

## Pentagon rattled by Chinese military push

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — China's growing military muscle and its drive to end American predominance in the Asia-Pacific is rattling the U.S. defense establishment. American officials see trouble quickly accumulating on multiple fronts — Beijing's expanding nuclear arsenal, its advances in space, cyber and missile technologies, and threats to Taiwan.

"The pace at which China is moving is stunning," says Gen. John Hyten, the No. 2-ranking U.S. military officer, who previously commanded U.S. nuclear forces and oversaw Air Force space operations.

At stake is a potential shift in the global balance of power that has favored the United States for decades. A realignment more favorable to China does not pose a direct threat to the United States but

could complicate U.S. alliances in Asia. New signs of how the Pentagon intends to deal with the China challenge may emerge in coming weeks from Biden administration policy reviews on nuclear weapons, global troop basing and overall defense strategy.

For now, officials marvel at how Beijing is marshaling the resources, technology and political will to make rapid gains — so rapid that the Biden administration is attempting to reorient all aspects of U.S. foreign and defense policy.

The latest example of surprising speed was China's test of a hypersonic weapon capable of partially orbiting Earth before reentering the atmosphere and gliding on a maneuverable path to its target. The weapon system's design is meant to evade U.S. missile defenses, and although Beijing insisted it was testing a reusable space vehicle, not a missile, the

test appeared to have startled U.S. officials.

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the test was "very close" to being a Sputnik moment, akin to the 1957 launching by the Soviet Union of the world's first space satellite, which caught the world by surprise and fed fears the U.S. had fallen behind technologically. What followed was a nuclear arms and space race that ultimately bankrupted the Soviet Union. Milley and other U.S. officials have declined to discuss details of the Chinese test, saying they are secret. He called it "very concerning" for the United States but added that problems posed by China's military modernization run far deeper.

On the nuclear front, private satellite imagery in recent months has revealed large additions of launch silos that suggest

the possibility that China plans to increase its fleet of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, or ICBMs. Pentagon officials and defense hawks on Capitol Hill point to China's modernization as a key justification for rebuilding the U.S. nuclear arsenal, a project expected to cost more than \$1 billion over 30 years, including sustainment costs.

Some analysts fear Washington will worry its way into an arms race with Beijing, frustrated at being unable to draw the Chinese into security talks.

Congress also is increasingly focused on China and supports a spending boost for space and cyber operations and hypersonic technologies. There is a push, for example, to put money in the next defense budget to arm guided-missile submarines with hypersonic weapons, a plan initiated by the Trump administration.

## Top Afghan helicopter pilot building new life in America

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The man who once was Afghanistan's ace helicopter pilot is now a dad in suburban New Jersey, building a new life while continuing to think about those left behind.

At the controls of his MD-530 attack helicopter, Mohammed Naiem Asadi was a fearsome foe of the insurgents.

He reputedly killed more Taliban than any other pilot in the Afghan air force, and was lauded by the U.S. military for protecting an American pilot whose airplane had crashed. He received death threats from the Taliban, which U.S. authorities reviewed before agreeing to allow him and his family into America last year.

But at the last moment, the Pen-

tagon reversed its endorsement, saying later that so many military personnel were under threat that letting them seek refuge would gut the Afghan security forces.

Asadi and his family went into hiding for months while reapplying for asylum. They were eventually accepted and arrived in New Jersey in June, a few months before the collapse of the U.S.-backed government in Kabul prompted mass evacuations.

"I'm very grateful to be in America," Asadi said Tuesday, a year after he had gone into hiding.

He shudders at what could have happened had they not left before Kabul fell.

"We might not have been able to get out of Afghanistan," he said.

But many of his fellow pilots remain at risk of retribution from

the Taliban, he said. Many, like him, faced death threats before the U.S.-backed government fell and are in hiding after participating in America's \$8.5 billion program to train the Afghan air force.

"The Taliban will kill these people if they are found out," Asadi said.

Some 5,000 people—a number that includes Afghan airmen, members of the Special Mission Wing and their families — still need to be evacuated from the country, said David Hicks, a retired brigadier general and head of training for the Afghan air force from 2016 to 2017. An additional 4,000 more may be added to the group's database after their identities are confirmed.

"It's our duty to help them," said Hicks, who is part of a group

called Operation Sacred Promise, which includes dozens of former U.S. advisers to Afghan pilots among its members.

About 150 Afghan flyers and other military personnel are stuck in Tajikistan. The group flew on 16 planes across Afghanistan's northern border and were interned by the Tajik government, Reuters news agency reported. Since then, they've waited for word on whether they can come to America.

Meanwhile, the Taliban have said they will not harm former military personnel who rejoin Afghanistan's armed forces. But Asadi doubts the Taliban would forgive the pilots who inflicted so many casualties upon them.

"No one can trust them," he said.

# Erdogan: Biden will do 'his best' for F-16 sale

Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — U.S. President Joe Biden said there's only a "fifty-fifty" chance that the U.S. Congress and Senate would approve a Turkish request to buy American-made F-16 warplanes, but pledged to do "his best" to ensure that the sale goes through, Turkey's president said Monday.

Speaking on his return from the Group of 20 nations summit in Rome late on Sunday, Recep Tayyip Erdogan also told journalists aboard his plane that his meeting with Biden was held "in a very positive atmosphere" despite the often testy relationship between the two NATO allies.

Turkey was kicked out of a U.S. program to buy F-35 combat planes while Turkish defense of-

ficials were sanctioned after the country bought Russian-made S-400 missile defense systems. The United States has said the Russian missiles pose a threat to the F-35 and strongly objects to their use within the NATO alliance.

Turkey wants to recover a \$1.4 billion payment that it made before it was expelled from the F-35 program. Erdogan has previously said the U.S. proposed selling F-16 fighter jets to make up for it.

"As you know, we have a payment of \$1.4 billion. On this issue, we negotiated the procurement of F-16s. I have not seen any negative attitude from (Biden) in this regard," Erdogan said. His comments were reported by the pro-government *Yeni Safak* newspaper and other media.

The Turkish leader went on to quote Biden as saying: "As you know, the situation is fifty-fifty, but I will do my best."

Erdogan said the two also discussed cooperation in Afghanistan, Syria, Libya and the eastern Mediterranean where tensions between NATO allies Greece and Turkey — as well as neighboring Cyprus — have been ratcheted up over competing energy claims. Talks also focused on increased increased economic and trade cooperation, Erdogan said.

Turkey has denied that the Russian missile system poses a security risk, insisting that the S-400s could be used independently without being integrated into NATO systems. The Turkish president has also said his coun-

try could purchase a second Russian missile system, despite controversy surrounding the initial purchase.

Turkey and the U.S. also strongly differ over the role of Syrian Kurdish fighters who are a key Washington ally in the battle against Islamic State. Turkey regards the fighters as "terrorists" affiliated with outlawed Kurdish militants fighting inside Turkey, and demands that Washington halt its support to the group.

"If we are allies in NATO, our partners in NATO should not attempt such a thing," Erdogan said. He reiterated that Turkey was prepared to carry out another offensive inside Syria to chase Kurdish militants if the need arises.

## First lady visits Naples DODEA school, shares with students

By ALISON BATH

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — First lady Jill Biden fostered a storytelling atmosphere during her visit Monday to a Defense Department school, sharing reminiscences of her own before encouraging students to do the same.

"Not everyone knows what it's like to be in your shoes," Biden said at a pep rally at Naval Support Activity Naples Middle/High School. "You face unique challenges, and your stories don't get told."

One student who took her up on the invitation to speak told of the bullying he had endured at previous schools because of his sexuality. He said he had been called names and put in trash cans for being gay.

But things changed after he came to Naples, the boy said.

"It's a warmth," he said of the support and acceptance he found at his new school.

He earned a standing ovation from his peers, as well as encouragement from Biden.

"This truly is a family at this school," said Biden, a teacher who holds a doctorate in education.

A girl who addressed the crowd told of the difficulties of moving repeatedly and the anxiety she felt. Another boy said that knowing he is an American gave him a source of pride and strength.

Biden told the audience she was inspired to advocate for military families by the hardships her own grandchildren faced when their father, Maj. Beau Biden, who died in 2015 from cancer, had deployed with the Delaware Army National Guard.

The students' stories showed strength, resilience and adaptability, she said to the audience, which included parents, school employees and military personnel. She also met with Navy officials and service members before departing Naples.

## Australian warship at Navy base to wait for new chopper

By ALEX WILSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The crew members of an Australian warship have been enjoying U.S. Navy amenities as they await delivery of a new helicopter.

The guided-missile destroyer HMAS Brisbane steamed into the homeport of the U.S. 7th Fleet for the first time on Friday. On Thursday, the crew expects delivery of an MH-60R Seahawk helicopter to replace one lost at sea last month. The aircraft is being prepped for the trip at Yokota Air Base, the U.S. airlift hub in western Tokyo, where it arrived Saturday from Naval Air Station Nowra aboard an Australian C-17 Globemaster III.

A Seahawk aboard the Brisbane was ditched in the Philippine Sea during a military exercise Oct. 13, the Australian Department of Defence announced

the next day. Its crewmembers were rescued within 20 minutes and treated for minor injuries.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, Brisbane's skipper, Cmdr. Aaron Cox, told Stars and Stripes on Monday. He said a team of investigators recently came aboard the ship to collect evidence gathered by his crew.

The Australian government agreed to a \$985 million deal to purchase another 12 Seahawks from the United States on Oct. 8, according to a same day announcement from the U.S. Defense Security Cooperation Agency. Australia currently has 24 Seahawks, which it purchased for approximately \$2.2 billion, according to the Australian Navy website.

The Brisbane left Sydney on Sept. 22, for three to five months. It's expected to call at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, and South Korea for a second time, before returning home.

## S. Korea loosens virus restrictions

By DAVID CHOI

*Stars and Stripes*

South Korea loosened its COVID-19 social distancing measures Monday following “public fatigue” from the prolonged pandemic response and the increased number of vaccinations.

The government’s plan, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare, is to ease restrictions over three steps, each lasting four weeks, followed by a two-week evaluation period. Each step will introduce new business hours, curfews and limits to public gatherings.

Public businesses in metropolitan areas have been typically open until 10 p.m. during the pandemic. Under the plan announced Monday, restaurants and cafes are allowed open for their normal business hours. Time restrictions and music bans at gyms and bathhouses were also lifted.

The Health and Welfare ministry described its step-by-step plan as “the roadmap for gradual return to normal,” with the goal of becoming “the better Korea.”

“Today is a day we take the first step toward a gradual return to normal life,” Health Minister Kwon Deok-cheol said during a public briefing Monday. “We have gone through so many great and small crises for about a year and 10 months since January of last year.”

The change comes as South Korea announced Monday that 75% of its population is vaccinated. The country reported 1,686 new infections the same day, down from the record-high of 3,273 daily cases in September.

More than 76% of the public felt a new social distancing policy was needed due to the vaccinations and decreased cases, according to a recent survey from Seoul National University.

“Due to quarantine measures, such as long-term social distancing, the economic damage is accumulating to the self-employed, small-business owners and the vulnerable,” said the ministry statement. It also listed social and cultural damages resulting from the pandemic, such as lack of education, the “corona blues” and lack of care.

U.S. Forces Korea, the military command responsible for roughly 28,500 troops on the peninsula, announced last month that the South Korean government would recognize proof-of-vaccination cards issued for U.S. service members.

# Global death toll tops 5M

*Associated Press*

The global death toll from COVID-19 topped 5 million on Monday, less than two years into a crisis that has not only devastated poor countries but also humbled wealthy ones with first-rate health care systems.

Together, the United States, the European Union, Britain and Brazil — all upper-middle- or high-income countries — account for one-eighth of the world’s population but nearly half of all reported deaths. The U.S. alone has recorded over 745,000 lives lost, more than any other nation.

“This is a defining moment in our lifetime,” said Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at the Yale School of Public Health. “What do we have to do to protect ourselves so we don’t get to another 5 million?”

The death toll, as tallied by Johns Hopkins University, is about equal to the populations of Los Angeles and San Francisco combined. It rivals the number of people killed in battles among nations since 1950, according to estimates from the Peace Research Institute Oslo. Globally, COVID-19 is now the third-leading cause of death, after heart disease and stroke.

The staggering figure is almost certainly an undercount because of limited testing and people dying at home without medical attention, especially in poor parts of the world, such as India.

Hot spots have shifted over the 22 months since the outbreak began, turning different

places on the world map red. Now, the virus is pummeling Russia, Ukraine and other parts of Eastern Europe, especially where rumors, misinformation and distrust in government have hobbled vaccination efforts. In Ukraine, only 17% of the adult population is fully vaccinated; in Armenia, only 7%.

“What’s uniquely different about this pandemic is it hit hardest the high-resource countries,” said Dr. Wafaa El-Sadr, director of ICAP, a global health center at Columbia University. “That’s the irony of COVID-19.”

Wealthier nations with longer life expectancies have larger proportions of older people, cancer survivors and nursing home residents, all of whom are especially vulnerable to COVID-19, El-Sadr noted. Poorer countries tend to have larger shares of children, teens and young adults, who are less likely to fall seriously ill from the coronavirus.

India, despite its terrifying delta surge that peaked in early May, now has a much lower reported daily death rate than wealthier Russia, the U.S. or Britain, though there is uncertainty around its figures.

The seeming disconnect between wealth and health is a paradox that disease experts will be pondering for years. But the pattern that is seen on the grand scale, when nations are compared, is different when examined at closer range. Within each wealthy country, when deaths and infections are mapped, poorer neighborhoods are hit hardest.

## Australia, Thailand open borders after lengthy pandemic lockdowns

*Associated Press*

CANBERRA, Australia — Sydney’s international airport came alive with tears, embraces and laughter on Monday as Australia opened its border for the first time in 20 months, with some arriving travelers removing mandatory masks to see the faces of loved ones they’ve been separated from for so long.

Australia and other countries in the Asia-Pacific have had some of the world’s strictest COVID-19 pandemic lockdown measures and travel restrictions, but with vaccination rates rising and cases falling, many are now starting to cautiously reopen.

Some, like China and Japan, remain essentially sealed off to foreign visitors, but Thailand also started to substantially reopen Mon-

day and many others have already started, or plan to follow suit.

In Thailand, a country where tourism accounted for some 20% of the economy before the pandemic, the lockdown has caused massive job losses and hardship, and the government hopes the return of foreign visitors will provide a much-needed boost.

Still, only a few months removed from a surge fueled by the delta variant of the virus that saw deaths rise dramatically, many Thais remain worried that an influx of outsiders could trigger new outbreaks.

Thailand has allowed residents to travel during the pandemic, but mandated a strict two-week quarantine in specially designated hotels for people entering the country.



# High court eyes Texas abortion law again

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is taking up challenges to a Texas law that has virtually ended abortion in the nation's second-largest state after six weeks of pregnancy, with at least one conservative justice who let the law take effect raising questions about its novel structure.

The justices heard arguments Monday in two cases over whether abortion providers or the Justice Department can mount federal court challenges to the law, which has an unusual enforcement scheme its defenders argue shields it from federal court review.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who previously allowed the law to take effect in September in a decision that split the court 5-4, suggested that the unusual enforcement scheme could be problematic.

"There's a loophole that's been exploited here, or used here," he said, explaining that the question for the court is whether to "close that loophole." Kavanaugh suggested that the "principle" and "whole sweep" of a 1908 Supreme Court case would "suggest extending the principle here, arguably" and closing the loophole.

Five conservative justices, including three who were ap-

pointed by President Donald Trump, were in the majority letting the law take effect. Chief Justice John Roberts joined the court's three liberal justices in dissent.

In neither case the Supreme Court was hearing Monday is the right to an abortion directly at issue. But the motivation for lawsuits filed by abortion providers and the Justice Department is that the Texas law conflicts with landmark Supreme Court rulings that prevent a state from banning abortion early in pregnancy.

Arguing for the United States, Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar told the justices that Tex-

as' law was enacted in "open defiance" of Supreme Court precedent. "It enacted a law that clearly violates this court's precedents," she said.

Under the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision and 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision, states are prevented from banning abortion before viability, the point at which a fetus can survive outside the womb, around 24 weeks of pregnancy.

The justices will hear a separate challenge to those decisions in a case over Mississippi's ban on abortion after 15 weeks. Those arguments are set for Dec. 1.

## Biden unveils new steps to bolster world supply chains

Associated Press

ROME — President Joe Biden on Sunday unveiled several new steps the United States is taking to strengthen and streamline supply chains as he convened world leaders at the Group of 20 summit to discuss the bottlenecks hampering the global economy as it recovers from the coronavirus pandemic.

Biden is viewing the issue through a global lens, offering new funding and processes to help ports in Mexico, Central America and Asia as one of his proposals. He noted that few citizens had ever tracked the flow of goods at ports until it became clear this year that the infrastructure for moving goods around the world is badly broken and in need of repair.

"Supply chains are something that most of our citizens never think twice about until something goes wrong," Biden said. "It isn't a problem any one of our nations can solve through unilateral actions. Coordination is the key reason for

this meeting."

Despite devoting a combined \$15 trillion to combat the fallout from COVID-19, many of the world's largest economies are slogging through mass shortages as ships are waiting to dock, the prices of shipping containers climb, not enough trucks exist to haul goods from ports and virus outbreaks halt factory production.

Supply chain issues have emerged as a point of both economic and political pain for Biden, as the delays have contributed to inflation and potentially put a damper on holiday shopping. Republican lawmakers have cited the threat of inflation and supply chain challenges in critiquing Biden's economic leadership.

The president signed an executive order to streamline access to critical minerals and materials. The Defense Department would be empowered to release raw materials from the National Defense Stockpile, allowing for a faster response to shortfalls in the U.S. industrial base.

## People, homes vanish due to census' new privacy method

Associated Press

The three-bedroom colonial-style house where Jessica Stephenson has lived in Milwaukee for the last six years bustles with activity on any given weekday, filled with the chattering of children in the day care center she runs out of her home.

The U.S. Census Bureau says no one lives there.

"They should come and see it for themselves," Stephenson said.

From her majority-Black neighborhood in Wisconsin to a community of Hasidic Jews in New York's Catskill Mountains to a park outside Tampa, Fla., a method used by the Census Bureau for the first time to protect confidentiality in the 2020 census has made people and occupied homes vanish — at least on paper — when they actually exist in the real world.

It's not a magic trick but rather a new statistical method the bureau is using called differential privacy, which involves the intentional addition of errors to data to obscure the identity of any given participant.

Bureau officials have said it's necessary to protect privacy in a time of increasingly sophisticated data mining, as technological innovations magnify the threat of people being "re-identified" through the use of powerful computers to match census information with other public databases. By law, census answers are supposed to be confidential.

But some city officials and demographers think it veers too far from reality — and could cause errors in the data used for drawing political districts and distributing federal funds.

At least one analysis suggests that differential privacy could penalize minority communities by undercounting areas that are racially and ethnically mixed. Harvard University researchers found that the method made it more difficult to create political districts of equal population and could result in fewer majority-minority districts.

The Census Bureau, for its part, has argued that the data is every bit as good as in past censuses and that the low-level inaccuracies don't present a large-scale problem.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

**Prison guard accused of bringing meth in facility**

**AL** FLORENCE — A corrections guard at a north Alabama jail has been arrested after he allegedly tried to deliver crystal meth to inmates.

Matthew Moran, 20, was arrested Friday after a two-week investigation into allegations he tried to smuggle drugs into the Lauderdale County Detention Center, WAFF-TV reported.

A deputy at the jail confiscated a package contained crystal meth that Moran was to deliver to inmates at the jail, the sheriff's office said.

Moran faces a charge of attempt to commit a controlled substance crime, distribution of a controlled substance and promoting prison contraband. It was unknown if he has an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

**Man arrested after chase with kids in car**

**AZ** MESA — A man has been arrested after leading officers on a high-speed chase with two children in his car, according to Mesa police.

They said the incident started as a reported domestic violence situation between a man and a woman around 8:30 p.m. Saturday. The woman told police she was injured and that the man left in a vehicle with two kids.

Police said when officers arrived on the scene, the man drove his car at them and tried to ram their vehicle. The man sped off, got on U.S. Route 60 and was driving erratically at high speed, according to authorities.

Police said the suspect's car was eventually stopped on Inter-

state 17 in Phoenix by Arizona Department of Public Safety troopers and the man was taken into custody. The children were not hurt.

**Activist dears to wear condo protest costume**

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — The free speech witch must have been watching over Cat Uden on Saturday night.

Uden, the activist warned by police not to wear a condo costume to the city's Halloween block party, dared to wear it anyway.

To her relief, she and six friends in similar costumes were not told they had to leave the party. No one spent the night behind bars. And one woman toting a "No Condo" sign says she got a hug from a police sergeant.

But Uden was ready, just in case. "My husband was at home waiting for my one phone call," she said. "He said he would bail my friends out, too."

In recent months, Uden has emerged as a fierce critic of the Related Group's plan to build a 30-story condo on taxpayer-owned beachfront land 13 blocks south of Hollywood Boulevard. She's held two protests so far, one in September at City Hall and one in mid-October on the 4-acre beachfront parcel the developer hopes to build on. She got permits for both.

**Unloaded handgun found in classroom**

**NC** WINSTON-SALEM — Police in North Carolina said an unloaded handgun was found in an elementary

school classroom after it fell out of a student's pocket.

The Winston-Salem Police Department issued a news release saying the gun was discovered around noon on Friday at Mineral Springs Elementary School.

The release said that the gun had fallen out of a 12-year-old student's pocket and was immediately confiscated by a teacher. Further investigation revealed that the gun had been placed in the student's hooded sweatshirt by another student when he was out of the classroom.

Police said the handgun was inoperable and unloaded. No one was hurt. Some students are facing disciplinary action, but police said that no charges were being filed.

**State inmates get food incentives for vaccine**

**NY** ALBANY — New York's state prisons are encouraging inmates to get the COVID-19 vaccine — and they're offering up a side of fries with that.

A recent memorandum sent by the state's acting corrections commissioner lists pizza and treats from McDonald's among the latest vaccine incentives being offered to inmates.

The Auburn Citizen obtained a copy of the memo and recently reported on it. The special offerings must include a non-pork item and prisons can't spend more than \$10 per inmate, the memo said.

Anthony Annucci, acting commissioner of the state Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, said in the memo that the incentive program will be offered through

Dec. 8.

**Jail scanner finds drugs inside inmate on 1st day**

**SC** AIKEN — Officials at one South Carolina county jail said their investment in a new full body scanner paid off immediately.

The Aiken County Detention Center installed scanner Oct. 14 and found heroin inside a body cavity of a woman arrested on trespassing and shoplifting charges, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

The scanner uses X-rays to review an inmate from head to toe to detect any foreign objects, officials said.

The goal is to stop drugs, weapons and any other contraband from making into the jail. All inmates will be scanned when they are booked in the jail, deputies said.

**Lava still coming month after Kilauea's eruption**

**HI** HONOLULU — Lava continues to pour out of Kilauea's summit crater, one month after the latest eruption began at the Hawaii volcano.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said Friday lava was emerging from a single vent inside Halemaumau Crater. The eruption is contained within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and isn't threatening any homes.

Nighttime aerial video shot from a helicopter shows lava gushing from a vent and spreading across the crater floor.

Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes. It's erupted dozens of times since 1952.

— From wire reports

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# Astros cut deficit to 3-2 with Game 5 win

Associated Press

Just in time, Carlos Correa and the Houston Astros broke out the bats.

Because if they had waited any longer, this World Series would've been over.

Staggered by Adam Duvall's grand slam in the first inning, Correa and Alex Bregman ended their slumps in a hurry. They kept swinging, too, refusing to let their season slip away and rallying past the Braves 9-5 early Monday in Atlanta to cut their Series deficit to 3-2.

The Braves might not admit it was a deflating defeat; 66-year-old manager Brian Snitker is too steady and savvy for that. But by any measure in the Analytics Age, this had to sting.

"I'm just glad we get to go back to Houston. That was our goal today," Astros skipper Dusty Baker said.

Correa came through with three hits after getting moved up to third in the lineup for Game 5 while Bregman was dropped to seventh. Martin Maldonado found three different ways to drive in runs and pinch-hitter Marwin Gonzalez blooped a two-out, two-run single in the fifth for a 7-5 lead.

A matchup of bullpens turned into the first high-scoring game of this Fall Classic, and the highest-scoring team in the majors this year won it.

A parade of Atlanta pitchers found out that they couldn't hold down Houston forever as the clock passed midnight and the calendar flipped to November.

"We've got a clubhouse full of bad dudes in there. And our lineup is very deep," Correa said.

Correa gained attention earlier this postseason for marking big hits by pointing at his wrist, where a watch might be. His time, he said.

The star shortstop doubled and singled twice, driving in two runs. His RBI single in the eighth padded the lead and as Jose Altuve got congrats in the dugout after scoring, the Fox TV mics picked up someone on the bench yelling "It's time!"

A night earlier, the Astros went 0-for-8 with runners in scoring position in a 3-2 loss. That left Correa at 2-for-14 overall in the series and Bregman worse at 1-for-14.

"Before the game we talked and we said, 'We're not gonna give up,'" Correa said. "We're gonna go out there fighting."

Atlanta had been 7-0 at home in the postseason, and a boisterous crowd inside Truist Park and packed plaza outside came early hoping to celebrate its first championship since 1995.

"If we win the World Series, it doesn't matter where it is," Snitker said. "I'd have loved to have done it in front of our fans. Hopefully we can do it the next couple of days."

Duvall's slam sent a dozen Braves careening from the dugout, a full-out frenzy of hollering, twirling and dancing.

"We celebrated it. We got excited, and that's what you do when you hit home runs — but it's a long game. That happened in the bottom of the first. It's a nine-inning game, and

they didn't quit," Duvall said.

Indeed, any victory party was premature — even after Freddie Freeman's long homer put Atlanta ahead 5-4.

Instead, the Astros hushed those fans and the Braves, pulling off a big comeback to stay afloat.

Now, the Astros need an even bigger one to win it all.

Game 6 is Tuesday night in Houston.

No team has clinched a World Series at home since the 2013 Red Sox. For Altuve and the Astros to do it, they must win twice at Minute Maid Park — the last club to overcome a 3-1 Series deficit was the Cubs against Cleveland in 2016.

Only once has a team facing elimination in the World Series produced a bigger rally. That was a five-run surge by the Angels in Game 6 of 2002 — against a Giants team managed by Baker.

## Road trip

Houston became the first team to win Game 5 on the road when trailing 3-1 in the World Series since the 1992 Braves in Toronto.

## Up next

**Braves:** LHP Max Fried is rested and ready after he was hit hard in Game 2, his second straight shaky start after an excellent season.

**Astros:** Baker said Houston would likely go with rookie Luis Garcia on three days' rest.

# Banged-up Bucks fall to Jazz for 3rd straight loss

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Donovan Mitchell scored 28 points and the Utah Jazz beat the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks 107-95 on Sunday to hand the defending NBA champions their third straight loss.

Both teams were coming off losses Saturday night.

Mike Conley added 20 points, Jordan Clarkson had 15 and Bojan Bogdanovic added 14 to help Utah rebound from its first loss of the season.

Giannis Antetokounmpo led Milwaukee with 25 points, seven rebounds and six assists.

The Bucks have dropped three home games over the last

five nights and have shot 27.5% (36 of 131) from three-point range during that stretch. They opened the homestand with a 113-108 loss to Minnesota.

Khris Middleton missed Sunday's game with an illness, causing one more obstacle for a Milwaukee team that already has been playing without usual starters Jrue Holiday, Brook Lopez and Donte DiVincenzo due to injury. Reserve forward Rodney Hood left with a bruised right hand after playing just 11 minutes.

**Lakers 95, Rockets 85:** Carmelo Anthony scored 23 points in a reserve role and Russell Westbrook added 20 points in

host Los Angeles' victory over Houston.

Anthony Davis had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and LeBron James scored 15 points in the Lakers' fourth win in five games after opening the season with two losses.

**Nets 117, Pistons 91:** James Harden had 18 points, 10 rebounds and 12 assists to power host Brooklyn past Detroit.

Harden is the Nets' career leader with 13 triple-doubles.

**Mavericks 105, Kings 99:** Luka Doncic made a 36-foot three-pointer to beat the shot clock and blunt a late Sacramento rally and finished with 23 points in Dallas' home victory.

Doncic shot 10 for 21 from the floor and had eight rebounds and 10 assists. The long buzzer-beater was his only make on a total of seven three-point attempts.

**Hornets 125, Trail Blazers 113:** LaMelo Ball had 27 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, Kelly Oubre Jr. scored 13 of his 26 points in the decisive fourth quarter and host Charlotte beat Portland.

Miles Bridges added 19 points and a career-high nine assists, and P.J. Washington had 17 points to help give coach James Borrego his 100th career victory. The Hornets finished 20 of 42 from three-point range.



# Saints overcome Winston injury, top Bucs

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — When Saints quarterback Jameis Winston could no longer walk on his own, his New Orleans teammates rose up in dramatic fashion to knock off Tom Brady and the defending champs.

P.J. Williams intercepted Brady and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown with 1:24 left, helping the Saints seal an eventful but potentially costly 36-27 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday.

Winston injured his left knee during a scramble early in the second quarter when pulled down from behind by former LSU star Devin White, who was flagged for a horse collar tackle.

“I think it’s significant,” said New Orleans coach Sean Payton, adding that he cried when he saw Winston in the locker room. “He felt something and is on crutches right now. ... When he got up and then had to go back down, you were a little concerned.”

Backup Trevor Siemian took over for Winston and completed 16 of 29 passes for 159 yards and a touchdown without a turnover, leading the Saints on five scoring drives that produced two touchdowns and

three field goals.

Payton said he had confidence in Siemian, who’d started for Denver in 2016 and 2017. Payton added that his play calling for the duration of the game had more to do with how the Buccaneers were defending than the fact that his backup QB was under center.

“He’s an experienced player,” Payton said.

Siemian, who last took a meaningful snap in Week 2 of the 2019 season with the New York Jets, said he’d “kind of lost a little bit a sense of how fun it is.”

“There’s a joy to this game,” Siemian said. “There’s nothing better than to see your teammates make plays and you’re moving the ball and it’s the best.”

Winston’s first start against the team that drafted him first overall in 2015, and then let him go in 2020 when they had a chance to sign Brady, was a subplot of this NFC South clash.

And Winston looked determined to do whatever it took to win, passing for 56 yards and a 14-yard touchdown to Tre’Quan Smith, and scrambling for 40 yards before his injury. Payton gave Winston a

game ball, and teammates lamented his injury.

“It was hard, man, because he worked so hard this offseason,” said Williams, Winston’s friend since they were teammates at Florida State. “It’s tough for me, it’s tough for the team and I know it’s tough for him. I told him at halftime we were going to go out there and win for him.”

Brady passed for four TDs, but also turned the ball over three times on a pair of interceptions and a fumble, which New Orleans converted into 16 points.

Tampa Bay nearly overcame its mistakes. It wiped out a 16-point second-half deficit and took a lead with 5:44 to go when receiver and former LSU track athlete Cyril Grayson was left uncovered and Brady found him for a 50-yard touchdown.

New Orleans responded by driving for a field goal and a 29-27 lead with 1:41 left, leaving Brady, no stranger to late-game heroics, that much time plus a timeout to get in field goal range. Instead, the Saints’ defense came up big.

“I just threw it to the wrong guy,” Brady said of his late interception. “I had Mike (Evans) open. It cost us the game.”

## White Knight: QB leads Jets to win

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Mike White caught himself listening to the crowd for a moment during his first NFL start.

The shouts of New York Jets fans echoed throughout MetLife Stadium, and the quarterback realized they were celebrating him.

“At first, I kind of had to listen again,” White said with a smile after leading the Jets to a stunning 34-31 comeback victory over the Cincinnati Bengals on Sunday. “Like, are they chanting my name?”

They sure were, and for good reason.

White threw for 405 yards and three touchdowns, caught a 2-point conversion pass on the go-ahead score and joined Cam Newton (2011) as the only players since at least 1950 to throw for 400 or more yards in their first career start.

“He’s a dog. He’s an animal. He’s a savage,” running back Ty Johnson said. “I told him before the game, ‘You’re a gunslinger, so let’s ride.’”

White, starting in place of injured rookie Zach Wilson, pulled off the improbable victory for New York (2-5) while going 37-for-45 — setting an NFL record for the most comple-

tions in a player’s first start.

“Going out and watching film at the beginning of the week and seeing what they do on defense, I knew there would be completions out there,” White said.

He overcame two early interceptions and also became the Jets’ first 400-yard passer since Vinny Testaverde threw for 481 on Christmas Eve 2000, a span of 327 games. And he even left for a few plays to be checked for a neck injury.

All that from a backup who was a fifth-round pick of Dallas in 2018 out of Western Kentucky and hadn’t thrown an NFL pass until last week. And with Wilson still out for at least next Thursday night’s game Indianapolis, White will get a chance for an encore.

“Mike is fantastic,” coach Robert Saleh said. “He’s poised, he showed it all throughout camp, all throughout OTAs, that he deserves to be one of those guys and obviously he showed it today.”

With the Bengals (5-3) leading 31-20 in the fourth quarter, the Jets got an acrobatic touchdown by Johnson, who took a short pass from White and tip-toed down the left sideline and reached over the goal line for a 19-yard score.

## Foot injury may end season for Titans’ Henry

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — NFL rushing leader Derrick Henry will have surgery Tuesday morning on his right foot, and coach Mike Vrabel says the Tennessee Titans are not putting a timeline on when he will return.

Henry had tests Monday to check the severity of the injury after he finished a 34-31 overtime win in Indianapolis.

Vrabel said he knows Henry will do everything possible to work himself back to help the Titans (6-2).

“Whenever that is that’s when it’ll be,” Vrabel said. “I know that he’ll be around our team as soon as he can. I know that’s important to him. I know that’ll be important to our team. We will have to move on. We’ll have to move on unfortunately without him here in the short term and not look back.”

The two-time NFL rushing champ went to the bench early in Sunday’s game. He finished with 28 carries for 68 yards.

# Hendrick, Gibbs race for NASCAR title

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR's championship has come down to a pair of Hall of Fame team owners, two Chevrolets against two Toyotas, racing in the Arizona desert for the sport's top prize.

Rick Hendrick, the winningest team owner in NASCAR history, is sending Kyle Larson and reigning Cup champion Chase Elliott to Phoenix Raceway next Sunday in search of a 14th title for mighty Hendrick Motorsports.

Joe Gibbs, a member of the Hall of Fame in both NASCAR and pro football, will counter with Denny Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr. Gibbs has won five Cup championships (and three Super Bowls) but none with Hamlin or Truex.

Hendrick will be the favorite behind nine-race winner Larson and its on-track domination this season: Alex Bowman's win Sunday at Martinsville Speedway was the fourth in a row for Hendrick and 16th through 35 races.

But Bowman's win triggered tension that should carry through the week and into Sunday's finale. Hamlin, a Virginia native and five-time Martinsville winner, was spun from the lead by Bowman to the surprise pleasure of what should have been Hamlin's

home crowd.

When he later drove his car to the frontstretch to prevent a Bowman victory celebration — Hamlin flipped both middle fingers at Bowman through his windshield — the crowd drowned out his interview over the public address system with resounding boos.

Hamlin blamed the backlash on NASCAR's most popular driver.

"It's just Chase Elliott fans, man. They don't think straightly," Hamlin said of the crowd.

Elliott, the first driver in at least a decade to go toe-to-toe and door-to-door with Kevin Harvick and come out on top, laughed at Hamlin's verbal jab.

"I'm going to lose so much sleep tonight. I might not sleep at all, that's how concerned I am," Elliott said. "My fans don't care either, by the way."

This championship is Hendrick vs. Gibbs in head-to-head competition, but four drivers will be individually racing for NASCAR's top prize. Hamlin, loser in three previous championship battles, took an aggressive approach as soon as Bowman tried to celebrate a Martinsville victory Hamlin felt had been taken from him.

"Don't poke the bear," Hamlin posted on social media after Martinsville. "See y'all in Phoenix."

Hamlin led the Cup standings for 22 consecutive weeks but lost the regular season championship to Larson over the final three weeks. Larson has dominated the year — he accounts for nine of the 17 wins among the final four drivers — but the elimination format playoffs that NASCAR introduced in 2014 has made the actual championship winner a crashout.

It's one thing to make it into the 16-driver playoff field. But getting to the championship, through three three rounds of elimination followed by a 10th race finale, is a chore that allows for very little error. Then winning the Cup? Just be best Sunday at Phoenix.

Hamlin agrees with the composition of the final four but also noted a different title format might have created a dramatic battle between himself and good friend Larson. Instead, both could lose in Phoenix.

"I've said for many, many weeks now that it would be a disservice if someone other than the two of us [won]. He's obviously probably the most deserving over the course of the year that he's had from start to finish," Hamlin said.

## Pesce's goal against Coyotes keeps Canes unbeaten

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Defense-man Brett Pesce scored a power-play goal with 2:27 left in regulation Sunday to keep the Carolina Hurricanes perfect this season with a 2-1 victory over the winless Arizona Coyotes.

The Hurricanes are 8-0-0, extending their best start to a season in franchise history.

Martin Necas scored the other goal and set up Pesce's goal. Frederik Andersen stopped 22 shots for his seventh win.

"We're going to have to grind," Hurricanes coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "It could have easily been a really frustrating game."

Rookie Karel Vejmelka made 37 saves for the Coyotes, and Christian Fischer had their only goal.

Pesce's first goal of the season made him the 14th Carolina play-

er with at least one goal.

"We're oozing confidence. We believe that we can win every game we're in," Pesce said. "The biggest thing for us was just sticking to our game plan. I thought it was a gutsy win for us."

It was the first game in NHL history between an undefeated team having played seven or more games against a winless team with at least seven games, according to NHL Stats.

**Blue Jackets 4, Devils 3 (SO):** Jakub Voracek scored the lone goal in a shootout and Joonas Korpisalo had 39 saves for visiting Columbus in its win over New Jersey.

Oliver Bjorkstrand, Patrik Laine and Boone Jenner also scored for Columbus. It was the team's first road victory of the season.

Andreas Johnsson, Dawson Mercer and Dougie Hamilton scored for the Devils, and Scott Wedgewood had 23 saves.

**Rangers 3, Kraken 1:** Adam Fox scored the go-ahead goal and Igor Shesterkin stopped 31 shots in visiting New York's win over Seattle.

After taking an early 1-0 lead, the Rangers shook off a long, lethargic stretch to win their franchise-record fifth road game in October. It's the most road wins New York has had in the first nine games of a season.

**Kings 3, Sabres 2:** Alex Iafallo scored with 6:19 to play as host Los Angeles rallied to beat Buffalo.

Iafallo buried Tobias Bjornfot's clever pass to the edge of the crease to give the Kings the lead at 13:41, extending his point streak to three games (three

goals, two assists), and the Kings won consecutive games for the first time this season.

Rasmus Asplund and Victor Olofsson each scored for the Sabres, which lost to a Western Conference team for the first time in four games.

**Ducks 4, Canadiens 2:** Ryan Getzlaf broke a tie with Teemu Selanne for Anaheim's career points record, assisting on Troy Terry's third-period goal in a victory over visiting Montreal.

Getzlaf set up Terry's power-play goal midway through the third with a tip pass near center ice to help the Ducks end a six-game winless streak.

The 36-year-old Getzlaf has 989 points in 1,111 games, all with the Ducks, on 279 goals and 710 assists. Selanne had 457 goals and 531 assists in 966 games with Anaheim.