

But Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said keeping U.S. service members in Afghanistan for another year would not have meant peace for the country as Trump had earlier agreed to withdraw from the country by May 1.

“If you stay there at a force posture of 2,500, certainly you’d be in a fight with the Taliban and you’d have to reinforce yourself,” Austin told senators. “This was not risk-free and the Taliban ... were committed to recommencing their operations against our forces [had we not left].”

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., said the withdrawal was “long overdue” and “was conducted in accordance with the advice of his military advisers who planned and executed every step of this withdrawal”

“One more year of propping up a corrupt government and an army that wouldn’t fight on its own was not going to give us a different outcome,” Warren said.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

Austin: Senator calls leaving Americans behind ‘the unthinkable’

FROM PAGE 1

cult,” Austin said. “We all watched with alarm the images of Afghans rushing the runway and our aircraft. We all remember the scenes of confusion outside the airport.”

Austin also explained how difficult conditions on the ground were for the troops assisting with the evacuation, noting “in the span of just two days — from Aug. 13 to 15 — we went from working alongside a democratically elected, longtime partner government to

coordinating warily with a long-time enemy.”

“Noncombatant evacuations remain among the most challenging military operations, even in the best of circumstances. And the circumstances in August were anything but ideal. Extreme heat,” Austin said. “A land-locked country. No government. A highly dynamic situation on the ground. And an active, credible, and lethal terrorist threat.”

Still, Austin said the forces were ready for the mission because he

had ordered in mid-May that U.S. Central Command, which oversees operations in the Middle East region, make preparations for a potential noncombatant evacuation.

“Two weeks later, I began prepositioning forces in the region, to include three infantry battalions,” he said. “On the 10th of August, we ran another table-top exercise around a noncombatant evacuation scenario. We wanted to be ready. And we were.”

However, Austin admitted the

military was unable to evacuate everyone, saying the government is “still working to get Americans out who wish to leave.”

When U.S. forces left Afghanistan, between 100 and 200 Americans who wanted to leave remained in the country, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at the time.

Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okla., said the military at President Joe Biden’s command “did the unthinkable” by leaving Americans behind.

“The American people deserve answers about how this avoidable disaster happened,” he said. “Why were Americans left behind?”

Though there are no longer U.S. forces on the ground in Afghanistan, Austin said the evacuation part of the mission “is not over.”

“We did not get out all of our Afghan allies enrolled in the special immigrant visa program. We take that very seriously,” he said. “That is why we are working across the interagency to continue facilitating their departure.”

Army: Soldier assaulted by refugees escaped with minor injuries

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

A soldier reported that she was assaulted by a small group of Afghan refugees at a shelter complex set up for the refugees in New Mexico, Fort Bliss officials said.

A Fort Bliss statement said the assault happened Sept. 19 at the Fort Bliss Doña Ana County Range Complex about 40 miles north of El Paso, Texas.

“We take the allegation seri-

ously and appropriately referred the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation,” said a Fort Bliss statement.

The soldier was reporting for her shift around midnight when three to four men attacked her, according to a U.S. Defense Department official.

She had minor physical injuries and was able to get away. She was not sexually assaulted, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an

ongoing investigation.

The official said that soldiers on duty operate with a buddy system, but the female soldier was just arriving and had not yet linked up with her buddy for the shift.

The official said that no one had yet been charged and that the FBI was investigating. It was unclear if law enforcement had identified the attackers.

The Fort Bliss statement said the woman was immediately provided “appropriate care, counsel-

ing and support” and that security measures at the complex were being strengthened.

U.S. Rep. Yvette Herrell, the New Mexico Republican representing the district where the complex is situated, said her staff was also investigating.

The U.S. government erected the complex in late August and early September to house thousands of Afghan refugees from the Taliban.

According to the Fort Bliss

statement, all Afghan nationals are subjected to “a multi-layer screening and vetting process” before being admitted to the United States.

The process “involves biometric and biographic screenings conducted by intelligence, law enforcement, and counterterrorism professionals” from the Department of Homeland Security, FBI, the National Counterterrorism Center and other intelligence community resources.

AFGHANISTAN

Where women took shelter from abuse, Taliban in control

By KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — When the Taliban seized power, the operator of the only women's shelter in a northern Afghan city ran away. Left abandoned were 20 women who had fled a variety of domestic horrors, some abused by husbands or family, others forced into early marriages with older men.

Soon after, the Taliban arrived at the shelter in the city of Pul-e-Kumri.

They gave the women two options: Return to their abusive families — some of whom had threatened them with death for leaving — or go with the Taliban, recalled one of the women, Salima, who asked only that her first name be used.

Most of the women chose to return home, fearing the Taliban more than their families. Salima said she knew of at least one who was since killed, likely by an angry family member.

But Salima decided to leave with the Taliban. She didn't know what they would do, but she had nowhere else to go, having fled her abusive, drug-addicted husband months earlier. Now she finds herself housed in a prison — but protected and safe, she said.

Whether under Taliban rule or not, women in Afghanistan's deeply conservative and often tribal society are often subject to archaic codes of behavior that hold them responsible for the honor of their families. They can be killed for simply marrying a man of their choice. They are often married at puberty. Fleeing even an abusive husband is considered shameful. Hundreds of women are jailed for so-called "morality crimes," including adultery or running away from home, even though they are not officially crimes under the Af-

ghan penal code.

Over the past two decades, activists set up dozens of women's shelters around Afghanistan. But even before the Taliban takeover, conservative Afghans, including government officials, viewed them with suspicion, as places that help women and girls defy their families or abet "moral crimes."

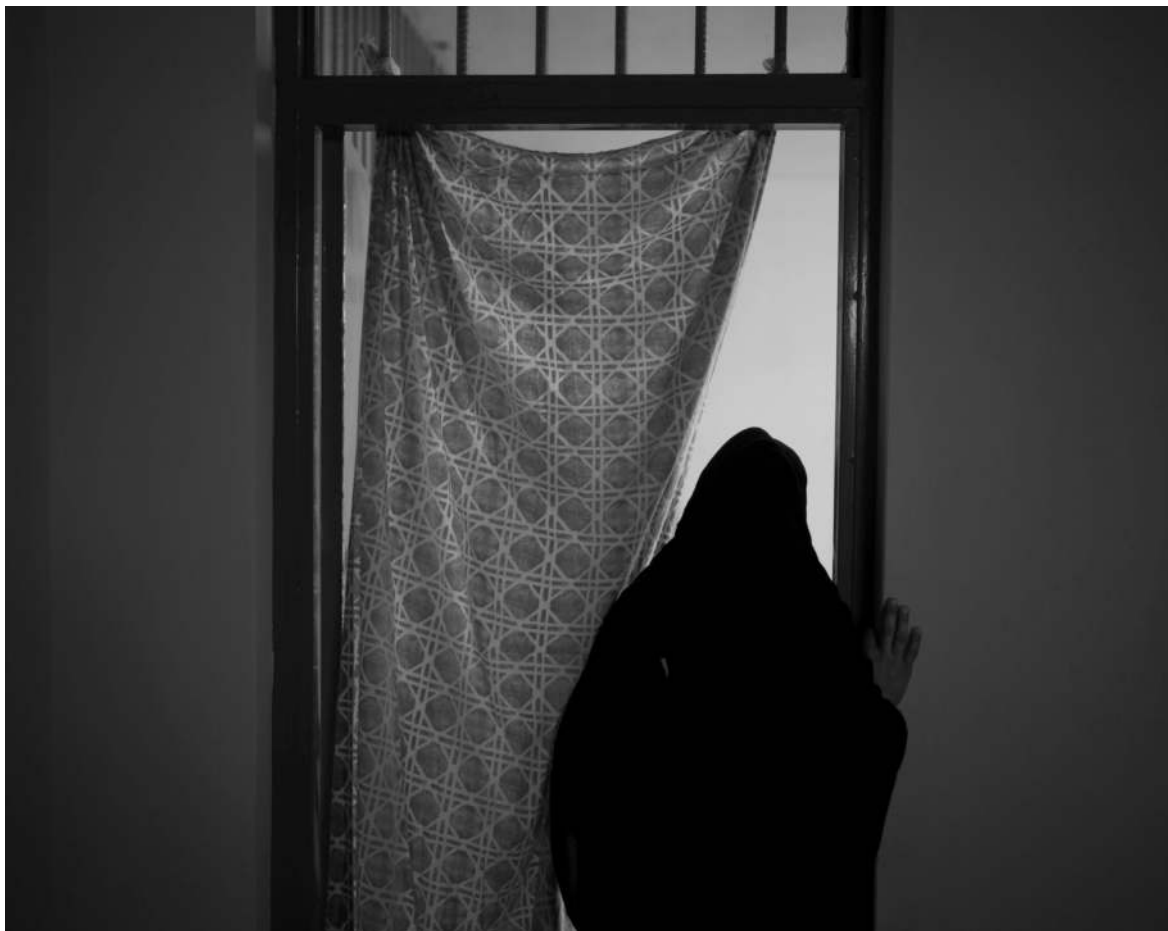
Women's shelters are just one of a myriad of social changes that became more prevalent in the past 20 years or didn't even exist when the Taliban last took power in 1996 — everything from social media and the internet to businesswomen and women judges. Now since overrunning Kabul and sweeping into power on Aug. 15, the hard-line militant group is wrestling with how to deal with the changes, with the Taliban leadership at times uncertain and fighters on the ground acting on their own.

Salima was taken to Kabul, along with another woman, Razia, who had lived in the shelter nearly a year after fleeing a predatory brother-in-law.

With nowhere to put them, the Taliban put them in the abandoned women's section of Afghanistan's main prison, called Pul-e-Charkhi. The prison was empty because when the Taliban took over Kabul, they freed all the inmates, including thousands of men, 760 women and more than 100 children, according to the prison's new Taliban administrator, Mullah Abdullah Akhund.

The Associated Press was given rare access to the women in the prison. Now there are only six women there, including Salima and Razia.

A massive steel gate leads to the women's prison. Rolls of barbed wire are strung atop the 20-foot-high walls. Inside, the women move freely with their children.



FELIPE DANA/AP

An Afghan woman walks out of a cell inside the women's section of the Pul-e-Charkhi prison last week in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Salima's 5-year-old daughter Maria and son Mohammad, 6, spend most of their day in a main, large, carpeted room. There is no school and just a giant red teddy bear and a few small toys for their amusement.

"We mostly pray and read the Quran all day," said Salima.

Salima said that she has no idea what the future holds, but for the present, with no money and no family, she said she feels safe here.

But Mujdha, another woman in the prison, said she wants her freedom. She had been pregnant by a boyfriend but her family refused to let her marry him, and instead forced her to marry a relative. She ran away. "I told them I would never stay with him" she said. The family reported her to the Taliban, who arrested her and her boyfriend.

Mujdha gave birth in prison to a baby daughter 15 days ago, soon after her arrest. She hasn't seen her boyfriend, jailed elsewhere in the prison, and he has yet to meet

his infant daughter.

"I want to leave, but they say I can't," she said.

Akhund said a court will decide whether to charge her, adding, "It is wrong that she left her husband. She has no right."

Since taking power, the Taliban's response to women's shelters has varied. In the western city of Herat, several have been shut down, said Suraya Pakzad, a women's rights activist from Herat who opened several shelters.

Pakzad said Friday in text messages from a place in hiding that she faces threats from all sides — from the Taliban and from the families of the women who found refuge in her shelters.

For the past several years, Pakzad and other women pressed for a voice in the negotiations between the U.S.-backed government of the time and the advancing Taliban. They hoped to ensure rights for women in any final arrangement. Now, in one fell swoop, they are scrambling for their own safety.

Pakzad shared an arrest warrant for her and seven other activists and journalists from western Afghanistan, issued by the new Taliban police chief in Herat. The warrant accuses the eight of "spreading propaganda against the Islamic Emirate" and accuses Pakzad of "involvement with Western countries to spread prostitution."

But Mahboba Suraj, who runs a shelter for 30 women in Kabul, said the Taliban have come and investigated the shelter and let the women remain there unharmed. She said she was visited by various departments of the new Taliban government, including senior officials.

"The higher ups were absolutely the best. They want to protect us ... and understand that they have problems within their own people" who may not be as supportive of women's shelters, she said.

For now, "they want to have protection for us," she said. "Thank God, I do believe that. I honestly do."

Taliban issue no-shave order to barbers in southern province

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban banned barbershops in a southern Afghanistan province from shaving or trimming beards, claiming their edict is in line with Shariah, or Islamic, law.

The order in Helmand province was issued Monday by the provincial Taliban government's vice and virtue department to barbers in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.

"Since I have heard (about the ban on trimming beards) I am

heartbroken," said Bilal Ahmad, a Lashkar Gah resident. "This is the city and everyone follows a way of living, so they have to be left alone to do whatever they want."

During their previous rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban adhered to a harsh interpretation of Islam. Since overrunning Kabul on Aug. 15 and again taking control of the country, the world has been watching to see whether they will re-create their strict governance of the late 1990s.

Some indication came on Satur-

day, when Taliban fighters killed four alleged kidnappers and later hung their bodies in the public squares of the western city of Herat.

"If anyone violates the rule, (they) will be punished and no one has a right to complain," said the order issued to the barbers. It wasn't immediately clear what penalties the barbers could face if they don't adhere to the no shaving or trimming rule.

During the Taliban's previous

rule, the conservative Islamists demanded that men grow beards. Since being ousted from power following the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, many men have opted for no or cleanly trimmed beards.

Barbershop owner Jalaluddin, who, like many Afghans, goes by one name, said he hoped the Taliban would reconsider their demands.

"I request our Taliban brothers to give freedom to people to live the way they want, if they want to trim

their beard or hair," he said. "Now we have few clients coming to us, they are scared, they don't want to trim their hair or beards, so I request them let people free, so we have our business and people can freely come to us."

Another barbershop owner, Sher Afzal, also said the decree hurts the bottom line. "If someone comes for a haircut, they will come back to us after 40 to 45 days, so it is affecting our business like any other businesses," he said.

NATION

All hands on deck in Montana after derailment

By AMY BETH HANSON
Associated Press

CHESTER, Mont. — Trevor Fossen was running late for a wedding Saturday afternoon when he turned onto a dusty, gravel road in rural Montana as a westbound train approached the crossing in front of him.

The train never made it to the crossing. The next thing Fossen saw was a wall of dust fill the sky.

“I started looking at that, wondering what it was, and then I saw the train had tipped over and derailed,” said Fossen, a 29-year-old farmer.

It was an Amtrak Empire Builder en route from Chicago to Seattle that had derailed, killing three people and injuring dozens of others. Investigators still don’t know what caused the crash.

Fossen called 911, setting off a chain reaction of help from residents in the nearby towns of Joplin and Chester as people jumped into action to get people off the train, care for injured passengers and those who were stunned and had suffered bumps, bruises and other less serious injuries.

The regional response of volunteer emergency responders, firefighters, law enforcement, medical providers and regular citizens all working together to help those whose trip was so suddenly and violently interrupted embodied the spirit of a rural part of Montana near the Canadian border.

Fossen said he started to help first responders get a handful of people out of a train car that was leaning, then moved back to three cars that were detached from the train and were laying on their sides. He and



TED S. WARREN/AP

An Amtrak train at left moves past a rail-equipped truck hauling several railcars filled with gravel for track rebuilding and repair Monday near Joplin, Mont., where an Amtrak train derailed Saturday, killing three people and injuring others.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Ricky Maan looks at shelves displaying first-aid items, Monday in the grocery store his family owns in Chester, Mont., near the scene where an Amtrak train derailed Saturday, killing three people and injuring others.

others helped get a badly injured woman out of a car. Others helped unload the baggage car near the front of the train.

The three who didn’t survive were identified as Donald Varnadoe, 74, and Marjorie Varnadoe, 72, a married couple from Georgia; and

Zachariah Schneider, a 29-year-old from Illinois. All were pronounced dead at the scene, the Liberty County Sheriff’s Office said.

Dale Fossen, Trevor’s uncle, farms nearby and arrived at the scene shortly after the crash. The 75-year-old amateur photographer said he wasn’t sure what he could do to help, but he observed the chaotic scene and took some pictures with his cellphone.

“There’s a lot of people standing around. Some of them are sitting, some of them are holding parts of their body like an arm or a head. People saying that they hurt really bad,” he said.

Meanwhile, Liberty Medical Center in Chester called in all of its staff — including housekeeping — and most responded, said Bev Halter, director of human resources. They triaged 31 patients Saturday evening.

“We may be a small Critical Access Hospital in a remote location, but we were able to show the size of our commitment to being here for those in need,” Halter said in a statement. “We are so thankful for this facility, our employees and the community who pulled together to provide the best response and care possible.”

Those who were seriously injured were taken by ambulance or air ambulance to other hospitals in the region who had called and offered their help, said Sarah Robbin, the Disaster and Emergency Services coordinator for Liberty County.

Those who were not seriously injured were loaded onto school buses and the senior citizen bus and taken to a school gym and community center in Chester, where residents helped them charge their cell-phones to call families and health care workers evaluated them for injuries. Some were able to take showers and the passengers were offered something to eat.

Ricky Maan, owner of the Chester Supermarket, said he provided water, ice and made some pizzas and allowed residents to take whatever else was needed for the passengers, including napkins, wipes and bandages.

“I told my cashier, don’t charge them,” said Maan, whose family bought the grocery store five years ago. “We can help those people who already hurt.”

He added: “We like to help all the time. This is our community ... We used to live in a big city, we never see like this. But in small town, everybody is like, once something happens, is all together.”

Maryland newspaper gunman gets more than 5 life prison terms

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A man who killed five people at a newspaper in Maryland was sentenced on Tuesday to more than five life sentences without the possibility of parole.

Anne Arundel County Judge Michael Wachs ordered the sentence for Jarrod Ramos, whom a jury previously found criminally responsible for killing Wendi Winters, John McNamara, Gerald Fischman, Rob Hiaasen and Rebecca Smith with a shotgun at the

Capital Gazette’s office in June 2018.

Ramos had pleaded guilty but not criminally responsible to all 23 counts against him in 2019, using Maryland’s version of an insanity defense. The case was delayed several times before and during the coronavirus pandemic.

Before announcing the sentence, the judge noted that Ramos showed no remorse for the crimes and even told a state psychiatrist he would kill more if he were ever released.

“The impact of this case is just simply immense,” Wachs said. “To say that the defendant exhibited a callous and complete disregard for the sanctity of human life is simply a huge understatement.”

Ramos, who sat in court wearing a black mask, declined to make a statement in court when asked by his attorney, Katy O’Donnell.

Also prior to the sentencing, survivors of the shooting and relatives of the five victims who died in the attack described the pain and loss they have experienced.

Montana Winters Geimer, daughter of shooting victim Wendi Winters, testified how her mother “woke up one morning, went to work and never came back.”

“The day she died was the worst day of my life,” Geimer told Wachs. “The hours spent not knowing if she was alive or dead have lived in my nightmares ever since.”

After a 12-day trial in July, a jury took less than two hours to reject arguments from Ramos’ at-

torneys that he could not understand the criminality of his actions.

Prosecutors contend Ramos, 41, acted out of revenge against the newspaper after it published a story about his guilty plea to a misdemeanor charge of harassing a former high school classmate in 2011. Prosecutors said his long, meticulous planning for the attack — which included preparations for his arrest and long incarceration — proved he understood the criminality of his actions.

NEW TO THE PACIFIC?

Contact CustomerHelp@stripes.com to get your free copy of Welcome to the Pacific magazine!

STARS AND STRIPES

Digital edition also available. Download online.



VIRUS OUTBREAK

Japan to lift emergency in 19 prefectures

By JOSEPH DITZLER

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — With the worst phase of its coronavirus pandemic now a recent memory, Japan is moving to restore dining and alcohol sales, according to Japanese media Tuesday.

Tokyo, the capital city, reported 248 new coronavirus infections on Tuesday, continuing a trend of declining case numbers, according to public broadcaster NHK. The number of seriously ill in the city of 13.9 million fell to 117.

The national government is ready to lift a state of emergency in 19 prefectures, including Tokyo

and other large cities, when it expires Thursday.

Along with the emergency's end, the measure to close bars and restaurants between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. will be lifted in phases in the affected prefectures, the Mainichi newspaper reported. Under the emergency, those establishments were incentivized to close early and to curtail alcohol sales. Businesses overall were encouraged to promote telework and employees to reduce their commutes.

One U.S. military installation in Japan, Yokosuka Naval Base south of Tokyo, reported three

new infections, according to a news release Tuesday. One unimmunized and two immunized individuals tested positive after falling ill with symptoms of COVID-19, the coronavirus respiratory disease, since Friday, according to a base news release. The base is monitoring six patients.

U.S. Forces Japan on Friday reported fewer than 160 cases of COVID-19 on all 15 U.S. bases. Eight installations on Okinawa accounted for nearly 100 of them.

Okinawa prefecture, where the III Marine Expeditionary Force is headquartered, reported another

57 new coronavirus cases and five deaths Tuesday, according to the prefectural Department of Public Health and Medical Care.

Gov. Denny Tamaki at a news conference Sunday said the prefecture would proceed carefully to lift restrictions once the public health emergency expires. The prefecture has experienced the highest number of new cases, per 100,000 population, in the nation, according to the public health department.

"Regardless of what government decides, it will be an important phase for Okinawa," Tamaki said. "And whether or not we

could thoroughly implement the infection control measures and keep the decreasing trend will decide the future for Okinawa that has been under the strict measures for a long time."

Japan on Monday reported 2,134 new coronavirus infections and 21 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. More than half, 57.4%, of Japan's population, or 72.5 million people, are fully vaccinated.

Stars and Stripes reported Mari Higa contributed to this report.
ditzler.joseph@stripes.com
Twitter: @JosephDitzler

Hospitals fear drop in staffing as vaccine deadlines loom

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH AND TAMMY WEBBER

Associated Press

Hospitals and nursing homes around the U.S. are bracing for worsening staff shortages as state deadlines arrive for health care workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

With ultimatums taking effect this week in states like New York, California, Rhode Island and Connecticut, the fear is that some employees will quit or let themselves be fired or suspended rather than get the vaccine.

"How this is going to play out, we don't know. We are concerned about how it will exacerbate an already quite serious staffing problem," said California Hospital Association spokesperson Jan Emerson-Shea, adding that the organization "absolutely" supports the state's vaccination requirement.

New York health care employees had until the end of the day Monday to get at least one dose, but some hospitals had already begun suspending or otherwise taking action against holdouts.

Erie County Medical Center Corp. in Buffalo said about 5% of its hospital workforce has been put on unpaid leave for not being vaccinated, along with 20% of staff at its nursing home. And the state's largest health care provider, Northwell Health, said it has begun removing unvaccinated workers from its system, though it said its workforce is nearly 100% vaccinated.

"To those who have not yet made that decision, please do the right thing," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said.

Some New York hospitals prepared contingency plans that included cutting back on noncritical services and limiting nursing home admissions. The governor also drew up plans to summon help from National Guard members with medical training, retirees or vaccinated workers from outside the state.

About a dozen states have vacci-



STEVE MELLON, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/AP

Arthur Sudduth prepares to receive a COVID-19 booster shot from registered nurse Darlene Klacik at Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh on Thursday. U.S. hospitals are bracing for worsening staff shortages as state deadlines arrive for health care workers to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

nation mandates covering health care workers in hospitals, long-term care facilities or both. Some allow exemptions on medical or religious grounds, but those employees often must submit to regular COVID-19 testing.

States that have set such requirements tend to have high vaccination rates already. The highest rates are concentrated in the Northeast, the lowest ones in the South and Midwest.

The Biden administration also will require the roughly 17 million workers at health facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid to be fully vaccinated under a rule still being developed.

That has worried some hospital officials, particularly in rural communities where vaccination rates tend to be lower.

"We are looking at the need to reallocate staff, in some cases just to maintain services that are essential, and there are going to be some de-

lays" in care, said Troy Bruntz, president and CEO at Community Hospital in McCook, Neb.

He said 25 of the hospital's 330 employees said they would definitely resign if they were required to be vaccinated. The remainder of the approximately 100 unvaccinated employees — a group that includes nurses as well as cleaning and maintenance staff — haven't decided.

He also worries that it will be difficult to hire new workers when the hospital is already short-handed.

"It doesn't make us feel too confident that this isn't going to turn into something short of a nightmare for American health care," he said.

Many hospitals and nursing homes are already suffering staff shortages because many nurses and others have quit as a result of pandemic-related burnout or have left for lucrative jobs traveling from state to state.

White House press secretary Jen

Psaki noted that hospitals in Houston and Maine lost a relatively small number of employees recently after requiring employees to get vaccinated.

"We're seeing in a lot of places that this is working, it's effective. It's creating more certainty and protection in their workforces," Psaki said.

In California, where health care workers have until Thursday to get fully vaccinated, some hospitals are anticipating firings, suspensions or the moving of people to other positions, Emerson-Shea said. She said many traveling nurses have declined assignments in California because of the state's vaccine requirement.

But with a statewide mandate, health workers won't be able to just quit their jobs and go to other hospitals, said Dr. Jeff Smith, CEO and executive vice president of hospital operations at Los Angeles-based Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

He expects that about 97% of Cedars-Sinai's almost 17,000 employees affected by the vaccine mandate will comply by the deadline. Another 1% have applied for medical or religious exemptions. Those who don't comply by Friday will be suspended for a week, and fired on Oct. 8 if they don't comply or if there are not extenuating circumstances, he said.

The hospital also was able to hire over 100 nurses in the past month and uses some travel nurses.

"We're in a good place but don't want to minimize the challenges other hospitals are likely facing," Smith said.

In states that don't have mandates, some hospitals are imposing their own.

Ginger Robertson, a registered nurse who works in a mental health clinic at a hospital in Bismarck, N.D., has requested a religious exemption from her hospital's vaccination requirement. She said she will look for other work if she doesn't get it.

"Honestly, I really love my job. I am good at it. I enjoy my patients. I enjoy where I am at," she said. "So this is a really hard place, to have to choose between two things I don't want to do. I don't want to leave, and I don't want to get the vaccine."

She said other nurses are also considering leaving over what she called the "insulting" mandate.

"We feel demoralized, like as though we aren't intelligent enough to make these choices for ourselves," Robertson said.

A North Carolina-based hospital system announced Monday that more than 175 of its 35,000-plus employees have been fired for failing to comply with its COVID-19 vaccination requirement.

Last week, Novant Health announced 375 workers had been suspended and given five days to comply. Nearly 200 of them did so — including those who submitted approved exemptions — before the Friday deadline, spokesperson Megan Rivers said.

NATION

Talks set as government shutdown looms

BY LISA MASCARO
AND ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two key Democratic senators are expected to meet Tuesday with President Joe Biden at the White House as the party works to narrow his \$3.5 trillion legislative package and momentum builds to close the deal with centrist and progressive lawmakers.

Sens. Joe Manchin D-W.Va., and Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., are linchpins for the final package — two centrist lawmakers who have balked at the price tag and are now under pressure to show Biden what amount they could live with.

Biden is expected to meet separately with Manchin and Sinema as he works to come up with a final number, according to a person familiar with the meetings and granted anonymity to discuss them.

“In the next day or so we hope to come to a place where we can all move forward on that,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told reporters Tuesday at the Capitol.

Pelosi said she had yet to hear a new topline figure from Manchin or Sinema, but indicated that she expects talks to start moving swiftly toward a conclusion that would enable passage of Biden’s package as well as a companion \$1 trillion public works bill.

“We have to see what comes of the negotiations that are going on — if they are worthy of the commitments we have made,” she said. “We will pass both bills.”

The behind-the-scenes talks come as Republican senators blocked a bill Monday to keep the government operating and allow federal borrowing. Democrats aiming to avert a shutdown pledged to try again — at the same time pressing ahead on Biden’s big plans to reshape government.

The efforts are not necessarily



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., walks to the chamber for a test vote on a government spending bill at the Capitol in Washington on Monday.

linked, but the fiscal yearend deadline to fund the government past Thursday is bumping up against the Democrats’ desire to make progress on Biden’s expansive \$3.5 trillion social spending and climate legislation.

It’s all making for a tumultuous moment for Biden and his party, with consequences certain to shape his presidency and the lawmakers’ political futures.

“You know me, I’m a born optimist,” Biden told reporters Monday, as he rolled up his sleeve for a COVID-19 booster shot. “We’re gonna get it done.”

Monday’s 50-48 vote against taking up the bill fell well short of the 60 needed to proceed over a GOP filibuster. Democratic Majority Leader Chuck Schumer switched his vote to “no,” a procedural step to allow him to bring the measure back for consideration.

With days to go, Democrats said they will try again before Thursday’s deadline to pass a bill funding government operations past the Sept. 30 fiscal year end, stripping out the debate over the debt limit for another day, closer to a separate October deadline.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Congress in a letter Tuesday that Oct. 18 is the end date — when the Treasury Department will likely exhaust all of its “extraordinary measures” being taken to avoid a default on the government’s obligations.

Yellen urged Congress to “protect the full faith and credit of the United States by acting as soon as possible” to either raise the debt limit or suspend it.

Meanwhile, the real action is unfolding behind the scenes over the \$3.5 trillion measure, with Biden and his Democratic allies in

Congress seeking a once-in-a-generation reworking of the nation’s balance sheets.

From free pre-kindergarten and child care subsidies for families with small children to dental care and hearing aids for seniors with Medicare, there’s a lot in the president’s proposal — all to be paid for with higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy.

With Republicans solidly opposed, Democrats are rushing to trim the total and win holdouts within their own party.

As the overall price tag comes down, Pelosi said the House Democrats would not move ahead on a bill until it is acceptable to their colleagues in the Senate. “We’re not there yet,” she said.

Exiting the evening caucus meeting, Rep. Richard Neal, D-Mass., the chairman of the Way & Means Committee, said as mo-

mentum builds toward Thursday, he was expecting a new total amount: “Let’s pop the number.”

Building on a separate \$1 trillion bipartisan public works package that’s already cleared the Senate and is heading for a House vote Thursday, Biden is seeking major spending for health care, education and efforts to tackle climate change. The total price tag, he contends, is actually “zero” — covered by the expected increase in tax revenue.

He is personally calling fellow Democrats in Congress in an effort to resolve differences and bring his sweeping domestic policy vision forward.

But Republicans say it’s real spending that can’t be afforded, and a reflection of the Democrats’ drive to insert government into people’s lives.

And so far, the bill is also too big for Manchin, Sinema and other key Democrats whose votes are needed in the face of the GOP opposition. Manchin has previously proposed spending of \$1 trillion to \$1.5 trillion.

Progressive lawmakers said they’ve already compromised enough with more centrist Democrats, but in one potential development, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, confirmed she and Sinema have been in talks.

Biden’s proposal is to be paid for by increasing the corporate tax rate, from 21% to 26.5% on businesses earning more than \$5 million a year, and raising the top rate on individuals from 37% to 39.6% for those earning more than \$400,000 a year, or \$450,000 for couples.

While Democrats are largely in agreement on Biden’s vision stubborn disputes remain, including how to push toward cleaner energy or to lower prescription drug costs.

Biden rule to shield ‘Dreamers’ seeks to bypass Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Biden administration on Monday renewed efforts to shield hundreds of thousands of immigrants who came to the United States as young children from deportation, the latest maneuver in a long-running drama over the policy’s legality.

The administration proposed a rule that attempts to satisfy concerns of a federal judge in Houston who ruled in July that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program was illegal, largely because the Obama administration bypassed procedural requirements when it took effect in 2012. The new rule mirrors the Obama-era initia-



Biden

tive, recreating the 2012 policy and seeking to put it on firmer ground by going through the federal regulatory process.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, an appointee of President George W. Bush, said the Obama administration overstepped its authority and did not properly seek public feedback. He allowed for renewals to continue but prohibited new enrollments. The Biden administration is appealing the decision.

The 205-page proposal solicits

public feedback to address Hanen’s concern, though it is unclear if that would be enough. The proposed regulation will be published Tuesday in the Federal Register, triggering a 60-day comment period and ensuring that it is unlikely to take effect for several months.

The office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who challenged DACA with eight other states before Hanen, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Obama administration created DACA with a memo issued by then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano. It was intended as a stopgap measure until Con-

gress legislated a permanent solution, which never occurred.

And because DACA isn’t the product of legislation, it falls into a category of policies that can more easily be changed from one administration to the next. President Donald Trump tried to rescind the DACA memo and end the program, but the Supreme Court concluded he did not go about it properly.

In attempting to shore up DACA through a formal rule — which is a more rigorous process than the original memo, though still not legislation — the Biden administration hopes to gain a legal stamp of approval from the courts.

It seems possible, if not likely, that the Supreme Court will once again be called upon to weigh in, unless Congress acts first.

Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas called again on Monday for Congress to act swiftly to provide “the legal status they need and deserve.”

“The Biden-Harris Administration continues to take action to protect Dreamers and recognize their contributions to this country,” said Mayorkas, using a commonly used term for immigrants who came to the U.S. with their parents as young children. “This notice of proposed rulemaking is an important step to achieve that goal.”

NATION

R. Kelly is convicted in sex trafficking trial

Associated Press

NEW YORK — R. Kelly, the R&B superstar known for his anthem “I Believe I Can Fly,” was convicted Monday in a sex trafficking trial after decades of avoiding criminal responsibility for numerous allegations of misconduct with young women and children.

A jury of seven men and five women found Kelly, 54, guilty of all nine counts, including racketeering, on their second day of deliberations. Kelly wore a face mask below black-rimmed glasses, remaining motionless with eyes downcast, as the verdict was read in federal court in Brooklyn.

Prosecutors alleged that the entourage of managers and aides who helped Kelly meet girls — and keep them obedient and quiet — amounted to a criminal enterprise. Two people have been charged with Kelly in a separate federal case pending in Chicago.

He faces the possibility of decades in prison for crimes including violating the Mann Act, an anti-sex trafficking law that prohibits taking anyone across state lines “for any immoral purpose.” Sentencing is scheduled for May 4.

One of Kelly’s lawyers, Deveaux Cannick, said he was disappointed and hoped to appeal.

“I think I’m even more disappointed the government brought



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS/AP

In this courtroom sketch, R. Kelly listens as the jury foreperson reads the verdict Monday in New York.

the case in the first place, given all the inconsistencies,” Cannick said.

Several accusers testified in lurid detail during the trial, alleging that Kelly subjected them to perverse and sadistic whims when they were underage.

For years, the public and news media seemed to be more amused than horrified by allegations of inappropriate relationships with minors, starting with Kelly’s illegal marriage to the R&B phenom Aa-

liyah in 1994 when she was just 15.

His records and concert tickets kept selling. Other artists continued to record his songs, even after he was arrested in 2002 and accused of making a recording of himself sexually abusing and urinating on a 14-year-old girl.

Widespread public condemnation didn’t come until a widely watched docuseries, “Surviving R. Kelly,” helped make his case a signifier of the #MeToo era, and gave voice to accusers who won-

dered if their stories were previously ignored because they were Black women.

“To the victims in this case, your voices were heard and justice was finally served,” Acting U.S. Attorney Jacquelyn Kasulis said Monday.

Gloria Allred, a lawyer for some of Kelly’s accusers, said outside the courthouse that of all the predators she’s gone after — a list including Harvey Weinstein and Jeffrey Epstein — “Mr. Kelly is the worst.”

At the trial, several of Kelly’s accusers testified without using their real names to protect their privacy. Jurors were shown homemade videos of Kelly engaging in sex acts that prosecutors said were not consensual.

The defense labeled the accusers “groupies” and “stalkers.”

Kelly’s lawyer, Cannick, questioned why women stayed in relationships with Kelly if they thought they were being exploited.

“You made a choice,” Cannick told one woman who testified, adding, “You participated of your own will.”

Kelly, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, has been jailed without bail since in 2019. The New York case is only part of the legal peril facing the singer. He also has pleaded not guilty to sex-related charges in Il-

linois and Minnesota. Trial dates in those cases have yet to be set.

At the trial, prosecutors painted the singer as a pampered man-child and control freak. His accusers said they were under orders to call him “Daddy,” expected to jump and kiss him anytime he walked into a room, and to cheer only for him when he played pickup basketball games in which they said he was a ball hog.

The accusers alleged they were ordered to sign nondisclosure forms and were subjected to threats and punishments such as violent spankings if they broke what one referred to as “Rob’s rules.” Some said they believed the videotapes he shot of them having sex would be used against them if they exposed what was happening.

Among the other more troubling tableaux: Kelly keeping a gun by his side while he berated one of his accusers as a prelude to forcing her to give him oral sex in a Los Angeles music studio; Kelly giving several accusers herpes without disclosing he had an STD; Kelly coercing a teenage boy to join him for sex with a naked girl who emerged from underneath a boxing ring in his garage; and Kelly shooting a shaming video of one alleged victim showing her smearing feces on her face as punishment for breaking his rules.

Calif. to mail every voter a ballot in future elections

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Every registered California voter will get a ballot mailed to them in future elections under a bill signed Monday by Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom.

The law makes permanent a change adopted during the pandemic for the 2020 election and the recent recall against Newsom. California, the nation’s most populous state, joins several other Western states in mailing all voters a ballot, including Utah, Colorado, Washington and Oregon. Republicans who hold a minority in the state Legislature opposed the expansion of voting by mail.

Under the new law, ballots in California must go out at least 29 days before the election. Voters still have the option to drop off their ballot or vote in person. Prior to the pandemic, many Californians were already voting by mail.

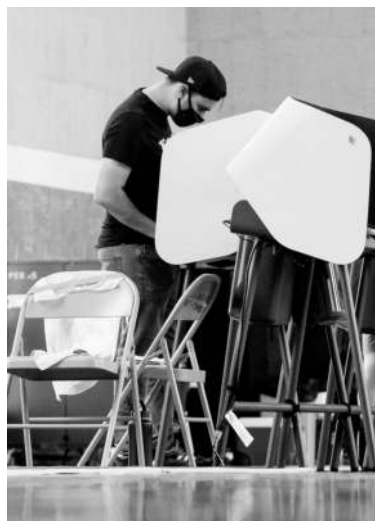
“Voters like having options for returning their ballot whether by mail, at a secure drop box, a voting center or at a traditional polling station. And the more people who participate in elections, the stronger our democracy and the

more we have assurance that elections reflect the will of the people of California,” California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, a Democrat, said in a statement.

Newsom signed 10 other voting-related bills on Monday, crafting them as part of an effort to expand voting rights and access. Voting rights have become a major political flashpoint nationally. Democrat-led states are pushing legislation aimed at expanding voting access while many Republican-led states are trying to tighten it amid baseless accusations of widespread voter fraud by former President Donald Trump and other GOP leaders.

“As states across our country continue to enact undemocratic voter suppression laws, California is increasing voter access, expanding voting options and bolstering elections integrity and transparency,” Newsom said in a statement.

Mail-in voting put California Republicans in a tricky spot during the recent recall election against Newsom, which he handily defeated. Many Republicans didn’t trust the process, leaving party leaders to both encourage



RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

A voter casts a ballot for the California recall election at a vote center at Union Station, in Los Angeles on Sept. 14.

their voters to cast ballots while promising they were closely monitoring claims of fraud. There has been no evidence of widespread fraud in the recall.

California Republican Party Chairwoman Jessica Millan Patterson didn’t state a clear position on the bill.

“The California Republican Party is committed to ensuring elections are safe, fair and secure, giving voters the confidence they need to cast a ballot,” she said in a statement.

Fires threatening California sequoias continue to grow

Associated Press

THREE RIVERS, Calif. — California firefighters battled fast-growing forest fires threatening giant sequoias and small communities in the Sierra Nevada on Monday and worked to fully surround a suspected arson wildfire that destroyed homes last week.

More than 2,000 firefighters were on the lines of the Windy Fire burning on the Tule River Indian Reservation and in Sequoia National Forest, including Giant Sequoia National Monument. The fire had scorched more than 133 square miles after growing by nearly 11 square miles in 24 hours, according to a Sequoia National Forest statement. Just 2% of the fire was contained.

Numerous small communities were under evacuation orders or warnings to be prepared to leave. Some 2,000 residences and 100 commercial properties were threatened. Two commercial structures have been destroyed.

To the north in Sequoia National Park, two fires that were ignited by lightning and then merged covered more than 73 square miles after experiencing large growth during the weekend. The

KNP Complex was 8% contained, according to a statement from Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks, which have both been forced to close.

On the fire’s northern perimeter, firefighters used controlled burns to clear vegetation from Muir Grove, a hidden group of giant sequoias found at the end of a trail.

A week ago, the famous ancient trees of Sequoia National Park’s Giant Forest were protected from the fire because of its history of prescribed burns. The bases of some trees were also wrapped in fire-resistant material.

In the far north end of California’s Central Valley, the Fawn Fire was 60% contained after destroying 184 homes and other buildings in an unincorporated area north of the city of Redding.

Firefighters were focusing on mopping up and patrolling to prevent further spread of the fire, said Josh Bischof, an operations section chief with the incident management team.

A 30-year-old woman was arrested last week on suspicion of starting the Fawn Fire.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Drugs stashed in football found near prison fence

NC HOFFMAN — Corrections officers at a North Carolina prison found a football filled with drugs near a prison fence, officials said.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety said in a news release that staffers at Morrison Correctional Institution in Hoffman spotted a football in an odd location, news outlets reported.

Crews grabbed the ball and took it apart. Inside they found tobacco, marijuana and crystal meth, officials said.

Investigators said they were able to link the failed delivery to an offender serving time at the prison.

9 hurt when escalator breaks at train station

MA BOSTON — Nine people were taken to the hospital with injuries considered minor following an escalator malfunction at a Boston train station, authorities said.

The escalator from the platform up to the street-level lobby at the Back Bay Station malfunctioned, according to a statement from the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority.

Boston Emergency Medical Services said in a tweet that it sent multiple ambulances to the scene and took nine to area hospitals “with injuries reported to be minor in nature.”

Witnesses described a chaotic scene and said the escalator appeared to reverse direction and flatten out, turning into “a slide.”

The reason for the malfunction remains unclear.

Officials look into fire at Susan B. Anthony home

NY ROCHESTER — Fire officials in Rochester were investigating a fire that damaged the Susan B. Anthony Museum & House.

Firefighters responding to an alarm arrived to find the back porch of the museum engulfed in flames. The porch suffered heavy damage, but officials said none of the historical artifacts inside were damaged. The fire department listed the cause of the fire as suspicious.

The house, a National Historic Landmark, was built in the mid-18th century and was Anthony's home and also the site of her arrest in 1872 after she cast her ballot in a presidential election. It served as the headquarters of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Anthony died there in 1906, according to the museum's website.

Woman accused of tossing bombs at temple

FL PALM BEACH GARDENS — A Florida woman is accused of firebombing a Buddhist temple, sheriff's officials



RINGO H.W. CHIU/AP

Riding some ruff waves

A dog competes in the annual Surf City Surf Dog event, at Dog Beach in Huntington Beach, Calif., on Saturday. With the help of their human, the surf dog competitors had 12 minutes to catch his or her top five waves in the multi-heat dog surfing competition. They were judged by local celebrities and surf judges on confidence level, length of ride, and overall ability to ride the wave.

said.

Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputies arrested Mei Cheung, 46, after they were called to St. Dak Buddhist Temple near Palm Beach Gardens, officials said in a news release.

Multiple items were found burning on the temple's grounds were determined to be improvised incendiary devices, the release said.

Video surveillance at the temple captured a woman igniting and throwing four firebombs over the gate onto the temple property. She was also seen on video placing a fifth lit firebomb in a mailbox on the temple grounds, the release said.

Cheung was charged with five counts of using a fire bomb and one count of property damage at a religious facility, jail records showed.

Deputy chief investigated after firing gun in office

CT HARTFORD — An internal investigation is underway after a deputy police officer in the Hartford Police Department unintentionally fired her weapon in her office in the city's public safety complex.

Deputy Chief of Administrative Services Sonia Watson discharged the gun as she was securing the weapon and preparing to leave work, the Hartford Courant reported.

“The full circumstances of this

THE CENSUS

45 The number of dead animals found inside an Omaha, Neb., woman's home. Jaime Kimbrough, 47, was charged with felony animal neglect. According to court documents, investigators said they found a garage with solid rabbit waste several inches high and a basement with abundant dog feces and mold. Two bird cages were in a bedroom with two bird skeletons inside. Thirty-eight dead rabbits were found in the garage, and five more dead rabbits were found at a second location owned by Kimbrough. Two dogs and eight rabbits were rescued and are being cared for by the Humane Society.

discharge will be investigated and there may be disciplinary action warranted,” Lt. Aaron Boisvert, the department spokesman, told the Courant. “While no one was injured, we take any discharge of a weapon very seriously.”

Maskless man arrested after alleged assault

AZ TEMPE — A man who refused to wear a mask and was asked to leave during a performance at Arizona State University's Gammage Auditorium has been arrested after he allegedly assaulted two staff members, according to campus police.

Police said the man was asked to leave the venue during a performance of “Hamilton.”

Witnesses said those who were attending the show began cheering when the man was removed.

Campus police said the man was being held on suspicion of assault, trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Police said there were no reported injuries.

Zoo's oldest polar bear Snow Lilly dies at 36

WI MILWAUKEE — North America's oldest polar bear living in human care at the Milwaukee County Zoo has died, zoo officials said.

The Journal Sentinel reported 36-year-old Snow Lilly was euthanized due to her declining health and subsequent quality of life concerns. According to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the median life expectancy for polar bears in human care is about 23 years.

A recent wellness exam found Snow Lilly had heart disease and was undergoing other age-related changes, the release said. Snow Lilly came to the Milwaukee County Zoo in 2005 from the Bronx Zoo.

“Snow Lilly was a visitor favorite at the Zoo and considered one of the iconic animals in the population,” said Zoo Director Amos Morris in a

statement. “She will be sorely missed by both staff and visitors.”

A necropsy will be performed, as important information can continue to be collected from it and help other polar bears living in human care.

Speedway holds final day of racing before closure

ME SCARBOROUGH — Engines roared and cars raced around the oval for the final time at Beech Ridge Motor Speedway.

The race track is being sold to developers, leaving just three auto racing tracks in Maine: Wiscasset Speedway, Oxford Plains Speedway and Speedway 95 in Hermon.

Beech Ridge owner Andy Cusack told the Portland Press Herald that he was approached by a developer looking for a large tract of land in Scarborough.

The news was disappointing for the racing community.

Todd Libby and his sister, Sara Schroeder, grew up in Porter and were raised at the track, where they spend weekends.

Libby said many lessons were learned at the track.

“This place has taught me how to win, and how to lose — and how to carry myself like a man when I do lose,” said Libby. “You just go out and work harder.”

NATION

Top fake meat firms expand to nugget market

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

Beyond Meat and Impossible Foods found success with realistic plant-based burgers. Now, they're hoping to replicate that in the fast-growing but crowded market for plant-based chicken nuggets.

Beyond Meat said Monday that its new tenders, made from fava beans, will go on sale in U.S. grocery stores in October. Walmart, Jewel-Osco and Harris Teeter will be among the first to offer them.

Impossible Foods began selling its soy-based nuggets this month at Walmart, Kroger, Albertsons and other groceries. They'll be in 10,000 stores by later this year.

The rival startups, both based in California, helped redefine what plant-based burgers could be. Beyond burgers were the first to be sold in grocery aisles next to conventional meat in 2016; Impossible burgers joined them a few years later.

But this time, Beyond and Impossible will be stacked in freezers already bursting with plant-based chicken options. More than 50 brands of plant-based nuggets, tenders and cutlets are already on sale in U.S. stores, according to the Good Food Institute, which tracks plant-based brands.

Some, like Morningstar Farms and Quorn, have been making plant-based meat for decades. But Beyond and Impossible have also spawned a host of imitators making realistic products marketed to omnivores, not just vegans and vegetarians. Fifteen percent of those 50 brands were new to the U.S. market in 2020, like Nuggs,



TERRY CHEA/AP

Celeste Holz-Schietinger, vice president of product innovation at Impossible Foods, works in the company's test kitchen last week in Redwood City, Calif.

from New York startup Simulate, and California's Daring Foods.

They're all trying to grab a slice of the plant-based market, which is still dwarfed by the conventional meat market but growing fast. U.S. sales of frozen, plant-based chicken tenders and nuggets jumped 29% to \$112 million in the 52 weeks ending Aug. 28, according to Nielsen IQ. Sales of conventional frozen tenders and nuggets rose 17% to \$1.1 billion in the same period.

Globally, retail sales of meat substitutes are expected to grow 2% to 4.6 million metric tons between 2021 and 2022, according to the market research firm Euromonitor. Processed animal meat sales are expected to stay flat in the

same period, at 18.9 million metric tons.

Tom Rees, an industry manager with Euromonitor, said plant-based meat sales were already growing before the coronavirus hit. In Euromonitor surveys, nearly a quarter of consumers worldwide said they are limiting meat intake for health reasons.

But the pandemic gave plant-based meat a boost as consumers looked for new things to cook at home. Rees said meat shortages and coronavirus outbreaks at meat production facilities also made consumers think twice about the animal meat market.

Meat or no meat, breaded nuggets aren't exactly a health food.

One serving of Beyond's chicken tenders have 12 grams of fat, 450 milligrams of sodium, 11 grams of protein and 210 calories. Impossible's nuggets have 10 grams of fat, 320 milligrams of sodium, 10 grams of protein and 200 calories. By comparison, a similar size serving of Pilgrim's chicken nuggets contains 14 grams of fat, 10 grams of protein, 460 milligrams of sodium and 220 calories.

Impossible Foods Vice President of Product Innovation Celeste Holz-Schietinger said it was important to start with plant-based burgers because beef production is a bigger contributor to climate change. But Impossible spent the past year developing the plant-

based tenders as part of a goal to replace all animal agriculture with more sustainable alternatives by 2035.

Beyond Meat has been experimenting with chicken for even longer. The El Segundo, Calif.-based company launched chicken strips in 2012. But it pulled them from the market in 2019, citing the need to devote more manufacturing capacity to its burgers.

Unlike the new fava bean-based tenders, Beyond's burgers are made with pea protein. Beyond President and CEO Ethan Brown said the company has spent more than a decade researching various protein sources and their attributes, and doesn't want to limit itself to just one.

Dariush Ajami, Beyond's chief innovation officer, said mimicking the fibrous texture and fat distribution in chicken was the biggest challenge with the new tenders. The company is still far from perfecting a plant-based chicken breast or a marbled steak, but has 200 scientists and engineers working on it, he said.

"The goal is to reduce that gap between our product and animal meat," he said.

Impossible is confident that consumers will gravitate to its nuggets. In company taste tests, it found that most consumers preferred its product to actual chicken.

"It's better for you, it's better for the environment and it tastes better than the animal," said Impossible Foods President Dennis Woodside. "So we think that's a pretty strong value proposition."

Jan. 6 trials slowed by mounting evidence in US Capitol riot

Associated Press

In the nearly nine months since Jan. 6, federal agents have tracked down and arrested more than 600 people across the United States believed to have joined in the riot at the U.S. Capitol.

Getting those cases swiftly to trial is turning out to be an even more difficult task.

Investigators have collected a mountain of evidence in the attack and are working to organize and share it with defense attorneys. And that mountain keeps growing with new arrests still happening practically every week.

Washington's federal court, meanwhile, is clogged with Jan. 6 cases, which is more than double the total number of new criminal cases filed there all of last year. Further complicating things are limitations the court has put on trials because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The court delays are dragging out a process already called into question by some right-wing law-

makers, who argue it's a waste of time and money to prosecute people accused of low-level crimes. As the court cases continue to stall, so do answers to what happened that day and the possibility for consequences from the most violent assault at the Capitol in a generation. Meanwhile, Democrats in the House are subpoenaing former President Donald Trump's aides and have requested a trove of documents as a select committee also probes the insurrection.

While it's not unusual for federal cases to take a year or more to work through the system, some defense lawyers and judges are raising concerns that defendants with a right to a speedy trial may end up waiting a long time before getting their day in court.

"The reason for the delay has not changed or become even remotely concrete. It remains as amorphous today as it was months ago," an attorney wrote in court documents opposing prosecutors'



JOSE LUIS MAGANA / AP

Violent insurrectionists loyal to President Donald Trump scale the west wall of the the U.S. Capitol in Washington on Jan. 6.

request to cancel the scheduled November trial for Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, an ex-Army reservist described by co-workers as a known Nazi sympathizer.

So far, only about 80 cases have been resolved by guilty pleas — largely by those who were

charged only with misdemeanor offenses. Scores of others face serious felony charges including conspiracy, assaulting officers and obstructing of an official proceeding that call for lengthy sentences behind bars.

The Justice Department has

called it the largest investigation in American history, with probes open in 55 out of 56 FBI field offices.

Evidence collected in the attack includes thousands of hours of video footage, hundreds of thousands of tips from the public and more than 1 million Parler posts, replies and data. The Justice Department is building massive databases to share all evidence stemming from the attack with defense attorneys.

In the most high-profile case brought so far, involving more than a dozen members and associates of the far-right extremist group the Oath Keepers, prosecutors recently told a judge that a January trial date for the first set of defendants is looking increasingly unrealistic given how much evidence they still need to get into defense attorneys' hands.

At least one of the roughly 70 defendants who are locked up pre-trial has already pointed to the delays in an effort to get out of jail.

WORLD

China shows off warplanes, missiles, drones at air show

Associated Press

ZHUHAI, China — A military drone whose manufacturer says it can cruise for 20 hours at 50,000 feet was among Chinese warplanes, missiles and other weapons technology shown in public for the first time Tuesday at the opening of the country's biggest air show.

The Chinese space program planned to unveil a rocket for crewed space flight capable of carrying a 25-ton payload to lunar orbit at the 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, an official newspaper said. The event, which runs through Sunday, was postponed from late 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The ruling Communist Party is pouring billions of dollars into developing fighter jets, stealth technology, drones and other hardware for its military wing as it presses claims to disputed seas and other territory.

Powered by two turbofan engines, the CH-6 drone can carry early warning radar, air-to-ground missiles and other weapons, according to its manufacturer, the China Academy of Aerospace Science, a subsidiary of China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp.

The newspaper Global Times, published by the ruling party, said the CH-6 is aimed at "high-end arms and dual-use markets" but



Ng HAN GUAN/AP

China's air force displays its high-altitude supersonic drone during the 13th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition on Tuesday, in Zhuhai, China.

gave no indication to which governments the company might try to sell it.

The China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology planned to unveil a "next-generation manned carrier rocket and a heavy-lift launch vehicle," the Global Times said. It said the 2,000-ton, three-stage rocket would "support China's manned lunar probes."

Also at the air show, China's air force planned to display a J-16D electronic warfare airplane for the first time, according to the official China News Service.

German pols urged to show path to a new government

Associated Press

BERLIN — Pressure grew for a quick start to talks on Germany's next government as newly elected lawmakers held their first meetings on Tuesday and tensions simmered in outgoing Chancellor Angela Merkel's bloc, which declined to its worst-ever result in the country's election.

The narrow winners of Sunday's parliamentary election, the center-left Social Democrats of Olaf Scholz, underlined their hopes of a quick start to talks with the likely kingmakers in a new government. And several prominent figures in Merkel's center-right Union bloc questioned an initial push by election loser Armin Laschet to lead a new administration. Since neither of the traditional big parties wants to renew their outgoing "grand coalition" of rivals, the third- and fourth-placed parties — the environmentalist Greens and the business-friendly Free Democrats — appear to hold the keys to a parliamentary majority. Leaders of those parties plan to meet each other this week to search for common ground before entertaining advances from potential suitors.

"The Greens and Free Democrats have been invited by us to hold exploratory talks

with us this week already if they want," Social Democratic parliamentary group leader Rolf Muetzenich said before a gathering of his party's newly elected and outgoing lawmakers.

Scholz, the outgoing vice chancellor, said Monday that he wants a new government before Christmas if possible. Forming a government can take months in Germany as parties thrash out in detail the new coalition's plans.

Laschet's Union bloc also is holding a meeting of its lawmakers Tuesday, with recriminations likely after a disastrous campaign. After saying Sunday that it would do "everything we can" to form a new administration, Laschet made clear Monday that he still hopes to lead one — but sounded more reserved, arguing that voters gave no party a mandate.

A top lawmaker with the Free Democrats called for all parties to be ready for talks by the end of the week, and for the Union to figure out what it wants to do. Marco Buschmann, the party's chief whip, told Deutschlandfunk radio that "very different signals are being sent in the Union. Some want to govern, I think — others don't."

The full 735-member new Bundestag, or lower house of parliament, is expected to hold its first meeting next month.

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market




Transportation

944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

<p>GERMANY</p> <p>Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730</p> <p>Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)</p> <p>E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de</p> <p>WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de</p>	<p>UNITED KINGDOM</p> <p>+44-(0)1638-515714</p> <p>enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk</p> <p>www.carshipuk.co.uk</p>	<p>U.S.A</p> <p>+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701</p> <p>+1-800-264-8167 (US only)</p> <p>info@tgal.us</p> <p>www.tgal.us</p>
---	--	--

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations



LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH



Transportation

944

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA



WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY


OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri

0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de

Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!



Concert, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.

No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Marci Hoffman, Europe commander
John Rodriguez, Europe chief of staff
Lt. Col. Michael Kerschbaum, Pacific commander
Michael Ryan, Pacific chief of staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com

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

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

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

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

Pacific

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

Washington

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

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

CIRCULATION

Mideast

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

Europe

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

Pacific

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

CONTACT US

Washington

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

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-5002. This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2021

stripes.com

N. Korea's threat and S. Korea's success

By ARTHUR I. CYR

Special to Stars and Stripes

Once again, North Korea is engaging in disturbing provocation. The totalitarian regime in Pyongyang has announced successful launch of a cruise missile. This follows many years of testing both rudimentary ballistic missiles and nuclear explosives.

The cruise missile is an unusually flexible insidious weapon, flying low and relatively slow, difficult to detect with radar. The V-1 rocket of Nazi Germany, which killed many British civilians in the latter part of World War II, was an early version.

North Korea has had at least rudimentary nuclear weapons since 2006. From time to time, Pyongyang makes threats to use them, including against the United States, as well as Japan and South Korea.

This latest incident occurs as the Biden administration reevaluates Korea policies. A natural assumption is that North Korea leader Kim Jong Un is returning to rigid hostility, after some flexibility, including high-profile meetings with former President Donald Trump.

In moving forward, U.S. government officials should keep in mind three basic realities about dealing with North Korea.

First, for many years North Korea has been inconsistent. In 2013, Pyongyang declared a "state of war" with South Korea and abruptly abrogated the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War. Yet, accommodating moves followed.

In short, unpredictability is normal. This

implies considerable factional infighting.

Second, we must demonstrate commitment to defense of South Korea and our own readiness, and willingness, to use a range of forces. The Obama administration rightly deployed the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense anti-missile system for this purpose.

In 2013, the Pentagon expanded anti-ballistic missile defenses on the U.S. West Coast. Simultaneously, THAAD was sent to Guam, a potential target. In 2009, THAAD was sent to Hawaii for the same reason.

On cue, China expressed indignation about anti-missile deployments. That was predictable, also understandable given potential use of the system's radars for information gathering. At the same time, Beijing worked to restrain Pyongyang, including suspending airline flights between the two cities.

Third, we should emphasize coordination with other nations. This ideally should include China and Russia, but always our durable friend and close ally South Korea.

South Korea's substantial investment in and trade with China grows, while North Korea remains a costly dependent, though ideologically important.

China's President Xi Jinping visited Seoul in 2014. He finally visited North Korea in 2019.

China's foreign policy reflects self-interest, and traditional caution. North Korea is a drain.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought North Korea's long-growing economic deterioration to a crisis point. Trade and wider in-

terchange with China contracted. Long-term economic sanctions stymie recovery.

The Korean War from 1950 to 1953 devastated the Korean Peninsula, and made the Cold War global. President Harry Truman's courageous decision to support the United Nations in defending the South against invasion from the North laid the foundation for today's remarkably successful South Korea.

Democratic change culminated with election in 1998 of President Kim Dae-jung, heroic opponent of dictatorship. In 2000, he received the Nobel Peace Prize. During the earlier dictatorship, Kim survived imprisonment and at least one attempt to kill him. Occasional political turmoil since 1998 confirms South Korea's democracy.

As in the past, U.S. leaders should work with allies, underscore military commitment, and pursue negotiation. The Biden administration is returning to traditional strong ties between the U.S. and South Korea.

This includes extremely close, thorough cooperation between our militaries, established during the Korean War, greatly reinforced during the Vietnam War. Our South Korean friends maintained approximately 50,000 troops in South Vietnam during our long war there.

In part, this was to repay our vital support during the Korean War. Our alliance remains a linchpin for future relations with China and other Pacific powers.

Learn More: William Stueck, "The Korean War — An International History."

Arthur I. Cyr is author of "After the Cold War" and other books.

Consider potential merger's impact on hypersonics race

By BOB DEES

Special to Stars and Stripes

A series of recent missile tests by North Korea has once again underscored how important it is for the United States to maintain a strong missile defense as well as offensive missile deterrent.

But America has unfortunately already fallen behind one of its main geopolitical foes and other rivals in the Asia-Pacific region, China, with regards to the key missile technology of hypersonics. These weapons, which can move up to 20 times the speed of sound and can evade existing missile defenses, represent the next generation of missile technology. Yet while China has already deployed a ground launched hypersonic weapon and its testing of an air launched version is currently underway, the United States will not field its first hypersonic weapon until at least next year.

Current trends in the defense industry also threaten to exacerbate this deficiency.

In December 2020, Lockheed Martin announced its plan to merge with Aerojet Rocketdyne in a deal valued at \$4.4 billion. This risks not only setting the United States further behind in the hypersonics race, but it also puts our traditional missile forces in jeopardy. Should this merger be approved, competition and modernization efforts within the missile defense industry and for hypersonic missiles in particular, would be greatly undermined.

As Aerojet is the sole remaining independent provider of propulsion systems in the United States, approval of this merger would grant Lockheed a near monopoly on the critical propulsion technology of many

current and future Missile Defense Agency Interceptors as well as on hypersonic technology.

Aerojet provides the majority of solid rocket motors for the Navy's SM-2 anti-ship missile and the SM-3 interceptor used in the AEGIS Ballistic missile defense system. The company is also the sole propulsion provider for the Divert and Attitude Control System, a key component of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense missile defense system used by the U.S. Army. Ending the independence of this key supplier will likely leave the other major defense contractors unable to compete to procure or will force them to look to overseas providers to fill their propulsion needs.

Lockheed Martin meanwhile, just completed the strategic acquisition of the hypersonic portfolio of Integration Innovation Inc. (i3), giving them full control over the company's hypersonic design, development and production expertise. By acquiring Aerojet, one of the leaders in hypersonic propulsion technology, Lockheed would be squarely in control as the contractor of record for 2nd-generation hypersonic technology.

It has been confirmed many times before that industries without competition lead to reduced innovation incentives and skyrocketing costs. A perfect example, with regards to the defense industry in particular, is what happened with the Ground Based Strategic Deterrent program. Soon after Northrop Grumman acquired Orbital ATK, another provider of propulsion systems in 2018, the \$80 billion GBSD program was ultimately awarded to Northrop without contest. The program's incumbent contractor, Boeing,

lost access to key supplier Orbital in the wake of the merger and could not submit a bid in time. The Federal Trade Commission has now opened an investigation into whether Northrop "acted in a restraint of trade and violated an order requiring the company to sell its solid motor rocket engines on a non-discriminatory basis."

Due to these recent developments, the nation's top anti-trust regulator has raised concerns about similar vertical integrations such as the Lockheed-Aerojet merger. In response to specific concerns raised by the U.S. Senate about deals in the defense industry, Lina Khan, chair of the FTC, said she believes that the remedies her agency has previously provided to encourage competition have proven inadequate. Moving forward, she suggested, a better solution may be to "more frequently consider opposing problematic deals outright."

All of this leaves the Department of Defense and FTC with a critical decision. Given the significant implications for national security and the taxpayer, it is imperative these officials thoroughly consider the potential impacts of the Lockheed-Aerojet merger before making a final decision. Too often before regulators have rushed into approving consolidation in the defense industry to the detriment of taxpayers and the broader defense supply chain. But in a time of great uncertainty and national security risks, there is little room for additional error if we are going to win the hypersonics race and keep our country safe.

Bob Dees, a retired U.S. Army major general, is a graduate of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has an extensive background in national security, weapons system development and defense economics.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Get unlimited Digital Access to the #1 source of U.S. military news

stripes.com | mobile apps

ONE-MONTH FREE TRIAL



Digital Access includes:

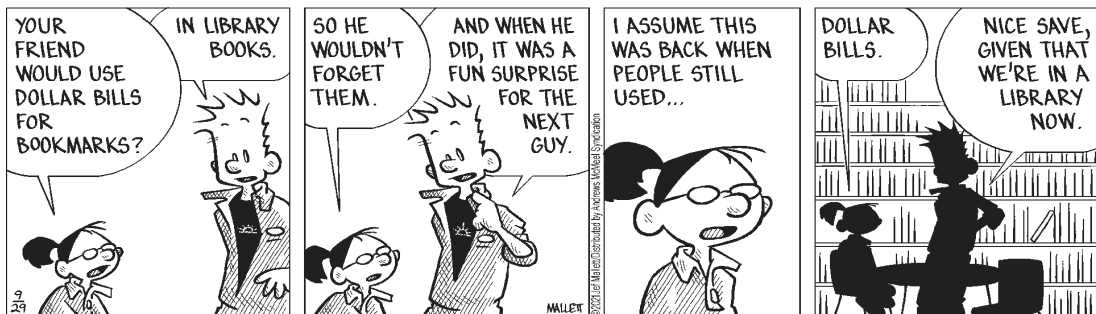
- Unbiased, First Amendment-protected reporting from installations around the world.
- Coverage of all military branches
- Veterans topics
- Photos from our archives
- Special features on current issues
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam 50
- And much more

Subscribe now



stripes.com/subscribe

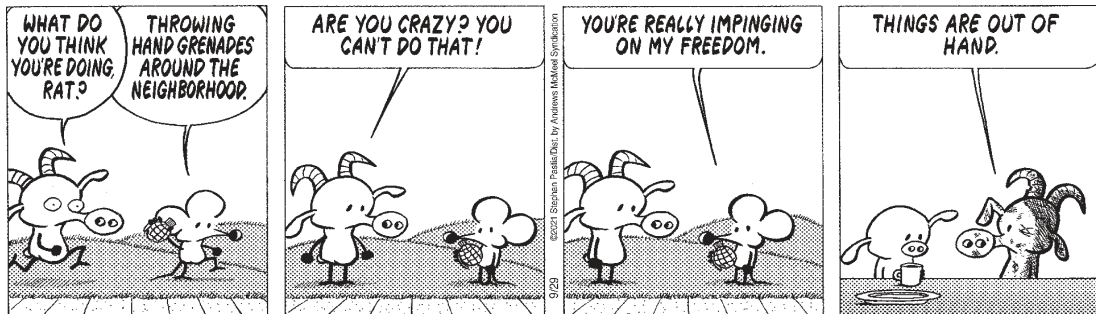
Frazz



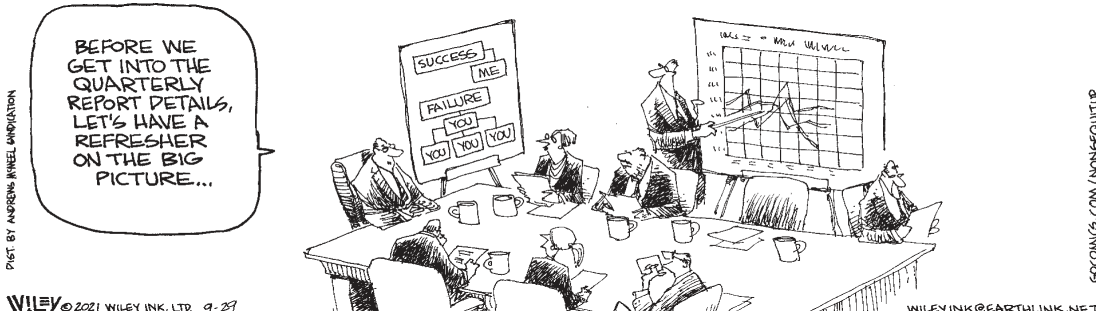
Dilbert



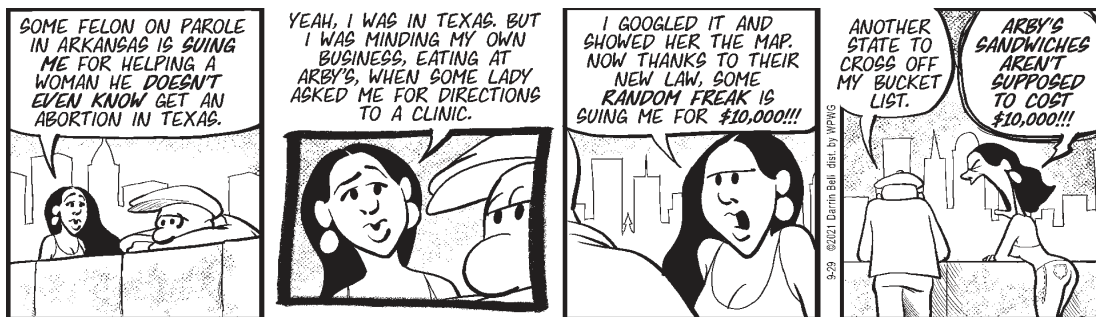
Pearls Before Swine



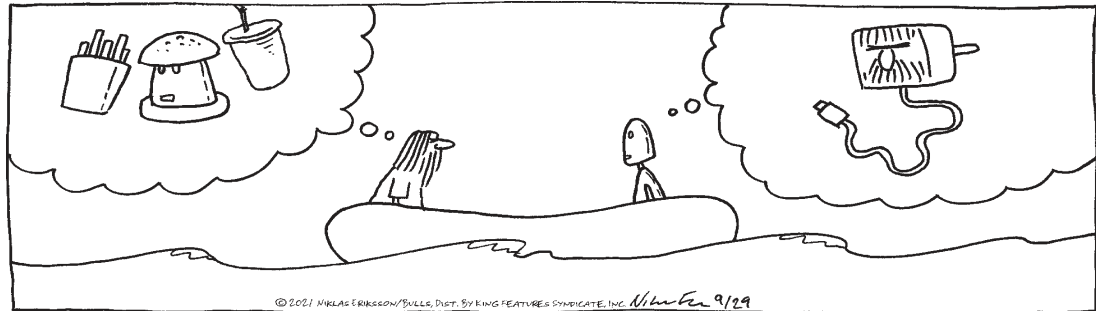
Non Sequitur



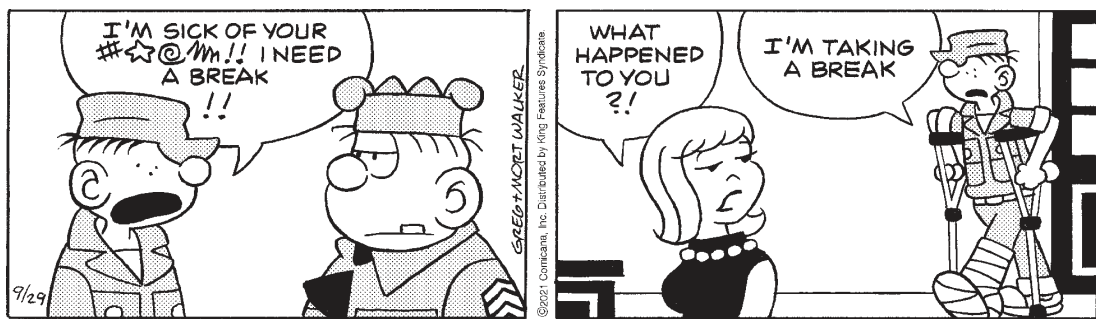
Candorville



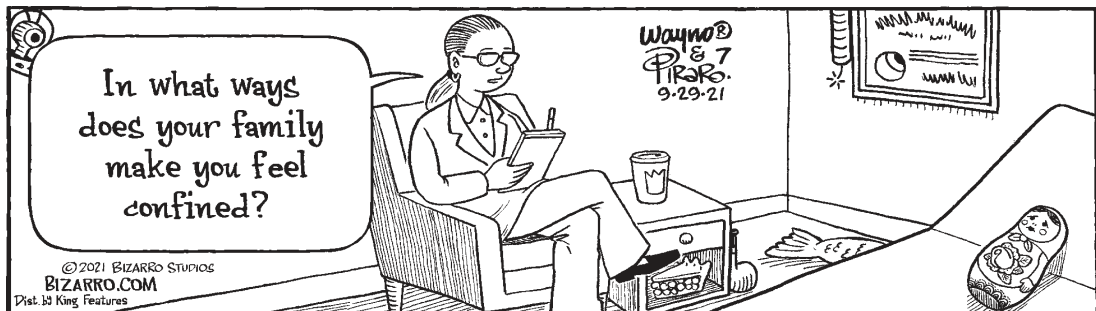
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
15				16			17				
18						19	20				
			21			22					
23	24	25		26		27	28		29	30	
31			32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40	
		41			42		43		44		
45	46					47			48	49	50
51					52	53					
54					55			56			
57					58			59			

ACROSS

- 1 Buckle
- 5 Mauna —
- 8 Eve's man
- 12 Peek suffix
- 13 Dijon denial
- 14 Clear the decks?
- 15 Pot sticker
- 17 Antitoxins
- 18 "Cut that out!"
- 19 Libra symbols
- 21 Astern
- 22 Follow
- 23 Wee bit
- 26 Aviv preceder
- 28 Ecstasy
- 31 Mosque leader
- 33 Sinbad's bird
- 35 Cinch
- 36 Director Elia
- 38 Legislation
- 40 Transcript no.
- 41 Go fast
- 43 Earl Grey, for one
- 45 Ritzy beach city
- 47 Arm's-length pic
- 51 Tag sale words
- 52 Pond youngster
- 54 Cooped (up)
- 55 "CSI" evidence
- 56 Pond growth
- 57 Droops

- 58 Feminine side
- 59 Must have

- 24 Docs' bloc
- 25 Brilliant
- 27 Online guffaw
- 29 Enervate
- 30 Hotel amenity
- 32 Zedong followers
- 34 MRI's kin
- 37 San Francisco's — Hill
- 39 Calendar row
- 42 Confuse
- 44 Poe's middle name
- 45 Atlas pages
- 46 Cruising
- 48 Dossier
- 49 Playwright William
- 50 "Zounds!"
- 53 Half of bi-

DOWN

- 1 Bankrolls
- 2 Border on
- 3 QB Tony
- 4 Dad
- 5 Yarn shop customer
- 6 Very long time
- 7 Uneasy feeling
- 8 Sets upon
- 9 Abode
- 10 Bern's river
- 11 New corp. hires
- 16 Boost
- 20 Taxi
- 23 "— Tok" (Kesha hit song)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	U	E	S	G	A	Y	S	A	R	A	
E	B	B	S	U	S	E	E	G	A	N	
S	E	A	N	B	E	A	N	A	E	R	O
T	R	Y	I	S	P	I	B	S	E	N	
			S	A	T	F	O	R			
S	P	O	T	S	G	E	N	E	S	I	S
G	R	A	B	L	I	Z	E	T	E	S	
T	O	T	E	B	A	G	A	Z	U	R	E
			R	O	Y	A	V	E			
B	R	O	N	X	A	L	E	A	M	O	
R	A	G	A	S	N	A	C	K	B	A	R
E	V	E	R	S	E	M	E	L	I	E	
D	I	E	D	T	W	O	G	E	M	S	

9-29

CRYPTOQUIP

K X A W Z I N D K O N X K M W R
O W Y E S V X K W R J N E S Y B K B Y A
O X B B . A N D E V A H N W K V K
Z N V D H W K W N Z V Y J M V X I B .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD ONE CALL A CERTAIN COMMUNIST LEADER'S TABLECLOTHS AND BEDSHEETS? LENIN'S LINENS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals T

Get the news that matters to you, from the source you trust.



Daily Headlines | Veterans News | Military History | and more

Sign up now for Stars and Stripes FREE eNewsletters

STARS  AND STRIPES® stripes.com/newsletters

FACES

'SNL' cast remains mostly intact

Beck Bennett leaving after 8 seasons; 3 featured players added for Season 47

By CHRISTI CARRAS
Los Angeles Times

Say hello to the Season 47 cast of "Saturday Night Live," which includes familiar faces as well as fresh talent.

Nearly every main cast member of the Emmy-winning sketch comedy program has agreed to return for the forthcoming season — except for Beck Bennett, who has exited after eight seasons, according to a casting announcement Monday by NBC.

"Love you, SNL," wrote Bennett — known for his impersonations of former Vice President Mike Pence and Russian President Vladimir Putin — Monday on Instagram.

"Gonna miss you so much. Thank you for 8 years of remarkable people and incredible experiences that completely changed my life. I had so much fun."

Also departing the series ahead of its 47th season is featured player Lauren Holt, who made her "SNL" debut last year. Reprising their roles as repertory players are Aidy



Bennett

Bryant, Michael Che, Pete Davidson, Mikey Day, Heidi Gardner, Colin Hanks, Kate McKinnon, Alex Moffat, Kyle Mooney, Ego Nwodim, Chris Redd, Cecily Strong, Kenan Thompson and Melissa Villaseñor.

Fan favorites Bowen Yang and Chloe Fineman have been promoted this season from featured to repertory performers.

Recent additions Andrew Dismukes and Punkie Johnson are also staying on as featured players — joined as of Monday by newcomers Aristotle Athari, James Austin Johnson and Sarah Sherman.

Comedian, writer and director Athari hails from Los Angeles and has previously appeared in Funny or Die's "The Coop," as well as HBO's "Silicon Valley."

Nashville comedian and actor James Austin Johnson's résumé includes TV roles on "Tuca

& Bertie," "Future Man" and "Adam Ruins Everything." And Long Island comedian and visual artist Sherman is known for headlining her own traveling show, "Helltrap Nightmare."

The trio of newbies will be introduced Saturday during the Season 47 premiere, hosted by "Loki" star Owen Wilson, with musical guest Kacey Musgraves.

NBC's casting update comes about a week after "SNL" received the Emmy Award for variety sketch series at this year's ceremony.

Other celebrities set to host "SNL" next month include reality TV star and beauty mogul Kim Kardashian (with musical guest Halsey), "No Time to Die" star Ramy Malek (with musical guest Young Thug) and Emmy-winning "Ted Lasso" star Jason Sudeikis (with musical guest Brandi Carlile).

Sudeikis was a repertory cast member on "SNL" from 2006 to 2013, after previously serving as a sketch writer and featured performer on the show.



NIKKI BRICKETT, RR AUCTION/AP

Johnny Ramone's guitar sells for more than \$900K

The guitar played by Johnny Ramone on all 15 Ramones albums and at nearly 2,000 live performances by the rock band sold at auction over the weekend for more than \$900,000, the auctioneer said Monday.

The 1965 Mosrite Ventures II electric guitar was bought by a collector in the U.S. who wishes to remain anonymous, Boston-based RR Auction said in a statement.

Ramone, whose real name was John Cummings, bought the guitar to replace his original blue Ventures II, which was stolen, according to RR Auction.

It was played at every Ramones performance from November 1977 until his retirement in August 1996, RR said. He died in 2004.

Drake continues chart dominance

Even though Lil Nas X gave Drake a run for his money, the "Certified Lover Boy" prevailed.

For the third consecutive week, the Canadian hip-hop singer has secured the No. 1 spot on the Billboard 200 albums chart dated Oct. 2 — besting the highly-publicized and expertly marketed "Monte Carlo," which landed at No. 2.

Released Sept. 3, "Certified Lover Boy" hasn't taken a break from the top spot, opening with the year's biggest week for any album, moving 613,000 units. The album has logged the equivalent of just over 1 million sales in the U.S.

"CLB" is the third effort this year to spend at least three weeks atop the chart, following Billie Eilish's "Happier Than Ever," which also spent three consecutive weeks there this summer.

Neither has come close to controversial country star "Morgan Wallen's Dangerous: The Double Album," which stayed at the top spot for 10 consecutive weeks.

New this week: 'Sopranos' prequel, Jon Stewart returns

Associated Press

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

Movies

■ Jake Gyllenhaal teams up with director Antoine Fuqua and screenwriter Nic Pizzolatto ("True Detective") for the tense thriller "The Guilty," which is set entirely inside a 911 call center in Los Angeles. Hitting Netflix on Friday, Gyllenhaal plays a disgraced cop relegated to fielding emergency phone calls on the overnight shift. Although a perfect conceit for a pandemic production, the claustrophobic environs preceded COVID-19 protocols — that came from the 2018 Danish film that they're re-making. Gyllenhaal carries the film even though his scene partners are mostly computer screens, telephones and disembodied voices.

■ Nearly 15 years after "The Sopranos" wrapped its six-season run on HBO, David Chase has brought his best known character back in "The Many Saints of Newark." The film, which debuts in theaters and on HBO Max on Friday, follows a young Tony Soprano (played by the late James Gandolfini's son Michael Gandolfini) in 1960s Newark, N.J., amid the race riots and violent corruption in the city. Jon Bernthal plays his father and Alessandro Nivola plays a charismatic mobster who takes an interest in Tony.

■ Filmmaker Erin Lee Carr couldn't have known that pop star Britney Spears would once again be in the daily news cycle when she started on her secretive Netflix documentary "Britney vs Spears," which became available Tuesday, but the timing could not be better. Carr has said that the film is different from "Framing Britney Spears," the New York Times-produced documentary that came out this year and prompted widespread reconsideration of how Spears was treated in the media at the height of her fame. Carr investigates the conservatorship. She told the Los Angeles Times that she wants her film, "to be the definitive place to understand the beginning, middle and hopefully what we will find out as the end of



WARNER BROS., APPLE TV+, NBC/AP

From left: Promotional art for "The Many Saints of Newark," premiering Friday on HBO Max; "The Problem with Jon Stewart," premiering Thursday on Apple TV+; and "La Brea," premiering Tuesday on NBC.

this saga."

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

Music

■ Six-time Grammy-winner Brandi Carlile has been busy during the pandemic, releasing a memoir and now a highly anticipated new album, "In These Silent Days," on Friday. Carlile said she was inspired by David Bowie, Freddie Mercury and her two close musical friends, Elton John and Joni Mitchell, on the new record. It's a follow-up to her acclaimed 2018 album "By The Way, I Forgive You." Recorded during quarantine in Nashville, she teamed up again with producers Shooter Jennings and Dave Cobb, as well as her longtime bandmates Tim and Phil Hanseroth.

■ The Doobie Brothers are celebrating their 50th anniversary in their 51st year with a postponed tour and a new album. "Liberté" is out Friday, featuring founding members Tom Johnston and Patrick Simmons, along with guitarist John McFee. The tour kicked off in August with former member Michael McDonald after being delayed a year because of the pandemic. It's the first album of new original songs since 2010 for the newly inducted Rock & Roll Hall of Famers.

■ One duets album wasn't enough for pop diva Lady Gaga and icon Tony Bennett. The pair are releasing their second collaborative album, "Love For Sale," on Friday. Their previous album together, "Cheek to Cheek" debut-

ed at No. 1 on the Billboard chart in 2014 and earned them a Grammy for "Best Traditional Pop Vocal." Bennett, who turned 95 this year, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and canceled his scheduled tour dates this year. But fans of the two New York singers can still see them perform together in a livestream on Thursday.

— AP Entertainment Writer Kristin M. Hall

Television

■ Jon Stewart is back, and Apple TV+ has him. "The Problem with Jon Stewart" debuts Thursday, with episodes released on an every-other-week basis. Details are scant, but it's been described as an exploration of issues of national interest as well as Stewart's advocacy work. There's a suggestion that humor is involved: in a promotional trailer, Stewart shrieks when he looks in the mirror, then mutters, "Why would I go back to a visual medium? I could have done a podcast." Unsurprisingly, there is a companion podcast.

■ Here's a contest with a difference: "The Earthshot Prize: Repairing Our Planet," a five-part Discovery series, will highlight 15 finalists and their solutions to a quintet of the planet's greatest environmental problems, including air and ocean quality. Debuting on Sunday on the discovery+ streaming service, the series features David Attenborough and Britain's Prince William. The full series will air on the Discovery Channel on Oct. 16, with the award ceremony carried Oct. 17 on Discovery's Facebook page.

■ The place: Los Angeles. The disaster: A giant sinkhole opens mid-city, plunging hundreds of people and buildings into its depths. That's the start of NBC's "La Brea," in which "down under" refers not to Australia but a primeval world that tests its reluctant new inhabitants' survival skills. Folks above-ground, still coping with traffic and smog, search for answers and a rescue plan. The cast includes Natalie Zea, Eoin Macken, Jon Seda, Nicholas Gonzalez and Chiké Okonkwo. The series premiered Tuesday, and will be available Wednesday on the Peacock streaming service.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

From wire reports

SCOREBOARD/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

AP Top 25 schedule

Friday
No. 5 Iowa at Maryland
No. 13 Brigham Young at Utah St.

Saturday
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 12 Mississippi
No. 2 Georgia vs. No. 8 Arkansas
No. 3 Oregon at Stanford
No. 4 Penn State vs. Indiana
No. 6 Oklahoma at Kansas St.
No. 7 Cincinnati at No. 9 Notre Dame
No. 10 Florida at Kentucky
No. 11 Ohio State at Rutgers
No. 14 Michigan at Wisconsin
No. 15 Texas A&M vs. Mississippi St.
No. 16 Coastal Carolina vs. Louisiana-Monroe
No. 17 Michigan State vs. W. Kentucky
No. 18 Fresno State at Hawaii
No. 19 Oklahoma State vs. No. 21 Baylor
No. 20 UCLA vs. Arizona St.
No. 22 Auburn at LSU
No. 23 North Carolina State vs. Louisiana Tech
No. 24 Wake Forest vs. Louisville
No. 25 Clemson vs. Boston College

PRO HOCKEY

NHL preseason

Monday's games

Columbus 3, Pittsburgh 0
Montreal 5, Toronto 2
Vancouver 4, Calgary 2
St. Louis 2, Dallas 1, OT
Arizona 2, Los Angeles 1

Tuesday's games

Boston at N.Y. Rangers
Buffalo at Columbus
N.Y. Islanders at Philadelphia
Tampa Bay at Carolina
Seattle at Edmonton
Colorado at Vegas
Los Angeles at San Jose

Wednesday's games

New Jersey at Washington
St. Louis at Columbus
Toronto at Ottawa
Edmonton at Winnipeg
Florida at Dallas
Detroit at Chicago
Seattle at Calgary
Arizona at Anaheim

TENNIS

Chicago Fall Tennis Classic

Monday

At XS Tennis Village

Chicago

Purse: \$565,530

Surface: Hardcourt outdoor

Women's Singles

Round of 64

Ann Li, United States, def. Donna Vekic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-1.
Andrea Petkovic, Germany, def. Olga Govortsova, Belarus, 6-2, 6-2.
Dayana Yastremska, Ukraine, def. Alize Cornet, France, 7-5, 6-1.
Veronika Kudermetova (12), Russia, def. Anna Kalinskaya, Russia, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 6-2.
Jessica Pegula (9), United States, def. Magdalena Frech, Poland, 6-3, 6-0.
Mai Hontama, Japan, def. Caroline Garcia, France, 6-3, 6-0.
Shelby Rogers, United States, def. Lizette Cabrera, Australia, 6-2, 6-1.
Danielle Collins (10), United States, def. Kirsten Flipkens, Belgium, 6-4, 6-2.
Maddison Inglis, Australia, def. Caroline Dolehide, United States, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.
Hsieh Su-wei, Taiwan, def. Kim Clijsters, Belgium, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.
Misaki Doi, Japan, def. Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-3.
Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, def. Madison Keys, United States, 6-4, 2-0, ret.
Katerina Kozlova, Ukraine, def. Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, 6-7 (2), 6-3, 6-0.
Marketa Vondrousova, Czech Republic, def. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 6-2, 6-1.

Women's Doubles

Round of 32

Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, and Darija Jurak (6), Croatia, def. Whitney Osuigwe and Hailey Baptiste, United States, 6-4, 6-1.
Viktorija Golubic and Jil Teichmann, Switzerland, def. Elixane Lechemia, France, and Julia Lohoff, Germany, 7-5, 6-4.
Nicole Melichar, United States, and Demi Schuurs (5), Netherlands, def. Tara Moore, Britain, and Emina Bektas, United States, 7-6 (7), 6-3.

Sofia Open

Monday

At Arena Armeec Sofia

Sofia, Bulgaria

Surface: Hardcourt indoor

Men's Singles

Qualification

Andreas Seppi (3), Italy, def. Alexander Donski, Bulgaria, 6-3, 6-2.
Pedro Martinez (1), Spain, def. Kamil Majchrzak (6), Poland, 6-4, 7-6 (4).
Egor Gerasimov (4), Belarus, def. Altug Celikbilek, Turkey, 7-6 (6), 6-3.
Ilyia Marchenko, Ukraine, def. Tomas Machac (7), Czech Republic, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (2).

Round of 32

Benoit Paire, France, def. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina (7), Spain, 6-4, 7-5.
Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, def. Adrian Andreev, Bulgaria, 7-6 (7), 6-4.
Gianluca Mager, Italy, def. Adrian Panarino (6), France, 6-3, 6-2.

Men's Doubles

Round of 16

Marcelo Demoliner and Rafael Matos, Brazil, def. Andrea Vavassori and Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, 6-3, 7-6 (8).

PRO SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	19	4	5	62	53	33
Nashville	11	3	12	45	44	24
NYCFC	11	9	6	39	44	30
Philadelphia	10	7	8	38	32	25
Orlando City	10	8	8	38	37	38
D.C. United	11	11	4	37	45	38
CF Montréal	10	9	7	37	37	32
Atlanta	9	8	9	36	35	31
Columbus	9	11	7	34	32	36
Inter Miami CF	9	11	5	32	25	40
New York	8	11	6	30	31	29
Chicago	6	15	6	24	26	43
Cincinnati	4	13	8	20	26	48
Toronto FC	4	15	7	19	28	51

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	14	5	6	48	38	21
Sporting KC	13	6	7	46	44	28
Colorado	12	4	9	45	35	24
Portland	12	10	4	40	42	43
LA Galaxy	11	10	5	38	37	42
Minnesota	10	8	7	37	29	29
Real Salt Lake	10	10	6	36	42	41
LAFC	9	11	6	33	38	38
Vancouver	8	8	9	33	31	34
San Jose	8	9	9	33	34	38
FC Dallas	6	12	9	27	38	44
Houston	5	11	11	26	31	41
Austin FC	6	16	4	22	27	40

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

Sunday, Sept. 26

Nashville 0, Chicago 0, tie
Seattle 2, Sporting Kansas City 1
Austin FC 2, LA Galaxy 0

Wednesday's games

Cincinnati at Toronto FC
Miami at Atlanta
New England at CF Montréal
Minnesota at D.C. United
Philadelphia at New York
Sporting Kansas City at FC Dallas
New York City FC at Chicago
Orlando City at Nashville
Austin FC at Colorado
Vancouver at Houston
LA Galaxy at Real Salt Lake
Portland at Los Angeles FC
Seattle at San Jose

Saturday's games

Real Salt Lake at Austin FC
Atlanta at CF Montréal
D.C. United at Orlando City
New York at Cincinnati
Minnesota at FC Dallas
San Jose at Vancouver

Sunday's games
Nashville at New York City FC
Columbus at Philadelphia
Chicago at Toronto FC
Houston at Sporting Kansas City
Miami at Portland
Los Angeles FC at LA Galaxy
Colorado at Seattle

NWSL

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

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

Sunday, Sept. 26

Houston 4, Louisville 0
Washington 2, Kansas City 1
Reign FC 3, Orlando 0

Friday's games

Washington at North Carolina
Gotham FC at Louisville

Saturday's games

Orlando at Chicago
Houston at Kansas City
Reign FC at Portland

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs

Single-elimination games

Chicago 81, Dallas 64
Phoenix 83, New York 82
Phoenix 85, Seattle 80, OT
Chicago 89, Minnesota 76

Conference finals

(Best-of-five; x-if necessary)

Connecticut vs. Chicago

Tuesday's game: at Connecticut

Thursday's game: at Connecticut

Sunday's game: at Chicago

x-Wednesday, Oct. 6: at Chicago

x-Friday, Oct. 8: at Connecticut

Las Vegas vs. Phoenix

Tuesday's game: at Las Vegas

Thursday's game: at Las Vegas

Sunday's game: at Phoenix

x-Wednesday, Oct. 6: at Phoenix

x-Friday, Oct. 8: at Las Vegas

DEALS

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned RHP Albert Abreu to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A East). Reinstated RHP Jameson Taillon from the 10-day IL.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Recalled OF Luis Barrera from Las Vegas (Triple-A West). Designated RHP Michael Feliz for assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Recalled RHP Wyatt Mills from Tacoma (Triple-A West). Optioned LHP Justus Sheffield to Tacoma.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Optioned CF Jordan Luplow to Durham (Triple-A East). Recalled RHP Louis Head and LHP Ryan Sherriff from Durham.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS — Selected the contract of LHP Reiver Sanmartin from Louisville (Triple-A East) and agreed to terms on a major league contract. Designated C Beau Taylor for assignment.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed RHP Luis Oviedo on the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Kyle Keller from Indianapolis (Triple-A East).

BASKETBALL

National Basketball League

CHICAGO BULLS — Signed C Daniel Oturu.

DENVER NUGGETS — Re-signed F Aaron Gordon to a veteran extension.

DETROIT PISTONS — Waived G Anthony Tarke.

LOS ANGELES LAKERS — Signed G Austin Reaves.

MILWAUKEE BUCKS — Signed F Javin DeLaurier and G Tremont Waters.

OKLAHOMA CITY THUNDER — Waived G Charlie Brown Jr.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Placed LB Daelin Hayes on injured reserve. Released WR Devin Gray from the practice squad.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Signed CB Rashaan Melvin. Placed CB Jaycee Horn on injured reserve. Signed G Mike Horton to the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Promoted TE Jeremy Sprinkle, DT Justin Hamilton and FB Nick Ralston from the practice squad to the active roster.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed WR Javon McKinley and TE Jared Pinkney to the practice squad. Released LS Beau Brinkley and P Lachlan Edwards from the practice squad.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Activated K Ka'imi Fairbairn and DB A.J. Moore from injured reserve.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Signed WR Tim Jones to the practice squad. Traded CB C.J. Henderson to Carolina in exchange for TE Dan Arnold. Activated WR Tavon Austin from injured reserve. Released WR Phillip Dorsett from the practice squad. Signed K Matthew Wright to the practice squad.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Waived RB Trey Ragas.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Re-signed OL Blake Brandel to the practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed DB Jarren Williams to the practice squad. Signed G Wes Martin.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Promoted OL Sva Opetia from the practice squad to the active roster.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Activated LB Kevin Minter from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

NHL — Suspended Ottawa F Ridley Greig for one preseason game and one regular season game without pay, for cross-checking Winnipeg's F Pierre-Luc Dubois during a game on Sept. 26. Suspended Washington D Dylan McLlath two preseason games and two regular season games, without pay, for an illegal check to the head of Boston F Steven Fogarty during a game Sept. 26.

BUFFALO SABRES — Assigned F Josh Bloom to Saginaw (OHL). F Viljami Marjala to Quebec (QMJHL) and F Olivier Nadeau to Shawinigan (QMJHL).

MINNESOTA WILD — Sent C Bryce Misley to Iowa (AHL).

NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Assigned F Zachary L'Heureux to Halifax (QMJHL) and Ds Jack Matier to Ottawa (OHL) and Luke Prokop to Calgary (WHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Returned F Matt Rempe to Seattle (WHL) and F Karl Henriksson to Frolunda of the Swedish Hockey League.

PHILADELPHIA FLYERS — Assigned RW Connor McClellan to Winnipeg (WHL), C Jon-Randal Avon to Junior club Peterborough (OHL) and D Ethan Samson to Junior Club Prince George (WHL).

PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Assigned Ds Ryan McCleary to Portland (WHL), D Isaac Belliveau to Gatineau (QMJHL). RW Josh Williams to Edmonton (WHL), C Lukas Svejkovsky to Medicine Hat (WHL). Sent G Tommy Napier, D Josh Maniscalco, D Chris Meriseir-Ortiz, D Chris Bigan, C Samuel Houde to Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL).

VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS — Assigned D Lukas Cormier to Charlottetown (QMJHL), G Jesper Vikman to Vancouver (WHL), D Artur Cholach to Barrie (OHL), D Daniil Chayka to Guelph (OHL), C Jakub Demek to Edmonton (WHL), C Jakub Brabenc to Charlottetown (QMJHL) and LW Marcus Kallionkiele to Brandon (WHL). Released RW Kaleb Pearson.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer

FC CINCINNATI — Released HC Jaap Stam. Named Tyrone Marshall interim head coach.



KARL B DEBLAKER/AP

Clemson's D.J. Uiagalelei, right, stiff-arms North Carolina State's Jakeen Harris during the second half of Saturday's game in Raleigh, N.C. Clemson suffered its second loss of the season.

Clemson's goals on life support

By PETE IACOBELLI
Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — The early warning signs at Clemson have turned into a desperate call for help for the 25th-ranked Tigers.

The team which opened at No. 3 in the preseason, has lost twice in September for the first time since 2014 — all but ending its bid for a seventh straight berth in the College Football Playoff.

Clemson (2-2, 1-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) was also the runaway favorite for a seventh consecutive league title. Instead, it is no longer the team-to-beat in the Atlantic Division race after a 27-21 double-overtime loss at North Carolina State this past Saturday.

“All the goals are still on the table,” Tigers offensive coordinator Tony Elliott said Monday. “But, obviously, we need a little help.”

The team plays Boston College (4-0), which begins ACC play at Clemson on Saturday night. The Eagles are coming off a 41-34 overtime victory against Missouri of the Southeastern Conference.

Tight end Davis Allen believes the Tigers can bounce back quickly, no matter the hole they've dug for themselves.

“No one is used to having two losses, but we can't worry about playoffs right now,” Allen said. “As long as we put our head down and continue to work, we look up and we're 10-2. Who knows what can happen?”

That seems a stretch at the moment, given Clemson's struggles on offense and mounting list of injuries to key players on both sides of the ball.

The Tigers are last in total offense and 13th out of 14 teams in scoring in the ACC, categories they dominated the previous

three years. Clemson led the league in points scored, averaging 43 or better a game from 2018-2020.

The Tigers were first in yardage in 2018 and 2019, and second to North Carolina last year, all with more than 500 yards a game.

The team entered this year without several pivotal players from those league-leading teams, including first-round NFL Draft picks quarterback Trevor Lawrence and tailback Travis Etienne, and receivers Amari Rodgers and Cornell Powell, who combined for 130 catches, 1,902 yards and 14 touchdowns last season.

Clemson has averaged 226 yards and 12.6 points in its three games against FBS teams.

The Tigers' latest loss also cost them two starters: defensive tackle Bryan Bresee and tailback Will Shipley. Bresee, last year's ACC defensive rookie of the year, will miss the rest of the season with a torn ACL. Shipley is a freshman who's risen to starting running back and will miss about a month with a leg injury.

Shipley's absence adds to an already depleted tailback group after Lyn-J Dixon chose to transfer earlier this month after falling to third string on the depth chart. Dixon was Etienne's primary backup the previous three years and had gained 1,420 yards in his Clemson career.

Whoever plays against BC will face a team still angry about its showing here in 2020 as it took an 18-point lead into the second half before falling to Clemson 34-28. That comeback was engineered by Tigers quarterback D.J. Uiagalelei filling in with Lawrence out due to COVID-19.

NBA

What to watch as camps open

Bucks seek to repeat, youth movement, Raptors' return home among the main topics as practices start

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

The first practices of the season in the NBA are here, as teams hit the floor on Tuesday to formally begin getting ready for the 2021-22 campaign.

A six-pack of things to watch as things get started:

The champs

Milwaukee is running it back.

The Bucks used eight players in Game 6 of the NBA Finals, the title clincher against Phoenix, and seven of them are still on the roster; the exception is P.J. Tucker, now part of the Miami Heat. The Bucks also have seven of their top eight scorers, in terms of total points, back from a year ago; the exception in that case is Bryn Forbes, who returned to San Antonio.

Plus, Giannis Antetokounmpo played the game of his life to finish off that title run, a 50-point, 14-rebound masterpiece — and he isn't even 27 yet. His best easily may be yet to come.

Camp central

San Diego hasn't technically had an NBA team since 1984.

This week, the city has three.

The Los Angeles Clippers, Denver Nuggets and Brooklyn Nets are all calling San Diego home this week for training camp. They're all practicing separately, using three different facilities. The Nets will play in Los Angeles against the Lakers on Sunday before returning home, while the Nuggets and Clippers will play in Los Angeles on Monday.

Youth is served

There are no fewer than 21 teens on NBA rosters as training camps began Tuesday, including five Rockets and a trio of 18-year-olds — Golden State's Jonathan Kuminga, Oklahoma City's Josh Giddey and San Antonio's Joshua Primo.

Of those, Kuminga and Giddey will turn 19 before the regular season begins. Primo doesn't turn 19 until Dec. 24. He'll be 18 years, 300 days old when the Spurs open their season Oct. 20 against Orlando.

That means he's in line to become the youngest player in an NBA game in more than 15 years — Andrew Bynum was 18 years, 191 days old when he appeared in a playoff contest for the Los Angeles Lakers against Phoenix on

May 6, 2006.

There have been four 18-year-olds to debut in the NBA since Bynum: Dragan Bender, Sekou Doumbouya, Devin Booker and Giannis Antetokounmpo.

But technically, if Primo debuts before Nov. 17, he'll be younger than any of them were for their NBA regular-season games by a matter of days.

How things change

It hasn't even been a year since the 2020 NBA Finals between the Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat — they were played in October.

"Feels like three years ago," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

The Lakers used 12 players in that series; of those, only LeBron James and Anthony Davis have remained with the team on an uninterrupted basis. Rajon Rondo and Dwight Howard are back now, after playing elsewhere last season.

The Heat also used 12 players in that series; of those, only Jimmy Butler, Bam Adebayo, Tyler Herro and Duncan Robinson remain in Miami.

Preseason perspective

The games that start Sunday when Brooklyn visits the Los Angeles Lakers mean, and this can't be stressed enough, absolutely nothing in terms of wins and losses.

Milwaukee went 0-3 in the preseason last year and won the NBA title. Phoenix went 0-4 in the preseason last year and went to the NBA Finals.

The only team in the last 25 years that had the best record in the preseason and went on to win the NBA crown was Golden State in 2016-17.

Finally, home

For Raptors fans in Toronto, the wait is nearly over.

The team plays at home next week. Really at home, that is.

For the first time since Feb. 28, 2020, the Raptors will play a game in Toronto when they open their preseason schedule against Philadelphia. Only a handful of players and staff remain from that team, so the Raptors are having camp in Toronto instead of going elsewhere in Canada — as they've done often in recent years.

Toronto called Tampa, Fla., home last season because of the pandemic.



AJ Mast/AP

Indiana Pacers forward Domantas Sabonis, left, laughs with teammates Malcolm Brogdon (7), T.J. McConnell (9) and Myles Turner while waiting for a photo shoot during the NBA basketball team's media day in Indianapolis on Monday. This is the third season affected by the pandemic.

At Media Days, vaccines and COVID still dominant topics

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
Associated Press

Utah center Rudy Gobert revealed that after much deliberation, he decided to become vaccinated. San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich has gotten his booster shot already. Boston coach Ime Udoka had his shots and tested positive for COVID-19 anyway.

And Brooklyn guard Kyrie Irving is keeping everyone guessing.

The NBA season arrived Monday with media days in advance of training camp, with the ongoing pandemic as much if not even more of a topic than basketball. This will be the third season affected at least in part by the pandemic, almost certainly not the last, and some teams revealed that their rosters are 100% vaccinated entering the season.

"When I felt like it was the right time, I did it," said Gobert — the first NBA player who was known to test positive for COVID-19, back on March 11, 2020.

Same goes for Giannis Antetokounmpo of the NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks, who still isn't totally sure if the vaccine will present issues down the road.

But much like sentiments expressed by Portland's Damian Lillard and Memphis' Ja Morant, Antetokounmpo — a father of two — said his family played a major role in his decision to get vaccinated.

"I did what was best for me and my family's safety. ... You do whatever it takes for you and your family to be OK," Antetokounmpo said.

The Spurs have a fully vaccinated roster, Popovich said. The New York Knicks and Los Angeles Lakers said last week that they would have the same, and some other clubs — including Utah, Portland, Houston and Charlotte — said they were at the 100% mark.

Other teams are close to being fully vaccinated.

Miami will be by the start of the season, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity Monday because the Heat vaccine rate has not been publicly revealed by the team.

Toronto general manager Bobby Webster said the Raptors are "one dose" away from being there, as did Atlanta GM Travis Schlenk.

Leaguewide, the rate is believed to be around 90% and climbing.

"There is still a lot of stuff going on out there," Popovich said. "You see all the bumps in cases here and there. You see all the areas where people are not vaccinated. It's a double-edged sword. I think we are in good



Nick Wass/AP

Wizards guard Bradley Beal is one of a handful of players who is unvaccinated. He missed a chance to play in the Olympics after testing positive.

shape right now. We're trying to do everything we can to make sure we can be safe, which means we've got to be disciplined day to day to day to day."

Players who are vaccinated will not be tested often; unvaccinated players will be tested on all practice days and travel days, and at least once on game days.

The list of unvaccinated players includes Washington's Bradley Beal — who missed out on the chance to play for an Olympic gold medal with USA Basketball this summer after testing positive.

Beal said he remains unvaccinated for "personal reasons," and has questions about why someone can still contract the virus even after being vaccinated.

"Would I love to sit here and tell you that we're 100% vaccinated? I'd be thrilled about that," Denver coach Michael Malone said. "The fact is that we're not, and that's all I'll say on that matter regarding who is and who's not. It's a delicate balance. It is not my place to tell somebody that they have to be vaccinated."

Irving is among the individuals at the center of that debate in the NBA right now.

By local rule in New York, to play for the Nets at home this season Irving would have to be vaccinated or receive an exemption — something that Golden State's Andrew Wiggins sought from the NBA unsuccessfully last week because San Francisco has similar rules.

Irving wasn't at media day in Brooklyn on Monday, instead appearing remotely and refusing to say if he plans to play in home games.

"Please respect my privacy," Irving said.

AP sports writers Jimmy Golen, Michael Marot, Steve Megargee, Paul Newberry, Arnie Stapleton and Associated Press writers Raul Dominguez and Ian Harrison contributed to this report.

MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Tampa Bay	97	59	.622	—
New York	89	67	.571	8
Boston	88	68	.564	9
Toronto	87	69	.558	10
Baltimore	50	106	.321	47
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Chicago	89	68	.567	—
Cleveland	77	79	.494	11½
Detroit	75	81	.481	13½
Kansas City	71	85	.455	17½
Minnesota	69	87	.442	19½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	91	65	.583	—
Seattle	87	70	.554	4½
Oakland	85	72	.541	6½
Los Angeles	74	82	.474	17
Texas	57	99	.365	34
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	83	72	.535	—
Philadelphia	81	75	.519	2½
New York	73	82	.471	10
Washington	65	92	.414	19
Miami	64	91	.413	19
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	94	62	.603	—
St. Louis	87	69	.558	7
Cincinnati	82	75	.522	12½
Chicago	67	89	.429	27
Pittsburgh	58	98	.372	36
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Francisco	102	54	.654	—
z-Los Angeles	100	56	.641	2
San Diego	78	78	.500	24
Colorado	71	85	.455	31
Arizona	50	106	.321	52

x-clinched division
z-clinched playoff berth

Monday's games
Cleveland 8, Kansas City 3
Chicago White Sox 8, Detroit 17
Seattle 13, Oakland 4
Cincinnati 13, Pittsburgh 1
Washington 5, Colorado 4

Tuesday's games
Boston at Baltimore
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto
Detroit at Minnesota
L.A. Angels at Texas
Cleveland at Kansas City
Tampa Bay at Houston
Oakland at Seattle
Miami at N.Y. Mets (2)
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Milwaukee at St. Louis
Cincinnati at Chicago White Sox
Washington at Colorado
Arizona at San Francisco
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers

Wednesday's games
Boston (Eovaldi 10-9) at Baltimore (Luther 1-2)
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 16-8) at Toronto (Berrios 12-9)
Detroit (Mize 7-8) at Minnesota (Pineda 8-8)
L.A. Angels (Junk 0-1) at Texas (Hearn 6-5)
Cleveland (Plesac 10-6) at Kansas City (Lynch 4-6)
Tampa Bay (Patiño 4-3) at Houston (Garcia 11-7)
Oakland (Montas 13-9) at Seattle (Gilbert 6-5)
Washington (Espino 5-5) at Colorado (Lambert 0-0)
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 14-7) at Pittsburgh (TBD)
Miami (Hernandez 1-3) at N.Y. Mets (Walker 7-11)
Philadelphia (Nola 9-8) at Atlanta (Fried 13-7)
Milwaukee (Houser 9-6) at St. Louis (Mikolas 2-2)
Cincinnati (Gray 7-8) at Chicago White Sox (Rodón 12-5)
Arizona (Kelly 7-11) at San Francisco (Wood 10-4)
San Diego (TBD) at L.A. Dodgers (Scherzer 15-4)

Thursday's games
L.A. Angels at Texas
Boston at Baltimore
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto
Tampa Bay at Houston
Detroit at Minnesota
Cleveland at Kansas City
Milwaukee at St. Louis
Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh
Miami at N.Y. Mets
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Arizona at San Francisco
San Diego at L.A. Dodgers



TONY DEJAK/AP

Cleveland fans hold up signs after Monday's 8-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals. It was the final home game in which the Cleveland team went by the name Indians.

ROUNDUP

Cleveland wins its last home game as Indians

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Indians won their last home game before becoming the Guardians, beating the Kansas City Royals 8-3 on Monday to close a run that started in 1915 and will continue next season with a new identity.

Amed Rosario homered and Cal Quantrill pitched six strong innings to delight a Progressive Field crowd of 13,121 that came to see their team play one last time as the Indians. Rosario finished with four hits and three RBIs.

Cleveland's Bradley Zimmer homered off his brother, Kansas City reliever Kyle Zimmer, in the eighth.

Salvador Perez drove in two runs for the Royals. The home finale was the club's final game in Cleveland as the Indians, ending a 106-year run in a city where the name will forever be attached to legendary players such as Bob Feller, Larry Doby and Jim Thome.

The team announced the name change earlier this year in the wake of a nationwide reckoning over racist names and symbols.

Cleveland won two World Series (1920 and 1948) as the Indians, and came close to winning it all in 1995, 1997 and 2016 only to twice lose in heartbreaking fashion. Now, baseball's longest current title drought carries on under a new name.

Mariners 13, Athletics 4: Mitch

AL wild card

	W	L	Pct	WCGB
New York	89	67	.571	—
Boston	88	68	.564	—
Toronto	87	69	.558	1
Seattle	87	70	.554	1½
Oakland	85	72	.541	3½

NL wild card

	W	L	Pct	WCGB
z-Los Angeles	100	56	.641	—
St. Louis	87	69	.558	—
Cincinnati	82	75	.522	5½

z-clinched playoff berth

Haniger hit two identical three-run homers and host Seattle gained precious ground in the AL wild-card race with a win over Oakland.

The Mariners' 10th straight victory against the Athletics tied the team record for most consecutive wins against a single opponent. Seattle has won eight of nine overall and nine of their last 11.

It is 1½ games behind Boston for the second wild card, with Toronto a game back of the Red Sox. Both those teams were off Monday.

Oakland fell 3½ games behind Boston and two back of the Mariners with two more games to play in Seattle. The A's also were eliminated from the AL West race.

White Sox 8, Tigers 7: Eloy Jiménez hit a two-run home run, Yasmani Grandal homered to spark a six-run fourth inning and AL Central champion Chicago held off host Detroit.

The benches cleared after White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu and Tigers shortstop Niko Goodrum exchanged words when Abreu was tagged out attempting to steal second base in the ninth. Abreu had been hit by a pitch from Alex Lange one inning after Detroit's Isaac Paredes was hit by a pitch. There were no ejections. Jimenez reached base four times and scored two runs. Cesar Hernandez and Zack Collins drove in two runs apiece in the makeup of a game postponed last Wednesday because of rain.

Reds 13, Pirates 1: Joey Votto homered twice and drove in four runs, and host Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh to stay alive in the race for the second NL wild card.

Nick Castellanos, Jonathan India and Eugenio Suarez also connected as the Reds (82-75) posted their fourth straight victory, clinching a second straight winning season, Castellanos had five RBIs, and India finished with four hits and scored four times.

Cincinnati pulled within 5½ games of idle St. Louis for the second wild card. The Cardinals (87-69) need just one more win to secure the spot.

Nationals 5, Rockies 4: Josiah Gray pitched into the sixth inning to earn his second career win, and visiting Washington beat Colorado.

Luis García hit a two-run single and Alcides Escobar had three hits for the Nationals.

Rolling: Everyone is pitching in

FROM PAGE 24

thing," Knizner said. "You see each game different guys stepping up, making big plays or making big pitches to win us a game."

Each of the team's big stars has pitched in. Goldschmidt is batting .383 with seven homers and 16 RBIs in his last 16 games. The 40-year-old Wainwright is 3-0 with a 3.52 ERA in September. Molina has six RBIs in his last six games, and Arenado has four homers and 12 RBIs during the streak.



Shildt

But the Cardinals (87-69) are receiving positive contributions from all over their roster.

Gallegos has 10 saves and a sparkling 0.84 ERA over his last 11 games, solidifying the back end of St. Louis' bullpen. Nootbaar, a rookie outfielder, homered twice and scored five times during the Cardinals' four-game sweep of the Chicago Cubs. Whitley has a string of 12 consecutive scoreless relief appearances.

Mix in a breakout performance for Tyler O'Neill, who has a career-high 32 homers and 77 RBIs, and the Cards are hoping to turn a big finish into another successful October.

"Good teams have a deep roster (with) guys that can contribute," manager Mike Shildt said. "The thing I love about our game is you never know who has to be on the mound, you don't know who's going to take the at-bat, you don't know who he's going to hit it to."

"So we prepare for everything, and our guys have done a tremendous job."

St. Louis showed off its depth during Sunday's 4-2 victory over the Cubs. The game was tied before a couple of role players keyed a two-run ninth.

Knizner, who backs up Molina behind the plate, led off with a walk. Nootbaar, who entered in the eighth as part of a double switch, followed with a perfectly placed bunt single. Tommy Edman then moved the runners over with a sacrifice.

After Goldschmidt was walked intentionally, Knizner scored on a wild pitch and Nootbaar scampered home on O'Neill's comeback.

Before the Cards pushed across the winning runs, Woodford kept St. Louis in the game with a 5½ innings of two-run ball. The right-hander is 1-0 with a 1.90 ERA in five appearances in September.

NHL/NFL

Hyman, Chara among NHL vets in new uniforms

By JOHN WAWROW
AND STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

One call from Connor McDavid was all Zach Hyman needed to put unfinished business with the Toronto Maple Leafs behind him upon joining the Edmonton Oilers.

Hyman left his hometown team to sign a \$38.5 million, seven-year contract with McDavid and the Oilers, who are similarly trying to get over the hump in the playoffs. McDavid immediately invited him to work out with him and some other teammates, so it did not take long for Hyman to feel welcome and appreciate the reigning NHL MVP's game.

"It was awesome," Hyman said. "It's not just natural ability. It's his drive and determination to continue to push and get better, which was really awesome to see."

Hyman became a salary-cap casualty in Toronto, where he spent his first six NHL seasons playing a jack-of-all-trades role, which included playing time on the top line. A two-time 20-goal scorer, he's expected to add much-needed offensive depth to Edmonton, which lacked secondary scoring in being swept by Winnipeg in the first round of the playoffs.

Hyman chose Edmonton after having a chance to tour the city with his wife once the Maple Leafs made it clear they wouldn't be re-signing him.

"I said to my wife, 'It looks like this is where I want to play from a hockey standpoint, like is where I think I have the best chance,'" he recalled. "And my wife's all in on winning. She's like, 'Go and win.'"

Another factor behind electing to stay in Canada was knowing his family and friends would be able to travel to see him play, given the un-

certainty of cross-border travel restrictions during the pandemic.

The Oilers also got three-time Cup-winning defenseman Duncan Keith from Chicago, acquired forward Warren Foegele from Carolina for Ethan Bear and signed defenseman Cody Ceci and forward Derek Ryan.

Among the Maple Leafs' most notable offseason moves was signing forward Nick Ritchie.

"He's a big man that moves well up and down the ice," said Maple Leafs forward Mitch Marner, who attended high school with Ritchie. "He's a guy that brings some intimidation as well. He's not afraid to throw his body around."

Old timers keep going

When Zdeno Chara considered whether to play another NHL season at age 44, it came down to one thing.

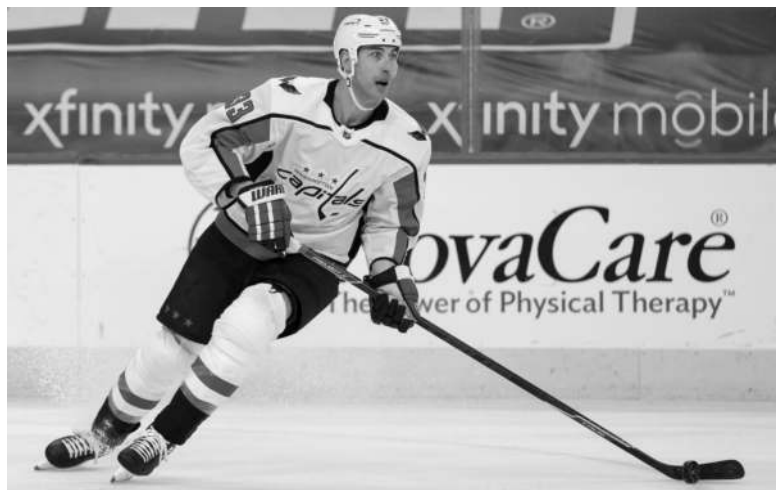
"I love the game," the big defenseman said after signing with the New York Islanders. "I have passion for the game and believe that I can still play."

He isn't the only graybeard playing at least one more season. Still chasing it at 42, Joe Thornton signed with the Florida Panthers.

KK to Carolina

Center Jesperi Kotkaniemi left Montreal and signed a one-year, \$6.1 million offer sheet with the Carolina Hurricanes that the Canadiens declined to match. Two years ago, the Canadiens extending an offer sheet to Hurricanes star Sebastian Aho two years ago, which was matched by Carolina. Kotkaniemi's offer sheet included a \$20 bonus, which is Aho's number.

"It's pretty funny," Aho said. "I mean, everyone's talking about it."



CHRIS SZAGOLA/AP

Zdeno Chara, 44, wasn't ready to retire, so he signed a one-year deal with his first NHL team, the New York Islanders.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning walks off the field after a 39-33 loss to his old team, the Indianapolis Colts, on Oct. 20, 2013, in Indianapolis.

Return of the king: Matchup with old team often intriguing

By BARRY WILNER
Associated Press

Sometimes, the abdicating king, or the deposed one, returns to his kingdom.

It happens often enough in the NFL, yet rarely is as newsworthy as Tom Brady, who led the Patriots to six Super Bowl titles, going back to New England. He'll do that on Sunday night, eight months after taking the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to the top.

The reception at Gillette Stadium is likely to be overwhelmingly pro-Brady — until the teams kick off. Then, when he does anything positive for the Bucs and damaging to the Patriots, well, does anyone expect much cheers for the 44-year-old quarterback then?

Here's a look at six Pro Football Hall of Famers and how things turned out in their returns to the place they became a star.

Peyton Manning

After five straight victories to open the season with his new team, the Broncos, Manning was on his way to his record fifth MVP award while setting all sorts of league passing marks. The matchup with the Colts in Indianapolis was ballyhooed like the second coming, but despite Manning's brilliance — three touchdown passes, 386 yards in the air — his replacement, Andrew Luck, got the win 39-33.

"I am kind of relieved in some ways that this game is over," he said at the end of a long night.

But the reception from the Lucas Stadium crowd beforehand at least soothed Manning's pain a bit: a standing ovation through a 90-second highlight reel of Manning's career in Indianapolis.

Marcus Allen

A league MVP and Super Bowl winner with the Raiders, Allen left in 1993 when team owner Al Davis insisted he be a backup in a nasty feud with the player. Allen landed in Kansas City (Joe Montana already had arrived from the 49ers) and despite a mediocre performance, he helped the Chiefs to a Game 4 home victory.

Five weeks later, the division rivals met at the LA Coliseum.

He rushed for 85 yards and a score in securing the sweep of his former team, enough for Kansas City to finish on top of the AFC West by one game over Los Angeles.

Emmitt Smith

This didn't turn out well at all for the career rushing leader who played his first 13 seasons in Dallas and won three Super Bowls. He went to Arizona in 2003 and broke his shoulder blade at the Cowboys in Game 5. He had six carries for minus-1 yard, a pair of receptions for 2 yards.

The day began festively. Before thousands of fans in blue No. 22 jerseys and dozens of welcome back signs — one read "Once A Cowboy, Always A Cowboy" — he was applauded from the moment he stepped onto the field, sharing a brief hug with Cowboys owner Jerry Jones.

Reggie White

When White came back to Philadelphia in 1994, a 13-7 Packers defeat, in Week 3, it was an emotionally drenching experience for the outstanding defensive end. He had little impact, making 2½ tackles, not getting a sack.

"It's hard playing against your friends," White said.

Brian Dawkins

The seven-time Pro Bowl safety in 13 seasons in Philadelphia returned as a Bronco in 2009. He didn't come out for pregame warmups, then received a rousing ovation when he was introduced. Dawkins went through his familiar routine, turning a backward, rolling somersault into a reverse handstand before sprinting down the line and nearly taking out a cameraman.

He hugged former teammates after the game and blew kisses to the fans as he ran off the field following a 30-27 loss.

Deion Sanders

Sanders had a few "returning hero" moments. The most notable was in 1994 as a 49er — they would win the championship — at Atlanta, where Prime Time was a standout for five seasons. It wasn't an example of welcoming back with open arms.

It was bad enough for local fans that the Niners routed the Falcons 42-3. Sanders, ever the showman, contributed a 93-yard interception return touchdown capped by high-stepping the last 40 or so yards, followed by something approximating a bow toward the Atlanta bench.

NFL

Scoreboard

American Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	2	1	0	.667	94	44
Miami	1	2	0	.333	45	82
New England	1	2	0	.333	54	51
N.Y. Jets	0	3	0	.000	20	70
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	71	84
Houston	1	2	0	.333	67	76
Indianapolis	0	3	0	.000	56	80
Jacksonville	0	3	0	.000	53	91
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	82	85
Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	68	54
Cleveland	2	1	0	.667	86	60
Pittsburgh	1	2	0	.333	50	66
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	3	0	0	1.000	76	26
Las Vegas	3	0	0	1.000	90	72
L.A. Chargers	2	1	0	.667	67	60
Kansas City	1	2	0	.333	92	95
National Conference						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	2	1	0	.667	90	69
Philadelphia	1	2	0	.333	64	64
Washington	1	2	0	.333	67	92
N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	.000	56	74
South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	3	0	0	1.000	69	30
New Orleans	2	1	0	.667	73	42
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	.667	103	88
Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	48	94
North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	2	1	0	.667	68	83
Chicago	1	2	0	.333	40	77
Minnesota	1	2	0	.333	87	78
Detroit	0	3	0	.000	67	95
West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	3	0	0	1.000	103	65
L.A. Rams	3	0	0	1.000	95	62
San Francisco	2	1	0	.667	86	74
Seattle	1	2	0	.333	75	79
Thursday, Sept. 23						
Carolina 24, Houston 9						
Sunday's games						
Arizona 31, Jacksonville 19						
Atlanta 17, N.Y. Giants 14						
Baltimore 19, Detroit 17						
Buffalo 43, Washington 21						
Cincinnati 24, Pittsburgh 10						
Cleveland 26, Chicago 6						
L.A. Chargers 30, Kansas City 24						
New Orleans 28, New England 13						
Tennessee 25, Indianapolis 16						
Denver 26, N.Y. Jets 0						
Las Vegas 31, Miami 28, OT						
L.A. Rams 34, Tampa Bay 24						
Minnesota 30, Seattle 17						
Green Bay 30, San Francisco 28						
Monday's game						
Dallas 41, Philadelphia 21						
Thursday's game						
Jacksonville at Cincinnati						
Sunday, Oct. 3						
Carolina at Dallas						
Cleveland at Minnesota						
Detroit at Chicago						
Houston at Buffalo						
Indianapolis at Miami						
Kansas City at Philadelphia						
N.Y. Giants at New Orleans						
Tennessee at N.Y. Jets						
Washington at Atlanta						
Arizona at L.A. Rams						
Seattle at San Francisco						
Baltimore at Denver						
Pittsburgh at Green Bay						
Tampa Bay at New England						
Monday, Oct. 4						
Las Vegas at L.A. Chargers						
Thursday Oct. 7						
L.A. Rams at Seattle						
Sunday, Oct. 10						
New York Jets vs. Atlanta at London						
Denver at Pittsburgh						
Detroit at Minnesota						
Green Bay at Cincinnati						
Miami at Tampa Bay						
New England at Houston						
New Orleans at Washington						
Philadelphia at Carolina						
Tennessee at Jacksonville						
Chicago at Las Vegas						
Cleveland at L.A. Chargers						
N.Y. Giants at Dallas						
San Francisco at Arizona						
Buffalo at Kansas City						

Prescott, Cowboys rout Eagles

By SCHUYLER DIXON
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Dak Prescott ran toward the tunnel, raising his arms to the fans and tossing them souvenirs after the Dallas Cowboys manhandled the Philadelphia Eagles in prime time.

The scene was a stark contrast to almost a year earlier, when the star quarterback was in tears as he rode on a cart through the same spot after the gruesome ankle injury that ended his season.

Prescott threw for three touchdowns in his first home game since the injury, Trevon Diggs returned an interception 59 yards for a score and the Cowboys beat the Eagles 41-21 on Monday night.

“Just thankful for everything that I’ve been through, all of the hard work that made me account for just to be back out here doing what I love,” Prescott said. “It’s the greatest place to play football.”

Ezekiel Elliott ran for a season-high 95 yards and two touchdowns, and tight end Dalton Schultz had the first two-TD game of his career.

Except for a fumble in the end zone that gave Philadelphia (1-2) its first touchdown, Prescott was efficient, going 21-for-26 for 238 yards without an interception in the first NFC East game for both teams.

Prescott’s first game at AT&T Stadium since the season-ending compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle in Week 5 last year against the New York Giants was also the return to full capacity after the pandemic-imposed limits last season. There were 93,267 fans inside with the retractable roof open at the \$1.2 billion facility. “A guy like Dak, he’s going to be psyched regardless,” Elliott said. “There’s not any extra he can get besides just the competitor he is, the player he is.”

Dallas (2-1) had a 19-1 edge in first downs late in the first half, but the Eagles were down just 20-7 at the break. After Javon Hargrave forced Prescott’s fumble and caught the ball for the score, Philadelphia stuffed the QB on a fourth-



MATT PATTERSON/AP

Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott celebrates a touchdown against the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday. It was Prescott’s first home game since suffering an ankle injury last year that ended his season.

down sneak at the other end. Diggs stepped in front of a pass from Hurts to the sideline on the third play of the second half and ran untouched for his first career TD while becoming the first Cowboys player with a pick in each of the first three games since Everson Walls in 1985.

Diggs and Cincinnati’s Logan Wilson share the NFL lead with three interceptions.

Hurts had completions of 41 yards to Quez Watkins, 38 yards to tight end Dallas Goedert and 27 yards to tight end Zach Ertz while finishing 25-for-39 for 326 yards with two TDs and two interceptions. Plenty of the Texas native’s passing yards, and the second TD, came with the game out of reach.

“I didn’t do a good enough job of leading,” Hurts said. “I didn’t do a good enough of running our offense, doing the things I need to do. This one’s on me.”

Prescott’s 19-yard touchdown

pass to Schultz put Dallas ahead for good at 14-7 late in the first quarter, and a 2-yarder to Cedrick Wilson on fourth down essentially put the game away at 34-14 early in the fourth.

Any doubt was erased when rookies Micah Parsons and Osa Odighizuwa shared a sack of Hurts on a desperation try on fourth-and-9 midway through the fourth quarter. Odighizuwa had his first career sack in the first half, dropping Hurts for an 11-yard loss.

Schultz, who led the Cowboys with 80 yards receiving, scored again on a 22-yarder in the fourth quarter.

Tony Pollard added 60 yards rushing on 11 carries as Dallas finished with 160 yards on the ground against the NFL’s No. 2 run defense.

“They had a good game plan to run the ball, we were second and 4, second and 3,” Eagles defensive tackle Fletcher Cox said. “One

thing we’re known for is stopping the run. We couldn’t get off the field.”

Hall of Fame rings

Jimmy Johnson, who coached the Cowboys to a pair of Super Bowl titles in the 1990s, made a rare appearance on their home field when he was presented his Pro Football Hall of Fame ring at halftime along with safety Cliff Harris and receiver Drew Pearson. All three were inducted this summer.

Johnson started his speech by thanking owner Jerry Jones and ended it with the famous line he first shouted after an NFC championship game win over San Francisco during the 1992 season: “How ’bout them Cowboys!” Johnson and Jones split acrimoniously after another Super Bowl title to finish the 1993 season. The two hugged before Jones put the ring on Johnson.

Chiefs signing reinstated All-Pro WR Gordon

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs are signing former All-Pro wide receiver Josh Gordon, who was recently reinstated by the NFL after violations of its policies on substance abuse and performance-enhancing substances.

Gordon’s agents, Eric Dounn and Matt Leist, confirmed that Gordon was headed to Kansas City on Monday and planned to sign on to the practice squad. The expectation is he will join the active roster as soon as he’s up to speed.

“Time to get to work,” Gordon tweeted later Monday with a link to the Chiefs’ account.

The 30-year-old Gordon was one of the league’s dynamic players early in his career in Cleveland, where he led the league with 1,646 yards receiving during the 2013 season. But he quickly became entangled in off-the-field issues, leading to six suspensions over a span of six years, five of them for some form of substance abuse.

Gordon did not play at all in 2015 and 2016 while serving suspensions, and he struggled to regain his form while splitting the 2018 season between the Browns and New England. He wound up splitting the 2019 season between the Patriots and the Seahawks before another suspension put his future in professional football

in jeopardy again.

He was added to the Seattle roster last December, when the NFL deemed him eligible to return. But one day later, the league decided Gordon had broken terms of his reinstatement and he was suspended indefinitely in January.

Gordon was released by the Seahawks in March, becoming a free agent, and asked Commissioner Roger Goodell in July to be reinstated. His application was approved Monday, allowing Gordon to sign with Kansas City.

The Chiefs have been desperate for help alongside Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce in the passing game, especially after losing Sammy Watkins to free agency.

SPORTS



Cowboys win home opener

Prescott throws for three TDs in rout of Eagles » **NFL, Page 23**



MLB



Rolling Redbirds

Cardinals use depth to win 16 straight

BY JAY COHEN
Associated Press

It's Paul Goldschmidt, Adam Wainwright, Yadier Molina and Nolan Arenado. But it's also Giovanny Gallegos, Andrew Knizner, Jake Woodford and Kodi Whitely.

The St. Louis Cardinals are proving to be a lot more than their biggest stars — a Lars Nootbaar more.

The soaring Cardinals had won 16 in a row heading into Tuesday night's game against NL Central champion Milwaukee. It's the majors' longest streak since Cleveland took 22 in a row in 2017, and the best in the

National League since the New York Giants won 16 straight in 1951 on their way to an improbable pennant.

One more win, and St. Louis clinches the second NL wild card for its third straight postseason appearance. Wainwright took the mound Tuesday night against Brandon Woodruff and the visiting Brewers.

"I think, finally, now, you know maybe at the most important time of the season, we're putting everything together and we're not trying to force any-

SEE ROLLING ON PAGE 21

Top: The St. Louis Cardinals' Paul DeJong, left, celebrates his home run off Cubs relief pitcher Michael Rucker with teammate Harrison Bader during the third inning on Sept. 24 in Chicago. **Left:** Tyler O'Neill has had a breakout season with a career-high 32 homers and 77 RBIs.

PHOTOS BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

COVID still dominant topic as camps open » **NBA, Page 20**

