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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Synagogue survivors recall ordeal

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — As Barry Werber walked into the Tree of Life Synagogue, he passed a cart carrying glassware and whiskey meant for the baby-naming ceremony scheduled at Dor Hadash, one of three small congregations that worship there.

He went downstairs, where his New Light Congregation meets, and found only a few people gathered. Melvin Wax, 88, was chatting up front with David Rosenthal, who had intellectual disabilities and spent hours helping out there. Rosenthal soon went upstairs for his own service at Tree of Life. Two other men, Daniel Stein and Richard Gottfried, were in the kitchen.

Minutes later, Werber found himself hiding in a dark storage closet after an anti-Semitic gunman tore through the building and opened fire, killing Wax, Rosenthal, Stein, Gottfried and seven others across two floors.

“I don’t know why he thinks the Jews are responsible for all the ills in the world, but he’s not the first and he won’t be the last,” Werber, 76, said Sunday. “Unfortunately, that’s our burden to bear. It breaks my heart.”

Werber’s recollection was among the harrowing accounts that emerged from survivors as authorities worked to piece together the background and movements of the suspected gunman, Robert Gregory Bowers, who is due in federal court Monday. Prosecutors have set in motion plans to seek the death penalty.

The first funeral — for Rosenthal and his older brother, Cecil, also killed in the attack — is planned for Tuesday.

The weekend massacre spurred a number of fundraising efforts. A crowdfunding campaign called Muslims Unite for Pittsburgh Synagogue raised more than \$90,000 for survivors and families, while a fundraiser led by a graduate student in Washington had taken in nearly \$545,000 as of Monday morning, with funds to go to the congregation.

Bowers is accused of killing eight men and three women before a tactical police team tracked him down and shot him, according to state and federal affidavits made public on Sunday.

He apparently posted an anti-Semitic message on a social media account

linked to him just a few minutes before he opened fire. He expressed hatred of Jews during the rampage and later told police that “I just want to kill Jews” and that “all these Jews need to die,” authorities said. The Anti-Defamation League called it the deadliest U.S. attack on Jews.

Six people were injured, including four officers.

The suspect appeared in court Monday in a wheelchair and was denied bond.

All three congregations were conducting Sabbath services when the attack began just before 10 a.m. Saturday in the tree-lined residential neighborhood of Squirrel Hill, about 10 minutes from downtown Pittsburgh and the hub of the city’s Jewish community.

‘My holy place defiled’

Speaking at a vigil in Pittsburgh on Sunday night, Tree of Life Rabbi Jeffrey Myers said about a dozen people had gathered in the main sanctuary when Bowers walked in and began shooting. Seven of his congregants were killed, he said.

“My holy place has been defiled,” he said.

In the basement, four members of New Light were just starting to pray — with the two others in the kitchen — when they heard crashing coming from upstairs, looked out the door and saw a body on the staircase, Werber recalled Sunday in an interview at his home.

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman closed the door and pushed them into a large supply closet, he said. As gunshots echoed upstairs, Werber called 911 but was afraid to say anything, for fear of making any noise.

When the shots subsided, he said, Wax opened the door, only to be shot and fall back inside.

“There were three shots, and he falls back into the room where we were,” he said. “The gunman walks in.”

Apparently unable to see Werber and the other congregants in the darkness, Bowers walked back out.

Werber called the gunman “a maniac” and “a person who has no control of his baser instincts.”

Perlman, who also spoke at the vigil

Sunday night, said New Light lost three congregants.

“These three men, they cannot be replaced,” said Perlman, his voice breaking. “But we will not be broken. We will not be ruined.”

Myers, who helped get police to the scene by making an emergency call, said Monday on ABC’s “Good Morning America” that he didn’t always make a habit of carrying a cellphone on the Sabbath — until August, when a security expert advised him to do so.

The 20 minutes he spent on the phone, Myers said, “felt like an eternity.”

Officials released the names of all 11 of the dead. The youngest was 54, the oldest 97. The toll included a husband and wife, professors, dentists and physicians.

Bowers shot his victims with an AR-15, used in many of the nation’s mass shootings, and three handguns, all of which he owned legally and had a license to carry, according to a law enforcement official who wasn’t authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation and who spoke Sunday on the condition of anonymity.

Bowers was a long-haul trucker who worked for himself, U.S. Attorney Scott Brady said Sunday.

Little else was known about the suspect, who had no apparent criminal record. It appears he acted alone, authorities said.

Bowers was charged with 11 state counts of criminal homicide, six counts of aggravated assault and 13 counts of ethnic intimidation.

He was also charged in a 29-count federal criminal complaint that included counts of obstructing the free exercise of religious beliefs resulting in death — a federal hate crime — and using a firearm to commit murder.

Of the six survivors, four remained in the hospital Sunday night, and two — including an officer, 40 — were in critical condition.

Gab.com, a social media site popular with far-right extremists where Bowers had a profile, was offline Monday. Gab wrote it had been “systematically no-platformed by app stores, multiple hosting providers and several payment processors,” including PayPal.

Japan developing glide bombs

BY HANA KUSUMOTO
AND CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Japan is developing supersonic glide bombs to defend remote islands that include an uninhabited chain in the East China Sea disputed by China, according to an agency under the country's Defense Ministry.

The hope is that the weapons — formerly known as hyper velocity gliding projectiles — can be launched from nearby islands to deter potential attacks, the Ministry of Defense said. They should also be less likely to be intercepted by anti-aircraft artillery.

The ministry's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency began its glide-bomb research this year and will continue with trial production through March 2025, with plans of putting the weapons

into service by March 2026, a spokesman recently told Stars and Stripes in an email.

It would have taken seven more years to bring the bombs to fruition under the original development schedule; however, the spokesman said the project was fast-tracked to cover Japan's defense needs.

"It is necessary (for Japan) to be equipped as soon as possible," he said, adding that the nation lacks the ability to effectively attack enemy forces that take over remote islands.

The Senkakus in the East China Sea are often a source of tension between Japan and China. Earlier this year, Tokyo protested to Beijing after a submarine, presumed to be Chinese, was detected near Okinawa and the Senkakus. Then-Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama expressed "great concern" over the issue

and urged China not to repeat the incursion.

Two Chinese frigates and a supply vessel were spotted this month near Miyako Island, not far from the Senkakus.

Japan's \$47.4 billion defense budget request for fiscal year 2019 asked for \$123.3 million for supersonic glide bomb research for the upcoming year. The Defense Ministry estimates the total cost of development to be about \$605.9 million, according to the agency spokesman.

The weapon's long range could prompt concern among neighboring countries, though Japan fields only a self-defense force and its constitution bans offensive warfare.

The spokesman said no plans have been set for where the bombs will be deployed or who will operate them.

US troops drink Iceland bars dry

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Several bars in downtown Reykjavik were drunk dry by U.S. sailors and Marines in Iceland participating in NATO's Trident Juncture exercise.

The influx of thirsty American servicemembers over the weekend caused a beer shortage in many of the popular drinking establishments in the small country.

Almost 7,000 sailors and Marines were in Iceland for the exercise. The population of Iceland is about 340,000.

Reykjavik's small downtown has several bars that would immediately stand out to an English-speaking American, like the English Bar, the U.S. gangster-themed Dillon Whiskey Bar, and the Lebowski Bar themed on the popular movie *The Big Lebowski*.

One bar the Americans frequented was the U.S.-themed American Bar, where, according to local bartender Ingvar Svendsen, they sold more than twice the amount of beer they anticipated selling this weekend.

"We had to send people out of the bar to our warehouses to bring beer back as quickly as possible," Svendsen told Stars and Stripes on Monday. "Other bars ran out of beer altogether."

"(The Americans) were very polite and friendly, and caused no problems at all," Svendsen said. "It looked like they were having a lot of fun. It was fun for us too, having them here."

The sailors and Marines were in Iceland to conduct amphibious operations in support of Trident Juncture, currently underway in the North Atlantic.

The amphibious force conducted air assault and cold weather training and docked ships in Reykjavik's harbor.

US to continue patrol in disputed South China Seas

Associated Press

DAVAO, Philippines — The U.S. Navy will continue patrolling the disputed South China Sea, a top Navy official said Monday, after a Chinese destroyer came dangerously close to an American Navy ship during a "freedom of navigation" sail-by near a Chinese-occupied reef.

Admiral John Richardson, who heads U.S. naval operations, said in a news conference with Philippine military officials in Manila on Monday that such patrols highlight the U.S. position against "illegitimate maritime claims."

"We will continue to progress this program of freedom of navigation operations," Richardson said. "We do dozens of these operations around the world to indicate our position for ... illegitimate claims, maritime claims."

While Washington has no

claims to the strategic waterway, it has declared that freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of the disputes are in the U.S. national interest. The U.S. has also questioned China's expansive claims, bringing it into a collision course with Beijing as the countries' ties deteriorate.

A Chinese destroyer came close to the USS Decatur in late September in an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver" near Gaven Reef in the South China Sea, forcing it to maneuver to prevent a collision, according to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gorman said the Chinese destroyer approached within 45 yards of the Decatur's bow. China said the Luoyang, a Chinese missile destroyer, was deployed to identify the U.S. warship and drive it away near Chinese territory.

Gaven is claimed by China, the Philippines, Vietnam and

Taiwan. Malaysia and Brunei also have claims in the South China Sea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is on a visit to southern Davao city in the Philippines, said in a separate news conference that some "non-regional countries" were stirring up trouble in the disputed waters and "have been showing off their force."

Wang said China and Southeast Asian nations should guard against foreign interference. China has repeatedly criticized what it says is U.S. meddling in an Asian territorial dispute.

"We shall work together to be vigilant against and prevent interferences and disruptions coming from the outside as China and the Philippines and other littoral states of the South China Sea are cooperating to uphold peace and cooperation," Wang said.

Europe gets large USAF ordnance shipment

BY JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has delivered its largest shipment of ordnance to Europe since NATO's 1999 bombing campaign in the Balkans, a move that is part of a broader rearmament on the Continent.

The 86th Munitions Squadron at Ramstein Air Base recently processed about 100 containers filled with various munitions.

The Air Force declined to comment Monday on the weight or composition of the containers; however, a 2016 Army ammunition delivery of 415 containers totaled about 5,000 tons.

"The munitions that we received will be used for future theater operations and the evolving U.S. European Command presence," Master Sgt. David Head, squadron munitions operations section chief, said in the Air Force statement.

The last Air Force delivery of such size happened during Operation Allied Force,

a 78-day campaign in which allied aircraft flew some 900 sorties in response to ethnic cleansing of Albanians in Kosovo.

The new stockpiles will augment Air Force pre-positioned stocks, Master Sgt. Arthur Myrick, 86th MUNS munitions flight chief, said in a statement.

They also can be used to support the European Deterrence Initiative — a military campaign intended to bolster allies and deter potential Russian aggression.

For the past four years, stockpiling weaponry has been a focal point of U.S. military efforts in Europe. The buildups are part of an effort to boost U.S. European Command's combat readiness and compensate for a force that has dwindled in size since the Cold War.

The Army also has steadily added to its stockpiles in Europe. In 2016, the Army had one of its largest ammunition shipments to the Continent in 20 years. In a crisis, forces from the U.S. could deploy to Europe and tap into strategically placed reserves.

The U.S. has long maintained weapon-

ry in Europe, but those stocks — in some cases left over from the Cold War — were reported to have been depleted by the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Libya and Syria.

The arrival of the latest Air Force shipment coincides with the launch of Trident Juncture, NATO's largest exercise since the end of the Cold War. About 50,000 alliance troops are joining the war games centered in Norway, including some 12,000 from the United States.

Larger war games and the accelerated operational tempo in the EUCOM area has kept the military's ammunition teams busy.

"We're a major airlift hub for U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, so our main job is to get munitions where they need to be on time," Myrick said in the Air Force statement. "These are real-world munitions to fulfill real-world objectives. That's the reason we are downloading these things: to make sure we have the capability to move the fight forward if need be."

Russian held as agent studied US groups' cyber defenses

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A year before federal prosecutors accused Maria Butina of operating as a secret agent for the Russian government, she was a graduate student at American University working on a sensitive project involving cybersecurity.

Butina's college assignment called for her to gather information on the cyber defenses of U.S. nonprofit organizations that champion media freedom and human rights, The Associated Press has learned. It was information that could help the groups plug important vulnerabilities, but also would be of interest to the Russian government.

In fact, the Russians previously had in their sights at least two of the groups with which she and other students interacted.

Butina participated in the project under the tutelage of a respected professor who advised the State Department on cybersecurity matters. It was

carried out for the nonprofit group Internews, which works extensively with the U.S. government to bolster the free flow of information in dangerous parts of the world and has drawn Russian ire with some of its programs in Russia and neighboring countries.

Butina's project raised few eyebrows before her July arrest, despite the fact that news reports already had posed questions about her rapid rise from selling furniture in Siberia and her ties with Kremlin officials.

As part of the project, a small group of students led by Butina was given a list of Internews partners working on human rights and press freedom issues for research purposes only, with the understanding that they not be contacted without consultation. But the students contacted some of the groups anyway, according to people involved in the project who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to describe the work.

An individual who has

worked on U.S. programs in Ukraine told the AP that after Butina's arrest, he was briefed by U.S. officials who expressed concern that two Internews programs in Ukraine — dealing with media freedom and cybersecurity and funded by the State Department — may have been exposed to Russian intelligence and may be at risk due to Butina's student work.

Internews said the students were never given access to the group's work or systems.

"The selection of the students and their roles and activities in the research was solely determined by AU faculty," spokeswoman Laura Stein Lindamood said. "Internews is currently reviewing our relationship with university-led student projects."

The access that Butina won through her coursework illustrates how academia and the extensive network of entities that often carry out sensitive, but not classified, work for the U.S. government remain national security vulnerabilities. In this case, all the institutions

expected someone else to vet Butina. Internews thought AU stood behind her; the university said it doesn't do background checks and expects the State Department to vet foreign applicants fully before issuing visas.

Prosecutors allege in court documents that attending the university was Butina's "cover" as she cultivated political contacts and ties with the National Rifle Association. They contend she was part of a clandestine political influence campaign directed by a former Russian lawmaker who has been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for his alleged ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Butina's student project was led by Eric Novotny, a cybersecurity expert who has a high security clearance as an adviser to the State Department. Novotny told the AP that even after press reports about Butina raised questions about her connections to the Russian government, he was obligated to treat her like any other student.

Germany's Merkel won't seek 5th term

Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's Angela Merkel announced Monday that she will step down as head of her conservative party in December after 18 years and won't seek a fifth term as chancellor in 2021, launching a leadership transition in Europe's biggest economy.

Merkel has led her conservative Christian Democratic Union since 2000 and Germany since 2005. She put Germany — and Europe — on track toward a new political era after voters punished Germany's governing parties in a state election Sunday, the latest in a string of woes to hit her fourth-term federal administration.

Merkel currently governs

Germany in a "grand coalition" of what traditionally have been the country's biggest parties — the CDU, Bavaria's conservative Christian Social Union, and the center-left Social Democrats. Her current coalition took office only in March, after six months of tortuous negotiations, but has become notorious for its squabbling.

The 64-year-old chancellor's personal popularity remains solid but she appeared keen to launch an orderly transition period amid signs that her authority is eroding. Merkel will now concentrate her energy on keeping her government going until 2021, something that still remains uncertain.

Merkel told reporters in Berlin that she has led the CDU

with "passion and dedication" but added "today it is time to start a new chapter."

That will start with her handing off the party leadership to a successor at a party congress in December.

"This fourth term is my final term as chancellor," Merkel added. "I will not run as candidate for chancellor in the 2021 election, and will not seek reelection to the German parliament. And, just for the record, I will not aim for any other political office."

It had been widely assumed this would be Merkel's final term in office, but the comments were the chancellor's first public confirmation of that.

For years, Merkel has insist-

ed that the chancellor should also be party leader. But she said Monday that she had decided splitting the two jobs is "justifiable" since she didn't plan to seek a fifth term as chancellor.

"With this decision, I am trying to contribute to allowing the government to concentrate its strength, finally, on governing well — and people rightly demand that," Merkel said.

At the same time, she said the CDU will be able "to prepare for the time after me."

She said she had been mulling her decision for months. Merkel's one-time mentor, Helmut Kohl, did seek a fifth term in 1998 and lost power after 16 years.

Shiite pilgrims in Iraq trek to Karbala for the religious observance of Arbaeen

Associated Press

KARBALA, Iraq — Millions of Shiite Muslims from around the world are making their way this week to their sect's holy shrines in the Iraqi city of Karbala, a pilgrimage that is as much about community as it is about religion.

The shrines are of two revered Shiite imams: Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and his half-brother, Abbas.

The annual commemoration, called Arbaeen, draws more pilgrims each year — according to Iraqi figures — than the hajj in Saudi Arabia, a pilgrimage required once in the lifetime of every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to make it.

Pilgrims stream toward Karbala on foot from the cities of Najaf, 45 miles away; Baghdad, 55 miles to the north; and other places farther afield, resting along the way in tents lined with foam mattresses and fleece blankets.

"Our fathers and our grandfathers walked to Karbala and,

God willing, our children will, too," said Karrad Karim, 24, a pilgrim journeying with four friends from Baghdad. They brought with them large flags bearing devotional sayings to the Shiite saints but little in the way of supplies for the four-day journey.

That's because along the roads, stalls set up by charities, mosques and devotional groups see to it that no traveler goes hungry. Cooks prepare vast amounts of stewed lamb, grilled fish, fresh bread and rice for the pilgrims, refusing payment for the meals.

The pilgrimage, known in Arabic as the Ziara, marks the 40th day of mourning of the anniversary of Hussein's 7th-century death at the hands of the Muslim Umayyad forces in the Battle of Karbala during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Modern depictions of Hussein, stitched on banners displayed along the pilgrimage, show him with blood on his brow and bearing a Christ-like countenance.

Brazil swings right with Bolsonaro's big victory

Bloomberg

Jair Bolsonaro swept to power in Brazil's presidential election Sunday, marking a hard pivot to the right that promises to open up the resource-rich economy to private investment, strengthen ties to the U.S. and unleash an aggressive crackdown on epidemic crime.

The former army captain trounced Fernando Haddad, a leftist former Sao Paulo mayor whose Workers' Party became synonymous with graft, winning 55 percent of the vote to Haddad's 45 percent, with almost all votes counted. His supporters thronged public places throughout the fifth-largest nation, celebrating with flags, music and fireworks. Brazilian assets surged.

"I make you my witnesses that this government will be a defender of the constitution, of democracy and of freedom," Bolsonaro told a crowd of supporters in Rio de Janeiro. "This is a promise, not from a party, not the words of a man, it's an oath to God."

A little-known lawmaker for almost three decades, Bolsonaro, 63, drew public attention with tough talk. He promised to sup-

press the nation's lawlessness by meeting violence with violence, insulted minorities and women, waxed nostalgic for Brazil's dictatorship and expressed doubts about the electoral process itself.

His unforgiving politics places him among nationalists such as Hungary's Viktor Orban, Rodrigo Duterte in the Philippines and Donald Trump in America, who called him shortly after his victory was declared.

To many, however, Bolsonaro is the best hope to revive an ailing economy and streamline an inefficient state.

"The biggest risk is an erosion of democracy, though I'm not apocalyptic," said Michael Shifter, head of the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington. "The opportunity is that he could stop the economic hemorrhaging."

Bolsonaro's supporters on Sunday weren't concerned with the finer points of political economy. A crowd surrounding his beachside home in Rio honked horns, sang the national anthem and waved the green-and-yellow flag.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Owner of well-known record store retiring

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A small record store in Salt Lake City that sells vinyl records has managed to survive 40 years despite records long ago being eclipsed by CDs and streaming music.

The Salt Lake Tribune reported that Randy Stinson is retiring after four successful decades and will hand over Randy's Record Shop in Salt Lake City to his son.

The store was featured in the Travel Channel's list of eight must-see American record stores, cementing the store's reputation.

Stinson has 10,000 records in his garage and a jukebox filled with old rock 'n' roll songs he grew up with.

Team name makes stink, then blasts off

AL MADISON — A new Alabama minor league baseball team's name is taking off like a rocket after making a big stink.

Meet the Madison-based Rocket City Trash Pandas.

Al.com reported the team held an event Saturday to unveil its new logo and start merchandise sales. The team will begin playing in 2020.

"The name has gone viral," said managing partner Ralph Nelson. Nelson told the newspaper they had already received merchandise requests from 30 countries around the world.

The team's logo features a raccoon lifting off in a trash-can like rocket.

Zoo-bred endangered frogs freed into wild

MI ROYAL OAK — About two dozen endangered frogs raised at the Detroit Zoo

have been released into the wild.

The Detroit Zoological Society said 25 dusky gopher frogs were moved this month to the Ward Bayou Wildlife Management Area in southern Mississippi.

The frogs were bred at the zoo's National Amphibian Conservation Center. The Zoological Society said the frogs once were abundant throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama but now nearly are extinct.

WWII Museum joins library pass program

LA NEW ORLEANS — The National World War II Museum has joined the New Orleans Public Library's museum pass program.

It's the fourth museum to do so, allowing anyone with a library card to check out a two-week pass providing free admission for two adults and some children. The number of children varies according to the museum involved.

Other libraries around the state and the country have similar programs. Lafayette Parish Public Library patrons can get passes to the Hilliard University Art Museum at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Man emerges from coma, sees son's birth

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A Minnesota man awoke from a medically induced coma just in time for the birth of his son after his wife, at 39 weeks' pregnant, saved him from cardiac arrest.

Ashley Goette said she awoke Oct. 16 to hear her husband, Andrew Goette, gasping for air in their West St. Paul home. She called 911 and a dispatcher guided her through administering CPR. First responders rushed Andrew to United Hospital in St. Paul, where he was placed in a

coma to minimize possible brain damage.

Ashley told her husband she wouldn't have the baby until he awoke, and he did several days later, neurologically intact and in time for the birth of their first child, Lennon.

Wandering horses cause school to close

MO SPANISH LAKE — Horses near an elementary school in northeast Missouri caused a brief shutdown at the school after deciding to go on a short romp.

Six or seven horses from the Division Cavalry Brigade barn in north St. Louis County wandered the campus of Larimore Elementary School last week, causing officials to keep children and staff inside for about an hour.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported the 14 horses of the Division Cavalry Brigade are used to teach Civil War history and serve children and veterans with special needs. Their owner, Terry Crowder, said the horses had visited the school before.

Planned giant Ferris wheel is grounded

NY NEW YORK — A giant Ferris wheel that was supposed to lure tourists to New York City's least populous borough has been grounded.

A spokeswoman for the New York Wheel developers confirmed that the 630-foot wheel planned for the Staten Island shorefront "will unfortunately not come to fruition."

The developers have been battling contractor Mammoet-Starneth in court since the project was halted in May 2017.

The New York Wheel was one of several giant Ferris wheels planned for sites around the world.

2 charged with destroying owl nests

FL CAPE CORAL — Authorities said two Florida men were charged with destroying the nests of burrowing owls while building a house.

The News-Press reported that Joaquin Bernal, 39, was charged with a felony count of damaging the nest of a protected species.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said Bernal was supervising a landscaping crew that was working on a Cape Coral lot with six owl burrows. Officials said Bernal and the primary contractor, Jerlis Villalba, knew about the nests but ordered workers to operate construction equipment close to the burrows, causing all six to collapse.

Church's marriage sign prompts rally

RI WESTERLY — A sign posted in front of a Rhode Island church ended up energizing others in the surrounding community to rally against the message.

The sign posted in front of Westerly's Immaculate Conception Church read "God's Marriage = 1 Man + 1 Woman," and the sign was left up after a Saturday service. WJAR-TV reported that the sign prompted a large Sunday rally at Westerly's Town Hall, with dozens of signs raised in support of the LGBTQ community.

The church's Monsignor Carlo Montecalvo said the sign wasn't put up to offend anyone but reflects the church's teachings. The sign has since been taken down.

From wire reports

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STARS AND STRIPES®

Boston wins fourth title in 15 seasons

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Chris Sale's final pitch for this Boston juggernaut triggered a celebration on the Dodger Stadium infield, among thousands of fans who made their way to California — and even outside Fenway Park back home.

The quest is complete. Yes, these 2018 Red Sox really are that great.

A team to remember from top to bottom. A season to savor from start to finish.

David Price proved his postseason mettle, Steve Pearce homered twice and Boston beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 on Sunday to finish off a one-sided World Series in five games.

A tormented franchise during decades of despair before ending an 86-year championship drought in 2004, the Red Sox have become baseball's team of the century with four titles in 15 seasons.

"Seeing all these grown men over there, just acting like kids, that's what it's all about," Price said after pitching three-hit

ball into the eighth inning on short rest. "This is why I came to Boston."

After losing on opening day, Alex Cora's team romped to a 17-2 start and a club-record 108 wins, then went 11-3 in the postseason, dispatching the 100-win New York Yankees and the 103-victory and defending champion Houston Astros in the playoffs. Cora, a player on Boston's 2007 champions, became the first manager from Puerto Rico to win a title and just the fifth rookie skipper overall.

"I don't know where we stand in history and all that," said Dave Dombrowski, the club's president of baseball operations. "If somebody would say you're going to win 119 games and lose 57, we'd never, ever fathom that."

Pearce hit a two-run homer on Clayton Kershaw's sixth pitch. Solo homers by Mookie Betts in the sixth inning and J.D. Martinez in the seventh quieted the Los Angeles crowd. Pearce added a solo drive off Pedro Baez in the eighth, then was selected the Series MVP after the game.

"Best feeling in my life," Pearce said.

Acquired in June from Toronto, Pearce had three homers and seven RBIs in the final 11 innings of the Series.

Boston outscored the Dodgers 28-16 and had only a slightly better batting average at .222 to .180. But the Red Sox got timely hitting and won their ninth title, tying the Athletics for third-most behind the Yankees (27) and Cardinals (11).

All that stood between the Red Sox and a sweep was an 18-inning loss in Game 3, the longest World Series game ever. They trailed 4-0 in the seventh inning of Game 4 when Sale rose from the dugout bench for a fiery, profane, motivational rant, and his teammates woke up in time to rally for a 9-6 win.

Boston never trailed in Game 5.

"I didn't say anything that anyone didn't know," Sale explained. "Just rallying the troops and letting them know — we're the best team on the planet, and to start playing like it."

Kershaw, Dodgers have October to forget

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw couldn't rescue the Dodgers from the brink of World Series elimination, and now the pitcher regarded as the best of his generation might be on his way out of Los Angeles.

Down 3-1 to the Boston Red Sox, the Dodgers turned to their three-time NL Cy Young Award winner to deliver a victory and force the best-of-seven Series back to Boston.

Instead, it was another postseason shellacking for Kershaw.

The left-hander gave up three home runs, including a two-run shot by Steve Pearce in the first inning, and the Dodgers lost 5-1 on Sunday night.

"It just hurts worse when you make it all the way and get second place," Kershaw said quietly.

The Dodgers glumly watched the opposition celebrate a World Series championship on their field for the second straight year. Last October, it was Houston partying at Chavez Ravine after winning Game 7 by the

same 5-1 score.

This time, the Dodgers only lasted five games.

"It might not be a personnel thing," Kershaw said of his team's failures. "It might just be a play better thing."

Manager Dave Roberts visibly exhaled. Rookie Walker Buehler stared at the Red Sox hugging near the mound.

"This one hurts for all of us," Roberts said.

The Dodgers managed just one baserunner — via walk — after the third inning. They were held to three hits.

Kershaw gave up four runs and seven hits in seven innings, struck out five and walked none. Kershaw has a 6.06 ERA in six career postseason starts with his team facing elimination, the worst among any starter with four such appearances — Pedro Martinez is next on the list at 5.92.

After falling out of contention to start the season, the Dodgers beat Colorado in the NL tiebreaker for a record sixth straight division title and got by Milwaukee in seven games

to earn their second consecutive NL pennant.

But they couldn't get it done when it counted most. It's been 30 years since the storied franchise won the last of its six titles.

"Ran up against a very good ballclub," Roberts said, "and just a little bit too much for us."

Kershaw can opt out of the last two years and \$65 million of his contract now that the World Series is over. Dodgers ownership has made it clear they'd like to keep their 30-year-old ace. He has never played anywhere else during his big-league career.

"I've got three days now to think about all that stuff, and so it will be an eventful three days for me," Kershaw said. "I haven't made the decision yet. We have three days to talk, between us and the Dodgers, see what happens."

Roberts addressed his team after the game, and singled out Kershaw, who has been the face of the franchise for years.

"I did mention Clayton by

name as far as his legacy with the Dodgers, and what's he done for the organization, the fan base," Roberts said. "Wearing this jersey, Clayton exemplifies what it is to be a Dodger and to be a man of character."

Fellow left-hander Rich Hill credited Kershaw for being what he called "the heart and soul of this organization."

"Clayton is the Dodgers," he said. "I just hope they do the right thing."

Manny Machado could be gone, too, after a short stay in Los Angeles. He was hitless in four at-bats Sunday, with three strikeouts, including one to end the game.

Acquired before the July trade deadline, Machado showed excellent defense at shortstop, but his lack of hustle and incendiary antics were even more notable. Injured Corey Seager will be back in the hole next year.

Roberts hasn't received a contract extension, but he said afterward, "I expect to be managing the Dodgers."

Browns fire Jackson, coordinator Haley

Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Hue Jackson's failed, flawed tenure with the Cleveland Browns is finally over.

The team fired its embattled coach on Monday, ending a run of futility nearly unmatched in NFL history. Jackson, who went 3-36-1 in two-plus seasons, was dismissed on Monday by general manager John Dorse, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team has not yet announced the expected move.

The Browns also dismissed offensive

coordinator Todd Haley, the person said. Haley was in his first season on Jackson's staff.

The firing came a day after the Browns (2-5-1) lost their 25th straight road game — 20 of them coming with Jackson in charge.

The Browns, who have not made the playoffs since 2002, have lost three straight games after a promising start to this season. They tied Pittsburgh in Week 1, but were beaten 33-18 on Sunday by the Steelers.

Jackson is the sixth straight Cleveland coach to be fired following the team's second game against Pittsburgh. Romeo Crennel, Eric Mangini, Pat Shurmur, Rob

Chudzinski and Mike Pettine all met the same demise.

It's not immediately clear who will fill in for Jackson the rest of this season. The Browns host the Chiefs (7-1) on Sunday.

Defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and wide receivers coach Al Saunders are interim candidates with previous head coaching experience.

Jackson was hired in 2016 by owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam, who stuck by him despite a 1-15 record in his first season and the Browns losing all 16 games last season, joining the 2008 Detroit Lions as only the second team in league history to go 0-16.

NFL roundup

Rams rally to beat Packers, stay unbeaten

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Greg Zuerlein hit a 34-yard field goal with 2:05 left and Ramik Wilson forced and recovered Ty Montgomery's fumble on the ensuing kickoff return, allowing the Los Angeles Rams to remain unbeaten without a late defensive stand in a 29-27 victory over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

Jared Goff passed for 295 yards and three touchdowns while the Rams (8-0) were sternly tested by the Packers (3-3-1) and Aaron Rodgers, who threw for 286 yards.

Both teams rallied from 10-point deficits to take a lead in front of a bipartisan Coliseum crowd, but Rodgers never got the chance to mount one of his trademark winning drives.

Instead, the Rams extended their best start to a season since 1969 with another key play from LA's superlative special teams — and two crushing special-teams mistakes by Green Bay.

Marquez Valdes-Scantling caught a 40-yard touchdown pass from Rodgers with 8:50 left to put the Packers ahead 27-26, but Goff and Todd Gurley drove the Rams into range for Zuerlein's second field goal of the fourth quarter after a 25-yard punt by JK Scott.

Saints 30, Vikings 20: Drew Brees and New Orleans paid

back host Minnesota for a last-second loss in the playoffs last season, using two key turnovers, including a 45-yard interception return by P.J. Williams.

Alvin Kamara had two touchdowns and Will Lutz made three field goals for the Saints (6-1). They needed only 120 passing yards by Brees to beat the Vikings (4-3-1).

Cardinals 18, 49ers 15: Josh Rosen threw a 9-yard touchdown pass to fellow rookie Christian Kirk with 34 seconds to play to rally the host Cardinals in a matchup of teams with two of the worst records in the NFL.

The Cardinals beat San Francisco for the eighth straight time and second time in three weeks.

Colts 42, Raiders 28: Andrew Luck threw his third touchdown pass of the game to break a tie with 5:28 to go and the visiting Colts won in consecutive weeks for the first time in three years.

Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri set the record as the NFL's top all-time scorer in the first half. He kicked a 26-yard field goal in the first quarter to tie Morten Andersen with 2,544 points, and then added a 25-yarder late in the second to set the record. Vinatieri scored three more points, giving him 2,550 for his career.

Panthers 36, Ravens 21: Cam Newton torched the

league's No. 1-ranked defense, completing 21 of 29 passes for 219 yards and two touchdowns and running for 52 yards and another score as the Panthers won their ninth straight game at home.

Steelers 33, Browns 18: Ben Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to Antonio Brown, James Conner scored twice to bring some solace to a city grieving from tragedy.

The Steelers (4-2-1) overcame a slow start and their own mistakes to win their 15th straight at Heinz Field over the Browns (2-5-1), who have lost 25 consecutive road games — one shy of the NFL record.

Chiefs 30, Broncos 23: Patrick Mahomes threw for 303 yards and four touchdowns, Sammy Watkins had 107 yards receiving and two of the scores.

Travis Kelce and Kareem Hunt added touchdown catches for the host Chiefs (7-1), who have won 19 of their past 21 games against division rivals. That includes all three games this season.

Redskins 20, Giants 13: Safety D.J. Swearinger intercepted two passes, Matt Ioannidis had 2½ sacks, and the NFC East-leading Redskins rode their defense to a third straight win.

Adrian Peterson caught a 7-yard touchdown pass from Alex Smith and ran for a season-high

149 yards, with the last 64 coming on a touchdown jaunt with 3:06 to play, as the visiting Redskins (5-2) matched their best start since 2008.

Bengals 37, Buccaneers 34: Jessie Bates returned Jameis Winston's fourth interception for a touchdown, and Randy Bullock kicked a 44-yard field goal on the final play for host Cincinnati.

Winston was benched after matching his career high with four interceptions. Ryan Fitzpatrick rallied the Buccaneers (3-4) to a 34-34 tie with a pair of touchdown passes, including his 18-yard toss with 1:05 left.

Seahawks 28, Lions 14: Russell Wilson threw three touchdown passes in the second quarter to put the visiting Seahawks ahead.

The Seahawks (4-3) looked sharp on both sides of the ball coming off their bye and won for the fourth time in five games.

Bears 24, Jets 10: Mitchell Trubisky threw for two touchdowns for the short-handed host Bears.

The Bears (4-3) got the win after dropping two in a row to fall out of the NFC North lead, even though star pass rusher Khalil Mack (right ankle) and No. 1 receiver Allen Robinson (groin) missed the game.

NHL roundup

Edmonton knocks off Chicago in overtime

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Connor McDavid scored 53 seconds into overtime to lift the Edmonton Oilers to their third straight win, 2-1 win over the Chicago Blackhawks on Sunday.

After two Blackhawks skaters got caught deep in their zone, McDavid finished a 2-on-1 break, taking a cross-ice feed from Leon Draisaitl and beating Cam Ward from the left circle for his eighth goal.

Chicago's Brent Seabrook and Edmonton's Zack Kassian scored in the first period.

Chicago's leading scorer, Patrick Kane, assisted on Seabrook's goal to extend his point streak to six games.

Cam Talbot stopped 31 shots as Edmonton improved to 3-1 in overtime games.

Golden Knights 4, Senators 3 (OT): Jonathan Marchessault scored on a penalty shot in overtime to lift host Vegas over Ottawa.

Alex Tuch scored two goals and Ryan Reaves added his third of the season for the Golden Knights, who avoided their second three-game losing streak, after consecutive losses at home.

Kings 4, Rangers 3: Alec Martinez scored with 55 seconds remaining, and host Los Angeles stopped a six-game skid.

Red Wings 4, Stars 2: Anthony Mantha helped Detroit earn its first home win of the season.

Islanders 2, Hurricanes 1: Anders Lee had a goal and an assist, and visiting New York beat Carolina.

Sharks 4, Ducks 3 (OT): Timo Meier scored in overtime, his second goal of the game, to lift visiting San Jose and hand Anaheim its fifth straight loss.

Logano bumps Truex on way to victory

Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — When the reigning series champion slipped past him with one lap to go at Martinsville Speedway, Joey Logano figured he had lost his shot at racing for NASCAR's title.

A win would earn Logano one of the four spots in the winner-take-all championship at Homestead-Miami Speedway. So if he didn't try something, his chance at a Cup championship might slip away.

Logano used an old-fashioned bump-and-run on Martin Truex Jr. to Sunday and snatch one of the four tickets to the finale. Truex slid sideways across the finish line and promptly declared Logano won't take his title from him this year.

"He may have won the battle, but he ain't winning the damn war. I'm not going to let him win it (the championship.) I'm going to win it," Truex fumed.

Logano took Truex's warning in stride.

"OK. That's expected," Logano said. "This was our shot, maybe our only shot, so we had to make it happen."

Logano was showered in boos and Truex, standing on pit road next to his third-place car, jeered the winner with both thumbs down as Logano was

interviewed over the address system. On pit road, Truex crew chief Cole Pearn Jr. had an angry exchange with Logano crew chief Todd Gordon. Nearly 30 minutes later, Pearn still appeared visibly angry.

Truex and Pearn are part of Furniture Row Racing, which is shutting down at the end of the season, a year removed from its championship run. Naysayers cast doubt on the No. 78 defending its title with the closure looming, but both driver and crew chief are determined to prove everyone wrong.

"With everything we've got riding on it, the team closing down, it's tough to take," Pearn said of his confrontation with Gordon. "I used a few choice words I probably shouldn't have."

Logano won the opening race to the third round of the playoffs by using the bumper on his Ford to shove Truex out of his way on the final lap. The contact caused both cars to wiggle, but Truex's slide was nearly sideways while Logano corrected after a swerve and straightened himself out as hurtled across the finish line.

"I'm a hard racer, I don't think that's a secret to anyone, and we are here to win a championship this year," Logano said.

Hamilton wins F1 title

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel hugged in a gesture of mutual respect between two drivers with nine Formula One championships between them.

Then Hamilton talked about winning the 2018 season title, his place in history and the tough fight with Vettel to earn a fifth career championship that tied him with Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio for second-most in F1 history.

"This is a precious moment for me," Hamilton said after securing the title Sunday at the Mexican Grand Prix.

Vettel cradled his head in his hands and wiped his brow, bracing for hard questions about how a title chase he once led had once again slipped away. The defeat may have been expected, but it was still painful.

"It's a horrible moment," said Vettel, a four-time champion who has finished second two years in a row and three times in his career.

NBA roundup

Curry sets mark for Warriors

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Golden State appeared on its way to another easy victory when the game suddenly turned into a three-point shootout.

Luckily for the Warriors, they have the perfect guy for that.

Stephen Curry set another NBA record by making seven three-pointers and finished with 35 points as the Warriors held on to beat the Brooklyn Nets 120-114 on Sunday.

Kevin Durant added 34 for the Warriors, who were coasting before the Nets made it close with some sizzling shooting behind the arc.

Curry finally turned them back when his final three-pointer made it 115-108 with 1:07 to play. He has made at least five threes in all seven games, breaking George McCloud's record of six games in a row during the 1995-96 season.

"They got hot in the fourth to try to make it interesting, but made enough plays down the stretch to obviously get the win," Curry said.

Thunder 117, Suns 110: Paul George and Russell Westbrook each scored 23 points, and host Oklahoma City got its first win of the season.

Nerlens Noel had 20 points and 15 rebounds and Patrick Patterson added 17 points for the Thunder.

Jazz 113, Mavericks 104: Rudy Gobert and De Andre Jordan recorded their sixth straight double-doubles in six games this season to lead visiting Utah.

Gobert finished with 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Jordan added 12 points, 4-for-4 from the line, 19 rebounds and a career-high nine assists.

Clippers 136, Wizards 104: Tobias Harris scored 22 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to help host Los Angeles coast.