

# STARS AND STRIPES®

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2021

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## Sailors denied an exemption have 5 days to comply

By **WYATT OLSON**  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Navy will give sailors who receive no exemption to the coronavirus vaccine mandate five days to start receiving their shots before facing separation from the service, according to official guidance to commanders Monday.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in August ordered that all service members be vaccinated against the coronavirus but left the timeframe up to individual services. Last month, the Navy said it would discharge sailors who refuse the vaccine unless they are given an exemption after the Nov. 28 deadline.

"In order to ensure a fully vaccinated force, it is U.S. Navy policy to separate all Navy service

members who refuse the lawful order to receive the COVID-19 vaccination," Vice Adm. John Nowell Jr., the chief of naval personnel, said in a news release Monday.

"The least favorable characterization of service for Navy service members refusing the vaccine, without extenuating circumstances, will be GENERAL (under honorable conditions)," Nowell said.

The guidance suggested that extenuating circumstances could lead to a more favorable level of separation but did not elaborate on the details. The Navy is reviewing requests by sailors for medical and religious exceptions to the COVID-19 vaccination.

"Sailors requesting these ex-

emptions will not be processed for separation or be subject to administrative consequences for refusal while their request is being adjudicated," the news release said.

The service has not announced how many sailors have requested or received exemptions.

About 95% of the Navy's active-duty force is fully vaccinated, with more than 99% having received at least one shot of a two-shot series, according to the release. The Navy has roughly 350,000 active-duty sailors.

If a sailor fails to start vaccinations five days after being denied an exemption, commanders are directed to begin processing the discharge.

"Decisions on whether to sus-

pend or go ahead with separation after that deadline will be made by the Navy's Consolidated Disposition Authority," the news release said.

Commanders have the option of temporarily reassigning sailors with pending exemption requests — based on readiness and mission requirements — but must first get approval from the first flag officer in their chain of command, according to the release.

Sailors receiving a general discharge could lose eligibility for some benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs, such as the GI Bill, the news release said.

Sailors separated for refusing the vaccine would not be eligible to reenlist, the news release said.

## USAF employee's efforts led to couple's \$300K tax bill

By **JOHN VANDIVER**  
*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — The German tax collectors wanted to know it all: commissary expenditures, on-base gasoline purchases, visits to a Ramstein Air Base fitness center and discounted airline flights to the United States.

And special agent Dirk Roessling, a German employee of the U.S. Air Force's Office of Special Investigations at Ramstein, obliged in a five-page report that ended up being used against a U.S. military-affiliated family in tax court.

The report shows a U.S. military agency collaborating with German authorities to collect German income tax penalties on U.S. military paychecks — a practice the State Department considers a violation of a multinational treaty.

"It felt like there was a mole on

the inside," said the American, who worked as a military civilian at Ramstein under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement before moving to the U.S. in 2020.

Added his German wife: "They knew everything. I feel like they are Stasi people working there," a reference to the secret police of communist East Germany during the Cold War.

The couple, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of being retargeted by collectors, are among an untold number of Americans connected to the military in Germany who have been financially ruined by local tax offices.

The amount they paid, much of it related to penalties connected to so-called base "privileges," was 248,452.99 euros, or roughly \$300,000, the couple said.

The cooperation of the Air Force's OSI branch at Ramstein came to light after Stars and

Stripes was provided a copy of the purchase records covering four years that Roessling sent the Neustadt finance department in 2018. The Neustadt office is where Rheinland-Pfalz tax dispute cases are litigated.

The couple lost their case in tax court in Neustadt in 2020. The court determined that the American wasn't in Germany "solely" for his job and that he had no intention of returning to the U.S., where he now lives, the family said.

Mike Goff, a retired Air Force senior master sergeant who serves as an advocate for the affected military community in Germany, said he was "astounded" that any U.S. military office handed over information about on-base purchases by a SOFA-protected American "to share with a foreign country's most feared agency."

U.S. Air Forces in Europe said

in a statement that the Air Force Office of Special Investigations "does not comment on pending legal matters."

Roessling did not respond to a request for comment.

The dispute centers on how to interpret the NATO treaty, which puts the pay and benefits of those with military visas off-limits to local tax collectors.

No other country with large concentrations of U.S. forces, including Italy, the United Kingdom, Japan and South Korea, has tried to collect income tax on military paychecks, which are already taxed by the U.S. government. But some German authorities say the treaty leaves the door open to taxing Americans who have personal reasons for being in Germany. Being married to a German, sending children to local schools or having lengthy tours of duty are some factors considered in tax liability cases.

# Iranian helo flies close to USS Essex

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — An Iranian navy helicopter on Thursday flew within 25 yards of the USS Essex, which was cruising through international waters in the Gulf of Oman, chief Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said Monday.

The state-owned helicopter flew close to the ship's port side and, at one point, "as low as about 10 feet off the surface of the ocean," Kirby said.

The helicopter circled the 820-foot-long ship three times before leaving. The Essex is a

Wasp-class amphibious assault ship.

"Without getting into specifics, the crew of the Essex took the appropriate force protection measures that they felt they needed to and they acted in accordance with international law," Kirby said. "There was no impact ultimately to the Essex's transit or its operations, but that doesn't mean that this wasn't an unsafe and unprofessional act."

Kirby also called the incident "dangerous" because U.S. ship commanders "have the right of self-defense."

"When you have another armed force — in this case, the Iranian navy — that flies like

this, you definitely run the risk of some sort of escalation and a miscalculation on either side here, and that's not helpful," he said. "This one ended peacefully, but it doesn't mean it was safe and professional. It absolutely wasn't."

Tensions between the United States and Iran are long-standing and incidents like Thursday's are not uncommon. In April and May, the U.S. fired warning shots to warn off Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels that approached Navy and Coast Guard ships at high speeds.

Iranian officials have not said why the helicopter flew so close to the Essex.

## 2nd delay of hearing for sailor charged in ship fire

*The San Diego Union-Tribune*

SAN DIEGO — A preliminary hearing for the sailor charged with starting a fire that destroyed a \$1 billion Navy warship in San Diego last year has been postponed until December, the Navy said Monday. It is the second time the military hearing, originally scheduled for October then pushed to November, has been delayed.

Seaman Apprentice Ryan Mays, 20, was charged with aggravated arson and hazarding a vessel in connection with the July 2020 blaze on the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard. Court documents suggest Mays was identified by other sailors on

board as being in the vicinity of the ship's lower vehicle storage area, where Navy investigators say the fire started.

The hearing, called an Article 32, functions as a type of grand jury in the military, although evidence is weighed by a single hearing officer as opposed to the group of people serving on civilian grand juries. The hearing officer will then make recommendations to a Navy admiral, in this case the commander of the San Diego-based 3rd Fleet, on whether there is enough evidence to proceed with a criminal trial.

While one junior sailor is charged with starting the blaze, two recent Navy investi-

gations list a series of leadership and training failures on the San Diego waterfront as contributing to the ship's vulnerability to fire at the time. Thirty-six Navy leaders and civilian Navy officials were found by the service to bear some culpability in the fire.

A Pacific Fleet-led consolidated disposition authority is evaluating those officials and will dole out whatever punishments — if any — that are warranted, Navy leaders have said.

Mays' hearing is tentatively scheduled for the week of Dec. 13, although no specific date has been set, said Cmdr. Sean Robertson, a 3rd Fleet spokesperson.

## Officer guilty of hiding ties to Chinese businessman

*Bloomberg*

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — A Florida-based U.S. Navy flight officer has been convicted of buying guns for a Chinese businessman who was later convicted of export crimes.

Lt. Fan Yang, 36, also lied about his relationship with the businessman on security forms, authorities said.

Yang was found guilty Friday in Jacksonville federal court of conspiring to violate U.S. firearms laws, making false written statements to federally licensed firearms dealers during the purchase of two firearms and making false written statements as part of a security clearance background investigation, according to court records. The Chi-

nese-born American citizen faces up to 30 years in prison at a sentencing hearing scheduled for March 16.

Before becoming a commissioned naval officer, Yang formed a relationship online with Ge Songtao, a citizen of the People's Republic of China, according to an indictment. They eventually met in person in 2013, while Yang was in Navy flight training in Pensacola, prosecutors said. In 2017 and again in 2018, Yang purchased two handguns for Ge Songtao, who later reimbursed the naval officer. In both cases, investigators said Yang completed a Firearms Transactions Record where he falsely represented that he was purchasing the firearm for himself, rather than for Ge Songtao.

Although Ge Songtao employed Yang's wife, had been to the Yangs' home and had paid for the Yangs to travel and visit him, prosecutors said Fan Yang consistently hid their relationship from the Navy.

While assigned as an instructor in 2019 at the Maritime Patrol and Reconnaissance Weapons School in Jacksonville, Yang completed and signed a background questionnaire as part of the renewal of his top secret security clearance. That questionnaire required the disclosure of any close or continuing contact with foreign nationals. Investigators said Yang failed to disclose the extent of his contacts with Ge Songtao and hid that he had maintained a bank account in China and possessed an expired Chinese passport.

# Pfizer to allow cheap versions of COVID pill

*Bloomberg News*

Pfizer Inc. reached a licensing agreement that will allow generic-drug manufacturers to produce inexpensive versions of its COVID-19 pill for 95 low- and middle-income countries, following a similar move by Merck & Co.

In a statement on Tuesday, Pfizer said it signed an agreement with the United Nations-backed Medicines Patent Pool to license the experimental pill, once it is authorized by regulators, to generic companies that can supply it to countries that account for roughly 53% of the world population. The shares fell 1% in pre-market U.S. trading.

Pfizer won't receive royalties from sales in low-income countries, and it won't get royalties from sales to middle-income

countries covered by the pact as long as COVID-19 is classified as a public health emergency, according to the statement.

The widely awaited deal could help bolster access to a potent new virus-fighting tool. Unlike the exotic mRNA technology in Pfizer's COVID-19 shot, the chemical techniques used to manufacture pills are mature and long-established, and numerous generic companies can cheaply produce them. Pfizer has been under considerable pressure to license the technology ever since it announced promising clinical-trial results earlier this month.

Highly effective pills that can be taken at the first sign of infection are seen as crucial for getting the pandemic under control. Pfizer's drug reduced hospitalizations and deaths by 89%

in a large study of high-risk patients, the company said this month. It is applying for emergency authorization in the United States and has said it plans to seek authorizations in other countries soon.

"These are potentially life-saving drugs," Charles Gore, executive director of the Medicines Patent Pool, said in an interview. "The sooner we can get it out there, the more people who won't need to go to the hospital and won't die."

In addition to lower- and lower-middle income countries, the pact includes some upper-middle income countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as countries that transitioned from lower-middle to upper-middle income status in the past five years, Pfizer and the Medicines Patent Pool said.

Merck also has a promising experimental COVID pill called molnupiravir. The U.S. pharmaceutical giant reached a licensing deal with the Medicines Patent Pool last month that covers over 100 low- and middle-income countries. Merck and partner Ridgeback Biotherapeutics LP have sought emergency authorization for their pill in the U.S.; advisers to the Food and Drug Administration are set to consider the application at a hearing this month.

Discussions with Pfizer moved rapidly, Gore said, and the pact could allow supplies to get to countries within months.

"As with molnupiravir, we're trying to make this as fast as humanly possible," Gore said. The Merck and Pfizer agreements cover about the same number of people, he said.

## Fla. woman who sued for ivermectin dies of COVID

*Associated Press*

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — A Florida teacher hospitalized with COVID-19 has died after her husband unsuccessfully sued to force doctors to treat her with ivermectin, a drug popular among some skeptics of accepted coronavirus treatments despite a lack of studies proving its effectiveness.

Tamara Drock died Friday, 12 weeks after being admitted to Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center, Ryan Drock told the Palm Beach Post.

He sued the hospital last month in an attempt to require doctors to administer ivermectin, a drug used to treat conditions caused by parasitic worms. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has not approved the drug to treat COVID-19, saying it hasn't proved effective in preclinical trials.

Palm Beach County Circuit

Judge James Nutt rejected Drock's lawsuit last month, saying allowing judges to countermand doctors' decisions could set a dangerous precedent.

He urged the Drocks and the hospital to try to reach agreement on their own. A deal fell apart after a doctor agreed to administer ivermectin at a dosage the family's attorney said was too low, the newspaper reported.

Tenet Healthcare, which owns the hospital, did not respond to messages seeking comment, the paper reported.

Ryan Drock, who also was infected but recovered from COVID-19, told the Post he's not giving up.

"I'm hoping they name a law after her so no one has to go through this," Drock said. "If she had walked out of the hospital she could have had the medication."

## S. Korean kids' center at US base has 13 new virus cases

**BY DAVID CHOI**

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Thirteen people, including nearly a dozen children, linked to an on-base children's center recently tested positive for the coronavirus respiratory disease, an official at the center said Tuesday.

At least 11 children and two staff members from the Capt. Jennifer M. Moreno School Age Center on Humphreys tested positive within the past week, center coordinator Tiffany Harris told Stars and Stripes by phone. Around 178 children in grades one through five are enrolled in the center, which employs 24 people.

The center, which provides children with after-school programs, was closed Friday for cleaning and sanitizing; it reopened Monday.

Harris said not all the positive cases came from the center.

"It was not just from the school-age center," she said. "A lot of them were already sick when they came to us, and we sent them home."

Harris said contact tracing was still underway on Monday and one of the elementary schools conducted mass COVID-19 testing on Friday. As of Tuesday morning, no faculty members at the center had tested positive.

Humphreys' commander, Army Col. Seth Graves, confirmed Tuesday that a number of cases among children prompted the school-age center to close. He said health officials believe "we contained the spread well enough" for the center to reopen Monday.

"The safety and well-being of our community members and staff is our No. 1 priority," Graves told Stars and Stripes by phone. "We'll continue to work as hard as possible to ensure a safe environment for all."

# Biden, Xi talk, try to tamp down tension

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping's more than three-hour virtual talk concluded with the leaders of the superpowers agreeing they need to tread carefully as their nations find themselves in an increasingly fraught competition.

Facing domestic pressures at home, both Biden and Xi seemed determined to lower the temperature in what for both sides is their most significant — and frequently turbulent — relationship on the global stage.

“As I’ve said before, it seems to me our responsibility as leaders of China and the United States is to ensure that the competition between our countries does not veer into conflict, whether intended or unintended,” Biden told Xi at the start of their virtual meeting Monday. “Just simple, straightforward competition.”

The White House set low expectations for the meeting, and no major announcements or even a joint statement were delivered. Still, White House officials said the two leaders had a substantive exchange.

Xi greeted the U.S. president as his “old friend” and echoed Biden’s cordial tone in his own opening remarks, saying, “China and the United States need to increase communication and cooperation.”

The relationship has had no shortage of tension since Biden strode into the White House in January and quickly criticized Beijing for human rights abuses against Uyghurs in northwest China, suppression of democratic protests in Hong Kong, military aggression against the self-ruled island of Taiwan and more.

Xi’s deputies, meanwhile, have lashed out against the Biden White House for interfering in what they see as internal Chinese matters.

The White House in a statement said that Biden again raised concerns about China’s human rights practices, and made clear that he sought to “protect American workers and industries from the PRC’s unfair trade and economic practices.” The two also spoke about key regional challenges, including North Korea, Afghanistan and Iran.

## Key reason for shortages: Americans keep spending

Associated Press

DETROIT — Take a step back from the picked-over store shelves, the stalled container ships and the empty auto showrooms, and you’ll find a root cause of the shortages of just about everything.

Even as the pandemic has dragged on, U.S. households flush with cash from stimulus checks, booming stock markets and enlarged home equity have felt like spending freely again — a lot. And since consumer demand drives much of the U.S. and global economies, high demand has brought goods shortages to the United States and much of the world.

Add the fact that companies are ordering — and hoarding — more goods and parts than they need so they don’t run out, and

you end up with an almost unquenchable demand that is magnifying the supply shortages.

That’s where a big problem comes in: Suppliers were caught so flat-footed by how fast pent-up spending surged out of the recession that they won’t likely be able to catch up as long as demand remains so robust. That’s especially so because Americans, still hunkered down at home more than they did before the pandemic, continue to spend more on goods — electronics, furniture, appliances, sporting goods — than on services like hotels, meals out and movie tickets. All that demand for goods, in turn, is helping to accelerate U.S. inflation.

Unless spending snaps sharply back to services — or something else leads people

to stop buying so much — it could take deep into 2022 or even 2023 before global supply chains regain some semblance of normalcy.

“Demand is completely skewed,” said Bindiya Vakil, CEO of Resilinc, a consulting firm that helps companies manage supply chains. “This has now become more and more painful by the day.”

One reason people may eventually stop spending so much is that everything simply costs more now. Consumer prices in the U.S. skyrocketed 6.2% over the past year as food, gasoline, autos and housing catapulted inflation to its highest pace since 1990. The laws of gravity suggest that the cumulative effect of so much inflation will eventually exert a brake on spending.

## Alex Jones liable for defamation in Sandy Hook case

Associated Press

A Connecticut judge found Infowars host Alex Jones liable by default Monday in a defamation lawsuit brought by parents of children killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting over the conspiracy theorist’s claims that the massacre was a hoax.

The ruling by the judge, who cited Jones’ refusal to abide by court rulings or turn over evidence, means a jury will determine how much in damages Jones should pay to the families.

Shortly after the judge’s decision, Jones went on his show and said he’d been deprived of a fair trial.

“These individuals, again, are not allowing me to have a jury trial because they know the things they said I supposedly did didn’t happen,” he said. “They know they don’t have a case for damages. And so the judge is saying you are guilty of damages, now a jury decides how guilty you are. It’s not guilty until proven guilty.”

Judge Barbara Bellis took the rare step of issuing a default judgment in the case because she said Jones and his companies, Infowars and Free Speech Systems, had failed to turn over documents including records that might have showed how, and if, they had profited from spreading misinformation about the school shooting and other

mass killings.

Norman Pattis, a lawyer for Jones, said an appeal of Bellis’ default ruling is planned.

“The ruling is founded neither in law or fact,” Pattis said in an email. “We remain confident that, in the end, the Sandy Hook families cannot prove either liability or damages. We think their lawyers know this; hence, the desperate effort to obtain a default.”

His lawyers have asked that Bellis be removed from the case, alleging she has not been impartial.

The ruling has the same outcome as a jury determining the case in favor of the families. A jury will now determine the damages.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Juveniles arrested, face charges after car chase

**NC** KINSTON — Two juveniles are facing criminal charges after one of them tried to back a vehicle over a police officer and led others on a chase before they were captured, authorities said.

The Kinston Police Department said in a news release that officers checked out what was described as a suspicious vehicle. When they tried to find out why they were there, the driver tried to back over one of the officers, who was able to get out of the way and avoid injury, police said.

Officers attempted to stop the vehicle as it went through several parking lots, police said. After the chase reached speeds of 120 mph, the supervisor called it off.

Craven County sheriff's deputies located the vehicle and stopped it approximately 35 miles away in New Bern when the driver lost control, the news release said.

### Woman charged for over \$700K worth of drugs

**ME** AUGUSTA — A medical emergency involving a child led to the discovery of fentanyl and other drugs valued at \$700,000, police said.

Ashley Malloy, 21, of Oakland, dialed 911 to report that her 14-month-old child was unresponsive. The youngster later died at a hospital.

State police detectives then searched the home and found nearly 6 pounds of fentanyl, more than 3 pounds of methamphetamine, more than a pound

of crack cocaine and more than \$2,000 in cash. Malloy was charged with aggravated drug trafficking.

The state medical examiner's office has not released the cause of the child's death.

### Train derails, spills coal into Mississippi River

**IA** MONTROSE — A train struck a barge in southeast Iowa, knocking several cars off the tracks and spilling coal into the Mississippi River.

BNSF railroad officials told the Burlington Hawk Eye that two coal cars landed in the river and three others were partially in the water after the collision near Montrose, Iowa, that also knocked over two locomotives. One other car that left the tracks remained upright.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources said several hundred gallons of diesel fuel also spilled out of the locomotives.

No injuries were reported, said Jason Dinwiddie, director of Lee County Emergency Management.

The railroad said it will work to remove any coal that ended up in the river.

### Father, daughter survive plane crash in woods

**PA** BEAR CREEK TOWNSHIP — Personal electronic devices helped lead rescuers to a father and daughter who survived a plane crash in Pennsylvania, authorities said.

According to state police, the aircraft had taken off from the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport when it went

down in a wooded area of Luzerne County.

Authorities asked the U.S. Air Force to help with the search and they pinged the 58-year-old dad's cellphone and 13-year-old daughter's iPad to locate them.

It took hours before state troopers found them huddled together suffering from hypothermia.

Authorities were investigating what caused their plane to crash.

### City cuts turkey shoot as birds' price doubles

**FL** SEVILLE — A small Florida town is canceling its decadeslong annual turkey shoot to help feed needy families, saying the price of birds has more than doubled.

For nearly 70 years, residents of Seville fired shotguns at targets hoping to win a frozen turkey. But nonprofit organizers said they simply can't afford the expensive gobblers, which usually cost between 50 to 70 cents per pound.

But this year, the turkeys were around \$1.19 a pound. And it's also gotten harder to find smaller birds, with many turkeys averaging 15 to 17-pounds.

The nonprofit usually buys 60 turkeys to give away leading up to Thanksgiving, but told The Daytona Beach News-Journal it couldn't even afford 30 birds.

### Sequoia National Park partly reopens after fire

**CA** SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK — Fire-scarred Sequoia National Park will partially reopen, the park announced.

The reopening will be limited

to day-use only in part of the Foothills area, including the Foothills Visitor Center, Tunnel rock and some trails.

Access to Giant Forest, Lodgepole and the General Sherman Tree will remain closed.

Sequoia National Park was closed after lightning ignited two fires that merged. The KNP Complex scorched nearly 138 square miles of forest. Work to make the park safe, including removal of hazard trees, is continuing.

Adjacent Kings Canyon National Park is largely open, including the Grant Grove of giant sequoias.

### 2 charged with theft of Native American art

**KS** LAWRENCE — Two University of Kansas students have been charged with stealing part of a Native American art exhibit that also was vandalized while displayed outside a campus museum.

The Lawrence Journal-World reported that Samuel McKnight and John Wichlenski were charged in Douglas County District Court with theft of property of a value of at least \$1,500 but less than \$25,000.

The exhibit, titled "Native Hosts," by artist Hock E Aye Vi Edgar Heap of Birds, is installed outside the Spencer Museum of Art.

It consists of five aluminum signs that name Native tribes who historically inhabited or currently inhabit the region now called Kansas. On each sign, the colonial name is printed backward while the name of the land's original occupants is printed forward.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

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

Reporting World, National and Military News

# San Francisco runs its way past Rams

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — After a nearly two-month stretch that featured one win and far too many disappointments, the San Francisco 49ers were running out of time to establish an identity this season.

An opening 18-play touchdown drive against the rival Los Angeles Rams was a pretty good start.

Jimmy Garoppolo capped that long drive with the first of his two touchdown passes, Jimmie Ward returned one of his two first-quarter interceptions for another score and the 49ers beat the Rams 31-10 on Monday night for their first home win in more than a year.

“It got us into a rhythm for sure,” Garoppolo said. “That’s the way we want to do it. Just running the ball, converting on third down and then score at the end. I don’t want to say it took their soul away, but it definitely did something.”

The Niners (4-5) had lost four of five games and were in danger of falling out of the

playoff race before putting together a complete performance in their fifth straight win against the Rams (7-3).

Garoppolo threw TD passes to George Kittle and Deebo Samuel, Samuel also ran for a score and Ward delivered the big plays defensively to give San Francisco its second home win in the past two seasons. The other also came against the Rams on Oct. 18, 2020.

It all started on the ground, where coach Kyle Shanahan had set an audacious goal of 40 carries that the Niners exceeded with 44 runs for 156 yards.

“I almost regretted it because it’s tough to do,” Shanahan said. “I’m glad I set it. We came through with it. It’s a huge team goal.”

San Francisco had its most rushes in a regular-season game in nine years.

Last week, San Francisco had 11 carries for 39 yards in a 31-17 loss to Arizona.

“If you want to establish any type of dominance, especially in the trenches, I think that is

necessary,” left tackle Trent Williams said. “You got to run the ball and get to make your opponents respect it.”

The Niners sealed the game when Garoppolo connected on a 40-yard TD to Samuel on fourth-and-6 early in the fourth quarter that made it 31-7.

Garoppolo finished 15-for-19 for 182 yards and the two TDs.

The Rams lost for the second straight week with Matthew Stafford once again throwing two interceptions, including one returned for a touchdown.

Los Angeles struggled to get into any rhythm offensively in the first game after receiver Robert Woods went down with a season-ending knee injury last week in practice.

“This was a humbling night for us as a team, and a great opportunity for us to be able to take a deep breath, step away, look at the things that we need to correct, particularly offensively over the last couple of weeks,” coach Sean McVay said.

Odell Beckham Jr. made his

Los Angeles debut after signing last week, but had only two catches for 18 yards.

Recently acquired edge rusher Von Miller also played for the first time with the Rams and had three tackles, but didn’t put pressure on Garoppolo.

Stafford went 26-for-41 for 243 yards with one TD, two interceptions and a third that was wiped off by a penalty.

## Take it away

Ward intercepted Stafford on Los Angeles’ first two drives of the game after coming into the night with two INTs in 85 games and none since 2016.

The first came on a deep heave by Stafford to Beckham that went right to Ward. The next came on a quick throw that tight end Tyler Higbee bobbled right into Ward’s hands, leading to a 27-yard TD return.

Ward became the seventh player since 2000 with two interceptions, including a pick-6, in the first quarter.

# Rays’ Arozarena, Reds’ India earn rookie honors

Associated Press

It didn’t feel like Randy Arozarena was a rookie this season.

Tampa Bay’s speedy and powerful outfielder certainly didn’t play like one, either.

Arozarena won AL Rookie of the Year honors with a superb follow-up to his 2020 postseason heroics while Cincinnati Reds second baseman Jonathan India earned NL Rookie of the Year on Monday night.

The standout years for Arozarena and India highlight the changing profile of a good MLB leadoff hitter. Both players have speed and a good eye, but also considerable power. It’s the first time since 1953 that the rookie of the year winners were both primarily leadoff hitters.

That season, Detroit’s Harvey Kuenn and Brooklyn’s Jim Gilliam won.

If it didn’t seem like this wasn’t Arozarena’s first year, there’s a reason. The 26-year-old Cuban provided a stunning lift for the Rays during the 2020 postseason with 10 homers in 18 games during their run to the World Series.

But Arozarena didn’t play enough during the 2020 regular season to lose his rookie status, so he was eligible for the award this year. He followed up his postseason breakout with an excellent season in 2021, finishing with a .274 average, 32 doubles, 20 homers, 20 stolen bases and 69 RBIs while adding excellent defense, helping the Rays re-

turn to the postseason.

Arozarena earned 22 of 30 first-place votes in balloting by members of the Baseball Writers’ Association of America, beating out his teammate, infielder Wander Franco, and Houston right-hander Luis Garcia.

India won the NL award eight months after earning the team’s second base job during spring training and never letting it go during a stellar first season.

The 24-year-old India received 29 of 30 first-place votes, beating out Miami left-handed pitcher Trevor Rogers, who got the only other first-place vote, and St. Louis outfielder Dylan Carlson. India said it’s been an amazing journey from spring

training, where he was a long-shot to even make the regular season roster.

India was the No. 5 overall pick in the 2018 draft and played third base in college at Florida, but he’s found a home at second base in the big leagues and become a cornerstone for the Reds’ future.

The 6-foot, 200-pound India was an all-around threat — particularly during the second half of the season — often batting leadoff and finishing with a .269 average, 34 doubles, 21 homers, 69 RBIs and 12 stolen bases. He also showed good discipline in the batter’s box, coaxing 71 walks to finish with a .376 on-base percentage, and scored 98 runs.

# Vasilevskiy, Lightning shut down Isles

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Andrei Vasilevskiy made 25 saves, Anthony Cirelli had a tiebreaking goal and a fight, and the Tampa Bay Lightning beat the New York Islanders 4-1 on Monday night.

Tampa Bay also got goals from Mathieu Joseph, Brayden Point and Steven Stamkos. The defending Stanley Cup champions are 6-0-2 in their past eight games, allowing two goals or fewer in seven of them.

“We’re defending,” Lightning coach Jon Cooper said. “You’re giving yourself a chance to get points.”

Mathew Barzal scored for the Islanders, who have lost three in a row. Semyon Varlamov stopped 24 shots. New York has been outscored 13-3 during the current skid.

“We’re working for those chances, they’re not going in right now,” Islanders left wing Anders Lee said. “It’s one of those stretches where that can lead to some frustration. I think right now we’ve just got to find a way to stick together, stick to it

and eliminate some of the mistakes on the other end.”

It was the team’s 12th of 13 games during a season-opening road trip. New York will play its home opener at the new UBS Arena on Saturday night against Calgary.

The teams met for the first time since Tampa Bay beat the Islanders 1-0 in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup semifinals last June.

New York defenseman Zdeno Chara and Lightning forward Pat Maroon fought right after the opening puck drop. Chara was given a high-sticking minor and 10-minute misconduct, and Tampa Bay rookie Boris Katchouk received a 10-minute misconduct following a scrum late in the third.

Stamkos gave Tampa Bay a 4-1 lead during the ensuing power play with 4½ minutes remaining. Point had made it 3-1 with 6:32 to play.

Vasilevskiy had several in-close saves, including one on Lee during a second-period power play.

Barzal opened the scoring 2:53 into the first on a breakaway, but Joseph tied from the low slot 23 seconds later.

Cirelli put the Lightning up 2-1 shortly after a power play ended with 37.3 seconds left in the first.

There were several scums and a fight between Cirelli and Brock Nelson during the second. Nelson received the initial penalty for charging, while Cirelli was given an instigating minor and 10-minute misconduct.

Cirelli departed shortly after returning in the third after he was hit in the face by deflected shot.

Cooper said Cirelli is OK.

“I can’t sit here and say the mirror is going to be his friend for the next few days,” Cooper said.

New York failed to score on three power plays and is 4-for-31 overall.

“That’s been a point of emphasis, we’ve been working on it, talking about,” Islanders right wing Josh Bailey said. “We’ve just got to stick with it.”

## Blue Jackets 5, Red Wings 3:

Zach Werenski scored the go-ahead goal with 1:19 remaining after Yegor Chinakhov tied it with his first NHL goal, and host Columbus snapped a two-game skid by beating Detroit.

Boone Jenner added a goal and an assist, and Adam Boqvist and Alexandre Texier also scored for the Blue Jackets. Elvis Merzlikins had 24 saves.

Dylan Larkin, Michael Rasmussen and Lucas Raymond scored for the Red Wings. Thomas Greiss stopped 33 shots.

Columbus trailed 2-0 in the second period and 3-2 in the third, but Chinakhov pulled the Blue Jackets even with 4:18 left. Jakub Voracek’s assist was his team-leading 12th and extended his point streak to six games.

Elvis Merzlikins stopped 24 shots for the Blue Jackets.

“For us, it’s belief in the room that we are going to find ways to win,” Werenski said. “That’s what we’ve been doing. When they took the lead, nobody panicked. If we stick to our game plan we are going to win.”

# NHL postpones three Senators games after outbreak

Associated Press

The NHL postponed three Ottawa Senators games on Monday amid a COVID-19 outbreak on the team, the first time any North American major professional sports league has been hit by rescheduling this fall because of the coronavirus.

Games scheduled for Tuesday at New Jersey, at home Thursday against Nashville and at home Saturday against the New York Rangers were postponed. Ten Senators players are currently in the NHL’s COVID-19 protocol.

While Ottawa played short-handed Sunday in a 4-0 loss to Calgary, the depth of the outbreak led to the decision to

postpone games, which the league said was made in light of evidence of continued spread in recent days. The Senators are shut down through at least Saturday, with their training facilities closed to players until then as a precaution.

“The Senators organization has, and will continue to follow, all recommended guidelines aimed at protecting the health and safety of its players, staff and community at large as set by the NHL, local, provincial and national agencies,” the league said in a statement.

Neither the NFL nor the NBA has had to postpone a game so far this fall. Major League Baseball had nine virus-related postponements

among 2,430 scheduled games, down from 45 in last year’s shortened 900-game schedule.

The NHL postponed 51 games for virus reasons during its last regular season.

The league and Players’ Association have until Jan. 10 to withdraw from the 2022 Winter Olympics if pandemic circumstances force the cancellation of so many games that a nearly three-week break in February is not feasible. The NHL was still looking at when to reschedule the Senators’ games against the Devils, Predators and Rangers.

Ottawa canceled practice Monday to try to contain the outbreak, after forward Drake Batherson became the most re-

cent Senators player to go into the protocol. Besides the 10 players, associate coach Jack Capuano also is in the protocol.

“The health and safety of the local community, the venue’s patrons and the organization’s staff and players is Senators Sports & Entertainment’s highest priority,” the team said.

A handful of other NHL teams have been hit by COVID-19 this season, including Pittsburgh and San Jose. Penguins star Sidney Crosby returned Sunday after an absence of more than 10 days because of the virus. Colorado’s Nathan MacKinnon also missed time last month after testing positive, though he was asymptomatic.

# Porzingis leads Mavs past Nuggets

Associated Press

Kristaps Porzingis had 29 points and 11 rebounds, Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 13 of his 19 points in the fourth quarter and the Dallas Mavericks rallied past the Denver Nuggets 111-101 on Monday night.

Dallas opened the fourth period on a 17-6 run that included three-pointers by Hardaway, Luka Doncic, Dorian Finney-Smith and Reggie Bullock to go ahead 98-88 with six minutes left, its largest lead to that point.

Doncic had 23 points and 11 assists and Jalen Brunson scored 17 off the bench for the Mavericks, who have won five of six.

Nikola Jokic scored a season-high 35 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for Denver, which finished a back-to-back and had its five-game winning streak snapped.

Doncic limped off the court, favoring his left ankle, with 44 seconds remaining after Nuggets guard Austin Rivers fell on his leg from behind after Doncic tried to block Rivers' layup attempt.

Doncic has a history of ankle injuries, including missing 11 games during the 2019-20 regular season because of right ankle sprains and dealing with a left ankle sprain during the 2020 playoffs in the NBA bubble.

**Bulls 121, Lakers 103:** DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 38 points and Zach LaVine had added 26 in Chicago's win at Los Angeles.

Lonzo Ball had a season-high 27 points, eight assists and seven rebounds against his former team as the promising Bulls rolled to their fourth win in five games, following up their win over the Clippers on Sunday night by sweeping back-to-back games at Staples Center. Chicago also snapped an eight-game skid against the Lakers dating to November 2016.

DeRozan and Los Angeles flirted with each other in free agency during the summer, but the Lakers eventually went with Russell Westbrook over DeRozan, his fellow Los Angeles-area native.

**Trail Blazers 118, Raptors 113:** CJ McCollum had 29 points and Damian Lillard added 24 to lead host Portland to a victory over Toronto.

The Blazers, who were playing the second of a back-to-back, improved to 6-1 at home.

OG Anunoby had 27 points for the Raptors, who have lost five of six. Pascal Siakam added 20.

Larry Nance Jr.'s alley-oop dunk gave Portland a 99-89 lead in the final quarter. McCollum's three-pointer pushed it to 105-92.

**Suns 99, Timberwolves 96:** Chris Paul scored 19 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter, Devin Booker had 29 and Phoenix won at Minnesota for its ninth straight win.

Deandre Ayton had 22 points and 12 rebounds in his return to the Suns after missing five games with a right lower leg contusion. Phoenix won a day after a 115-89 victory in Houston.

**Grizzlies 136, Rockets 102:** Ja Morant had 22 points, six rebounds and six assists, Jaren Jackson Jr. added 18 points and host Memphis sent Houston to its 12th straight loss.

Dillon Brooks finished with 16 points, and Kyle Anderson added 15 as the Grizzlies snapped a three-game losing streak. The 136 points was a season-high for the team.

**Wizards 105, Pelicans 100:** Spencer Dinwiddie scored 19 of his 27 points in the second half, and host Washington erased a 19-point deficit for its fifth consecutive victory.

The Wizards, at 10-3, are off to the franchise's best start in 47 years when the Bullets opened the 1974-75 season 11-2. Washington played without All-Star guard Bradley Beal, who missed a second consecutive game mourning the death of his grandmother.

**Knicks 92, Pacers 84:** Immanuel Quickley came off the bench to score 16 points, and host New York limited Indiana to two baskets in the fourth quarter to rally for the win.

Kemba Walker also had 16 points for the Knicks, but he didn't play in the fourth when the reserves and especially the defense won it for New York. Derrick Rose, Walker's backup, added 14 points.

**Hawks 129, Magic 111:** Trae Young and John Collins each scored 23 points and host Atlanta beat Orlando for its second straight win.

Clint Capela finished with 20 points and 16 rebounds and Bogdan Bogdanovich added 20 points for the Hawks, who snapped a six-game skid with a 20-point win over defending NBA champion Milwaukee on Sunday.

**Celtics 98, Cavaliers 92:** Jayson Tatum scored 23 points and Dennis Schroder had six points in the final 76 seconds as Boston won at Cleveland.

**Kings 129, Pistons 107:** Buddy Hield scored 22 points and Tyrese Haliburton added 17 points and 10 assists as visiting Sacramento routed Detroit.

**Heat 103, Thunder 90:** Tyler Herro scored 26 points and short-handed Miami won at Oklahoma City.

## Defense helps Marquette stun 10th-ranked Illinois

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Tyler Kolek converted a steal into a go-ahead layup with 18 seconds left and Marquette forced 26 turnovers for a 67-66 comeback victory over No. 10 Illinois on Monday night.

The Golden Eagles (3-0) came back from a 12-point deficit in the second half to give new coach Shaka Smart his first signature win, despite going 3-for-9 from the foul line down the stretch.

The Illini (2-1) were clinging to a 66-65 lead when Kolek stole the ball from Trent Frazier at midcourt, maintained his balance and

made a layup despite getting fouled. Kolek missed the ensuing free throw, but Kur Kuath stole the ball from Illinois guard Andre Curbelo with three seconds left to thwart the Illini.

Darryl Morsell scored 21 points, Justin Lewis had 17 and Kolek added 12 points.

For Illinois, Frazier had 23 points, including 6 of 10 three-pointers, while Coleman Hawkins scored 13 points and Jacob Grandison 10.

**No. 1 Gonzaga 84, Alcorn State 57:** Julian Strawther scored 18 points in the Bulldogs' dominating win over the Braves, extending the nation's longest home-winning streak to

54 games.

**No. 2 UCLA 100, Long Beach State 79:** Johnny Juzang scored 25 points and the host Bruins pulled away in a dominant second half to beat the 49ers.

**No. 9 Baylor 89, Nicholls State 60:** LJ Cryer had a career-high 20 points to lead five players scoring in double figures for the host Bears, who overwhelmed the Colonels in a rare midday game.

**No. 19 Ohio State 89, Bowling Green 58:** Five players scored in double figures for the host Buckeyes in their victory over the Falcons.