

## Appointments for vaccinations scarce at Europe bases

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — U.S. military bases in Europe adhered to a White House pledge to open coronavirus vaccinations to every American eligible for them by Monday, but appointments for a first dose remained unavailable in some areas.

Some bases listed open time slots for vaccinations Monday morning on the Defense Health Agency's appointment portal, including Spangdahlem and Geilenkirchen air bases in Germany, and in Italy, Aviano Air Base and Naval Support Activity Naples.

Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, the military's largest overseas medical facility, began offering appointments to all eligible adults Monday afternoon. But in Bavaria, home to about 40,000 garrison personnel, there were no appointments available through the DHA portal at seven vaccination sites, including two at Hohenfels, two at Grafenwoehr and one location each at Ansbach, Katterbach and Vilseck.

More appointments should open for all eligible beneficiaries, including the general adult population, as an expected 20,000 to 30,000 doses per week begin arriving over the next few weeks, U.S. European Command officials said Monday.

"We're really turning a corner here in the next week or two broadly across (the region) to make vaccines available to the

entire population," said Air Force Lt. Col. Elizabeth Erickson, EUCOM command surgeon. "Our pace is really picking up, so it's very exciting."

The Pentagon announced Friday that overseas bases would receive additional doses of the Moderna vaccine to make up for the temporary pause in administering the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration are investigating reports of rare but potentially dangerous blood clots in the J&J vaccine.

EUCOM expects to receive 30,000 additional doses of Moderna in the next few weeks, on top of the 83,000 forecast to arrive by May 7, EUCOM officials said.

The uptick should help EUCOM reach its goal of administering a first dose to all eligible adults by mid-May and fully vaccinating all who want the shots by the end of July, Erickson said. Vaccination rates at bases in Europe have mostly lagged behind those in the United States.

U.S. military medical clinics in Europe are working to ensure that vaccine appointments are available for all eligible adults this week, Erickson said. Some are using the Defense Health Agency appointment portal at [informatics-stage.health.mil/COVAX](https://informatics-stage.health.mil/COVAX), while others are setting up their own scheduling system or are holding mass vaccination events, she said.

## Navy announces officer tapped to lead 7th Fleet

BY JOSEPH DITZLER  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — The White House has nominated a naval officer with command experience in the Western Pacific to lead the 7th Fleet as it aims to keep pace with its Chinese competition.

Rear Adm. Karl O. Thomas, the assistant deputy chief for naval operations, plans and strategy at the Pentagon, would return to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, to command the largest of America's overseas naval fleets, the Defense Department announced Wednesday. Thomas previously served as commander of Task Force 70 and Carrier Strike Group 5, centered on the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, homeported in Yokosuka.

A naval aviator, Thomas began his career in the E-2C Hawkeye, a tactical early-warning aircraft, and rose up the command ranks with service as executive officer aboard the carriers USS Dwight D. Eisenhower and George Washington, and commander of a third, the USS Carl Vinson, according to his Navy biography.

A Northern Virginia native, Thomas earned his commission in 1985 through the Naval ROTC at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He also holds a master's degree from the Naval Postgraduate School.

If confirmed by the Senate, Thomas would succeed Vice Adm. Bill Merz, who took his post Sept. 12, 2019. The job also comes with a promotion. Thomas would take a leading role in an international arena where a rising China confronts its neighbors, and sometimes the United States. The 7th Fleet is

the tool the U.S. employs to demonstrate its reach and resolve to its allies and friends, and to Beijing.

The 7th Fleet, which includes up to 70 vessels and 20,000 sailors, may keep the peace or shoulder the U.S. response if hotspots like the contested Senkaku Islands or Taiwan kindle into conflict.

President Joe Biden's administration has affirmed its commitment to assist Japan should the Senkakus, a group of islets set strategically north-east of Taiwan, come under assault. Japan complains of increasing instances of China's coast guard interfering with Japanese fishing vessels in the area. Both nations this year have empowered their coast guards to open fire there if threatened.

The head of Indo-Pacific Command, Adm. Philip Davidson, in March told the Senate Armed Services Committee that China may be contemplating a move to reclaim Taiwan sooner rather than later. China considers Taiwan a breakaway province.

Unlike its treaty with Japan, the U.S. has no obligation to come to Taiwan's military support, but it aids the island democracy through outward signs, such as the visit last week by former U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd and two former deputy secretaries of state, and by direct arms sales.

The U.S. recognizes China's claim but considers Taiwan's status unresolved. The 7th Fleet periodically sends warships to the Taiwan Strait in defiance of Chinese demands that third nations seek its permission before steaming through the 110-mile-wide passage.

# Fort Benning brings back Best Ranger competition

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

FORT BENNING, Ga. — For three nearly nonstop days, some of the Army's most-skilled soldiers overcame a lack of sleep to tough out brutal obstacle courses, mile-long runs and marches, and weapons and tactics challenges as they moved some 75 miles across Fort Benning for a chance at the title of Best Ranger.

The grueling contest, which tests 52 teams of Ranger School graduates on a wide-range of skills, returned to the Army post in Georgia last week after a rare cancellation in 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic stopped nearly all military movement last spring. In the end, a team of first lieutenants from Fort Benning's own 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment walked away the winners of the 37th annual Best Ranger Competition.

"It's really a testament to what these individuals do in Ranger School — limited sleep, limited food, moving long distances with different amounts of poundage on your back," said Col. Antwan Dunmyer, the commander of Fort Benning's Airborne and Ranger Training Brigade, which hosts the competition. "Just strenuous activity that is

mentally and physically draining — to include having to execute various technical and tactical skills along the way. I mean, this is the Super Bowl for the Army right here. This is the Super Bowl for Rangers."

The competition began Friday with a pre-dawn nine-mile run and ended Sunday afternoon with a final buddy run that saw Rangers 1st Lt. Vince Paikowski and 1st Lt. Alastair Keys cross the finish line first. In between those runs, competitors navigated a series of obstacle courses, an urban-assault course, eight marksmanship events with various firearms, a combat-fitness test, swims across Victory Pond, a nighttime land navigation course, and fast-rope jumps out of helicopters.

"That's what we ask our young Rangers to be able to do, [and] to be able to train young soldiers to be able to do this successfully in combat," Dunmyer said. "I mean, everything we see within the Best Ranger competition is what we would do at some point in combat."

Before last year, Best Ranger had only been canceled twice before — in 1991 during Operation Desert Storm and again in 2003 during the opening weeks of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

# 4 Barksdale-based B-52s arrive on Guam for mission

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

A task force of four B-52H Stratofortress bombers has arrived at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, part of an ongoing demonstration by the Air Force of its ability to move strategic assets around the globe.

The planes, from the 2nd Bomb Wing at Barksdale Air Force Base, La., will operate in the Indo-Pacific and support Pacific Air Forces' training efforts with joint forces and partners, the Air Force said in a statement Saturday.

The 2nd Bomb Wing last deployed B-52s to Guam in February. It's unclear how long the current deployment will last.

The Air Force last year ended its 15-year practice of keeping a continuous bomber presence on Guam in favor of a less-predictable deployment system using bomber task forces. The change aligned with the 2018 National Defense Strategy's call for strategic unpredictability.

Bomber task force missions help "maintain global stability and security while enabling units to become familiar with operations in different regions," according to the Air Force.

Bombers flying from Guam project U.S. airpower in a region where China is flexing its increased military strength. In the South China Sea, for example, the United States has conducted regular operations challenging Chinese territorial claims over international waters.

The State Department in July formally rejected China's claims to islands and reefs in the South China Sea.

"The Air Force is currently working in a complex, dynamic and sometimes volatile global security environment," 2nd Bomb Wing commander Col. Mark Dmytryszyn said in the statement. "It is our charge to regularly conduct these joint and combined security cooperation engagements across different Geographic Combatant Commands and their areas of operation."

Bomber task forces based in the U.S. deploy cyclically to Guam. Adversaries "watch us come and go," Pacific Air Forces commander Gen. Kenneth Wilsbach said in a Sept. 9 call with reporters.

# US military on Okinawa finds 39 new cases of coronavirus

By JOSEPH DITZLER  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO — U.S. commands in Japan reported 39 new cases of the coronavirus between 6 p.m. Friday and the same time Monday, all of them on Okinawa, where the virus resurged in March.

One new coronavirus patient turned up at a Defense Department school on Kadena Air Base, according to a message Monday from the principal to students' families and school staff. Contact tracing is underway, wrote Principal Lorri Vallone of Bob Hope Primary School, and as a result "Ms. Russell and Ms. Kaczynski's

classrooms will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday."

The spring surge also continued in Osaka prefecture, which reported more than 1,000 new COVID-19 patients for six days straight through Sunday and another 719 on Monday, according to public broadcaster NHK and prefectural data.

Osaka, home of Japan's second-largest city, is experiencing its worst phase of the pandemic. It reported another four dead Monday for 1,273 over the past year.

Tokyo confirmed another 405 people had tested positive for the virus Monday, according to NHK.

# Half of US adults got at least 1 vaccine shot

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Half of all adults in the United States have received at least one COVID-19 shot, the government announced Sunday, marking another milestone in the nation's largest vaccination campaign but leaving more work to do to convince skeptical Americans to roll up their sleeves.

Almost 130 million people 18 or older have received at least one dose of a vaccine, or 50.4% of the total adult population, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported. Almost 84 million adults, or about 32.5% of the population, have been fully vaccinated. The U.S. cleared the 50% mark just a day after the reported global death toll from the coronavirus topped a staggering 3 million, according to totals compiled by Johns Hopkins University, though the actual number is believed to be significantly higher.

The country's vaccination rate, at 61.6 doses administered per 100 people, currently falls behind Israel, which leads among countries with at least 5 million people with a rate of 119.2. The U.S. also trails the United Arab Emirates, Chile and the United Kingdom, which is vaccinating at a rate of 62 doses per 100 people, according to Our World in Data, an online research site.

The vaccine campaign offered hope in places like Nashville, Tenn., where the Music City Center bustled Sunday with vaccine seekers. Amanda Grimsley, who received her second shot, said she's ready to see her 96-year-old grandmother, who lives in Alabama and has been nervous about getting the vaccine after having a reaction to a flu shot.

"It's a little emotional. I haven't been able to see my grandmother in a year and a half almost," said Grimsley, 35. "And that's the

longest my entire family has ever gone without seeing her. And we'll be seeing her in mid-May now."

The states with the highest vaccination rates have a history of voting Democratic and supporting President Joe Biden in the 2020 election: New Hampshire at the top, with 71.1%, followed by New Mexico, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Maine, CDC data show. Tennessee sits in the bottom four states for rates of adults getting at least one shot, at 40.8%. It's trailed only by Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi — three other Southern states that lean Republican and voted for Donald Trump last fall.

Vaccination rates do not always align with how states vote. But polling from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research has shown trends that link political leanings and attitudes about the vaccines

and other issues related to the pandemic, which has killed more than 566,000 people in the U.S.

A poll conducted in late March found that 36% of Republicans said they will probably or definitely not get vaccinated, compared with 12% of Democrats.

Overall, willingness to get vaccinated has risen, polling shows.

In January, 67% of adult Americans were willing to get vaccinated or had already received at least one shot. The figure has climbed to 75%, according to the latest AP-NORC poll.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, indicated Sunday that the government will likely move to resume use of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine this week, possibly with restrictions or broader warnings after reports of very rare blood clot cases. Fauci said he expects a decision when advisers to the CDC meet Friday.

## Closing arguments start in trial of ex-Minn. officer

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Officer Derek Chauvin "had to know" he was squeezing the life out of George Floyd as the Black man cried out over and over that he couldn't breathe and finally fell silent, a prosecutor told jurors Monday as closing arguments began at Chauvin's murder trial.

"Use your common sense. Believe your eyes. What you saw, you saw," Steve Schleicher said, referring to the excruciating video of Floyd pinned to the pavement with Chauvin's knee on or close to Floyd's neck last May for up to 9 minutes, 29 seconds, as bystanders yelled at the white officer to get off.

Closing arguments began with Minneapolis on edge against a repeat of the violence that erupted in the city and around the United States last

spring over Floyd's death.

The defense contends Floyd, 46, died of his underlying heart disease and his illegal use of fentanyl and methamphetamine.

Schleicher dismissed some of the defense theories as "nonsense," saying Chauvin's pressure on Floyd killed him by preventing him from breathing.

He rejected the drug overdose argument, the contention that police were distracted by what they saw as hostile onlookers and the suggestion that Floyd suffered carbon monoxide poisoning from auto exhaust. Floyd was "just a man, lying on the pavement, being pressed upon, desperately crying out. A grown man crying out for his mother. A human being," Schleicher said. He said Chauvin "heard him, but he just didn't listen."

## Police: Ex-Texas deputy held in fatal shootings

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A manhunt for a former Texas sheriff's deputy suspected in the fatal shooting of three people in Austin ended Monday when authorities said he was arrested without incident about 20 miles from the scene of the weekend attack.

Officers found Stephen Broderick, 41, along a rural road around 7:30 a.m. in Manor, an Austin suburb, after receiving reports of a suspicious person matching the description of the suspect in Sunday's shooting, Manor Police Chief Ryan Phipps said. Broderick had a pistol in his waistband, Phipps said. He said Broderick was taken to Travis County jail, where authorities did not immediately release more information.

"I'm truly heartbroken that a former Travis County Sheriff's Office Deputy is the suspect in

such a horrific incident," Travis County Sheriff Sally Hernandez said in a statement.

Authorities hadn't released the identities of those killed, but Jodi Duron, superintendent of the Elgin Independent School District near Austin, said the victims included a current and former student at their schools.

She identified them as Alyssa Broderick, who Duron said withdrew from the district last fall, and Willie Simmons III, a senior at Elgin High School. Duron said Broderick was an "excellent student and athlete" who was on the basketball team. Simmons was the football team captain and had been recently recruited to play at the University of North Texas next year.

"The Elgin ISD community grieves the loss of these two young, promising souls," Duron said.

# Biden faces drag on enacting foreign policy

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden this past week found himself in search of a foreign policy sweet spot: somewhere between pulling a screeching U-turn on four years of Trumpism and cautiously approaching the world as it is.

In recent days, Biden has piled new sanctions on Russia, announced he would withdraw all U.S. troops from Afghanistan in less than five months and backed away from a campaign promise to sharply raise refugee admission caps.

Yet, as this past week has shown, Biden is finding that when it comes to the painstaking process of statecraft, the drag of pragmatism can slow the sprint toward big-picture aspirations.

First there was Biden's announcement that he would end the "forever war" in Afghan-

istan by the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States that triggered America's longest conflict.

Biden campaigned on the promise to end the war — and former President Donald Trump set a May 1 deadline to do just that. In the end, though, Biden said he'll get Americans out, but he won't beat a "hasty" retreat under his predecessor's timeline. Instead, he called for a monthslong exit ramp even as Republicans — and a few Democrats — criticized the withdrawal as ill-advised.

Biden's push-pull calibrations were also evident this past week in his approach to Russia.

The president levied new sanctions on Moscow for cyberattacks and interference in the 2020 election, expelling 10 Russian diplomats and target-

ing Moscow's ability to borrow money by prohibiting U.S. financial institutions from buying Russian bonds.

But Biden, who in February had declared an end to the days of the U.S. "rolling over" to Vladimir Putin, simultaneously suggested that he was getting tough on the Russian president and asserted that he wants a "stable, predictable" relationship with him. The president also suggested a summer summit with Putin.

The past week also brought new steps from Biden on refugee admissions that showed the administration's efforts to navigate the fraught politics of the issue. The president issued an emergency declaration stating that the limit of 15,000 refugee admissions that had been set by Trump for this year "remains justified by humanitarian concerns and is otherwise

in the national interest."

The move marked a dramatic departure from Biden's campaign promise to raise the refugee limit to 125,000 and then to at least 95,000 annually after that. It came as the Biden administration is struggling to deal with a sharp increase in unaccompanied young migrants from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras arriving at the border.

After an avalanche of criticism from Democratic lawmakers, the White House within hours made a quick course correction Friday. It said that next month, Biden would increase the historically low cap on refugees set by Trump — but probably not even to the 62,500 level that was in a plan submitted to Congress in February. The number actually admitted is expected to be closer to 15,000.

## As voting fight moves westward, accusations of racism follow suit

*Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — The Arizona Legislature was debating one of several Republican proposals to overhaul voting when GOP Sen. Michelle Ugenti-Rita said she'd had enough.

"I don't like to be characterized as supporting discriminatory laws!" she told Democrats, who say the legislation will hurt Latino and Native American voters.

But Democratic Sen. Martin Quezada, a Latino from Phoenix, didn't back down. "This will hurt my community. This will hurt my neighborhood."

"And," he continued, "we're going to continue bringing this up."

Indeed, Democrats are escalating their charges that the Republican push for tighter state voting laws is designed to make it hard for people of color to vote. As the fight moves from the Deep South to the Southwest, that's put increased focus on the impact the proposals would have on Latino and Native American voters — groups with distinct histories of fighting for voting rights.

"Arizona, Texas and several states in the Southwest have a long, sordid history of voter suppression, not only against African Americans but Latinos," said Domingo Garcia, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Fighting the new voting bills, he added, "is our No. 1 priority."

But Republican lawmakers, after seeing how Democrats successfully labeled GOP-backed legislation in Georgia as racist, are fighting back. They blasted Democrats for what they say are lies about the plans. Texas Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick last week accused opponents of "borderline race baiting."

Republicans across the country have made hundreds of new proposals to tighten voting and election laws — reacting to former President Donald Trump's false insistence that he was denied reelection because of voter fraud. Trump and his supporters lost more than 50 court cases challenging the election, and repeated audits turned up no significant fraud. But Trump has continued to claim widespread wrongdoing.

## NASA's Mars helo wraps historic flight

*Associated Press*

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA's experimental helicopter Ingenuity rose into the thin air above the dusty red surface of Mars on Monday, achieving the first powered flight by an aircraft on another planet.

The triumph was hailed as a Wright Brothers moment. The mini 4-pound helicopter even carried a bit of wing fabric from the 1903 Wright Flyer, which made similar history at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

"Altimeter data confirms that Ingenuity has performed its first flight, the first flight of a powered aircraft on another planet," said the helicopter's chief pilot back on Earth, Harvard Grip, his voice breaking as his teammates erupted in applause.

It was a brief hop — just 39 seconds — but accomplished all the major milestones.

Project manager MiMi Aung was jubilant as she ripped up the papers holding the plan in case the flight had failed.

"We've been talking so long about our Wright Brothers moment, and here it is," she said.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Family wants \$500K tennis donation back

**WI** MADISON — A family that donated \$500,000 to the University of Wisconsin-Madison tennis program five years ago wants the money back.

The Capital Times newspaper reported that Richard Coyle's family wanted the money to go to scholarships, but it was used to renovate the athletic department's outdoor tennis facilities.

The family donated the money as per a statement in Richard Coyle's mother's will that the money fund the UW tennis program. The family contends she meant for the money to fund scholarships as a way to honor her late husband, Douglas Coyle, who attended UW-Madison on a tennis scholarship in the 1930s.

Richard Coyle maintains the money was meant to enrich lives, not pour concrete. UW-Madison officials say Coyle is mistaken and the money was available for the university to use as needed.

### Raid at day care center turns up drugs, guns

**NY** BAY SHORE — The owner of a Long Island child care center, her two sons and the girlfriend of one of the sons were arrested after police raids turned up drugs, guns and \$239,000 in cash, authorities said.

Information "received from the community" prompted an investigation into drug sales at Channel Daycare, an in-home child care center in Bay Shore, Suffolk County police said.

Detectives seized two loaded 9 mm handguns, 600 grams of

cocaine, 60 grams of fentanyl and more than \$173,000, police said.

The owner of the child care center, Magodeiry Landron, 50, and her son Rafael Landron, 34, were arrested on charges including criminal possession of a controlled substance, criminal possession of a firearm and endangering the welfare of a child. A child was removed from the home and released into the custody of a family member, police said.

### Bethany Beach bans big beach holes for safety

**DE** BETHANY BEACH — A Delaware beach town is banning beachgoers from digging large holes in the sand.

The new ordinance, which allows for fines of \$50 to \$100, passed unanimously at the Bethany Beach town council meeting and bans holes larger than 1 foot deep and 2 feet wide.

Town officials said the ordinance is a safety measure. They cited reports of rescues in nearby towns when large holes unexpectedly collapsed on children.

### Jail from 1928 goes on sale; may be haunted

**FL** GAINESVILLE — A historic jail from the 1920s is for sale in Florida. Buyer bonus: It might even be haunted.

Although the property surrounding the Old Gilchrist County Jail, which opened in 1928 and operated for 40 years, is somewhat dilapidated, the interior is well preserved, with original cell doors, bunks and bath fixtures in place. There's also running water, though the jail portion has no electricity.

The eight-cell, eight-bath property comprises a little more than 2,000 square feet and also includes an attached jailer's house, added in 1965. The asking price is \$140,000.

Arlene Hale's husband bought the jail for her as a birthday present 12 years ago, paying about \$30,000 for it. Hale told The Gainesville Sun she and other paranormal enthusiasts have used the space to talk with the spirits associated with the jail they believe remain there.

### Pro eater looks to take on restaurant challenge

**SD** SIOUX FALLS — A professional eater is headed to Sioux Falls to take on a challenge of excess no one has ever completed.

Randy Santel, a competition eater with millions of social media followers, accepted the "Gorilla Dumpster Challenge" at Urban Chislic, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported.

Santel will have to consume 6 ¼ pounds of beef, lamb, chicken and pork chislic over kettle chips, double orders of cheese curds and fries and eight sauces. Urban Chislic co-owner Hong Phrommany said no one has ever completed the challenge.

Santel has won more than 974 food challenges in all 50 states and 37 countries. He's also married to a professional eater.

### Five turtles returned to Gulf after rehabilitation

**MS** PASS CHRISTIAN — Five endangered Kemp's ridley sea turtles were returned to the sea near Pass Christian Harbor after months of rehabilitation.

The turtles were among 18 sent to the Institute for Marine

Mammal Studies in December after being stranded in Massachusetts, WLOX-TV reported. The other 13 are still being rehabilitated.

More than 1,100 turtles were cold-stunned starting in the fall in New England, where experts say climate change is contributing to such events.

Many thousands were cold-stunned off Texas in February by a winter storm that killed at least 20 people from Texas to the East Coast.

The turtles were sent to many different facilities for rehabilitation.

### Father, son get in wild chase, scuffle with cops

**ME** PITTSFIELD — A father and son led police on a wild pursuit in which the father tried to ram a state police cruiser and the son fought with arresting officers, police said.

The episode unfolded with reports of a vehicle being operated erratically and the discovery of a vehicle in a ditch alongside Interstate 95.

When troopers arrived, Joseph Chambers, 46, of Palmyra, sped away, police said.

At one point, Chambers reversed direction on the interstate and tried to ram a cruiser. At another point, his son, Devin Chambers, 25, of Augusta, bailed out of the truck and then broke a window while trying get back inside, police said.

Joseph Chambers faces charges including reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon, eluding an officer and drunken driving, while Devin Chambers is charged with assaulting two officers, officials said.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com).

Reporting  
World, National  
and Military News

# Last-place Yanks swept by Rays at home

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole shook his head, disgusted. Aaron Hicks put hands on his and bowed his head. By the end of the afternoon, pretty much all of the New York Yankees were appalled, along with their loudly booing fans.

Yoshi Tsutsugo hit a tiebreaking double off Cole in the seventh inning that lifted the Tampa Bay Rays to a 4-2 win Sunday and a three-game sweep that extended the Yankees' losing streak to five games. New York fell to an AL-worst 5-10, its poorest start since 1997.

"I'm frustrated, personally frustrated," said AL batting champion DJ LeMahieu, who concluded the Yankees were "tight and pressing."

"No one's going to feel sorry for us," he said. "No one's going to throw softer or throw easier for us. We've got to find it within ourselves to continue to get better and play the way we're capable of."

Opener Andrew Kittredge, Ryan Yar-

brough (1-2), Diego Castillo and Jeffrey Springs (first big league save) combined on the Rays' second three-hitter of a series in which New York managed 11 hits in all. Tampa Bay outscored the Yankees 17-7, and New York pushed across just three runs other than on homers.

"We got great players in that room," Yankees manager Aaron Boone insisted. "They do know that at their core, obviously, we're getting punched in the mouth right now."

Cole (2-1) was hurt by slipshod defense that made three mistakes in the Rays' two-run third inning alone, two by Hicks in center and one by Clint Frazier in left. One of the three runs off Cole was unearned, giving the Yankees a major league-high.

Joey Wendle added a ninth-inning homer off Darren O'Day, prompting boos from the crowd of 10,606, who saved their loudest jeers for the final out.

New York has lost five straight for the first time since Sept. 4-8, getting outscored 30-14.

"You have to strap your boots on and wade through the mud a little bit," Cole said. "If we stay in that mindset and we leave the field every day exhausted, good things are on the horizon, but I don't have the magic wand. I don't know when it's going to turn."

Aaron Judge struck out three times and is 4 for his last 28, Hicks has 1 hit in his last 15 at-bats, Gleyber Torres has 3 in his last 24 and Giancarlo Stanton, despite a second-inning home run, is 3 for his last 26. Frazier is 1 for his last 24 and does not have an RBI in 40 plate appearances this season.

New York's batting average is down to .210, one point above AL-worst Cleveland.

Cole struck out 10 batters in 6⅓ innings and, with 39 strikeouts, set a Yankees mark for most in his first four starts, with three more than Masahiro Tanaka in 2014.

# Padres' Hosmer delivers late in win over Dodgers

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Round 1 is in the books, and the heavyweight Padres and Dodgers didn't disappoint.

"I think it was no secret that the whole baseball world was locked into this series," San Diego slugger Eric Hosmer said. "Everybody enjoyed the matchup."

Hosmer delivered the tying and go-ahead RBIs in the seventh and eighth innings, helping San Diego beat Los Angeles 5-2 Sunday to avoid a sweep in the first series of the year between the NL West rivals. The Dodgers won the opener Friday in 12 innings and took Saturday's matchup 2-0 thanks to a game-ending, diving grab by center fielder Mookie Betts.

"It is a good preview for many more games to come. Both teams are playing with a ton of energy," Padres manager Jayce Tingler said. "We were hoping to win the series, ultimately."

The Padres had lost seven straight in the rivalry, including a three-game sweep in last year's NL Division Series. The teams will meet 16 more times this season, starting with a set next weekend in Los Angeles.

"We have always felt that we have been in all of these games and we are right there, so it was nice today to get over that hump and be on the right side of this one," Hosmer said.

**Phillies 2, Cardinals 0:** Aaron Nola struck out 10 and threw a two-hitter for his first nine-inning shutout in the majors, leading host

Philadelphia past St. Louis.

Bryce Harper homered and had three hits for the Phillies. His 111.8 mph shot off righty John Gant (0-1) went 425 feet.

**Braves 13, Cubs 4:** Freddie Freeman crushed one of four homers in the first inning against Kyle Hendricks, leading Atlanta to a win at Chicago.

The Braves' Ronald Acuña Jr. departed in the fourth due to pain in his lower abdominal muscles.

**Diamondbacks 5, Nationals 2:** Madison Bumgarner had his best outing of the season, allowing a run over five innings as Arizona won at Washington.

Bumgarner (1-2) gave up just two hits and dropped his ERA from 11.20 to 8.68 through four starts. He struck out five and walked one, helping the Diamondbacks split the four-game series.

**Giants 1, Marlins 0:** Alex Wood pitched five innings in his season debut and four relievers completed a three-hitter as San Francisco scored an unearned run to win at Miami and avert a series sweep.

Wood (1-0), returning from a back problem that sidelined him midway through spring training, allowed three hits and walked none.

**Mets 2, Rockies 1:** Marcus Stroman pitched eight innings of one-run ball and made a dazzling defensive play, catcher James McCann threw out Trevor Story attempting to steal second for the final out and New York won at Colorado.

**White Sox 3-5, Red Sox 2-1:** Yermín Mercedes opened a three-run fourth inning with a long homer, and Chicago swept a double-header at Boston.

J.D. Martinez had an RBI single for the Red Sox's lone run in the second game.

**Royals 2, Blue Jays 0:** Salvador Perez tapped his bat twice on the plate to make sure it wasn't cracked, then sent the next pitch he saw from reliever T.J. Zeuch into the left-field fountains, breaking open a scoreless game and sending host Kansas City past Toronto.

**Pirates 6, Brewers 5 (10):** Colin Moran hit an early three-run homer, then had an RBI double in the 10th inning that sent Pittsburgh to a win at Milwaukee.

**Rangers 1, Orioles 0 (10):** Nate Lowe singled with two outs and the bases loaded in the 10th inning, giving host Texas the win over Baltimore after a pitcher's duel between a pair of opening day starters.

**Athletics 3, Tigers 2:** Matt Olson scored from second base on a fielding error by Detroit third baseman Jeimer Candelario with two outs in the ninth inning, rallying host Oakland past Detroit for its eighth straight victory.

**Mariners 7, Astros 2:** Ty France hit a two-run home run and six Seattle pitchers combined on a one-hitter against visiting Houston. France followed Mitch Haniger's two-run triple with a blast to left field in the decisive four-run fifth inning to give the Mariners the series.

# Adebayo's jump shot lifts Heat

Associated Press

MIAMI — Bam Adebayo was supposed to call timeout. He had another idea. This was the scenario that he had envisioned in his mind so many times, game tied, crowd on its feet, ball in his hands, final seconds ticking away.

“Your moment,” Adebayo told himself.

He delivered — when the Miami Heat needed him most.

Adebayo drove left, stopped and watched his 13-foot jumper rattle in as time expired, a shot that allowed the Heat to beat the Brooklyn Nets 109-107 on Sunday to snap a three-game slide.

“He handled it the right way,” Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. “He looked over to the bench, and at that point we just made eye contact. My hands were up, and it was like, ‘OK, it just better be the last shot.’”

It was. Adebayo had 21 points and 15 rebounds for the Heat, who trailed by six points in the final minutes before finishing the game on a 10-2 run.

Goran Dragic scored 18 points, Kendrick Nunn scored 17 and Trevor Ariza had 15 for Miami.

# Red-hot Clippers rout Timberwolves

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Paul George led five starters in double figures with 23 points and the Los Angeles Clippers routed the Minnesota Timberwolves 124-105 for their eighth win in nine games.

Kawhi Leonard had 15 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists in his return from a four-game absence because of a sore right foot. Fans attending a Clippers game at Staples Center for the first time in more than a year saw their team hit a season-high 21 three-pointers.

Anthony Edwards scored 23 points to lead the Wolves, who dropped their sixth in a row on the road. Karl-Anthony Towns added 16 points on 5-of-15 shooting. He missed five of six threes.

“When everybody is touching it and everybody is getting shots and we’re attacking the basket, we’re a tough team to beat,” Los Angeles coach Tyrone Lue said. “Since the All-Star break, I really like where we’re at.”

**Hawks 129, Pacers 117:** Trae Young scored 34 points, Clint Capela had 25 points and 24 rebounds and host Atlanta beat Indiana.

Bogdan Bogdanovic and Kevin Huerter each chipped in 23 points and Young had 11 assists for the Hawks, who have won eight of 10 and are 17-6 under interim coach Nate McMillan. Atlanta has won nine of 11 at home.

**Knicks 122, Pelicans 112 (OT):** Julius Randle had 33 points and 10 assists, Derrick Rose made huge plays all over the court to spark New York’s streak-saving finish and the host Knicks beat New Orleans for their sixth consecutive victory.

Rose scored 23 points. He had the assist on Reggie Bullock’s three-pointer with 2.3 seconds left in regulation, blocked a last shot by the Pelicans that would’ve won it and then opened overtime with a steal and layup to give New York the lead for good.

**Rockets 114, Magic 110:** Christian Wood scored 25 points, Kelly Olynyk added 24 and Houston used a strong offensive showing in the third quarter to rally to a win at Orlando.

Kevin Porter Jr. scored 22 and made four three-pointers points before fouling out midway through the fourth quarter as the Rockets snapped a five-game losing streak and a five-game road skid. Armoni Brooks chipped in 16 points and another five three-pointers for a Rockets squad that shot 51.2% from the floor and hit 16 three-pointers.

**Raptors 112, Thunder 106:** Chris Boucher had 31 points and 11 rebounds, and host Toronto extended Oklahoma City’s season-worst losing streak to 10 games.

Gary Trent Jr. added 23 points for the Raptors, who have won three straight. Malachi Flynn had 15 points and eight rebounds.

**Hornets 109, Trail Blazers 101:** Terry Rozier had 34 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds, and host Charlotte rode a strong first quarter to a win over Portland, snapping a four-game losing streak.

P.J. Washington had 23 points and eight rebounds after missing three games with an ankle injury.

**Kings 121, Mavericks 107:** De’Aaron Fox scored 30 points, Harrison Barnes added 24 and Terence Davis II 23 as Sacramento to snapped a nine-game losing streak.

# Canucks return to action, top Maple Leafs in OT

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — The Vancouver Canucks returned to the ice after a COVID-19 outbreak prompted nearly four weeks of worrying, wondering and waiting.

They were finally able to play for the first time since March 24 — and celebrated their first game back with an overtime victory.

Bo Horvat scored his second goal of the game 1:19 into the extra period, giving the Canucks a 3-2 win over the Toronto Maple Leafs on Sunday night.

**Islanders 1, Flyers 0 (OT):** Nick Leddy scored 2:23 into overtime and Ilya Sorokin made 30 saves to lift visiting New York.

After both goalies were stellar throughout the contest, Leddy scored a fluke goal when

his backhand pass went off the stick of Flyers defenseman Travis Sanheim and through the legs of goalie Brian Elliott.

**Golden Knights 5, Ducks 2:** Mark Stone, Max Pacioretty and Nicolas Roy each had a goal and an assist to help visiting Vegas beat Anaheim and move into a tie for first place in the West Division with Colorado.

Alex Pietrangolo and Alex Tuch also scored goals, while Marc-Andre Fleury made 33 saves as the Golden Knights extended their winning streak to six games, matching a season best. Stone had his fourth consecutive multi-point game.

Currently on a three-game COVID-19-related pause, the Avalanche are not scheduled to return to action until Thursday at St.

Louis. The Golden Knights and Avalanche are scheduled to meet two more times.

**Sabres 4, Penguins 2:** Sam Reinhart scored twice against Pittsburgh, and host Buffalo played spoiler in the East Division playoff race.

Rookie Arttu Ruotsalainen and Rasmus Asplund, with an empty-netter, also scored for Buffalo. The Sabres bounced back a day after becoming the NHL’s first team eliminated from playoff contention following a 3-2 loss to Pittsburgh.

**Rangers 5, Devils 3:** Mika Zibanejad celebrated his 28th birthday by scoring a power-play goal with three minutes to play and visiting New York swept a four-game series with New Jersey over the six days.

# Bowman denies Hamlin with late fast move at Richmond

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Another week, another agonizing loss for Denny Hamlin.

And this time it was to Alex Bowman, who came from nowhere with 10 laps to go at Richmond Raceway to put the No. 48 Chevrolet in victory lane for the first time in nearly four years.

Bowman won for the third time in his career Sunday and denied Hamlin a win in a race he had dominated to become the eighth winner in nine Cup races this season. He dedicated the victory to crew member William “Rowdy” Harrell and his wife, Blakley Harrell, who were killed in a November car crash in Florida while on their honeymoon.

“This one is for Rowdy and his family. Miss him and Blakley every day,” Bowman said.

Bowman’s victory in the No. 48 Chevrolet for Hendrick Motorsports came on the same day the former driver of the car, seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson, made his debut in the IndyCar Series in Alabama. It was the first victory for the No. 48 since June 4, 2017.

Johnson was the only driver of the No. 48 when it was formed in 2001 and Bowman was hand-picked by sponsor Ally to replace him.

Bowman overcame a penalty on lap 247 for a loose tire on pit road to rally for the win.

For Hamlin, it was the third defeat in three races.

At the dirt race at Bristol Motor Speedway, he didn’t do enough to move Joey Logano out of his way to earn the win, and last week at Martinsville Speedway he was caught late by Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Martin Truex Jr.

In Richmond, Hamlin raced with the hashtag #fedexstrong on the back of his car and on his pit wall to honor the eight people who were fatally shot at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis on Thursday. He again had the dominant car and led 207 of the 400 laps. He’s led 483 laps the last two weeks.

“First and foremost, we want to think of all of the families in Indy right now,” Hamlin said. “Awful tragedy to happen there. Our thoughts and prayers are with these names. We will get (wins). We will keep digging. We are dominating — just have to finish it.”

Hamlin won the first two stages and notched his eighth top-five finish in nine starts this season.

“We just didn’t take off quite as good there at the end. I tried to warm it up and do everything that I could — just the 48 had a little more on those last few laps and I couldn’t hold the bottom,” Hamlin said.

Last week, he led 276 laps at Martinsville Speedway, but lost the lead to Truex with 15 laps to go.

Hamlin did hang on Sunday to finish second, followed by Logano, Christopher Bell and Truex, who led 107 laps and overcame a penalty for speeding on pit road.

# Palou gets 1st IndyCar win in Ganassi debut

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Fernando Alonso is winless so far this season in Formula One. Same with Carlos Sainz.

Over in IndyCar, though, Alex Palou scored a victory for Spain.

Palou picked up his first career win — in his first race with Chip Ganassi Racing — by holding off a pair of series champions in Sunday’s season-opening race at Barber Motorsports Park. The affable 24-year-old raised his fists in the air when he realized he’d reached victory lane before his fellow countrymen, who both raced 5,000 miles away in Italy earlier Sunday.

Palou is only the second Spaniard to win in the IndyCar Series, joining Oriol Servia, who won in 2005 at Montreal.

“It’s just amazing but I think it was part of the job,” he said. “When you are part of a big team and a successful team like Chip Ganassi, they give you all the tools. You have everything you need to win, and that’s why you see so many successful drivers.”

Palou then vowed to find the best fried chicken in Alabama to celebrate his achievement.

“I think that 80% of the drivers will tell you that after a race we need something that is not good for our body and that’s what I’m going to take tonight if I can, fried chicken. And fries. Lots of fries,” he said.

Palou used a two-stop strategy on the picturesque permanent road course to take control of the race but still had to hold off hard-charging Will Power and Ganassi teammate Scott Dixon over the closing laps.

# Cink, 47, wins his third RBC Heritage title by 4 shots

Associated Press

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C. — The golf was exceptional for Stewart Cink. What made his third RBC Heritage title truly special was that his family was there to experience his age-defying success.

Cink, 47, hugged son Reagan, his caddie, after he closed out his four-shot victory at Harbour Town with a stress-free par on the lighthouse-framed 18th hole. Wife Lisa, their other son, Connor, and his fiancée, Jess Baker, were in the gallery cheering Cink’s second win this season.

“To have a posse like that waiting at the end

to celebrate with,” Cink said, “it’s just an experience you don’t get to have in your life that often.”

In other golf news:

■ Steve Stricker closed with a 5-under 67 at the Chubb Classic, taking control with a wedge into 3 feet for birdie on the 16th hole. That carried him to a one-shot victory in Naples, Fla., where the 54-year-old from Wisconsin makes his winter home.

■ The PGA Tour is telling its players they will not have to be tested for the coronavirus if they are vaccinated, and those who aren’t will have to pay for their own tests starting this summer.

## Ex-Washington QB Smith retires

Alex Smith retired Monday after making an improbable comeback from a gruesome broken leg with the Washington Football Team, saying he’s ready to leave the NFL but believing he’s still able to play quarterback. Smith, 36, made the announcement on Instagram.

“I want to say thank you for believing in me, and thank you for helping me believe in myself — and in the impossible,” he said. “Because even though I’ve got plenty of snaps left in me, after 16 years of giving this game everything I’ve got, I can’t wait to see what else is possible.”