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Study: Foster kinship to retain sailors

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

Fostering a sense of kinship among sailors while mitigating feelings of depression and stress could be the Navy's key to keeping them in the service, a new study found.

Retention of personnel is a priority for the military, but the factors influencing why some sailors stay in while others leave are not fully understood, according to "Toward a 'Dashboard' Indicator of Retention in U.S. Navy Personnel," published this month in the journal *Military Medicine*.

The Navy increased deployment lengths for some ships at sea this year as a means of preventing the coronavirus' spread, a measure that can potentially elevate work and family stress leading to early separation from the Navy.

The study found that the most "robust" predictor of job satisfaction and retention among sailors was "affective organizational commitment," which in the context of this study means the level of a sailor's emotional attachment to the Navy.

"This notion of feeling a sense of belonging — or seeing your employer as a family and having the sense that you are part of a family — seems to be a very strong predictor of one's intention to remain in the military long term," Marcus Taylor, a study co-author and researcher with the Naval Health Research Center's Warfighter Performance Department in San Diego, told *Stars and Stripes*.

While this key predictor seems intuitive, Taylor said, "it's the type of thing that organizations can act upon and promote in order to enhance or sustain retention in its members."

The study said: "Synthesized with prior research, our findings suggest that affective organizational commitment may not only be the most instrumental subtype of organizational commitment in relation to retention, but it may also be one of the most influential of all human factors that influence job satisfaction, career intentions, and related occupational outcomes."

Researchers sampled 798 Navy men and women who were asked about personal and unit morale, unit cohesion, affective

organizational commitment, social support, symptoms of depression or anxiety, post-traumatic stress symptoms, aggressive behavior, quantity of sleep, leadership satisfaction and perceived stress. They were also asked a series of questions to determine their overall job satisfaction and career intentions in the Navy.

The participants were a "convenience sample" selected from the Naval Unit Behavioral Health Needs Assessment Survey so that the results of the study cannot be "seamlessly" generalized to the broader Navy population, the study said.

Just over half the participants were white and 83% male. Almost all were enlisted.

Researchers found that other variables were also significant in career decisions made by sailors.

The authors wrote that further research was needed to better understand why non-white, married sailors expressed strong intentions to remain in the Navy long term.

"Future research is also needed to determine whether spousal support is causally implicated in married individuals' decision to stay long term," the study said.

N. Korea flexes military might ahead of US election

BY KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea's introduction of a suspected new intercontinental ballistic missile during a military parade this weekend sent a warning that its nuclear weapons program is advancing amid stalled talks with the United States.

Leader Kim Jong Un didn't mention Washington in a half-hour speech before the weapons began to roll out during the parade celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the communist state's ruling Workers' Party.

Occasionally tearing up, he

focused on shoring up domestic unity in the face of hardships this year, including the coronavirus and typhoons that have caused major flooding.

Kim, who was wearing a gray suit and tie, vowed to continue efforts to build up his country's arsenal while insisting it was for defense and not targeting any specific country.

The display of military might, which came less than a month before the U.S. presidential election, showed that North Korea remains a nuclear threat while stopping short of triggering a response from President Donald Trump, experts said.

"Pyongyang displayed a tremendous number of military systems, most notably a new ICBM. However, Kim Jong

Un's speech was not threatening to the United States," said Bruce Klingner, a former CIA Korea deputy chief now at the Heritage Foundation.

Kim announcing in December that his regime was lifting a self-imposed suspension on nuclear and long-range missile tests and would soon unveil a "new strategic weapon."

Jenny Town, a fellow at the Washington, D.C.-based Stimson Center, said the new ICBM was obviously that weapon.

The next step would be to test it, but Town said that was not likely until early next year since the North Koreans will want to pressure a reelected Trump administration to return to negotiations or test Joe Biden if he wins.

The new, liquid-propellant ICBM — which many said may be the largest road-mobile missile — appeared to be a derivative of the Hwasong-15, the last long-range missile tested by North Korea in 2017 before Kim began engaging in diplomacy with Trump.

The increased size, which required a 22-wheel launcher, could enable the missile to carry multiple warheads or penetration aids to evade missile defense systems.

North Korea also trotted out an advanced solid-propellant submarine-launched ballistic missile dubbed the Pukguk-song-4 as well as improvements in equipment used for conventional warfare.

US Army Europe and Africa merge, led by 4-star general

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — The U.S. Army in Europe is once again led by a four-star general after the service decided to consolidate its Europe and Africa headquarters.

Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli assumed command of the newly formed U.S. Army Europe and Africa on Oct. 1, according to his official biography.

The Army made no formal announcement of the change, but Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy said in an interview Thursday with Defense News that the service felt elevating USAREUR to a four-star command was necessary.

“[W]e advocated and pushed hard and got that done because, in his capacity as U.S. Army Europe commander, he is the joint force land component commander, and in that capacity, if war breaks out on the continent, this is the officer

leading all of those NATO elements under that umbrella,” Defense News quoted McCarthy as saying.

Before putting on his fourth star, Cavoli served as a lieutenant general leading USAREUR out of Wiesbaden, Germany.

Cavoli’s headquarters will remain in Wiesbaden, the Army’s spokesman in Europe, Col. Joseph Scrocca, said.

“Planning remains ongoing regarding the new command structure, roles and responsibilities,” Scrocca said in a statement.

It still isn’t clear whether an Africa-focused headquarters element would remain in Vicenza, where Africa Command is based, or get folded into Wiesbaden.

Requests for comment from the newly consolidated headquarters were not immediately answered.

Militia group announces cease-fire against US

The Washington Post

BEIRUT — A group of Iran-backed militias said Sunday that it has agreed to a “conditional” cease-fire against U.S.-linked interests in Iraq on the condition that Washington present a timetable for the withdrawal of its troops.

The militias have plagued U.S.-linked diplomatic and military targets for months, firing rockets at embassies and bases and targeting Iraqis who drive logistics convoys serving the U.S.-led coalition.

The Trump administration has responded by threatening to shutter the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, a move that Iraqi officials say will accelerate Iran’s ascent in the tug of war that the two countries have fought over Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Mohammed Mohie, a spokesman for the Iran-backed Kataib Hezbollah group, said Sunday that attacks would halt while the militias waited for the U.S.-led coalition to detail its timeline for full withdrawal.

“But this truce is conditional, and the condition is that we will accept their retreat,” he said. He did not provide a timeline for the process.

Mohie said he spoke on behalf of the Iraqi Resistance Coordination Commission, a new body that announced itself with a similar statement Saturday. Neither Mohie’s comments nor the statement appeared to have come in consultation with the U.S.-backed force to which it referred.

It was not immediately clear how many groups the new body represented.

In the event that the U.S.-led coalition does not provide clarity on its timeline for withdrawal, Mohie said, the militia factions would use “all weapons available to them.”

Marines, sailors join for 1st time in Noble Fury drills off Okinawa coast

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

IE SHIMA, Okinawa — Sgt. Cal Cushing-Hurley and his squad from the Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, could hardly contain their enthusiasm for their first Pacific exercise — a simulated airfield seizure on a tiny island off Okinawa’s northwest coast.

They were among the first wave of about 100 Marines to land at the airfield aboard MV-22 Ospreys on Wednesday during drills dubbed Noble Fury.

“I’m excited to put all of our practice into action,” Cushing-Hurley, 24, of Marshfield, Mass., said before the mission. “It’s always good to get live reps in and reinforce everything you’ve trained for.”

Noble Fury is a first-time joint training exercise between Marines and sailors of the III Marine Expeditionary Force

and the Navy’s 7th Fleet, according to a Tuesday statement from III MEF. It is designed to improve III MEF and 7th Fleet’s working relationship through “simultaneous, distributed events.”

Primary activities include a command post exercise and field training drills like Wednesday’s airfield seizure. The exercise takes place on Okinawa and other Japanese islands, including Iwo Jima, known in Japan as Iwo To, the statement said. It concludes Oct. 15.

First Battalion, which deployed to Okinawa in August, came to rehearse its ability to take and hold key maritime terrain from an equally matched, or “peer” enemy, and establish an expeditionary advanced base, Marine planners from the battalion and 3rd Marine Division said Wednesday.

In a “cultural shift” for the Corps, however, the Marines

would then face outward and support the Navy in control of the seas, Col. Jason Perry, assistant commander of the 3rd Marine Division, said Wednesday at Camp Schwab. The tactic comes directly from commandant Gen. David Berger’s planning guidance.

“As a Marine, I’ve always kind of viewed our role as: We’re on ships; we’re looking at the shore; we get on our [amphibious assault vehicles] and boats and helicopters, and then we land; we go ashore; the Navy supports that and then we fight ashore,” Perry said.

“I think the difference now is that not only do we do that ... once we are ashore, we are now in support of the Navy. We now turn our focus from just doing the land portion of that fight to looking out into the airspace and into the maritime space and supporting those fleet operations.”

Pelosi, GOP criticize White House aid offer

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new White House coronavirus aid offer got bad reviews from both ends of the political spectrum Saturday.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., rejected the most generous Trump administration plan to date as “one step forward, two steps back.” The Republicans who control the Senate dismissed it as too expensive and a political loser for conservatives.

Pelosi said she is still hopeful that progress can be made toward a deal, but it’s as clear as ever that GOP conservatives don’t want a deal on her terms.

The White House had boosted its offer before Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Pelosi spoke Friday afternoon. President Donald Trump is

eager for an agreement before Election Day, even as his most powerful GOP ally in the Senate said Congress is unlikely to deliver relief by then.

“Covid Relief Negotiations are moving along. Go Big!” Trump said Friday on Twitter.

The new offer totals about \$1.8 trillion, aides familiar with it said, with a key state and local fiscal relief component moving from \$250 billion to at least \$300 billion. The White House said its most recent offer before that was about \$1.6 trillion. The aides were not authorized to publicly discuss private negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity.

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

In a letter Saturday to col-

leagues, Pelosi said, “This proposal amounted to one step forward, two steps back. When the president talks about wanting a bigger relief package, his proposal appears to mean that he wants more money at his discretion to grant or withhold.”

She said that while his administration attempted to address some of the Democratic concerns, disagreement remained on many priorities and Democrats are “awaiting language” on several provisions.

“Despite these unaddressed concerns, I remain hopeful that yesterday’s developments will move us closer to an agreement on a relief package that addresses the health and economic crisis facing America’s families,” Pelosi’s letter said.

Mnuchin’s latest offer also got a roasting from GOP senators, who weighed in on a con-

ference call Saturday morning, according to a Republican familiar with the call who was not authorized to discuss the call publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Many conservatives are skeptical of so much deficit-financed aid in the first place, and Pelosi-sought provisions such as expanding eligibility for the Affordable Care Act landed with a thud.

Pragmatists such as Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and politically endangered Republicans including Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina appear willing to “go big” as Trump wants. But rank-and-file Republicans — Sens. Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, Rick Scott of Florida, and John Barrasso of Wyoming, for example — are adamantly opposed to another relief bill that’s so generous.

Coronavirus death toll in Brazil passes 150K

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil’s count of COVID-19 deaths surpassed 150,000 on Saturday night, despite signs the pandemic is slowly retreating in Latin America’s largest nation.

The Brazilian Health Ministry reported that the death toll now stands at 150,198. The figure is the world’s second highest behind the United States, according to the tally maintained by Johns Hopkins University.

The milestone has rekindled the pain of Naiane Moura, a sales consultant, who lost her father Elivaldo to COVID-19 in April. The 58-year-old postman had no prior illness and battled COVID-19 for seven days in a public hospital in Manaus, Brazil’s largest city in the Amazon.

“When I see 150,000, I see my father alongside many other faceless bodies,” Moura said by phone. “I didn’t imagine that we would reach that number. I don’t believe that we will ever

be able to totally overcome this.”

Moura’s hometown, Manaus, became a horror show early on in the pandemic. Between April and May, the health system collapsed in the city as patients were turned away from full hospitals and overwhelmed cemeteries were forced to dig mass graves. The capital of Amazonas state has had 122 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants, far above the national average of 71 per 100,000. The nation of 210 million people surpassed 5 million confirmed infections on Wednesday, according to official data.

There have been recent signs of relief in Brazil. Over the last six weeks, the viral curve has dropped. The average number of deaths sat at 598 over the last 7 days, the lowest level since the beginning of May.

The mayors of large cities continue to reopen activities like cinemas and schools, even as public health experts warn of possible new outbreaks.

India virus case total passes 7M, experts warn of fatigue

Associated Press

NEW DELHI — India’s confirmed coronavirus toll crossed 7 million on Sunday with the number of new cases dipping in recent weeks, even as health experts warn of mask and distancing fatigue setting in.

The Health Ministry registered another 74,383 infections in the past 24 hours. India is expected to become the pandemic’s worst-hit country in coming weeks, surpassing the United States, where more than 7.7 million infections have been reported.

The ministry also reported 918 additional deaths, taking total fatalities to 108,334.

The number of people who have died of COVID-19 has remained relatively low in South and Southeast Asia — from India to Vietnam and Taiwan — compared to European countries and the U.S., said Dr. Randeep Guleria, a government health expert.

“We have been able to keep

the curve rise slow, but I do agree that we have not been able to get it to move aggressively down. That’s related to our population density, diversity of our country and socio-economic challenges in our country,” said Guleria, referring to India’s burgeoning population of nearly 1.4 billion.

Some experts have said, however, that India’s death toll may not be reliable because of poor reporting and health infrastructure, as well as inadequate testing.

India aims to provide vaccines to 250 million people by July 2021, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said last week. He said that the government was planning to receive 450 million to 500 million vaccine doses and would ensure “equitable access.”

The country is averaging more than 70,000 cases daily so far this month. India has a high recovery rate of 85% with active cases below 1 million, according to the Health Ministry.

Mich.: Suspects seen armed at rallies

Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Among the armed protesters who rallied at the Michigan Capitol against Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's coronavirus lockdown this past spring were some of the men now accused in stunning plots to kidnap her, storm the Capitol and start a "civil war."

The revelation has sparked scrutiny of rallies that were organized by conservative groups opposed to the Democratic governor's orders and egged on by President Donald Trump. It has also prompted renewed calls from Democrats for a gun ban in the building — an effort that so far has failed even after they reported feeling threatened by rifle-carrying protesters who entered the Statehouse.

At least one man accused of aiding in the surveillance of Whitmer's home as part of the alleged scheme to kidnap her stood in the Senate gallery on April 30 as majority Republicans refused to extend an emergency declaration that was the underpinning of Whitmer's stay-at-home and other restrictions aimed at slowing

2 former Marines among men charged in kidnap plot

New York Daily News

Two Marine Corps veterans were among the men charged this week in connection with the alleged plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer.

Daniel Harris, a rifleman who served in the Marines from 2015 to 2019, was one of six men who were federally charged in the headline-grabbing case. Harris, 23, and five other men were accused of hatching a plot to abduct the Democratic governor.

Another seven men were separately charged by the

Michigan Attorney General, including Joseph Morrison, a Corps member from 2015 to 2020. Morrison, 26, faces state charges including providing material support for terrorist acts.

"The serious allegations are not a reflection of the Marine Corps, do not reflect the oath every Marine takes to support and defend the Constitution, and do not align with our core values," Capt. Joseph Butterfield, a spokesperson for the Marines, said in a statement to The New York Daily News on Saturday.

the spread of the COVID-19 virus. "Several" of the 13 men arrested in the plots against the state government were seen at Capitol protests this year, the state attorney general's office said.

A man whom the FBI identified in court papers as a leader in the alleged plot, Adam Fox, attended an "American Patriot" pro-gun rights rally at the Capitol on June 18 to recruit members of anti-government

paramilitary groups to attack the Statehouse, according to a federal complaint that cites a recording from a confidential informant.

"I'm not surprised — and anyone who is just hasn't been paying attention," Whitmer told The Associated Press by phone on Friday. There have been Republican lawmakers and at least one sheriff at the protests, she said, "who fraternize with these domestic terror groups, who egg them on, who encourage them, who use language that incites them. They too are complicit."

Some of the men involved in the alleged plots were members and leaders of Wolverine Watchmen, which authorities described as "an anti-government, anti-law enforcement militia group." Federal authorities became aware in March about an initial plan by Wolverine Watchmen to target and kill police, according to court papers. Officials have not indicated whether law enforcement monitored the anti-lockdown protests in April and May.

Self-proclaimed satanist runs for sheriff as Republican in NH

Associated Press

With more than 4,200 votes, Republicans in one New Hampshire county nominated an unconventional candidate for sheriff: a self-described satanist whose campaign slogan disparages the police.

Since then, Aria DiMezzo, a transgender woman in her early 30s, has become a minor celebrity — and the target of online attacks, vandalism including a homophobic slur spray-painted on her car, and a write-in campaign to weaken her chances.

DiMezzo — the lone Republican candidate for Cheshire County sheriff in September's primary — believes most voters blindly checked the box next to her name. She only registered as a Republican at the last second, after concluding her bid to get on the ballot as a Libertarian — her preferred party — would have required gathering signatures amid the coronavirus pandemic.

She's looking to unseat Eli Rivera, a

Democrat who has held the job in the county of more than 76,000 since 2012.

DiMezzo, who unsuccessfully ran as a Libertarian in the 2018 sheriff's race, said she hopes to attract voters on the left and right with campaign promises to support gun rights and limited government and combat police wrongdoing. Among her proposals is to have sheriff's deputies "pull over police for harassing peaceful citizens."

DiMezzo said, as law enforcement, any of her own of her deputies "would be fired on the spot, and perhaps charged with crimes, for any brutality or misconduct."

She serves as the high priest of the Reformed Satanic Church, which is run from her home. The church doesn't believe Satan exists, DiMezzo said, but instead "stands for individualism and voluntarism, and opposes the god of the day" which she described as the state.

Despite hateful online comments and

the vandalism, she's found residents in the college town known as a bastion for bitcoin and Libertarians have mostly welcomed her campaign.

"By and large, the response has been overwhelming positive," she said. "When I walk down the street, people cheer. They tell me they are going to vote for me. It's great."

Since her primary victory, DiMezzo has done a steady stream of interviews — a Russian television crew even came to town — and voters have stopped by the pizza shop where she works to wish her well.

Rivera, for his part, is confident he'll win another term.

"I have always embraced a positive campaign and will leave your questions about my opponent and the write-in campaign to be answered by the Republican Party," Rivera said in an email.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Boy helps with rescue of grandparents at sea

FL KEY WEST — Authorities are praising an 11-year-old boy for staying calm, assisting them and following directions for more than an hour as his grandparents drifted away from their boat during a Florida Keys excursion.

The Miami Herald reported the three were rescued by police, the U.S. Coast Guard and some commercial fishermen.

The Monroe County Sheriff's Office said the boy, Avani Perez, called 911 on a cellphone to report that his grandparents were in the water and drifting away.

The sheriff's office said the family had been boating in Islamorada when the anchor line of their boat became caught in the propeller. The grandfather first went in the water to free the line but began having trouble, then his wife followed and both struggled with the current.

Early delivery on way to hospital surprises mom

MS OCEAN SPRINGS — An expectant mother in coastal Mississippi was in for a surprise when her baby was born a month ahead of schedule — in her boyfriend's pickup truck.

Precious Stanton told WLOX-TV after her water broke, she and the baby's father left home for Ocean Springs Hospital. Soon after, Stanton realized her baby was not wasting any time making his way into the world.

"We got up there by Popeye's and his head came out and I was just like 'Is he here? Is he here?' and he came on out," Stanton said.

Jaquarian Robinson Jr. was born healthy at 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Worker in 'dog phobia' case owned dogs

WA OLYMPIA — A meter reader who was attacked by a dog while on duty and collected years of workers' compensation is now accused of stealing the money, the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries said.

Linda Jordan of Cathlamet told the agency the attack gave her such a strong fear of dogs she couldn't work anymore, the agency said.

She's now accused of stealing \$186,000 of workers' compensation money, The Bellingham Herald reported.

An L&I investigator went to Jordan's property and was "greeted by three small French bulldogs" when he arrived and "watched her three large boxers swarm around her," according to L&I.

Man accused of shining laser at military aircraft

AL OZARK — An Alabama man accused of shining a laser at a military aircraft was arrested following a foot chase in a wooded area near an airfield, authorities said.

The arrest happened after Dale County deputies were called to Cairns Army Airfield about a person shining the laser and a high-powered spotlight into the cockpit of the aircraft, news outlets reported. The suspect pointed the laser as the aircraft was "in the traffic pattern" outside the airfield, said Dale County Chief Deputy Mason Bynum.

Man sentenced 5 years for 'romance scam'

MO ST. LOUIS — A St. Louis man was sentenced to more than five years

in federal prison for a "romance scam" that targeted two dozen elderly people, creating severe financial hardship for some of them.

Hammed Akande, 30, pleaded guilty in March to conspiracy to commit mail and wire fraud.

Federal prosecutors said Akande's role was to receive money and electronic devices. He would then forward a portion to Nigerian residents also involved in the scam.

All 24 victims were over the age of 60. Four of the victims had combined losses of nearly \$575,000.

Rare 1794 silver dollar goes unsold at auction

NV LAS VEGAS — A 1794 silver dollar believed to be among the first minted in the U.S., and the most valuable, went unsold during a public auction in Las Vegas.

Legend Auctions chief executive Matthew Bell said offers for the coin dubbed the Flowing Hair Silver Dollar didn't reach a minimum bid and Las Vegas resident Bruce Morelan retained ownership.

Experts say the coin is one of perhaps 300 original silver dollars that still exist among 1,758 struck in one day at the first U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

Baby born on island for 1st time in over 90 years

ME ISLESFORD — A mother gave birth to a baby on Maine's Little Cranberry Island for the first time in more than nine decades.

Born two weeks ago, Azalea Belle Gray is the sixth child for Aaron Gray and Erin Fernald Gray in Islesford.

The Bangor Daily News reported that Azalea's great-grandfather, a lifelong lobsterman, had been the most recent

baby born in Islesford, in 1927. He died in 2005 at age 77.

Gray said she didn't realize how long it'd been since the last island birth.

Man in hospital after police use stun gun

OR FOREST GROVE — A man was in critical condition after Forest Grove police officers used a stun gun on him and he stopped breathing.

Forest Grove police said officers responded to a report of a man with no shirt on, "running up and down the street with a flag pole," The Oregonian/OregonLive reported.

Police said James Marshall, 44, was found at a church and was uncooperative, erratic and making threatening moves with the aluminum flag pole.

According to police, "immediately" after the use of force, officers noticed Marshall "appeared to have stopped breathing." Life-saving efforts were started and he was taken to a hospital.

FBI: Reward still offered for '95 train crash info

AZ PHOENIX — The FBI is reminding the public that a hefty reward remains on the table a quarter-century after someone sabotaged railroad tracks in the Arizona desert, resulting in the deadly derailment of an Amtrak passenger train.

Oct. 9 was the 25th anniversary of the derailment of a Sunset Limited train in a remote area southwest of Phoenix. The train conductor was killed and 100 people hurt.

Rewards offered by the FBI, Amtrak and the Maricopa County Attorney's Office for information leading to arrest and conviction total up to \$310,000.

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Nadal ties Federer with 20th Slam title

Associated Press

PARIS — For years, Rafael Nadal pursued, and achieved, greatness at the French Open and other major tournaments. He never made a big deal out of his trophy total or the way he kept gaining on rival Roger Federer in the Grand Slam standings.

Now, thanks to a flawless performance against Novak Djokovic in the final at Roland Garros on Sunday, Nadal is finally there — tied with Federer at 20 major singles championships, more than any other man in tennis history.

Adding to his own French Open record with trophy No. 13, Nadal delivered a remarkably dominant 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 victory over the No. 1-ranked Djokovic.

“He keeps going. No holding him back, it seems like. It’s amazing. I mean, I admire all his achievements,” said Djokovic, who had won his last five Grand Slam finals. “There’s not much you can say. All the superlatives you can use, he deserves them.”

When Nadal ended it with an ace, he dropped to his knees, smiled widely and pumped his arms. It’s the fourth time he’s won this tournament without ceding a set.

“The love story that I have with this city, and with this court, is unforgettable,” Nadal

said.

He deflected a question during the on-court, post-match interview about catching Federer, who is 39 and sat out the U.S. Open and French Open after having two operations on his right knee.

“(To) win here means everything to me, no? It’s not the moment, honestly ... (to) think today about the 20th,” Nadal said. “Roland Garros means everything to me. I spent, here, the most important moments — or most of the most important moments — in my tennis career, no doubt about that.”

About an hour after the match ended, Federer posted a congratulatory message on Instagram.

“I have always had the utmost respect for my friend Rafa as a person and as a champion. As my greatest rival over many years, I believe we have pushed each other to become better players,” Federer began, ending with: “I hope 20 is just another step on the continuing journey for both of us. Well done, Rafa. You deserve it.”

Nadal, No. 2 in the rankings, improved to 100-2 at the French Open, including a combined 26-0 in semifinals and finals, and picked up his fourth consecutive title in Paris. The 34-year-old left-hander from Spain previously put together streaks of

four French Open championships from 2005-08, then five in a row from 2010-14, to go alongside his four trophies at the U.S. Open, two at Wimbledon and one at the Australian Open.

Nadal is now even with Federer for the first time since each man had zero Slams in 2003. Federer first arrived at Wimbledon that year; Nadal, naturally, earned his first in France in 2005, by which point he trailed 4-0.

Djokovic’s loss left him at 17 majors; had he won, the trio’s standings would have read 20-19-18.

“It’s honestly a pleasure — in some ways, it’s a pleasure — sharing this great era of tennis together,” Nadal said. “On the other hand, (there) have been tough battles for a long time.”

This was the 56th installment of Nadal vs. Djokovic, the most meetings between any pair of men in the professional era, and their ninth in a Grand Slam final, matching Nadal vs. Federer for the most.

Djokovic had won 14 of the last 18 matchups against Nadal, and led 29-26 overall, including a 6-3, 6-2, 6-3 win at the 2019 Australian Open final.

Nadal allowed Djokovic one fewer game this time.

Jansen’s status is uncomfortable question for Dodgers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — In a season that’s gone exceedingly well for the Los Angeles Dodgers, a late problem that popped up is causing a lot of concern: Can they still count on Kenley Jansen as their closer?

That has become an uncomfortable question for manager Dave Roberts and the Dodgers as they prepare for another NL Championship Series. Especially with something seemingly not right with the reliever who for so long was the obvious answer when it came to finishing playoff games.

“I’m very sensitive to what he has accomplished on the baseball field, as a closer and as a perennial All-Star, but we also have to look in real time, and do what’s best for the Dodgers,” said Roberts, though the manager hasn’t been ready to make a definitive declaration about Jansen’s role.

The best-of-seven NLCS

against the Atlanta Braves starts Monday night in the Texas Rangers’ new \$1.2 billion stadium with a retractable roof. That is where the Dodgers, whose last World Series title was in 1988, swept San Diego in three games in the NLDS and is the neutral site of this year’s World Series.

Jansen’s velocity has been noticeably down, and inconsistent, for much of the past month. The big right-hander hasn’t

had the same control that is so important in crucial situations.

In Game 2 of the NL Division Series on Wednesday night, Jansen needed 30 pitches to get two outs and gave up two runs without being able to finish the game. Joe Kelly then walked two batters to load the bases before getting the final out of a 6-5 victory.

After averaging 93-94 mph earlier this season, the 33-year-old Jansen rarely got above 90

mph on those 30 pitches. While there were 11 pitches of at least 90 mph, only three of them above 92 mph.

“With Kenley, I think that regardless of velocity, when he’s executing, making quality pitches, he’s as good as anybody,” Roberts said. “But then when you start not executing and missing to the big part of the plate, then it’s not as good. That’s something we’re constantly trying to figure out.”

Jansen got the last two outs in a 5-1 in Game 1 against the Padres. But that was a non-save situation like five of his last six appearances in the regular season, though he did get a save when getting the Dodgers out of a bases-loaded jam in the wild-card round against Milwaukee.

Because of pitching the previous two nights, Jansen wasn’t expected to be available for Game 3 of the NLDS. But there was no need for a closer in what turned out to be a series-

clinching 12-3 victory Thursday night.

While Jansen hasn’t been made available recently to talk to reporters, catch partner and locker mate Kelly said Jansen is handling the situation well.

“Obviously he doesn’t like underperforming, but he’s a mentally tough guy,” Kelly said. “It’s not like he’s sitting around at his locker pouting. He’s fine. ... It’s not like he’s going to be like, ‘Hey, I’m not going to pitch if I don’t pitch the ninth.’ He’s good a teammate, and he’s taking it like a man, and he knows he hasn’t thrown his best, but whenever we need him, he’s going to right there for us.”

The Dodgers’ primary closer since 2012, Jansen is the team’s career leader with 312 saves and 935 strikeouts for a reliever. He has pitched in a team-record 44 postseason games with 17 saves, third-most in MLB history.

Broncos-Patriots game postponed

Associated Press

The NFL has postponed the Denver-New England game indefinitely due to another positive coronavirus test with the Patriots.

That game, originally scheduled for Sunday, had been moved to Monday night.

A person familiar with the situation says the Patriots have closed their facility again after the positive test result, while the Tennessee Titans announced they closed their facility Sunday morning after a staff member tested positive.

The latest result also endangers the Titans' game with Buffalo (4-0) set for Tuesday night after it was moved from Sunday. Six games have been moved already as the league is in its fifth week of the schedule.

There were no other positive COVID-19 tests Sunday.

The NFL rescheduled New England's game for a second straight week after reigning

NFL Defensive Player of the Year Stephon Gilmore tested positive. This latest positive result puts their outbreak at four, according to the person who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither team announced the latest results.

Broncos coach Vic Fangio, in a memorable take on the outbreaks in the league, noted on a Zoom call that what is occurring with the Titans and Patriots could happen to anyone.

"But my message to them and to anybody is we were inconvenienced by this," he said, "but it very easily could have been flipped around to where we had the positive tests and the Patriots were inconvenienced by it. So, I'm happy that the positive tests weren't in our building.

"But I'm under no illusion that at some point we might have a positive test or two and be the cause of a game getting moved down the road. So, we're

all in this together, the entire league is. And in a weird way, I'm kind of happy to see some of this stuff happen because you see who the whiners are ... and who can't handle adversity. And I'm going to try hard that the Denver Broncos don't fall into any of those categories."

Fangio added that the NFL is considering several scenarios for when the Broncos will play New England.

The Titans last played Sept. 27 because of an outbreak that has now reached 24. They've already had a game with Pittsburgh first postponed, then rescheduled to Oct. 25. They sent out a statement saying they learned a staff member tested positive.

"We have temporarily closed our facility and are in communication with the league on the next steps," the Titans said.

The Bears also had an issue, moving offensive lineman Badara Traore from their

practice squad to the reserve/COVID-19 list on Saturday.

Titans quarterback Ryan Tannehill addressed the uncertainty of the situation on Saturday.

"It was a roller coaster for sure," he said. "Definitely the fact that we had guys with no symptoms testing positive and we had guys with full-blown symptoms getting consecutive negative tests on multiple days was really eye opening. Just the fact of we really don't know.

"So, we have to treat everyone as if they have the virus. Unfortunately, really probably lost some faith in the testing system just through everything we've been through over the past week and a half. But we said that from the beginning, that testing is not going to prevent the virus from being spread, it's the way we handle ourselves with all the protocols and handle ourselves outside the building as well."

NHL teams not waiting for top free agents

Associated Press

Taylor Hall went unsigned during the first day of free agency. Same with Alex Pietrangelo and Mike Hoffman.

A handful of the top free agents are still available, but NHL teams aren't waiting for those big fish to sign to make other moves. Boston paused its pursuit of Hall to sign big winger Craig Smith; Columbus shored up its center depth by inking veteran center Mikko Koivu while keeping tabs on other options and Carolina put its goaltending shopping on hold to add speedy forward Jesper Fast.

"Some of those players are very unique and high-level players and they're probably searching for the right opportunity for them," Bruins general manager Don Sweeney said after giving Smith \$9.3 million over three years. "And then when it comes, they'll find their landing spot. I think all the other teams are doing the exact same thing. I think we'll continue to have those conversations."

Some conversations are happening by phone or video chat and others in person. Pietrangelo flew to Vegas on Saturday to

visit the Golden Knights, who have been clearing salary cap space to try to accommodate the 2019 Stanley Cup-winning defenseman.

Vegas needs to make another move or two to fit Pietrangelo, and it's not alone in clearing the books for a big move. Nashville, which bought out Kyle Turris and let Smith leave in free agency, traded forward Austin Watson to Ottawa for a 2021 fourth-round pick.

The Blue Jackets bought out Alexander Wennberg and made some other salary-saving decisions, but don't expect them to go big name hunting. Koivu signed for \$1.5 million for next season, and they need to re-up top center Pierre-Luc Dubois and other restricted free agents.

Columbus will also bide its time waiting out the market.

"There are teams that are in a little bit of dire straits or whatever you want to call it right now with their cap space," GM Jarmo Kekalainen said. "There could be some opportunities down the line here if we keep that flexibility. Teams have to move money, and in order to move money, they might have to move some really good players."

Some good free agents found new homes Saturday. Fast signed a \$6 million, three-year deal with the Hurricanes, the Detroit Red Wings added goaltender Thomas Greiss and defenseman Troy Stecher and the Dallas Stars got good value with defenseman Mark Pysyk on a \$750,000, one-year contract.

Stecher wasn't the only defenseman to leave Vancouver, as Chris Tanev joined the Calgary Flames for four years and \$18 million. Calgary spent even bigger in goal earlier Friday when it signed former Canucks netminder Jacob Markstrom to a \$36 million, six-year deal.

The Buffalo Sabres signed center Cody Eakin to a \$4.5 million, two-year contract, according to a person with direct knowledge of the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the move had not been announced.

Buffalo later Saturday signed defenseman Brandon Montour to a \$3.85 million, one-year deal. The Washington Capitals added to their defensive depth by signing Trevor van Riemsdyk for \$800,000.

College football roundup

Sooners rally past No. 22 Texas in OT

Associated Press

DALLAS — Spencer Rattler threw a 25-yard scoring pass to Drake Stoops in the fourth overtime, and Oklahoma survived a late rally from No. 22 Texas in regulation for a 53-45 victory Saturday as a most unusual version of the Red River rivalry ended with familiar dose of drama.

Rattler's successful completion on the required 2-point conversion didn't matter when Sam Ehlinger's pass was intercepted in the end zone by Tre Brown to end just the second Big 12 game to go four OTs.

Because of the pandemic, the crowd was limited to 24,000 in the 93,000-seat Cotton Bowl, with the surrounding Texas state fair shut down for the first time since World War II. On the field, it was the first time since 1999 neither team was in the Top 20.

Ehlinger threw two touchdown passes in the final 3:28 of regulation after what appeared to be a game-sealing interception by Woodi Washington in the end zone with the Sooners leading 31-17 with five minutes remaining.

After tossing a 2-yard score to Keaontay Ingram with 14 seconds left in regulation, Ehlinger opened overtime with his third rushing TD, from 3 yards.

Rattler answered with an 11-yard touchdown pass to Austin Stogner, then plunged over from the half-yard line on fourth down after his initial scoring run was overturned over review to start the second OT.

Ehlinger's career-best fourth touchdown run forced the third overtime, but the Longhorns (2-2, 1-2 Big 12) couldn't avoid a second straight loss.

The Sooners (2-2, 1-2) had a chance to win in the third overtime, but Gabe Brkic's 31-yard field goal attempt was wide left after Perrion Winfrey blocked Cameron Dicker's 33-yard try to start the extra period.

No. 3 Georgia 44, No. 14 Tennessee 21: Stetson Bennett threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score and the host Bulldogs bounced back from the Vols' goal-line stand on the final play of the first half, dominating the final 30 minutes.

Georgia (3-0) knocked off a ranked Southeastern Conference team for the second week in a row, shaking off a 21-17 deficit to completely wipe out Tennessee over the final two quarters.

Showing they are still not ready to compete with the league's top programs, the Vols (2-1, 2-1) turned it over three times and managed just 71 yards total offense in the second half.

No. 21 Texas A&M 41, No. 4 Florida 38: Isaiah Spiller ran for 174 yards and two touchdowns and the host Aggies beat the Gators on Seth Small's 26-yard field goal as time expired.

Spiller helped get A&M (2-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) into position for Small's decisive kick, giving Jimbo Fisher his first win over a top-five team since taking over as the Aggies' coach.

Mond passed for 338 yards and three touchdowns. Kyle Trask had 312 yards passing and four TDs for Florida (2-1, 2-1).

No. 8 North Carolina 56, No. 19 Virginia Tech 45: Michael Carter ran for a career-high 214 yards and two touchdowns — including a 62-yarder midway through the fourth quarter — for the host Tar Heels.

North Carolina (3-0, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) leaned on a dominating running game. Javonte Williams also ran for a career-best 169 yards and two scores, with both backs finding gaping lanes and weaving through defenders to keep the chains moving on the way to 399 yards on the ground.

The Tar Heels said it was only the second time in program history that they had seen two players crack the 150-yard mark in the same game, the other coming 39 years earlier.

Khalil Herbert ran for 138 yards and two touchdowns for the Hokies (2-1, 2-1).

No. 13 Auburn 30, Arkansas 28: Anders Carlson made the most of his second chance, hitting a 39-yard field goal with 7 seconds left to lift the host Tigers.

Auburn (2-1, 2-1 Southeastern Conference) narrowly avoided a second straight loss, with drama and uncertainty continuing right up to that winning kick.

Facing third-and-1, Bo Nix couldn't handle the snap, picked it up and spiked the ball — appearing slightly behind him — to draw an intentional grounding flag.

This time Carlson delivered after missing a 34-yard field goal wide right with 2:38 left. The Tigers' defense had forced a three and out, and they got the ball back at the 45 of the Razorbacks (1-1, 1-1).

No. 15 BYU 27, USTA 20: Zach Wilson threw for 292 yards and two touchdowns and Tyler Allgeier ran for 116 yards and another score to lead the host Cougars.

BYU (4-0) equaled its best start since 2014 while rolling up 472 yards. Allgeier posted his second 100-yard game of his career to help rescue an inconsistent offense.

Missouri 45, No. 17 LSU 41: Connor Bazalak threw for 406 yards and four touchdowns, and Missouri's maligned de-

fense stopped LSU four times at the 1-yard line in the final minute in a shootout moved from Baton Rouge because of Hurricane Delta.

Larry Rountree added 119 yards rushing and Tyler Badie scored touchdowns on the ground and through the air for Mizzou (1-2, 1-2 Southeastern Conference). The Tigers gave new coach Eli Drinkwitz his first win in thrilling fashion at Faurot Field.

LSU had taken a 41-38 lead when Cade York hit a 51-yard field goal on the final play of the third quarter. But when York tried to extend the lead midway through the fourth, his 45-yarder was blocked, and Missouri needed just four plays — the big one a 69-yard pass to Chance Luper — before Bazalak hit Nico Hea with the go-ahead touchdown with 5:18 to go.

The defending national champion Tigers fell to 1-2 for the first time since 1994.

No. 24 Iowa State 31, Texas Tech 15: Brock Purdy passed for 302 yards and two touchdowns, Breece Hall ran for 135 yards and two scores and the host Cyclones (3-1, 3-0 Big 12) opened conference play with three straight wins for the first time since 2002 and only the second time since 1950.

Purdy was 32 of 43 with no interceptions. He also ran seven times for 42 yards.

Iowa State rolled up 516 yards of total offense and held the Red Raiders (1-3, 0-3) under 100 yards until early in the fourth quarter.

Navy 31, Temple 29: Nelson Smith scored two touchdowns, Bijan Nichols kicked a critical 50-yard field goal and Terrell Adams denied a 2-point conversion attempt in the final minute to lead the host Midshipmen to a win.

With the 4,400-strong Brigade of Midshipmen in attendance for the first time this season, Navy scored first and led thereafter in giving Ken Niumatalolo his 100th career win, all at the academy.

Army 14, The Citadel 9: Sophomore Jemel Jones ran for a score and threw for another and the host Black Knights earned their sixth straight home win.

Jones finished a 14-play, 62-yard drive with a 5-yard touchdown run near the end of the third quarter for a 14-3 lead. Just before halftime, he threw a 29-yard touchdown pass to Reikan Donaldson for a 7-3 Army (4-1) advantage with 2:57 before halftime.

On the Bulldogs' (0-4) following drive, Brandon Rainey completed a 50-yard pass to Raleigh Webb to put the ball at Army's 29-yard line. On the following play, however, Cedrick Cunningham Jr. intercepted Rainey at the 3-yard line to end the threat.