

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

Monday, October 19, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Confirmed global virus cases surpass 40M

Associated Press

LONDON — The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the planet has surpassed 40 million, but experts say that is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the true impact of the pandemic that has upended life and work around the world.

The milestone was hit early Monday, according to Johns Hopkins University, which collates reports from around the world.

The actual worldwide tally of COVID-19 cases is likely to be far higher, as testing has been uneven or limited, many people have had no symptoms and some governments have concealed the true number of cases. To date, more than 1.1 million confirmed virus deaths have been reported, although experts also believe that number is an undercount.

The United States, India and

Brazil are reporting by far the highest numbers of cases — 8.1 million, 7.5 million and 5.2 million respectively — although the global increase in recent weeks has been driven by a surge in Europe, which has seen over 240,000 confirmed virus deaths in the pandemic so far.

In the U.S., some states are trying more targeted measures as cases continue to rise across the country. New York's new round of virus shutdowns zeroes in on individual neighborhoods, closing schools and businesses in hot spots measuring just a couple of square miles.

As of last week, new cases per day were on the rise in 44 U.S. states, with many of the biggest surges in the Midwest and Great Plains, where resistance to wearing masks and taking other precautions has been running high and the virus has often been seen as just a big-city problem. Deaths

per day were climbing in 30 states.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert, said Americans should think hard about whether to hold Thanksgiving gatherings next month.

The World Health Organization said last week that Europe had reported a record weekly high of nearly 700,000 cases and said the region was responsible for about a third of cases globally. Britain, France, Russia and Spain account for about half of all new cases in the region, and countries like Belgium and the Czech Republic are facing more intense outbreaks now than they did in the spring.

WHO said the new measures being taken across Europe are "absolutely essential" in stopping COVID-19 from overwhelming its hospitals. Those include new requirements on mask-wearing in Italy and

Switzerland, closing schools in Northern Ireland and the Czech Republic, closing restaurants and bars in Belgium, implementing a 9 p.m. curfew in France and having targeted limited lockdowns in parts of the United Kingdom.

The agency said several European cities could soon see their intensive care units overwhelmed and warned that governments and citizens should take all necessary measures to slow the spread of the virus, including bolstering testing and contact tracing, wearing face masks and following social distancing measures.

WHO has previously estimated that about 1 in 10 of the world's population — about 780 million people — have been infected with COVID-19, more than 20 times the official number of cases. That suggests the vast majority of the world's population is still susceptible to the virus.

Australian researchers: Virus has boosted China's power

By **SETH ROBSON**

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The coronavirus pandemic has boosted China's power in Asia, although it won't dominate the region any time soon, according to a group of Australian researchers.

The estimate is part of an interactive Asian Power Index released Monday by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, an independent think tank that researches international political, strategic and economic issues.

The index rates 26 countries in the region across eight categories.

The United States is ranked first for military capability, defense networks, resilience and cultural influence. China, how-

ever, ranks first in economic capability, future resources, economic relationships and diplomatic influence.

"The pandemic has been a game-changer for multiple reasons," Hervé Lemahieu, one of the researchers involved in the project, told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Monday.

Both powers emerge diplomatically diminished by the virus, but the impact is worse for the U.S. because of a "bungled" domestic response, Lemahieu said.

"Chinese legitimacy is intact in terms of its ability to crack down on big public health challenges," he said.

China is on track to grow its economy in 2020 while other advanced economies will take

years to reach pre-pandemic growth levels, Lemahieu said.

China reported third-quarter GDP growth up 4.9% from a year ago. Growth for the first three quarters of the year is up 0.7% from a year ago, CNBC reported Monday.

Emerging countries in Asia have also declined in power, according to the index.

India's economy, for example, is expected to be about 13% smaller in 2030 than it would have been without the pandemic, Lemahieu said.

That's disappointing for Australians, he said.

"We are putting hopes on India to become a peer competitor with China. That is not going to happen this decade," he said.

The pandemic has harmed the entire region, according to Lemahieu.

"There is the emergence of a new class of COVID-poor," he said. "Seventy-eight million people in Asia will live below the poverty line due to the virus." COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

It looks like neither the U.S. nor China will be able to claim undisputed primacy in the region any time soon, Lemahieu said.

"China doesn't have the wherewithal to be an uncontested superpower in Asia," he said. "They may well level with the U.S. at some point, but we don't think they will pull ahead."

Yokota terminal to get \$25M makeover

By **SETH ROBSON**

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An airport terminal that has welcomed U.S. troops and their families to Tokyo since the Vietnam War is getting a \$25 million facelift.

The Yokota Passenger Terminal, in operation since 1969, processes 60,000-75,000 passengers and up to 2,000 tons of baggage each year, said the facility's service supervisor, Air Force Staff Sgt. Zackary Johnson.

The 46,000-square-foot building at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo is tiny compared to Narita and Haneda, the commercial internation-

al airports in the region that include hundreds of duty-free shops and restaurants along with myriad other options.

Before the renovation, the Yokota terminal included a check-in counter, baggage conveyor belt, customs facility, distinguished visitor and business lounges, an Army and Air Force Exchange Service eatery, car rental counter, vending machines, restrooms and a display dedicated to Prisoners of War and troops missing in action.

The terminal facelift involves installing new electrical, lighting, fire suppression, heating and air conditioning systems, Johnson said.

The work is being done by Gilbane Federal, a Rhode Is-

land-based global construction firm, and is scheduled to be complete in early 2022.

It will include earthquake strengthening and expanding the terminal from a single gate to one inbound and two outbound gates, said Michael Garron, Yokota's civilian chief of the Combat Readiness and Resources Flight.

The building will also get a new look that includes red columns along its façade that imitate the torii gates found at the entrances to Shinto shrines.

"It's almost like building a new building onto the old framework," Garron said.

The terminal caters to passengers and handles luggage on the Patriot Express, which flies

Boeing 767 jets between Yokota and Kadena air bases in Japan, Osan Air Base, South Korea and the U.S. West Coast.

It can also handle passengers from any type of aircraft that lands or takes off from Yokota, and it's a way station for passengers going to other bases in the Indo-Pacific region such as in Singapore or Diego Garcia.

On any given day, the terminal might be filled with troops in uniform, family members or veterans flying on a space availability, or "Space A," status.

The terminal won't be getting the high-tech passport scanners and facial recognition systems that some civilian airports are installing, although that might happen one day, Garron said.

Army: Paratrooper video could be safety violation

By **CHAD GARLAND**

Stars and Stripes

The Army is looking into a viral video showing a soldier drinking from an Ocean Spray juice bottle and lip-syncing the words of the 1977 Fleetwood Mac hit "Dreams" while on a daytime parachute jump.

The video has been viewed about 360,000 times since it was posted on the social media platform TikTok. A copy shared by a news reporter on Twitter has been viewed 72,000 times.

"We're looking into it," the XVIII Airborne Corps said in response to the Twitter post by Task and Purpose's Haley Britzky late Saturday.

The incident may be a safety violation, Col. Joseph Buccino, a spokesman for the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based airborne unit, told Stars and Stripes on Monday. He could not identify the soldier in the video, he said.

"We should have this wrapped up by the end of the week," he said of the informal inquiry.

The paratrooper's video contains a text block with the acronym "AATW," short for "Airborne All The Way," covering the soldier's name tape, but it appears to have been uploaded by a different soldier.

The video is part of a recent trend spurred by the popularity of a TikTok post by a user named Nathan Apodaca in which he was recorded cruising on a skateboard along an Idaho highway, drinking from a bottle of Ocean Spray Cran-Raspberry juice and lip-syncing to Fleetwood Mac's hit.

The paratrooper's video reminded several social media users of an incident in 2015, when an Army specialist posted a selfie holding his pet Siamese fighting fish in a plastic water bottle during his last jump before exiting the Army. Matthew Tattersall, the soldier in that incident, was ordered to write a 1,000-word essay about the importance of airborne safety and was later given 12 days of extra duty as part of company-grade nonjudicial punishment.

Ramstein base to house new NATO space center

By **JOHN VANDIVER**

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S.-led NATO alliance is expected to approve plans this week for a new space center at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, which will serve as a hub against threats to allied military satellites, a NATO official said Monday.

"This will be a focal point for ensuring space support to NATO operations, sharing information and coordinating our activities," the NATO official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper and other military chiefs will review the plan Thursday, when NATO's 30 member states begin a virtual two-day meeting.

The space center will be connected to NATO's Air Force Command at Ramstein, the NATO official said. The NATO air force headquarters falls

under the command of Gen. Jeffrey L. Harrigian, who also leads U.S. Air Forces Europe and Africa.

The space center will serve as a coordination hub for space surveillance and information-sharing among allies. It wasn't clear Monday whether its establishment would result in additional personnel being stationed at Ramstein.

The move comes nearly one year after the U.S. military established the Space Force as a separate military branch. Space operations have taken on greater importance for the U.S., which is concerned about the ability of Russia and China to jam GPS communication satellites or use ground-based missiles that can destroy satellites.

NATO formally adopted space as a new operational domain in 2019 alongside air, land, sea and cyberspace, citing the central role satellites play in military operations across the alliance.

Trump, Biden visit states they seek to flip

Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nev. — President Donald Trump and Democratic rival Joe Biden went on the offense over the weekend as both campaigned in states they are trying to flip during the Nov. 3 election, just over two weeks away.

Trump began his Sunday in Nevada, making a rare visit to church before a fundraiser and an evening rally in Carson City. Once considered a battleground, Nevada has not swung for a Republican presidential contender since 2004.

The rally drew thousands of supporters who sat elbow to elbow, cheering Trump and booing Biden and the press. The vast majority wore no masks to guard against the coronavirus, though cases in the state are on the rise. The Republican president, as he often does, warned that a Biden election would lead to further lockdowns and appeared to mock Biden for saying he would listen to scientists.

“He’ll listen to the scientists. If I listened totally to the scientists, we would right now have a country that would be in a massive depression,” Trump said.

Biden, a practicing Catholic, attended Mass in Delaware before campaigning in North Carolina, where a Democrat has not won in a presidential race since Barack Obama in 2008. Both candidates are trying to make inroads in states that could help secure a path

New virus relief may slip past election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is quickly moving past the point at which it can deliver more coronavirus relief before the election, with differences between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, her Senate Republican rivals and President Donald Trump proving durable despite the glaring needs of the country.

Trump’s GOP allies are reconvening the Senate this week for a revote on a virus proposal that is about one-third the size of a measure being negotiated by Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. But the Senate GOP bill has failed once before, and Trump himself now says it is too puny. The debate promises to bring a hefty dose of posturing and political gamesmanship, but little more. A procedural vote on a stand-alone renewal of bipartisan Paycheck Protection Program business subsidies is slated for Tuesday.

Even the architect of the larger Senate measure, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., isn’t claiming the vote will advance the ball. Once the measure fails, he plans to turn the chamber’s full attention to cementing a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court by confirming Judge Amy Coney Barrett. It is likely to be the Senate’s final act before Elec-

tion Day.

In that context, this week’s action has the chief benefit of giving Republicans in tough races one last opportunity to try to show voters they are prioritizing COVID relief — and to make the case to voters that Democrats are standing in the way.

McConnell is resurrecting a measure in the \$650 billion range that would repurpose \$138 billion in small-business subsidies to provide a second round of paycheck relief, add \$300 per week in supplemental unemployment benefits, and help schools and universities reopen.

Trump now insists that lawmakers should “go big” with a bill of up to \$2 trillion or more, a total reversal after abandoning the talks earlier this month. But Trump’s political problems aren’t swaying Senate Republicans.

The most recent bill from House Democrats weighs in at \$2.4 trillion — or more than \$2.6 trillion when excluding a \$246 billion tax increase on businesses that’s unlikely to gain GOP acceptance. The package is a nonstarter with Senate Republicans and McConnell. Pelosi said Sunday that she remains optimistic of reaching an agreement with the administration but that a deal would have to come by Tuesday for it to be enacted by Election Day.

to victory, but the dynamics of the race are remarkably stable. Biden enjoys a significant advantage in national polls, while carrying a smaller edge in battleground surveys.

Earlier in the day, Trump sat in the front row at the non-

denominational International Church of Las Vegas as the senior associate pastor, Denise Goulet, said God told her early that morning that the president would secure a second term.

Later in the day, Biden attended a virtual discussion with

African American faith leaders from around the country.

“I happen to be a Roman Catholic,” Biden said. “I don’t pray for God to protect me. I pray to God to give me strength to see what other people are dealing with.”

US asserts UN arms embargo on Iran has not expired

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — A decade-long U.N. arms embargo on Iran that barred it from purchasing foreign weapons such as tanks and fighter jets expired Sunday as planned under its nuclear deal with world powers, despite objections from the United States, which insists the ban remains in place.

While Iran says it plans no “buying spree,” it can now in theory purchase weapons to upgrade military armaments dating back to before its 1979

Islamic Revolution and sell its own locally produced gear abroad.

In practice, however, Iran’s economy remains crippled by broad-reaching U.S. sanctions, and other nations may avoid arms deals with Tehran for fear of American financial retaliation. The Trump administration has warned that any sales of weapons to Iran or exports from Iran will be penalized.

The Islamic Republic heralded the end of the arms embargo as “a momentous day for

the international community ... in defiance of the U.S. regime’s effort.” The Trump administration, meanwhile, says the expiration is moot since it reimposed all U.N. sanctions on Iran, including the arms embargo, via a clause in the nuclear deal Trump withdrew from in 2018, a claim ignored by the rest of the world.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo rejected the expiration.

“The United States is prepared to use its domestic

authorities to sanction any individual or entity that materially contributes to the supply, sale, or transfer of conventional arms to or from Iran, as well as those who provide technical training, financial support and services, and other assistance related to these arms,” he said in a statement.

Russia’s deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, responded to Pompeo with a tweet urging the U.S. to help Middle East peace by not provoking Iran.

New Orleans investigates crowds amid virus

From wire reports

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans officials said they'll investigate crowds that gathered in the French Quarter after the city relaxed coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

Saturday was the first day that bars could have outdoor seats under guidelines set by Mayor LaToya Cantrell, who is taking a more gradual approach than the state.

Tweets on Sunday from the city's official Twitter account said officials had been made aware of crowds gathering in the French Quarter and would enforce the rules, WWL-TV reported.

Under the city's guidelines, bars may have outdoor seats for up to 25% of their normal capacity or 50 people — whichever is smaller.

Police and the city's code enforcement task force enforced the 11 p.m. curfew on alcohol takeout and sales "in the French Quarter and throughout the city," it said.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — A scaled-back version of the Arkansas State Fair, without crowds, rides and concerts, was held this weekend as the event's size was significantly reduced due to the coronavirus pandemic.

On Saturday afternoon, children who participated in a junior livestock showing of wether dam goats led their animals around a barn as family members and friends watched. A masked judge evaluated the goats.

A "Taste of the Fair" portion of the event featuring food vendors will be held next weekend, with a capacity restriction of 500 people and all food packaged in to-go containers.

Connecticut

HARTFORD — After reporting its largest number of COVID-19 cases in a single day since early May, Connecticut appears to have crossed the threshold at which it will qualify for its own travel advisory

next week.

Gov. Ned Lamont on Friday reported 802 positive results out of 33,048 coronavirus tests, for a rate of 2.4%. The state has now recorded a positivity rate of 1.7% over the past week, higher than any previous seven-day stretch since mid-June.

Connecticut has averaged 366 new cases a day over the past week or about 10.3 per 100,000 residents, just above the threshold at which states are added to the travel advisory. The advisory, which currently includes 38 states and territories, is updated each Tuesday in conjunction with New York and New Jersey. It requires travelers arriving from those states to either produce a negative coronavirus test result or quarantine for 14 days.

Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's Rental Assistance Portal is accepting applications for a program that provides eligible renters with up to six months in rental assistance to help cover past due and ongoing monthly payments.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority has dedicated \$15 million in federal Housing and Urban Development funding to help individuals and families who are at a high risk of being homeless. The goal is to keep Hoosiers in stable housing so they may move through the coronavirus pandemic without further disruption.

Indiana on Sunday reported 1,629 new confirmed COVID-19 cases and 19 additional deaths.

Maryland

BALTIMORE — A historic Baltimore hotel has been repurposed amid the coronavirus pandemic, serving as a free isolation center for people with COVID-19.

Since May, more than 600 people have come through the Lord Baltimore Hotel's doors, The Baltimore Sun reported. Referrals to the city's Triage, Respite, and Isolation Center

come from hospitals as well as homeless shelters and recovery houses. It's intended for people who aren't sick enough to require hospitalization but who can't self-isolate at home.

The initiative is a partnership between Baltimore and the University of Maryland Medical System. It's being funded through \$103 million the city received from the federal coronavirus relief bill.

Massachusetts

WORCESTER — A church in Worcester has found a way to enjoy a choir without spreading the coronavirus.

Members of the choir at Trinity Lutheran Church practice inside their cars in the parking lot. Members sing into wireless microphones while they listen to one another and to the director playing his keyboard on their car radios.

During indoor services, choir members distance themselves and wear masks that resemble a duck-billed platypus, The Telegram & Gazette reported.

The special masks are equipped with wires that keep the material an inch to an inch and a half in front of their mouths and allow them to project their voices while continuing to protect others.

Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE — It may not be a hit with Rhode Island motorists looking for parking spots, but restaurateurs and shop owners have embraced moving outdoors into the street during the coronavirus pandemic.

Revolution American Bistro in Cranston has turned part of the small off-street parking lot into an outdoor dining area.

In Providence, restaurants are not only giving up parking spaces to diners, but whole stretches of the street.

Now, as the season changes, cold weather is the bigger concern, and restaurants with outdoor dining are buying heaters and figuring out how to keep it going as long as possible.

New Hampshire

STODDARD — Fourth- and fifth-graders at James Faulkner Elementary School in Stoddard have traded their warm classrooms with something akin to a campsite.

The open-air classroom created by students and faculty features a rain tarp, fire pit, rock seating, portable chalkboard and hammocks strung between trees.

The school intends to keep it going throughout the winter.

Teacher Jacquelyn Cornwell, who teaches a small class of second-, third- and fourth-grade students, said her students will split their time between the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

Texas

EL PASO — The El Paso area has reported its highest number of hospitalizations due to the coronavirus since the pandemic began, officials said Sunday.

A record high 449 hospitalizations were reported for Saturday, with 129 of those patients in intensive care, according to El Paso health officials.

In the El Paso area, only seven ICU beds are available, according to the Texas Department of Health and Human Services.

Wisconsin

KENOSHA — During a year in which so many exhibits are canceled or online only, the Anderson Arts Center is going old-school with its Annual Winter Juried Show.

The artwork — some 150 pieces — is on display, and the public is welcome (in a safe, socially distanced manner) to walk through and view it.

The arts center's lakefront location, expansive grounds and views of Lake Michigan are an added bonus at no extra charge.

In fact, the whole show is free — and appreciated by visitors.

"People who have come here say they are happy to have something to do," said Rena Lee, the arts center's administrator.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Officer accused of falsely filing overtime

MD ANNAPOLIS — A Maryland state corrections officer was accused of faking tens of thousands of dollars in overtime, the state attorney general said.

Lt. Brent Spooner, 42, of Severn, was indicted by an Anne Arundel County grand jury on theft charges, The Capital Gazette reported.

Spooner worked as the supervisor of a firearms range at the state corrections complex in Jessup. On his timesheet, Spooner would falsely claim approximately 80 hours of overtime each pay period, stealing about \$74,000 total, according to a news release from Attorney General Brian Frosh.

Woman charged for feeding black bear

TN GATLINBURG — Wildlife officers said a Virginia woman was charged after they said she fed a black bear while on vacation in Tennessee.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Association said that a video posted on social media showed Kristin Hailee Farris, 21, hand-feeding what appeared to be watermelon, chocolate and other items to a black bear in Gatlinburg.

When the video was first released, wildlife officers quickly issued warnings that feeding bears is dangerous and could result in serious injuries.

Jail officials fired after woman gives birth in cell

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — The Broward County Sheriff's office fired two top administrators after a woman who went into labor in her jail cell was not given medical care

despite screams of pain.

The Miami Herald reported that the sheriff's office fired Col. Gary Palmer and Lt. Col. Angela Neely after a review of the incident.

In an interview with the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Stephanie Bretas described the squalid conditions and the indifference of nurses and jail guards as she was left alone in her cell fearing she might suffer a miscarriage.

"The baby's head was coming in and out and in and out and they finally broke in," she said. "It was at the end. They came in and held my leg and he came out."

School bus driver faces charges of driving drunk

NY GATES — A Rochester-area school bus driver faces criminal charges after allegedly driving a bus with students aboard while drunk.

The Gates Chili School District wrote on its website that the driver, identified by police as Lashonda Griffin, was arrested. School officials wrote on the website that the bus made an unauthorized stop at a McDonald's and that the driver brought two students with her. Six students were on the bus at the time. Officials said police found the driver later at the district's bus depot and that she had a blood-alcohol level over the legal limit.

Griffin faces multiple counts of DWI and child endangerment, according to police.

City to show doll found in bridge 50 years later

AZ LAKE HAVASU CITY — For nearly 50 years, Lake Havasu City's landmark London Bridge unknowingly served as a dollhouse, too.

In 2018, a doll made in the

likeness of a local journalist was discovered under a concrete slab, the Today's News-Herald reported.

The bridge was sold by the British government in 1968 to Robert P. McCullough, the founder of Lake Havasu City. It was dismantled, transported to Lake Havasu and reassembled over a three-year period.

Jack Hardie, a newspaper columnist at the Lake Havasu City Herald, wagered Bob Beresford, an engineer for the British company building the bridge, a bottle of scotch that crews would not finish the bridge by Aug. 31 that year.

By September, one section of bridge railing was still missing.

Beresford reportedly said he wanted his friend "immortalized in the deepest bowels of the bridge" for "his ridiculous crying" about winning the bet.

Forty-seven years later, maintenance workers on the bridge unearthed a coffee can holding the doll within the structure's western facade.

The bespectacled doll now resides in a display case at the Lake Havasu Visitor Center.

Police impound dirt bikes; owners steal back

CT HARTFORD — Police in Hartford are having to take extra measures to keep illegal dirt bikes off the city's streets.

The Hartford Courant reported police are moving a number of the vehicles from an impound lot because owners of the bikes and ATVs found where they were being stored and stole them back.

Police Chief Jason Thody confirmed to the newspaper that multiple people had broken into the lot, though he didn't say on how many occasions or how many vehicles had been taken. He said no cars had been taken from the lot.

University scraps \$70 fee to boost access

MA WORCESTER — A Massachusetts university is getting rid of its \$70 undergraduate application fee to open access to a greater range of students.

"By removing our application fee, we hope to eliminate a barrier that students and their families may face in applying to college," Worcester Polytechnic Institute President Laurie Leshin said. Applicants who have already paid the fee will be reimbursed.

WPI had previously dropped other application requirements, including a college entrance exam score. The university also removed standardized test scores as a consideration for merit-based scholarships in an effort to make the school more attainable to students who are traditionally underrepresented in the STEM disciplines.

Gas station sued after allegedly denying service

OR PORTLAND — A Black man who said he was prohibited from buying gas by a white gas station attendant has filed a \$350,000 racial discrimination lawsuit against the station.

Dominique DeWeese said in the lawsuit filed that he asked an attendant at Jay's Garage in Portland for a gallon of gas in a container so he could do yard work. DeWeese said the attendant declined and claims he implied that he did not want to provide DeWeese with an opportunity to set fires or commit other crimes.

DeWeese said the situation was offensive. The gas station owner did not return a request for comment by The Oregonian.

From wire reports

Your objective source for military news
updated 24/7 from bases
around the world.
Now online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Bellinger blast sends Dodgers to Series

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Los Angeles Dodgers celebrated as Cody Bellinger's drive soared deep into the Texas night. Bellinger flung his bat off to the side and strutted up the first-base line.

All the way to the World Series.

Bellinger hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the seventh inning, and the Dodgers advanced to the Fall Classic for the third time in four years by topping the Atlanta Braves 4-3 in Game 7 of the NL Championship Series on Sunday.

"This year is our year," manager Dave Roberts said.

Bellinger connected an inning after Kike Hernandez became the first pinch hitter with a game-tying or go-ahead homer in a winner-take-all-

game. His homer tied it at 3 and, like Bellinger's, came on the eighth pitch of the at-bat.

Los Angeles, which matched an LCS record with 16 homers, overcame a 3-1 series deficit by winning three consecutive games when facing elimination for only the second time in its storied history.

"Defensively, pitching, game-calling, planning, everything, we grinded all the way through this series," said shortstop Corey Seager, who was named NLCS MVP after bashing a record five homers in the series. "We're glad to be on top."

After winning both their NL Division Series and the NLCS in the new \$1.2 billion Globe Life Field, the Dodgers get to stay in place for the World Series. Game 1 against the American League champion Tampa

Bay Rays is Tuesday night.

Julio Urias closed with three perfect innings as the team won its 24th NL pennant, its 12th since moving to Los Angeles. The Dodgers are coming off their eighth consecutive NL West title.

It was the 16th consecutive playoff appearance in which Atlanta did not win a World Series, the most for any team.

But these Braves have won three consecutive NL East titles and have a bunch of young players surrounding NL MVP candidate Freddie Freeman, who had never been to the NLCS in his previous 10 seasons in Atlanta.

"We're taking strides in the right direction. And we did it with our young players and the experience they got," manager Brian Snitker said. "A lot of our

young players grew up a lot in these last three months."

Los Angeles is once again going for its first World Series title since 1988. The Dodgers lost Game 7 at home three years ago to the Houston Astros, and then lost in five games to the Boston Red Sox in 2018 when Mookie Betts was the AL MVP.

Tampa Bay's win in Game 7 of the ALCS late Saturday night wiped out the chance for an October rematch with the Astros, whose 2017 World Series victory over the Dodgers has been heavily tarnished by the revelations of Houston's sign-stealing tactics that season.

Betts, the first-year Dodger signed for 12 more years, had run-saving defensive plays in all three of their potential elimination games.

Rare matchup between top records in baseball

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The World Series matchup between the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay Rays is a rare meeting of baseball's best for the title, and a matchup of organizations with Andrew Friedman's imprint.

Friedman was the Rays' director of baseball operations from 2004-05 and then general manager until he left in October 2014 to become the Dodgers president of baseball operations.

Game 1 is Tuesday night.

Retired first baseman James Loney, a veteran of both organizations, describes the Rays as "feisty."

"We were always fighting. But we always did feel like we were the better team," he said Sunday. "I don't ever feel like we went out there overmatched. We didn't care who was pitching. We didn't care what kind of lineup they had. We were bringing that mentality and I think the Rays team this year has that."

"Both teams are really committed to winning and trying to find any kind of edge they could," added Loney, who played for the Dodgers from 2006-11 and the Rays from 2013-15. "The Rays are really known for their analytics and getting in there, trying to find different ways to beat hard teams."

Despite the shortened schedule and ex-

panded playoffs, the teams with the best record in each league meet in the World Series for just the fourth time since Major League Baseball realigned each league into three divisions in 1995 and .

Reigning NL MVP Cody Bellinger, newcomer Mookie Betts and manager Dave Roberts' Dodgers went 43-17, the best record in the majors by eight wins. They overcame a 3-1 deficit in the NL Championship Series, beat Atlanta 4-3 on Bellinger's late home run in Game 7 Sunday night and reached the World Series for the third time in four years.

Rookie sensation Randy Arozarena and skipper Kevin Cash's bullpen-rich Rays were 40-20 and topped the American League by four victories. They also won a Game 7, topping Houston 4-2 in the ALCS, and earned the second World Series trip in franchise history.

"Going to be a fun Series," Bellinger said.

Because of its superior record, Los Angeles has "home field advantage" when the neutral site Series starts in Arlington, Texas, and will bat last in Games 1 and 2, and then in 6 and 7, if necessary.

"From the moment we that we were able to put a season together, once they figured out that COVID thing, everybody was expecting us to get to the World Series. We were expecting to get to the World Series,"

said Kike Hernandez, who tied Game 7 with a pinch-hit home run in the sixth inning.

About 11,000 fans will be allowed at Globe Life Field, the new home of the Texas Rangers with a retractable roof, for each game.

Corey Seager and AJ Pollock boost LA's offense and Walker Buehler and Clayton Kershaw head the pitching staff. The Dodgers won their 24th pennant by getting past Milwaukee, San Diego and Atlanta, but have not won a title since 1988, falling short in a seven-game Series loss to Houston in 2017 and a five-game defeat to Boston the following year.

The Dodgers have won half their pennants since leaving Brooklyn for Los Angeles after the 1957 season.

Tampa Bay is in the Series for just the second time and is among just six current franchises that have never won, joined by Colorado, Milwaukee, Texas, San Diego and Seattle. The Rays lost to Philadelphia in five games in 2008.

Since the postseason doubled to eight teams in 1995, the only World Series between the top regular-season records in each league were Atlanta's victory over Cleveland in 1995, the New York Yankees' win over the Braves in 1998 and Boston's triumph over St. Louis in 2013 — all in six games.

Logano's victory in Kansas earns spot in Cup final

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — Joey Logano spent the final 40-plus laps at Kansas Speedway keeping an eye on Kevin Harvick in his rear-view mirror.

Now, he can look ahead to the NASCAR Cup Series finale at Phoenix.

Using every bit of the track Sunday to hold off the winningest driver this season, Logano took the checkered flag on a cold, blustery Sunday to secure a spot in the championship round of the playoffs. Harvick was followed across by Alex Bowman and Brad Keselowski as postseason contenders swept the top four spots in the opener of the round of eight.

"It's on your mind every lap. You come into this race knowing if you win this thing you have an amazing advantage," said Logano, who experienced the same perk on his way to the 2018 title. "I can't believe it, especially the way the beginning of the race was going, running back there around 10th and not scoring any stage points."

Harvick, who already has won nine times this season, kept pulling up to Logano's bumper after the final restart for a caution brought out by Tyler Reddick. But he simply couldn't make a pass stick as Logano moved all over the track to block him while taking advantage of lapped traffic that kept Harvick from making a clear run.

"We just needed to get off pit road first. It came down to controlling that restart," Harvick said. "All our guys did a great job. We had a fast car. We moved all over the track. We weren't the best behind somebody but I had a lot of options."

Just none of them worked to get around Logano, who picked up his third win of the season and first since the COVID-19 pandemic, which reduced the capacity to about 10,000 fans for Sunday's race at Kansas Speedway.

Oh, and one of his other wins this season? Phoenix, where Logano will now race for a title.

"I spent more time looking in the mirror than I did looking in the windshield there," Logano said of his late-race duel with Harvick. "I thought if I could hold him off the first 15 laps, I would have a chance."

Kyle Busch was fifth and Chase Elliott, who won the opening stage, wound up sixth after dealing with radio problems that at one point caused him to mistakenly pit. Elliott tried using a backup and even resorted to hand signs with his team on pit road to convey what he wanted done with the car.

Ryan Blaney, William Byron, playoff driver Martin Truex Jr. and Christopher Bell rounded out the top 10.

Henry powers Titans in OT win

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Expectations for Derrick Henry already are pretty high, with his history of mighty stiff arms and long touchdown runs.

Last season's rushing leader keeps finding new ways to top himself, taking the Tennessee Titans along with him yet again.

Henry took a direct snap and ran 5 yards for a touchdown 3:30 into overtime and the Titans remained undefeated, rallying to beat the Houston Texans 42-36 on Sunday.

"Obviously, we all witnessed somebody taking a game over," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said of Henry.

The Titans (5-0) finished with a franchise-record 601 yards of total offense. They also became the first team in NFL history to have a passer throw for more than 350 yards with Ryan Tannehill finishing with 364 yards passing and someone (Henry) rush for at least 200 yards in the same game, according to the NFL.

That helped them overcome two turnovers, Stephen Gostkowski having a field goal blocked and missing another and the defense giving up 335 yards passing and four touchdown passes to Deshaun Watson.

Watson's final TD pass put Houston (1-5) up 36-29 with 1:50 left, but his pass to Randall Cobb on the 2-point conversion attempt failed. Coach Romeo Crennel, in his second game since replacing the fired Bill O'Brien, said he went for the conversion in a bid to put the game out of reach. Crennel also didn't take a timeout before the game-winning TD.

"That play was run in practice, and we should have been prepared," Crennel said of the wildcat play.

Tannehill, who had three of his 19 career game-winning drives to start this season, drove Tennessee 76 yards before finding A.J. Brown on a 7-yard TD pass with 4 seconds left. Gostkowski made the extra point, and the Texans fielded a squib kick to send it into overtime.

Henry ran for 202 yards in regulation, including a 94-yard TD run. In overtime, he took a screen pass 53 yards on the second play. He capped the six-play, 82-yard drive with his second TD of the game, finishing with 212 yards rushing and 52 yards receiving.

The Titans are 16-0 when Henry runs for at least 100 yards. Asked about his performance, Henry kept giving credit to his teammates.

"I just had to do my job," Henry said more than once.

Tennessee is off to its second-best start in franchise history since this franchise won its first 10 games in 2008. The win, combined with Pittsburgh's victory over

Cleveland, sets up a showdown between the AFC's last two undefeated teams here in a week.

Tannehill finished with four TD passes. He had seen Henry make huge plays before coming to the Titans.

"He just has that rare size, strength and speed combination that it's extremely rare," Tannehill said.

Houston (1-5) came in as the two-time defending AFC South champs and nearly gave Crennel a second straight victory.

Tennessee led 21-10 at halftime. Houston safety Justin Reid blocked a 27-yard field goal attempt by Gostkowski, who later missed a 37-yarder wide left, in the third quarter to set up David Johnson's 1-yard TD run.

The Titans lost left tackle Taylor Lewan to an injured knee on the next drive, and Watt sacked Tannehill two plays later, stripping him of the ball. Jacob Martin recovered for the Texans at the Tennessee 4, and Watson found Cobb at the right pylon for a 4-yard TD pass and a 23-21 lead.

That started a scoring spree.

Henry broke off a 94-yard TD run, racing to the other end zone in 14 seconds. Watson answered two plays later with a 53-yard TD pass to Will Fuller for a 30-29 lead with 8:37 left.

Tennessee ended the shootout with a 601-412 advantage in total yards. The previous franchise record for yards from scrimmage was 583 by the Warren Moon-led Houston Oilers.

High-scoring offense

The Titans now have scored at least 31 points in four straight games and came in ranked sixth in the NFL averaging 30.5 points a game. They scored in each of the first two quarters, extending their streak to 15 straight before going scoreless in the third.

They also have scored at least 42 points in back-to-back games for the first time since 1961. The then-Houston Oilers beat the Titans of New York (later the Jets) 48-21 and the Raiders 47-16 in the final two weeks of the 1961 season before beating the Chargers the next week for the AFL title.

Bolstered lineup

The Titans had a handful of players back from the reserve/COVID-19 list: defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons, receivers Adam Humphries and Cam Batson, cornerback Kristian Fulton and fullback Khari Blasingame. Only wide receiver Corey Davis and tight end MyCole Pruitt from the active roster remain on that list.

NFL roundup

Steelers continue Browns' Pittsburgh misery

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Not yet Cleveland. At least, not in Pittsburgh.

James Conner ran for 101 yards and a touchdown and the Steelers battered the Browns in a 38-7 blowout victory on Sunday to improve to 5-0 for the first time since 1978. Ben Roethlisberger added 162 yards passing and a score.

Pittsburgh emphatically ended Cleveland's four-game winning streak and extended the Browns' skid at Heinz Field to 17 and counting.

Cleveland (4-2) was unable to get anything going against a defense that sacked aching Baker Mayfield four times, picked him off twice and chased him late in the third quarter with the game out of reach. The NFL's top rushing offense managed 75 yards on the ground — 113 below its season average — as the Steelers dominated both sides of the line of scrimmage in easily their best performance in 2020.

Safety Minkah Fitzpatrick stepped in front of a Mayfield pass and raced 33 yards to the end zone for an early 10-0 lead. The Browns, off to the franchise's best start since 1994, never really recovered in a stadium where they haven't won since Mayfield was in elementary school.

Buccaneers 38, Packers 10: Tom Brady helped Tampa

Bay win at home by outplaying Aaron Rodgers in a rare meeting between the Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks.

It was the 43-year-old Brady's first signature victory since signing with the Bucs (4-2) after a historic 20-year run with the New England Patriots.

He got his favorite target from his days with the Patriots into the mix, throwing a 12-yard touchdown pass to Rob Gronkowski for a 28-10 half-time lead. It was Gronkowski's first TD since December 2018 and the 79th for the quarterback/tight end tandem — tied for fourth on the all-time list with Miami's Dan Marino and Mark Clayton.

Brady also threw a 7-yard TD pass to rookie Tyler Johnson and Ronald Jones had a pair of rushing TDs for Tampa Bay, which got an even more impressive performance from its defense.

Rodgers threw two interceptions — Green Bay's first turnovers of the season — within a three-pass span of the second quarter to turn a 10-0 Packers lead into a 14-10 deficit.

Broncos 18, Patriots 12: Denver won on the road as Brandon McManus kicked six field goals and linebacker Malik Reed came up with a big sack late in a game twice delayed following positive coronavirus tests for both teams.

Sunday's game was original-

ly scheduled for last week but got postponed twice, first by a day, then by seven. The delay was caused after multiple New England players tested positive for COVID-19, including quarterback Cam Newton and reigning Defensive Player of the Year cornerback Stephon Gilmore.

49ers 24, Rams 16: Jimmy Garoppolo threw three TD passes in the first half and Jason Verrett's first interception in more than four years helped preserve the lead in San Francisco's victory over visiting Los Angeles.

Garoppolo bounced back after a rough performance last week in a loss to Miami.

Bears 23, Panthers 16: Nick Foles threw for one touchdown and ran for another, Chicago's defense forced three turnovers and sacked Teddy Bridgewater four times in a win at Carolina.

Foles finished with 198 yards passing and a touchdown and David Montgomery added 58 yards on the ground as the Bears (5-1) opened the season 3-0 on the road for the first time since 2006, when they reached the Super Bowl.

Giants 20, Washington 19: Joe Judge and the New York Giants have finally won, and they have rookie Tae Crowder and a risky gamble by Washington coach Ron Rivera to thank for making them relevant again with a home win.

Crowder, the last player taken in the NFL draft — Mr. Irrelevant — scooped up a fumble and ran 43 yards for a touchdown with 3:28 to play.

Falcons 40, Vikings 21: Julio Jones returned from injury to catch two of Matt Ryan's four touchdown passes, as Atlanta got a road win, the team's first victory of the season — one week after the firing of head coach Dan Quinn.

Colts 31, Bengals 27: After trailing 21-0, Philip Rivers rallied host Indianapolis Colts with three touchdown passes, including the go-ahead score on the first play of the fourth quarter. It equaled the largest comeback in the franchise's regular-season history. None of the previous four came at home, and the last time the colts (4-2) achieved the feat came in 2003 at Tampa Bay. Only a 28-point comeback in the 2013 playoffs against Kansas City was a larger margin.

Dolphins 24, Jets 0: Ryan Fitzpatrick threw three touchdown passes and host Miami held New York without a third-down conversion until the fourth quarter.

Lions 34, Jaguars 16: Rookie D'Andre Swift ran for a career-high 116 yards and two touchdowns, and Matthew Stafford got a TD pass against the only team he hadn't thrown one against in 12 seasons as Detroit won on the road.

Ravens hold off Eagles, improve to 5-1

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Baltimore Ravens got the stop they needed against a depleted Eagles offense that staged an impressive comeback.

L.J. Fort and Matthew Judon tackled Carson Wentz on a two-point conversion attempt with 1:55 remaining and the Ravens held on for a 30-28 victory over Philadelphia on Sunday.

"These are the type of games that build championship chemistry," said Calais

Campbell, who had three sacks. "In the moment, when it really mattered, them going for 2, we showed up and made the play when it counted."

Lamar Jackson threw a touchdown pass, ran for 108 yards and one score and sent Baltimore (5-1) to its third straight win.

"It's a win that we're very, very happy to have," Ravens coach John Harbaugh said. "I'm proud of our guys for winning the fight at the end. We're not going to be happy with certain things. We have to execute better

on both sides. We can't give up big plays. We've got to get them stopped."

The Eagles (1-4-1) came in missing seven offensive starters, including four offensive linemen, and then lost two more when running back Miles Sanders left in the third quarter and tight end Zach Ertz exited in the fourth.

Wentz tossed two TD passes, was sacked six times and managed to finish the game along with center Jason Kelce as Philadelphia's only healthy starters.