

Firm wins \$6.2B military moving deal

By **WYATT OLSON**

Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department on Thursday awarded a \$6.2 billion contract to a Houston-based firm for managing the movement and storage of household goods for members of the military, Coast Guard and federal workforce.

HomeSafe Alliance LLC will provide “complete door-to-door” transportation of household goods, the U.S. Transportation Command said in a news release.

It represents the first time a single firm has handled household goods moves.

The contract runs Dec. 1 to Aug. 31, 2025. The earliest any moves will take place under the new contract would be late 2022, according to the release.

HomeSafe won the contract after disputing the original April 2020 award to American Roll-On Roll-Off Carrier Group. HomeSafe and another bidder, Connected Global Solutions LLC, appealed to the Government Accountability Office, which sustained their protest in

October 2020.

The command and HomeSafe will integrate their information technology systems and processes as part of the change-over for the roughly 325,000 annual shipments of household goods.

The selection of a single company to handle movement of all goods is intended to streamline a system that uses more than 900 commercial entities, the release said.

The change is driven by complaints by military families about delays in pickups and deliveries of goods and damage to items during transportation.

A 2020 analysis by the Department of Defense Inspector General found that a fifth of all domestic household goods shipments in 2018 had at least one damage claim. The analysis also concluded that the Transportation Command did not have reliable data to determine whether service members’ goods were being delivered on time or in fit condition.

The switch to contracting a single manager for shipments is a key part of the command’s reforms aimed at improving on those problems for the thousands of service members and Defense Department employees who relocate each year, the news release said.

“The long-term stability and consistent business this contract presents will provide industry with the confidence and rationale to make lasting capital investments and relationships with trusted suppliers to meet DOD’s demand,” Air Force Col. Joel Safranek, director of the Defense Personal Property Program, said in the release.

In October 2020, the GAO overturned the American Roll On Roll Off contract after concluding that the Transportation Command had “conducted misleading discussions with HomeSafe” and had inadequately evaluated the technical capabilities of the bidding firms, among other shortcomings in the bid evaluation process.

Nuclear sub leaders fired after probe

By **COREY DICKSTEIN**

Stars and Stripes

The Navy fired the USS Connecticut’s top officers and enlisted sailor on Thursday, days after an investigation found the nuclear-powered submarine was damaged last month when it struck an uncharted undersea mountain, according to the service.

Navy Vice Adm. Karl Thomas, the commander of the 7th Fleet, relieved Cmdr. Cameron Aljilani of his command of the submarine and removed Lt. Cmdr. Patrick Cashin and Master Chief Petty Officer Cory Rodgers from their duties as the vessel’s executive officer and chief, respectively, according to a Na-

vy statement. Thomas cited a “loss of confidence” in their leadership after an investigation into the Oct. 2 incident in which the fast-attack submarine was damaged when it struck the mountain, the Japan-based 7th Fleet said.

Thomas’ investigation, which had not been made public as of Thursday, appeared to find the collision was avoidable, according to the statement. The admiral “determined sound judgment, prudent decision-making and adherence to required procedures in navigation planning, watch-team execution and risk management could have prevented the incident,” the statement

reads.

Navy officials have provided few details about the underwater collision, in which the service initially said the submarine struck an “unidentified object” in Indo-Pacific waters. A service official last month said about a dozen sailors aboard suffered minor injuries, from which they were expected to fully recover. U.S. Naval Institute News reported the collision occurred in the South China Sea.

After the collision, the Connecticut traveled to Guam for damage assessment and initial repairs, defense officials said. It remains in Guam and will eventually travel to its

homeport at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Wash., for further repair, according to the statement on Thursday.

Navy Capt. John Witte will soon assume interim command of the submarine, the Navy said. Cmdr. Joe Sammur will assume duties as interim executive officer and Command Master Chief Petty Officer Paul Walters will assume duties as interim boat chief, the service said.

The Connecticut is one of three of the Navy’s Seawolf-class nuclear attack subs, which date back to the Cold War era. It had been deployed in the Indo-Pacific region since late May, according to the Navy.

Yokosuka adds 3rd floating barracks

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's newest berthing barge arrived recently at the home of the U.S. 7th Fleet to ease a shortage of living space for sailors whose ships are undergoing long-term maintenance.

Officially called an Auxiliary Personnel Lighter, but more commonly referred to as a "barracks ship" or "berthing barge," APL 67 is meant to provide housing for sailors whose ships are dry-docked or otherwise unavailable.

The 269-foot-long vessel can accommodate 609 sailors: 537 enlisted sailors, 44 chief petty

officers and 28 officers.

By mooring the barge near the vessel it supports, the ship's crew has a place to live close enough to respond to emergencies, said April Baird, a supervisor with U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center.

"The ready response teams and duty sections live onboard here," she told *Stars and Stripes* on Tuesday. "Also, if we have geo-bachelors who don't have housing on the base and habitability has been affected by [ship maintenance], then they have to live onboard the barge also."

No one lives aboard the new

barge just yet. It's moored in a dry dock while undergoing final preparations but should be in service by the end of December, Baird said.

But the barge offers more than just a place to sleep. It also provides a variety of amenities, including classrooms, mess halls, a convenience store, a barbershop, a clinic and a small gym.

Built for approximately \$40 million by VT Halter Marine in Pascagoula, Miss., the barge arrived in Yokosuka on Oct. 19. With no means of propulsion, it was hauled by tugboats first to San Diego in July, then for 36 days across the Pacific Ocean.

The barge provides more

space and amenities than the average warship, but its living spaces are still cramped and crowded. For example, compartments for enlisted sailors hold between 15 and 24 beds, with one or two bathrooms for each compartment depending on its size.

Sailors can expect to live aboard the barge four to nine months at a time, depending on their ship's maintenance schedule, Baird said.

APL 67 joins two other berthing barges in Yokosuka, YRB 30 and APL 40, both of which were built in 1945. Despite their age, they are expected to be in service another 10 years, Baird said.

N. Korea stages artillery drill in weapons testing

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has conducted artillery firing exercises to bolster its defense capability, state media reported Sunday, its latest weapons test as Pyongyang continues to pressure Washington and Seoul to abandon what it calls their hostile policy.

An artillery firing competition among mechanized units was held on Saturday, with senior government and military officials present, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

Leader Kim Jong Un was not mentioned in the report, suggesting he did not observe the training. He supervised a similar artillery firing drill last year.

This year's drills were designed to inspect the mechanized units' progress in their mobile combat capabilities and to

further intensify competitive training throughout the North's military, KCNA said.

Since September, North Korea has test-launched a series of newly developed missiles, including nuclear-capable weapons that place U.S. allies South Korea and Japan within striking distance. Some experts have said North Korea wants its rivals to accept it as a nuclear power state and work to ease international sanctions on the country.

The North's artillery tests draw less outside attention than its missile tests, particularly ballistic weapons launches that are banned by multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. But its long-range artillery pieces deployed near the border with South Korea pose a serious threat to the South's populous metropolitan region and other areas, experts have said.

Navy launches ship named for gay rights leader Milk

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Navy ship named for slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk, who served four years in the Navy before being forced out, was christened and launched in San Diego Bay on Saturday.

The replenishment oiler USNS Harvey Milk slid down the shipyard ways after a bottle of champagne was smashed on the bow by former Navy officer Paula M. Neira, clinical program director for the John Hopkins Center for Transgender Health.

Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk, and Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro watched the traditional ceremony.

"The secretary of the Navy needed to be here today, not just to amend the wrongs of the past, but to give inspiration to all of our LGBTQ community leaders who served in the Navy,

in uniform today and in the civilian workforce as well too, and to tell them that we're committed to them in the future," Del Toro said.

Del Toro said that, like many others, Milk had to "mask that very important part of his life" while he served in the Navy.

"For far too long, sailors like Lt. Milk were forced into the shadows or, worse yet, forced out of our beloved Navy," Del Toro said. "That injustice is part of our Navy history, but so is the perseverance of all who continue to serve in the face of injustice."

Milk was one of the first openly gay candidates elected to public office. He was serving on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in 1978 when a former political colleague, Dan White, assassinated him and Mayor George Moscone at City Hall.

What is changing with travel to US

Associated Press

More than a year and a half after COVID-19 concerns prompted the U.S. to close its borders to international travelers from countries including Brazil, China, India, South Africa, the United Kingdom and much of Europe, restrictions are shifting to focus on vaccine status.

Beginning Monday, bans on travel from specific countries are over. The U.S. will allow in international travelers, but they must be vaccinated — with a few exceptions.

The U.S. is also reopening the land borders with Canada and Mexico for vaccinated people. Most trips from Canada and Mexico to the U.S. are by land rather than air.

Here are some questions and answers about the changes:

Why are these changes happening?

The goal is to restore more normal travel while limiting the spread of COVID-19, the government says. The travel industry and European allies have pushed for an end to country-specific bans. Americans have been allowed to fly to Europe for months, and Europeans have been pushing the U.S. to change its policies.

What are the main requirements?

All adult foreign nationals traveling to the U.S. must be fully vaccinated before boarding their flight.

Like before, travelers will still have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken with-

in 72 hours of departure to the U.S.

Everyone needs to be vaccinated?

Yes, with some exceptions. Children under 18 don't need to be vaccinated but they do need to take a COVID test. Kids 2 and younger are exempt from testing requirements.

What about adults who aren't vaccinated?

Since half the world remains unvaccinated, and vaccine distribution has been so skewed to rich countries, the Biden administration is leaving a loophole for people who live in countries where vaccines are scarce. That list includes about 50 countries where fewer than 10% of people have been vaccinated.

Travelers from those countries will need permission from the U.S. government to come, and it can't be just for tourism or business travel.

The U.S. government says it will permit unvaccinated international visitors to enter the country if there is a humanitarian or emergency reason, such as an emergency medical evacuation.

What will Americans have to do?

Americans who are unvaccinated have to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within one day of international travel.

If you're vaccinated, you need to take a test within three days of your departure, for both Americans and citizens of other countries.

Appeals court stays Biden's vaccine requirement on larger businesses

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court on Saturday temporarily halted the Biden administration's vaccine requirement for businesses with 100 or more workers.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals granted an emergency stay of the requirement by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration that those workers be vaccinated by Jan. 4 or face mask requirements and weekly tests.

Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry said the action stops President Joe Biden "from moving forward with his unlawful overreach."

The U.S. Labor Department's top legal adviser, Solicitor of Labor Seema Nanda, said the department is "confident in its legal authority to issue the emergency temporary standard on vaccination and testing."

OSHA has the authority "to act quickly in an emergency where the agency finds that workers are subjected to a grave danger and a new standard is necessary to protect them," she said.

A spokesman for the Justice Department,

Anthony Coley, said in a statement: "The OSHA emergency temporary standard is a critical tool to keep America's workplaces safe as we fight our way out of this pandemic. The Justice Department will vigorously defend this rule in court."

Such circuit decisions normally apply to states within a district — Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, in this case — but Landry said the language employed by the judges gave the decision a national scope.

"This is a great victory for the American people out there. Never before has the federal government tried in a such a forceful way to get between the choices of an American citizen and their doctor. To me that's the heart of the entire issue," he said.

At least 27 states filed lawsuits challenging the rule in several circuits, some of which were made more conservative by the judicial appointments of President Donald Trump.

The administration says it is confident that the requirement, which includes penalties of nearly \$14,000 per violation, will withstand legal challenges in part because its safety rules preempt state laws.

High wind delays SpaceX crews' trip back home

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — High wind off the Florida coast has prompted SpaceX to delay the return of four space station astronauts in orbit since spring.

The U.S., French and Japanese astronauts were supposed to leave the International Space Station on Sunday, with their capsule splashing down in the Gulf of Mexico on Monday morning. But with gusts exceeding safety limits, SpaceX bumped the departure to Monday afternoon, with a nighttime return to conclude their six-month mission.

SpaceX still is aiming for a Wednesday night launch, at the earliest, of their replacements. This flight also has been delayed by bad weather, as well as an astronaut's undisclosed medical issue. The issue, described as minor, should be resolved by launch time, officials said.

Last week, SpaceX and NASA flipped the order of the launch and landing because of the deteriorating weather and the looming deadline to get the capsule back.

Iraq PM survives failed assassination attempt

Associated Press

BAGHDAD— Troops were deployed around Baghdad on Sunday following the failed assassination attempt with armed drones that targeted the residence of Iraq's prime minister. The attack significantly ramped up tensions sparked by the refusal of Iran-backed militias to accept last month's parliamentary election results.

Seven of Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi's security guards were wounded in the attack by at least two armed drones in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone area, according to two Iraqi officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give official statements.

Al-Kadhimi was unharmed. He later appeared on Iraqi television, seated behind a desk in a white shirt, looking calm and composed. His left hand appeared to be wrapped in a bandage, which an aide confirmed was covering a light cut.

"Cowardly rocket and drone attacks don't build homelands and don't build a future," he said. Later on Sunday, he received Iraqi President Barham Salih and headed a government security meeting.

Residents of Baghdad heard the sound of an explosion followed by heavy gunfire from the direction of the Green Zone, which houses foreign embassies and government offices. Handout photos showed the damage in al-Kadhimi's residence, including smashed windows and doors blown off their hinges.

There was no claim for the attack, but suspicion immediately fell on Iran-backed

militias who had been publicly attacking al-Kadhimi and issuing threats. It came amid a stand-off between security forces and the pro-Iran Shiite militias whose supporters have been camped outside the Green Zone for nearly a month. They gathered after rejecting the results of Iraq's parliamentary elections, in which they lost around two-thirds of their seats.

Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool, spokesman for al-Kadhimi and Iraq's commander in chief, told the Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV that the drone flew in from southeast Baghdad at low altitude and could not be detected by defensive systems.

"The assassination attempt is a dramatic escalation, crossing a line in unprecedented fashion that may have violent reverberations," wrote Ranj Alaaldin, a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution, in a post on Twitter.

Some of the leaders of the most powerful militia factions loyal to Iran openly blamed al-Kadhimi for Friday's clashes and a protester's death.

Qais al-Khazali, leader of the Asaib Ahl al-Haq militia, in a statement Sunday, suggested the militias were being framed, calling for an investigation and for the punishment of the perpetrators.

Influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who won the largest number of parliament seats in the Oct. 10 elections, denounced the "terrorist attack," which he said seeks to return Iraq to the lawlessness and chaos of the past. While al-Sadr maintains good relations with Iran, he publicly opposes external interference in Iraq's affairs.

Iran military starts yearly war games

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's military began its annual war games in a coastal area of the Gulf of Oman, state TV reported Sunday, less than a month before upcoming nuclear talks with the West.

The report said navy and air force units, as well as ground forces, were participating in a more than 386,100 square-mile area east of the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Nearly 20% of all oil shipping passes through the strait to the Gulf of Oman and Indian Ocean.

State TV said brigades including commandos and airborne infantry deployed for the annual exercise. Fighter jets, helicopters, military transport aircraft, submarines and drones were also expected to take part in the drill. It wasn't immediately clear how long the exercise would last.

Dubbed "Zolfaghar-1400," the war games are aimed at "improving readiness in confronting foreign threats and any possible invasion," state TV said.

The drill comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the United States in the wake of former President Donald Trump's unilateral withdrawal of America from Iran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

The deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or JCPOA, promises Iran economic incentives in exchange for limits on its nuclear program, and is meant to prevent Tehran from developing a nuclear bomb.

After the U.S. withdrew from the deal in 2018 and restored sanctions on Iran, the Islamic Republic gradually — and publicly — abandoned the deal's limits on its nuclear development.

Boat with 800 migrants lands in Sicilian port

Associated Press

ROME — A German humanitarian ship with more than 800 rescued migrants, including 15 very young children, steamed into a Sicilian port on Sunday after being granted permission by Italian authorities following days of waiting in the Mediterranean Sea.

The charity group Sea-Eye said the vessel Sea-Eye 4 was assigned to the port of Trapani, in western Sicily, on Saturday evening.

Most of the adults were to be transferred to other ships for preventative quarantine against COVID-19, while some 160 minors, including babies and other children younger than 4, were to be taken to shelters on land.

Many of the passengers came from countries in West Africa, Egypt or Morocco, said Giovanna di Benedetto, an official from Save the Children in Italy.

Shouts of joy from those aboard Sea-Eye 4

could be heard on Trapani's dock as the vessel drew near, SkyTG24 TV reported.

About half of the migrants were rescued from a sinking wooden boat on Nov. 4, while the other passengers had been plucked to safety from the sea in separate operations.

Sea-Eye officials had lamented that Malta, a European Union island nation in the central Mediterranean, hadn't responded to the wooden boat's distress signal in the Maltese search-and-rescue area.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man burst into flames after Taser used on him

NY CATSKILL — An upstate New York man was in grave condition at a hospital after police used a Taser to subdue him and he burst into flames, authorities said.

The Times Union of Albany reported that a 29-year-old man walked into the Catskill village police department and got into a confrontation with officers. Chief Dave Darling confirmed to the newspaper that officers deployed a Taser to subdue the man, who had just doused himself with hand sanitizer, and the man then burst into flames.

Darling said the officers were familiar with the man from previous encounters.

"I think they were afraid he was going to hurt himself, and that's what started it," Darling said.

Man convicted of giving illegal autopsies

KS ALMA — A Kansas man has been convicted of six counts related to illegally performing autopsies in Wabaunsee County, Kan., Attorney General Derek Schmidt said.

Shawn Parcells, 42, who lived in Leawood and Topeka, was convicted of three counts of felony theft and three misdemeanor counts of criminal desecration.

Parcells, a self-taught pathology assistant with no formal education, was convicted of unlawfully obtaining money from the county to perform three autopsies and of performing three autopsies without a pathologist, which violates state law.

Schmidt alleges in a lawsuit he filed in 2019 that Parcells duped at least 82 consumers.

Woman arrested in murder-for-hire plot

MS JACKSON — A central Mississippi woman has been arrested for her involvement in an attempted murder-for-hire plot.

Jessica Leeann Sledge, 39, of Pelahatchie, is charged with the use of interstate commerce facility in the commission of murder-for-hire, Acting U.S. Attorney Darren J. LaMarca announced in a press release.

Court documents allege that between September 2021 and Nov. 1, Sledge tried to hire a hitman on the internet with the intent to hire an assassin to murder someone in Mississippi. Unknown to Sledge, the "hitman" she hired to commit murder was an FBI Special Agent. The intended victim was unharmed.

Postal worker abducted over missing cocaine

RI PROVIDENCE — Four men face charges in Rhode Island after authorities said they kidnapped a postal worker who they mistakenly believed had stolen a shipment of their cocaine.

The Boston Globe reported the men were engaged in a scheme to ship drugs from Puerto Rico to Rhode Island and became convinced the mailman had stolen one of their packages. They held the man at gunpoint and forced him to take them to his home, but released him when they realized their error.

The incident was reported to police, who uncovered the

larger plot to import drugs.

Remains found belong to teen missing 40 years

MA BILLERICA — Human remains found in a Massachusetts river have been positively identified as those of a 17-year-old girl who went missing almost 40 years ago, authorities said.

The remains were confirmed as belonging to Judith Chartier through dental records, according to a statement from the office of Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan.

The remains were found in the Concord River in Billerica in 10 feet of water about 15 to 20 yards from shore, the day after pieces of the car Chartier was driving the night she disappeared were located in the water. Divers also found clothing and Chartier's laminated work ID.

Chartier, who lived in Chelmsford, was last seen at around 2 a.m. on June 5, 1982, when she left a party in Billerica, authorities said.

The state medical examiner's office and a forensic anthropologist will now work with the district attorney's office to reconstruct the remains in an attempt to determine a cause of death, Ryan said.

Man shooting air rifle at squirrel injures driver

IA IOWA CITY — An Iowa City man shooting at a squirrel in his yard with an air rifle unintentionally shot and wounded a man from Missouri who was driving by at the time, law enforcement authorities said.

Philip Olson, 69, of Iowa City,

turned himself in to police after hearing about the man being injured, Iowa City police and the Johnson County prosecutor's office said.

Olson said he was shooting at the squirrel from inside his home and missed.

Police found a 20-year-old man inside a vehicle that had crashed. He appeared to be suffering from a gunshot wound to the head.

The man's family identified him as Gabriel Heefner, of Kirkwood, Mo., a lance corporal in the Marines, who was visiting his grandparents, The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported. Heefner was taken to a hospital and remained hospitalized Friday.

Cop hit by truck fleeing shoplifting, 3 arrested

CT NAUGATUCK — Three people have been arrested after a pickup truck fleeing a shoplifting incident struck and wounded a Connecticut police officer before leading authorities on a multi-town chase.

Naugatuck police said a local officer was directing traffic at a construction site on Route 63 when the truck sped up and struck him after he signaled it to stop. The officer, who managed to call for help on his radio, was hospitalized with two broken legs and will need surgery, authorities said.

The pickup had fled a shoplifting incident at a Walmart in Naugatuck, police said.

During the pursuit, police said people in the truck threw out drugs, money and a pistol.

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Law, Army overcomes Air Force in OT

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Jordyn Law recovered teammate Christian Anderson's fumble at the goal line for an overtime touchdown and Army defeated Air Force 21-14 on Saturday.

After Law's game-saving recovery, the Black Knights (5-3) denied the Falcons (6-3) the end zone when Jabari Moore broke up Haaziq Daniels' fourth-down pass.

"I got lucky," Anderson said. "We never stopped battling at the end. We just executed when we needed to. It feels really good. It's definitely nerve-racking having it come down to the last drive."

The victory means Army can

do no worse than a tie for the Commander-in-Chief's Trophy, which goes to the service academy with the best record in round-robin competition. The Black Knights will retain the prize whether they win or lose against Navy in December as Air Force defeated the Midshipmen earlier this season. Army came in having won three of the past four trophies.

"That trophy that we're fighting for, every team is desperate to win it to get it in their trophy case," Black Knights coach Jeff Monken said. "I am really proud of these guys."

The Falcons tied the game on Matthew Depore's second field goal of the game, a 30-

yarder with 23 seconds left in regulation. They had reached the Army 11 before a 15-yard chop-block penalty stalled the drive.

After a scoreless first half, the Black Knights took the second-half kickoff and with the help of a 39-yard pass from Tyhler Tyler to Tyrell Robinson, scored on Tyler's 9-yard run. Air Force responded with Depore's 39-yard field goal and Army came right back with a 79-yard pass play from Christian Anderson to Robinson and a 13-3 lead after three quarters.

The Falcons closed the gap to 14-9 early in the fourth on Daniels' 4-yard toss to Dane Kinamon with the key play on

the drive a 31-yard completion to David Cormier.

Air Force and the Black Knights came in as the nation's top two rushing teams but turned to the pass in the second half. The Falcons outgained Army 401-322 in total yards, including 226-214 in the air. Robinson had 118 yards receiving for the Black Knights while Brandon Lewis had 106 for Air Force.

"When we throw the ball and have to throw the ball, it's usually not a great formula for us to win because we are a running football team," Monken said. "We try to control the clock and keep away from the other team."

No. 8 Irish ride Coan's arm, defense to win over Navy

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — After getting an earful from Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly, Jack Coan delivered the big blow — a 70-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Austin at the end of the first half — and the No. 8 Fighting Irish shut down Navy's triple-option attack in a 34-6 victory Saturday.

"Coach was screaming at me because it was open the play before," said Coan, a grad transfer from Wisconsin who completed 23 of 29 passes for 269 yards. "He told me to throw it there, so that's exactly what I did. I followed his plan. When you can get the ball to a guy like Kevin Austin, he can take it the distance every time."

The touchdown play ended a 5-play, 95-yard scoring drive that took one minute to complete and it provided a 17-3 halftime lead for the Irish (8-1, No. 10 CFP). It was one of six receptions for Austin, who totaled 139 yards for the game.

"It's a difficult game to prepare for," Kelly said after Notre Dame's fourth straight victory of the season after its 24-13 loss

Oct. 2 to No. 2 (CFP No. 6) Cincinnati, a team that the Midshipmen battled to a 27-20 home loss Oct. 23. "I'm extremely proud how the team prepared all week and the way they executed. We were detailed and focused."

Kyren Williams ran for 95 yards and two scores as the Irish offense totaled 430 yards. Williams, who had a career-high 199 yards last week in a 44-34 shoot-out victory over North Carolina, scored on runs of 1 and 20 yards.

Grad nose tackle Kurt Hinish had a career-high 10 tackles after making just 14 in six games coming in. Notre Dame dominated Navy (2-7) with its size and physical play. The Midshipmen controlled the clock, with 34:33 of possession — but completed just one pass for 18 yards and rushed for 166 yards — 73 on 22 carries by fullback Isaac Ruoss.

"We couldn't run the ball in the first half, and in the second half we had a hard time tackling," Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. "We got worn down."

It was the Irish's fourth straight victory in the series that began in 1927 but was interrupted last year by the COVID-19

pandemic. Notre Dame has an 80-13-1 lead in the series that will continue at least through 2032.

The Midshipmen led 3-0 after the first quarter on the first of two field goals by Bijan Nichols. But the Irish scored 17 points in the second quarter — Jonathan Doerer's tying field goal, Williams' 1-yard TD run and the Coan-to-Austin's touchdown aerial with 50 seconds remaining — for a 17-3 halftime lead.

"Giving up that late touchdown (in the first half) was tough because we deferred," Niumatalolo said.

Notre Dame got a safety when Navy backup quarterback Xavier Arline, replacing injured starter Tai Lavatai, recovered his own fumble in the end zone early in the fourth quarter. Williams then recovered his goal-line fumble in the end zone to finish off his 20-yard scoring scamper. Freshman Logan Diggs completed the scoring with an 8-yard run.

The takeaway

Navy: The Midshipmen struggled against Notre Dame's physical front four. Back-to-back quarterback sacks of Lavatai by

Hinish and Jordan Botelho forced Navy to settle for a 49-yard field goal by Nichols and a 3-0 first-quarter lead.

Lavatai then suffered a neck injury late in the second quarter and didn't return. Arline replaced him and completed one of two passes for 18 yards but managed just eight yards on eight carries.

"We ate up so much clock and came away with nothing," Niumatalolo said after the Midshipmen managed just two field goals with its time of possession advantage.

Notre Dame: After being held scoreless in the first quarter, the Irish outgained the Midshipmen 225-12 yards in the second quarter, including 158-0 through the air while scoring 17 straight points behind quarterbacks Coan and freshman Tyler Buchner, who alternated over the last three quarters.

Coan had two big completions to Austin in the first half — a 38-yarder completion to set up Doerer's tying 24-yard field goal and then their 70-yard completion that put the Irish up 17-3 with 50 seconds left.

No. 3 Alabama holds on to beat surprising LSU

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Alabama was living dangerously, with a missed extra point, a nonexistent running game and a lead repeatedly in jeopardy.

The third-ranked Crimson Tide's defense kept turning away heavy underdog LSU late and Bryce Young passed for 302 yards to survive for a 20-14 victory on Saturday night.

"Sometimes we have an expectation that we're going to win easy, but sometimes it's not so easy," Alabama coach Nick Saban said.

The Crimson Tide (8-1, 5-1 Southeastern Conference, No. 2 CFP) preserved their national championship hopes in a game that was as tight as some meetings when both were nursing such ambitions. The injury-depleted Tigers (4-5, 2-4) and lame-duck coach Ed Orgeron didn't act like 29.5-point

underdogs, which they were according to FanDuel Sportsbook.

It wasn't over until the final play, a Hail Mary that fell incomplete in the end zone. LSU came up empty in three fourth-quarter trips into Alabama territory, including that quick venture to the 30 in the final minute.

Young, the Heisman Trophy front-runner, completed 24 of 37 passes with a couple of touchdowns, including a 58-yarder to Jameson Williams. Williams caught 10 passes for 160 yards. The Tigers harried Young all night and held Brian Robinson Jr. to 18 yards on 13 carries for a team that netted 6 yards on the ground, thanks largely to sacks.

But the Crimson Tide returned the favor with Will Anderson Jr. racking up 12 tackles, 1½ sacks and four tackles for loss.

"Relentless effort, that's all I can say," Anderson said about the defensive performance. "It was relentless effort."

No. 7 Ducks rally past Washington

Associated Press

SEATTLE — By the time the final seconds ticked away, most of the purple had vacated, leaving Oregon to once again dance around the field and celebrate in the stands of arguably its most-heated rival.

On a windy, rainy night the seventh-ranked Ducks showed a bit more "prowess" — the word of the week in this rivalry — than Washington.

"Proud of the way our guys came out and showed our prowess in handling inclement weather," Oregon coach Mario Cristobal said. "We continued to play hard throughout the entire game making sure every crit-

ical situation our team responded really well."

Travis Dye rushed for a career-high 211 yards and a touchdown, Anthony Brown ran for a score and passed for another and the Ducks overcame a sluggish start to beat Washington 26-16 on Saturday night.

A year after the rivals didn't play due to a COVID-19 outbreak within the Huskies program, Oregon (8-1, 5-1 Pac-12) fell behind early before scoring 21 straight points to beat Washington for the seventh time in the past eight games played in Seattle.

"The 'W' means everything to me. The performance is just a plus," Dye said.

No. 2 Cincinnati holds off Tulsa, improves to 9-0

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Tulsa's Steven Anderson fumbled as he was reaching for the goal line on fourth-and-goal from the 1, Jabari Taylor recovered for a touchback and No. 2 Cincinnati held off Tulsa 28-20 on Saturday.

Desmond Ridder threw for 274 yards and two touchdowns, and Alec Pierce had five catches for 113 yards and a touchdown to help the Bearcats (9-0, 5-0 American Athletic) extend the nation's second-longest home winning streak to 25 games.

"Well, that was a wild one," Bearcats coach Luke Fickell said. "It's about winning against a team that is a much better football team than their record shows."

Shamari Brooks ran for 132 yards for Tulsa (3-6, 2-3). Anthony Watkins added 105.

When the Golden Hurricane was stopped short on fourth down at the 4, it appeared Cincinnati would run out the clock. But Ridder fumbled on a sneak, giving Tulsa life.

"The snap slid right through my hands," Ridder said. "No excuses. Shout out to the defense for saving my butt there."

Anderson gave it back on the fourth-and-goal play from the 1.

"It's a tough, tough way to lose," Golden Hurricane coach Philip Montgomery said. "We get the ball back, we've got to get it in the end zone."

The Bearcats beat Tulsa 27-24 on a last-second field goal in the AAC championship game last season.

The game Saturday didn't feel like it would be that close when rushing TDs by Ridder and Jerome Ford put the Bearcats ahead 14-0.

The Bearcats had a rough series in the second quarter when Ridder was sacked twice and leading rusher Jerome Ford was helped off with an apparent left leg injury. He did not return.

Álvarez tops Plant to unify super middleweight titles

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — With a destructive barrage of power punches in the waning minutes of a difficult fight, Canelo Álvarez added another achievement to his overflowing list of boxing accomplishments.

The Mexican pound-for-pound superstar is the undisputed super middleweight champion of the world.

Álvarez became the first four-belt world champion at 168 pounds in boxing history Saturday night, stopping Caleb Plant in the 11th with two dramatic knockdowns.

Álvarez (57-1-2, 39 KOs) added Plant's IBF title to his own WBC, WBA and WBO belts with a steady tactical performance culminating in a display of his vaunted power to finish the previously unbeaten Plant at

the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Álvarez is generally recognized as the top fighter in the world regardless of weight class, and now he has complete dominance in one weight class. He became the sixth man to be a four-belt champion, and he joined junior welterweight Josh Taylor as the only current undisputed champs of their weight class.

76ers top Bulls again, run streak to 6

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Joel Embiid had 30 points and 15 rebounds to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to their sixth straight victory, 114-105 over the Chicago Bulls on Saturday night.

Furkan Korkmaz matched his career best with seven three-pointers and added 25 points for Philadelphia, which topped Chicago for the second time in four nights.

Zach LaVine had 32 points and DeMar DeRozan added 25 for Chicago.

The Bulls led 97-96 after LaVine ended a 10-0 run with a three-pointer with 5:48 to play, but Embiid answered with a three a minute later and the Sixers never trailed again. Korkmaz gave Philadelphia a bit of a cushion with his final three-pointer with 3:03 left and Chicago played catch-up the rest of the way.

Embiid finished the Bulls with the last of his four three-pointers with 15 seconds left.

Trail Blazers 105, Lakers 90: Damian Lillard scored 25 points before sitting out the

fourth quarter and host Portland took advantage of short-handed Los Angeles.

Jusuf Nurkic added 15 points and 17 rebounds for the Blazers, who led by as many as 34 points despite playing the second of a back-to-back.

Suns 121, Hawks 117: Devin Booker scored 38 points, Frank Kaminsky added 16 off the bench and Phoenix rallied from a 12-point deficit in the fourth quarter to beat visiting Atlanta.

Young led the Hawks with 31 points and 13 assists. John Collins added 26 points and 10 rebounds.

Mavericks 107, Celtics 104: Luka Doncic hit a high-arching three-pointer at the buzzer, another magical moment for the All-Star to give host Dallas a victory over Boston.

Doncic finished with 33 points to 32 for fellow All-Star Jayson Tatum, who bounced back from two rough shooting nights to help the Celtics rally from a 17-point halftime deficit.

Heat 118, Jazz 115: Tyler Herro scored 29 points, Kyle Lowry had his 19th triple-double and Miami held off visiting Utah.

The Heat led by 19 points with 5 minutes remaining but the victory wasn't assured until Donovan Mitchell missed a three-pointer in the closing seconds.

Lowry finished with 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists. Jimmy Butler scored 27 points for Miami.

Mitchell finished with 37 points and Mike Conley added 18.

Nuggets 95, Rockets 94: Nikola Jokic blocked Jae'Sean Tate's drive to the basket as time ran out and short-handed host Denver escaped with a victory over Houston.

Jokic finished with 28 points and 14 rebounds as the Nuggets won despite the absence of forward Michael Porter Jr.

Porter left the game with 4:50 remaining in the first quarter and didn't return because of what the team called lower back soreness.

Panthers tie record, end Hurricanes' winning streak

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Florida Panthers matched the best 11-game start in NHL history and denied the Carolina Hurricanes what would have been a league record-tying start of their own, with Anthony Duclair getting two goals and two assists in a 5-2 victory on Saturday night.

Spencer Knight made 28 saves for Florida (10-0-1), which tied the 1994-95 Pittsburgh Penguins and 2006-07 Buffalo Sabres as the only NHL teams to reach 21 points after 11 games.

Carolina (9-1-0) was bidding to join the 1993-94 Toronto Maple Leafs and those '06-07 Sabres as the lone teams to start a season 10-0-0. The Hurricanes hadn't trailed by more than two goals in any of their first nine games, but were down 4-0 in the first period against Florida and couldn't pull off a comeback.

It was the first game in NHL history pitting two teams with season-opening point streaks of at least nine games.

Frank Vatrano, Anton Lundell and Patric Hornqvist also had

goals for Florida, which got two assists from Carter Verhaeghe and Brandon Montour. Duclair had all three of his points in the first period, sparking Florida's 4-0 game-opening burst.

Hurricanes goalie Frederik Andersen was pulled after the first period, having given up four goals on 14 shots. But he returned midway through the second when Antti Raanta had to leave the game following a collision with Florida's Ryan Lomberg. Andersen ended up with 24 saves, and Raanta had four.

Vincent Trocheck had a goal and an assist for Carolina, and Jesper Fast also scored for the Hurricanes.

Coyotes 5, Kraken 4: Lawson Crouse scored two goals, including the game-winner with 1:05 remaining, to give host Arizona its first win of the season.

The Coyotes avoided breaking the franchise record for most losses to start a season, set in 2017-18. The only team with a worse start in NHL history was the 1943-44 New York Rangers, who lost their first 11 and didn't get their

first win until their 16th game.

The lead changes came quick at the end of the third period Saturday. Phil Kessel's power play goal with 6 minutes to play put Arizona on top, then Seattle's Mark Giordano tied the game — just 13 seconds before Crouse's goal.

Red Wings 4, Sabres 3 (OT): Moritz Seider scored 3:45 into overtime and Tyler Bertuzzi had two goals and two assists in Detroit's win at Buffalo.

Rookie Lucas Raymond had three assists and Pius Suter added a goal and an assist for the Red Wings.

Devils 3, Sharks 2 (SO): Damon Severson scored in the third round of a shootout to help New Jersey snap a three-game skid with a win at San Jose.

Flyers 2, Capitals 1: Derick Brassard and Sean Couturier scored in the second period and Martin Jones stopped 31 shots as Philadelphia won at Washington.

Golden Knights 5, Canadiens 2: Alex Pietrangelo and Chandler Stephenson each had a goal and an assist, and Las Vegas rallied to

win at Montreal.

Blue Jackets 4, Avalanche 2: Host Columbus stretched its winning streak to three games by beating Colorado with a three-goal third period.

Maple Leafs 5, Bruins 2: Auston Matthews and John Tavares had two goals as Toronto picked up its fifth straight victory by defeating visiting Boston.

Flames 6, Rangers 0: Johnny Gaudreau had two goals and an assist, Jacob Markstrom made 22 saves for his league-best fourth shutout of the season and Calgary extended its point streak to 10 games with a win over visiting New York.

Islanders 2, Jets 0: Anders Lee and Brock Nelson scored and Ilya Sorokin made 24 saves as New York ended Winnipeg's undefeated string at home.

Lightning 5, Senators 3: Steven Stamkos scored his sixth goal of the season to break a tie midway through the third period and Ondrej Palat added the game-winner with under two minutes to play as Tampa Bay won at Ottawa.