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STARS AND STRIPES

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WAR ON TERRORISM



It's far from over

JENSEN GULLORY/U.S. Army

A soldier with the 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, makes his way to a Bradley Fighting Vehicle in Syria in January. Although the U.S. has left Afghanistan, there are still more than 3,000 American service members on bases in Syria and Iraq.

INDO-PACIFIC

Tensions grow over US, allies' involvement

By DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BANGKOK — With increasingly strong talk in support of Taiwan, a new deal to supply Australia with nuclear submarines and the launch of a European strategy for greater engagement in the Indo-Pacific, the U.S. and its allies are becoming more assertive in their approach toward a rising China.

China has bristled at the moves, and the growing tensions between Beijing and Washington prompted U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last weekend to implore President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping to repair their "completely dysfunctional" relationship, warning they risk dividing the world.

As the U.N. General Assembly opened Tuesday, both leaders chose calming language, with Biden insisting "we are not seeking a new Cold War or a world divided into rigid blocs," and Xi telling the forum that "China has never, and will never invade or bully others

SEE TENSIONS ON PAGE 6



ANA BRIGIDA/AP

Military personnel conduct a NATO training exercise aboard the UK Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth on May 27. The U.S. and its allies have become more assertive in their efforts to counter China in the Indo-Pacific.

As Biden touts an end to America's 'forever' wars, other conflicts drag on

By MISSY RYAN
The Washington Post

When President Joe Biden told global leaders this week that he had ended America's era of insurgent war, his assertion appeared to contrast sharply with the prolonged military missions that have locked the U.S. in low-level conflicts in Africa and the Middle East.

Speaking before the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday, Biden vowed to launch a new period of "relentless diplomacy" after the war in

Afghanistan and turn toward Asia after two decades of counterterrorism campaigns set in motion by the 9/11 attacks.

"I stand here today for the first time in 20 years with the United States not at war," Biden said. "We've turned the page."

As he spoke, a force of more than 3,000 American service members are arrayed on bases across Iraq and Syria, dug in on an extended mission against Islamic State that exposes them to dangers including drone and rocket attacks.

In Somalia and Yemen, smaller cadres of

special operations troops operate alongside local forces as part of more-shadowy missions against al-Qaida-linked fighters, while periodic drone strikes in those countries demonstrate American firepower from the air.

In Afghanistan, officials are refining plans to conduct what they call "over the horizon" counterterrorism strikes if a terrorist threat emerges in the country that sheltered al-Qaida and now has an ISIS-K branch.

The immediacy of those conflicts was evi-

SEE OVER ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EPA rules to phase out gases used as refrigerants

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In what officials call a key step to combat climate change, the Environmental Protection Agency is sharply limiting domestic production and use of hydrofluorocarbons, highly potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators and air conditioners.

The new rule, which follows through on a law Congress passed last year, is intended to decrease U.S. production and use of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years, part

of a global phaseout designed to slow global warming.

HFCs are greenhouse gases that are thousands of times more powerful than carbon dioxide. They often leak through pipes or appliances that use compressed refrigerants and are considered a major driver of global warming. President Joe Biden has pledged to embrace a 2016 global agreement to greatly reduce HFCs by 2036.

White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy, a former EPA ad-

ministrator, said the new rule was “a win on climate and a win on jobs and American competitiveness.”

The rule is expected to reduce harmful emissions by the equivalent of 4.5 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide by 2050, McCarthy said, a total similar to three years of emissions from the U.S. power sector.

A pandemic relief and spending bill passed by Congress last December directs the EPA to sharply reduce production and use of HFCs.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Sept. 24)	\$1.14	Bahrain(Dinar)	.3769
Dollar buys (Sept. 24)	0.8313	Britain (Pound)	1.3733
British pound (Sept. 24)	\$1.34	Canada (Dollar)	1.2658
Japanese yen (Sept. 24)	107.00	China(Yuan)	6.4543
South Korean won (Sept. 24)	1152.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.3347
		Egypt (Pound)	15.7107
		Euro	.8518
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7840
		Hungary (Forint)	303.31
		Israel (Shekel)	3.1981
		Japan (Yen)	110.07
		Kuwait(Dinar)	.3010
		Norway (Krone)	8.5860
		Philippines (Peso)	50.23
		Poland (Zloty)	3.93
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7508
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3474

South Korea (Won)	1172.33
Switzerland (Franc)	.9225
Thailand (Baht)	33.33
Turkey (NewLira)	8.7383

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

INTEREST RATES	
Prime rate	3.25
Interest Rates Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	1.85

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

+81 (42) 552.2511
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MILITARY



TRYSTAN JORDAN/U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. and Philippine marines land on a beach in an assault amphibious vehicle during an Exercise Balikatan drill in Zambales, Philippines, in April 2019.

US and Philippines set to restart work on shared military facilities

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

Plans to build facilities for U.S. troops in the Philippines, which had stalled for years amid wrangling over rules for visiting forces, are back on track, officials from both countries said Thursday.

“We plan to move fairly quickly,” Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez said during an online conference sponsored by Pacific Forum. The Hawaii-based think tank organized the event to discuss the allies’ 70-year-old Mutual Defense Treaty.

Facilities for U.S. forces at five bases were authorized by the Philippines government under the 2014 Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.

The pact allows U.S. troops and contractors to operate at agreed-upon locations in the Philippines. Although the revised Philippine constitution bans permanent U.S. bases, the agreement hands U.S. forces operational control of the shared facilities and allows them

to stockpile defense equipment and supplies.

Doubts were raised about the program in February 2020 after Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte began a process to terminate the Visiting Forces Agreement that permits U.S. troops to train in the country. The maverick leader canceled the plan after meeting with U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in July.

One shared basing project, a humanitarian assistance and disaster relief warehouse at Cesar Basa Air Base on the Philippines’ main island of Luzon, opened in January 2019.

However, the allies are looking at projects at all five sites specified under the shared basing agreement, according to Lindsey Ford, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense for South and Southeast Asia.

“We are working through various projects now,” she said during Thursday’s online conference.

Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana in January 2019

identified Palawan island as the site of another planned shared facility.

The Palawan site is significant because of its proximity to the South China Sea, Carl Baker, then executive director of the Pacific Forum, said at the time.

China has built its own military bases and placed missiles on artificial islands in the contested waters that are subject to claims by several neighboring states, including the Philippines.

The Palawan base includes a 9,000-foot World War II-era runway, Baker said.

“That warehouse could be used to store equipment for surveillance flights,” he said.

The U.S. is also working with the Philippine government on projects at Fort Magsaysay Military Reservation, Lumbia Airfield and Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base, according to a U.S. Embassy report posted online in 2019.

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

Boeing to build new drones in Australia

Associated Press

BRISBANE, Australia — Chicago-based aerospace giant Boeing has announced plans to build a new type of drone military aircraft in Australia.

Boeing said Wednesday it has selected Toowoomba city in Queensland state as the final assembly point for its unmanned Loyal Wingman planes. The first test flights were completed earlier this year.

The announcement comes less than a week after the U.S., Britain and Australia announced a new security alliance that will supply Australia with nuclear-powered sub-

marines. The deal was condemned by China and has heightened tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.

Scott Carpendale, managing director of Boeing Defence Australia, said development of the new aircraft is going to plan. He said it uses artificial intelligence to operate in tandem with manned aircraft and was conceived, designed and developed in Australia.

It’s the first military combat aircraft to be designed and manufactured in Australia in half a century. Boeing Australia is currently developing six of the aircraft in partnership with the Royal Australian Air

Force.

Carpendale said no orders have been confirmed but the Australian government seems confident and happy about the Loyal Wingman’s capabilities.

“There’s a significant interest from other countries,” Carpendale added.

He said the drone will be built in a facility at Wellcamp Airport, which is owned by Wagner Corp.

Wagner chairman John Wagner said he hopes a defense and aerospace precinct at the airport will attract more companies in similar fields.

DOD reveals plan to address sexual assaults

By **CAITLIN DOORNBOS**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department’s plan to tackle sexual assault and harassment in the ranks represents the largest attempt ever to impose systemic changes to address the problem across the force, Deputy Defense Secretary Kathleen Hicks told reporters Wednesday at the Pentagon.

The “implementation roadmap” revealed Wednesday comes after an independent review commission established by Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in February studied sexual assault and harassment in the military for 90 days. On June 21, the commission submitted a report with 82 recommended changes to Austin, who then ordered July 2 that the roadmap be developed.

The Pentagon has already begun implementing its “foundation” that “consists of the most important elements in preventing sexual assault and sexual harassment, and holding offenders accountable,” Hicks said.

Among those initiatives are “three of our highest priority recommendations” — establishing special-victim prosecutors, creating a full-time and specialized sexual-assault prevention workforce and hiring full-time, sexual-assault response coordinators and sexual-assault prevention and response victim-advocate positions, she said.

“Our goal is to implement as rapidly as possible, while ensuring we can deliver durable and meaningful outcomes,” Hicks said.

The first implementation deadline for the roadmap is Oct. 13, when the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness must issue “enterprise-wide guidance for implementing all recommendations,” Hicks said. Each service is also required to develop their own implementation plans and map out their resources before February.

To stay accountable, Austin also ordered the undersecretary to develop a way to evaluate metrics by May 1 and “formally assess the roadmap no fewer than twice per year.”

Still, not all changes will be immediate. One of the key changes is removing prosecuting authority from the military chain of command in cases of sexual assault, domestic violence, child abuse and

retaliation. But that will take congressional action to complete, Hicks said.

“We can’t just move quickly but shallowly and have the figment of action without having really well thought-through processes for how we do this,” she said. “The DOD efforts in this space will be the largest ever attempted — no university, no major institution, is at our scale.”

The commission’s report recommended creating an office of the special-victim prosecutor in the defense secretary’s office, which would oversee “highly trained special-victim prosecutor(s) who [are] independent from the chain of command.”

“Recommendations such as the establishment of the offices of special-victim prosecutors represent real cultural and structural shifts for the military departments,” Hicks said.

Unit commanding officers are now tasked with deciding whether a report of sexual assault should be sent to trial, but “only prosecutors have the technical training to make the purely legal decisions that affect victims’ access to justice,” the report stated.

“Commanders are not lawyers, and they do not receive adequate training regarding victimization, implicit bias and the impact these concepts have on the administration of justice,” according to the report.

The recommendation to remove sexual assault case decisions from the chain of command was debated by senior officers across the service branches since news of it leaked in April, with some defense leaders worried about giving military commanders less control over their units.

The commission also discovered a link between sexual harassment and sexual assault reports in units. To address the issue, the Pentagon is asking Congress to help make sexual harassment a crime by expanding the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which is the military’s system of laws punishable by court-martial, Hicks said.

While the roadmap is complete, it will still take time to enact several of the changes — especially those involving the UCMJ — because they will require legislation, she said.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

MILITARY

Air Force efforts to reduce pilot shortage slowed

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force once again fell short of its annual goal to train 1,500 new pilots, though service leaders believe more civilian instructors and the final rollout of new technology-driven training could be instrumental in helping end the shortage of enough qualified pilots.

Lt. Gen. Brad Webb, commander of the service's Air Education Training Command, said he anticipates those barriers could be cleared by next year. Meanwhile, the Air Force is looking to increase the pool of qualified candidates who apply to become pilots through free outreach training programs and an overhaul of the selection process so it's more modern and equitable.

Each year, Air Education Training Command, known as AETC, is tasked with sending 1,500 pilots into the service — the number the Air Force has said it needs to retain about 21,000 pilots within its active, Guard and Reserve forces to meet the requirements of the 2018 National Defense Strategy.

In fiscal 2020, AETC trained 1,263 pilots, and Webb anticipated that when fiscal 2021 closes at the end of the month, it will be up by about 100 pilots. That should put the service back to levels of training attained before the coronavirus pandemic caused a drop.

The Air Force has continuously struggled to keep pilots in the service, with many leaving for more lucrative careers in the civilian sector that put less strain on family life. While it has remained about 2,000 pilots short for several years, Gen. Charles Q. Brown, the Air Force chief of staff, said in May that

they've closed that gap by about 200 pilots.

As of this month, the Air Force had about 13,160 active-duty pilots, according to the Air Force Personnel Center. That's about 700 more than six months ago, when AETC leadership provided an update on pilot training.

Training program tests

Part of the solution is creating a more efficient training process to get those pilots into units faster, but without a drop in quality, Webb said last week in a call with reporters. Two factors — hiring civilians to help with training and incorporating program changes — have slowed progress for now, he said.

While technology will take time to implement, the service is working through a plan to get more civilian personnel hired.

AETC employs civilians to run training flight simulators, but only about 80% of the jobs are filled, Webb said. Part of the hiring challenge is finding people willing to live in the remote locations of the training bases, such as Vance Air Force Base, Okla., Columbus Air Force Base, Miss., and Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

To alleviate that need to move, AETC is mapping out how to hire civilians to virtually lead simulator instruction. This could allow commercial pilots living near major airport hubs to teach on the side, Webb said.

In the interim, AETC pulls instructor pilots to fill gaps as needed.

"That hurts production, obviously, because that [instructor pilot] should otherwise be out on a jet, doing a turn on the runway," Webb said.



ANNE MCCREADY/U.S. Air Force

Capt. Natalie Rambish, 47th Operations Support Squadron aircrew and flight equipment commander and instructor pilot, climbs into a seat in a T-38C Talon as she prepares to fly with a student pilot in 2020 at Laughlin Air Force Base, Texas.

He also said he anticipates a plan to hire civilians to run simulators virtually to be operational within the "next year or so."

He expects a new training program, known as Undergraduate Pilot Training 2.5, to be implemented across the board at about the same time. UPT 2.5 incorporates virtual reality and artificial intelligence platforms into a self-paced syllabus. It also uses just one training airplane, the T-6A Texan II, as the in-air training platform. These changes have allowed students to graduate and move into their next phase of training in seven months, instead of a full year.

Nearly 200 pilots have graduated through the new program since it began in July 2020, according to AETC. Once undergraduate training is complete, the future pilots move into training for the specific type of aircraft that they will fly.

Regardless of the new technology used in UPT 2.5, the need for a simulated cockpit environment is still important, Webb said.

"I think what we've learned over the course of time is, we're not going to be able to cut away from [simulators] ... but augmenting that with [virtual reality] and live [flights] is really what's going to be successful for us in the methodology of 2.5,"

Webb said.

Increasing candidate pool

Implementing the new program, however, "carries with it some drag," he said.

So far, only Vance Air Force Base has fully transitioned to the new training program and one squadron at Randolph Air Force Base has adopted the new method. It will launch this fall at Columbus Air Force Base and then Lackland Air Force Base in the spring, Webb said.

The program will be "the way we do pilot training lock, stock and barrel, by this time next year," he said.

With those changes expected to allow for more students to train, the Air Force is looking to increase the pool of candidates. It began a full review of its selection process for pilots, which hasn't been assessed "with any rigor" since the 1970s, Webb said.

With changes projected sometime next summer, a related policy change removed some barriers that might have blocked people without prior flying experience from getting accepted into pilot training. The Air Force now only considers up to 60 hours of flight time when scoring pilot candidates. In the past, it considered up to 200 hours, which is now seen as giving an unfair advantage

to wealthier applicants.

"There is no evidence that more than 61 hours of flight experience poses a significant benefit to pilot training success," said Katie Gunther, chief of strategic research and assessment at the Air Force Personnel Center. "The probability of success in flight training increases substantially from 0 hours to 60 hours, then relatively plateaus."

Other programs, such as the Flight Academy, which takes ROTC cadets who might not have considered aviation and provides them free air and ground experience, target the same problem.

"It's to hopefully inspire a larger pool of candidates and potentially a much more diverse pool of candidates to apply for aviation duty in the first place," Webb said.

Overall, he said it's about "the aptitude to be able to learn, and not necessarily already have the skill."

Other initiatives to get more pilots through training faster are still in early stages, such as fast-tracking people with previous flying experience or nonmilitary training. So far, AETC has put 35 pilots through this program, known as Civil Path to Wings.

thayer.rose@stripes.com
Twitter: @Rose_Lori

Top nuclear policy official removed from Pentagon post

By PAUL SONNE
The Washington Post

The Department of Defense has removed a top political appointee in charge of nuclear policy from her position, prompting concern among disarmament advocates that the Pentagon is sidelining those with less hawkish views as the Biden administration develops its official policy on nuclear weapons.

Top Pentagon officials asked Leonor Tomero, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for nuclear and missile defense, to resign from her post in recent days, according to people familiar with the

matter, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive personnel matter.

The shake-up comes as the Biden administration hammers out the details of its Nuclear Posture Review, a document that each administration has released since the 1990s to set out its nuclear weapons policy and strategy, and which the administration is expected to release early next year.

The process — which Tomero had been coordinating — will clarify whether President Joe Biden plans to curtail the declared role of nuclear weapons in U.S. defense policy or roll back a \$1.2 trillion,

30-year modernization of the U.S. nuclear force that progressive lawmakers want to see curbed.

One of those lawmakers, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Adam Smith, D-Wash., served as Tomero's boss in Congress for a decade before she joined the Pentagon. Tomero's departure was first reported by Politico.

Pentagon officials have characterized Tomero's departure as the product of a broader reorganization of the policymaking apparatus at the Defense Department.

"As a matter of policy, we won't comment on personnel matters,"

Pentagon spokesman Eric Pahon said in a statement. He said a "wide ranging team of experts" continued to work on the Biden administration's Nuclear Posture Review.

But nuclear disarmament advocates expressed concern that the Pentagon ousted Tomero from the post after just eight months in the job because her views challenge current nuclear policy that is entrenched in the building and across the military.

"People wonder why we don't learn from failures like Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The reason is simple: People who point out al-

ternatives to current national security policies are systematically driven out of positions of authority," said Jeffrey Lewis, a professor and nuclear weapons expert at the Middlebury Institute for International Studies. "Firing her sends a clear message to everyone in the Pentagon that there is no tolerance for new ideas when it comes to our nuclear weapons policies."

A Pentagon official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel matter, denied that Tomero's views played any role in her departure from the post.

WAR ON TERRORISM

Over: Thousands of troops still overseas fighting ISIS, al-Qaida

FROM PAGE 1

dent as recently as this week, when U.S. aircraft launched an attack on a suspected al-Qaida target in northwestern Syria.

Stephen Pomper, who served as a White House official during the Obama administration and is now chief of policy for the International Crisis Group, said Biden's desire to pivot away from war is understandable as Americans have grown weary of the financial and human cost.

"The reality is that the United States is not anywhere near ending these wars," he said. Biden's apparent statement to the contrary "is good politics," he said, "but I worry that it's not going to be good governance."

A senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the administration, said Biden's mention of "turning the page" referred to the departure of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan.

"While ending the war in Afghanistan represents a historic break with 20 years of U.S. policy, the president made clear that it fits squarely" with the need, as Biden said in his address, to face today's terrorism threats, the official said in an email.

But while Biden cited security alliances, financial tools and economic development as means for addressing far-flung extremist threats, he made no specific references to the ongoing missions in places such as Iraq and Syria, where the combined number of U.S. troops exceeds the number stationed in Afghanistan when Biden made his decision to withdraw.

"We'll meet terrorist threats that arise today and in the future with a full range of tools available to us, including working in cooperation with local partners so that we need not be so reliant on large-scale military deployments," Biden said in the speech.

The president's first remarks to the General Assembly come as he attempts to refocus government resources on priorities at home, including deep political divisions and the coronavirus pandemic. On foreign policy, Biden has also shown himself willing to risk criticism in taking steps to anchor U.S. strategy around competition with China, as he did in a new deal to share sensitive technology with Australia that infuriated France.

Biden's political challenges are mounting as he faces congressional pushback over his handling of Afghanistan, where the Kabul government fell to the Taliban amid the U.S. withdrawal and a hastily arranged American evacuation effort was marred by violence and disorder.

The president has repeatedly defended his Afghanistan policy, arguing the exit was a necessary,



JENSEN GUILLORY/U.S. Army

U.S. soldiers with 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, stand guard in the Central Command area of responsibility in January.

if unpleasant, decision after 20 years of war. Officials have said far less about the ongoing counterterrorism missions in at least five countries that grind on largely out of sight of the public.

The low-boil campaigns have also attracted far less congressional scrutiny than the campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan did at their height, except in instances when U.S. troops have been injured or killed.

Critics have challenged the notion that the U.S. can truly end insurgent wars while continuing airstrikes from afar, highlighting disagreements about how to define when the U.S. is at war or engaged in hostilities.

While Pentagon officials have highlighted the focus of ongoing operations on supporting local partners, U.S. forces have sometimes been caught in deadly firefights, as they were in Yemen and Niger in 2017.

Andrea Prasow, deputy Washington director at Human Rights Watch, said the congressional response to a deadly Aug. 29 bombing by the U.S. that killed 10 civilians in Kabul, including numerous children, may indicate a change in that dynamic as the risks of the "over the horizon" strategy for containing extremist threats in Afghanistan and other places come into focus.

The U.S. has long grappled with the civilian toll of remote airstrikes. While the Pentagon took steps under the Trump administration to review rules around targeting operations, the recent Kabul strike, in which officials misidentified an employee of a U.S. aid organization as an Islamic

State militant, shows the potential for deadly mistakes.

"The August 29 strike is prompting a lot of members to ask questions about the long-term strategy," Prasow said.

While White House aides have been conducting a review of coun-

terterrorism policies, including guidelines for drone strikes, military officials say there is no indication Biden will soon unveil significant changes to ongoing operations.

That includes operations at the facility at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba,

where 39 inmates remain imprisoned. While the administration has stated its goal of shuttering the prison, a host of obstacles remains, and it is unclear how much political capital Biden will spend in an attempt to do so.

In the meantime, the prison remains a global symbol of American excesses in the wake of 9/11.

"It's impossible to close the era of endless war without closing #Guantánamo," Wells Dixon, a defense attorney for one of the prisoners, said on Twitter.

In addition, the Biden administration, like others before it, has cited a 2001 legal justification, or Authorization for Use of Military Force, as a basis for ongoing insurgent operations.

Administration officials have yet to decisively push for repeal of the 2001 authority, suggesting they may also prefer to maintain a status quo that gives them a relatively free hand overseas.

Pomper said that Biden's assertions about wrapping up America's wars may be most problematic in that they reduce the chances for a substantive public conversation that might put an end to the missions that he and many Americans would like to conclude.

"The question of whether the U.S. is at war deserves to be openly debated," he said. By glossing over what is occurring, "it could actually be perpetuating forever wars," he said.

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PACIFIC

US-French spat simmers down after call

BY SYLVIE CORBET
Associated Press

PARIS — The most significant rift in decades between the United States and France seemed on the mend Wednesday after French President Emmanuel Macron and President Joe Biden got on the phone Wednesday to smooth things over.

In a half-hour call that the White House described as “friendly,” the two leaders agreed to meet next month to discuss the way forward after the French fiercely objected when the U.S., Australia and Britain

announced a new Indo-Pacific defense deal last week that cost the French a submarine contract worth billions. France also agreed to send its ambassador back to Washington.



Macron

The White House made a point of releasing a photograph of Biden smiling during his call with Macron.

In a carefully crafted joint statement, the two governments

said Biden and Macron “have decided to open a process of in-depth consultations, aimed at creating the conditions for ensuring confidence.”

So did Biden apologize?

White House press secretary Jen Psaki sidestepped the question repeatedly, allowing that Biden did acknowledge “there could have been greater consultation.”

“The president is hopeful this is a step in returning to normal in a long, important, abiding relationship that the United States has with France,” she said.

The call suggested a cooling of tempers after days of outrage from Paris directed at the Biden administration.

In an unprecedented move, France last week recalled its ambassadors to the United States and Australia to protest what the French said amounted to a stab in the back by allies. As part of the defense pact, Australia will cancel a multibillion-dollar contract to buy diesel-electric French submarines and acquire U.S. nuclear-powered vessels instead.

It was clear there is still repair

work to be done.

The joint statement said the French ambassador will “have intensive work with senior U.S. officials” upon his return to the United States.

Biden and Macron agreed “that the situation would have benefited from open consultations among allies on matters of strategic interest to France and our European partners,” the statement said.

Biden reaffirmed in the statement “the strategic importance of French and European engagement in the Indo-Pacific region.”

Tensions: China’s growing military puts strain on Indo-Pacific strategy

FROM PAGE 1

or seek hegemony.”

But the underlying issues have not changed, with China building up its military outposts as it presses its maritime claims over critical sea lanes, and the U.S. and its allies growing louder in their support of Taiwan, which China claims as part of its territory, and deepening military cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

On Thursday, China sent 19 fighter jets toward Taiwan in a large display of force after the island announced its intention to join an 11-nation Pacific trade group, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, that China has also applied to join.

On Friday, Biden hosts the leaders of Japan, India and Australia for an in-person Quadrilateral Security Dialogue for broad talks including the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, but also how to keep the Indo-Pacific, a vast region spanning from India to Australia, “free and open,” according to the White House.

It comes a week after the dramatic announcement that Australia would be dropping a contract for conventional French submarines in favor of an Anglo-American offer for nuclear-powered vessels, a bombshell that overshadowed the unveiling of the European Union’s strategy to boost political and defense ties in the Indo-Pacific.

“One thing is certain, that everyone is pivoting toward the Indo-Pacific,” said Garima Mohan, an Asia program fellow with the German Marshall Fund think tank.

As partners pursue moves that play to their own strengths and needs, however, the past week has underscored the lack of coordina-

tion as a networked security strategy develops, she said.

“Not everyone has the same threat assessment of China,” she said in a telephone interview from Berlin.

The EU policy emphasizes the need for dialogue with Beijing, to encourage “China to play its part in a peaceful and thriving Indo-Pacific region,” while at the same time proposing an “enhanced naval presence” and expanded security cooperation with regional partners.

It also notes China’s increased military buildup, and that “the display of force and increasing tensions in regional hotspots such as in the South and East China Sea, and in the Taiwan Strait, may have a direct impact on European security and prosperity.”

Germany, which has close economic ties to China, got a wake-up call last week when China rejected its request for a port call for the frigate Bavaria, which is currently conducting maneuvers in the Indo-Pacific.

“China is telling them this inclusive approach is not going to work, so in a way it’s a rude awakening for Berlin,” Mohan said. “You have to take a position, you can’t have your cake and eat it too, and if you have an Indo-Pacific strategy ... you can’t make it neutral.”

Other EU countries, most notably France, have also sent naval assets for exercises in the Indo-Pacific, and Britain has had a whole carrier strike group conducting exercises for several months as London pursues the new tilt toward the region recommended by a recent British government review of defense and foreign policy.

China’s Foreign Ministry said after rejecting the Bavaria’s port call that it remained “willing to carry out friendly exchanges with

Germany on the basis of mutual respect and mutual trust,” but made clear it was displeased with the increased naval presence in the region.

“Individual powers... have repeatedly dispatched military aircraft and warships to the South China Sea for some time in the name of exercising freedom of navigation to flex muscle, stir up trouble and deliberately provoke conflicts on maritime issues,” spokesman Zhao Lijian said. “China’s determination to safeguard national and territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests is unwavering, and will continue to properly handle differences with the countries concerned through consultations and negotiations.”

Beijing was less reserved in its reaction to the submarine deal with Australia, under which the U.S. and Britain will help Canberra construct nuclear-powered submarines, calling it “highly irresponsible” and saying it would “seriously damage regional peace and stability.”

In signing the pact with the U.S. and Britain, Australia canceled a \$66 billion deal with France for diesel-powered submarines, infuriating Paris, which recalled its ambassadors to Washington and Canberra and suggested it calls into question the entire cooperative effort to blunt China’s growing influence.

While clearly irked by the surprise deal, many observers have suggested that the vociferous reaction from France may be more directed toward a domestic audience, where President Emmanuel Macron faces a reelection bid early next year.

But there was clear disappointment that the U.S. seemed to be ignoring France’s own engagement in the region by not informing



JAY ALLEN/AP

UK Royal Navy Carrier Strike Group 21 with the HMS Queen Elizabeth sails with ships from Japan and Canada in the Pacific Ocean earlier this month.

them in advance, said Laurence Nardon, an expert at the French Institute for International Relations.

“There was a way to do this while keeping Europeans in the loop,” she said. “The Indo-Pacific is important for the EU too; it’s not one or the other.”

In a call with Macron late Wednesday, Biden reaffirmed “the strategic importance of French and European engagement in the Indo-Pacific region,” according to a joint statement.

More than just a decision to pursue nuclear submarines, the deal was a clear signal of Australia committing long term to being in the U.S. camp on China policy, said Euan Graham, an expert with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in Singapore.

“The submarine decision represents an emphatic doubling down on the Australia-U.S. alliance by both countries,” he said in an analysis of the deal.

As the pact was introduced, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison alluded to the long-term nature, saying “at its heart, today’s announcements are about the oldest of friendships, the strongest of values and the deepest of commitment.”

The submarine deal seems likely to exacerbate the ongoing trade war between China and Australia, and Australia is hoping to strike a

free trade deal with Quad partner India to help offset the economic impact.

While the European strategy outline will take time, the plan provides clarity in how the EU is prepared to work with the U.S. and its allies in the region — something that has been lacking in the past.

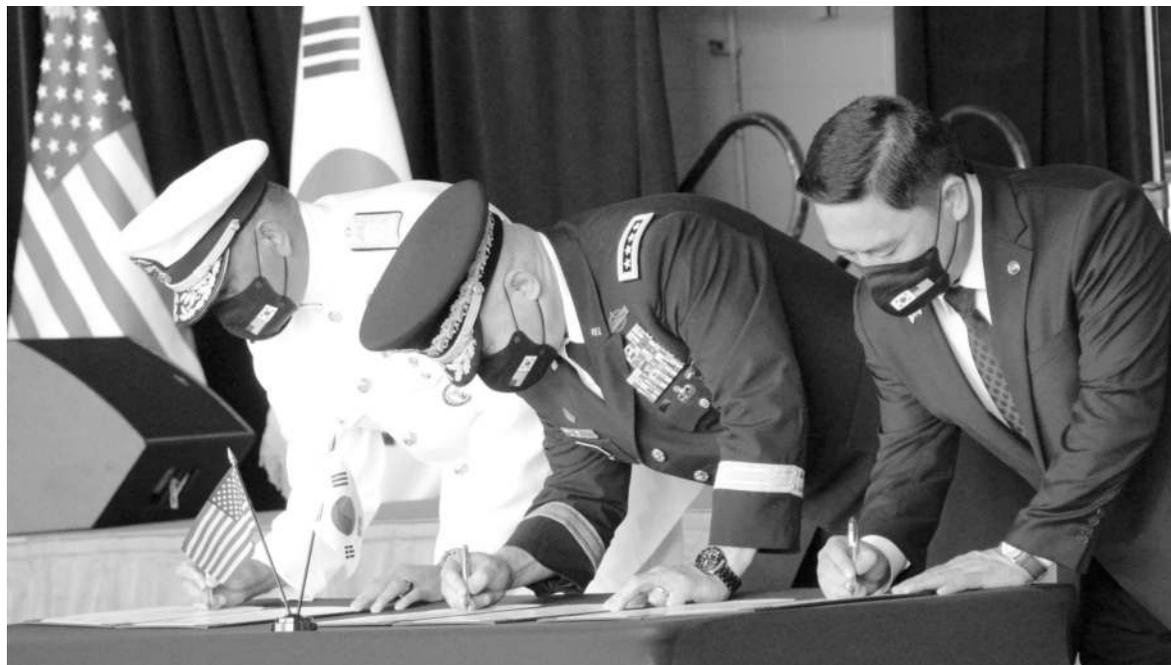
“There’s a lack of understanding on the U.S. side of why Europe is interested in the Indo-Pacific and exactly what kind of role it wants to play,” Mohan said in a podcast on the issue. “There’s also a lack of understanding of the U.S. approach.”

In the outline of the strategy, the EU broadly looks to pool its resources for greater effect, and to work more closely with the Quad countries, the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and others.

It also envisions enhancing current operations, such as the Atlanta anti-piracy mission off the Horn of Africa and in the western Indian Ocean, and the expansion of the EU maritime security and safety mission in the wider Indian Ocean area, which has already been broadened to Southeast Asia.

“The European assessment is very realistic about what they can and cannot do in the region,” Mohan said. “It’s about making sure the resources, the spending, that’s done right and has an impact.”

PACIFIC



WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, left, Gen. Paul LaCamera, center; and Heo Wook Goo, director of South Korea's KIA Recovery and Identification agency sign documents officially transferring service members' remains at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, on Wednesday.

Moon repeats call to end Korean War during transfer of remains

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — South Korea President Moon Jae-in reiterated his desire for a formal end to the Korean War at a ceremony Wednesday in Hawaii during which the U.S. turned over the remains of 68 South Korean soldiers who died in the conflict.

At the same time, South Korea transferred the remains of six American service members unearthed from unmarked graves in recent years, making it the first joint transfer of remains between the nations.

"What our heroes wanted to see on the Korean Peninsula was a complete peace," Moon said through a translator at the ceremony in a hangar at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

"At the U.N. General Assembly [Tuesday], I proposed that the relevant parties gather together and proclaim an end to the Korean War, creating a new chapter of reconciliation and cooperation," Moon said.

"An end-of-war declaration will give new hope and courage to everyone around the world aspiring for peace beyond the Korean Peninsula," he said.

The Defense POW/MIA Ac-

counting Agency determined through various tests that the 68 sets of remains were not Americans. The DPAA came into possession of the remains in a number of ways.

North Korea turned over remains of 208 service members from 1990 to 1994 and transferred another 68 in 2018. Others were found during joint recovery missions from 1996 through 2005 when North Korea allowed access.

The U.S. turned over the remains of 147 South Korean soldiers in June 2020 during a similar ceremony at the joint base.

That transfer of remains was the largest ever made between the two nations, which were allied during the Korean War that began June 25, 1950, and ended roughly three years later with an armistice but no formal treaty.

"Today's ceremony, likely the last of such magnitude, signifies the remaining 68 [South Korean] servicemen in the care of the United States of America," Rear Adm. Darius Banaji, deputy director of operations at DPAA, said during the ceremony.

Roughly 7,500 American troops remain unaccounted for from the conflict, according to the DPAA.

Only three sets of remains were

used in the transfer ceremony, during which a Korean-U.S. honor guard draped American, South Korean and U.N. flags around each box, roughly the size of a microwave.

Two of the boxes held remains already identified by South Korea's counterpart to DPAA, the KIA Recovery and Identification agency.

Family members of the pair attended the ceremony, one a great-granddaughter who is a second lieutenant in the South Korean Army.

"So today we pay tribute to all Korean War veterans, their families, as they fought in battle to protect and defend our values in the region," Adm. John Aquilino, commander of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, said during the ceremony.

"The Korean War brought our two nations side by side to fight for and defend the values embodied in the ideals of freedom," he said.

"We will never forget their service or their sacrifice, as it paved the way for our strong network of alliances and partnerships that continues to secure a free and open Indo-Pacific," he said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattWolson

DOD: US open to talks of end to Korean War

BY DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

The United States is open to discussing the possibility of formally ending the Korean War in an effort to achieve "the complete denuclearization of the peninsula," the Pentagon spokesman said Wednesday.

"The United States remains committed to achieving lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and diplomacy with North Korea," John Kirby told reporters during a press briefing. "We continue to seek engagement with [North Korea] to address a variety of issues."

Kirby added that "we're open to a discussion about an end of war declaration," but qualified his remarks by noting that the ultimate goal is to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons.

"We know that this is a complex issue, and we're committed to supporting the role of our diplomats in having that kind of dialogue going forward," he said.

Although the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, the U.S. and South Korea technically remain at war with communist North Korea. Wartime hostilities have ended but the North is still subjected to international sanctions due to its development of ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons programs.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in has floated the idea of formally ending the conflict throughout his tenure. Tuesday, Moon renewed his call for the armistice signatories to "come together and declare that the war on the Korean Peninsula is over" during a speech before the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

"When the parties involved in the Korean War stand together and proclaim an end to the war, I believe we can make irreversible progress in denuclearization and usher in an era of complete peace," he said in his speech.

Moon also broached the subject during a historic summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in 2018, when the two leaders signed a document to "declare the end of war" that same year.

Formally ending the Korean War has led to some concerns among policy-watchers, particularly in light of Pyongyang's continued development of its weapons programs. It test-fired cruise missiles and ballistic missiles this month, and evidence it restarted its nuclear reactor also came to light in August.

The "biggest beneficiary" to the war's end would be Moon and his political party, according to professor Sung-Yoon Lee of the Fletcher School at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

"All these illusory, very promising signs would boost Moon Jae-in and his supporters' approval rating," Lee told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Thursday.

Lee cautioned that formally ending the war would be "basically meaningless to the United States," adding that it may be "playing right into Kim Jong Un's game plan."

Lee said an end-of-war declaration and a possible peace treaty with North Korea would call into question the legitimacy of the United Nations Command and the presence of American troops in South Korea. Roughly 28,500 U.S. service members are stationed on the peninsula to "deter aggression" and defend South Korea, ostensibly from the North, according to a statement from U.S. Forces Korea's website.

"Why would North Korea be so interested in another paper agreement when it has violated ... virtually every single major international agreement it's signed?" Lee said.

choi.david@stripes.com
Twitter: @choibboy

US military in South Korea reports 14 new COVID-19 cases

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

Another 14 people with the U.S. military in South Korea have tested positive for the coronavirus since Sept. 15, U.S. Forces Korea said Thursday.

No military bases in Japan reported new cases on Thursday and To-

kyo continued to show declining numbers of people newly infected with the virus.

USFK reported two service members at Camp Humphreys, two at Osan Air Base and one at Camp Casey fell ill with COVID-19 symptoms, along with two family members and a South Korean civilian

employee at Humphreys, since Sept. 13.

A service member at Camp Casey, a Defense Department civilian employee, a family member and a South Korean civilian employee at Humphreys turned up in contact tracing since Sept. 16.

One service member at Hum-

phreys tested positive Sept. 17 as part of a medical evaluation. And one service member on temporary duty to USFK turned up positive before departing the peninsula on an international flight, according to the release.

South Korea reported 1,716 new infections Wednesday, with 531 in

Seoul and 141 in Gyeonggi province, where Humphreys and Osan are located, according to the Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency's update on Thursday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
ditzler.joseph@stripes.com
Twitter: @JosephDitzler

MILITARY

Volunteers help Afghan evacuees with bottles

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The line for formula usually starts forming in a Rhine Ordnance Barracks warehouse housing Afghan evacuees around breakfast time. Young children drink it in a cup or mix it with cereal, while mothers with babies ask for bottles.

Afghan teens, who speak some English and are eager to help, assist others to mix the formula and heat bottled water in a large electric tank.

The operation is run by a dedicated group of volunteers, who have sanitized more than 10,000 baby bottles and on a daily basis put a clean bottle in the hands of every mother or young child at ROB and Ramstein Air Base.

The bases have provided temporary lodging since Aug. 20 for tens of thousands of Afghans who fled their homes after the Taliban seized power. About 9,000 remain while waiting for flights to the United States to resume.

In the early days of supporting evacuees, generous donations from the U.S. military community could not keep up with the demand for baby bottles, said volunteer and military spouse Erin Gonzalez.

"We had given out hundreds if not thousands of bottles," she said.

Mothers were using bottles to supplement their children's nutrition or compensate for their inability to produce breast milk because of malnourishment and stress, Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez was told that mothers were throwing away smelly and moldy bottles



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

Volunteer Erin Shaw grabs a lid at the formula and tea station at Rhine Ordnance Barracks, Germany, on Monday. Afghan children watch intently while she works.

because they had no way to clean them while living in temporary shelters on the flight line. Gonzalez and fellow volunteer Lisa Quadros went to work to find a solution.

"This was all thrown together so quick I don't think anybody thought of all the logistical needs," Quadros said.

The command at Ramstein approved the volunteer effort, and the officers' club offered its bar, which has an industrial dishwasher and space for storing, sorting and

drying.

"Bottle Buddies," the name of the Facebook page created for volunteer signups, was launched.

Groups of six to eight volunteers sanitize hundreds of bottles daily, working two four-hour shifts, which often go longer.

It takes about an hour to clean 200 bottles, and an air compressor speeds up drying. On the busiest day, about 900 bottles are sanitized.

The job isn't for the faint of heart, volun-

teers say. The odor from dirty bottles can be overwhelming.

The bottle cleaning has since shifted to the Ramstein flight kitchen. Twice a day, Gonzalez makes the rounds at Ramstein and ROB, delivering clean bottles at the crack of dawn and picking up dirty bottles in the afternoon.

At Ramstein, airmen inside the temporary living areas make the formula and also recently began making tea.

At ROB, the job is handled by volunteers. Afghan women had been making their own formula, but the instructions were in German and some were not using the right measurements, Gonzalez said.

The Army provides the formula, while volunteers staff two stations to provide it for 12 hours a day. Soldiers take the overnight shifts.

Water is heated in an 8-gallon kettle for formula and tea, which Afghans typically drink throughout the day.

"If you get 10,000 tea bags a day, you would run out," an interpreter had told Gonzalez.

They're currently making do with a few hundred tea bags a day provided through donations.

"This is such an upheaval in their lives," said Katie Poppe, who volunteers at ROB after substitute-teaching at Landstuhl Elementary School. "I just want to help in a way I would want someone to help me in a similar situation."

svan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesktown

Woman thanks Marines who rescued her from Virginia flooding seen in viral video

BY CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A woman who shot a viral video of Marines in dress blue-white uniforms rescuing her from floodwaters on a northern Virginia road thanked two of the service members at their barracks this week.

Virginia Waller-Torres met Monday with two of the half-dozen Marines who waded through knee-high water in their ceremonial white trousers during a downpour to push her Mini Cooper on Columbia Pike in Arlington, near the Pentagon.

"Marine power! ... This is so cool," Waller-Torres says in the clip as the car is pushed past a parked Marine Corps bus emblazoned with the service's emblem. "Oh, my God, this is the most American thing ever."

The Mini Cooper was on a highway exit when it was hit by the flash flood, stalling the engine, she said in an online post. There was no safe way to exit as cars kept passing.

The group of Marines pushed the car to a spot under a nearby overpass, where the driver and Waller-Torres could get out.

The police arrived soon after



TikTok/@vigi.boo

A screenshot from a TikTok video shows a group of Marines in dress uniforms rescuing a car in Arlington, Va., which was stuck in floodwaters on Sept. 16.

and took over.

Cpls. Jared Tosner and Mitchell Wojtowicz met with Waller-Torres at the Marine Corps Barracks Washington, also known as 8th & I, where they presented her with a challenge coin.

Her Marine rescuers are members of the service's Body Bearer section, an elite unit of hand-picked service members who perform funerals for Marines, veterans and their family members, as well as presidents and other dignitaries.

They had done five funerals earlier that day at Arlington National Cemetery, 8th & I said on

Facebook. Tosner told Fox 5 in Washington earlier this week that they'd just completed a 3 p.m. funeral and saw it as a "small task" to give the Mini a push.

"Definitely didn't do it for attention or views or anything like that," Tosner said. "Just trying to do the right thing when no one's watching. In this case, somebody was recording."

Marines selected for the body bearer duty must be active-duty sergeants or below and must "possess outstanding physical stamina," as well as "unquestionable moral character, leadership, and organizational skills," the service said in a message calling for applicants in January.

The requirements call for Marines who can perform 10 repetitions of each of the following: bench presses at 225 pounds, squats at 315 pounds, military presses at 135 pounds and straight bar curls at 115 pounds.

Once selected, they train for six to 12 months before joining the team, then spend much of their time in the gym, lugging weight-filled trash cans through a parking garage to simulate carrying a casket and practicing other ceremonial duties.



MARK A. MORALES/U.S. Marine Corps

Virginia Waller-Torres stands with Cpl. Mitchell Wojtowicz, left, and Cpl. Jared Tosner, at Marine Barracks Washington on Monday.

The Marine Corps is the only service to use six body bearers instead of eight, the service said in a 2016 video. Marine body bearers are also the only ones to carry the casket at shoulder height and to give it a final head-high raise.

Their mission is to render those honors flawlessly without showing emotion, pain or physical strain.

"If there's anyone who's going to help these people, it'd be us," Wojtowicz told Fox 5. "We were the right ones for the job and hopped out without hesitation."

The reaction to the video showed that people are "starved for just wholesome positivity,"

Wojtowicz said.

Waller-Torres praised the Marines in a public post on Facebook. The country has been divided "for what feels like so long now," she said, but that day, "it felt like hope was sent dressed in beautifully adorned uniforms."

"I prayed to God or whatever you may call the higher power and I guess it answered," she wrote. "I am so eternally grateful for everything. I cannot even begin to compose how it all feels ... Thank you (praying hands emoji) fight the good fight."

garland.chad@stripes.com
Twitter: @chadgarland

MILITARY

Yokosuka holds memorial service for fallen sailors

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The names of more than 200 sailors who lost their lives over the past year, along with those who died in the destroyer collisions of 2017, were read aloud during a memorial service here on Thursday.

About 60 sailors and civilians gathered at Ombudsman Park to pay their respects. Part of the Navy Gold Star Program's Bells Across America for Fallen Service Members, the hourlong memorial was being mirrored at bases across the world.

"This ceremony is very important, as it sets time aside for us all to recognize the contributions that the fallen have made in our community and throughout our great Navy," said Yokosuka's commander, Capt. Rich Jarrett, during the ceremony.

After a prayer and Jarrett's remarks, sailors in dress whites gathered in front of the small crowd to read off the names of the sailors being remembered. A



KALEB SARTEN/U.S. Navy

Boots representing fallen sailors are displayed during a Bells Across America ceremony.

ship's bell was rung as each finished reading their list of names.

The event also featured a display of dozens of pairs of boots, representing the sailors who lost their lives, along with photos of those sailors affiliated with Yokosuka.

This year marks the sixth annual Bells Across America service, but the first commemoration at Yokosuka. It honored not only those who died in the past year, but 17 sailors lost four years ago in two collisions involving the Yokosuka-

based guided-missile destroyers USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain.

In June 2017, the Fitzgerald collided with a Philippine-flagged container vessel, killing seven sailors in Japanese waters. Just a month later, 10 sailors died aboard the McCain after the ship collided with a Liberian-flagged tanker near Singapore.

"We've not done this ceremony before. As we look back at years past, we've not had the opportunity to reflect and to remember," Jarrett told Stars and Stripes after the ceremony. "We wanted to make sure we did that in this initial event, so that it could be recognized, at least for the first time."

Of the more than 200 sailors honored, two were stationed at Yokosuka at the time of their death: Cmdr. Charles Harris and Petty Officer 2nd Class Adam Thomas.

Harris, the former commander of the destroyer USS Howard, died in August from health complications. Thomas, a mass communications specialist, was killed in a July vehicle accident, accord-



ALEX WILSON/Stars and Stripes

Leaders at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, including installation commander Capt. Rich Jarrett, right, look at photos of fallen sailors during a Bells Across America service Thursday.

ing to base spokesman Randall Baucom.

Harris' family, as well as the families of three other sailors who died while stationed at Yokosuka in past years — Cmdr. Frank Bivins, Chief Petty Officer Abraham Lopez and Chief Petty Officer Demond Walker — were also present Thursday.

"It's sometimes difficult to remember, but it's important for us to remember those that have given the ultimate sacrifice — particularly while serving on active duty — and then recognize that there are families left behind," Jarrett told Stars and Stripes.

Two of the fallen sailors' spouses, Makiko Walker and Yuko Bivins, described the service as "emotional," but said it served a dual purpose in helping with the grieving process and honoring their husbands' memory.

"After I lost my husband, I've received a lot of support from the military and that helped a lot with the grieving," Walker told Stars and Stripes after the ceremony. "To me it's very important to participate and attend these [ceremonies] to remember them."

wilson.alex@stripes.com
Twitter: @AlexMNWilson

US, Netherlands honor paratroopers who died in WWII river crossing

By KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

NIJMEGEN, Netherlands — American soldiers paid tribute this week to the 48 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division who died crossing the Waal River during Operation Market Garden in 1944.

"They gave their lives for the freedom of a land far from home. We know their actions will never be forgotten," Col. Phil Kiniery, commander of the 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, said in a speech at the ceremony held on a sandy riverbank in the Netherlands' oldest city.

Schoolchildren reenacted the historic crossing in a dance, and Dutch and American officials laid wreaths at a stone memorial to the paratroopers who died on Sept. 20, 1944.

"The Dutch understand the importance of this because they grow up with this history," Kiniery told Stars and Stripes. "What I have to make sure of as a commander is that the paratroopers understand what the 82nd Airborne Division did here — the Waal River crossing is one of the

82nd Airborne Division's most historic moments. It's a legacy that transcends friendship."

Several of the soldiers at the ceremony attended by about 200 people said they were unaware of the significance of the crossing, which was featured in the movie "A Bridge Too Far."

The Waal River crossing came three days after members of the 82nd Airborne Division had jumped on landing zones in villages south of Nijmegen, at the start of Operation Market Garden. Their mission was to take several bridges from the Germans, including two over the Waal at Nijmegen.

After days of fighting against unexpectedly strong resistance by German forces, division commander Brig. Gen. James Gavin devised a plan to cross the river in small boats and attack one of the bridges from two sides.

"Twenty-six boats made of canvas and wood started the crossing in the light of day under enemy fire," Kiniery said.

Most of the paratroopers used the buttstocks of their rifles to paddle the rickety boats, and as



KARIN ZEITVOGEL/Stars and Stripes

Members of the 82nd Airborne Division stand in front of a wreath during a ceremony on Monday in Nijmegen, Netherlands, to remember the 48 U.S. soldiers who died crossing the Waal River 77 years ago during Operation Market Garden in World War II.

the smokescreen that was supposed to shield them was blown away by the wind, they became sitting ducks for enemy fire. Only 11 of the 26 boats made it to the north bank of the Waal.

Dutch children still learn

about the crossing in school, and the 48 paratroopers who died are remembered in a nightly march by military veterans across the Oversteek bridge, where 48 pairs of lights turn on one after the other as the sun

goes down. The name of the bridge itself — Oversteek means 'crossing' — is a tribute to the soldiers.

zeitvogel.karin@stripes.com
Twitter: @StripesZeit

NATION

Biden wants Dems to work out party split on \$3.5T plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a personal push, President Joe Biden pressed fellow Democrats to hasten work on his big “build back better” agenda, telling them to come up with a final framework and their best top-line budget figure as the party labors to bridge its divisions in Congress ahead of crucial voting deadlines.

Biden and Democratic House and Senate lawmakers met for hours of back-to-back-to-back private White House sessions stretching into Wednesday evening, convened at a pivotal juncture for Biden’s \$3.5 trillion package as lawmakers struggle to draft details of the ambitious effort. With Republicans solidly opposed, Democratic leaders are counting on the president to galvanize consensus between progressives and centrists in their party.

Biden first conferred with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, then held separate sessions with both moderate and progressive senators and representatives. The president listened intently, lawmakers said, but also indicated strongly that he wanted progress soon, by next week.

“We’re in good shape,” Pelosi told reporters after returning to the Capitol.

The White House called the meetings “productive and candid” and said follow-up work would be immediately underway. Earlier in the day, press secretary Jen Psaki said the White House realized that with time growing short, “there needs to be deeper engagement by the president.”

The intense focus on Biden’s big-money domestic proposal showcases how much is at stake politically for the president and

his party in Congress. The administration has suffered setbacks elsewhere, notably with the Afghanistan withdrawal and prolonged COVID-19 crisis, and Democrats are running short of time, anxious to make good on campaign promises.

Congress is racing toward Monday’s deadline for a House vote on the first part of Biden’s plan — a \$1 trillion public works measure — which now also serves as a deadline for producing a compromise framework for the broader package.

At one point, Biden told the lawmakers there were plenty of conference rooms at the White House they could use to hunker down this weekend as some suggested they roll up their sleeves and stay to get final details done.

Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, a key centrist who has balked at the \$3.5 trillion price tag, said the president told him to come up with a number he could live with.

“He just basically said, ‘Find it,’” Manchin said. “Just work on it, give me a number.”

“The president is really fired up,” said Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, after the evening’s final session.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate remained at a standstill over a separate package to keep the government funded past the Sept. 30 fiscal year-end and to suspend the federal debt limit to avert a shutdown and a devastating U.S. default on payments. Senate Republicans are refusing the House-passed bill.

Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell said at a news conference Tuesday that failing to extend the debt limit was “just not something we can contemplate or we should contemplate.”



MARK LENNIHAN / AP

People clear debris and damaged belongings from their homes in the Queens borough of New York earlier this month.

After flooding slams Northeast, insurance woes swamp residents

Associated Press

NEW YORK — After being pummeled by two tropical storms that submerged basements, cracked home foundations and destroyed belongings, Northeastern U.S. residents still in the throes of recovery are being hit with another unexpected blow: Thousands of families are now swamped with financial losses because they didn’t have flood insurance.

Most of those caught off guard by the intense downpours from the remnants of Hurricane Ida and Tropical Storm Henri lived in areas outside of coastal floodplains, making flood insurance an afterthought for most of the working-class families whose neighborhoods were among the hardest hit.

“When we called the insurance company, the first thing they told us is that they don’t provide any assistance for anything that’s caused by a storm. And they left it at that,” Amit Shivprasad said, his rising voice echoing frustrations shared among his neighbors in the Jamaica section of Queens.

For weeks now, Shivprasad and his parents have been crammed into a relative’s apartment after New York City building inspectors de-

clared their home uninhabitable.

Floodwaters from Ida, exacerbated by overflowing storm and sewer drains, ripped through an exterior wall and drowned two of the family’s tenants in a basement apartment. The storm killed about 50 people across the Northeast, many of whom drowned in basement apartments or in cars. It lashed the region less than two weeks after a drenching from Henri.

Residents in Shivprasad’s neighborhood have long complained about inadequate drainage that makes flooding a frequent worry.

“This is not a flood zone, which is something I was shocked at,” said Shivprasad, whose family home lies 4 miles inland from the nearest flood plain. If it were in a flood zone, the family’s mortgage company would have likely required flood insurance.

Among the roughly 10,000 homes in his neighborhood, just 16 were protected by flood insurance, according to a database compiled by the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

Flood damage is not covered by homeowners or renters insurance policies. People without a flood policy have few options for getting help

paying for damage, according to Loreta Worters, a spokesperson for the Insurance Information Institute. They may be able to get federal assistance, she said, including low-interest loans and grants for damage.

While officials are still calculating the losses — believed to be in the billions of dollars — residents wonder how they’ll come up with the money to repair homes and replace belongings. Fans continue to whir in dank basements and dump trucks still make the rounds to haul away mildewed couches, squishy mattresses and now-useless electronics.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it has already disbursed at least \$22 million to nearly 5,200 families in New York City. More than 38,000 households have applied for aid. In New Jersey, assistance to some 39,000 families is still pending, while FEMA has paid out about \$11 million to nearly 3,000 families.

Thus far, about \$10 million in flood insurance claims has been paid out in New Jersey to 6,000 policy holders, according to FEMA. In New York City’s five boroughs, about \$3 million has been disbursed for 2,600 flood insurance claims.

US jobless claims increase from near pandemic low for 2nd straight week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans applying for unemployment aid rose last week for a second straight week to 351,000, a sign that the delta variant of the coronavirus may be disrupting the job market’s recovery, at least temporarily.

Thursday’s report from the Labor Department showed that jobless claims rose by 16,000 from the previous week. As the job

market has strengthened, unemployment aid applications, which generally track layoffs, have tumbled since topping 900,000 early this year, reflecting the economy’s reopening after the pandemic recession.

Still, jobless claims remain somewhat elevated: Before the pandemic tore through the economy in March 2020, they generally numbered about 220,000 a week. America’s employers have rap-

idly increased their hiring since they slashed 22 million jobs in March and April 2020 as the pandemic — and the shutdowns meant to contain it — brought economic activity to a near-standstill. Since then, the economy has recovered about 17 million jobs as the rollout of vaccines encouraged businesses to open and expand hours and Americans to go back out to shop, travel and dine out.

But hiring, which has averaged more than 585,000 jobs a month this year, slowed to just 235,000 in August as the delta variant disrupted the recovery.

Overall, 2.8 million Americans were receiving unemployment benefits during the week of Sept. 11, up by 131,000 from the week before.

Earlier this month, more than 8 million people lost all their unemployment benefits with the expi-

ration of two federal programs that covered gig workers and people who have been jobless for more than six months. Those emergency programs had been created in March of last year to help ease the economic hardship caused by the pandemic.

An additional 2.7 million people who were receiving regular state unemployment aid lost a \$300-a-week federal unemployment supplement last week.

NATION

Migrant camp along border shrinks as removals ramp up

Associated Press

CIUDAD ACUÑA, Mexico — A camp where more than 14,000 migrants had waited along the Texas border just days ago was dramatically smaller Thursday, while across the river in Mexico, Haitian migrants in a growing camp awoke surrounded by security forces as a helicopter thundered overhead.

The number of migrants at the Texas camp had been reduced to around 4,000, Department of Homeland Security officials said Thursday, after authorities ramped up efforts in the last day or so to remove migrants.

Officials said about 1,400 had been expelled to Haiti and 3,200 transferred to other Border Patrol sectors to be processed either for expulsion or potential release, while several thousand have returned to Mexico. They also said the DHS is working with other countries to take some Haitians.

The United States and Mexico appeared eager to end the increasingly politicized humanitarian situation at the border, even as the U.S. expulsion of Haitians to their troubled homeland caused blowback for the administration of President Joe Biden.

The Biden administration's special envoy to Haiti, Daniel Foote, submitted a letter of resignation protesting the "inhumane" large-scale expulsions of Haitian migrants, U.S. officials said Thursday.

In Mexico, migrants who had camped in a park beside the river in Ciudad Acuña found state police trucks spaced every 30 feet or so between their tents and the water's edge. Still, after anxious minutes of indecision, dozens of families opted to hustle into the river and cross at a point where there was only one municipal police vehicle, calculating it was better to take their chances with U.S. au-

thorities.

The entrance to the park was blocked and just outside, National Guard troops and immigration agents waited along with three buses. A helicopter flew overhead.

The camp's usual early morning hum was silenced as migrants tried to decide what to do.

Guileme Paterson, a 36-year-old from Haiti, appeared dazed. "It is a difficult moment," she said before beginning to cross the Rio Grande with her husband and their four children.

The Mexican authorities' operation appeared designed to drive the migrants back across the river into Texas. A fence line and the line of state police vehicles funneled the migrants back to the crossing point they had been using all week.

The buses that had been waiting left empty. The majority of the camp's migrants remained.



FELIX MARQUEZ/AP

A migrant from Haiti is detained by Mexican immigration officers Wednesday in Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, near the Texas border.

"Bad, bad, bad, things are going badly," said Michou Petion, carrying her 2-year-old son in her arms toward the river. Her husband carried bags of their belongings and had several pairs of sneakers dangling around his neck.

"The U.S. is deporting a lot to Haiti, now I don't know if I can enter or leave," Petion said.

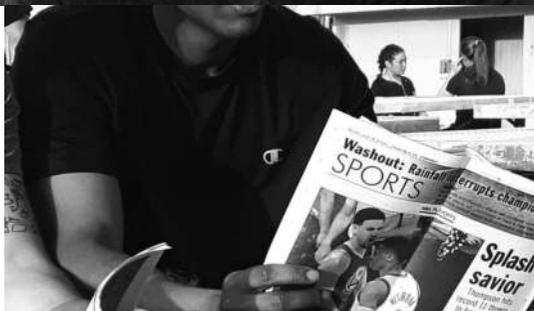
"We're talking to a lot of people and they are nervous, they're afraid, they're desperate," said Christoph Jankhoefer of the humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, which is working in the Ciudad Acuña camp. "Two women were crying because they didn't want to be deported to Guatemala."

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Web



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WORLD

Lava spread raises fears on Spanish island

Associated Press

TODOQUE, Canary Islands — The advance of lava from a volcanic eruption in Spain's Canary Islands has slowed significantly, raising fears Thursday that it might fan out further and wreak more destruction instead of flowing out into the sea.

A giant river of molten rock 2,000 feet wide slowed to 13 feet per hour after reaching a plain on Wednesday. On Monday, a day af-

ter the eruption on the island of La Palma, it was moving at 2,300 feet per hour.

Stavros Meletlidis, a volcanologist at Spain's National Geographic Institute, said the dynamics of any eruption were in constant flux.

"The lava is advancing very slowly because it cools in contact with the atmosphere, through friction with the ground and building materials and, above all,

because its front edge is widening out," he told Radio Televisión Canaria.

As it slowed, the lava grew thicker. In some places, it rose up to 50 feet high, authorities said. The lava now covers 410 acres and has swallowed up around 350 homes.

The uncertainty over what the volcano and lava would do left many residents on the western side of the island of 85,000 people

in limbo. The National Geographic Institute said it recorded a minor 2.6-magnitude earthquake around noon local time. Scientists said the lava flows could last for weeks or months.

Authorities haven't reported any casualties from the eruption.

Spain's King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, and Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, visited La Palma on Thursday and met with some of those made homeless.

European Union demands one plug for smartphones

LONDON — The European Union unveiled plans Thursday to require smartphone makers to adopt a single charging method for mobile devices.

The European Commission, the bloc's executive arm, proposed legislation that would mandate USB-C cables for charging, technology that many device makers have already adopted. The main holdout is Apple, which said it was concerned the new rules would limit innovation, and that would end up hurting consumers.

The push by the EU will certainly be cheered by millions of people who have rummaged through a drawer full of cables for the right charger. But the EU also wants to cut down on the 11,000 metric tons of electronic waste thrown out every year by Europeans.

The commission said the typical person living in the EU owns at least three chargers, and use two regularly, but 38% of people report not being able to charge their phones at least once because they couldn't find a compatible charger. Some 420 million mobile phones or portable electronic devices were sold in the EU last year.

From The Associated Press

Woman with Down syndrome loses UK abortion law challenge

Associated Press

LONDON — A woman with Down syndrome lost a court challenge against the British government Thursday over a law allowing the abortion up until birth of a fetus with the condition.

Heidi Crowter, 26, and two others took the Department of Health and Social Care to court, arguing that part of the Abortion Act is discriminatory and violates the European Convention on Human Rights.

Abortions in England, Wales and Scotland are allowed up till 24 weeks of pregnancy. But the law states that terminations can be al-



Crowter

lowed up until birth if there's "a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped."

Crowter, who lives independently and recently got married, has said that she found the legislation "offensive" and disrespectful. She said she wanted to change the law to challenge people's perception of Down syndrome.

Two senior judges dismissed the case Thursday after a two-day hearing, concluding that the legislation isn't unlawful and that it aims to strike a balance between the rights of the unborn child and that of women.

Judges Rabinder Singh and Nathalie Lieven said the case gave rise to strong feelings and differences over ethical and religious views, but the court must not enter into such controversies and rule only in accordance with the law.

"The evidence before the court powerfully shows that there will be some families who positively wish

to have a child, even knowing that it will be born with severe disabilities," they said. "But the evidence is also clear that not every family will react in that way," they said, and many families may not be able to provide a disabled child with a supportive environment.

"The evidence is also clear that, although scientific developments have improved and earlier identification may be feasible, there are still conditions which will only be identified late in a pregnancy, after 24 weeks," the judges added.

Crowter said she plans to appeal the ruling.

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Billy Gardell 'incredibly grateful' to be back for third season of 'Bob Hearts Abishola'

BY JOSHUA AXELROD
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

There aren't too many actors who have been the lead of nine seasons' worth of CBS sitcoms. That's still a wild notion to Billy Gardell, the 52-year-old Swissvale, Pa., native who starred for six seasons on "Mike & Molly" and is now entering his third season on "Bob Hearts Abishola."

"I still can't believe it," Gardell told the Post-Gazette. "You lie to yourself and say, 'Any minute now.' But there was a time where I was like, 'That's over.' Then it happened with 'Mike & Molly,' and I thought that was the greatest."

A couple of years later, it happened again. He got a call from executive producer Chuck Lorre about a new show.

"He said, 'I think I have something else, and you're the guy.' And here I am, going into season three of my second show. You can't write that."

"Bob Hearts Abishola" airs Tuesdays on AFN-Spectrum. Last season left off with Gardell's Bob and Folake Olowofoyeku's Abishola getting on a plane to Lagos, Nigeria, to bring Abishola's son Dele (Travis Wolfe Jr.) home after his father, Tayo (Dayo Ade), threatened to keep him there permanently.

Gardell said he is particularly proud of the first two episodes of Season 3 "because they were monsters" to make. The original plan was to shoot some scenes in Lagos, but the COVID-19 pandemic made that impossible. Instead, set designers built a makeshift version of Lagos' airport and a Nigerian

market on the Warner Bros. lot in Burbank, Calif.

"If that doesn't make you feel like a little kid again, I don't know why you got into this business," Gardell said, marveling at the meticulously crafted sets.

Production on the third season was "all about trust" that everyone would do the right things regarding COVID-19 safety, Gardell said. The goal was to keep everyone working, which meant all 150 cast and crew members had to be tested every day, mask up unless they were in front of the camera, maintain social distancing and be safe off set, too.

Season 2 also was affected by the pandemic, but Gardell said they were able to complete all 18 episodes with no major incidents. The one silver lining of pandemic filming was not taping in front of live audiences. That gave Gardell and other cast members the chance to do more takes until each scene felt right.

"The cool thing about 'Bob Hearts Abishola' is that it has a lot of heart, and I think that's what makes the show go," Gardell said. "I think having the time to do a couple extra takes, we were able to find a different and better level for the show, and I think we found that this year as well."

He credits the show's success to a simple formula: "The richer the emotion, the richer the tapestry." That goes for both its traditional family elements and the cultural clash between Bob's Detroit upbringing and Abishola's Nigerian heritage.

"One of the most beautiful messages about our show is that people from extreme-



WARNER BROS. ENTERTAINMENT

Billy Gardell, left, as Bob and Folake Olowofoyeku as Abishola in a scene from "Bob Hearts Abishola." Season 3 is currently airing Tuesday evenings on AFN-Spectrum.

ly different backgrounds can take a chance on love and be rewarded," Gardell said. "It doesn't matter what background you come from.

"When you marry someone, you marry their whole family. You find every family has a cool aunt, whack-job uncle, crazy mom. ... When you bring those people together and find a common thread, I think it helps us all look at those people like human beings."

He developed his values and comedic sensibilities growing up in Pittsburgh,

studying the back-and-forth between his father and his friends. They would tease each other while always secure in the knowledge that they had each other's backs, he said. After spending years traveling the country as a comedian, Gardell still believes the "salt-of-the-earth humor" inherent to the Rust Belt is the best kind of comedy.

"To be in the middle of a second show is incredibly humbling, and I can't tell you how incredibly grateful I am to be doing this again," he said. "... It doesn't really get better."

Craig thinks women actors deserve better than Bond

BY KATE FELDMAN
New York Daily News

Daniel Craig doesn't want his James Bond successor to be a woman. He wants the best choice to have a role that's even better.

The 007 star, who is hanging up his spy gear after the upcoming "No Time to Die," doesn't necessarily have a choice for who takes over the iconic franchise, but he believes women deserve better.

"There should simply be better parts for women and actors of color," the 53-year-old actor told the RadioTimes in a new interview published Tuesday. "Why should a woman play James Bond when there should be a part just as good as James Bond, but for a woman?"

The fantasy casting for the next Bond has landed on everyone from "Bridgerton" star Rege-Jean

Page to Lashana Lynch, who recently joined the "No Time to Die" cast.



Daniel Craig

But the question keeps coming up: why force a woman into a man's role when you can just write a role for her instead?

"He's a male character. He was written as a male, and I think he'll probably stay as a male," franchise producer Barbara Broccoli previously told The Guardian. "And that's fine."

"We don't have to turn male characters into women. Let's just create more female characters and make the story fit those female characters."

Carlile, Simpson win top Americana awards

Grammy-winning singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile added another trophy to her shelf as she won artist of the year at the 2021 Americana Honors and Awards show, while country singer Sturgill Simpson took home the album of the year award.

"To be artist of the year after a year like we have all had as a community, there's a weight to it and I know it's profound," said Carlile. "Because it was hard to be an artist this year."

Simpson won for "Cuttin' Grass Vol. 1 — The Butcher Shoppe Sessions," in which he recorded bluegrass versions of his songs.

The late folk singer John Prine, whom Carlile called "the godfather of Americana," won song of the year for "I Remember Everything."

Austin, Texas-duo Black Pumas

won duo/group of the year and Charley Crockett won emerging artist of the year.

Several artists received lifetime achievement awards, including blues singer Keb' Mo', the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the pioneering rock-country band The Mavericks, soul singer Carla Thomas and producer/engineer Trina Shoemaker.

Hahn to play Joan Rivers in 'The Comeback Girl'

Kathryn Hahn has been cast as Joan Rivers in an upcoming series about the legendary comedian titled "The Comeback Girl."

The Emmy-nominated "WandaVision" star will also co-executive produce the limited series about the brash late-night fixture, which is in development for Showtime, according to a Wednesday statement from the premium cable channel.

The series is set after the cancellation of "The Late Show Star-

ring Joan Rivers," Fox's late-1980s talker that made the stand-up comedian the first woman to host her own late-night talk show.

Other news

■ **Melvin Van Peebles**, the groundbreaking filmmaker known for writing, co-producing, scoring, editing and starring in the 1971 film "Sweet Sweetback's Baadasssss Song," died Tuesday night at his home in Manhattan. He was 89. His family, The Criterion Collection and Janus Films confirmed his death in a statement released Wednesday afternoon.

■ **Al Harrington**, the Hawaiian actor known best for playing Detective Ben Kooka on the original "Hawaii Five-0," died Tuesday. He was 85. Harrington suffered a stroke last week and had been hospitalized, according to the Honolulu Star-Advertiser.

From wire reports

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Inmate's baby born inside correctional institution

CT EAST LYME — An inmate gave birth inside a Connecticut prison after her labor proceeded too quickly to get her to a hospital, officials said.

The woman, who was not identified, was admitted to the York Correctional Institution on charges of violating a protective order, the state Department of Correction said in a news release.

A medical assessment determined that the woman, who is in her early 20s, was about eight months pregnant and was detoxing from opiates, the department said. She was assigned to the medical unit, where she could be closely monitored.

The woman went into labor the next day, and staff members called 911. The baby was delivered before the ambulance arrived, the Department of Correction said. The woman and the baby were later taken to a hospital.

Governor withdraws from consideration as coach

WV LEWISBURG — West Virginia Gov. Jim Justice has withdrawn from consideration as the coach of a boys high school basketball team where he already is the girls coach.

In a letter to the Greenbrier Board of Education on Tuesday, Justice asked that a boys coach be named soon at Greenbrier East High School with practices for the 2021-22 season starting in a month.

Last month the board rejected a motion to hire Justice as boys coach. The board is looking to replace former NBA player Bimbo Coles, who resigned in July.

Justice served as the boys coach from 2010 to 2017, his first year as governor. He has coached the girls team since 2000, winning a state championship in 2012.

Man arrested after luring elk, killing fellow hunter

CO DURANGO — Two hunters from Pennsylvania were trying to lure an elk in southwestern Colorado when one of them mistook a bow hunter for prey and fatally shot him, according to an arrest affidavit.

Gregory Gabrisch, 31, of Houston, died from a gunshot wound in the San Juan National Forest north of Rico, and one of the Pennsylvania hunters was arrested on suspicion of criminally negligent homicide, a felony.

The man who was arrested was hunting with a .50-caliber black powder rifle as his partner used a calling device to lure elk into range, The Durango Herald reported. The device mimics the sound a bull elk would make when challenging other bulls or when trying to find a cow elk.

Gabrisch was wearing dark brown camouflage when he was shot. Bow hunters in Colorado are not required to wear daylight fluo-



JOEL MARTINEZ, THE (MCALLEN, TEXAS) MONITOR/AP

Taking their talents on the road

Members of the Pharr Fire Rescue Honor guard practice before a groundbreaking for the I-2/I-69C interchange on Tuesday, in Pharr, Texas.

rescent orange, which breaks up the camouflage pattern needed to get close to game.

Investigators say the 67-year-old hunter from Elizabeth, Pa., who killed Gabrisch should have identified his target before shooting.

Fugitive from state prison captured 170 miles away

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — An escapee from a southeastern Oklahoma state prison is back in custody, according to the Oklahoma State Department of Corrections.

Rodney Williams, 38, was captured without incident Monday night in Oklahoma City, about 170 miles northwest of the Jim E. Hamilton Correctional Center in Hodgson from which he was reported missing Saturday.

Williams is serving a 15-year sentence for a drug trafficking conviction in Tulsa County, according to prisons spokesperson Justin Wolf.

Wolf said Williams disappeared from the minimum-security prison after fashioning a makeshift dummy on his bed and covering it with a blanket.

Info sought on bighorn sheep ram poaching

AZ BUCKEYE — Officials with the Arizona Game and Fish Department are still seeking information about the poaching of a mature desert bighorn sheep ram south of Buckeye.

THE CENSUS

100 The number of years Elm Creek Elementary School in Nebraska will have been open when it closes next year on its anniversary. Nearly 60% of voters supported an \$11.9 million bond issue this month that will pay to build a new elementary. Plans call for students to begin attending the new school in August 2023. Once the new school is completed, the old one will be torn down to make more playground space.

The incident occurred July 10 in the Buckeye Hills at Gillespie Dam. Department officials said they have reason to believe a group of five men seen leaving the scene in two vehicles may have been involved.

The Game and Fish Department's Operation Game Thief program has offered \$2,500 for information leading to a conviction. The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society has offered an additional \$2,500.

City drops citations against advocates for the homeless

NV RENO — A lawyer for five advocates for Reno's homeless who were cited for remaining in a park after hours to protest a sweep of homeless encampments said city prosecutors have dropped the case against them.

The five advocates who earlier pleaded not guilty to the charges accusing them of the after-hours violation were scheduled to go to trial Monday. But Kenneth Stover, their lawyer, told the Reno Gazette Journal a prosecutor called the judge at the last minute and offered to drop the case if the advocates agreed not to sue the city.

The advocates were among those who occupied the downtown Reno City Plaza in the first week of June to protest the city's efforts to remove homeless camps in May.

Officer charged with firing Taser at ATV rider

NJ TRENTON — A New Jersey grand jury indicted a police officer on charges stemming from an incident last summer in which he allegedly fired his Taser at a man operating an all-terrain vehicle, the state attorney general's office said Tuesday.

Officer Tyquan McIntosh of the Chesilhurst Police Department was indicted Monday after initially being charged on a summons, according to acting attorney general Andrew Bruck. McIntosh, 28, of Minotola, faces second-degree official misconduct, third-degree aggravated assaulted, third-degree tampering with public records and fourth-degree falsifying or tampering with records charges.

According to the criminal complaint, on Aug. 12, 2020, McIntosh approached when the ATV was driving on a public street and pursued it until the ATV stalled. The

driver then restarted it and took off. Prosecutors allege that McIntosh then fired his Taser, hitting the 23-year-old man in the back and causing him to flip the ATV.

The man was left with a concussion, a fractured collarbone and other injuries, authorities said. State guidelines prohibit police officers from firing conducted energy devices such as Tasers at moving vehicles, unless the use of deadly force would be authorized.

Hydroelectric generating plant construction done

KY BERA — Berea College has completed work on a hydroelectric plant that will supply renewable power generated from the Kentucky River.

The college in eastern Kentucky near the Daniel Boone National Forest said the small-scale plant can generate 2.64 megawatts, or about half the electricity the campus uses in a year.

"The hydroelectric generating plant shows that local green initiatives like this one can be financially feasible and create reliable sources of income and acceptable rates of return on investment," Berea College President Lyle Roelofs said in a media release from the college.

The \$10 million hydroelectric station will provide energy to Jackson Energy Cooperative customers, and revenue generated will go to the college's general fund.

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

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com

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

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

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OPINION

Be honest about what climate change fight requires

BY HENRY OLSEN

The Washington Post

President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping made new pledges to fight climate change on Tuesday in their speeches before the United Nations. Neither offered anything close to measures that would make a real difference.

Xi's contribution — a promise that China would stop financing the construction of new coal-fired power plants abroad — is laughably short of what serious climate change policy would look like. Coal is a particularly dirty source of energy because of the large amount of carbon dioxide released when it is burned. Serious efforts to rapidly reduce emissions would wind down existing coal use as fast as possible and eschew the construction of any new coal plants. Instead, China is constructing new coal plants at home to fuel its growing economy. A promise to stop helping others build new plants at an unspecified future date is a drop in the emissions bucket compared to the massive amounts of coal China already burns.

Developing countries often turn to coal because it is a relatively cheap fuel to burn for electricity. Coal is plentiful and easy to mine in many parts of the world, and electricity from coal-fired plants is available all the time, unlike electricity generated from solar or wind power. China's copious coal supply, for example, has fueled its rise to become a global economic power. Moving away from that would reduce the country's competitiveness and burden it with high transition costs to new power plants. So, seriously fighting climate change now would dramatically reduce China's economic growth and that of other poor

countries trying to catch up to the West. Predictably, these countries are not willing to lock in Western economic dominance.

This circle could be squared if Western countries were willing to pay the developed world for its compliance with climate goals. That's where Biden's pledge comes in. He promised to work with Congress to double U.S. financing for combating the effects of climate change abroad to \$11.4 billion annually. That may sound like a lot, but it's nowhere near what is needed. Climate activists say that the United States should be giving up to \$49 billion a year. The 10-year cost of that would be roughly on par with new spending included in the bipartisan infrastructure deal, and not a penny would go to U.S. projects. It's inconceivable that Congress would appropriate that much money, especially when polls have shown for decades that foreign aid is the type of federal spending most people want to cut.

Moreover, these countries don't just need aid to battle the effects of climate change; they need money enabling them to be economically competitive in the carbon-neutral world the West wants to build. That will take hundreds of billions annually from public and private sources, with many investments hopelessly unable to earn a reasonable rate of return. Wealthy climate activists such as billionaire Bill Gates could pledge their entire fortunes to the cause and still barely make a dent in the problem.

Climate activists will lament the paucity of world leaders' promises. But the cold, hard fact is that efforts to seriously battle climate change would reduce the world's standard of living, especially in the developed world, in the short to medium term. The faster developed countries want to cut greenhouse gas

emissions, the sharper the drop. Keeping developing countries from taking on some of the burden will cause an even sharper drop. There is no political will to do this, nor will there be in any democratically governed country.

A more realistic approach to climate change focuses on technological breakthroughs that make renewable energy generation and storage much cheaper and more reliable than it is today. Wind and solar energy production prices have been dropping in recent years because of such advances, but reliance on those technologies is still held back by the limitations and cost of battery storage. That means boring projects such as creating iron-pellet batteries are more important to the long-term global climate change battle than any headline-grabbing speech at the United Nations.

Climate activists have shied away from telling the world the truth. Instead of selling sacrifice, they peddle exaggerated claims of job growth and economic gains, conveniently omitting the pain that shutting down fossil fuel plants and changing energy consumption for billions of households will entail. Going green is cool — until you start taking away people's hamburgers and flights to the Bahamas.

The iron law of scarcity applies as much to fighting climate change as it does to all other areas of economic endeavor. We cannot have limitless supplies of everything we want all the time. Actually fighting climate change requires painful tradeoffs. Until leaders such as Biden and Xi tell us that, all their words are merely hot air.

Henry Olsen is a Washington Post columnist and a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Putin is finally getting the internet he wants for Russia

BY ANDREI SOLDATOV
AND IRINA BOROGAN

Special to The Washington Post

On Sept. 16, one day before Russia's parliamentary election got underway, members of the upper house of the Russian parliament summoned representatives of Google and Apple to rebuke them for allegedly "interfering" in the vote. The tech companies' ostensible offense: allowing users to access a voting assistance app created by supporters of jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny. In the end, both companies buckled and removed the app from their online stores.

Much of the resulting coverage depicted Moscow's crackdown on the two Silicon Valley platforms as just part of the government's broader assault on freedom of expression. But focusing on that aspect, as accurate as it is, risks missing a bigger story. The Kremlin has made a strategic decision to decouple the Russian internet — popularly known as the Runet — from the rest of cyberspace.

To be clear: The Kremlin doesn't want a Russian version of China's "Great Firewall," or to seal off the Runet entirely from the outside world. Instead, Vladimir Putin wants his subjects to rely on Russian-made services and applications, to communicate via Russian social media platforms, to watch videos on Russian-made platforms and to search for information using Russian-provided services. That way, he hopes, they will be dependent on the version of reality the Russian authorities are trying to promote.

The Russian authorities have already made

domestic search engine Yandex the default choice on smartphones sold in Russia. Starting next year, according to guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education, Russian teachers and school administrators will be able to communicate with parents and children only through Russian social media platforms. The Kremlin is also encouraging the development of a Russian alternative to YouTube. Officials are placing their hopes on RuTube, a project funded by the Gazprom media group, which is controlled by Putin's close friends.

No one should mistake this as an effort to give Russians more options by developing local platforms. The real intent of the campaign comes through clearly from the man who was chosen to lead the RuTube project: Alexander Zharov, the former head of Roskomnadzor, Russia's internet censorship agency. The Kremlin has been laying the groundwork for its push for some time; Roskomnadzor ordered regional Internet service providers to report on Google infrastructure inside Russia back in 2020. At a meeting with Russian editors in February, Putin hinted that he was willing to consider banning some global platforms — but that he would do so only once the country had domestic equivalents. That moment has almost arrived.

There's an ominous historical precedent for the Russian president's current strategy. In our 2015 book "The Red Web," we described how the young Russian physicist Vladimir Fridkin invented the first copying machine in the Soviet Union in the 1950s, shortly after Josef Stalin's death. For a while, everybody was happy with Fridkin's invention, and the au-

thorities considered putting his devices into mass production.

But soon the KGB issued an order to destroy Fridkin's photocopier, and the prototype was smashed to pieces. The logic of the secret policemen was evident: They were worried that people could use the device to share information outside of Communist Party control. Fridkin's invention was killed out of fear that knowledge could become free.

The Communist Party paid a high price for this decision later, when the party was forced to turn to buying Xerox machines abroad. But the Soviet Union paid an even bigger price by losing its wider technology race with the West.

In the 1990s, Russia adopted many Western technologies. That in turn enabled the astonishing rise of the Russian tech companies such as Yandex, Kaspersky Lab and many others. Now, in turn, it is the very success of these companies that makes Putin's entourage confident it can afford to bank on isolation once again.

These days, Putin doesn't need to smash the internet equivalent of Xerox machines; he has a certain number of Russian alternatives he can exploit, at least for a time. But if the Kremlin succeeds in cutting Russia off from global cyberspace, it will ultimately pay in terms of lost development. For that is one consistent lesson from Russian history: The country has always modernized by interacting with the outside world, not by isolating itself.

Andrei Soldatov and Irina Borogan are co-authors of "The Red Web: The Struggle Between Russia's Digital Dictators and the New Online Revolutionaries."

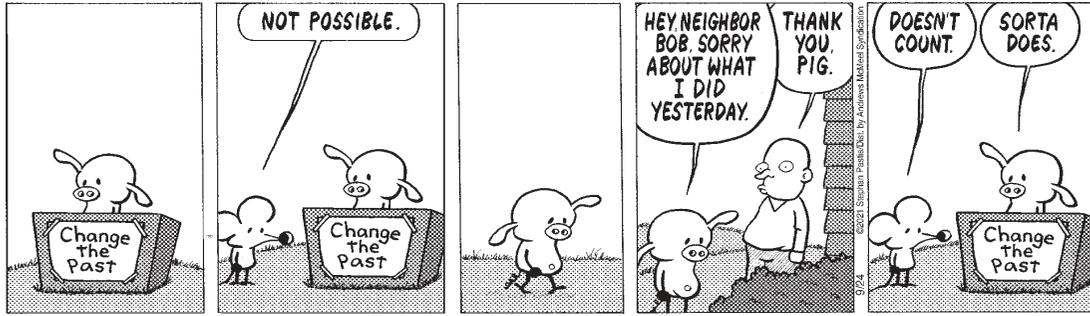
Frazz



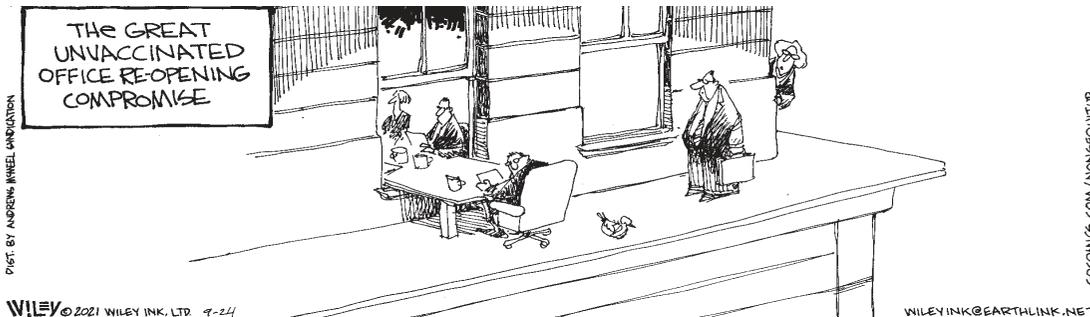
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



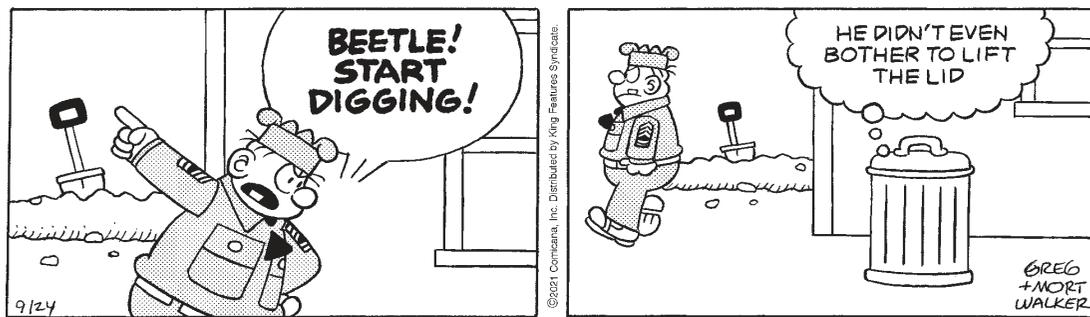
Candorville



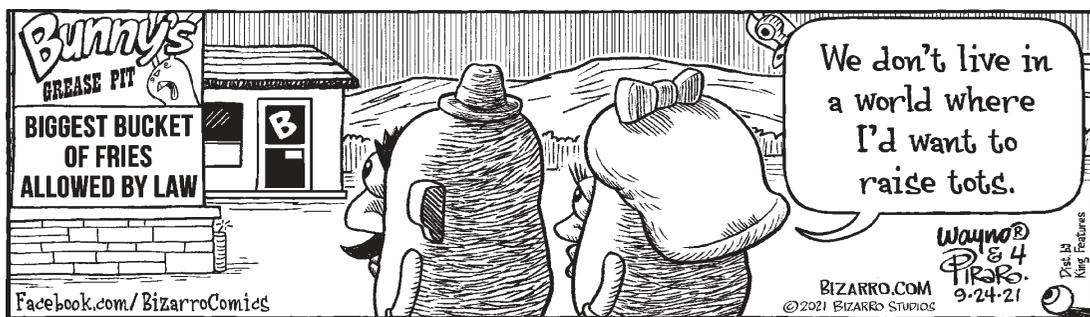
Carpe Diem



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			

ACROSS

- 1 Itty-bitty
- 6 Spigot
- 9 Merit badge org.
- 12 Yearned
- 13 Night before
- 14 Tease
- 15 Screen Actors —
- 16 Smoking wood
- 18 Hues
- 20 Singles
- 21 Ultramodernist
- 23 Singer Sumac
- 24 Jazz band section
- 25 Taj Mahal city
- 27 Photographer Adams
- 29 Like Peter Pan
- 31 Cowardly
- 35 Pulitzer category
- 37 Faction
- 38 CBer's device
- 41 Annoy
- 43 Camp bed
- 44 "Don't rub —!"
- 45 Baby
- 47 Actor/dancer Hines
- 49 Belt holders
- 52 Smack
- 53 Cote cry
- 54 Goof
- 55 Prof's helpers
- 56 Hostel
- 57 Eric Clapton hit
- 26 Pitching in for short
- 28 Muffler
- 30 "No seats" sign
- 32 "We won!"
- 33 Tokyo, once
- 34 Court divider
- 36 Judaical quorum
- 38 Correct
- 39 Places in the heart
- 40 Regiments
- 42 Superman, at birth
- 45 Persia, today
- 46 Asta's feeder
- 48 Kimono closer
- 50 D.C. figure
- 51 Span. lady

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	T	U	S		G	A	P		A	G	T	S
O	I	S	E		E	A	U		L	E	I	A
O	V	E	R		T	A	M		I	T	E	M
M	O	D	E	L	T		A	R	C	A	D	E
					N	A	H		I	I	N	
T	O	G	A		E	G	G	B	A	G	E	L
A	L	E			R	U	E			R	T	E
B	E	T	A	T	E	S	T		C	Y	A	N
					T	U	E		R	E	A	
S	H	O	D	D	Y		E	T	U	D	E	S
H	O	U	R		O	V	A		C	A	R	A
E	D	G	E		G	O	D		U	Z	I	S
A	S	H	Y		A	N	Y		S	E	E	S

DOWN

9-24

CRYPTOQUIP

ZXT LE AEF G KSEKNS PEMFULSD
 OVOPCF SF QSDT LSKSMLOVNS
 LSQUPSF? TEC POM ONZOTF
 PECMG EM GXSA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT DO YOU RECKON SHOEMAKERS MIGHT LIKE TO LISTEN TO AS THEY'RE DOING THEIR WORK? SOLE MUSIC.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals C

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Schedule

Friday's games

EAST

Brown (0-1) at Harvard (1-0)
Liberty (3-0) at Syracuse (2-1)

SOUTH

Middle Tennessee (1-2) at Charlotte (2-1)
Wake Forest (3-0) at Virginia (2-1)

FAR WEST

UNLV (0-3) at Fresno St. (3-1)

Saturday's games

EAST

Norfolk St. (1-2) at St. Francis (Pa.) (1-2)
New Hampshire (3-0) at Pittsburgh (2-1)
Villanova (3-0) at Penn St. (3-0)
Miami (Ohio) (1-2) at Army (3-0)
Howard (0-3) at Robert Morris (0-1)
Wagner (0-3) at Temple (1-2)
Cornell (0-1) at Yale (0-1)
Missouri (2-1) at Boston College (3-0)
Va. Lynchburg (0-0) at Duquesne (1-1)
Holy Cross (2-1) at Monmouth (NJ) (2-1)
Lehigh (0-3) at Colgate (0-3)
Stetson (2-0) at Princeton (1-0)
Georgetown (1-1) at Columbia (1-0)
Sacred Heart (2-1) at Dartmouth (1-0)
Merrimack (2-1) at Delaware St. (1-2)
Wyoming (3-0) at Uconn (0-4)
Penn (1-0) at Lafayette (0-3)
Kent St. (1-2) at Maryland (3-0)
Fordham (0-3) at Stony Brook (1-2)
Bryant (1-2) at Marist (0-1)

SOUTH

Georgia (3-0) at Vanderbilt (1-2)
Richmond (2-1) at Virginia Tech (2-1)
LSU (2-1) at Mississippi St. (2-1)
CCSU (1-2) at Miami (1-2)
San Diego (0-3) at Davidson (1-1)
Umass (0-3) at Coastal Carolina (3-0)
Wofford (1-1) at VMI (2-1)
William & Mary (2-1) at Elon (1-2)
Mercer (1-1) at Furman (2-1)
E. Illinois (0-4) at Tennessee Tech (0-3)
Delta St. (0-0) at Jackson St. (2-1)
ETSU (3-0) at Samford (2-1)
Austin Peay (2-1) at E. Kentucky (1-2)
UTSA (3-0) at Memphis (3-0)
Louisville (2-1) at Florida St. (0-3)
Clemson (2-1) at NC State (2-1)
North Alabama (0-3) at Nicholls (0-2)
UT Martin (2-1) at Jacksonville St. (2-1)
Georgia St. (1-2) at Auburn (2-1)
Kansas (1-2) at Duke (2-1)
Alabama A&M (2-0) vs. Tuskegee (0-0) at Mobile, Ala.

Bethune-Cookman (0-3) at Alabama St. (1-1)
W. Carolina (0-3) at Gardner-Webb (1-2)
NC Central (2-1) at NC A&T (0-2)
Buffalo (1-2) at Old Dominion (1-2)
Louisiana-Lafayette (2-1) at Georgia Southern (1-2)
Charleston Southern (1-1) at East Carolina (1-2)

North Texas (1-2) at Louisiana Tech (1-2)
Tennessee (2-1) at Florida (2-1)
Kentucky (3-0) at South Carolina (2-1)
Southern Miss. (1-2) at Alabama (3-0)
North Carolina (2-1) vs. Georgia Tech (1-2) at Atlanta

UAB (2-1) at Tulane (1-2)
Indiana (1-2) at W. Kentucky (1-1)
Troy (2-1) at Louisiana-Monroe (1-1)

MIDWEST

Bowling Green (1-2) at Minnesota (2-1)
Ohio (0-3) at Northwestern (1-2)
Notre Dame (3-0) vs. Wisconsin (1-1) at Chicago
FIU (1-2) at Cent. Michigan (1-2)
Presbyterian (2-1) at Dayton (1-1)
Valparaiso (0-3) at Drake (1-2)
S. Dakota St. (2-0) at Indiana St. (2-1)
Butler (2-1) at St. Thomas (Minn.) (1-1)
Texas State (1-2) at E. Michigan (2-1)
Toledo (1-2) at Ball St. (1-2)
San Jose St. (2-1) at W. Michigan (2-1)
Maine (1-2) at N. Illinois (1-2)
Illinois St. (2-1) at S. Illinois (2-1)
Tennessee St. (1-2) at SE Missouri (0-3)
Colorado St. (1-2) at Iowa (3-0)
Rutgers (3-0) at Michigan (3-0)
Illinois (1-3) at Purdue (2-1)
W. Illinois (0-3) at Youngstown St. (1-1)
Nebraska (2-2) at Michigan St. (3-0)
Akron (1-2) at Ohio St. (2-1)
South Dakota (2-1) at Missouri St. (1-1)

SOUTHWEST

SMU (3-0) at TCU (2-0)
McNeese St. (1-2) at Incarnate Word (2-1)
Texas Tech (3-0) at Texas (2-1)
Iowa St. (2-1) at Baylor (3-0)
Texas A&M (3-0) vs. Arkansas (3-0) at Arlington, Texas

Arkansas St. (1-2) at Tulsa (0-3)
Sam Houston St. (2-0) at Cent. Arkansas (1-2)
Grambling St. (1-2) vs. Prairie View (2-1) at Dallas

Texas Southern (0-2) at Rice (0-3)
Kansas St. (3-0) at Oklahoma St. (3-0)
Abilene Christian (2-1) at Lamar (2-1)
N.M. Highlands (0-0) at Tarleton St. (1-2)
Navy (0-2) at Houston (2-1)
Lincoln University (CA) (0-0) at Stephen F. Austin (2-1)

West Virginia (2-1) at Oklahoma (3-0)
New Mexico (2-1) at UTEP (2-1)

FAR WEST

Boise St. (1-2) at Utah St. (3-0)
Washington St. (1-2) at Utah (1-2)
Cal Poly (1-2) at Montana (2-0)
Sacramento St. (1-2) at Idaho St. (0-2)
N. Arizona (1-2) at N. Colorado (1-2)
Towson (1-2) at San Diego St. (3-0)
Montana St. (2-1) at Portland St. (1-2)
UCLA (2-1) at Stanford (2-1)
Hawaii (1-3) at New Mexico St. (1-3)
E. Washington (3-0) at S. Utah (1-2)
FAU (2-1) at Air Force (2-1)
UC Davis (3-0) at Weber St. (1-2)
California (1-2) at Washington (1-2)
South Florida (1-2) at BYU (3-0)
Oregon St. (2-1) at Southern Cal (2-1)
Arizona (0-3) at Oregon (3-0)
Colorado (1-2) at Arizona St. (2-1)

SUNDAY

Boise St. (1-2) at Utah St. (3-0)
Washington St. (1-2) at Utah (1-2)
Cal Poly (1-2) at Montana (2-0)
Sacramento St. (1-2) at Idaho St. (0-2)
N. Arizona (1-2) at N. Colorado (1-2)
Towson (1-2) at San Diego St. (3-0)
Montana St. (2-1) at Portland St. (1-2)
UCLA (2-1) at Stanford (2-1)
Hawaii (1-3) at New Mexico St. (1-3)
E. Washington (3-0) at S. Utah (1-2)
FAU (2-1) at Air Force (2-1)
UC Davis (3-0) at Weber St. (1-2)
California (1-2) at Washington (1-2)
South Florida (1-2) at BYU (3-0)
Oregon St. (2-1) at Southern Cal (2-1)
Arizona (0-3) at Oregon (3-0)
Colorado (1-2) at Arizona St. (2-1)

SOUTH

Southern U. (1-2) at MVSU (0-2)

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (DNP: did not practice; LIMITED: limited participation; FULL: Full participation):

SUNDAY

ARIZONA CARDINALS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — ARIZONA: DNP: T Kelvin Beachum (ribs), WR DeAndre Hopkins (ribs), C Rodney Hudson (not injury related - resting player), LB Chandler Jones (not injury related - resting player), DT Corey Peters (not injury related - resting player), G Justin Pugh (shoulder), CB Marco Wilson (ankle). LIMITED: WR A.J. Green (not injury related - resting player), LB Devon Kennard (hamstring). JACKSONVILLE: DNP: C Brandon Linder (back), DT Jay Tufele (illness). LIMITED: G A.J. Cann (hamstring), CB C.J. Henderson (groin), CB Tre Herndon (knee), DT Roy Robertson-Harris (ankle), DE Jordan Smith (knee). FULL: DE Lerentee McCray (hamstring), WR Laviska Shenault (shoulder).

ATLANTA FALCONS at NEW YORK GIANTS — ATLANTA: DNP: WR Frank Darby (calf), WR Russell Gage (ankle) and CB A.J. Terrell (concussion). GIANTS: DNP: LB Cam Brown (hamstring), DB Nate Ebner (quad), DL Austin Johnson (illness). LIMITED: RB Saquon Barkley (knee), TE Evan Engram (calf), WR Kenny Golladay (hip), DB Logan Ryan (hamstring) and TE Hayden Smith (knee).

BALTIMORE RAVENS at DETROIT LIONS — BALTIMORE: DNP: S DeShon Elliott (concussion), LB Justin Houston (not injury related - resting player), T Ronnie Stanley (ankle), T Alejandro Villanueva (not injury related - resting player), DT Brandon Williams (neck), DE Derek Wolfe (back, hip), CB Tavon Young (knee). LIMITED: WR Marquise Brown (ankle), CB Jimmy Smith (ankle). DETROIT: DNP: LB Jamie Collins (not injury related - personal matter), LB Trey Flowers (shoulder, knee), WR Tyrell Williams (concussion). LIMITED: DE Michael Brockers (shoulder), LB Romeo Okwara (shoulder), WR Kalif Raymond (thigh), DE Kevin Strong (concussion), RB D'Andre Swift (groin).

CHICAGO BEARS at CLEVELAND BROWNS — CHICAGO: DNP: LB Jeremiah Attaochu (hamstring), QB Andy Dalton (knee), TE Jimmy Graham (not injury related - resting player), DT Akiem Hicks (illness). LIMITED: DB Tashaun Gipson Sr. (hamstring), DL Eddie Goldman (knee), WR Darnell Moore (groin). CLEVELAND: DNP: T Christopher Hubbard (triceps), LB Sione Takitaki (hamstring), C J.C. Tretter (knee), T Jedrick Willis (ankle). LIMITED: G Joel Bitonio (back), DE Jadeveon Clowney (knee), T Jack Conklin (knee), LB Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah (knee). FULL: WR Odell Beckham (knee), QB Baker Mayfield (left shoulder), WR Anthony Schwartz (knee), LB Malcolm Smith (knee).

CINCINNATI BENGALS at PITTSBURGH STEELERS — CINCINNATI: DNP: WR Tee Higgins (shoulder), G Xavier Su'a-Filo (knee), DT Josh Tupou (not injury related - personal matter), CB Trae Wayne (hamstring). LIMITED: T Larry Ogunjobi (groin), CB Darius Phillips (not injury related - resting player). PITTSBURGH: DNP: DT Carlos Davis (knee), TE Eric Ebron (not injury related - resting player), LB Alex Highsmith (groin), WR Dontae Johnson (knee), QB Ben Roethlisberger (pectoral). LIMITED: CB Joe Haden (groin), CB Justin Layne (Achilles), LB T.J. Watt (groin). FULL: LB Devin Bush (groin).

GREEN BAY PACKERS at SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — GREEN BAY: DNP: G Elgton Jenkins (ankle). LIMITED: TE Josiah Deguara (concussion), DL Tyler Lancaster (back), S Vernon Scott (hamstring), CB Eric Stokes (quad). FULL: LB Rashan Gary (elbow), OL Josh Myers (finger), S Darnell Savage (shoulder), CB Chandon Sullivan (knee). SAN FRANCISCO: DNP: DE Arik Armstead (adductor), DT Kevin Givens (ankle), RB Jamaal Hastings (ankle), RB Elijah Mitchell (shoulder), S Jimmie Ward (not injury related - resting player), LB Fred Warner (not injury related - resting player), T Trent Williams (not injury related - resting player). LIMITED: DT Javon Kinlaw (knee), CB Emmanuel Moseley (knee) RB Trey Sermon (concussion). FULL: CB Josh Norman (ankle).

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS at TENNESSEE TITANS

TANS — INDIANAPOLIS: DNP: LB Jordan Glasgow (concussion), WR Zach Pascal (illness), CB Xavier Rhodes (calf), T Braden Smith (foot, thumb), QB Carson Wentz (ankles). LIMITED: WR Parris Campbell (abdomen). FULL: Julian Blackmon (shoulder). TENNESSEE: DNP: LB Jayon Brown (hamstring), LB Bud Dupree (knee), CB Caleb Farley (shoulder), TE Anthony Firkser (knee), RB Derrick Henry (not injury related - resting player), C Ben Jones (knee), G Rodger Saffold (shoulder). LIMITED: WR A.J. Brown (knee), LB Derick Roberson (knee). FULL: T Taylor Lewan (knee), T Ty Sambrailo (foot).

LOS ANGELES CHARGERS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — LOS ANGELES CHARGERS: DNP: OLB Joey Bosa (foot/ankle), CB Chris Harris Jr. (shoulder), S Derwin James Jr. (toe), DL Justin Jones (calf). FULL: RB Austin Ekeler (ankle), G Matt Feller (ankle), LB Kenneth Murray Jr. (ankle). KANSAS CITY: LIMITED: LB Anthony Hitchens (abdomen), DT Chris Jones (wrist), DT Derrick Nnadi (hip). FULL: TE Blake Bell (ankle), OL Trey Smith (wrist), CB L'Jarvis Sneed (quad), OL Austin Blythe (abdomen).

MIAMI DOLPHINS at LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — MIAMI: DNP: QB Tua Tagovailoa (ribs). LIMITED: T Jesse Davis (knee), WR Jakeem Grant (ankle). FULL: DE Emmanuel Ogbah (groin), WR DeVante Parker (shoulder), WR Preston Williams (foot). LAS VEGAS: DNP: G Richie Incognito (calf), RB Josh Jacobs (ankle), S Dallin Leavitt (concussion), CB Roderic Teamer (ankle). LIMITED: LB Nick Kwiatkoski (concussion), DE Carl Nassib (pectoral, toe), DE Yannick Ngakoue (hamstring), DT Darius Philon (knee). FULL: B Derek Carr (ankle), RB Alec Ingold (fibula), DT Quinton Jefferson (knee), T Alex Leatherwood (back).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — NEW ORLEANS: DNP: C Eric McCoy (calf). LIMITED: DB C.J. Johnson (knee), CB Marshon Lattimore (hand), G Calvin Throckmorton (knee), LB Pete Werner (hamstring), DB P.J. Williams (back) and DE Payton Turner. FULL: DE Tanoh Kpassagnon (calf). NEW ENGLAND: DNP: LB Matt Judon (knee). LIMITED: T Trent Brown (ankle), RB Damien Harris (finger). FULL: LB Kyle Van Noy (throat).

NEW YORK JETS at DENVER BRONCOS — NEW YORK JETS: DNP: R Jamison Crowder (groin), DE John Franklin-Myers (calf), LB B.J. Goodson (not injury related - personal matter). LIMITED: LB Jamien Sherwood (ankle). FULL: QB Zach Wilson (groin). DENVER: DNP: NT Mike Purcell (knee). LIMITED: TE Noah Fant (ankle), G Graham Glasgow (illness), DE Shelby Harris (wrist), WR Tim Patrick (hip), WR Courtland Sutton (hip), OLB Malik Reed (ankle).

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — SEATTLE: DNP: WR D'Wayne Eskridge (concussion), RB Rashard Penny (calf), T Brandon Shell (ankle), WR Freddie Swain (back). LIMITED: RB Chris Carson (not injury related - resting player), DT Bryan Mone. FULL: G Gabe Jackson (not injury related - resting player), T Duane Brown (not injury related - resting player), WR DK Metcalf (knee), LB Benson Mayowa (neck). MINNESOTA: DNP: RB Dalvin Cook (ankle). LIMITED: LB Anthony Barr (knee), CB Bashaud Breeland (back, shoulder), T Christian Darrisaw (groin), DE Everson Griffen (concussion), LB Eric Kendricks (hip), CB Patrick Peterson (toe).

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS at LOS ANGELES RAMS — TAMPA BAY: DNP: WR Jaydon Mickens (abdomen), LB Jason Pierre-Paul (hand, shoulder). LOS ANGELES RAMS: DNP: OL Andrew Whitworth (not injury related - resting player), DL Aaron Donald (not injury related - resting player), OLB Leonard Floyd (ankle) RB Darrell Henderson Jr..

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM at BUFFALO BILLS — WASHINGTON: DNP: DT Matt Ioannidis (knee). LIMITED: RB Antonio Gibson (shoulder). BUFFALO: DNP: WR Cole Beasley (not injury related - resting player), DE Jerry Hughes (not injury related - resting player), DT Star Lotulelei (groin). LIMITED: WR Gabriel Davis (ankle), S Micah Hyde (neck), CB Dane Jackson (knee). FULL: LB Tremaine Edmunds (illness), DE Efe Obada (calf), CB Levi Wallace (knee).

MONDAY

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES at DALLAS COWBOYS — PHILADELPHIA: No Data Reported. DALLAS: No Data Reported.

PRO BASKETBALL

WNBA playoffs

(x-if necessary)

First Round

Thursday's games

No. 7 Dallas at No. 6 Chicago
No. 8 New York at No. 5 Phoenix

Second Round

Sunday's games

TBD at No. 3 Minnesota
TBD at No. 4 Seattle

Semifinals

(Best-of-five)

No. 1 Connecticut vs. TBD

Tuesday, Sept. 28: TBD at Connecticut
Thursday, Sept. 30: TBD at Connecticut
Sunday, Oct. 3: Connecticut at TBD
x-Wednesday, Oct. 6: Connecticut at TBD
x-Friday, Oct. 8: TBD at Connecticut

No. 2 Las Vegas vs. TBD

Tuesday, Sept. 28: TBD at Las Vegas
Thursday, Sept. 30: TBD at Las Vegas
Sunday, Oct. 3: Las Vegas at TBD
x-Wednesday, Oct. 6: Las Vegas at TBD
x-Friday, Oct. 8: TBD at Las Vegas

Finals

(Best-of-five)

Game 1: Sunday, Oct. 10
Game 2: Wednesday, Oct. 13
Game 3: Friday, Oct. 15
x-Game 4: Sunday, Oct. 17
x-Game 5: Tuesday, Oct. 19

LPGA Money Leaders

Through Sept. 20

	Trn	Money
1. Nelly Korda	14	\$1,941,977
2. Patty Tavatanakit	14	\$1,225,506
3. Lydia Ko	16	\$1,214,954
4. Yuka Saso	5	\$1,212,225
5. Minjee Lee	14	\$1,160,681
6. Anna Nordqvist	15	\$1,153,715
7. Ariya Jutanugarn	17	\$1,127,724
8. Lizette Salas	18	\$1,114,651
9. Nasa Hataoka	16	\$1,058,159
10. Jin Young Ko	13	\$1,013,185
11. Inbee Park	14	\$956,850
12. Lexi Thompson	14	\$932,348
13. Hyo Joo Kim	12	\$815,312
14. Jeongeun Lee6	19	\$806,636
15. Georgia Hall	17	\$798,297
16. Leona Maguire	15	\$794,503
17. Moriya Jutanugarn	17	\$787,581
18. Brooke M. Henderson	18	\$759,619
19. Danielle Kang	15	\$680,545
20. Madelene Sagstrom	17	\$673,280
21. Yealimi Noh	19	\$665,082
22. Sei Young Kim	14	\$664,510

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLAS — Recalled INF Jahmai Jones and RHP Konner Wade from Norfolk (Triple-A East). Optioned RHP Joey Krehbiel to Norfolk. Placed INF Ramon Urias on the 10-day IL. Designated RHP Cesar Valdez for assignment.

DETROIT TIGERS — Sent LHP Miguel Del Pozo to Toledo (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment. Optioned RHP Drew Carlin to Toledo. Reinstated RHP Joe Jimenez from the 10-day IL.

NEW YORK YANKEES — Optioned OF Estevan Florial to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (Triple-A East). Reinstated RHP Domingo German from the 10-day IL. Sent RHP Jameson Taillon to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre on a rehab assignment.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Released C Aramis Garcia.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Placed INF Breyvic Valera on the COVID-19 IL. Recalled INF Kevin Smith from Buffalo (Triple-A East). Optioned LHP Anthony Kay to Buffalo.

National League

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Reinstated LHP Caleb Smith from the suspended list.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Placed RHP Edgar Santana on the paternity list. Placed RHP Touki Toussaint on the bereavement list. Selected the contract of LHP Dylan Lee from Gwinnett (Triple-A East) and agreed to terms on a major league contract. Recalled SS Orlando Arcia from Gwinnett.

CINCINNATI REDS — Optioned C Mark Kolozsvary to Louisville (Triple-A East). Transferred RHP Tejay Antone from the 10-day IL to the 60-day IL. Reinstated C Tyler Stephenson from the 10-day IL. Placed 3B Mike Moustakas on the 10-day IL, retroactive to Sept. 21. Designated RHP R.J. Alvarez for assignment.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated OF A.J. Pollock from the 10-day IL. Designated RHP Shane Greene for assignment.

MIAMI MARLINS — Designated RHP Taylor Williams for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Luis Madero from Jacksonville (Triple-A East) and agreed to terms on a major league contract.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Reinstated LHP Brett Anderson from the 10-day IL. Optioned INF/OF Pablo Reyes to Nashville (Triple-A East).

NEW YORK METS — Sent RHP Noah Syndergaard to Syracuse (Triple-A East) on a rehab assignment.

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Optioned LHP Damon Jones to Lehigh Valley (Triple-A East). Reinstated LF Travis Jankowski from the 10-day IL.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Sent RHP Daniel Ponce de Leon outright to Memphis (Triple-A East).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Released RHP Jake Arrieta.

SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS — Selected the contract of LHP Scott Kazmir from Sacramento (Triple-A West) and agreed to terms on a major league contract. Optioned RHP Jay Jackson to Sacramento.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association

NBA — Fined Golden State Governor Joe Jacob an undisclosed amount for violating

DEALS

the league's anti-tampering rule.

ATLANTA HAWKS — Signed Cs Johnny Hamilton and Jahlii Okafor, G A.J. Lawson and G/F Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot.

CHICAGO BULLS — Exercised the fourth-year option on G Coby White and third-year option on F Patrick Williams.

CLEVELAND CAVALIERS — Signed G Denzel Valentine.

UTAH JAZZ — Signed G Justin James to a two-way contract.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Signed CB Mazzi Wilkins to the practice squad.

BALTIMORE RAVENS — Signed CB Linden Stephens to the practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS — Signed OL Bobby Hart to the practice squad.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed WR Davion Davis to the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Signed CB Colton Hill to the practice squad. Placed LB Keanu Neal on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

DENVER BRONCOS — Placed OLB Bradley Chubb on injured reserve. Promoted RB Damarea Crockett from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed OLB Pita Taupoenu to the practice squad. Signed LB Micah Kiser.

DETROIT LIONS — Promoted CB Daryl Worley from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed CB Ifeatu Melifonwu on injured reserve. Signed K Ryan Santos to the practice squad.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Promoted QB Jeff Driskel and K Joey Slye from the practice squad to the active roster.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — Placed TE James O'Shaughnessy on injured reserve. Signed CB Nevin Lawson.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Signed OT Jackson Barton. Released LB Marquel Lee.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed CB Harrison Hand on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Signed RB Ameer Abdullah to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed OL Jake Eldrenkamp to the practice squad.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Re-signed DB Jordan Miller and LB Wynton McManis to the practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed OL Jonothan Harrison and OT Foster Sarell to the practice squad. Released RB Dexter Williams from the practice squad.

NEW YORK JETS — Placed LB B.J. Goodson on the reserve/retired list. Signed OL Isaiah Williams to the practice squad.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Signed RB Chris Thompson and DL Eddie Yarbrough to the practice squad. Released TE Jordan Matthews from the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Placed WR Antonio Brown on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Promoted DL Nquan Jones from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed DL Andrew Brown to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

BUFFALO SABRES — Signed D Rasmus Dahlin to a three-year contract.

ST. LOUIS BLUES — Signed F Robert Thomas to a two-year contract. Named Peter Chiarelli vice president of hockey operations and Ken Hitchcock coaching consultant and Dave Taylor senior advisor to hockey operations.

TENNIS

Pablo Carreno Busta (2), Spain, def. Mikael Ymer, Sweden, 7-5, 6-2.

Men's Doubles

Round of 16

Nikola Cacic, Serbia, and Tomislav Brkic (2), Bosnia-Herzegovina, def. Marcos Giron, United States, and Albano Olivetti, France, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 10-1.

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MLB

Scoreboard

American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Tampa Bay	94	59	.614	—
Boston	88	65	.575	6
New York	86	67	.562	8
Toronto	85	67	.559	8½
Baltimore	48	104	.316	45½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	85	66	.563	—
Cleveland	74	76	.493	10½
Detroit	74	78	.487	11½
Kansas City	69	83	.454	16½
Minnesota	67	85	.441	18½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	91	61	.599	—
Seattle	83	69	.546	8
Oakland	82	70	.539	9
Los Angeles	72	80	.474	19
Texas	55	97	.362	36
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	80	70	.533	—
Philadelphia	78	74	.513	3
New York	73	79	.480	8
Miami	64	88	.421	17
Washington	63	89	.414	18
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Milwaukee	91	61	.599	—
St. Louis	82	69	.543	8½
Cincinnati	78	74	.513	13
Chicago	67	85	.441	24
Pittsburgh	57	94	.377	33½
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Francisco	99	53	.651	—
z-Los Angeles	97	55	.638	2
San Diego	76	75	.503	22½
Colorado	71	80	.470	27½
Arizona	48	104	.316	51

Rays clinch after beef with Blue Jays

Kiermaier hit by pitch two days after swiping Toronto scouting report

By Mark Dittler
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Hit by a pitch two days after scooping up a Toronto scouting report and setting off a flap, Kevin Kiermaier hopes to see the Blue Jays in the playoffs.

“Oh yeah, it was intentional,” Kiermaier said after reliever Ryan Borucki hit him on the back with his first pitch in the eighth inning Wednesday.

Tampa Bay’s 7-1 victory clinched its third straight postseason berth. When asked why he wants to face Toronto again, Kiermaier replied: “The motivation is there. That’s all that needs to be said.”

“Pretty much almost went behind me,” Kiermaier said. “I thought it was a weak move, to be quite honest. It’s over. It didn’t hurt by any means, so I don’t care. Whatever. We move on. We got a series win, and I hope we play those guys, I really do.”

Borucki was ejected after the umpires met, which prompted Blue Jays manager Charlie Montoyo and enraged pitching coach Pete Walk-



CHRIS O’MEARA/AP

Tampa Bay Rays players react after defeating the Toronto Blue Jays 7-1 Wednesday in St. Petersburg, Fla. With the win, the Rays clinched a playoff berth.

er to storm out of the dugout to argue as players spilled onto the field. Walker also was tossed, and there were no incidents between the players.

“I wanted to go down and away, as I was coming forward I felt the ball slip out of my hand and I missed

up and in, and I accidentally hit him,” Borucki said. “They can think what they want over there in their locker room, but it is what it is.”

Borucki was tossed by crew chief Joe West.

“I was just like, I missed arm-

side, like I miss arm-side a lot,” Borucki said. “I pitch inside all the time, and he was like, ‘You’ve just got to go.’”

Rays second baseman Brandon Lowe called the hit by pitch “kind of bush league,” while manger Kevin Cash said he was disappointed.

ROUNDUP

Giants top Padres, take 2-game lead in NL West

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Kris Bryant hit a bases-clearing double, Buster Posey had four hits and scored three times, and reliever Camilo Doval (4-1) got San Francisco out of a big jam as the Giants beat free-falling San Diego 8-6 on Wednesday to take a two-game lead in the NL West.

San Francisco got some help in its push for its first division title since 2012 when the defending World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers lost 10-5 at Colorado. The Dodgers have won the division eight straight seasons.

The Giants, whose 99-53 record is the best in the majors, pulled within one win of reaching 100 for the eighth time in franchise history.

Yankees 7, Rangers 3: Gleyber Torres doubled home Joey Gallo for the tiebreaking run in the eighth inning, Gary Sánchez followed with a two-run homer and host New York rallied past Texas for a three-game sweep heading into a divisional stretch that will decide its postseason fate.

The Yankees made two errors, allowed two stolen bases, had a baserunner sprint through a stop sign but scored easily and another thrown out at home plate.

AL wild card

	W	L	Pct	WCGB
Boston	88	65	.575	—
New York	86	67	.562	—
Toronto	85	67	.559	½
Seattle	83	69	.546	2½
Oakland	82	70	.539	3½

Wednesday’s games

Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 1
Philadelphia 4, Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees 7, Texas 3
Boston 12, N.Y. Mets 5
Seattle 4, Oakland 1

Thursday’s games

Seattle at Oakland
Toronto at Minnesota

NL wild card

	W	L	Pct	WCGB
z-Los Angeles	97	55	.638	—
St. Louis	82	69	.543	—
Cincinnati	78	74	.513	4½
Philadelphia	78	74	.513	4½

z-clinched playoff berth

Wednesday’s games

Philadelphia 4, Baltimore 3
St. Louis 10, Milwaukee 2
Boston 12, N.Y. Mets 5
Colorado 10, L.A. Dodgers 5
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, ppd.

Thursday’s games

St. Louis at Milwaukee
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado
Washington at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia

Phillies 4, Orioles 3: Bryce Harper threw out the tying run at the plate in the eighth inning and Andrew McCutchen hit a two-run home run to keep host Philadelphia in the hunt in the NLEast race. The Phillies took two of three

against 104-loss Baltimore. Next up, four games against the Pirates.

Rockies 10, Dodgers 5: Sam Hilliard lined a three-run homer, C.J. Cron had four hits and Colorado snapped a five-game skid at Coors Field by beating NL West title-chasing Los Angeles.

The Dodgers slipped to two games behind division-leading San Francisco, which beat San Diego.

Red Sox 12, Mets 5: Kyle Schwarber homered twice and scored four times, and Chris Sale struck out eight in five innings as host Boston won its seventh straight.

The Red Sox scored in each of the first six innings and have not lost since Sept. 13.

Braves 9, Diamondbacks 2: Adam Duvall lost a home run to a baserunning miscue, but Atlanta rebounded with homers by Austin Riley, Ozzie Albies and Freddie Freeman in winning at Arizona.

Ian Anderson pitched two-hit ball in six-plus innings as the Braves (80-70) won their fifth straight and maintained a three-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East.

Astros 9, Angels 5 (12): Jose Altuve hit a two-run double in the 12th inning and Houston, after

throwing out Shohei Ohtani at the plate to preserve a tie, broke away to win at Los Angeles.

The Astros, who have won four straight and seven of eight, reduced their magic number to three for clinching their fourth AL West title in five seasons.

Mariners 4, Athletics 1: Kyle Seager hit his 35th home run, Ty France also connected and Seattle moved up in the playoff race, winning at Oakland for its fourth straight victory.

The Mariners topped the A’s for the third day in row to pull within 2 ½ games of the Yankees for the second AL wild card. The Athletics fell 3 ½ back of New York.

Twins 5, Cubs 4: Max Kepler homered twice, rookie Joe Ryan struck out a season-high 11, and Minnesota dealt host Chicago its ninth loss in 11 games.

Cardinals 10, Brewers 2: Paul Goldschmidt and Tyler O’Neill homered as St. Louis won its 11th straight game and extended its lead for the second NL wild-card spot with a win at NL Central-leading Milwaukee, which dropped its fourth straight.

Nationals 7, Marlins 5: Juan Soto took over the NL batting lead, getting three hits and three RBIs in Washington’s win at Miami.

z-clinched playoff berth

Wednesday’s games

Tampa Bay 7, Toronto 1
Philadelphia 4, Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees 7, Texas 3
Minnesota 5, Chicago Cubs 4
Boston 12, N.Y. Mets 5
Seattle 4, Oakland 1
Houston 9, L.A. Angels 5, 12 innings
Chicago White Sox at Detroit, ppd.
Kansas City at Cleveland, ppd.
Washington 7, Miami 5
St. Louis 10, Milwaukee 2
Colorado 10, L.A. Dodgers 5
Atlanta 9, Arizona 2
San Francisco 8, San Diego 6
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, ppd.

Thursday’s games

Chicago White Sox at Cleveland (2)
Seattle at Oakland
Texas at Baltimore
Toronto at Minnesota
Houston at L.A. Angels
St. Louis at Milwaukee
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado
Atlanta at Arizona
San Francisco at San Diego
Washington at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia

Friday’s games

Texas (Howard 0-4) at Baltimore (Wells 1-3)
Chicago White Sox (Cease 12-7) at Cleveland (Bieber 7-4)
Kansas City (Hernández 6-2) at Detroit (Mize 7-8)
Miami (Cabrera 0-2) at Tampa Bay (TBD)
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 15-8) at Boston (Eovaldi 10-8)
Toronto (Berríos 12-8) at Minnesota (Ober 2-3)
Seattle (Gilbert 6-5) at L.A. Angels (Suares 7-8)
Houston (Greinke 11-6) at Oakland (Montas 12-9)
St. Louis (Happ 9-8) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 3-3)
St. Louis (Flaherty 9-2) at Chicago Cubs (Davies 6-11)
Pittsburgh (TBD) at Philadelphia (Gibson 10-8)
Washington (Espino 5-5) at Cincinnati (Gray 7-8)
N.Y. Mets (Megill 3-5) at Milwaukee (Burnes 10-4)
San Diego (Knehr 0-0) at Atlanta (TBD), 8:10 p.m.
San Francisco (Wood 10-4) at Colorado (Lambert 0-0)
L.A. Dodgers (Gonsolin 3-1) at Arizona (Castellanos 2-1)
Atlanta (Fried 12-7) at San Diego (TBD)

GOLF/COLLEGE FOOTBALL/OLYMPICS



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Team USA's Jordan Spieth watches a shot by teammate Justin Thomas during a practice at the Ryder Cup at the Whistling Straits Golf Course on Tuesday. The friends are likely to be paired in foursomes.

U.S. Ryder Cup hopes ride on Spieth-Thomas tandem

BY TIM DAHLBERG
Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — The buzz around Whistling Straits is about big drives, huge throngs of people and a U.S. team so talented it will have to search for ways to throw away this Ryder Cup.

But the Americans' chances of reclaiming the Cup will likely revolve around a pair of young stars who became fast friends long before they became household names.

Jordan Spieth and Justin Thomas almost surely will be paired together in both foursomes and fourballs beginning Friday on the shore of Lake Michigan. What they deliver will go a long way toward deciding the Americans' chances of reversing their fortunes in a team event that has not gone their way in

recent years.

They won big together outside Paris three years ago, going 3-1 in the team matches. That wasn't enough to make up for teammates collapsing around them, but it was a pretty good indication Spieth and Thomas would be forces for years to come in the Ryder Cup.

While U.S. captain Steve Stricker has some decisions to make in most pairings, the Spieth-Thomas combination isn't one of them.

"We've had a pretty good game plan from a while back, and we're putting that into play," Stricker said. "We're putting that in place."

But if there was ever a natural pairing on an American squad focused increasingly on team camaraderie, it's Spieth and Thomas, who first met when they were 13 and Thomas was so short he was

hitting fairway woods into most par 4s.

Composed beyond his years even then, Spieth came up and introduced himself to Thomas on the driving range at a junior tournament in Dallas when they were paired together in the final round.

Spieth would win that week in his first major junior event, and the two traded top finishes over the summer until both were picked to represent the U.S. in the Evian Masters Junior Cup in France. They bonded even more on the trip, and when Thomas won a spot in the Evian Masters pro-am with Juli Inkster, it was Spieth who carried his clubs.

Eleven years later they were both major championship winners, and their pairing together at Le Golf National in the last Ryder Cup was as natural as a plate of steak and frites.

Playoff expansion stalls; commissioners discussing concerns

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

A plan to expand the College Football Playoff stalled Wednesday when the college sports administrators who oversee the postseason system were unable to reach consensus on whether to grow the postseason format from four to 12 teams.

The 10 major college conference commissioners and Notre Dame's athletic director who make up the CFP management committee met to share feedback from their members and address concerns about the expansion proposal that was unveiled in June.

"There's still issues that need to be discussed," CFP Executive Director Bill Hancock told AP.

Among the issues: the number of teams. Hancock said an eight-team format was part of the discussions Wednesday.

The meeting in the Dallas area, which was attended in person by some of the participants and virtually by others, was a prelude to a session in Chicago next week that was supposed to include the CFP board of managers.

The board is comprised of university presidents and chancellors representing each conference. The board has final say in all matters related to the playoff and there was hope the management committee would bring the presidents a recommendation to approve a format change.

Instead, the management committee will reconvene Tuesday, with the presidents joining via Zoom.

"There won't be a vote next week," Hancock said. "Next week will be, I'll call it an informational meeting. It's complicated."

Hancock added: "We have time." When the process first began, the 2023 season seemed like the soonest an expansion plan could be implemented.

After the latest meeting, Hancock talked about 2024.

"I can't say what the timetable

"There's still issues that need to be discussed."

Bill Hancock
CFP Executive Director

might be, but I would say if we want to expand beginning in the 2024 season, we have a few months," he said. "But if we want to change the format beginning in 2026, after the 12-year contract (with ESPN) is over, we have a couple of years."

The management committee and presidents routinely meet at the site of the College Football Playoff national championship game to discuss the state of the CFP. This season's game will be held on Jan. 10 in Indianapolis.

Since the public rollout of the 12-team playoff plan, there have been concerns raised about components of the format, including the possibility of increasing the number of games in a season required to play for a championship to as many as 17.

There were also questions about the impact subsequent conference realignment could have on a new version of the CFP.

In July, the Southeastern Conference invited Texas and Oklahoma to leave the Big 12 and join the powerhouse league in 2025 after the Big 12's current television contracts expire.

The Big 12 responded by inviting American Athletic Conference members Houston, Cincinnati and Central Florida to join the league along with BYU, which is a football independent that also competes in the West Coast Conference.

The 12-team plan was developed over two years by four members of the management committee: SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey, Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby, Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson and Notre Dame athletic director Jack Swarbrick.

USOPC: American hopefuls for Winter Olympics must get vaccine

BY EDDIE PELLIS
Associated Press

U.S. athletes trying to make the Winter Olympics will have to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 under a new policy announced Wednesday by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee.

CEO Sarah Hirshland wrote in a letter obtained by The Associated Press that, starting Nov. 1, the USOPC will require staff, athletes and others utilizing training centers and other

USOPC facilities to be vaccinated.

The requirement, she said, "will also apply to our full Team USA delegation at future Olympic and Paralympic Games."

According to the team website, athletes will have to show proof of vaccination by Dec. 1. The U.S. is expected to send around 240 athletes to the Winter Olympics, though the mandate will impact hundreds more — anyone with hopes of making the final squad.

The International Olympic Committee has been encouraging vaccines but did not require them for athletes who competed in the Summer Olympics. With that guidance, most national Olympic committees, including the USOPC, followed suit by strongly recommending the vaccines but not requiring them. The IOC's first "Playbook," a booklet offering health-related and other guidance for the Winter Games, is due out next month.



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

The trophy for the College Football Playoff championship, shown in January in Miami Beach. The playoff could be expanded from four to as many as 12 teams, but many issues need to be worked out.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY PAUL SANCYA/AP

Michigan running backs Hassan Haskins, above, and Blake Corum, below, give the Wolverines a 1-2 punch. Michigan leads the FBS with an average of 350 rushing yards a game.

Pair and a spare: Tailback depth crucial in Big Ten

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
Associated Press

Michigan has begun a pivotal season for coach Jim Harbaugh with three decisive wins, fueled by that ground-oriented, weather-proof offense he and most northern teams prefer.

Recruiting and developing the right running backs to carry it out remains a vital part of program-building in the Big Ten and elsewhere, a task that seemingly never stops. Because once a team has that true stand-out, what's most important is to find another one.

"The more good playmakers you have, the better," Harbaugh said, sounding ready to help assemble a coach's book of pithy quotations.

The 19th-ranked Wolverines lead the FBS with an average of 350 rushing yards per game, behind a tailback time share for senior Hassan Haskins and sophomore Blake Corum. They couldn't have split up the carries any better if they tried: Corum has 49 and Haskins has 48.

There's no place in the nation that has enjoyed more star running backs than Ohio State, where player development is needed to stem the tide of NFL departures as much as inevitable injuries.

Coach Ryan Day has yet to settle on his depth chart this year, and no sympathy is needed given the 277-yard game TreVeyon Henderson had last week to set the single-game freshman rushing record on just 24 attempts. The Buckeyes were playing the "hot hand" against Tulsa, as Day put it, leaving Master Teague III in the background with 14 carries and Miyan Williams on the bench.

Williams won the starting job out of preseason camp that was presumed to be Teague's for the second straight year. In 2020, Teague wound up being overshadowed by transfer Trey Sermon, who became a third-round draft pick by the San Francisco 49ers.

"As we get into the meat of the season, having depth at that position is critical, especially with the balance that we're striving for. We've got to be able to run the ball, throw the ball. We haven't quite found that balance yet," said Day, whose team is third in the conference in passing attempts.



The traditional powerhouse programs aren't alone in their pursuit of multiple running backs, with Minnesota long serving as a prime example.

For three straight years from 2003-05, the Gophers enjoyed the riches of having two 1,000-yard rushers each season. Then-coach Glen Mason even coined the perfect phrase for the formula: a pair and a spare. He ought to have trademarked it; there's now a Twin Cities-based college football podcast using the clever mantra.

"It's awful tough for one guy to carry the ball 40 or 50 times a game if that's what you're intending on doing as far as the makeup of your offense," Mason said this week. "If you always need two, then you better have another guy. Because if one guy goes down, your whole philosophy can go out the window."

Thomas Hamner (2000), Thomas Tapeh (2004), Marion Barber III (2005) and Laurence Maroney (2006) were all NFL draft picks who played for the Gophers under Mason.

"There's nothing tougher in football than getting tackled. You ask any defensive player what he hates more than anything in practice, and he'll tell you it's when he's the guy who has to get tackled in tackling drills," Mason said, adding: "There are a lot of plays that are designed for 4 yards. If it's well blocked, it's 4 yards and you're going to take a beating."

AP sports writers Tom Canavan, Larry Lage, Steve Megargee, Eric Olson and Mitch Stacy contributed to this report.

Irish QB Coan ready for rugged reunion vs. Badgers

BY JOHN FINERAN
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Jack Coan admits it is going to be a little strange this Saturday when No. 12 Notre Dame takes on his old team, No. 18 Wisconsin, at Chicago's Soldier Field.

"It's definitely going to be weird," the 22-year-old grad transfer quarterback said. "It's going to be a lot of my friends I'm going to be playing against, guys I still talk to today. But at the end of the day, it's just another football game and I like to think I won't get more excited for one game than the next."

Both his current coach, Brian Kelly, and his old coach, Paul Chryst, said they believe Coan will handle his emotions well.

"Jack is a competitor — he loved his time at Wisconsin," Kelly said. "But it's a new chapter for him. He's very mature, level-headed. He wants to beat Wisconsin."

Said Chryst: "Obviously we have respect for Jack and appreciate who he is as a person and player here. But it's Wisconsin versus Notre Dame."

And it's a big game for both teams. The Badgers (1-1, 0-1 Big Ten) have one of the nation's stingiest defenses but could use a Top 25 win after their season-opening loss at home to Penn State. The Fighting Irish, meanwhile, have won all three of their games but hardly in dominating fashion.

The 6-foot-3½, 223-pound Coan, a standout athlete at Sayville (N.Y.) High School, turned down a lacrosse scholarship at Notre Dame to play quarterback at Wisconsin where in 25 games, he completed nearly 68% of his passes for 3,278 yards and 23 touchdowns against eight interceptions and went 12-6 as a starter.

Prior to last season, Coan suffered a broken foot that required season-ending surgery. The Badgers

No. 12 Notre Dame (3-0) at No. 18 Wisconsin (1-1, 0-1 Big Ten)
AFN-Sports2
6 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT

ers went 4-3 behind quarterback Graham Mertz and elected to go forward with him. So Coan entered the transfer portal after receiving his degree and moved to South Bend last January.

With the Fighting Irish replacing their all-time winningest quarterback Ian Book, Coan beat out sophomore Drew Pyne and freshman Tyler Buchner. Coan has competed nearly 63% of his passes for 828 yards and eight touchdowns, with four of those coming in an overtime win at Florida State.

Two weeks ago, Coan drove Notre Dame 75 yards in 26 seconds and threw the game-winning touchdown pass to Michael Mayer with a dislocated middle finger on his throwing hand to beat Toledo. Last week, he overcame a sluggish start to finish 15-for-31 passing for 223 yards and two TDs against Purdue.

There have been some down moments as well. Coan has turned the ball over three times, including two interceptions, and he has been sacked 14 times behind the Irish's rebuilding offensive line — an ominous sign against the fearsome Wisconsin defense. Coan has shared some playing time the last two games with the more mobile Buchner.

"I think my timing was off a little bit (against Purdue) and I need to be a little more accurate," said Coan, who will be facing a Badgers defense that is first nationally against the run (33 yards allowed per game) and second in total defense (194.5 yards). "I can do my part getting the ball out of my hand and communicating better."

AP sports writer Steve Megargee contributed to this report.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Notre Dame quarterback Jack Coan throws against Purdue. He will be competing against his old school, Wisconsin, this week.

NFL

Epenesa making impact on Bills 'D'

By MARK LUDWICZAK
Associated Press

After a disjointed 2020 rookie season, Bills coach Sean McDermott is still getting to know A.J. Epenesa away from the field.

"He is quiet. I don't think I really know the real A.J., maybe," McDermott said.

Opposing quarterbacks are quickly learning what Epenesa can do on the field, where the young pass rusher appears to be making up for lost time. The second-year pro has been a vital and integral part of the Bills' resurgent pass rush, showcasing the skills that made him a second-round pick in 2020.

"I can tell you it's been fun to watch him play," McDermott said.

Epenesa's progress has been significant following what was essentially a lost rookie season. Epenesa had two quarterback hits and helped the Bills finish with six sacks in Sunday's 35-0 win over the Miami Dolphins.

Epenesa sent Dolphins quarterback Tua Tagovailoa out of the game on a clean, but impactful hit five minutes into the first quarter.

"That man was a beast out there on Sunday," safety Jordan Poyer said. "Hopefully he keeps it going."

It's night and day compared to Epenesa's rookie season, when Epenesa never got out of the blocks. In an effort to transition from Iowa's gap-heavy scheme to Buffalo's pressure-oriented system, Epenesa looked to slim down. The problem was Epenesa dropped too much weight, going from 280 pounds to as low as 245 pounds. That led to immediate



DOUG MURRAY/AP

Miami Dolphins tackle Robert Hunt, left, and running back Myles Gaskin (37) block Buffalo Bills defensive end A.J. Epenesa, right, as Miami Dolphins quarterback Jacoby Brissett, rear, passes the ball on Sunday.

concern about his ability to match up against bigger, stronger offensive linemen.

Epenesa's rapid weight loss combined with no offseason practices because of the coronavirus pandemic put Epenesa immediately behind others.

He took a different approach this offseason. Epenesa worked on gaining muscle in order to get his explosion and fast-twitch movements back, settling in around 255 to 260 pounds. And there were no doubts about his dedication, as he made the unusual move to stay in

Buffalo the entire offseason to take full advantage of the team's facilities.

That turned out to be a pivotal decision in his young career.

"That was a personal choice that he made to be here, even though based on the calendar and the rules he didn't have to be here," McDermott said. "So I credit him for that. You see when a player invests that way in his career, that usually pays off. That's a great message to the young players that continue to come in behind A.J. I've just seen a renewed

commitment to the process and maybe a better understanding of what it takes to play at this level."

Epenesa isn't the only player blossoming along Buffalo's defensive line. First-round pick Greg Rousseau had his first two career sacks against Miami. Veterans Jerry Hughes and Mario Addison have led the way and the overall unit has been much improved compared to one year ago.

"It just shows our D-line can get after it," Epenesa said. "It shows that all that hard work we've been doing is paying off."

Numbers: Kupp opened season with back-to-back 100-yard games

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down.

Kupp hopes to make a similar impact on Sunday's game, even if it's not borne out in numbers.

"Everyone expects to go out there and produce, and sometimes that production looks differently," Kupp said. "Sometimes it shows up in the box score. Sometimes it doesn't. The goal is to always be a positive, whatever you're asked to do. If it's getting someone else open, if it's drawing coverage, if it's blocking, everyone wants to be a positive, moving our offense forward. These last couple of weeks, and last year against the Bucs, it showed up in the box score."

Kupp has been a steady, productive wideout when healthy for his entire career, exceeding most expectations for a third-round pick out of Eastern Washington. He has been a mainstay of the Rams' offense under coach Sean



AJ MAST/AP

Rams wide receiver Cooper Kupp (10) had nine catches for 163 yards and two touchdowns against the Colts on Sunday in Indianapolis.

McVay, who arrived in Los Angeles a few months before Kupp and immediately identified multiple ways to maximize Kupp's strengths.

But even McVay is struck by how prolific Kupp has been in his

first two games with Stafford, the veteran quarterback who replaced Kupp's good friend, Jared Goff.

"I think Cooper has done a great job maximizing his opportunities," McVay said. "Matthew has

done a really good job of getting the ball where the coverage dictates ... (but) Cooper has demonstrated why he's a special player in this league the last couple of weeks."

Kupp was a monster last weekend in Indianapolis, racking up nine catches for 163 yards and two touchdowns. He has begun his partnership with Stafford by posting his first back-to-back 100-yard receiving games since early in the 2019 season, which he finished with a career-best 94 catches for 1,161 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Kupp plays in the slot, but not exclusively — nobody does the same thing on every play in McVay's offensive schemes, and Kupp frequently lines up within touching distance of the offensive line, among other roles. He excels at making tacklers miss after getting the ball in space: He is third in the NFL in yards after the catch (146) this season after finishing fifth in 2020 and 11th in 2019.

Scoreboard

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	1	1	0	.500	51	23
Miami	1	1	0	.500	17	51
New England	1	1	0	.500	41	23
N.Y. Jets	0	2	0	.000	20	44

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	1	0	.500	58	52
Tennessee	1	1	0	.500	46	68
Indianapolis	0	2	0	.000	40	55
Jacksonville	0	2	0	.000	34	60

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	1	1	0	.500	63	68
Cincinnati	1	1	0	.500	44	44
Cleveland	1	1	0	.500	60	54
Pittsburgh	1	1	0	.500	40	42

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	2	0	0	1.000	50	26
Las Vegas	2	0	0	1.000	59	44
Kansas City	1	1	0	.500	68	65
L.A. Chargers	1	1	0	.500	37	36

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	1	0	.500	49	48
Philadelphia	1	1	0	.500	43	23
Washington	1	1	0	.500	46	49
N.Y. Giants	0	2	0	.000	42	57

South						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Carolina	2	0	0	1.000	45	21
Tampa Bay	2	0	0	1.000	79	54
New Orleans	1	1	0	.500	45	29
Atlanta	0	2	0	.000	31	80

North						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	1	0	.500	34	51
Green Bay	1	1	0	.500	38	55
Detroit	0	2	0	.000	50	76
Minnesota	0	2	0	.000	57	61

West						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Arizona	2	0	0	1.000	72	46
L.A. Rams	2	0	0	1.000	61	38
San Francisco	2	0	0	1.000	58	44
Seattle	1	1	0	.500	58	49

Thursday's game

Carolina at Houston

Sunday's games

Arizona at Jacksonville
Atlanta at N.Y. Giants
Baltimore at Detroit
Chicago at Cleveland
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Tennessee
L.A. Chargers at Kansas City
New Orleans at New England
Washington at Buffalo
Miami at Las Vegas
N.Y. Jets at Denver
Seattle at Minnesota
Tampa Bay at L.A. Rams
Green Bay at San Francisco

Monday's game

Philadelphia at Dallas

Thursday, Sept. 30

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

NFL



KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP

Las Vegas Raiders quarterback Derek Carr is tied with Tampa Bay's Tom Brady for the most pass plays covering 20 or more yards, with 12 apiece. In 2020, Carr finished with 16 completions of 20 yards.

Carr's aggressive play drives unbeaten Vegas

By W.G. RAMIREZ
Associated Press

HENDERSON, Nev. — Las Vegas coach Jon Gruden wants no part of negativity, and he doesn't want it anywhere near his Raiders.

"There's enough of it in politics, in our social world right now, and we're here to try to create a positive Las Vegas vibe and have some fun here," Gruden said Wednesday.

And there might not be anything more synonymous in the NFL, with a Las Vegas vibe, than big plays that electrify a sellout crowd.

The Raiders are 2-0, in large part because of an improved defense that is making timely plays and putting the football back in the hands of quarterback Derek Carr.

Carr is equally responsible for Las Vegas being one of two undefeated teams in the AFC, along with Denver. The eight-year veteran QB is tied with Tampa Bay's Tom Brady for the most pass plays covering 20 or more yards, with 12 apiece.

And, seven of Carr's dozen passes were actually thrown 20 or more yards, which ranks second only to Arizona's Kyler Murray (8).

In 2020, Carr finished with 16 completions of 20 yards.

"We still have plenty of areas to clean up, but yeah, I mean when you call a play that works, whether it's a short-yardage conversion or

Miami Dolphins (1-1)
at Las Vegas Raiders (2-0)
AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT

a goal-line conversion or a long, big play, you have to get excited about something," Gruden said. "There's enough negativity out there to kill any rat right now. So, I do get excited when we make a good play, especially a big play in an explosive game."

Carr's 817 yards passing leads the NFL, well ahead of Murray, who is second with 689 yards.

Even more impressive, Carr's numbers come from playing behind a patchwork offensive line that has been short-handed since the season started. Carr has been under pressure and blitzed 29 times — second-highest in the league — by two of the more stringent defensive units in the league from Baltimore and Pittsburgh.

Carr, who was better known for checkdowns earlier in his career, has played with more confidence while making a concerted effort to get the ball downfield.

"I just try and execute it the best possible way I can, and the way coach Gruden designs the play," Carr said. "We've been fortunate that our defense has been playing at such a high level. We've been able to take some shots, take some chances, and it's been nice that some of those have worked out for us."

Worked out well, in fact.

Per SportRadar, Carr's average pass has traveled a career-high 8.9 yards beyond the line of scrimmage, more than 2 yards from his average in 2019, when he ranked near the bottom of the league.

"There is a lot to work on with the variety of offense that we have," Carr said. "If one thing maybe isn't going the way we wanted to, then maybe we go to this, or we have this, we can tap into that, and I still feel there are some things that we haven't been able to do yet that I'm excited to show."

Carr's top target, Darren Waller, is tied among five others with a league second-highest 15 receptions.

Speedy wideout Henry Ruggs hauled in a game-sealing 61-yard scoring pass Sunday against Pittsburgh, and do-it-all receiver Zay Jones had a 31-yard TD in overtime against Baltimore in the opener.

"We are a very good football team," Carr said. "We definitely feel that way, but feeling that way and actually going out there and winning football games are two different things. So, we don't want to rest in what we've done and we kind of want to look ahead and hopefully continue to be hungry because honestly, it doesn't matter how many games we win. It's still not enough. And that's the mindset, it's not enough until you're in the dance and win the last game."

KC defense seeks answers after loss

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Chiefs defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo has a lot on his mind these days.

He needs to find some sort of pass rush, which has been unable to generate pressure on the Browns' Baker Mayfield in Week 1 and the Ravens' Lamar Jackson on Sunday night. He needs to find a way to plug the run, especially after the Ravens gutted Kansas City despite missing enough running backs to injury to fill out a flag football team.

Oh, and the biggest challenge? Fundamentals such as tackling when teams are largely barred from hitting in practice.

"Listen," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said before Wednesday's practice, "this is a game of blocking and tackling and if you don't practice it enough, you're going to have some misses. I'm not complaining. It's just what it is."

Put all those issues together and Kansas City is giving up nearly 33 points per game, better only than the Titans, Ravens, Lions and Falcons, and putting extreme pressure on its dynamic offense to produce even more than usual.

There isn't much time to find a solution, either. The Chiefs have the Chargers visiting Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday, and the loser between two division favorites will have a 1-2 record and suddenly find itself in the AFC West cellar.

"We're not where we want to be yet. Still fairly new, all of us playing together," said Kansas City defensive tackle Jarran Reed, who was signed away from Seattle in free agency for the express purpose of plugging up running lanes.

"We have a long way to go," Reed said. "I'm pretty sure we'll get here. We're not going to hang our heads down. We're going to keep getting better every day — stopping the run, pressuring the quarterback and getting sacks."



NICK WASS / AP

Ravens tight end Mark Andrews, left, gets by Kansas City Chiefs safety Juan Thornhill during Sunday's game in Baltimore.

Los Angeles Chargers (1-1)
at Kansas City Chiefs (1-1)

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

It would be easier if there was only one issue to fix. But like Reed said, the Chiefs have been poor across the board.

They're allowing a league-worst 202 yards rushing per game, nearly 40 more than second-place Seattle. They have hurried the quarterback four times, better only than four other teams. They've knocked the QB down three times, better only than the Vikings. And they have a league-low 10 total quarterback pressures, which factors in knockdowns, hurries and sacks.

They also have missed 14 tackles through the first two games. Safety Daniel Sorensen has nine of them, giving him the league lead by three and raising questions about why Juan Thornhill has not played more in his place.

"They do certain things the same and a couple of things different," Reid said. "Dan really had the better camp and so on. Maybe a little bit more consistency there, but we love Juan and where he's getting himself back to where he was his rookie year. I don't want to take anything away from the effort that he's put forward to do that. They all get a chance to play."

What Kansas City needs is for all of them to play better.

"This is assignment football. It doesn't matter what defense you play on," said Chiefs safety Tyrann Mathieu, who picked off two passes and scored a touchdown against the Ravens, but who also was whistled for a couple of penalties.

"It all comes down to assignments," Mathieu said, "and then from there it's execution. Any time you miss a line or blow an assignment against a good team, they're going to make you pay for it."

SPORTS



Rays clinch playoff berth

Tampa Bay tops Toronto for third straight postseason appearance » **MLB, Page 19**

NFL

Contending with Kupp

Fifth-year receiver putting up big numbers for undefeated Rams

By **GREG BEACHAM**
Associated Press

Cooper Kupp realizes he isn't in charge of where he sits on the NFL's receiving charts, so he isn't terribly impressed by his lofty perch early this season.

When Kupp isn't getting many targets, the Los Angeles Rams receiver focuses on blocking, acting as a decoy or doing anything else to create space and time for his offense.

And when a quarterback is getting the ball to him with the frequency of Matthew Stafford for the unbeaten Rams this season, Kupp doesn't track his stats or respond to his mentions on Twitter, even though he's getting love for the thousands of fantasy football victories he's delivering.

"I try to keep a clear mind, stay off of all the social media stuff," Kupp said with a grin Wednesday. "When I get home, I've got a couple of hours to spend with my kids, so I try to stay off the TV, too. The clearer the mind, the better it is for me."

Another thing that's increasingly clear is Kupp's status as an elite NFL receiver. The fifth-year pro is tied for the NFL lead with 16 catches, and his 271 yards are third in the league, as are his three touchdown receptions.

His receiving partnership with Robert Woods has been one of the NFL's best for five years now, but Kupp is on center stage as the Rams (2-0) host the defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers (2-0) on Sunday in a marquee early season matchup.

Kupp and Woods tore up the Bucs last year during Los Angeles' 27-24 win at Tampa Bay. Kupp had 11 catches for 145 yards, while Woods went off for 12 catches, 130 yards and a touch-

SEE NUMBERS ON PAGE 22



Rams WR Cooper Kupp is tied for tops in the NFL with 16 catches, and his 271 yards and three touchdown receptions are both third in the league.
MICHAEL CONROY/AP

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