

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Navy disputes claim about Trenton's response

BY SCOTT WYLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

NAPLES, Italy — Some of the 42 migrants rescued in June by the USNS Trenton in the Mediterranean Sea say 76 people died because the vessel was slow to respond, but the Navy insists it acted as swiftly as possible.

Prosecutors in Sicily are reviewing a video that the Italian newspaper La Repubblica produced last month in which six survivors say the Trenton appeared to ignore the distressed dinghy and did not help until after it sank, according to news reports.

They contend that if the Trenton had acted sooner, more lives could have been saved, the Guardian reported.

Navy officials say the Trenton rescued the migrants as soon as sailors spotted them in trouble.

"The Trenton would not have ignored people in the water in distress," said Cmdr. Kyle Raines, 6th Fleet spokesman. "They conform to all international laws and customs to render assistance at sea."

It's possible the imperiled migrants saw the Trenton before the Trenton's watch officer saw them, Raines said. The sea was rough enough that day to impede the view from the ship's deck at a certain distance, he said.

The dinghy traveled from Libya carrying 117 migrants, most of them from sub-Saharan Africa. The small boat started

filling with water and then sank on the morning of June 12.

Italian authorities have not opened a formal investigation but will talk to survivors to better understand what happened, Italian prosecutor Fabio D'Anna told the Guardian.

In the video, survivors say they saw the Trenton when their boat was still afloat and tried to get its attention, but it sailed away and didn't return to rescue them until half an hour after the boat sank, the Guardian reported.

"We saw that ship, it was not far away," one survivor said. "We saw the American flag. If they had rescued us when we were all still onboard, 76 people would not have died."

Another survivor said they tried to "reach" the Trenton for an hour, suggesting they made distress calls that went unanswered.

But Raines said he has seen no evidence to indicate anyone radioed calls for help. The Trenton's officers could only act on what they saw, he added.

The Trenton launched two inflatable boats and a fast rescue boat to recover the migrants, who were brought on board the vessel and given food and water, Raines said.

"This was a tragic experience for the migrants," Raines said. "The Trenton did everything it could upon locating them in distress to help save as many people as possible."

**'The Trenton would not have ignored people in the water in distress. They conform to all international laws and customs to render assistance at sea.'**

**Cmdr. Kyle Raines**  
6th Fleet spokesman

## Navy crew safe after ejecting from jet in Philippine Sea

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Two Navy aviators are safe after ejecting from an F/A-18 Super Hornet that "experienced a mechanical issue" over the Philippine Sea on Monday morning, a Navy statement said.

The Carrier Air Wing 5 aviators were "conducting routine operations" as part of their deployment with the USS Ronald Reagan when the problem arose, according to the statement.

After ejecting from the Super Hornet, the sailors were picked up by search-and-rescue aircraft from the Ronald Reagan and brought back aboard the Yokosuka-based carrier. The jet crashed into the ocean.

The crewmembers are in "good condition" and undergoing medical evaluations, the statement said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation.

The Ronald Reagan has resumed its regular operations.

Last month, 12 people were injured when a Navy MH-60 Seahawk helicopter crashed on the Ronald Reagan's flight deck in the Philippine Sea.

The cause of that crash Oct. 19 remains under investigation, said Task Force 70 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Matt Knight.

"All patients from the Oct. 19 helicopter crash have been released from the hospital in the Philippines and are currently receiving any necessary follow on care from Navy medical providers," he said.

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# Koreas, US-led UNC discuss surveillance gear

By KIM GAMEL  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S.-led United Nations Command and the two Koreas discussed surveillance equipment in a jointly patrolled area Monday as the three sides pressed forward with efforts to ease military tensions despite a lack of progress in nuclear talks.

North Korea, meanwhile, criticized the resumption by Washington and Seoul of small-scale joint Marine exercises on the divided peninsula.

Military officials from the UNC, Seoul and Pyongyang held talks in the truce village of Panmunjom two days after the Koreas completed withdrawing troops and firearms from 22 front-line guard posts as part of a far-reaching military pact.

The main item on the agenda for Monday's trilateral session, which was held on

the South Korean side of Panmunjom, was the operation of surveillance equipment in the area, according to South Korea's Defense Ministry.

New UNC commander Gen. Robert Abrams, who also leads U.S. Forces Korea, threw his support behind the comprehensive military agreement during a visit to the jointly patrolled area Saturday.

He also stressed that the U.S.-South Korean alliance, which was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War, "remains ironclad."

"This visit demonstrates our support to the ongoing implementation of the [Comprehensive Military Agreement] between [South and North Korea], he said in a press release.

South Korea is pushing ahead with efforts to improve relations with the North even as U.S.-led efforts to persuade the communist state to give up its nuclear weapons have stalled.

The North canceled a planned meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last week, indicating disagreements continue over how to implement a promise to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula that was highlighted during an unprecedented summit in June between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump.

North Korea also denounced the resumption of joint U.S.-South Korean Marine drills that previously had been suspended along with larger war games to facilitate the diplomatic efforts. The exercises infuriate the North, which considers them a rehearsal for an invasion.

Trump announced after the Singapore summit that the U.S. would be "stopping the war games," calling them "provocative" and "very expensive." But American and South Korean officials insist that combined training at lower levels continue.

## Army OKs WWII-era 'pinks and greens' as its everyday uniform for all

By CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The uniform worn by the World War II Army — "Army Greens" — was adopted Sunday as the service's new service uniform.

Army officials have been discussing adoption of the retro-style uniforms with pinkish-brown trousers and dark olive jackets, known as "pinks and greens," for months, as part of an effort to link soldiers to the service's history.

The uniforms were presented by Program Executive Office Soldier at the Association of the United States Army's annual exposition in Washington, D.C., last year and had the support of the Sgt. Maj. of the Army Dan Dailey, who wore a prototype at the Army-Navy game last December.

The new uniform, which officials said would be "cost-neutral" to enlisted soldiers and would not come at an added cost

to taxpayers, is expected to be fielded to soldiers reporting to their first units beginning in summer 2020. All soldiers will be required to have the uniform for wear eight years after that.

"The current Army Blues Uniform will return to being a formal dress uniform, while the Army Greens will become the everyday business-wear uniform for all soldiers," the service announced in a press release timed to coincide with Veterans Day celebrations. There will be no change to the Army's field uniform, the release said.

Many consider the pinks and greens the sharpest uniform in Army history, and it appears to have support among a large number of soldiers.

An Army Times survey found more than 70 percent of respondents favored the idea of returning to the WWII uniform.

Female soldiers will be able to choose from versions with a skirt or pants.

## Report: US analysts locate secret N. Korean missile sites

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — U.S. analysts said Monday they have located more than half of an estimated 20 secret North Korean missile development sites, highlighting the challenge the Trump administration faces in ensuring that North Korea complies with any eventual agreement to end its nuclear and missile programs.

The findings, which were released amid signs the administration's negotiations with the North have stalled, draw on commercial satellite imagery and identify 13 secret facilities used to produce missiles and related technology. They suggest that Pyongyang is continuing its missile work, even though it has halted test launches in what President Donald Trump and his administration have claimed as a success since his historic June meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Singapore.

Although the sites are not launch facilities and in some cases are rudimentary, the authors of the report from the Center for Strategic and Inter-

national Studies say they are hidden and illustrate the scope of the North's weapons program and the country's determination to conceal its military might.

"The dispersed deployment of these bases and distinctive tactics employed by ballistic missile units are combined with decades of extensive camouflage, concealment and deception practices to maximize the survival of its missile units from pre-emptive strikes and during wartime operations," they said.

The authors say that the sites, which can be used for all classes of ballistic missile, therefore should be declared by North Korea and inspected in any credible, verifiable deal that addresses Pyongyang's most significant threats to the United States and its allies.

North Korea analysts not involved in the report said the findings were not surprising given Pyongyang's past activities but were still cause for concern. They noted that Kim had not agreed to halt either nuclear weapons or missile development in negotiations with Trump or Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.



# Russia plays as Afghanistan broker due to US' 'failure'

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A senior Russian diplomat said Monday that Moscow is trying to be an Afghan peace broker because it considers the U.S. has failed in Afghanistan.

Russia's presidential envoy for Afghanistan, Zamir Kabulov, said a Moscow conference on Afghanistan on Friday that brought together representatives of the Afghan authorities and the Taliban marked an attempt to "take a modest first step toward full-fledged peace talks."

Kabulov said Monday that Russia's efforts to help an Afghan peace settlement have been driven not by a desire to undercut the U.S. efforts, but by legitimate security concerns. He emphasized that the continuing fighting in Afghanistan threatens the interests of Russia and its allies in Central Asia.

"Afghanistan is close to our underbelly so national interests

of Russia and its allies are at stake," Kabulov said at a briefing. "We can't just sit back and watch impassively what's going on, and we have let the U.S. know that it doesn't appear to be successful in settlement efforts."

Kabulov charged that "the presence of the U.S. and NATO hasn't only failed to solve the problem but exacerbated it," noting that the Taliban has steadily expanded its foothold.

"The West has lost the war in Afghanistan, and it's reluctant to acknowledge that obvious fact," Kabulov said. "If they continue to rely on force, it would only lead to thousands more victims and further ravage the country."

He noted that regional powers, including Russia, China, Pakistan and Iran have a strong interest in ending the conflict and should play a more active role.

The U.S. Embassy sent a diplomat to observe Friday's conference in Moscow that

was attended by several members of Afghanistan's government-appointed Peace Council and the Taliban. Envoys from China, India, Pakistan and the ex-Soviet nations of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan also attended the meeting.

Taliban officials and Peace Council members have met at past forums elsewhere, and while no formal talks were ever held they have had some face-to-face discussions.

The Taliban has refused direct talks with the Afghan government, which it sees as a U.S. puppet, saying it will only negotiate the end of the 17-year war directly with Washington. The group reaffirmed that position in Moscow, saying it would talk directly to the U.S. to demand its pullout from the country.

Kabulov said that he may meet with the U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, later this fall.

# Hurricane Michael more brutal than suspected

The Washington Post

MEXICO BEACH, Fla. — Gage Wilson and David Segal, technicians for the U.S. Geological Survey, were roaming the obliterated city of Mexico Beach when they spotted the missing sensor.

It was a barometer that USGS employees had deployed in advance of Hurricane Michael, a pressure gauge housed inside a two-inch-diameter aluminum tube. The employees had noted the specific spot where it was to measure the storm.

The USGS desperately needed that sensor to make an accurate estimate of the storm surge that barreled through Mexico Beach.

Using data from that instrument and another sensor that had been nailed to a pier piling, the USGS on Oct. 25 concluded the storm surge at Mexico Beach had reached 15.55 feet, half a foot higher than the previous estimate. If you add the waves on top of the surge, the water level here reached 20.6 feet, or close to the height of a two-story building.

Mike Brennan, chief of the hurricane specialist unit at the National Hurricane Center, said Hurricane Michael was violent in two really different ways.

"You had the violence of the winds, the Category 4 winds in the eyewall there, but then you had the violent storm surge that was obviously powerful enough to wipe buildings off their foundation," Brennan said.

The unlucky people of Mexico Beach suffered both the maximum winds and the maximum storm surge — the rise in ocean water above normally dry land as the storm plows ashore. In this violent zone, propped against the storm's calm eye, the forward speed of the hurricane adds to the speed of its counterclockwise circulation. The overlap maximizes the surge.

# Suicide bomber kills 6 at protest

BY J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — A bomb blast ripped through Kabul in an area where hundreds of Afghans had been protesting insecurity in the country.

At least six are dead and 20 more wounded, Basir Mujahid, Kabul police spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

The Islamic State's regional affiliate, known as ISIS-Khorasan, claimed responsibility for the attack on social media. Video and photos posted by local media show several bodies strewn across the street in front of the Kabul mayor's office.

The bomb blast went off near

where protesters had gathered to demand that the Afghan government take action to repel a Taliban offensive in the southeastern provinces of Ghazni and Uruzgan, local news agency Pajhwok reported.

Over the past week, militants launched attacks in three districts home to many Hazara — a minority group that has faced years of persecution, including under the Taliban.

Almost 100 soldiers, including 50 elite commandos, have been killed fighting a Taliban onslaught in Ghazni recent days, according to the New York Times.

Since the NATO-led coalition transition from a combat mission to one focused on training and advising government

forces, the Taliban have shown overall territorial gains, a government watchdog has found.

The government's control or influence of the country's districts in July reached its lowest level since the U.S. began tracking district control in November 2015, said the latest report by the Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction.

Recent Taliban attacks threaten districts long seen as among the safest in Afghanistan, the Times reported.

Many protesters in Kabul on Monday told reporters from TOLO News they marched on behalf of their besieged relatives in Ghazni and Uruzgan.

The bomb blast went off just as the protesters were dispersing, according to local media.

# Fire death toll rises in search for victims

Associated Press

PARADISE, Calif.—As wild fires raged at both ends of the state, officials released another grim statistic: six more bodies discovered in the burned-over town of Paradise and outlying areas, bringing the death toll there to 29 and matching the record for the deadliest single blaze in California history.

Statewide the death toll stood at 31, including two dead in Southern California, with authorities still searching for bodies and 228 people unaccounted for.

Ten search teams were working in Paradise — a town of 27,000 that was largely incinerated Thursday — and in surrounding communities in Northern California's Sierra Nevada foothills. Authorities called in a DNA lab and anthropologists to help identify what in some cases were only bones or bone fragments.

All told, more than 8,000 firefighters battled wildfires that

scorched at least 400 square miles of the state, with the flames feeding on dry brush and driven by winds that had a blowtorch effect.

Drought and warmer weather attributed to climate change, and the building of homes deeper into forests have led to longer and more destructive wildfire seasons in California. While California officially emerged from a five-year drought last year, much of the northern two-thirds of the state is abnormally dry.

In Northern California, where more than 6,700 buildings have been destroyed in the blaze that obliterated Paradise, firefighters contended with wind gusts up to 40 mph overnight, the fire jumping 300 feet across Lake Oroville.

The state fire agency said Monday that the fire had grown to 177 square miles and was 25 percent contained.

The magnitude of the devastation was beginning to set in even as the blaze raged on.

## Some Southern California fire evacuations have been lifted

Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. — Some of the thousands of people who fled Southern California's huge wildfire were being allowed to return home, and traffic was flowing Monday on the major highway through the area after a closure of several days.

Repopulation of some neighborhoods and the reopening of U.S. 101 west of Los Angeles began late Sunday, marking positive developments even though forecasts called for continuing critical fire weather conditions.

Mandatory evacuations remained in effect in many other areas, however, including the entire cities of Malibu and Calabasas.

The so-called Woolsey fire grew only slightly on Sunday to just over 133 square miles and firefighters by nightfall had increased their containment of the blaze to 15 percent.

Authorities planned to release new damage assessments late Monday morning, saying they expected the number of destroyed buildings would be more than the 177 previously

reported. The death toll stood at two.

Relief and heartache awaited those starting to return home.

Eager to know the status of his house, Roger Kelly, 69, defied evacuation orders Sunday and hiked back into Seminole Springs, his lakeside mobile home community in the Santa Monica Mountains north of Malibu.

His got the thrill of finding his house intact. But some a half-block away were laid to waste, as were dozens more, and virtually everything on the landscape around the community had been turned to ash.

The fire erupted Thursday amid strong Santa Ana winds and spread through communities in western Los Angeles County and southeastern Ventura County.

A lull Saturday gave firefighters a chance to gain ground but the winds returned Sunday, stoking the fire again.

Los Angeles County Fire Chief Daryl Osby stressed there were numerous hotspots and plenty of fuel that had not yet burned, but at sunset he said there had been huge successes

## Heroic survivors' lifeline cut short in Calif. shooting

The Washington Post

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The first frantic message buzzed Brendan Hoolihan's phone at about midnight Wednesday, and for hours the messages continued to flood his Snapchat group text. He and his friends had created the chain after the Las Vegas shooting massacre a year earlier, just in case something unimaginable like that ever happened again.

It had.

"There's been a shooting at Borderline," a friend said, and Hoolihan, 21, was shocked, because he couldn't believe this was happening to his friends a second time. One year, two mass shootings.

Some in the group of 30 had survived the Route 91 Har-

vest festival attack, at which 58 people were killed as they enjoyed a country music concert. One of the survivors was Hoolihan. Another was 27-year-old Telemachus "Tel" Orfanos.

The Snapchat group message was where the friends had been coordinating their plans for Wednesday night, which included a trip to Borderline Bar and Grill, where Orfanos worked as a bouncer and promoter. Justin Meek sent a group photo that included Orfanos.

Then, a gunman entered Borderline and started shooting with a Glock .45-caliber handgun.

Eighty miles away in Orange County, Hoolihan wondered whether Orfanos, with whom he had survived one mass shooting, had made it through

this one, too.

Hoolihan and Orfanos were strangers before the gunfire in Las Vegas. They knew nothing about each other, only that while others were running away, they decided to stay.

By the end of the night, they had witnessed enough carnage to bond them for a lifetime.

Hoolihan had come to rely on Orfanos' steadfast assurances in trying times.

In the group chat, information came in bursts: some friends had been spotted in the background of television live shots at the scene.

When the shooting started at Borderline, his friends had heard that Orfanos was trying to help others, just as he had done in Las Vegas.

Orfanos had been spotted

outside the bar, safe and alive. But witnesses said he ran back inside to help.

Somebody heard that Orfanos had made himself vulnerable while lifting others into the attic, a space only employees knew existed. They heard that he had thrown himself on top of someone as a shield from the gunfire.

Hoolihan drove to Thousand Oaks to be with those who knew Orfanos. On the way, Hoolihan tracked down the phone number for Orfanos' mother.

He talked about Las Vegas and how he considered her son to be one of his best friends, a steady force, an important part of his life.

"I loved your son a lot," he said. "He was one of the greatest people I ever met."



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Suburb features wavy, accessible sidewalks

**MI** DEARBORN — Wavy sidewalks in a Detroit suburb aren't a mistake — they're purposely engineered to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The sidewalks in Dearborn peak between houses and slope back down at the driveway level, the Detroit Free Press reported.

"It's very slight slopes, but when you're looking down the streets, they appear to be wavy," said Public Works Director Jim Murray. "But they're slight waves as opposed to being severe waves in different places where they were before."

The ADA requires sidewalks have a mild slope so people with limited mobility can move safely.

## Professor on leave for giving Nazi salute

**CT** BRIDGEPORT — Officials said a community college professor in Connecticut has been placed on leave after faculty members reported that he gave a Nazi salute during a meeting.

A spokesman for the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities System told The Hartford Courant that Housatonic Community College professor Charles Meyrick has been placed on paid leave, pending the outcome of an investigation.

Faculty members say during a recent meeting led by a CSCU administrator, Meyrick became agitated over efforts to eventually consolidate all 12 community colleges into a single statewide college.

They said Meyrick held his arm in a prolonged Nazi salute and stopped after campus police were called.

## Surprise! Large gator found in a hot tub

**MO** KANSAS CITY — A Missouri landlord stumbled upon an unwanted house guest while evicting a tenant: a large alligator in a hot tub.

The tenant described the 150-pound reptile as "gentle as a puppy" after animal control workers were called to the Kansas City home last Wednesday. The workers also found two boa constrictors and a rabbit.

The Kansas City Star reported that a specialist removed the alligator, which was at least 6 feet long. The tenant, Sean Casey, said he'd owned the alligator for four years and named it Catfish. He called the reptile "a big cuddly lizard."

## Cop allegedly boards flight drunk, arrested

**FL** ST. PETERSBURG — An off-duty Florida police officer has been arrested after allegedly being forced off an airplane because he was drunk and battered an airline staffer.

Pinellas County Sheriff's officials said Derrick Gilbert, 51, smelled of alcohol and was yelling profanities at Allegiant Airlines staff when deputies arrived at St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport on Friday. Authorities said he initially refused to leave the plane after staff said they have a zero-tolerance policy for intoxication.

Airline staff said Gilbert was so drunk on the plane he couldn't find his seat, was slurring his speech and appeared confused. A witness said Gilbert pushed a female airline staffer and later angrily grabbed his own son, 18, by the neck when the teen tried to calm Gilbert.

## 3 arrested after cyclist injured by booby trap

**OR** PORTLAND — Three men authorities say set up a booby trap on a walking and bike path in Portland that injured a female cyclist have been taken into custody.

KOIN-TV reported that Justin J. Jones, 23, Antonio R. Tolman-Duran, 27, and Dakota E. Murphy, 21, were arrested Friday and face charges of assault and reckless endangering.

Portland police said a female cyclist at about 11 p.m. ran into material strung across the path. A responding police officer spotted woven string across the path, and other officers found three men suspected of putting the material on the path and arrested them.

## Shore visitors to have to go backcountry style

**NC** CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE — The National Park Service said visitors to North Carolina's uninhabited barrier islands should plan on a trip without toilets after recent storms damaged the restrooms there.

Cape Lookout National Seashore said on its Facebook page that visitors needing a restroom will have to go "backcountry style" on Shackleford Banks and adopt "Leave No Trace" guidelines: Visitors must bring their own toilet paper and bury solid human waste at least 200 feet from the water, camp and trails.

The island's restrooms were closed after recent hurricanes.

Officials suggest visitors answer nature's call by using mainland facilities before taking a ferry to Shackleford Banks.

## Grand jury charges wife in killing of sergeant

**LA** GRETNA — A grand jury has charged the wife of a sheriff's deputy in southeastern Louisiana in his killing, but the woman contends her husband shot himself in the head.

Local media reported that a Jefferson Parish grand jury charged Shantel Parria, 35, with second-degree murder Thursday in the shooting death of her husband, a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office sergeant. Parria pleaded not guilty during a court hearing Friday.

Troy Smith suffered a single gunshot to the head in the couple's Waggaman home. Parria called 911 on June 17 and told operators that her husband shot himself in their house. Smith died at the hospital on June 24.

Authorities have accused Parria of staging it to look like a suicide.

## GPS tracker with cash leads to robber's arrest

**RI** PROVIDENCE — Police said a quick-thinking bank teller helped them track down a robber by slipping a GPS tracking device in with the money.

The Providence Journal reported that the man hailed a taxi after fleeing from the TD Bank in Providence on Saturday morning with the bag full of cash, a dye pack and GPS tracker.

Police said officers were able to nab the robber at a Dollar Store thanks to the tracker, and he was arrested. Officials identified the suspect as Adam Hanrahan, 33, of West Warwick.

He's charged with second-degree robbery and was expected to appear before a bail commissioner on Sunday.

From wire reports

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# Vrabel's Titans rout Patriots

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tom Brady added another big chunk of NFL history to his résumé.

The Tennessee Titans made sure the Patriots quarterback didn't finish his 300th game by hitting him over and over again.

The Titans sacked Brady three times and hit him six more times as they beat New England 34-10 Sunday, snapping a seven-game skid against the Patriots in Mike Vrabel's first game as head coach against the team he helped win three Super Bowls.

It was the most sacks allowed in a game this season by the Patriots (7-3), and coach Bill Belichick pulled Brady for Brian Hoyer midway through the fourth quarter.

"You got to make Tom blink, and if you make him blink and have to go to a second read you got a chance," Vrabel said of his former teammate. "But if you let him rip it to the first guy he looks at, it's going to be a long day."

Asked if he thought Brady was effective, Belichick said to

ask Brady.

"It was just a bad day for all of us," Brady said.

Only Brett Favre (326) has played in more games, both regular season and postseason, as a quarterback than Brady. The three-time NFL MVP also needed only three touchdown passes to tie Peyton Manning (579) for the NFL record for most TD passes all time for both the regular season and postseason.

Brady left having thrown for 254 yards and no TD passes. The Titans outgained the Patriots 385-284, holding New England to just 40 yards rushing. Linebacker Wesley Woodyard, who had 1½ sacks, said that allowed them to get after Brady.

"Coach Vrabel said make them pay for everything," Woodyard said. "Tackle him, hit him and make him feel it."

Marcus Mariota capped each of the first two drives with TD passes, and Derrick Henry ran for a pair of TDs. Ryan Succop also added two field goals as the Titans (5-4) scored a season high in points after jumping out to a 17-3 lead in the first

quarter. They now have beaten both of last season's Super Bowl teams in Nashville.

The loss snaps a six-game winning streak going into New England's bye. The Patriots, who routed the Titans 35-14 in January, also lost to Tennessee for the first time since Dec. 16, 2002.

Darius Jennings opened the game with a 58-yard kickoff return, and Mariota capped the drive with a 4-yard TD pass to Jonnu Smith. The Titans never trailed again.

## Ex-Pats connections

Tennessee fired coach Mike Mularkey after the January playoff loss and hired Vrabel to try to recreate the Patriots' winning ways with the Titans. Vrabel hired Dean Pees, a former Patriots linebackers coach and defensive coordinator, as his defensive coordinator. General manager Jon Robinson, who started in New England, signed cornerback Malcolm Butler and running back Dion Lewis in free agency.

"That's what happens when you go cheap," Lewis said. "You get your [expletive] kicked."

# Rams hold off Seattle

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Rams were still reeling from the mass shooting less than five miles from their training complex when wildfires consumed the nearby hills, forcing a canceled practice and the evacuation of many players and coaches from their homes.

At the close of a horrific week in Thousand Oaks, a comeback victory over the Seattle Seahawks somehow seemed both more trivial and even sweeter to these resilient Rams.

Brandin Cooks rushed for a 9-yard touchdown with 5:49 to play on the first snap after Dante Fowler forced and recovered a fumble by Russell Wilson, and the Rams bounced back from their first loss of the season with a 36-31 victory Sunday.

Jared Goff was forced from his home during the week, but he passed for 318 yards and two touchdowns as the Rams (9-1) swept the season series with their division rivals.

"It's just been a tough week for the whole city, the whole area up there," Goff said of the Rams' weekday hometown, one hour northwest of downtown Los Angeles. "Hoping today provided a little bit of joy and regularity for those people."

Todd Gurley rushed for 120 yards and a score as Los Angeles moved into commanding position for its second consecutive NFC West title, but only after plenty of late drama in a rivalry that's never lacking in excitement.

Gerald Everett and Tyler Higbee caught TD passes for the Rams, who survived a topsyturvy game with just enough big plays. Although the perfect season ended last week in New Orleans, Los Angeles still has never lost back-to-back games under coach Sean McVay.

# Elliott, Prescott lift Dallas

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ezekiel Elliott and Dak Prescott left the defending Super Bowl champions wondering how their season went wrong.

Elliott had 151 yards rushing and his go-ahead 1-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter helped the Dallas Cowboys beat the Philadelphia Eagles 27-20 on Sunday night.

The Eagles fell to 4-5 with their third straight loss at home while the Cowboys improved to 4-5. Washington leads the NFC East at 6-3.

"All of us need to look in the mirror," Philadelphia coach Doug Pederson said. "Are we doing enough? Are we giving enough? You have to strain yourself to make plays. We

didn't do it. Each person, each coach, each player in the locker room has to look at yourself and decide every day to give your best."

The Cowboys gave their all to give embattled coach Jason Garrett a week off from questions about his job security.

"You can imagine the way Jason Garrett, his resolve before the game," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said. "I asked him before the game, 'you feeling any pressure?' [Garrett replied] 'It just makes me want to go out and do more to turn this thing.'"

Prescott had 270 yards passing, tossed for one touchdown and also ran for a score. Elliott also had a TD reception.

"It was absolutely mandatory that we went and got this

win," Elliott said. "We wanted to keep our hopes up for winning this division and making the playoffs."

Carson Wentz threw a pair of TD passes to Zach Ertz, but his pass to Ertz on fourth down fell a yard short of a first down at the Cowboys 29 with 1:09 left. The Eagles got the ball back at their 32 with 40 seconds left and drove to the Cowboys 32 for the final play. Wentz completed a pass to Ertz inside the Dallas 10. Ertz lateraled to Golden Tate but he was tackled for no gain to end it.

"We just didn't execute," said Wentz, who finished 32-for-44 for 360 yards with one interception. "We all got to look in the mirror and ask what can we do better."



# Four-way championship showdown set

Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — The three most dominant drivers of this NASCAR season will fittingly race each other for the championship, a chance for Kyle Busch, Kevin Harvick and Martin Truex Jr. to settle which team is truly the best.

It was Busch who claimed the latest round, winning for the eighth time this year Sunday to tie Harvick for the most Cup victories. His win at ISM Raceway outside of Phoenix was the final qualifying event for next week's finale at Homestead-Miami Speedway, where it will be winner-take-all between NASCAR's so-called Big Three and the driver once called "Sliced Bread."

Busch, Harvick and reigning series champion Martin Truex Jr., coined The Big Three because of how they dominated the regular season, advanced into the championship round as expected. Joey Logano, nicknamed "Sliced Bread" before his NASCAR debut at age 18 because he was predicted to be "the best thing since ...," has the fourth spot.

The field is two Ford drivers, two Toyota drivers and represents four organizations. Chevrolet was shut out of the finale.

"I don't know how you could pick a fa-

vorite necessarily," Busch said. "I would predict this is the best four, the closest four that have been in our sport in a long time.

Busch and Harvick have gone win-for-win all year, and Busch could have controlled Harvick's fate late in the race when he was lined up against Harvick teammate Aric Almirola on a restart. An Almirola victory would have eliminated Harvick from the playoffs, which Busch acknowledged considering.

"I did think about it," Busch said. "But I'm here to win the race. They always want it to play out naturally."

Now Busch might just have the momentum to take the title.

"I'd like to think it gives us a lot [of momentum] but I don't know, talk is cheap," Busch said. "We've got to be able to go out there and perform and just do what we need to do."

Harvick was the favorite to win Sunday and started from the pole but an early flat tire made Sunday's race more eventful than Harvick expected.

He found himself racing late against Stewart-Haas Racing teammates Kurt Busch and Aric Almirola for the fourth transfer spot to Homestead, but Busch was wrecked late and Almirola had to win the race to snatch the berth away from

Harvick.

"We kept ourselves in position all day and there at the end, it was just like everybody wrecking and all over the place," Harvick said. "We just needed to stay out of trouble and try to find a safe spot there."

Brad Keselowski and Kyle Larson, both already eliminated from the playoffs, finished second and third. Almirola was fourth and Harvick fifth.

Harvick was stripped of his berth to Homestead that he'd earned by winning a week ago at Texas when NASCAR ruled his car was illegal. The penalty forced him to requalify and he had to do it without his crew chief or car chief. But he's a nine-time winner at this track, was fastest in practice, started on the pole and led the first 72 laps before his tire went flat.

That put Harvick back in 30th and one lap down, and he had to work his way back to the front the rest of the race. He was aided by a flurry of mistakes by the other contenders. Clint Bowyer had a flat tire that caused him to wreck, Kurt Busch was wrecked and that accident collected Chase Elliott, who earlier had been penalized for speeding on pit road. Kurt Busch also had been penalized early in the race for passing the pace car.

## Top 25 roundup

# No. 4 Duke pulls away from Army in 2nd half

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Zion Williamson had 27 points and 16 rebounds, and No. 4 Duke pulled away to beat Army 94-72 on Sunday.

Cameron Reddish finished with 25 points and a third freshman — RJ Barrett — had 23 while Williamson added six blocked shots and four assists for the Blue Devils (2-0).

Playing five days after routing No. 2 Kentucky in the Champions Classic, they shot 49 percent but couldn't shake the Black Knights until the final 10 minutes, finally pulling away with an 11-0 run keyed by three-pointers from Barrett and Reddish.

Matt Wilson scored 15 points and Tommy Funk added 10 for Army (1-1), and Funk hit back-

to-back threes to pull the Black Knights to 67-61 with just over 12 minutes left.

Reddish hit a driving layup, and he and Barrett each hit threes on consecutive possessions to push the lead into double figures for good. Reddish added another three to stretch the lead to 78-61 with just over 9 minutes left, and the Blue Devils eventually went up by 20 on Williamson's stickback with less than 4 minutes to play.

**No. 5 Virginia 76, George Washington 57:** Kyle Guy and Ty Jerome scored 20 points each and Virginia rolled over visiting George Washington.

Guy scored 17 in the first half, matching the Colonials' total, as Virginia (2-0) opened a 42-17 lead at the break. He and Jerome had outscored the Colonials 27-26 when they both

got an extended break midway through the second half with Virginia comfortably ahead.

**No. 10 Michigan State 106, Florida Gulf Coast 82:** Nick Ward had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and Joshua Langford added 18 points to lead host Michigan State.

The Spartans (1-1) were barely challenged in their home opener and rebounded comfortably from a season-opening loss to Kansas. Michigan State led 59-35 at halftime on the strength of a dominating performance on the boards.

Troy Baxter and Christian Carlyle led FGCU (1-2) with 20 points apiece.

**No. 17 Florida State 80, Tulane 69:** At New Orleans, Terance Mann had 21 points and 10 rebounds, PJ Savoy added 14 points and Florida State wore

down a feisty and seemingly improved Tulane squad.

Tulane was buoyed by the debut of freshman Kevin Zhang, who scored 24 points, including 10 points during a mid-second-half surge that briefly pulled the Green Wave as close as 62-56.

**No. 18 Mississippi State 77, Hartford 59:** Quindary Weatherspoon scored a season-high 22 points for host Mississippi State.

Tyson Carter added 14 points for the Bulldogs (2-0), and Aric Holman had 12 points and eight rebounds.

**No. 20 TCU 79, Oral Roberts 62:** Alex Robinson scored 23 points, Desmond Bane added 22 and the host Horned Frogs never trailed after struggling in the opener.

## NBA roundup

## James helps surging Lakers clip Hawks

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — LeBron James scored 26 points and dunked for the winning basket in the final seconds, lifting the Los Angeles Lakers to a 107-106 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday night.

Kyle Kuzma added 18 points for the Lakers' fifth win in six games.

Kuzma's layup tied the game at 104-all with 1:34 to go.

Kent Bazemore was called for a technical at the end of that play and Kuzma made the free throw for a 105-104 lead.

Vince Carter dunked to put the Hawks back up 106-105.

James got fouled at the other end and missed both. But the Lakers got the offensive rebound and Kuzma charged into the paint amid three defenders for a shot from the left side. It missed.

James was waiting on the right, dunking for a 107-106

lead.

Taurean Prince led the Hawks with 23 points, Bazemore added 21 and Trae Young had 20 for Atlanta.

**Rockets 115, Pacers 103:** James Harden scored a season-high 40 points and Chris Paul added 26 to help Houston to its first home win of the season.

Clint Capela had 18 points and seven rebounds for the Rockets, who had lost the last two games of a season-long five-game road trip, dropped their first four home games.

Houston was up by 10 with about four minutes left after five quick points by the Pacers, but Harden made two free throws after that to stretch the lead. The Pacers got within 8 on a basket by Cory Joseph with about 90 seconds left, but Paul made a layup a few seconds later to put the game out of reach.

Victor Oladipo had 22 for the Pacers, who have lost three of

their last four games. Bojan Bogdanovic added 20 points and had six assists, and Darren Collison had 13 points.

**Hornets 113, Pistons 103:** Tony Parker scored 24 points, Kemba Walker had 24 points and seven assists in the win for visiting Charlotte.

Cody Zeller added 14 points to help the Hornets win for the third time in four games.

Andre Drummond had 23 points and 22 rebounds for the Pistons, and Reggie Bullock had a career-high 23 points, hitting six three-pointers. Detroit has lost six of eight after a 4-0 start.

Detroit's Blake Griffin was given a flagrant-2 foul and ejected with 7:06 to play for a shoulder check on Malik Monk.

**Bucks 121, Nuggets 114:** Brook Lopez had a career-high eight three-pointers and 28 points to help Milwaukee snap an eight-game skid in Denver.

All five Bucks starters scored in double figures and four of them had 20 or more points in Milwaukee's first win at the Pepsi Center since 2010.

**Trail Blazers 100, Celtics 94:** Damian Lillard had 19 points and 12 assists and host Portland won for the seventh time in its last eight games.

Jayson Tatum matched his regular-season career high with 27 points and Kyrie Irving added 21 for the Celtics. They finished 1-4 on their road trip.

**Magic 115, Knicks 89:** At New York, Terrence Ross scored 22 points, Nikola Vucevic had 21 points and 14 rebounds, and Orlando won its second straight and for the fourth time in five games.

Harlem native Mo Bamba played his first NBA game at Madison Square Garden and had 15 points and eight rebounds.

## NHL roundup

## Bruins backup Halak stops 37 shots in win

Associated Press

BOSTON — After a rough couple of seasons, Jaroslav Halak is at the top of his game again.

Halak stopped 37 shots to help the Boston Bruins to a 4-1 victory over the Vegas Golden Knights on Sunday night.

"We've seen it from Day 1," Bruins coach Bruce Cassidy said of Halak, who signed with the Bruins in July after four seasons with the New York Islanders. "I couldn't sit here and tell you that he would be leading the league in goals-against or save percentage, but the guys are just confident in front of him."

Halak had to play back-to-back games this weekend with Tuukka Rask on personal leave from the team and won both while allowing only two goals.

"I had a good sleep last night," Halak said. "It's different when you play at home and you can sleep in your own bed."

Halak was the odd man out for the New York Islanders two years ago and spent 27 games in the minors before being called back up at the end of the season. After two subpar seasons, he is in the top three in goals against and save percentage and has only one regulation loss.

David Pastrnak scored again, and Danton Heinen, Jeremy Lauzon and Brad Marchand also had goals as Boston won for the fourth time in six games. Halak has won all three starts against the Golden Knights while allowing a total of five goals.

Cody Eakin scored for Vegas and Malcolm Subban finished with 33 saves. The Golden Knights lost for the third time in four games on their road trip.

**Coyotes 4, Capitals 1:** Richard Panik and Alex Galchenyuk each had a goal and an assist, and the Arizona Coyotes became the latest team to take advantage of host Washington's penalty-killing struggles.

Galchenyuk and Vinnie Hinostroza each

scored on the man advantage for Arizona, which snapped a three-game skid in the third game of a four-game trip. Washington has allowed six power-play goals in its past four games.

**Panthers 5, Senators 1:** Aleksander Barkov scored twice during Florida's five-goal second period and the host Panthers won their fourth straight.

**Wild 3, Blues 2:** Mikael Granlund scored his 10th goal of the season in the third period to lift visiting Minnesota to its fifth win in six games.

**Jets 5, Devils 2:** Mark Scheifele had two goals and an assist to lead host Winnipeg.

**Sharks 3, Flames 1:** Joe Pavelski had a goal and two assists, Martin Jones stopped 29 shots, and host San Jose snapped a two-game skid.

**Avalanche 4, Oilers 1:** Semyon Varlamov stopped 26 shots to help visiting Colorado snap a five-game losing streak.