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Voters across Afghanistan cast ballots

BY PHILLIP WALTER
WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Voters across Afghanistan went to the polls on Saturday to cast their ballots in the country's long-delayed parliamentary elections, which were targeted by bombings and hampered by technical and organizational problems.

Twenty-eight people, including 17 civilians, were killed countrywide and nearly 200 security incidents were reported during the day, Interior Minister Wais Barmak said in an interview with Afghanistan's Tolo news.

Multiple explosions rocked the capital, Kabul, during voting hours, killing at least four people and possibly over a dozen, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said, adding that about

80 others were wounded.

Danish said a suicide attacker on foot detonated an explosive vest at the entrance of a polling center in the north of the capital, killing or injuring more than 15 people, mostly security forces.

In northern Kunduz city, at least three people were killed and 60 others were injured by mortar shelling that began in the morning, said Mateen Atifi, health director for Kunduz province.

Insurgents set fire to a polling center about 3 miles from the city, but everyone inside managed to escape, a police official, who was not authorized to speak with the media, told Stars and Stripes.

The Taliban issued a fresh caution Saturday, telling Afghans not to vote to ensure safety from attacks.

"I'm afraid, and everyone is

afraid, but every Afghan should vote for a better future," Zalmi Gulab, 31, said at a polling center in Kabul's Qala-e-Fathullah neighborhood.

Voting at the center, which was at a high school, was delayed by about two hours because officials weren't prepared. Other polling stations had similar delays — some still hadn't opened by 1 p.m.

Confusion over biometric voter registration equipment and missing registration lists frustrated voters.

"There have been some problems in different areas of Afghanistan, including Kabul, but overall voting started on time, and it's going very well," said Abdualaziz Ibrahim, deputy spokesman of the Independent Election Commission.

Polling centers that opened late extended their hours. And

at the more than 240 locations that were still closed by 1 p.m., voting was postponed until Sunday, according to the election commission.

"It's kind of discouraging, you know?" said Balkhi, 35, in the dimly lit hallway of the same school in Qala-e-Fathullah. He asked to be identified by just one name for security reasons.

"It looks like mismanagement, none of them are aware what to do," Balkhi said, referring to the election officials.

In a separate section of the school where dozens of women were waiting to vote, student Sahar Arbabzada, 20, complained of the same problem.

"Many women and girls here can't find their names," she said, adding that she was determined to vote as she believed it could help improve the economic and security situations in the country.

Retired Navy officer sentenced in 'Fat Leonard' bribe case

The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — In an e-mail arranging to hand off proprietary Navy information to the flamboyant contractor Leonard Francis, Navy Cmdr. Troy Amundson described himself as "a small dog just trying to get a bone."

Later that night, Francis procured the services of several prostitutes from Mongolia for Amundson, prosecutors say, just one in a string of bribes that Francis paid for leaked military data.

On Friday, Amundson was sentenced to 30 months in prison. He joins the ranks of more than a dozen other Navy officials whose military service is now tarnished with felony records for getting cozy with Francis in what has become the

worst corruption scandal to hit the Navy in decades.

Amundson, a decorated combat pilot, told the judge that, at the time, he didn't realize what he was doing was illegal.

The ship schedules laying out port visits in Southeast Asia that he passed on to Francis weren't classified and were regularly given to contractors, his lawyers said. But the judge disagreed, pointing to the secrecy with which Amundson operated.

"It was calculated. It was deliberate," U.S. District Judge Janis Sammartino told him on Friday. "I think you certainly knew what you were doing, sir. As decorated as you were, it's hard to fathom why you'd sell out for so little."

Unlike some other Navy officials who served Francis

— nicknamed "Fat Leonard" — and his Glenn Defense Marine Asia (GDMA) contracting company, Amundson didn't accept any cash bribes. But he had a good time on Francis' dime: lavish meals, parties, hotel stays and the services of prostitutes.

He has agreed to pay \$21,625 in restitution as part of the plea deal — an amount that Amundson says stems from a night of playing blackjack at a casino — and the judge also ordered a \$10,000 fine.

Amundson earned several medals for his combat flying in multiple conflicts, including recognition for saving six lives. He flew unarmed aircraft into battle zones and directed in armed aircraft to engage enemy forces.

From 2008 to 2012 he was

based in Singapore as a Cooperation Afloat and Readiness Training, or CARAT, Exercise Officer and Theater Engagement Manager for the Commander, Logistics Group Pacific. The role had him leading joint military exercises with other nations.

Amundson said during that role, he'd always been suspect of GDMA's seemingly excessive billing practices and did not deal with Francis. GDMA provided husbanding services to visiting war ships, from trash removal to water to security.

After he left his position in the CARAT program, Amundson said he went to a Francis-funded karaoke party with several other naval officers. After that, Francis approached and befriended him.

Details on space force plans remain hazy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With his demand that the Pentagon create a new military service — a Space Force to assure “American dominance in space” — President Donald Trump has injected urgency into a long-meandering debate over the best way to protect U.S. interests in space, both military and commercial.

At the same time, his approach has left many struggling to understand the basics, such as what a Space Force would do and how much it might cost.

The Pentagon is expected to have enough details filled out by early next year to include a Space Force plan in its 2020 budget request to Congress. Until then, the idea has taken on a life of its own at Trump’s political rallies, powered at least in part by his conflating of the nation’s civilian space program with the military’s separate role of providing space-based navigation and communications satellites.

At a June rally in Minnesota, for example, Trump alluded to his decision in December 2017 to refocus the civilian space program to human exploration as a first step toward returning an astronaut to the Moon. This prompted some in the crowd to chant, “Space Force! Space Force!” Trump responded by ticking off the names of the current military services and adding, “Now we’re going to have the Space Force. We need it.”

But just what is this thing?

Some may think it would assemble a razzle-dazzle new army for the heavens that would deploy soldiers in space or arm astronauts with galactic superweapons. Analysts

say the reality is that building space muscle is more about reordering the way the Pentagon already uses space than about combat.

In fits and starts, the military has been trying for decades to reorganize and accelerate technological advances in space. Some blame the Air Force, which has had the lead, for underinvesting in space because it prefers spending on warplanes.

Details are still in play, but the main idea is this: Find more effective ways to defend U.S. interests in space, especially the constellations of satellites that U.S. ground, sea and air forces rely on for navigation, communications and surveillance. These roles make them increasingly tempting military targets even as China and Russia work on ways to disrupt, disable and even destroy American satellites.

“This isn’t science fiction. This isn’t about creating space marines or some expeditionary space force that is going to go out and conquer the universe,” said Todd Harrison, director of the aerospace security project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “This is simply a reorganization” of existing space assets so that they can be used more effectively in a unified chain of command with one person in charge.

Still, questions abound as some in the Pentagon talk about someday basing anti-missile weapons in space.

Would a Space Force, which has yet to be authorized by Congress, consume an intelligence agency such as the National Reconnaissance Office, responsible for building and operating reconnaissance satellites? What about the Missile Defense Agency, which

runs ground-based anti-missile systems that rely on space to defend U.S. territory?

Also to be determined is how it would connect, if at all, to the security policy goals of U.S. military allies and to U.S. civilian space entities to realize Trump’s declared vision of “gleaming new spaceships” built to “conquer the unknown.”

William D. Hartung, director of the arms and security project at the Center for International Policy and a longtime Pentagon critic, has written that “Space Force” could become the rhetorical equivalent of “the Wall” — “a big idea that appeals to Trump’s base but would be wildly impractical and hugely expensive to implement.”

Just how expensive it might be is a matter of debate.

The Air Force has estimated that it might cost \$13 billion in the first five years. Others, including Harrison, say that’s an exaggeration. In late August, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he was awaiting staff work on an estimate to be included in next year’s defense budget request.

Misconceptions aside, Harrison and many other defense analysts argue that a Space Force is needed.

In Harrison’s view, it’s about consolidating authority and responsibility for national security space in a single chain of command: reorganization, in other words, and building a bigger cadre of space strategy professionals. He argues that the space workforce now is so scattered across the military services and the intelligence agencies that it has not been possible to create a viable career path that will attract the right people.

Bolton urges withdrawal from landmark arms treaty

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has told U.S. allies that it wants to withdraw from the landmark Ronald Reagan-era Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty, or INF, and plans to inform Russian leaders of its position in the coming days, said foreign diplomats and other people familiar with the deliberations.

The planning is the brainchild of President Donald Trump’s hawkish national security adviser, John Bolton, who has told U.S. allies he believes the INF puts Washington in an “excessively weak position” against

Russia “and, more importantly, China,” said a diplomat who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the sensitive issue.

For years, the United States has expressed concern that Russia is violating the INF with a ground-launch cruise missile known as the SSC-8. Russia, in turn, has accused the United States of violating the treaty with missile-defense installations in Europe — an accusation that U.S. officials deny.

Officials say Washington has made no final decision to withdraw from the treaty, which would require a formal

six-month notification, but that U.S. officials plan to signal the administration’s intent as Bolton heads to Moscow for talks with Russian officials.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, speaking at NATO headquarters earlier this month, signaled that the United States would not put up with the status quo for long.

“Russia must return to compliance with the INF Treaty or the U.S. will need to respond to its cavalier disregard for the treaty’s specific limits,” Mattis said. “The current situation with Russia in blatant violation of this treaty is untenable.”

The treaty was seen as a high point in Cold War arms-control negotiations. Over the strong objections of many Europeans, the United States installed Pershing II intermediate-range missiles in Europe in the 1980s. The deployment put pressure on the Soviets that ultimately led Moscow to agree to eliminate all missiles with ranges from 500 to 5,500 kilometers, including the Pershings.

Bolton’s plans signal that his National Security Council intends to unravel international accords it views as a constraint on American power, particularly if others are violating them.

President revives immigration rhetoric while on campaign trail

Associated Press

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Donald Trump fueled his 2016 campaign with fiery immigration rhetoric, visions of hordes flowing across the border to assault Americans and steal their jobs. Now, in the final weeks before midterm elections, he's back at it as he looks to stave off Democratic gains in Congress.

It's an approach that offers both risks and rewards. He could energize Democratic foes as well as the Republicans he wants to rouse to the polls.

But for the president, the potential gains clearly win out. In campaign stops and on Twitter in recent days, he has seized on a huge caravan of Central American migrants trying to reach the United States through Mexico as fresh evidence that his tough immigration prescriptions are needed.

He tweeted that the caravan was an "assault on our country at our Southern Border." Then, Thursday night in Montana, he told cheering supporters, "This will be an election of Kavanaugh, the caravan, law and order and common sense. ... Remem-

ber it's gonna be an election of the caravan."

His assertions got a visual boost Friday when some members of the caravan broke through a Guatemalan border barrier with Mexico. A few then got through to Mexican territory, but most were repelled by police with riot shields and pepper spray.

On an aggressive campaign blitz, Trump has sought to cast the midterms as a referendum on his presidency, believing that he must insert himself into the national conversation in order to bring Republicans out to vote. Perhaps no issue was more identified with his last campaign than immigration, particularly his much-vaunted — and still-unfulfilled — promise to quickly build a U.S.-Mexico border wall. To Trump, his pledges are still rallying cries.

"I think it's a big contrast point. All the Democrats are refusing to build the wall. It's a good contrast," said former Trump campaign aide Barry Bennett, who said the caravan was "perfectly timed" for Trump's midterm pitch.

But some warn that as Trump

seeks to pump up his base, he could energize opposition. Matt Barreto, co-founder of the research firm Latino Decision, said an elevated immigration message could hurt Trump, too.

"I think you run the risk of angering minority voters across the board, Latino, black and Asian-Americans and also alienating and distancing from whites, including conservatives and moderates, now that they see what's happening with the family separations," said Barreto, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Until days ago, immigration appeared to be unlikely to repeat its central role of 2016, as Trump heeded congressional Republican requests to avoid a government shutdown over funding for the border wall ahead of the midterms. And an internal GOP poll presented to the White House last month found that other issues — particularly opposing the "Medicare for All" policy of some Democrats — would better resonate with voters.

Caravan shrinks as migrants cross border

Associated Press

TECUN UMAN, Guatemala — A U.S.-bound caravan that once totaled more than 3,000 Central American migrants looked to be about a third that size Saturday morning, when its remaining members woke up on a bridge that divides the borders of Guatemala and Mexico and waited to get past a crossing guarded by hundreds of Mexican federal police.

Hundreds of migrants have already crossed — some legally, some not. Others left their spots on the bridge to go to a nearby Guatemalan town for food. It's unclear whether any have simply turned back.

The group had burst through a Guatemalan border fence Friday and rushed onto the bridge over the Suchiate River, defying officials' entreaties for an orderly crossing and U.S. President Donald Trump's threats of retaliation. They were met by a wall of police with riot shields and pepper spray, and only about 50 migrants managed to push their way through before officers unleashed pepper spray. The rest retreated, joining the sea of people in limbo between both countries.

On Friday, Mexican police and immigration agents began letting small groups of 10, 20 or 30 people through the gates at a time if they wanted to apply for refugee status. Once they filed a claim, they were given the option to go to a shelter to spend the night.

Organizers of the caravan appeared intent on avoiding a repeat of the rush on the border with Guatemala.

Some women and children made their way toward the front of the caravan Saturday, while men were at the back.

They have also moved about 30 feet back from the gate that separates them from Mexican police to establish a buffer zone.

Trump says Dems are 'too extreme'

Associated Press

MESA, Ariz. — President Donald Trump, seeking to frame the choices for voters in the midterm elections, said Friday that Democrats are "too extreme and too dangerous" to take control of Congress.

On a three-day swing out West to make his closing arguments for Republican candidates, Trump sought to hone in on immigration as one of the defining election issues this fall by falsely accusing Democrats of wanting "open borders" and encouraging illegal immigration.

"Anybody who votes for a Democrat now is crazy," Trump said.

Rallying thousands of supporters in an Arizona aircraft hangar for GOP Senate candidate Rep. Martha McSally, Trump warned of dire consequences if her opponent, Democratic Rep.

Kyrsten Sinema, is victorious.

Trump, trying to hold onto Republicans' narrow 51-49 advantage in the Senate, said a vote for Sinema "is dangerous" because it would empower Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

"The Democrat Party has become too extreme and too dangerous to be trusted with power," he claimed.

Trump also had harsh words for Central American migrants trying to travel through Mexico and reach the U.S. border, declaring they aren't "little angels" but "hardened criminals."

Asked what evidence he had that they were "hardened criminals," Trump told a reporter: "Oh, please. Please. Don't be a baby."

Thousands of the migrants have fled poverty and violence in their home countries. Others are in search of work and help for their families.

Turkey says no 'cover-up' of Saudi killing

Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkey will “never allow a cover-up” of the killing of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi Arabia’s consulate in Istanbul, a senior official in Turkey’s ruling party said Saturday after Saudi Arabia announced hours earlier that the writer died during a “fistfight” in its consulate.

The critical reaction by Numan Kurtulmus, deputy head of the Justice and Development Party, suggested that Turkey, which started its own investigation amid pro-government media reports that a Saudi hit squad killed Khashoggi, was not prepared to go along with the Saudi version of what happened to the writer.

“It’s not possible for the Saudi administration to wiggle itself out of this crime if it’s confirmed,” Kurtulmus said. He also said Turkey would share its evidence of

Khashoggi’s killing with the world and that a “conclusive result” of the investigation is close.

Another Turkish ruling party official also criticized Saudi Arabia, saying the kingdom should have given its explanation “before the situation reached this point.”

Leyla Sahin Usta, a human rights official in the ruling party, said it would have been “more valuable” if Saudi officials had earlier admitted that Khashoggi was killed in its diplomatic post.

Saudi Arabia initially denied any knowledge of the disappearance of Khashoggi, who vanished after entering its consulate on Oct. 2. But early Saturday, it admitted that he was killed there and said 18 Saudi suspects were in custody and intelligence officials had been fired.

The overnight announcements in Saudi state media came more than two weeks

after Khashoggi, 59, entered the Saudi consulate in Istanbul for paperwork required to marry his Turkish fiancée and never came out. They also contradicted assertions in Turkish media leaks that Khashoggi was tortured, killed and dismembered inside the consulate, claims the kingdom had rejected as “baseless.”

But growing international pressure and comments by U.S. officials including President Donald Trump forced the kingdom to acknowledge Khashoggi’s death.

While it fired officials close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, Saudi Arabia stopped short of implicating the heir-apparent. King Salman, his father, appointed him to lead a committee that will restructure the kingdom’s intelligence services. No major decisions in Saudi Arabia are made outside of the ultraconservative kingdom’s ruling Al Saud family.

Fla. Panhandle medical services on life support after hurricane

Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Already sick with strep throat and asthma, Aleeah Racette got sicker when she cleaned out a soggy, moldy home after Hurricane Michael, so she sought help at the hospital where she began life. She was stunned by what she saw there.

The exterior wall of Bay Medical Sacred Heart in Panama City is missing from part of the building, and huge vent tubes attached to fans blow air into upper floors through holes where windows used to be. Plywood signs with green spray-painted letters point to the entrance of the emergency room, the only part of the 323-bed hospital still operating.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before,” Racette, 20, said Thursday in a croaky voice. “I was born in this hospital.”

Medical services in the Florida Panhandle are still on life support more than a week after Hurricane Michael.

Panama City’s two major hospitals, Bay Medical and the 216-bed Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center, still aren’t admitting patients. Only

emergency room services are available at either facility.

Patients with the most serious needs are being sent to other hospitals by ambulance or helicopter.

Both hospitals are receiving help from Disaster Medical Assistance Teams, which set up air-conditioned tents in parking lots and operate something like the military field hospitals depicted in the old television series M*A*S*H.

Besides the care they’d provide on a typical basis, like treating Racette’s strep throat, doctors and nurses also are treating many people with storm-related injuries and health conditions.

“We’re seeing cuts, we’re seeing bruises and fractures,” said Martha Crombie, a spokeswoman for Bay Medical Sacred Heart who was flown in from Nashville, Tenn., to help with hospital communications.

Back injuries are common, she said, as are people who have chronic illnesses and are out of medication. The hospital is filling prescriptions and providing a list of open pharmacies.

Crombie said Bay Medical

Sacred Heart and its other facility in Panama City Beach have treated an average of 200 people a day — a number she expects to rise when a county curfew is lifted. She said fewer patients arrive after the nightly curfew takes effect, which does have an exemption for people with medical emergencies.

Gulf Coast Regional Medical Center spokesman Brad Palmer said the facility had treated 560 emergency room patients in the week since the storm.

While they aren’t admitting patients, the hospitals are stabilizing people with serious injuries or illness and transporting them to hospitals outside the heavily damaged areas.

Some people go to the outdoor medical tents, which is where Racette was treated at Bay Medical Sacred Heart. Tony Averbuch, who leads the team of government workers providing care outside the hospital, said business is steady.

“Right now we’re seeing between 80 and 100 people a day at this site, but we’re one of many sites that are across Florida,” he said.

Mega Millions jackpot climbs to \$1.6 billion

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — No one won the latest Mega Millions drawing, meaning the jackpot climbs to a staggering \$1.6 billion.

Mega Millions officials say no tickets matched all six numbers to claim the estimated \$1 billion grand prize in Friday night’s drawing. The numbers were 15, 23, 53, 65, 70 and Mega Ball 7.

The next drawing will be Tuesday. With the jackpot currently tied with the record-setting lottery jackpot and bound to grow before the next drawing, it is bound to become the largest prize in U.S. history.

The jackpot has been growing since July, when a group of California office workers won \$543 million.

It costs \$2 to play the game, but the odds of winning the jackpot aren’t good. The chance of matching all six numbers and taking home the grand prize is one in 302.5 million.

Mega Millions is played in 44 states as well as Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Kangaroo meat in chili costs cook his job

NE POTTER — A Nebraska school cook who mixed kangaroo meat into chili he made for students has lost his job.

Potter-Dix Schools Superintendent Mike Williams said Thursday that Kevin Frei, the junior/senior high school's head cook in Potter, no longer works for the district.

Williams said in a letter to parents Wednesday that Frei told him he'd augmented the chili's beef on Oct. 10 with kangaroo meat because it is lean and nutritious. Williams said the meat came from a food distributor that must meet federal requirements.

Disabled dog thrown in pool during fight drowns

FL PEMBROKE PINES — Police in Florida say a disabled Chihuahua drowned when a man tossed it into a backyard swimming pool while fighting with his ex-wife.

Pembroke Pines police say Juan Manuel Gonzalez, 40, grabbed the woman by the face, cutting her lip during a dispute on Thursday night.

A police report quotes Gonzalez as saying "you can't swim but you're going to learn tonight," just before throwing the dog in the pool. The report didn't describe the dog's disability. The woman told officers she could hear the dog crying before drowning.

Lunar meteorite sells for more than \$600K

MA BOSTON — A 12-pound chunk of the moon that fell to the Earth as a lunar meteorite was sold at auction for more than \$600,000.

Boston-based RR Auction announced Friday that the \$612,500 winning bid for the meteorite, composed of six fragments that fit together like a puzzle, came from a representative working with the Tam Chuc Pagoda complex in Ha Nam Province, Vietnam.

RR predicted that it would get \$500,000 at auction.

The meteorite was found last year in a remote area of Mauritania in northwest Africa.

Former school official admits to stealing

MO CHESTERFIELD — The former chief financial officer at Columbia Public Schools admitted to stealing thousands of dollars from band boosters at a suburban St. Louis high school.

The Columbia Daily-Tribune reported that Anna Munson pleaded guilty Thursday in St. Louis County District Court to receiving stolen property.

Charging documents said she began making unauthorized withdrawals after becoming the treasurer of the Marquette Band Boosters at Marquette High School in the Rockwood School District in St. Louis County in October 2014. The missing funds weren't noticed until another treasurer took over the account in 2016.

After charges were filed this spring, she resigned from her job in Columbia. District officials there say no money is missing.

Metal balls zip down street, damaging cars

WA SEATTLE — Authorities in Seattle temporarily closed a street after dozens of large metal balls spilled from a truck and cascaded down the street, damaging several cars.

The Seattle Times reported that the street was closed about 5 p.m. Wednesday in the West Seattle neighborhood. Seattle police spokesman Patrick Michaud said it's unclear what caused the load to fall from the truck.

A video taken by a person on the scene shows the balls loudly bouncing down the street as a driver slowly backs up, apparently attempting to escape the onslaught.

Several cars were damaged but no injuries were reported.

City pays \$2,000 in ransomware attack

CT WEST HAVEN — A Connecticut city paid \$2,000 to restore access to its computer system after a ransomware attack.

West Haven officials said Thursday they paid the money to anonymous attackers through the digital currency bitcoin to unlock 23 servers and restore access to city data.

The attack disabled servers early Tuesday morning, and city officials say it was contained by 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

City attorney Lee Tiernan said officials initially didn't want to pay the ransom, but research showed it was the best course of action.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said the attack came from outside the U.S.

Moose hunter arrested for illegally entering US

ME JACKMAN — U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested a Canadian citizen who they say illegally entered the U.S. and hunted moose.

The Bangor Daily News reported the person was arrested near the St. Zacharie Port of Entry on Tuesday on a federal

charge of illegal entry to the U.S. and state charges of hunting moose out of season and hunting moose without a permit.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection did not disclose the person's name, gender or their hometown in Canada.

Dozens of rescued beagles finding homes

PA ALLENTOWN — Dozens of beagles rescued from a home in rural Pennsylvania are finding new owners and new homes.

The Lehigh County Humane Society received thousands of inquiries and began accepting adoption applications Thursday.

The dogs were rescued this month from a home outside Allentown where a woman had been breeding them without a license before she died last month.

The Allentown Morning Call reported the man who owned the house where the dogs were kept has received three citations for animal neglect.

It also reported he was cited Tuesday by the state agriculture department for operating an unlicensed kennel and failing to show proof the dogs were immunized against rabies.

2 women treated after being attacked by a fox

MA SCITUATE — Police are warning residents to be careful after two women reported being attacked by a fox.

The attacks occurred in the same general area within a 12-hour period Thursday.

Both victims were treated for bite wounds and are getting rabies shots.

Animal control is trying to locate the fox.

From wire reports

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Brewers win, force Game 7 in NLCS

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Ryan Braun slid across home plate and raised his arms in sheer joy.

A big lead, a bruising bullpen and a boisterous crowd have the Milwaukee Brewers all set up for Game 7.

Jesus Aguilar sparked Milwaukee's slumping lineup with three RBIs on a pair of two-out hits, and the Brewers beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 7-2 on Friday night to even the NL Championship Series at three games each.

"I don't think about me. The most important thing, at the end of the day, is win games," said Aguilar, who had driven in just two runs in the playoffs. "Tomorrow it can be somebody else. Tonight, it was me."

Game 7 is Saturday night in front of the same frenzied crowd that booed Manny Machado vociferously after he tangled with Aguilar while the series was in Los Angeles. Dodgers rookie Walker Buehler faces journeyman Jhoulys Chacin, with well-rested relief

ace Josh Hader looming in the bullpen for Milwaukee after a surprise day off.

It's the first Game 7 for the Brewers since losing to St. Louis in 1982 in their only World Series appearance. The Dodgers dropped Game 7 of the World Series last year to Houston.

"Got to get them tomorrow. We got one more game," Machado said. "They played good baseball today. So, we just got to play a better one tomorrow."

David Freese led off this Game 6 with a home run that quieted Miller Park — but just for a moment.

Backed by raucous fans waving yellow towels that read "ONE TOUGH CREW," Milwaukee rebounded from consecutive losses at Dodger Stadium with the same formula it used to win the NL Central during a breakout season.

Some timely hitting by Aguilar and company produced an early lead, and Corey Knebel and Jeremy Jeffress led the way in another shutdown performance by Milwaukee's tough bullpen.

"Anybody, anywhere, anytime," Knebel said. "We're ready to go."

Los Angeles was looking for its second straight NL pennant and some time to prepare for the mighty Boston Red Sox in the World Series. But losing pitcher Hyun-Jin Ryu was tagged for four runs in the first inning, two on a double by Aguilar that sent Braun sliding home.

After Wade Miley pitched into the fifth inning in his second straight start — he faced only one batter in Game 5 — Knebel, Jeffress and Corbin Burnes closed it out with hitless relief. Knebel got the win and Burnes retired the Dodgers in order in the ninth, setting off a wild celebration for the crowd of 43,619.

Manager Craig Counsell considered bringing in Hader, especially in the eighth, but Aguilar scored on a wild pitch in the seventh and singled in Lorenzo Cain in the eighth. The extra room helped persuade Counsell to give Hader another day of rest. The rocket-armed

reliever hasn't pitched since Tuesday in Game 4.

"Best-case scenario for sure for us," Counsell said.

Freese drove in both runs for the Dodgers. The rest of the Los Angeles lineup managed just three measly singles. Hounded by boos all night long, Machado went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts.

"You know what? I'm focused on the game," Machado said. "Try to go pitch by pitch, drive in runs. Do what we got to do on the field. We didn't execute today."

The 35-year-old Freese was a surprise choice for leadoff hitter by Dave Roberts, and he made his manager look quite good when he started the game with a drive to right-center for his ninth career postseason homer.

Freese also connected in the first inning of the previous NLCS Game 6 in Milwaukee, helping the Cardinals win the pennant in 2011. It was just his fourth time in the leadoff spot in his 10 years in the majors.

With chance to quiet fans, Dodgers' Machado whiffs

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Manny Machado gestured with his hands, appearing to egg on the booing crowd as he retreated down the dugout steps following a first-inning strikeout.

The jeers kept coming for the Los Angeles Dodgers star. So did the outs.

Machado went 0-for-4 with two strikeouts in a 7-2 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers on Friday night that pushed the NL Championship Series to a Game 7. Asked if he was shaken by the persistent boos, Machado said he was just focused on the game and responded with clichés.

"I'm here to play baseball. I'm here to get the W," he said. "We didn't hit. ... We didn't do what we needed to do. So, we've got

to do a better job (Saturday)."

Major League Baseball fined Machado an undisclosed amount for kicking Milwaukee first baseman Jesus Aguilar in Game 4, a base-running incident that caused benches to clear at Dodger Stadium and prompted Brewers MVP candidate Christian Yelich to call Machado a "dirty player."

Booed lustily each time he came to the plate, Machado had no answer for the jeers.

He struck out in the first with one out after Justin Turner had reached on a single. He gestured after the at-bat at the dugout steps.

Machado explained that he was trying to get back to the top step to root for the next hitter, Cody Bellinger.

"So, at that point, you're just trying to pass the baton. Hope-

fully, he picks you up," Machado said. "None of us picked each other up today. So, we got to do a better job tomorrow."

Machado popped up to shortstop ending the third. He bounced out to shortstop in the eighth.

An inning-ending strikeout in the fifth with two on was the most costly at-bat for the Dodgers. David Freese, who led off the game with a home run, hit an RBI double with one out that cut the gap to 5-2. Max Muncy walked, Turner flied out and Machado worked the count to 2-2 before swinging through Corey Knebel's 97 mph fastball.

Other than Freese, most of the rest of the lineup struggled, too. Turner and Chris Taylor were the only other position players to get hits.

They couldn't rally after a four-run first inning for the Brewers off Dodgers starter Hyun-Jin Ryu.

Milwaukee manager Craig Counsell said his team fed off the loud fans. The big first inning, in turn, riled them up more.

Even Dodgers manager Dave Roberts was impressed.

"But it was really good energy tonight," he said.

Especially when Machado was up.

A free-agent-to-be acquired from Baltimore on July 18, Machado hit .297 with 37 homers and a career-high 107 RBIs in 162 games with the Orioles and Dodgers this year. But in the Championship Series he's hit .261 with one homer and three RBIs — all in the opener.

Logano wins Kan. pole in elimination race

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Joey Logano hopped out of his car and jokingly thanked his Penske Racing team for all the wise adjustments that they made before he qualified on the pole for Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway.

The truth was they changed absolutely nothing.

"We made zero changes from the time we unloaded to qualifying," Logano said after his lap of 191.646 mph landed him on the pole. "They did a great job of preparing the car."

Logano heads into the final race before the playoff field is cut from 12 to eight with a 39-point buffer, so it wasn't as if he was in trouble. But starting up front allows him to chase stage points early and that could eliminate some of the pressure later in the race.

"It helps a little bit. We want to be able to score some stage points to start," he said, "but hopefully we don't have to worry about points and we can

just go win the race."

Kevin Harvick is in similar shape after qualifying second Friday, while fellow playoff drivers Aric Almirola, Ryan Blaney and Brad Keselowski rounded out qualifying's top five.

Keselowski is the first driver outside the playoff cutoff.

Kyle Busch, who sits between Harvick and Logano in the playoffs, will start sixth after a solid effort at a track he's slowly grown to love. Clint Bowyer and Martin Truex Jr. are on the bubble, and the Kansas native will start 14th while the reigning series champion will start 12th.

Alex Bowman and Kurt Busch rounded out the top 10, while Kyle Larson crashed his primary car in practice and officially qualified 27th, though he'll be sent to the back on Sunday.

"I think we'll be fine. Our cars are always good here when we come to Kansas," Larson said. "I wish we didn't wreck

our primary car. Our primary car is usually better. But we'll be fine."

Larson's other loss: Larson lost an appeal Friday of his 10-point penalty from Talladega, where NASCAR found his team used unapproved pieces to fix some damage. Larson figured he needed to win at Kansas anyway to advance in the playoffs, so he was more miffed over his practice crash than the penalty. "I've had a backup car here before and been really fast," he said.

Race to win: Chase Elliott has already advanced from his win at Dover, but he was still upset by failing to make the final round of qualifying. "To me this is a test this weekend to see how you're going to be on the mile-and-a-halfs the rest of the season," said Elliott, who will start 13th. "If you struggle this weekend you probably have your work cut out for you."

Penske's pair: Keselowski and Blaney are the top two drivers outside the playoff cut-

off, and both drive for Roger Penske. But that doesn't mean things are awkward between them. "We don't quiz each other before any week, whether it's the second race of the year or this week," Blaney said. "We just talk between teams, try to work together the best you can."

Bowyer's bummer: Bowyer is seventh in the playoff standings, and he looked like he'd be starting up front after leading the first qualifying round. But he failed to survive the second round, and now his hopes of winning at what he considers his home track are a bit murkier.

All smiles: Almirola continued his hot streak from last week's win at Talladega, leading the second round of qualifying before finishing third in the final round. "We're literally racing for a championship all the way to the end of the year," he said. "That's an incredible feeling."

Air Force rallies past UNLV for first conference win

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Isaiah Sanders accounted for four touchdowns Friday night to lead Air Force to a 41-35 win over University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Sanders completed 9 of 11 passes for 217 yards and one touchdown and rushed for 173 yards and three TDs. Rona Cleveland had three receptions for 100 yards and one touchdown for the Falcons.

"He played well, you could tell, just the grasp of the offense," said Air Force's Troy Calhoun, who became the second coach in Mountain West history with 50 conference wins. "Just the confidence and some of the skill, yet some of the will power at the end, some of the really, really sturdy and strong runs that he had today."

Air Force (3-4, 1-3 Mountain West) held off a late rally by UNLV, which erased a 20-point

deficit with 5:45 left in the third quarter by scoring 14 unanswered points.

The Falcons stopped UNLV (2-5, 0-3) on fourth-and-8 with less than two minutes left in the game, as Max Gilliam's pass to Darren Woods Jr. fell incomplete.

Gilliam, who was making his third start in place of injured starter Armani Rogers, was 26-for-38 passing for 261 yards and three touchdowns and one interception. The sophomore averaged 186.5 yards passing in his previous two starts for the Rebels, who rank 123rd nationally with just 123.7 yards per contest.

Lexington Thomas rushed for 108 yards and two touchdowns for UNLV.

The Rebels held a 21-20 lead at halftime, but Air Force wasted no time in jumping on a UNLV defense that has allowed 150 points and 1,672 yards in

its last three games.

The Falcons, who ran up 572 yards of offense, scored 21 straight points in the third quarter to lead 41-21. The Rebels' defense has allowed more than 500 yards in four of seven games this season.

Ronald Cleveland had three receptions for 100 yards and one touchdown for the Falcons. Cleveland has caught a pass in a team-best eight straight games, and 10 of his last 11.

The Falcons ended a four-game road losing streak and improved to 16-6 all-time against UNLV, including 8-4 in Las Vegas. Air Force has won three straight in the series, including its last two at Sam Boyd Stadium.

"It's hard to win on the road," Calhoun said. "It's hard for us to win in this league, especially on the road, and that's a credit to the opponent who we played, UNLV. At the same time, we

might have made it a little bit more difficult than we needed to, though."

Takeaway

Air Force: The Falcons kept their bowl hopes alive by securing their third win of the season. After hosting preseason Mountain Division favorite Boise State next week, the Falcons close the season against Army, New Mexico, Wyoming and Colorado State, who have a combined record of 12-14.

UNLV: While the Rebels continue to struggle defensively, Thomas continues to climb the ladder as UNLV's most successful running back. His 74-yard TD run was his second run of more than 70 yards this season, contributing to his 16th game with at least 100 yards rushing. He ranks second behind Mike Thomas on the all-time list for 100-yard games.

NBA roundup

Raptors win early showdown with Celts

Associated Press

TORONTO — Kawhi Leonard had 31 points and 10 rebounds, Serge Ibaka added 21 points and the Toronto Raptors beat the Boston Celtics 113-101 on Friday night in an early matchup between Eastern Conference contenders.

Kyle Lowry scored 15 points, Danny Green had 14, and Fred VanVleet 11 to help the Raptors win for the 10th time in 11 home meetings with the Celtics.

Kyrie Irving scored 21 points for Boston, and Al Horford had 14 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

Timberwolves 131, Cavaliers 123: Jimmy Butler brushed off some early jeers from the home crowd, scoring 33 points in 36 minutes to lead

Minnesota past Cleveland.

Andrew Wiggins added 22 points to bolster a vintage all-around effort by the four-time All-Star Butler, who requested a trade last month. Butler made 10 of 12 field goals and 12 of 12 free throws, and had seven rebounds, four steals and three assists.

Bucks 118, Pacers 101: Giannis Antetokounmpo had 26 points and 15 rebounds and Khris Middleton added 25 points to help Milwaukee beat visiting Indiana.

The Bucks, who ranked 25th in the NBA last season with 24.7 three-point attempts per game, continued to fire away under new coach Mike Budenholzer. Milwaukee was 17-for-47, with Antetokounmpo going 0-for-7. Middleton had five

three-pointers.

Clippers 108, Thunder 92: Danilo Gallinari and Tobias Harris scored 26 points each and host Los Angeles rallied in the fourth quarter for its first win of the season.

The Thunder played without Russell Westbrook for the second straight game because of a right knee issue.

Warriors 124, Jazz 123: Jonas Jerebko crashed the boards and tipped in a shot with 0.3 seconds remaining to lift visiting Golden State past his former team.

Kevin Durant led the Warriors with 38 points. Jerebko, who was allowed to leave the Jazz as a free agent after last season, finished with 10 points.

Joe Ingles paced the Jazz with 27 points, including seven

three-pointers. Donovan Mitchell added 19 points.

Nets 107, Knicks 105: Caris LeVert's driving layup with a second left gave him a career-high 28 points and lifted host Brooklyn past New York for its first victory of the season.

Pelicans 149, Kings 129: Nikola Mirotic scored 36 points, Anthony Davis had 25 points and 10 rebounds, and host New Orleans routed Sacramento.

Grizzlies 131, Hawks 117: Newcomer Garrett Temple scored 30 points, rookie Jaren Jackson Jr. added 24 and Memphis coasted past visiting Atlanta.

Hornets 120, Magic 88: Kemba Walker scored 26 points and Nicolas Batum had 15 to lead Charlotte past host Orlando.

NHL roundup

Suter's ricochet goal helps Minnesota beat Dallas

Associated Press

DALLAS — Ryan Suter joked that he was trying to bank the puck off a Dallas defenseman and into the net.

Suter scored the go-ahead goal in the third period and had two assists as the Minnesota Wild beat the Stars 3-1 on Friday night.

Dallas goalie Ben Bishop had stopped a shot by Eric Staal, but the puck went into the left corner. Suter sent the puck back in front, and it ricocheted in off the Stars' Esa Lindell with 7:06 left to put the Wild up 2-1.

"I was just trying to get it to the net," Suter said as he got more serious about the description.

Devan Dubnyk made 33 saves — including 24 in the second period — for Minnesota in a game that was scoreless through 40 minutes.

"In the second period, if it wasn't for (Dubnyk), they could have had five," Wild coach

Bruce Boudreau said. "I was really impressed."

The Stars finally broke through 36 seconds into the third period, when Jason Spezza scored his first of the season, tipping in Miro Heiskanen's shot from the left point.

Minnesota took over after that, finishing with a 15-4 edge on shots in the third.

"We go up 1-nothing and our mentality's got to be step on their throats," Stars coach Jim Montgomery said. "I think we get result-oriented, and we start managing, looking at the clock instead of playing through the game."

First, Matt Dumba put a loose rebound past Bishop at 9:37 of the third to tie the score.

After Suter's goal, Zach Parise scored into an empty net with 1 minute left.

Predators 5, Flames 3: Zac Rinaldo scored the tiebreaking goal in the third period to lead visiting Nashville to its fourth

straight win.

Kevin Fiala and Filip Forsberg each had a goal and an assist, and Ryan Johansen and Craig Smith also scored for the Predators.

After Noah Hanifin got caught pinching, Rinaldo broke out on a 2-on-1 with Ryan Hartman and hung onto the puck the whole way before beating Flames goalie Mike Smith on his blocker side with a perfect wrist shot into the top corner at 6:31 of the third to give Nashville a 4-3 lead.

Forsberg sealed the win with an empty-netter with 32 seconds left.

Pekka Rinne had 15 saves on 18 shots before leaving with just under 15 minutes left in the third. Juuse Saros stopped all nine shots he faced.

Elias Lindholm got his team-leading fifth goal for Calgary, and Matthew Tkachuk and Sam Bennett also scored. Smith finished with 25 saves.

Panthers 6, Capitals 5 (SO):

Jonathan Huberdeau had a goal, two assists and the shootout winner as visiting Florida recovered after giving up a three-goal lead in the second period and beat Washington for its first victory of the season.

In a wacky, back-and-forth game, Florida squandered a 4-1 advantage and allowed the tying goal with 1:25 left. The Panthers couldn't score in overtime despite a power play but celebrated a win for the first time this season in their fifth game after Huberdeau beat Copley in the fourth round of the shootout.

Vincent Trocheck also had a goal and two assists and scored in the shootout for the Panthers. Backup goaltender Michael Hutchinson stopped 10 of the 11 shots he faced in regulation and overtime and made a couple of more saves in the shootout after replacing starter James Reimer.