

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Extension of family separation pay sought

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors sequestered away from their families as a coronavirus precaution would be eligible to receive their Family Separation Allowance earlier under a provision in the House of Representatives' version of the 2021 Defense Department budget.

Currently, the service members are ineligible for the Pentagon's \$250-per-month Family Separation Allowance until 30 days after deploying from their homeport. But pre-deployment quarantines have meant sailors are often separated from their

families well before a ship gets underway.

The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2021 would extend the allowance to service members "under orders to remain on board the ship while at the home port," according to the bill.

The provision would allow "the 30-day clock to start at the beginning of a pre-deployment quarantine (and) would provide some financial relief to support Sailors and their families during these challenging times," Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Adam Cole told Stars and Stripes in an email Friday.

To avoid bringing the corona-

virus onto its ships, the Navy in March began requiring sailors to leave their homes for at least 14 days of restricted movement in barracks before shipping out for sea duty. For those on large ships, such as the 5,000-crew aircraft carriers, the process is completed in phases and takes even longer.

Navy spouse Bettie Annable hasn't seen her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Ernest Annable, since he left home for pre-deployment sequestration on April 8, exactly two months before his ship, the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, left Yokosuka.

Annable, who urged fellow spouses to write Congress

about the issue in August, said she was encouraged to hear about the possible change.

"At least they are moving forward and taking into consideration the extra time that the sailors are away from their families," Annable said Tuesday. "It is a step forward and that I would consider progress."

The Senate version of the 2021 defense budget does not include language to change the eligibility period. The House and Senate will compare their versions and resolve differences during an NDAA conference before presenting the final bill to the president.

## What the US election will mean for the Middle East

*The Washington Post*

For ordinary people living in the Middle East's many crisis spots — from war zones in Syria, Yemen and Libya to dysfunctional, enfeebled states in Lebanon and Iraq — it won't matter much whether President Donald Trump or his

### ANALYSIS

Democrat challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, is in the White House next year. Both the Trump administration and that which Biden served saw the region's tangled conflicts and yearned for an escape. Neither managed to do it. Instead, U.S. air campaigns intensified, and U.S. troops remain deployed across numerous countries. For all its stated desire to disentangle itself from the Middle East, Washington has a hard time letting go.

But Biden and Trump represent two markedly different futures for some of the region's political elites, especially the

leadership in Israel and a clutch of oil-rich Arab monarchies. They cheered Trump on as he went about upturning his predecessor Barack Obama's major accomplishment in the region — ceasing American participation in the Iran nuclear deal by reimposing sanctions and invoking a "maximum pressure" campaign on the regime in Tehran. And he pursued a new approach to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process that entirely favored the interests of the Israeli right. Though those efforts were met with outrage from Palestinians, they faced mostly muted protest from Arab leaders elsewhere.

On both those fronts, a Democratic victory in November could signal a dramatic reversal. A Biden administration would seek to patch up the damage caused by Trump on the nuclear deal and cool down tensions with Iran. And it would pump the brakes on the U.S.'s deep embrace of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

and its coddling of influential Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The president and his allies claim that the administration has achieved more in the space of a few years of Middle East politicking than what their predecessors managed over decades. That includes the recent "Abraham Accords," which saw the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalize ties with Israel at a White House ceremony. It's unclear if many other Arab countries will follow suit. But the diplomatic breakthrough confirms a shifting reality in the Middle East, where a number of Arab powers may see it in their interest to make common cause with Israel in the face of an intransigent Iran and increasingly indifferent United States.

The Trump administration has hurt the Iranian economy with sanctions, but maximum pressure has failed to curb Iran's adventurism in its neighborhood, as Trump claimed

it would, and eroded the safeguards against an Iranian nuclear bomb that had been installed by the Obama administration. Iranian officials have so far laughed off the prospect of negotiations with the Trump administration.

"The majority of the Iranian people and Iranian elite prefer that Biden come to power but there are differences," Ali Omid, a professor of political science at the University of Isfahan, said to the Atlantic Council.

Biden has said he will offer Iran "a credible path to diplomacy." He also says he will heed congressional calls to end U.S. assistance to the Saudi-led war effort in Yemen (no matter that these operations began under the Obama administration's watch). And experts claim that a Biden presidency will raise up the issue of Palestinian rights more than any previous administration in a bid to revive the long-moribund prospect of a two-state solution.

# F-15s out of Lakenheath patrol skies over Iceland

BY JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

U.S. fighter jets have taken over a NATO air policing mission in the North Atlantic, operating from a base in Iceland that is of growing importance to the alliance as it counters an aggressive and expansionist Russia.

F-15 C/D Eagles from 493rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron out of RAF Lakenheath in England assumed control Monday of the mission at Naval Air Station Keflavik, from where they will patrol Icelandic air space.

"Aircrews stand prepared to monitor and manage Icelandic airspace for the next few weeks as they operate and familiarize themselves with the unique geographical location," the 48th Fight Wing said in a statement.

The deployment is part of a NATO mission that began in 2008 with periodic rotations to Iceland.

While the U.S. largely abandoned the area after the end of the Cold War, it has been reinvesting in the High North since Russia invaded eastern Ukraine and annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014.

In addition to countering Russian aggression, NATO allies are concerned that, as ice melts in the Arctic, new shipping lanes will open and competition for resources will increase between the alliance and Russia.

Russia has reoccupied former Soviet bases and built new bases in the region, Adm. James Foggo, then the head of U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa, said last year. China has also been trying to gain a foothold in the region.

In September, the Air Force awarded projects worth \$38 million to improve the airfield at Naval Air Station Keflavik, which is a launching pad for U.S. European Command surveillance efforts.

The Navy's 2nd Fleet, which was reestablished in 2018 to counter Russia in the North Atlantic, established a Maritime Operations Center in Keflavik last year. Thirty staff members were based there as of January.

Navy P-8 Poseidon submarine tracking planes have been flying in and out of Keflavik for several years.

Iceland doesn't have an air force and requested more than a decade ago that allied fighters be based there as part of the air policing effort. NATO has similar policing missions in the Baltics and the Black Sea region.

"The routine deployment demonstrates Alliance solidarity and the transatlantic linkage at work," said U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Andrew Hansen, NATO Allied Air Command deputy chief of staff operations.

## After 215 days at sea, USS Stout returns

*Daily Press (Newport News, Va.)*

The dark gray sky lightened a bit as USS Stout rounded the end of Pier 5 at Naval Station Norfolk, the rust streaks and faded paint on its side a testimony to its record-setting 215 days at sea.

As the tug Susan Moran nudged the destroyer gently to the pier, the sun briefly broke out.

It wasn't the usual homecoming. First, there was those many months away from the Stout's Norfolk home port. Then, as the big bright yellow sign on the pier reminded long-distant sailors: "Welcome to the pandemic games. May the odds be in your favor."

But the crew knew that. Cmdr. Rich Eytel, the Stout's skipper, said they'd spent the last several days "getting muscle memory down with masks."

After all, more than seven months at sea makes for the equivalent of a lot of quarantining.

And the Stout's sailors were busy with a lot of other, non-pandemic concerns.

The Stout spent much of its time at sea making sure merchant ships and tankers could get safely through the Straits of Hormuz, that strategic Persian Gulf bottleneck.

Because of the pandemic, and the Navy's concern that port calls upped the risk of illness for its sailors, the Stout completed the first modern Mid-Deployment Voyage Repair period at sea, including the kind of repairs that usually are done in port.

The crew went far longer than usual without getting new parts for those repairs. They stretched food and fuel limits, Eytel said.

"They really showed they're resilient, self sufficient," he added.

## Nimitz crew experienced 'bubble' port call

BY CHAD GARLAND  
*Stars and Stripes*

The USS Nimitz became the first U.S. aircraft carrier to put the Navy's coronavirus-related port call procedures to the test in Bahrain when it pulled into port last week.

With the guided-missile Cruiser USS Princeton, the Nimitz arrived at Manama for a scheduled visit that began last Wednesday and ended Sunday, said Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, spokeswoman for the Bahrain-based U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and the 5th Fleet.

During their stay — a work-

ing port call for logistics and maintenance — the ships' sailors and Marines got to "rest and unwind in designated areas on the pier" that complied with U.S. and host nation measures to stem the spread of the coronavirus, the service said in a statement on Sunday.

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation program set up food, drinks and various games in cordoned-off areas to allow the crews to stay in a "COVID-free 'bubble,'" Rebarich said.

The procedures have been developed and refined during several smaller ships' port calls, which were coronavirus-free, Rebarich said in an

email.

The crews were also able to use the Navy Exchange's contactless "Downrange Program," she said.

The Nimitz and Princeton were back at sea in the Persian Gulf this week, where the carrier marked the Navy's 245th birthday on Tuesday with a video on Facebook showing jets taking part in flight operations from the carrier strike group.

The 5th Fleet also commemorated the 20th anniversary on Monday of the attack on the USS Cole, which killed 17 Americans during a port visit in Yemen on Oct. 12, 2020.

# Dems grill nominee Barrett at hearings

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court nominee Amy Coney Barrett batted back Democrats' skeptical questions on abortion, gun rights and election disputes in lively Senate confirmation testimony Tuesday, insisting she would bring no personal agenda to the court but would decide cases as they come.

The 48-year-old appellate court judge declared her conservative views with often colloquial language, but refused many specifics. She declined to say whether she would recuse herself from any election-related cases involving President Donald Trump, who nominated her to fill the seat of the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and is pressing to have her confirmed before the Nov. 3 election.

"Judges can't just wake up one day and say I have an agenda — I like guns, I hate guns, I like abortion, I hate abortion — and

walk in like a royal queen and impose their will on the world," Barrett told the Senate Judiciary Committee during the second day of hearings.

"It's not the law of Amy," she said later. "It's the law of the American people."

Trump has said he wants a full nine-member court in place for any disputes arising from the heated election with Democrat Joe Biden. Barrett testified she has not spoken to Trump or his team about that, saying to do so would be a "gross violation" of judicial independence. Pressed by panel Democrats, she declined to commit to recusing herself from post-election cases.

"I can't offer an opinion on recusal without short-circuiting that entire process," she said.

On her second day of hearings, Barrett returned to a Capitol Hill mostly locked down with COVID-19 protocols, the mood quickly shifting to a more confrontational

tone from opening day. She was grilled by Democrats strongly opposed to Trump's nominee yet virtually powerless to stop her.

A frustrated Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the top Democrat on the panel, all but implored the nominee to be more specific about how she would handle landmark abortion cases, including *Roe v. Wade* and the follow-up Pennsylvania case *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which confirmed it in large part. Barrett told the senator she could not precommit to an approach.

"I don't have an agenda to try to overrule *Casey*," the judge said. "I have an agenda to stick to the rule of law and decide cases as they come."

The committee chairman, Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., praised Barrett as the best possible nominee Trump could have chosen. "I will do everything I can to make sure that you have a seat at the table. And that table is the Supreme Court," he said.

## McConnell slates revote on GOP virus relief measure

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he's scheduling a vote regarding a GOP COVID-19 relief bill for later this month, saying aid to hard-hit businesses shouldn't be held up by gridlock involving other aid proposals.

The Kentucky Republican said the first item of Senate business when the chamber returns Oct. 19 will be a procedural vote on a scaled-back aid bill. Democrats filibustered

a GOP-drafted aid bill last month, and recent talks on a larger deal with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., fell apart this past weekend, probably for good.

"Democrats have spent months blocking policies they do not even oppose. They say anything short of their multi-trillion-dollar wish list, jammed with non-COVID-related demands, is 'piecemeal' and not worth doing," McConnell said in a statement. "And she has worked hard to ensure that nothing is what American

families get."

McConnell's announcement came as President Donald Trump continues to agitate for "stimulus," saying that Capitol Hill Republicans should "go big" rather than the limited approach they've been advocating.

Opinion polls show that additional coronavirus relief is a higher priority for most voters than quickly approving Trump's nomination of Appeals Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court. While many Republicans take

a skeptical view of the need for more virus relief like special unemployment benefits or direct payments to most taxpayers, some GOP senators in difficult re-election races are eager for more aid.

Under Senate rules, McConnell can call for a re-vote on the September legislation, which was filibustered by Democrats as insufficient. It also doesn't satisfy Trump, in part because it did not provide for another round of \$1,200 direct payments that would go out under his name.

## Statues of Roosevelt and Lincoln toppled in Portland

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Protesters in Portland overturned statues of former Presidents Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln and vandalized the Oregon Historical Society in a declaration of "rage" toward Columbus Day.

Protest organizers dubbed the event "Indigenous Peoples Day of Rage," in response to Monday's federal holiday named after 15th-century Italian explorer Christopher Columbus, a polarizing figure who Native American advocates have said spurred

centuries of genocide against indigenous populations in the Americas.

The group Sunday night threw chains around Roosevelt's statue, officially titled "Theodore Roosevelt, Rough Rider." They splashed red paint on the monument and used a blowtorch on the statue's base, news outlets reported.

The statue was pulled down by the crowd just before 9 p.m. The group later turned their attention toward Lincoln's statue, pulling it down about eight minutes later.

Historians have said Roosevelt expressed hostility toward Native Americans, once

saying: "I don't go so far as to think that the only good Indians are dead Indians, but I believe nine out of every 10 are."

Protesters spray-painted "Dakota 38" on the base of Lincoln's statue, referencing the 38 Dakota men Lincoln approved to have hanged after the men were involved in a violent conflict with white settlers in Minnesota.

After toppling the statues, the crowd smashed windows at the Oregon Historical Society and later moved onto the Portland State University Campus Public Safety office.

# Surge team to help fight El Paso virus spike

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — An ongoing wave of COVID-19 cases in the El Paso area prompted Gov. Greg Abbott to announce Monday that a surge team of medical professionals would be dispatched to the area.

The 75 doctors, nurses and respiratory therapists being dispatched will be accompanied by a supply of extra personal protective equipment to support efforts by El Paso hospitals to meet the surge of coronavirus infections. The team will be in addition to the 169 professionals the state previously sent to the area.

As of Monday, 313 people were hospitalized with COVID-19 in El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson counties of West Texas. The state estimated that active COVID-19 cases in El Paso County alone soared from almost 4,000 on Oct. 1 to just over 6,000 Monday. Seven cases were fatal during that period.

Statewide, the coronavirus caseload since the outbreak began in March continued to approach 800,000 Monday.

## California

SACRAMENTO — California is easing its coronavirus restrictions to allow up to three households to socialize outdoors, an expansion of rules aimed at people tempted to have even larger gatherings around Halloween, Thanksgiving and end-of-year holidays, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Monday.

Three households can gather so long as they wear masks and follow other safety precautions designed to stem the spread of the virus, under the new guidelines from the California Department of Public Health. State health officials previously discouraged gatherings outside of a single household.

The goal is not to encourage larger gatherings, Newsom said, but to recognize the increasing pressure for get-togethers and provide ways for people to act appropriately. There's no limit on the number of people in any

three households, though state officials say smaller is better.

Dr. Mark Ghaly, the state's Health and Human Services secretary, said the guidelines are meant to recognize that many close friends and relatives have been apart a long time and want to be together.

All such gatherings should be outdoors, although it's OK for guests to use indoor restrooms as long as they are frequently sanitized.

## Kansas

TOPEKA — Even as Kansas recorded another record spike in COVID-19 cases, Lawrence health officials were hit with a lawsuit over an emergency health order that limits bar hours in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus.

Rita "Peach" Madl, the owner of The Sandbar, a bar near the University of Kansas campus, is asking to be freed from rules requiring establishments with liquor licenses to stop serving alcohol by 11 p.m. and shut their doors to in-person clientele by midnight. A previous order required establishments to stop selling alcohol even earlier, The Kansas City Star reported.

The Kansas Justice Institute, which helped file the lawsuit Friday, issued a news release Monday claiming the county order "disregards Constitutional rights such as due process and equal protection."

George Diepenbrock, a spokesman for the Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, said the agency would not have any comment on pending litigation.

## Maine

PITTSFIELD — The Maine company that makes specialized swabs for coronavirus testing is ready to open a third manufacturing plant, officials said Monday.

Guilford-based Puritan already opened one factory in Pittsfield to expand production, and now it's taking over the for-

mer San Antonio Shoemakers factory in Pittsfield for a third manufacturing location.

The project, which will produce 50 million swabs per month, is funded by a \$51.2 million CARES Act grant announced by Sen. Susan Collins in August. Construction company Cianbro is partnering on the project.

Puritan is one of only two companies that produce the specialized swabs that are needed as testing ramps up during the coronavirus pandemic. The other manufacturing facility is in Italy.

## Michigan

LANSING — The Michigan Supreme Court on Monday rejected Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's request to delay by 28 days the effect of its decision striking down a law she had used to keep intact sweeping orders designed to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

Justices voted 6-1 against halting the precedential effect of its Oct. 2 opinion until Oct. 30. They also reaffirmed their initial 4-3 ruling that declared the 1945 emergency powers law unconstitutional, this time in a lawsuit brought by the Republican-led Legislature.

Executive orders issued under the law "are of no continuing legal effect. This order is effective upon entry," the court wrote.

Whitmer, a Democrat, had asked the justices to give her administration, lawmakers and local health departments 28 days to transition in the wake of the major decision. Her administration last week quickly re-instituted mask requirements, gathering limits and certain business restrictions with pandemic orders issued by the state health department under a public health law whose origins date to the 1918 flu pandemic.

## Mississippi

JACKSON — Mississippi's state health officer said Monday that he's troubled by the state's

recent rise in COVID-19 cases, including a significant increase during the past week of people hospitalized because of the highly contagious coronavirus.

Dr. Thomas Dobbs said six hospitals have no beds available in their intensive care units, and clinics are seeing an increasing number of patients with COVID-19 symptoms.

Although Republican Gov. Tate Reeves ended his state-wide mask mandate Sept. 30, Dobbs said it's important for people to voluntarily do simple things to slow the spread of the virus — wearing masks, keeping social distance of at least 6 feet and avoiding large gatherings.

Dobbs said Mississippi's case numbers were "starting to creep up" before health officials expected any impact from the lifting of the mask mandate. He said the lack of a mandate could add to the problem of increasing cases.

## Montana

HELENA — Montana's most populous county is limiting gathering sizes and urging bars and restaurants to enforce masking and distancing requirements to slow the spread of COVID-19 as the CEO of a Billings hospital warned that facilities and health care workers are overwhelmed as hospitalizations are rising.

Meanwhile, an uptick in cases in Flathead County has the health department recommending some additional restrictions.

Yellowstone County health officer John Felton said Monday that he would limit public or private gatherings to no more than 25 people, inside or outside, starting Wednesday. Mask-wearing and physical distancing would still be required. The limit does not apply to schools or day care centers.

Churches can have more than 25 attendees as long as they are physically distanced, wear masks and the number does not exceed 50% of the church's capacity.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Lightning strike knocks ferry out of service

**WA** EDMONDS — A Washington State Ferry was knocked out of service Saturday evening after it was struck by lightning, and repairs have kept it out of service into Sunday.

KOMO-TV reported the M/V Puyallup was near the Edmonds ferry dock on its Edmonds-Kingston run when the lightning strike hit, according to Diane Rhodes with the Washington State Ferries.

No one was injured on the boat, but the lightning did affect the navigation system. The Coast Guard said the ferry would have to stay docked after nightfall until the system could be repaired. As a result, three ferry runs were canceled Saturday night and several cancellations lingered into Sunday.

It would have been quite the jolt to the boat, according to Chris Vagasky with Vaisala. His company's lightning sensors estimate the lightning bolt delivered 133,000 amps.

## 2 arrested after trying to hang protest banner

**PA** PITTSBURGH — Two people were arrested after climbing onto a Pittsburgh bridge in an attempt to hang a protest banner Sunday, authorities said.

A man and woman climbed the superstructure of the 6th Street/Roberto Clemente Bridge and clambered onto the main cable system between the deck and one of the towers at about 8:30 a.m. Sunday, police said. The bridge was then closed to traffic. Fire department crews cut the line the protesters were using to try to hang the banner, which the group said was going to say "Black Trans Lives Matter" and call for shutting down the

county jail and an Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in eastern Pennsylvania, KDKA reported.

The protesters were taken into custody after they descended shortly after 11:30 a.m. Sunday and the bridge reopened around noon. The incident took place during a gay rights parade that was rerouted to another bridge. Public safety officials said criminal charges were planned but didn't specify what they would be.

## Lynching marker moved after recent vandalism

**GA** HAHIRA — A Georgia historical marker pinpointing the location of gruesome lynchings has been removed after it experienced a new string of vandalism, officials said.

The Mary Turner and the Lynching Rampage marker was removed last week, news outlets reported. The Mary Turner Project announced the removal Sunday.

Project Coordinator Mark Patrick George said the marker was recently shot at and hit several times by an "off road vehicle."

George said the group and the Georgia Historical Society decided to remove the marker before it was completely broken off.

The sign will be stored away until new reinstallation plans are developed.

## Coast Guard stops boat with Haitian migrants

**FL** PALM BEACH — U.S. officials said they stopped a boat off the Atlantic coast carrying 23 Haitian migrants who were being smuggled into Florida by two Bahamian men.

The U.S. Coast Guard said 15 Haitian male migrants and 8

Haitian female migrants were detained Friday, and one of the women was taken in an emergency boat for medical care.

The migrants and suspected smugglers were traveling in a 25-foot boat and authorities say "migrant condition and weather quickly deteriorated."

The two suspected smugglers were transferred to the custody of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for potential prosecution.

## Two roommates fight, fatally shoot each other

**AZ** PHOENIX — Two roommates are dead after the men apparently shot each other following a fight in Laveen, according to Phoenix police.

Officers responded to a 911 call of a physical fight between the roommates at 5 a.m. Sunday.

Police said the two men — ages 31 and 33 — both had gunshot wounds.

One man was pronounced deceased at the scene and the other was taken to a hospital, where he later died.

## Youth pastor charged with child sex abuse

**MO** SPRINGFIELD — A former youth pastor was charged with seven felonies following accusations he sexually abused a child in Missouri.

Jeff Taylor, 46, of Strafford, Mo., was charged Thursday with five counts of statutory sodomy and two counts of statutory rape, the Springfield News-Leader reported.

Taylor is accused of sexually abusing a child for several years beginning when the victim was younger than 14. He was booked into the Green County jail last Wednesday, a day after the victim reported it

to law enforcement.

## Interactive bike tour to visit civil rights sites

**MI** DETROIT — History buffs can roll around sites in Detroit as part of an interactive civil rights bike tour.

The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office is launching the tour, which can be navigated from a smartphone or tablet.

The recommended route begins and ends at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. The entire loop has 20 stops and is about 17 miles long.

## Seacoast Mission's ship back after \$1.5M repair

**ME** BAR HARBOR — The Maine Seacoast Mission's ship Sunbeam V is ready to resume bringing telemedicine, meals, fellowship care and cups of coffee to the people who live in Maine's year-round island communities.

The steel-hulled ship, which underwent a \$1.5 million overhaul at Front Street Shipyard in Belfast, is getting back to work just in time to deliver flu-shot clinics for islanders.

The overhaul took longer than expected. The exterior of the boat was in decent shape, but the interior had to be gutted because of extensive rusting, said Graham Fitch, Front Street Shipyard's project manager for the Sunbeam.

The Sunbeam serves the islands of Frenchboro, Great Cranberry, Isle au Haut, Islesboro, Islesford, Matinicus, Monhegan, North Haven, Swan's Island and Vinalhaven. Five crew members — the captain, engineer, steward, nurse and community outreach director — live aboard the boat.

From wire reports

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# Braves rally in ninth to down Dodgers

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Atlanta Braves fans were still doing tomahawk-chop chants as they filed out of the stadium, real people who replaced the cardboard cutouts players got so accustomed to this season.

One game, but a big boost for the Braves in their first National League Championship Series since 2001.

Austin Riley led off the ninth inning with a tiebreaking homer that sparked a four-run rally Monday night for a 5-1 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the first major league game this season with fans allowed to attend.

"It was awesome — fun to play in front of fans again," Braves slugger Freddie Freeman said. "Eleven-thousand people, really felt like 50,000 to us because we haven't had any all year."

Riley greeted reliever Blake Treinen with a 448-foot drive to left-center, giving Atlanta a 2-1

lead and generating a familiar noise in the ballpark that only got louder.

"I didn't feel my legs when I was running around the bases, so it was a good feeling," said the 23-year-old Riley, left off the postseason roster last year.

And the Braves weren't done.

Ronald Acuna Jr. followed with a double and scored on a single by Marcell Ozuna that chased Treinen. Ozzie Albies added a two-run homer off Jake McGee.

"It's what these guys do. I've said we're like an NBA game, you don't want to leave because a lot of things don't happen until the last third," Braves manager Brian Snitker said. "These guys never quit, they keep grinding at-bats and doing their thing, and it's a pretty neat trait for a ballclub to have."

Riley became the youngest player with a go-ahead homer in the ninth inning of a postseason game or later since Braves

star Chipper Jones in 1995.

"That's a pretty good 9-hole hitter we've got," Freeman said. "We believe in every single guy, and Austin was the guy tonight."

In a matchup of teams that ranked 1-2 in the majors for runs and homers, and in the first NLCS opener since 2007 with both teams undefeated in the postseason, the Braves delivered another impressive pitching performance even without a shutout.

Max Fried struck out nine over six sharp innings, Will Smith worked a perfect eighth for the win and Mark Melancon closed it out. Atlanta, which threw four shutouts in its first five playoff games against Cincinnati and Miami, has allowed a total of six runs while going 6-0 this postseason.

Los Angeles had won nine straight going back to the regular season.

Before the ninth, the only runs came on a pair of solo

homers. Freeman went deep in the first and Kiké Hernández connected leading off the Dodgers fifth.

It was the first time since March 12, the day spring training was suspended because of the coronavirus, that there were fans in the stands for an MLB game.

All 10,700 tickets available to the general public were sold, in addition to another 800 or so utilized by MLB and the teams. That was about 28% of the 40,518 capacity at the new Texas Rangers ballpark, where the retractable roof was open for the first NLCS game played at a neutral site.

The Braves had the bases loaded in the eighth after reliever Dustin May hit pinch-hitter Pablo Sandoval with a pitch. Victor Gonzalez came on and struck out pinch-hitter Charlie Culberson, punctuating the inning-ending out with an emphatic fist pump on the way back to the dugout.

## Margot, Rays take 2-0 series lead over Astros

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Back in the ballpark where he started his big league career, Manuel Margot of the Tampa Bay Rays had a breakout game in the AL Championship Series with a three-run home run and a spectacular catch while tumbling over a wall in right field.

Asked which was bigger in the 4-2 victory against the Houston Astros, Margot said through a translator: "Definitely the home run. The home run didn't hurt."

The home run was huge, for sure, because it helped the Rays get halfway to the World Series with a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 series.

But they'll be talking about the catch for a long time.

With two outs in the second and runners on second and third, Margot tracked George Springer's long foul ball to right

field while shielding his face from the sun. He caught it as he tumbled over a padded railing atop a wall and landed on a walkway near the seats down the line at Petco Park.

Margot popped up, smiled and held up his glove with the ball in it after a 102-foot sprint.

Margot was shaken up a little but stayed in the game.

"Approaching it you don't really realize how high it is but it gets a little lower once you go over the wall, so once I actually started to flip and realized it was a little bit further of a drop, that's when I got a little scared," Margot said.

Margot played with the San Diego Padres from late in the 2016 season until being traded to Tampa Bay in the offseason. He played one game in right field in 2016 and the rest of his time in San Diego was spent in center.

"To have the ability to know where you're at, and kind of be able to say, 'Forget it, I know I'm going to hit something but I'm going in,' and still hang on to the ball, was really, really impressive," manager Kevin Cash said.

His teammates raved about the catch.

"He sold out," winner Charlie Morton said. "Those guys are all in for each other and they put their bodies on the line. They've been doing that all year. That play was unbelievable."

Shortstop Willy Adames said Margot "was going with determination. He was going to do whatever it took to make that catch. It was an unbelievable play that he made on the right-field line, putting himself in a dangerous place. I'm just happy for him, after that homer. It was amazing. I hope he continues to help the team win like that."

Margot homered to straight-away center field on an 0-1 pitch from Lance McCullers Jr. with two outs in the first. It followed the first of two errors by second baseman Jose Altuve on a grounder to shallow right field by Ji-Man Choi. Altuve's throw hit the ground before going in and out of first baseman Yuli Gurriel's glove.

The play originally was ruled an error on Gurriel, but the official scorer later charged the error to Altuve. When Gurriel returned to the dugout, he slammed his glove onto the bench.

Margot's big plays made a winner of 36-year-old Morton, who helped Houston win the 2017 World Series, and spoiled an otherwise fine effort by McCullers, who lost despite striking out 11 in seven innings. Three of the four runs off him were unearned.

# Fans finally get to attend baseball game

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Scott McIlroy reached out with his left hand as a batting practice home run clanged off a railing and hit him in the palm, the ball popping in the air before settling back into his grip as he held a cell phone in his right hand.

Count the Texas resident and Los Angeles Dodgers fan among the first in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season to catch a pre-game souvenir — and among the first ticket buyers to see live baseball in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series on Monday night.

Major League Baseball said it was selling 11,500 tickets per game at Globe Life Field for

the series between the Dodgers and Atlanta Braves and plans a similar allotment at the same ballpark when it hosts the first neutral-site World Series starting Oct. 20. McIlroy got a call from a friend knowing the long-time Dodgers fan would want to make the two-hour drive to the Dallas area.

The announced attendance was 10,700, not including those who didn't pay. Ticket prices ranged from \$40 to \$250 for the NLCS, and \$75-450 for the World Series, which has already sold out.

About 75% of fans appeared compliant with the requirement to wear masks except when "actively" eating or drinking. Some weren't covering their nose or mouth.

"We were wondering what the mixture of fans would be," McIlroy said. "In this new age of what we're going through, we were just curious. When we came in, we saw a lot of Dodger blue out there."

There were plenty of Braves logos, too, and the tomahawk chop chant was audible when Ronald Acuna Jr. stepped in as Atlanta's leadoff hitter against Walker Buehler.

"They brought it for sure, and it definitely got the adrenaline going, especially late in the game. It was intense," Atlanta's Austin Riley said of the fans after his home run leading off the ninth sparked a four-run rally in a 5-1 victory.

It was the first MLB game of any kind with fans since March 12, when five Grapefruit

League games in Florida were completed as the new coronavirus caused the shutdown of spring training there and in Arizona.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said in June that professional and college stadiums would be allowed to operate at 50% capacity, and MLB decided to sell tickets starting with the NLCS following a regular season in which attendance dropped to 0 from 68.5 million. The NFL's Dallas Cowboys have sold about 31% capacity at nearby AT&T Stadium, drawing 25,147 for Sunday's win over the New York Giants.

No tickets are being sold for the American League Championship Series between Houston and Tampa Bay at San Diego's Petco Park.

## Biggest question for NBA offseason: What's next?

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The season's first big development came with the Los Angeles Lakers on a long road trip, in a place with very restrictive rules. The season's last big development came with the Lakers on a longer road trip, in a place with very restrictive rules.

From China to Disney, this was an NBA season like none other — and quite probably like none ever again.

The NBA offseason has officially started, the bubble at Walt Disney World is closed and the Lakers have their 17th championship. Nobody knows everything that will happen over the coming weeks as far as how rosters and coaching staffs will be reshaped. As a bonus this year, nobody knows when anything will happen, either.

But while a difficult season is over, the difficulties the league and players face are not. The coronavirus pandemic is still raging. The players fight against racial inequality and their quest for social justice, which were top priorities of this NBA restart, continue. And

while nobody knows when the next NBA game is, the Lakers' LeBron James began looking forward during the trophy ceremony celebrating his fourth title.

"Everybody from the NBA, the NBPA, putting this thing together and us using our voices, us being together ... we know we all want to see better days," James said.

The priority, for the last seven months, was getting through the pandemic safely and salvaging the season. That happened; a champion was crowned, a bubble was built and nobody tested positive for three months inside that NBA campus in large part because of extremely tight regulations surrounding conduct and safety. Now comes a quick pivot toward figuring out all things related to money for next season such as the salary cap and luxury tax lines, as well as when teams can resume play — and where.

"These issues are a bit complicated and difficult in many cases," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "But there's no reason to believe that with our counterparts at the (Na-

tional Basketball) Players Association that we won't be able to work through them."

Not everything was unexpected this season: The Lakers were not a surprise champion, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo was not a surprise to win his second consecutive MVP award, Houston's James Harden was not a surprise to be the scoring champion for the third year in a row.

That's not to say there were no surprises: Miami became the first No. 5 seed to reach the NBA Finals, Golden State lost practically everyone to injury and plummeted to the bottom of the league in what basically was a reset year, the San Antonio Spurs weren't in the playoffs for the first time in 23 years and Doc Rivers — long considered one of the league's best coaches — got fired by the Los Angeles Clippers, then quickly hired by the Philadelphia 76ers.

But this year will be remembered for the shocking developments: The conflict between the NBA and China that started last October after a tweet from Houston general manager Daryl Morey in support of antigovern-

ment protesters in Hong Kong and how the Lakers and Brooklyn Nets (who were in China at the time) got caught in that hailstorm; the death of commissioner emeritus David Stern on Jan. 1; the death of Kobe Bryant on Jan. 26; and then the shutdown of the season on March 11 after Utah's Rudy Gobert became the first of many in the league to test positive for coronavirus. Play stopped for 4½ months, a bubble was built, 171 more games were played but no more tickets were sold.

"It has been an emotional roller coaster for certainly our players and for me, for the entire community, for that matter," NBPA executive director Michele Roberts said. "Between Stern's death, Kobe's death, the virus — which is just the most vicious entity I've ever come across — and then what's happening in the streets ... the tendency to want to just stay under the covers, I don't have to fight it every day. But there are days when I say 'Oh God, I was having such a great dream, why did I have to wake up?'"

What happens next is largely up to Roberts and Silver.

# Brees rallies Saints to OT win over Chargers

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Drew Brees keeps coming through in the clutch in his 20th season, while the Los Angeles Chargers keep squandering the heady play of promising rookie quarterback Justin Herbert.

The 41-year-old Brees became the oldest quarterback with more than 32 completions in an NFL game, Wil Lutz kicked a 36-yard field goal in overtime and New Orleans' defense stopped receiver Mike Williams just short on fourth down to preserve a 30-27 victory over the seemingly star-crossed Chargers on Monday night.

"This is how you grow as a team. This is how you become battle-tested — and I think it pays dividends as you move along," said Brees, who rushed for a 1-yard touchdown and hit tight end Jared Cook for a 41-yard score as the Saints rallied from a 17-point, second-quarter deficit.

"These are the tests that really bring a team together and

give you confidence and give you momentum and really shape you," Brees continued. "We know if we can put ourselves in position to win, then we can do that."

Figuring that out is proving to be a painful process for Los Angeles (1-4), which fell to its fourth straight loss by a touchdown or less, and the second in overtime. It also blew a 17-point lead for a second straight game.

"Never thought this team would lose four straight. We've put ourselves in position, but we didn't get it done," Chargers coach Anthony Lynn said. "We have to finish these damn games."

Los Angeles kicker Michael Badgley, who missed his first career point-after-kick wide right in the first quarter, had a chance to redeem himself after Williams' leaping catch between two defenders put the Chargers on the Saints' 32-yard line in the final seconds. But Badgley's 50-yard kick as time expired bounced off the right upright.

"The young man has been kicking outstanding. He's got to do better but we could have done some other things better," Lynn said.

Herbert's fourth touchdown pass of the game, a 64-yarder to Williams, briefly put Los Angeles back in front before the Saints (3-2) tied it on Taylor Hill's 9-yard run with 52 seconds left in regulation.

Herbert, who was named the starter for the remainder of the season this week, finished 20-for-34 for 264 yards without a turnover. Five of his completions went to Williams for 109 yards and two TDs.

"It's a learning process," Herbert said. "Losing is horrible, but we are going to turn it around."

## By the numbers

Brees finished 33-for-47 for 325 yards, including 12 completions to Emmanuel Sanders for 122 yards. Alvin Kamara had 119 yards from scrimmage, highlighted by his leaping, juggling catch along the right

sideline over the head of safety Rayshawn Jenkins to set up Hill's tying TD.

Brees improved to 4-0 against the Chargers, the team that drafted him in 2001 and let him go in 2006.

Los Angeles became the first team to lose 17-point leads in consecutive weeks since the 2003 Atlanta Falcons. For the Chargers, both have come on the road against an NFC South team led by a quarterback older than 40.

In Week 4, it was Tampa Bay's Tom Brady. This week it was the NFL's all-time leader in completions, yards and touchdowns.

Brees' dive over a pile of linemen at the goal line made it 20-10 14 seconds before halftime.

Lutz, who hit from 48 yards in the first half, drilled a 53-yarder that pulled New Orleans within a touchdown in the third quarter. Then Brees found Cook open behind the Chargers' secondary on third-and-long to tie it early in the fourth quarter.

## SEC, Big-12 postpone games due to COVID cases

Associated Press

It hasn't been a good week for major college football conferences because of COVID-19.

On Sunday, the Big-12 postponed Baylor's home game this Saturday vs. No. 7 Oklahoma State to Dec. 12 because of a COVID outbreak affecting Baylor's athletic department.

On Monday, the Southeastern Conference had to postpone Vanderbilt's game at Missouri to Dec. 12 because the virus left the Commodores without enough players.

It is the first SEC game rescheduled due to COVID-19-related problems and the 28th FBS game overall to be postponed or canceled since Aug. 26.

At Baylor, updated numbers released Monday, which include student-athletes from multiple sports, showed 29 new cases

since last week. Baylor's pause of football activities since last Thursday will extend through at least this week.

Of the 32 active cases, 29 student-athletes had symptoms and only three were asymptomatic. The school said 44 cases were being monitored, including close contacts.

Baylor athletic director Mack Rhoades said Sunday that the significant increase in positive COVID-19 cases led to concerns of an outbreak. He also said the increase caused a position group to fall below the minimum threshold of available players, though neither he or the school provided any specifics about that.

The Bears' original opener Sept. 12 didn't happen because Louisiana Tech had widespread positive tests for COVID-19.

Baylor (1-1) had a scheduled

open date over the weekend, and its next scheduled game is Oct. 24 at Texas.

The SEC started a conference-only schedule Sept. 26, a few weeks later than the rest of the FBS conferences that began play in September.

"The league and universities have been prepared for the likelihood of disruptions within the season while we all navigate the various challenges and complexities of competing during a global pandemic. As always, we are committed to taking whatever steps necessary for the health and safety of our students and community," Vanderbilt athletic director Candice Lee said in a statement.

Vanderbilt (0-3) played with only 56 scholarship players last week in a loss to South Carolina.

The Commodores are not set to play again until Oct. 31 at home against Mississippi.

The school said Monday it would not be able to reach the SEC's 53-player minimum this week "due to the quarantining of individuals with positive tests and those designated as close contacts, along with injuries and opt-outs."

"While we share in the disappointment that this Saturday's game will be postponed, our program is deeply appreciative of the tireless efforts put forth by student-athletes, university officials, conference administrators and medical experts who have risen to the challenge of helping us navigate these unprecedented circumstances," Commodores coach Derek Mason said.