

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Hurricane Delta hits storm-ravaged La.

Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, La. — Ripping tarps off damaged roofs and scattering massive piles of storm debris in the wind and water, Hurricane Delta inflicted fresh damage in Louisiana along the same path of destruction Hurricane Laura carved just six weeks earlier.

Delta hit as a Category 2 hurricane with top winds of 100 mph before rapidly weakening over land Saturday morning. Flash floods remained a risk from parts of Texas to Mississippi, where forecasters said up to 10 inches of rain could fall by day's end.

Delta made landfall Friday evening near the town of Creole, a few miles east of where Laura hit in August, and then moved directly over Lake Charles, a waterfront city where nearly every home was already damaged.

Debris piles went airborne as Delta blew through, and some of the wreckage floated around in the storm surge. The damage reached far inland, with trees shorn of leaves and falling onto streets in Louisiana's capital of Baton Rouge.

Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter said tarps flew off homes across the city, and in the building where he rode out the storm, a tarp flapping sounded "like someone pounding with a sledgehammer."

The wind tore at the roof of L'Banca Albergo, an eight-room boutique hotel in Lake Arthur. "I probably don't have a shingle left on the top of this hotel," owner Roberta Palermo said as the winds howled outside.

Palermo said pieces of metal were coming off the roof of a 100-year-old building across the street, and trash cans were flying around. Power lines were down and the water rose to strand parked cars, her guest Johnny Weaver said.

About 740,000 customers lost power in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi, according to tracking website PowerOutage.us.

"Rising water with all the rain is the biggest problem," Calcasieu Sheriff Tony Mancuso told KPLC-TV on Saturday. "It's still dangerous out there, and we're just going to have to start over from a few weeks ago."

He said vehicles were overturned on Interstate-10 — a harsh lesson for anyone hoping to rush back into the disaster area.

"I just think people need to use some good common sense," Mancuso said.

The governor's office said it had no reports of deaths early Saturday, but a hurricane's wake can be treacherous. Only seven of the 32 deaths in Louisiana and Texas attributed to Laura came the day that hurricane struck. A leading cause of

the others was carbon monoxide poisoning from generators used in places without electricity. Others died in accidents while cleaning up.

Delta has swirled over a wide swath of the United States, kicking up large swells and rip currents that closed beaches down to the Mexican border. Two homes under construction were blown down in Galveston, Texas. The steeple of the Mount Triumph Baptist Church was toppled in Jennings, La. A tree fell on the vehicle of Jackson-based WLBT-TV with its news crew inside. No one was injured.

By 7 a.m. local time, Delta was centered near the Louisiana-Mississippi state line and barely a tropical storm. Forecasters said remnants could spawn tornadoes in the Tennessee Valley into Sunday, and flash floods could hit the southern Appalachians.

Delta, the 25th named storm of an unprecedented Atlantic hurricane season, is the first Greek-alphabet-named hurricane to hit the continental U.S., and the 10th named storm to hit the mainland U.S. this year, breaking a record set in 1916, said Colorado State University researcher Phil Klotzbach. It was Louisiana's fourth named storm in 2020, after Cristobal, Laura and Marco.

S. Carolina lawmakers seek to protect Parris Island

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON— Three lawmakers from South Carolina introduced legislation Friday to stop the Marine Corps from closing its recruiting depot at Parris Island, S.C., in order to train new troops in a co-ed environment at another location.

"I do not support and will never support closing Parris Island," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said in the prepared statement issued Friday.

The House bill, the Parris Island Protection Act, follows comments made by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. David Berger on Sept. 24 about the service considering a third training location due to lack of facilities for women at its two boot

camp — the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. The bill would "prohibit the use of federal funds to close or realign" Parris Island, according to the joint statement.

Graham will also introduce a similar bill in the Senate, according to the statement.

"With its rich history, this base is of significant importance to South Carolina, our nation, and our military. As long as I serve in Congress, I will fight to preserve Parris Island and make sure it remains the pre-eminent training facility for the U.S. Marine Corps," Rep. Ralph Norman, R-S.C., said in the prepared statement.

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., cited the impact the base's closure would have to the state for his support for the legislation.

"South Carolina has welcomed recruits from around the country for over a century, and to close Parris Island would not only be detrimental to South Carolina, but also to the Marine Corps," he said.

Though the Marine Corps has two locations for training new recruits, female recruits only train at Parris Island.

The fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, which sets annual Pentagon policy and authorizes spending priorities, has a section mandating the Marine Corps to end gender-segregated training at Parris Island within five years and integrate the training at San Diego within eight years. However, Berger's recent comments focused on the difficulty of achieving that goal at both bases by the set deadlines.

Army virus cases highest among services

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON— The Army surpassed 18,000 coronavirus cases this week as two other services showed higher increases in their cases compared to previous weeks, according to the Pentagon's latest data published Friday.

As of Friday, the Army has had 18,213 soldiers infected with the coronavirus, the highest number of cases among the military services. Overall, the military has had 48,513 cases and 630 hospitalizations as of Friday, according to the Pentagon's data posted on its website.

Despite the Army's high number of cases, its weekly increase of 901 cases

from Oct. 2 to Friday was lower than the previous week's 979 cases between Sept. 25 and Oct. 2.

The Navy still has the second-highest number of cases among the services at 10,668. Since last Friday, the Navy has reported 350 more cases, an increase in the number of weekly cases when compared to the 275 case increase between Sept. 25 and Oct. 2.

The Air Force saw a large increase in their weekly cases compared to the previous two weeks, with 386 new cases since Oct. 2, according to the Pentagon's data. Between Sept. 25 and Oct. 2, the Air Force had 218 new cases and 299 new cases between Sept. 18 and Sept. 25. In total, the Air Force has had 7,585 airmen infected

with the coronavirus.

The Marine Corps has reported 6,027 cases of the coronavirus among its personnel, with 227 more cases since Oct. 2. The National Guard had a similar number of new cases with 293 since Oct. 2, bringing their total case number to 5,663.

The United States still leads the world in the number of coronavirus cases and deaths. As of Friday, more than 7.6 million people in the United States have contracted the virus and more than 213,000 have died from it, according to Johns Hopkins University.

This week, six more U.S. military installations lifted travel restrictions that have been in place since this spring.

White House ups virus aid, resumes talks with Pelosi

Associated Press

WASHINGTON— The White House is boosting its offer in up-and-down COVID-19 aid talks in hopes of an agreement before Election Day, even as President Donald Trump's most powerful GOP ally in the Senate said Congress is unlikely to deliver relief by then.

Trump on Friday took to Twitter to declare: "Covid Relief Negotiations are moving along. Go Big!" A top economic adviser said the Trump team was upping its offer in advance of a Friday conversation be-

tween Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. The two spoke for more than 30 minutes Friday afternoon, said Pelosi spokesman Drew Hammill.

A GOP aide familiar with the new offer said it is about \$1.8 trillion, with a key state and local fiscal relief component moving from \$250 billion to at least \$300 billion. The White House says its most recent prior offer was about \$1.6 trillion. The aide requested anonymity because the negotiations are private.

"I would like to see a bigger stimulus package than either the Democrats or Republicans are offering," Trump said on Rush Limbaugh's radio show Friday. Earlier this week, Trump lambasted Democrats for their demands on an aid bill.

Pelosi's most recent public offer was about \$2.2 trillion, though that included a business tax increase that Republicans won't go for.

But GOP Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell told an audience in Kentucky that

he doesn't see a deal coming together soon out of a "murky" situation in which the participants in the negotiations are elbowing for political advantage.

"I'd like to see us rise above that like we did in March and April but I think it's unlikely in the next three weeks," McConnell said. McConnell said later that "the first item of priority of the Senate is the Supreme Court," suggesting there isn't time to both process a COVID relief bill and the nomination of Judge Amy Coney Barrett before the election.

US Cyber Command disrupts world's largest botnet

The Washington Post

In recent weeks, the U.S. military has mounted an operation to temporarily disrupt what is described as the world's largest botnet — one used also to drop ransomware, which officials say is one of the top threats to the 2020 election.

U.S. Cyber Command's campaign against the Trickbot botnet, an army of at least 1 million hijacked computers run by Russian-speaking criminals, is not expected to permanently dismantle the network, said four U.S. officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity. But it is one way to dis-

tract them at least for a while as they seek to restore operations.

The effort is part of what Gen. Paul Nakasone, the head of Cyber Command, calls "persistent engagement," or the imposition of cumulative costs on an adversary by keeping them constantly engaged. And that is a key feature of CyberCom's activities to help protect the election against foreign threats, officials said.

"Right now, my top priority is for a safe, secure, and legitimate 2020 election," Nakasone said in August in a set of written responses to Washington Post questions. "The Department of Defense, and Cyber Command specifically, are supporting a

broader 'whole-of-government' approach to secure our elections."

Trickbot is malware that can steal financial data and drop other malicious software onto infected systems. Cyber criminals have used it to install ransomware, a particularly nasty form of malware that encrypts users' data and for which the criminals then demand payment — usually in cryptocurrency — to unlock.

Department of Homeland Security Officials fear that a ransomware attack on state or local voter registration offices and related systems could disrupt preparations for Nov. 3 or cause confusion or long lines on Election Day.

Biden, Harris dodge Supreme Court query

Associated Press

PHOENIX — There are few topics that Joe Biden isn't willing to opine on — except the Supreme Court.

The Democratic presidential nominee and his running mate, Kamala Harris, are refusing demands from Republicans — and some fellow Democrats — to say whether they would seek to expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court.

Harris dodged persistent questioning about the issue on Wednesday during her debate against Vice President Mike Pence. And facing pressure to take a stance during a campaign swing through Phoenix on Thursday, Biden offered a particularly

terse response.

"They'll know my position on court packing when the election is over," he said.

In the final weeks of the campaign, Biden is in a bind when it comes to the future of the judiciary. Republicans, increasingly fearful of losing both the presidency and the Senate, are seizing on the issue to make a last-minute argument to voters that a Biden administration would upend norms and install liberals on an expanding Supreme Court. Some progressive Democrats are pressing Biden to embrace all means possible to counter Republican power plays that have pushed the court to the right.

The debate is likely to intensify next week

when Senate Republicans start confirmation hearings for Amy Coney Barrett. She would cement a 6-3 conservative majority on the court, the balance already tilted by Republicans' holding open a vacancy in the 2016 election year by refusing to consider President Barack Obama's nominee.

Biden and Harris have said the Senate should wait until after the election to fill the seat. Biden has pledged to select the first Black female justice if given a chance. But he and Harris are otherwise taking pains to avoid talking about their vision for the Supreme Court's future.

Polling suggests most Americans want the Senate to wait on confirming a new justice until after the election.

McConnell attempts to save Senate majority with high court vote

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell spent a year prepping his Republican colleagues for this moment, telling them the confirmation of a Supreme Court justice is the "most important" vote they will take as senators, the chance to make "seismic change" that will stay with the nation for generations to come.

Now, three weeks before Election Day, the GOP leader needs this moment more than ever.

Confirmation hearings are set to begin Monday for President Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee giving Republicans one last chance to salvage their Senate majority by wresting attention away from the White House and its COVID-19 response and onto the GOP's longtime goal of fashioning a conservative court.

The arrival of conservative Judge Amy Coney Barrett offers a long-shot opportunity to bring wayward Republican voters back in the fold. As Trump's standing drops in internal polls, McConnell hopes to remind voters why they stuck with Trump

in 2016: the promise of another conservative justice ruling on abortion access and other big issues. Democrats are within range of seizing Senate control Nov. 3.

"It's going to do what it's going to do — energize the base," said Doug Deason, a wealthy Dallas donor who is the Northern Texas fundraising chairman for Trump and helps congressional Republicans.

That's the optimistic view. It's coming mostly from those Republicans and backers still pouring millions of dollars into campaign efforts to salvage McConnell's slim 53-47 GOP majority.

The more dour assessment is that McConnell is simply trying to grab whatever he can before he and his majority are out the door.

Democrats need to gain at least three seats to win the Senate majority if presidential nominee Joe Biden is elected, or four if Trump wins a second term, because the party's vice president can vote as a tiebreaker in the Senate.

Mich. governor calls kidnapping plot group 'domestic terrorists'

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said Friday that governors from both major political parties have reached out to share stories of extremism in their states since authorities revealed that a group of men had been plotting for months to kidnap her.

"I know this isn't unique to Michigan, but this is uniquely American in this moment and it's on all of us, people of good will on both sides of the aisle, to take it on," Whitmer, a Democrat, told The Associated Press.

Authorities announced Thursday that they had foiled an incredible plot to kidnap Whitmer in a scheme that even included rehearsals to snatch her from her vacation home before the Nov. 3 election. Her first term as governor runs through 2022.

"There's no question that these hate groups are domestic terrorists, and I think we need to call them that," Whitmer said. "This is a group of people that are acting on bigotry and prejudice and acting with violence with intent to harm their fellow Americans."

She said she had heard from other governors, Republican and Democratic, "to check in, to share some of the things that they're seeing in their states as well."

State Attorney General Dana Nessel, who joined federal prosecutors in announcing the charges, said Whitmer was regularly updated about the investigation over the past few months.

"There were family members that were in certain locations that we deemed to be potentially in danger and were asked to move from those locations," Nessel told the AP. "Unfortunately for Gov. Whitmer, she's been the subject and the target of constant threats for quite some time now."

"Those threats escalated since her executive orders were issued," Nessel said, referring to steps taken to stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Arrests were made Wednesday, the same day that four of the six men charged in federal court had planned to meet to make a payment on explosives and exchange tactical gear, the FBI said.

Trump official: Vaccine expected starting in January

Associated Press

A Trump administration official leading the response to the coronavirus pandemic says the U.S. can expect delivery of a vaccine starting in January 2021, despite statements from the president that inoculations could begin this month.

And a growing, bipartisan chorus of lawmakers, experts and public health officials says the country is ill prepared for a projected winter surge of COVID-19.

Dr. Robert Kadlec said in an email Friday that the administration “is accelerating production of safe and effective vaccines ... to ensure delivery starting January 2021.” Kadlec is the Department of Health and Human Services’ assistant secretary of preparedness and response. HHS says a vaccine could be approved before the end of the year but will take time to distribute.

President Donald Trump has said at rallies, debates and press conferences that a vaccine could arrive within weeks. “We think we can start sometime in October,” Trump said at a White House press briefing last month.

Kadlec wasn’t the first health official to counter the president’s optimistic timeline. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar said Thursday that there could be 100 million vaccine doses available by the end of the year “pending FDA authorizations.” And Dr. Moncef Slaoui, who is leading the government’s vaccine effort, told Marketwatch on Friday that researchers could know “by late October, or November, or in December” whether one of the vaccines in development is effective, but that it would then take weeks to get emergency authorization to administer it.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — With negotiations over another package of federal coronavirus relief dollars stuck in congressional gridlock, state and local officials are scrambling to spend

their allocations before the end-of-year deadline by which all funds must be spent.

Nevada lawmakers — who in July slashed hundreds of millions from state spending on healthcare and education — convened on Friday to assess how recipients of the state’s \$1.25 billion coronavirus relief fund have used their shares of the money.

County officials, city managers and officials leading programs offering relief to renters and small businesses all assured lawmakers that they would have no problem spending their funds by Dec. 31, indicating little need to devise alternative plans to direct the money to pay for other pandemic-related services.

Alaska

ANCHORAGE — Anchorage health officials on Friday recommended up to 300 people associated with a youth hockey tournament quarantine or isolate after “a cluster” of COVID-19 cases were identified.

The Anchorage Health Department said players, coaches and fans from parts of south-central Alaska and Juneau attended the tournament, which was held Oct. 2-4.

The department said it encouraged everyone who attended who does not have symptoms to quarantine for 14 days, except to get tested, and encouraged those with symptoms to isolate for 10 days, except to get tested.

Dr. Janet Johnston, the department’s epidemiologist, said that means the department is recommending up to 300 isolate or quarantine.

Michigan

LANSING — The virus that causes COVID-19 in humans has been detected in mink housed on a Michigan farm, the state Department of Agriculture and Rural Development announced Friday.

The recent discovery of the coronavirus in mink at the unnamed farm is not the first time the disease has been found in

the animal in the United States, officials said. In August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the first confirmed cases of the virus in mink at farms in Utah. There has since been a confirmed case in Wisconsin.

New Hampshire

CONCORD — A woman says her fifth-grade son was kicked off a school bus for the rest of the year because of a mask-wearing infraction.

Leilani Provencal posted a photo of an “inappropriate bus behavior notification” slip on Facebook, which said her son, Brody Heath, 9, had not worn his mask over his nose.

The slip said it was Heath’s second offense for prohibited behavior on the bus. But Provencal told the Caledonian-Record the first warning her son received was for using an electronic device, not for wearing his mask incorrectly.

Provencal told the newspaper she called the bus company who told her they had a zero-tolerance policy for safety infractions related to the pandemic.

New York

ALBANY — A federal judge refused Friday to block New York’s plan to temporarily limit the size of religious gatherings in COVID-19 hot spots.

U.S. District Judge Kiyo Matsumoto issued the ruling after an emergency hearing in a lawsuit brought by rabbis and synagogues, arguing the restrictions were unconstitutional. They had sought to have enforcement delayed until at least after Jewish holy days this weekend.

The rules limit indoor prayer services to 10 people in areas where the virus is spreading fastest. In other areas within hot spots, indoor religious services are capped at 25 people.

The restrictions apply in six designated areas in parts of New York City, Rockland and Orange counties, and part of Binghamton. Nonessential businesses and schools have also been shut down in some of

those areas.

Ruling from the bench, the judge said the state had an interest in protecting public safety.

Oregon

DRAIN — A bar with topless dancing in a small town north of Roseburg has had its liquor license suspended by the state, which says the establishment was in violation of COVID-19 social distancing and face covering requirements.

The Oregon Liquor Control Commission began its investigation of Top of the Bowl in July, KEZI-TV reported.

During an initial inspection, an inspector observed a bartender not wearing a face mask. In August, the bar stayed open past 10 p.m. and some staff members were not wearing face masks, according to the commission.

An inspector in September reported similar findings, the commission said.

Kansas

TOPEKA — Kansas’ top public health official warned Friday that the state is “losing the battle” against the coronavirus as it reported another record increase in new cases.

The state Department of Health and Environment said Kansas reported 1,855 new confirmed and probable coronavirus cases since Wednesday, an increase of 2.9%, to bring the total for the pandemic to 65,807. The state also reported another 40 COVID-19-related deaths, increasing the pandemic total to 763. Twenty-six of those were reported Thursday in Shawnee County, where the local health department reviewed previous death certificates from the Topeka area.

The state saw an average of 671 new cases a day for the seven days ending Friday, breaking the state’s previous record of 667 for the seven days ending Sept. 28. The state has seen that seven-day average hit or exceed 600 cases per day for five of the six reports it has issued in the past two weeks.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Mom sold nude photos of daughters to man

PA NEW CASTLE— A woman in western Pennsylvania was accused of taking nude photos of her young daughters and sending them to a man who, in some cases, paid for them, police said.

Police charged the woman, the children's father and the man who received and bought the photos. The girls are between 11 and 13 years old, police said.

The mother was charged with conspiracy to commit sexual abuse/photographing or filming sexual acts and other counts. The father was charged with child endangerment because authorities said he had knowledge his children were being photographed.

Police charged David Bates, 60, of Ellwood City, with six counts of conspiracy to commit sexual abuse of children/photographing or filming sexual acts, six counts of solicitation to commit sexual abuse of children/photographing or filming sexual acts and six counts of sexual abuse of children/child pornography.

Teachers' union sorry for use of coffins as props

VA MANASSAS — A northern Virginia teachers' union apologized after some of its members used child-size coffins as props at a protest seeking to delay in-person education.

The Prince William Education Association posted the apology on its Facebook page.

The union said that 100 cars participated in a protest caravan, and that two of the cars were decorated in a way that some found offensive.

School boards across Virginia

and the U.S. are weighing plans to transition students forced into virtual learning because of the coronavirus pandemic back into the classroom. Many teachers' unions have voiced opposition, citing concern for staff and students' safety.

Former sheriff's deputy burglarized dead man

CA SANTA ANA — A former Orange County sheriff's deputy was charged with burglarizing the home of a dead man, prosecutors said.

Steve Hertz, a 12-year veteran of the Sheriff's Department, was called to a Yorba Linda home July 20 to check on the welfare of the owner. He discovered the man, who was in his 70s, had died of natural causes, according to a statement from the county district attorney's office.

Home surveillance video showed Hertz breaking into the home about a week later while on duty and in uniform, authorities alleged. He left the door open and returned twice more in August in civilian clothes, authorities contend.

The stolen goods included ceiling fans and safes containing 15 guns, prosecutors alleged.

Hertz, 42, was charged with three felony counts of second-degree burglary and two felony counts of grand theft of a firearm.

National forest again faces high fire danger

NM SILVER CITY— The national forest that covers much of mountainous southwestern New Mexico again faces a high fire danger, officials said.

The Gila National Forest headquartered in Silver City said that's due to warm temperatures and limited precipitation from what turned out to

be a below-average monsoon season.

The forest on July 23 rescinded a campfire ban once the fire danger rating returned to a moderate level. The Forest Service's Southwestern Region had imposed the ban on April 15. The region includes national forests in Arizona and New Mexico.

Woman charged after ramming cops' cars

IL CHICAGO — Aggravated assault, aggravated battery and criminal damage to property charges were filed against a Chicago woman who allegedly injured three officers when she rammed several police vehicles.

Dawn Moore was ordered held in lieu of \$250,000 bond for the alleged attack. Authorities said the incident began when Moore, 30, demanded police release a man they had pulled over for a traffic violation.

Prosecutors told Cook County Circuit Judge Arthur Wesley Willis that after Moore was told to move on, she sideswiped a police vehicle, tried to run over an officer and rammed two other vehicles.

Man who threw sandbags from overpass charged

MI LYON TOWNSHIP — A man was charged after a motorist was seriously injured by a sandbag tossed from a southeastern Michigan freeway overpass.

David Garcia, 41, of Brighton was arraigned on a felony charge of throwing objects at trains/cars causing serious impairment, WHMI-FM reported.

State police said an investigation showed 40-pound sandbags were thrown onto Interstate 96 in Lyon Township.

One of the bags struck the windshield of a passing vehicle, injuring the woman who was driving. She had to be hospitalized. Garcia was given a \$50,000 bond.

Fire patrol plane flips onto its roof injuring 2

MA PLYMOUTH — Two people suffered minor injuries when a small airplane used to spot fires flipped onto its roof at a Massachusetts airport, authorities said.

The single-engine aircraft was landing at Plymouth Municipal Airport when it flipped, perhaps because of the windy conditions at the time, Airport Manager Tom Maher told The Patriot Ledger.

The pilot and passenger got out of the aircraft on their own and were transported to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth as a precaution.

2K acres preserved in Superior National Forest

MN TOFTE — More than 2,000 acres of private land deep in the heart of the Superior National Forest will remain undeveloped.

The nonprofit Nature Conservancy said it purchased the land recently from retired forestry professor Mike Freed.

The land near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness near Tofte includes six wilderness lakes and 3 miles of trout streams. The land also includes hundreds of acres of bogs and fens and old-growth pines.

The purchase ensures that the forest won't be divided up in a way that would cut off moose, wolves or any other animals from needed habitat, said Meredith Cornett, director of conservation science for the Nature Conservancy, the Star Tribune reported.

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Butler, Miami prevent Lakers' coronation

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The trophy was ready.

Jimmy Butler and the Miami Heat delayed its appearance. The NBA Finals are not over, not after Butler and the Heat pulled off a virtuoso performance in Game 5 on Friday night.

Butler had 35 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists, and the Heat watched Danny Green's wide-open three-pointer in the final seconds bounce off the rim on the way to beating Los Angeles 111-108 — cutting the Lakers' lead in the title series to 3-2.

Game 6 is Sunday night.

Duncan Robinson had 26 points for Miami, which used seven players. Kendrick Nunn had 14 points, Bam Adebayo 13, Tyler Herro 12 and Jae Crowder 11. The seventh player, Andre Iguodala, didn't score.

They had enough.

LeBron James had 40 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists for the Lakers. Anthony Davis scored 28 points, and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope had 16.

The Lakers were seconds away from the title before the Heat rallied to save the season.

Los Angeles broke out all the stops: Davis had shiny gold sneakers on, the hue similar to the Larry O'Brien Trophy, and the team made the decision earlier in the week to skip on the scheduled purple uniforms and wear the black ones designed and inspired by Kobe Bryant instead.

They were 4-0 in those uniforms. They're 4-1 now.

But Bryant, oh, how he would have loved this fight. Drama, all the way to the end.

Robinson's three-pointer with 3:13 left put Miami up by two, and started a stretch

where the next nine scoring possessions from either side resulted in a tie or a lead change.

Back and forth they went. Butler got fouled with 46.7 seconds left, then slumped over the baseline video boards, clearly exhausted. He made both foul shots for a one-point lead; Davis' putback with 21.8 seconds left got the Lakers back on top.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra used his last timeout before the ensuing possession, just to buy Butler a couple of minutes of rest. Butler drove the lane, drew contact and made both with 16.8 seconds left for a 109-108 lead.

The Lakers' mission at that point could not have been more simple: Get a basket, win a title.

They couldn't do it. James found Green all alone for a top-of-the-key three-pointer which missed, and Herro finished it off with two free throws.

Miami was up 93-82 with 10:17 left when James made his sixth three-pointer of the night — on eight tries to that point.

It was go time for the Lakers.

James' three started a 17-3 run over the next 4:50. Caldwell-Pope hit a three-pointer to put the Lakers up 97-96, then added a basket in transition about a minute later. Nobody was seated on the Lakers' bench. The Heat went frigid.

But behind Butler, they rallied.

Butler became the sixth player in NBA Finals history to have multiple triple-doubles in the same title series: Magic Johnson and James have both done it three times, while Larry Bird, Wilt Chamberlain and Draymond Green have done it once.

The Heat led 88-82 after three quarters, scoring 28 points in that period — and getting 14 of those points on three possessions.

Butler scored while drawing a flagrant-1 foul from Dwight Howard to start a three-point play, and Robinson made a three-pointer on the bonus possession — the sequence taking things from a tie game to a 76-70 Heat lead in a matter of 13 seconds.

Crowder's four-point play with 3:01 left in the third put Miami up by five, and Robinson had a four-point play in the final minute of the quarter to put the Heat up six.

James had 15 points in the second quarter, his eighth quarter this season with at least that many — second in the playoffs — and the Lakers needed them all to keep Miami from building what was briefly looking like a solid lead.

Tip-ins

Heat: Point guard Goran Dragic (torn left plantar fascia) missed his fourth consecutive game. He was hurt in the first half of Game 1. ... Butler had 22 points in the first half, the second-most in Heat finals history. Dwyane Wade had 24 at halftime of Game 4 of the 2006 finals.

Lakers: James passed Karl Malone for No. 2 on the NBA's all-time scoring list — including playoff and regular-season games. ... It was playoff game No. 259 for James, tying Derek Fisher for the most in NBA playoff history.

Bubble stats

Not counting the 33 scrimmages before the seeding-game portion of the regular season resumed on July 30 at Disney, this was the 171st game played in the bubble. Herro and Robinson have appeared in the most, with 28 apiece; several players have appeared in 27 including James, Davis, Green, Crowder, Kyle Kuzma and Iguodala.

Bolts depleted, goalies shuffled in free agency

Associated Press

It didn't take long for the bubble to begin bursting on the Tampa Bay Lightning's Stanley Cup party.

The effects of a flat salary cap took its toll on the Lightning less than two weeks after winning their second Stanley Cup. Tampa Bay bid farewell to defenseman Kevin Shattenkirk, who signed with Anaheim, and the team was forced to place center Tyler Johnson on waivers as the NHL's free agency period opened Friday.

In the meantime, the league's higher profile free agents such as defensemen Alex Pietrangelo and winger Taylor Hall,

remained on the market with an \$81.5 million cap — unchanged from last year — adding a layer of uncertainty to a coronavirus pandemic-altered economy.

"It's a bit of a new world right now with the flat cap and the revenue situation," Minnesota Wild general manager Bill Guerin said. "You don't want to risk anything too long on either side because it just might not make sense."

It seemed to make sense for the St. Louis Blues to effectively end the Alex Pietrangelo era by signing defensemen Torey Krug to a \$45.5 million, seven-year deal Friday night. Krug will count \$6.5 million against the salary cap through the 2026-27

season.

Jacob Markstrom left Vancouver to sign a six-year, \$36 million contract with the Calgary Flames. The Canucks replaced Markstrom by signing Braden Holtby to a two-year, \$8.6 million contract. The 2016 Vezina Trophy winner spent his first 10 seasons in Washington, where he helped the Capitals win the Cup in 2018.

Henrik Lundqvist signed a one-year contract with Washington, two weeks after having his contract bought out by the New York Rangers. In Washington, Lundqvist is changing uniforms after 15 seasons in New York, where he won the Vezina Trophy in 2011.

Rays edge Yankees, advance to ALCS

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Mike Brosseau said he wasn't seeking revenge against hard-throwing Aroldis Chapman, just the chance to keep playing.

He ended up getting both.

Brosseau hit a dramatic home run off Chapman with one out in the eighth inning, and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the New York Yankees 2-1 Friday night in the decisive Game 5 to reach the AL Championship Series for the first time in 12 seasons.

The first career postseason homer for the 26-year-old utilityman came after a 10-pitch at-bat against the Yankees' vaunted, hard-throwing closer, who entered in the seventh inning. Brosseau drove a 100 mph fastball into the left field seats at Petco Park for the Rays' third hit.

Brosseau and Chapman have a history: Chapman threw a 101 mph fastball near Brosseau's head Sept. 1 in the ninth inning of the Rays' 5-3 victory. Chap-

man likely had nothing against Brosseau personally, but the pitch was an apparent escalation of a feud between the AL East rivals, and it prompted Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash's infamous declaration that he has "a whole damn stable full of guys that throw 98 miles an hour."

Brosseau pumped his fists and hollered "Yes!" as he began his trot. When he returned to the dugout, there were celebratory body slams and high fives with his teammates.

"No revenge, We put that in the past," said Brosseau, who pinch-hit for Ji-Man Choi in the sixth and then stayed in at first base. "We came here to win the series. We came here to move on, to do what we do best, that's play our game."

Tampa Bay had a \$29 million payroll, 28th out of the 30 major league teams, this coronavirus-shortened season, while the Yankees had the third-largest, \$84 million. The Rays domi-

nated the regular-season series with the Yankees 8-2 and were the AL's top-seed.

About an hour after the game ended, a number of Rays came back out to the field and dugout with beverages and cigars and trolled the Yankees by playing Frank Sinatra's version of "New York, New York," played at Yankee Stadium after victories, and Jay-Z's "Empire State of Mind" featuring Alicia Keys.

After winning the AL Division Series 3-2, Tampa Bay will stay in San Diego to face the Houston Astros in the AL Championship Series starting Sunday night. The Rays are in the ALCS for the first time since they beat the Boston Red Sox in seven games in 2008 before losing to the Philadelphia Phillies in the World Series.

Tampa Bay was eliminated by the Astros in the ALDS last year.

"They've been the team to beat the last few years," Bros-

seau said. "They knocked us out last year so it will be fun to face them again."

Brosseau was an unlikely hero in a season that has had many twists and turns due to the coronavirus pandemic. After he went undrafted, the Rays signed him in June 2016 for \$1,000.

"That was very, like, storybook," Rays pitcher Tyler Glasnow said. "That was crazy. Just to go out there and have that long of an at-bat, battle that long with all the history we've had, that's just nuts. I still can't even comprehend it."

Brosseau's drive went 375 feet and just cleared the wall.

"Brosseau is such a good dude," Glasnow added. "It's just so awesome that it was him. He's grinded all year long, kind of had sparing playing time; such a big moment like that was just phenomenal. It's crazy. I blacked out. I was like, 'No. No way.'"

Sports briefs

Spanish co-driver killed in Portugal rally crash

Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — Portugal's Rally Vidreiro has reported the death of Spanish co-driver Laura Salvo after her car crashed during the race on Saturday.

The rally said in a statement that Salvo was attended to by medics but died on site before the arrival of a medical helicopter.

The 21-year-old Salvo was co-driving for Miguel Socias' Peugeot.

"Peugeot Sport wishes to express their sincerest condolences to the family and friends of codriver Laura Salvo, who died this morning following an accident at Rally Vidreiro Centro in Portugal," Peugeot Sport said on Twitter.

The race was canceled after

the incident.

No positive test for 40 days in MLB

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball players extended their streak of consecutive days with no new COVID-19 cases to 40 through Thursday.

Players did not have positive tests in 48 of the previous 49 days, the commissioner's office said Friday.

There were no positive tests among 8,096 samples collected in the week.

MLB has collected 164,117 samples overall, of which 91 have been positive, or 0.06%.

Fifty-seven of 91 positives have been players, and 21 of the 30 teams have had a person covered by the monitoring test

positive.

The eight teams that entered the Division Series in the past week are in bubble environments and playing at neutral sites in the hope of minimizing exposure to the novel coronavirus.

49ers' Garoppolo set to return from injury

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Jimmy Garoppolo will return as starting quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers this week after missing the past two games with a sprained ankle.

Coach Kyle Shanahan said Garoppolo will start Sunday at home against the Miami Dolphins. Shanahan wanted to see how Garoppolo made it through a full week of practice before

making his decision.

"Each day he got better," Shanahan said Friday. "Never felt too sore the next day. So, we needed to hear that today and see him out there today and we feel good to go."

In other NFL news:

■ Julio Jones was held out of practice for the third straight day with a hamstring injury on Friday but has not been ruled out for the Atlanta Falcons' game against the Carolina Panthers.

The injury forced Jones to sit out the second half of Monday's loss at Green Bay. Jones, the two-time All-Pro wide receiver, missed the Falcons' loss to Chicago on Sept. 27 with the injury.

Jones is listed as questionable for Sunday against the Panthers.

Swiatek wins French Open women's title

Associated Press

PARIS — With the poise of a veteran and the shots of a champion, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek picked the perfect place for her first tour-level title: the French Open.

Unseeded and ranked merely 54th, Swiatek grabbed the last six games to beat Sofia Kenin 6-4, 6-1 in the final at Roland Garros on Saturday, becoming the first Polish tennis player to win a Grand Slam singles trophy.

When she smacked one last forehand winner to the corner to end things, Swiatek placed her right hand over her mouth then crouched, shaking her head.

Hard to believe? Maybe. This was, after all, only her seventh major tournament; she'd never been past the fourth round.

But the way she played these two weeks made this outcome

less of a surprise.

Swiatek is the first woman to triumph in Paris without ceding a set since Justine Henin in 2007.

And she did it with victories over such opponents as 2018 champion Simona Halep and 2019 runner-up Marketa Vondrousova, both by scores of 6-1, 6-2.

So it made sense that Swiatek would be able to get past Kenin, a 21-year-old American who was trying to claim her second major title of 2020 after winning the Australian Open in February.

Kenin was 16-1 in Grand Slam matches until Saturday. But she dealt with a leg issue in the second set and showed frustration by kicking her red-white-and-blue racket after lost points.

And then there was this: She ran into the composed Swiatek, who only recently completed

her high school studies, listens to "Welcome to the Jungle" by Guns N' Roses before walking on court and meditates during changeovers, breathing slowly with her eyes closed.

This weekend is the culmination of an unusual two weeks, to say the least. The tournament was postponed from May-June to September-October because of the coronavirus pandemic; the recently rising number of COVID-19 cases in France led the government to limit the number of spectators allowed on the grounds to 1,000 each day.

Some top women, including 2019 champion Ash Barty and three-time major champ Naomi Osaka, didn't enter the event; 23-time Slam winner Serena Williams withdrew before the second round with an injury.

The temperature was in the mid-50s with a slight breeze, and the hundreds of fans scat-

tered in Court Philippe Chatrier were mostly subdued — other than a group that would shout out Swiatek's first name, stretching it out over several seconds each time to sound like "Eeeeeeeeeee-gah."

At the changeover after the third game of the second set, Kenin was visited by a trainer and went off the court for a medical timeout, then returned with her left thigh wrapped.

Kenin said after her fourth-round match Monday that she had slipped and maybe pulled something during practice the day before.

While Kenin was gone, Swiatek tried to stay warm by pulling on a white jacket and hitting some serves, earning applause from spectators.

When play resumed, Swiatek needed only 12 more minutes to wrap up the victory, finishing with a 25-10 edge in winners.

Nadal, Djokovic meeting for 56th time in their careers

Associated Press

Go all the way back to June 8, 2006, when Rafael Nadal moved on at the French Open after his 19-year-old, 63rd-ranked opponent in the quarterfinals quit because of a bad back while trailing two sets to none.

That opponent's assessment of Nadal after facing him for the first time as pros: "He's the best on this surface, but he's not unbeatable. That's for sure."

That foe? Novak Djokovic. Fast-forward to the final at Roland Garros on Sunday, when No. 1 Djokovic and No. 2 Nadal will stand across from each other once again at Court Philippe Chatrier, only this time in October after the tournament was postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

It will be their 56th tour-level meeting — more than any other pair of men in the Open era, which dates to 1968.

And let's not forget the big picture: This match carries significant weight in the Grand

Slam standings that so many fans, and the players themselves, keep tabs on.

Roger Federer, who is 39 and missed most of this season after having two knee operations, owns the men's record of 20 major championships. Nadal, who is 34, is next among men with 19; Djokovic, 33, stands third with 17.

After Sunday, either Nadal will pull even with Federer for the first time since they were tied with zero apiece, or Djokovic will gain on the leading duo and the totals will read 20-19-18.

For now, this is how each has filled his trophy cabinet:

■ Djokovic: 8 at the Australian Open, 5 at Wimbledon, 3 at the U.S. Open, 1 at the French Open;

■ Nadal: 12 at the French Open, 4 at the U.S. Open, 2 at Wimbledon, 1 at the Australian Open;

■ Federer: 8 at Wimbledon, 6 at the Australian Open, 5 at the U.S. Open, 1 at the French Open.

All three are greats of the game, regardless of where the numbers end up, of course.

Still, as much as Nadal wouldn't engage in a discussion about his chance to catch Federer after beating Diego Schwartzman 6-3, 6-3, 7-6 (0) in the semifinals Friday, he did acknowledge that "it's good for tennis" if others talk about it.

Rest assured, they will.

Much in the way that for years, people will debate which of the Big Three duos had the most intriguing head-to-head matchup: Federer vs. Nadal, Djokovic vs. Federer, or Nadal vs. Djokovic.

"He's definitely my greatest rival," Djokovic said about Nadal on Friday after getting past Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-3, 6-2, 5-7, 4-6, 6-1 in the semifinals. "Playing him in so many great matches, of course the past will have some effect, in terms of respect towards each other."

Nadal called Djokovic, who is 37-1 in 2020, the lone loss via disqualification at the U.S.

Open last month, "one of the toughest opponents possible."

"The only thing I know is: To play against Novak, I need to play my best. Without playing my best tennis, (the) situation is very difficult," Nadal said. Djokovic leads 29-26 overall.

Nadal leads 9-6 in Grand Slam matches, including 6-1 at the French Open.

They're tied 4-all in major finals. And while Nadal is 99-2 over his remarkable career at Roland Garros — "It's his house," Djokovic said — it is worth noting that one of those defeats came courtesy of Djokovic in the 2015 quarterfinals.

"I hopefully will be able to play my best tennis, because that's what's going to be needed in order to have a shot at the trophy," said Djokovic, describing Nadal on red clay as "the biggest obstacle and challenge that you can have."

"This is what it comes down to. I've been there; I've done it," he said.