

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

China sanctions US firms for Taiwan deal

Associated Press

BEIJING — China's government said Monday it will impose sanctions on U.S. military contractors including Boeing Co.'s defense unit and Lockheed Martin Corp. for supplying weapons to rival Taiwan, stepping up a feud with Washington over security and Beijing's strategic ambitions.

Raytheon Technologies Corp. and "relevant American individuals" associated with the sales also will be affected, said a foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian. He gave no details of what penalties might be imposed or when.

The ruling Communist Party claims Taiwan, which split with the mainland in 1949 during a civil war, as part of its territory and has threatened to invade. Washington promised in the 1980s to reduce and eventually end weapons sales to Taiwan but insists its dispute with Beijing must be settled peacefully.

"In order to safeguard national interests, China decided to impose sanctions on the

American companies that were involved in arms sales to Taiwan," Zhao said at a regular news briefing.

Chinese-U.S. relations have plunged to their lowest level in decades amid disputes about security, technology, the coronavirus pandemic and human rights.

Taiwan has long been an irritant in relations. Washington has no formal relations with the island's democratically elected government but is its main ally. U.S. law requires the government to ensure Taiwan can defend itself. Weapons sales to the island have increased in quantity and quality.

Last week, Beijing demanded Washington cancel a planned sale of 135 precision land attack missiles valued at just over \$1 billion to improve its defenses.

The sale "seriously undermined China's sovereignty and security interests," said Zhao, the government spokesman.

China has stepped up military activity around Taiwan in an attempt to force

concessions from the pro-independence administration of President Tsai Ing-wen. The Communist Party is using the mainland's growing economic weight to pressure other governments to cut diplomatic and unofficial ties with Taiwan.

Beijing regularly pressures American companies including Boeing Co. in an effort to influence U.S. policy. China is one of Boeing's biggest markets for commercial aircraft, which might make it vulnerable to a boycott, but Zhao mentioned only Boeing's military arm, Boeing Defense, not its civilian jetliner business.

Lockheed Martin and Raytheon also supply radar and other technology for civilian aviation. The two governments have put sanctions on companies and individuals on both sides over complaints about human rights, computer hacking and other issues, though it is unclear whether they have any effect.

Marines complete Darwin deployment

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

The roughly 1,000 U.S. Marines who participated in the annual rotation to Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory have all completed the mission and returned to their home stations.

The intent of the Marine Rotational Force-Darwin — which began in 2012, a year after U.S. and Australian leaders agreed to make the joint training annual — is to increase the ability of American and Australian Defense Force troops to operate together and provide a deployed force capable of responding to crises in the region.

This was the first time the Marine Corps' RQ-21A Blackjack reconnaissance drone has

been flown in Australia, U.S. Marine Col. David Banning, commanding officer for rotational force, said in a news release Thursday.

Made by a Boeing subsidiary, the Blackjack is a small, tactical aircraft that carries payloads of 39 pounds maximum and stays aloft more than 16 hours, depending on how it's configured. It has a line-of-sight range of 64 miles, according to its maker's website.

Among other uses, the Marines employed the Blackjack to put eyes on remote targets.

"This year's rotation was a testament to the strong alliance between Australia and the United States," Banning said. "We were able to effectively complete the rotation even while operating under the

threat of COVID-19."

Precautions over COVID-19, which is the illness caused by the coronavirus, meant a far smaller group of Marines attending this year than the 2,500 who arrived in 2019. The size and scope of activities were curtailed, with U.S. rotations into Australia delayed by two months due to the pandemic.

All incoming Marines were required to complete a 14-day quarantine and were tested before and after that confinement. The movement of American troops was limited to the Australian defense facilities in the Northern Territory for the entire deployment.

Some key activities that had been planned for this year were modified or postponed because of pandemic considerations.

Marines began first training in smaller groups once they exited quarantine.

"We worked up from platoon level attacks to battalion-sized events," Banning said in the news release. "We saw the integration of [Australian Defense Force] artillery and aviation assets as well as aviation from our sister services."

The entire Marine Air-Ground Task Force and integrated Australian Defense Forces successfully demonstrated readiness to respond to crises during the culminating Exercise Koolendong, the statement said.

Those emergencies could involve anything from humanitarian assistance to "high-end warfighting," the news release said.

2 troops killed in Ala. plane crash identified

Associated Press

FOLEY, Ala. — Authorities have identified the two service members who were killed when their plane crashed in a residential Alabama neighborhood.

U.S. Coast Guard Ensign Morgan Garrett, 24, and U.S. Navy Lt. Rhiannon Ross, 30, were on a routine training flight Friday out of Naval Air Station Whiting Field in Milton, Fla., when their plane crashed in Foley news outlets reported.

The T-6B Texan II aircraft crashed around 5 p.m. Friday. No one was injured on the ground.

The crash happened near a Baldwin County public school when students were still on campus during an after-school program. Baldwin County Public Schools Superintendent Eddie Tyler said the crash was “a little too close for comfort.”

Garrett, of Waxhaw, N.C., was a student aviator for the Coast Guard. She was identified by Rear Adm. William Kelly, superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.

Kelly said Garrett graduated from the academy in New London, Conn., in May 2019, and majored in marine and environmental sciences. She was a regimental activities officer at the academy, and competed as a middle-distance runner in track and field.

Ross, of Wixom, Mich., was identified by the Navy. She was a member of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor’s Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps. Ross served three years with Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 26 out of Norfolk, Va., before joining the Florida based Training Squadron Two in 2018.

Coast Guard cutters set to counter China’s illegal fishing

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Coast Guard is “strategically homeporting” its newest fast-response cutters in the Western Pacific to police illegal fishing in the region by China, national security adviser Robert O’Brien announced Friday.

The cutters “will conduct maritime security missions, such as fisheries patrols, enhance maritime domain awareness and enforcement efforts” with U.S. partners in the Western Pacific “who have limited offshore surveillance and enforcement capacity,” he said in a statement.

“China’s illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and harassment of vessels operating in the exclusive economic zones of other countries in the Indo-Pacific threatens our sovereignty, as well as the sover-

eignty of our Pacific neighbors and endangers regional stability,” he added.

O’Brien did not specify where the vessels would be based or when they are expected to arrive, but Guam is awaiting two additional cutters after last month receiving the first of three to be stationed there.

They replace the U.S. territory’s 110-foot Island-class patrol boats used by the Coast Guard for about three decades.

Fast-response cutters are designed for missions beyond the Coast Guard’s traditional search-and-rescue work, such as homeland security and defense.

The new Sentinel-class cutters are 154 feet long, with a top speed of more than 28 knots, or about 32 mph, and carry a 24-person crew. They have a range of 2,500 miles and are armed with four .50-caliber machine guns and a remote-controlled 25 mm cannon.

Illegal, unreported and un-

regulated fishing “takes advantage of corrupt administrations and exploits weak management regimes, in particular those of developing countries lacking the capacity and resources for effective monitoring, control, and surveillance,” according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations’ website. “Products derived from IUU fishing can find their way into overseas trade markets thus throttling local food supply,” the website said. “IUU fishing therefore threatens livelihoods, exacerbates poverty and augments food insecurity.”

Approximately 12% of the global fish market comes from the South China Sea, but illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing is depleting supplies at an “unsustainable rate,” according to a June 2017 report by Marina Tsiaras of Australian National University’s National Security College.

VMI superintendent resigns after Black cadets’ allegations of repeated racism

The Washington Post

The superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, retired Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, tendered his resignation Monday morning after anecdotes of systemic racism at the 181-year-old school surfaced this month and the governor launched an independent probe, according to the school’s Board of Visitors.

Peay, 80, a retired four-star general, has been superintendent since 2003. During his tenure, multiple accounts of racist incidents have occurred. Most recently, The Washington Post documented how one Black student filed a complaint against a white adjunct professor who reminisced in the middle of a class in 2019 about her father’s Ku Klux Klan membership. In 2018, a white sophomore told a Black freshman during Hell Week he would “lynch” his body and use his “dead corpse as a punching bag” — but was suspended, but not expelled.

After The Post’s story was published this month, Virginia Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam, a 1981 VMI graduate, ordered an independent investigation into the school’s culture. In a letter announcing the inquiry, Northam and other state officials said they had “deep concerns about the clear and appalling culture of ongoing structural racism” at the school.

But after Northam’s announcement, John Boland, the president of VMI’s Board of Visitors, fought back, saying that “systemic racism does not exist here and a fair and independent review will find that to be true.”

Peay also issued a letter to the VMI community last week saying he did not believe systemic racism was present at the school.

In Boland’s letter Monday announcing Peay’s resignation, he said that he accepted it with “deep regret.” He said Peay was a “great American, patriot, and hero. He has profoundly changed our school for the better in all respects.”

Deaths rise as virus surges in US, Europe

The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's White House chief of staff, Mark Meadows, made a telling admission. "We're not going to control the pandemic," Meadows said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union," suggesting that the spread of the coronavirus was a *fait accompli* and that containment was not a central plank of the White House's strategy. On Friday, the United States recorded a record single-day high of more than 83,000 new cases. The next day, it was just 39 cases short of the previous mark.

That's in part a reflection of a far more expanded testing regime in place than when America first reeled under the spread of the virus in March and April. But it is also evidence of an autumnal surge in the virus that's buffeting both sides of the Atlantic.

Hospitalizations and deaths

are on the rise. In Europe, countries posted new milestones in caseloads over the weekend amid new rounds of curfews and lockdowns. A number of countries on the continent now lead the world in rates of infection. French President Emmanuel Macron, whose nation is among the worst afflicted, said Friday that his compatriots should be prepared to live with the virus "at best until next summer."

Meadows insisted that U.S. authorities were "going to control the fact that we get vaccines, therapeutics and other mitigation." But until such methods of mitigation are available and widely implemented, experts advocate the sort of mask-wearing mandates and strict contact tracing and testing systems that Trump has shied away from encouraging. Trump's critics have slammed the administra-

tion for failing to impose a genuine plan to curtail infections. A fresh outbreak of the virus among White House staffers, including Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, seemed to underscore the administration's helplessness and negligence in the face of the pandemic.

"They surrendered without firing a shot," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, said on a call Sunday with reporters. "It was the great American surrender."

European leaders are bracing for disaster, too. After a summer of reopenings and revived travel and tourism, a second wave is ravaging countries that both evaded and suffered from the first. France reported a daily record in cases on Sunday. Cases in Poland doubled in less than three weeks (and the country's president now has the virus). In the Czech Repub-

lic, more than 250,000 people in a country of 10.7 million are infected.

Spain declared a state of emergency on Sunday, as it became the first European nation to cross more than 1 million recorded cases, though officials suspect the real figure could be three times as high because of testing gaps. A nighttime curfew is now in place between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. in all of Spain's regions, with the exception of the Canary Islands.

"We are living in an extreme situation ... It is the most serious in the last half-century," said Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, urging Spaniards to stay home.

In Belgium, the country's hospital systems and testing infrastructure are already overloaded, with authorities fearful of shortages of key essential workers, from medical staff to police officers in the streets.

Airport near Tokyo to offer quick virus testing

BY HANA KUSUMOTO

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — A coronavirus test center opening next month at Narita International Airport will offer coronavirus testing primarily to departing travelers with as little as a two-hour wait for a negative result, according to the airport operator.

The airport is opening a station in each of its two terminals to administer polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, tests for a fee and issue certificates afterwards, according to a press release Thursday from Narita International Airport Corp.

Travelers may receive tests results as early as two hours afterward, but will not receive the certificate before six hours during November while the system is fine-tuned, according to the test center websites.

The test centers, the first at a Japanese airport, were sched-

uled to open Monday and will be staffed by the Nippon Medical School Foundation, according to the press release.

The center will operate year-round, 24 hours a day with no reservation necessary. The tests will cost 46,500 yen, or about \$443, without a reservation and 39,800 yen, or about \$371, with a reservation, the website says.

The test fee will cost 46,500 yen with or without a reservation between 5 p.m. and 9 a.m.

Anyone may be tested except those with a fever or cough, according to the test center website.

While travel overseas has been relaxed in some parts of the world, the center hopes to provide convenience and safety to travelers heading overseas, according to the release.

Guam records 75th virus death, DOD schools reopen

Stars and Stripes

Students enrolled at Defense Department schools on Guam wrapped up their first day of in-person learning Monday, hours before the island announced its 75th coronavirus fatality.

The U.S. territory's pandemic death toll reached into the 70s early Saturday when a 55-year-old man died after being hospitalized since Oct. 10, according to the Guam governor's office. The U.S. territory recorded two more virus-related fatalities over the weekend, a 67-year-old man Saturday evening and a 28-year-old man Sunday.

Monday saw three more deaths. Two of those patients — a 76-year-old woman and 74-year-old man — died at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, a governor's office statement said. The third was an 88-year-old man at Guam Memorial Hospital.

"There will come a day when

social distancing and wearing a mask will no longer be required, but we don't anticipate that day to come soon," Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero said in the statement. "Please do whatever is necessary to prevent any more days of mourning."

As of Monday evening, the island had recorded a pandemic total of 4,336 coronavirus infections, with 1,658 cases in "active isolation." At least 285 of the total infections have been U.S. service members.

Also on Monday, Department of Defense Education Activity schools on Guam became the last in the Pacific to resume classroom sessions. The island's military installations — Naval Base Guam and Andersen Air Force Base — recently lowered the risk level for coronavirus transmission to moderate, a requisite by DODEA for permitting students to return to in-person learning.

Pope's list of 13 new cardinals includes 1st Black US prelate

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis on Sunday named 13 new cardinals, including Washington, D.C., Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who would become the first Black U.S. prelate to earn the coveted red hat.

In a surprise announcement from his studio window to faithful standing below in St. Peter's Square, Francis said the churchmen would be elevated to cardinals in a ceremony on Nov. 28. He asked for prayers so the new cardinals "may help me in my ministry as bishop of Rome for the good of all God's faithful holy people."

The selection of Gregory won praise from LGBTQ advocates in the United States, days after Pope Francis grabbed headlines for voicing support for civil unions for gay couples.

Other new cardinals include an Italian who is the longtime papal preacher at the Vatican, the Rev. Raniero Cantalamessa, who is a Franciscan friar; the Kigali, Rwanda, Archbishop Antoine Kambanda; the Capiz, Philippines, Archbishop Jose Feurte Advincula; and the Santiago, Chile, Archbishop Celestino Aros Braco.

Another Franciscan who was tapped is Friar Mauro Gambetti, in charge of the Sacred Convent in Assisi. The pope, when elected in 2013, chose St. Francis of Assisi as his namesake saint. Earlier this month,

the pontiff journeyed to that hill town to sign an encyclical, or important church teaching document, about brotherhood.

Gambetti was so surprised, at first he thought the pope was joking when he heard he was named, convent spokesperson the Rev. Enzo Fortunato said. Gambetti quickly pledged to "put himself at the service of humanity at a time so difficult to us all," including offering compassion to the needy, Fortunato said in reference to the coronavirus pandemic.

In a reflection of the pope's stress on helping those in need, Francis also named the former director of the Rome Catholic charity, Caritas, the Rev. Enrico Feroci, to be a cardinal.

The prestigious Washington archdiocese traditionally brings elevation to cardinal's rank, so the appointment of Gregory, 73, last year by the pope had positioned him to be tapped for the honor.

The timing is still noteworthy, coming in the thick of increased U.S. attention on racial injustice after the police killing of George Floyd, a Black man, in Minnesota this year. Gregory was publicly critical of President Donald Trump's visit to the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington a day after civil rights demonstrators were forcibly cleared from a square to facilitate the president's visit to an Episcopal church in the U.S. capital.

US early vote total exceeds 2016 week before Election Day

Associated Press

With seven days before Election Day, more people already have cast ballots in this year's presidential election than voted early or absentee in the 2016 race as the start of in-person early voting in big states led to a surge in turnout in recent days.

The opening of early voting locations in Florida, Texas and elsewhere has piled millions of new votes on top of the mail ballots arriving at election offices as voters try to avoid crowded places on Nov. 3 during the coronavirus pandemic. The result is a total of 58.6 million ballots cast so far, more than the 58 million that The Associated Press logged as being cast through the mail or at in-person early voting sites in 2016.

Democrats have continued to dominate the initial balloting, but Republicans are narrowing the gap. GOP voters have begun to show up at early in-person voting, a sign that many heeded President Donald Trump's unfounded warnings about mail-voting fraud.

On Oct. 15, Democrats registrants cast 51% of all ballots reported, compared with 25% from Republicans. On Sunday, Democrats had a slightly smaller lead, 51% to 31%.

The early vote totals, reported by state and local election officials and tracked by the AP, are an imperfect indicator of which party may be leading. The data only shows party registration, not which candidate voters support. Most GOP voters are expected to vote on Election Day.

Analysts said the still sizable Democratic turnout puts extra pressure on the Republican Party to push its voters out in the final week and on Nov. 3. That's especially clear in closely contested states such as Florida, Nevada and North Carolina.

"This is a glass half-full, glass half-empty situation," said John Couvillon, a Republican pollster who tracks early voting closely. "They're showing up more," he added, but "Republicans need to rapidly narrow that gap."

In Florida, for example, Democrats have outvoted Republicans by a 596,000 margin by mail, while Republicans only have a 230,000 edge in person. In Nevada, where Democrats usually dominate in-person early voting but the state decided to send a mail ballot to every voter this year, the GOP has a 42,600 voter edge in-person while Democrats have a 97,500 advantage in mail ballots.

Crew safe, 7 detained after British forces raid tanker

Associated Press

LONDON — All crew members of an oil tanker that was stormed by British naval special forces after a group of stowaways threatened violence are "safe and well," the ship's operator confirmed Monday.

Seven people were detained in the raid, which unfolded in the English Channel after

darkness fell Sunday. Special Boat Service commandos were lowered by rope from helicopters onto the Nave Andromeda, whose crew had locked themselves in a secure part of the ship known as the citadel. Within minutes, the stowaways were in custody.

The Special Boat Service is the elite maritime counter-ter-

rorism unit of the Royal Navy.

Navios Tanker Management, which operates the Liberian-registered vessel, said the ship's master became "concerned for the safety of the crew due to the increasingly hostile behavior of the stowaways." It said in a statement that all crew members were "safe and well."

Maritime tracking websites

showed the ship reached port in Southampton, on England's south coast, early Monday.

The ship had left Lagos, Nigeria, on Oct. 6 and had been due to dock in Southampton on Sunday morning. The raid followed a 10-hour standoff as the tanker circled an area a few miles southeast of the Isle of Wight, south of Southampton.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man arrested in attacks on homeless people

CA THOUSAND OAKS — A man was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder in connection with attacks on homeless people in Southern California, police said.

The Ventura County Sheriff's Office investigated at least three attacks dating back to mid-June, according to officials.

In one incident someone threw a rock at the head of a sleeping victim in Thousand Oaks. In another, a victim was struck by a vehicle and the driver fled the scene, the Ventura County Star reported.

Detectives conducting surveillance in the area eventually identified Ali Assadi Tehrani, 41, as a suspect, the newspaper said. Officials described Tehrani as homeless but didn't indicate a possible motive.

Fake psychologist given 11 years; treated dozens

VA STAFFORD — A judge in Virginia sentenced a woman to 11 years in prison for pretending to be a psychologist and treating more than 100 patients, most of whom were children.

The prison sentence that Stafford County Circuit Court Judge Charles Sharp handed down to Sharonda Avery, 44, was well above the recommended term under state guidelines, which called for a maximum of two years and three months.

The Free Lance-Star reported that Avery did not have a criminal record before she was convicted of five counts of obtaining money by false pretenses, two counts of passing forged documents, perjury and practicing psychology without a license. Avery was accused of prescribing medication for non-existent conditions and failing

to properly diagnose conditions that patients did have. She also testified in court while posing as a medical expert.

Man rescued after fall in sidewalk collapse

NY NEW YORK — New York City firefighters rescued a man after a sidewalk partially collapsed, sending him tumbling 12 to 15 feet into a hole.

The collapse happened on Third Avenue in the Belmont section of the Bronx, officials said. Firefighters got to the man from the basement of a dentist's office. The man, who was not identified, was taken to a hospital and was listed in serious, but stable, condition.

The Department of Buildings said the section of sidewalk was in disrepair and located above an extended portion of a building's basement.

33 Depression-era graves to be relocated

IN CHARLESTOWN — A southern Indiana business park is relocating graves from a Depression-era cemetery to another nearby graveyard.

The River Ridge Commerce Center in Charlestown expects to rebury the 33 sets of remains at a second cemetery on its property, Executive Director Jerry Acy told the News and Tribune. The half-acre plot, on the site of the former Indiana Ammunition Plant, was the resting place for residents of Clark County's Poor Farm who died from 1923 to 1939.

The Poor Farm cemetery did not include any gravestones, but a piece of paper at the cemetery listed the names of 27 people buried there, Acy said.

The identification process for the others in the cemetery is continuing.

Bystanders, police pull couple from sinking car

NY LINDENHURST — Bystanders helped rescue an elderly couple from a sinking car after it careened into a Long Island canal, police said.

Seven people, including two police officers, jumped into the water to pull Joseph Abitabile, 78, to safety while rescue workers broke a window to free his wife, who was unconscious in the passenger seat.

An off-duty police officer performed CPR on the woman, Delores Abitabile, 76, and was able to restore her pulse and breathing, police said.

Police said Joseph Abitabile lost control while driving eastbound on Montauk Highway when the couple's vehicle was struck by another car, whose 85-year-old driver backed up into traffic after getting into a fender bender.

Police: 3 hospitalized after car hits home

DE GEORGETOWN — A teenager who led police on a high-speed chase crashed into a home in Delaware, engulfing the house in flames and sending three people to the hospital, authorities said.

Harrington police spokesperson Capt. Earl Brode said the pursuit began when Michael A. Robinson, 19, of Millsboro, refused to make a traffic stop in Harrington, Delaware State News reported.

Other officers joined the chase and even dropped stop sticks to flatten the car's tires, but Robinson kept fleeing until he lost control on a curve in Frederica and slammed into the front porch of a home with six people, including three children, inside, Brode said.

Two other people in the

crashed vehicle and an adult in the home were hospitalized with non-life threatening injuries, police said.

Land swap makes way for Coast Guard growth

SC CHARLESTON — A land swap in South Carolina will give the U.S. Coast Guard the opportunity to expand.

The swap involves part of Veterans Terminal along the Cooper River in North Charleston.

The State Ports Authority said it will sell 76.5 acres to the Coast Guard for \$4.54 million and about 89 acres of adjacent publicly owned land, The Post and Courier reported.

The additional property gives the Coast Guard room for a major expansion it announced in February. That includes two piers for additional vessels. The Coast Guard also plans to homeport five national security cutters and a group of offshore patrol cutters there.

Police: 2 die in crash connected to street race

MA SPRINGFIELD — Two men in a car involved in a drag race died when they lost control and crashed into another vehicle, Springfield police said.

The driver and his passenger were pronounced dead at the scene of the crash in the city's Sixteen Acres neighborhood, police spokesman Ryan Walsh said.

The initial investigation showed that two vehicles were drag racing when one lost control, crossed into the oncoming lane and struck a vehicle registered to American Medical Response, an emergency medical services company, Walsh said.

From wire reports

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Reporting
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and Military News

Dodgers top Rays in Game 5

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — As much as Clayton Kershaw has dominated hitters throughout a glittering career, he has not silenced those who cite his lack of baseball's ultimate accomplishment.

With a gritty performance, plus one particular delivery home that will long be remembered, he hushed the skeptics and moved the Los Angeles Dodgers within a victory of their first World Series title since 1988.

"He's a phenomenal pitcher on the biggest stage," reliever Blake Treinen said after Kershaw beat the Tampa Bay Rays for the second time in six days, a 4-2 win Sunday night that gave the Dodgers a 3-2 Series lead. "I think a lot of credit goes to what he's been able to do in this World Series for us."

Kershaw even kept the Rays from stealing the tying run.

Los Angeles was clinging to a one-run lead with runners at the corners and two outs in the

fourth inning, and Kevin Kiermaier at the plate.

The great left-hander had raised both hands over his head in his instantly recognizable stretch position when he heard first baseman Max Muncy scream: "Step off! Step off! Step off!"

"Instinctually, I kind of did it," Kershaw recalled.

He coolly and quickly backed off the rubber and calmly threw to catcher Austin Barnes, who grabbed the ball and got his mitt down on Manuel Margot's outstretched hand while the runner's helmet tumbled off and cut his own lip.

Tampa Bay rarely threatened again.

Kershaw's formidable résumé has lacked two of the most satisfying achievements: a win deep in the World Series and a championship ring. He has one and lifted himself and his team to the verge of the second.

Mookie Betts and Corey Seager sparked a two-run first inning, and Joc Pederson and Muncy homered off long-ball

prone Tyler Glasnow, whose 100 mph heat got burned.

His scraggly dark brown hair dangling with sweat, Kershaw was cruising when Dodgers manager Dave Roberts removed the 32-year-old in favor of right-handed reliever Dustin May after getting two outs on two pitches in the sixth inning.

The mostly pro-Dodgers fans in the pandemic-reduced crowd of 11,437 booed when Roberts walked to the mound, well aware of what happened with the bullpen the previous night, when closer Kenley Jansen wasted a ninth-inning lead in a stunning 8-7 loss.

No matter that some LA players tried to convince Roberts to leave in Kershaw, he was gone.

"Fans, players get caught up in emotion, and I'm emotional, but I still have to have clarity on making decisions," Roberts said. "I can't get caught up in fans' reactions."

Tony Gonsolin will start for the Dodgers on Tuesday, when Game 2 winner Blake Snell pitches for Tampa Bay.

Dixon wins sixth IndyCar championship

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Scott Dixon controlled his own fate and simply needed a smooth Sunday drive to win a sixth IndyCar championship.

He was a tactician as he followed Josef Newgarden around the streets of downtown St. Petersburg. So long as he kept Newgarden in his sight, Dixon would yank the crown away from the American and add another milestone to his illustrious career.

Newgarden won the season finale, using a spectacular two-car pass for the lead in a valiant effort to win a second consecutive title. Winning was not enough, though, to deny Dixon his coronation.

Dixon stealthily finished third in an easy drive to another title.

"They just shadowed us all day, it was the smart play," said Newgarden, who admitted his shot at the title was so slim it spoiled his mood the entire weekend.

Dixon was already looking forward to the next goal: A.J. Foyt's record seven titles.

"Six is good. Seven sounds better," Dixon said. "That's obviously going to be the goal. But it's tough, as you can see from the competition, even if you mess up just a little bit."

"Credit to Josef, he drove a hell of a race there and put us under a lot of pressure."

The 40-year-old New Zealander has won all six titles with Chip Ganassi Racing. Dixon has won two of the last three championships, a run interrupted when Newgarden won his second title last year.

Newgarden tied Dixon with his series-best fourth win of the season but Newgarden was in too large of a hole to catch his rival. Although Dixon at one time led the standings by 117 points, the final margin was a mere 16 points over Newgarden.

Dixon built his lead with three consecutive races to open the abbreviated and pandemic disrupted schedule.

Briefly

Browns star WR Beckham out for season

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Odell Beckham Jr. was in a much better place emotionally and physically. This was going to be the season he changed minds.

He was determined to make 2020 — and its many obstacles — a special year, re-establish himself as one of the NFL's best players and lead the Browns back to the playoffs, along with with best friend and teammate Jarvis Landry.

Beckham won't get the chance.

The star receiver's second season with Cleveland ended on Monday after an MRI confirmed he sustained a torn left knee ligament in the opening minutes of Sunday's 37-34 win over the Cincinnati Bengals.

The three-time Pro Bowler got hurt when his left leg buckled while he was trying to make a tackle after Baker Mayfield's first pass was intercepted by Bengals cornerback Darius Phillips.

An MRI taken Monday in Cleveland confirmed the diagnosis of the torn ACL, an injury that typically requires nine months to one year of recovery time. The team said Beckham will be placed on injured reserve, but coach Kevin Stefanski did not have a timetable on when he will have surgery.

Purdue's Brohm hopes to return Saturday

Purdue coach Jeff Brohm plans to return to work Wednesday after self-isolating because

of a positive COVID-19 test and should be back on the sideline Saturday at Illinois.

Brohm told reporters Monday he's been self-isolating since testing positive more than a week ago. Big Ten rules require staff members to isolate at least 10 days. Brohm said it took a few days before he was symptom-free and the illness lasted a little longer than normal but that he feels well now.

The other big question is the status of All-American receiver Rondale Moore, who sat out last weekend's season-opening victory over Iowa for undisclosed reasons. Brohm provided no additional details about Moore's absence and said the junior's playing status for Illinois would be made later this week.

Steelers top Titans to improve to 6-0

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Pittsburgh Steelers stand alone as the AFC's last undefeated team thanks to a dominant start and a bit of late luck.

Ben Roethlisberger threw two touchdown passes to Diontae Johnson, and the Steelers remained perfect by holding off Tennessee for a 27-24 victory Sunday in a game postponed three weeks after the Titans came down with the NFL's first COVID-19 outbreak of the season.

In a matchup of the conference's two remaining unbeaten teams, the Titans rallied by scoring 17 straight after being smothered in the first half.

They failed to complete the comeback when Stephen Gostkowski, who made a 51-yarder earlier, missed wide right from 45 yards with 14 seconds left, sending Pittsburgh running around the field in celebration and stunning Tennessee (5-1). Even Roethlisberger appeared shocked the four-time Pro Bowl kicker missed.

"Oh, man. I mean, I was surprised he missed it," Steelers wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster said. "Our idea was to go into overtime. A good kicker. It's tough. It's good for us."

Pittsburgh improved to 6-0 for its best start since 1978, when it won its first seven on the way to the Super Bowl. This was just the fifth time undefeated teams had met in Week 7 or later, and the winner of the previous four all made the Super Bowl.

"We feel we have a really good football team," Roethlisberger said. "We feel we can be really special ... That's going to be a short-lived happiness because we know what's coming next."

What comes next? A matchup with the rival Ravens.

"We are perfect from a record standpoint, and so we respect that," Steelers coach Mike Tomlin said. "We realize that we've got AFC North

ball on next week on the road. We're going to a group that has seven days' advantage on us, so there's a lot for us to be urgent about."

Benny Snell Jr. added a 1-yard TD run, and Ray-Ray McCloud set up a touchdown with a 57-yard punt return. Pittsburgh scored at least 26 points for a sixth straight game to tie a stretch in 2015 for the longest in franchise history.

The Steelers were without cornerback Mike Hilton, one of their best blitzers, not that the NFL's No. 2 defense in both yards and points allowed missed him much. Pittsburgh outgained the Titans 362-292 and held the NFL's second-best scoring offense under 31 points for the first time since the opening week of the season.

But Tennessee had won four of their first five by rallying in the final two minutes of regulation or overtime, and they appeared ready to add another.

Ryan Tannehill hit A.J. Brown on a short pass that the receiver took to the end zone for a 73-yard TD in the third quarter. Jayon Brown picked off a batted pass, setting up Gostkowski. Then Derrick Henry capped a 12-play drive with a 1-yard TD with 10:13 left to set up the late drama.

The Titans had the chance for another late win after Amani Hooker intercepted Roethlisberger's pass to Smith-Schuster in the back of the end zone with 2:35 left. It was Roethlisberger's third of the game, which Tennessee turned into only a field goal.

Gostkowski had won the first three games this season for Tennessee with late field goals.

"It was a gut punch to see that kick go wide right," Tannehill said. "Had a ton of confidence going out there that Stephen was going to nail that kick."

Gostkowski said the kick was headed down the middle until it faded right late.

On Football

Brady flourishing with Bucs, Belichick not so much with the Patriots

Associated Press

Tom Brady accounted for five touchdowns in a profitable trip to Las Vegas. The coach he left behind in New England led his team to six points and a third straight loss.

For those who accept the premise that the six-time Super Bowl champion quarterback left the Patriots to prove elsewhere that he was the backbone to that dynasty, well, he's doing precisely that for Tampa Bay.

Meanwhile, Bill Belichick's current Patriots are adding credence to that theory.

The Buccaneers have scored 222 points, topping the league, even ahead of the defending champion Chiefs. Tampa Bay is 5-2 and Brady is a huge reason for that mark — for his arm, for his leadership, for his guile.

For all of the traits that have made him the most successful quarterback in the Super Bowl era.

Expecting Brady to offer much insight into his performances, particularly in the midst of a season, is like, well, expecting the same from Belichick. Ask the 43-year-old quarterback about what he did, and you get:

"We're 5-2, in a decent place, not quite at the halfway point in the year. We've got a lot of football left. We're going to need everybody, and we're going to need everybody's best. And we're going to expect everybody's best, and we're going to try to meet the challenge every week."

As for meeting the challenge, in his last five games, Brady has 15 TD passes and one interception. In a new town, a different uniform, with a whole new set of teammates — and during a coronavirus pandemic that basically stripped teams of organized in-person workouts for months.

"I think it's knowing the guys

better, knowing the system better, everything that we change each week," said Bucs coach Bruce Arians, who is getting the kind of nonpareil contributions from Brady that Belichick profited from for two decades.

"There's such good communication of what we're trying to get done, where the ball should be going versus each coverage. It's just total growth in the offense."

While dreams of a run deep into the postseason flow through Bucs Nation, the atmosphere in New England is a tad darker. For now, call it flopping in Foxborough.

The Patriots' 27-point loss to San Francisco was their largest at home under Belichick, according to Elias Sports Bureau. They had gone 286 games without a three-game losing streak, the longest span between three-game slides in NFL history. New England fell to 2-4 for the first time since Belichick's first season in 2000, when the Patriots went 5-11.

The last year Brady wasn't the quarterback.

A week ago, the Patriots didn't allow a touchdown and still lost to Arizona. This time, they didn't score a touchdown. The defense isn't terrible, but it's hardly a world-beater. The offense is inept, and it's missing the world-beater now in Tampa.

Consider that Julian Edelman, a borderline Hall of Fame receiver over his first 10 NFL seasons — he missed one with an injury — is almost forgotten without Brady. Edelman has five receptions total in the last two home defeats.

Dour as ever, Belichick spoke in generalities after the 33-6 defeat to the Niners that dropped New England 2½ games behind the Bills, with a trip to Buffalo next weekend.

"I think we need to do better job in all areas," he said.

Murray, Arizona rally in OT, hand Seattle 1st loss

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The NFC West has a new challenger for the top that's won three straight games. The Arizona Cardinals earned a few style points with the way they pulled off this prime-time thriller, too.

Zane Gonzalez made a 48-yard field goal with 20 seconds left in overtime to give the Cardinals a 37-34 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in a Sunday night show that featured 1,091 total yards, huge plays, crucial mistakes and — finally — a winner.

"These are the games you honestly dream about," Arizona quarterback Kyler Murray said.

Seattle led all of regulation until Gonzalez made a 44-yard field goal as time expired to tie it at 34. It meant an entertaining quarterback duel between Murray and the Russell Wilson would continue. And that's when the crazy really got started.

The Cardinals stopped the Seahawks' opening drive in overtime and then quickly moved downfield. On second-and-15, Arizona coach Kliff Kingsbury elected to go ahead and try for the field goal. Gonzalez made the 41-yarder, but Kingsbury called a timeout just before the snap because the play clock was winding down. Gonzalez missed wide left on the next attempt.

"That was pretty bad," Kingsbury said of the sideline and clock management. "Pretty much a complete debacle. But luckily those guys bailed us out."

Moments later, it appeared Seattle had won on the ensuing drive when DK Metcalf caught

a 48-yard touchdown pass, but the play was called back because of holding on receiver David Moore. Wilson threw an interception on the next play. The pass was picked off by rookie Isaiah Simmons.

"We could have won it on offense a couple times, on defense a couple times, in overtime as well, and we weren't able to get the finish that we needed," Seahawks coach Pete Carroll said.

That gave Gonzalez the chance for redemption. He nailed the winner to knock off the previously undefeated Seattle and set off a raucous celebration at midfield.

Murray threw for 360 yards, three touchdowns and one interception. He also ran for 67 yards and a touchdown. Wilson completed 33 of 50 passes for 388 yards and three touchdowns but also had three costly interceptions.

The Seahawks' Carlos Hyde had a 24-yard touchdown run in the second quarter. Tyler Lockett caught three touchdowns passes and had a career-high 200 yards receiving on 15 catches.

The Cardinals pulled to 27-24 on Murray's 5-yard touchdown run in the third quarter. Arizona had a chance to take the lead early in the fourth after Wilson's pass was picked off by Patrick Peterson in the end zone.

But Murray threw an interception on the next play. The throw was intended for Andy Isabella but sailed way off target and was caught by a diving Quandre Diggs. That set up Lockett's third touchdown catch of the night and a 34-24 lead. He caught a 3-yard pass from Wilson,

NFL roundup

Washington's defense rules ailing Cowboys

Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — Washington's defense finally clamped down on a struggling opponent, piling up six sacks, an interception and a forced fumble that became a safety in a 25-3 blowout of the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday that snapped a five-game skid.

Montez Sweat had two sacks for Washington (2-5), Cole Holcomb had one to go along with a red zone interception and Landon Collins knocked the ball out of Andy Dalton's hands for an early safety before leaving with an ankle injury. Dalton was under siege all day behind a patchwork offensive line before being knocked out of the game in the third quarter on a shoulder-to-head hit from Jon Bostic, who was ejected.

Dalton was 9-for-19 for 75 yards before being injured and walking off under his own power to undergo concussion evaluation.

Washington allowed 142 total yards to win a game by double digits for the first time since November 2018.

Lions 23, Falcons 22: Detroit let host Atlanta score a touchdown. It worked — and the Falcons found another stunning way to lose.

Matthew Stafford connected with T.J. Hockenson on an 11-yard touchdown pass as time expired and Matt Prater booted a 48-yard extra point to give Detroit the improbable victory. The Lions (3-3) won their second in a row — their first winning streak since early in the 2019 season.

Trailing 16-14, the Falcons (1-6) were positioned to run down the clock and kick a chip-shot field goal for the win when they picked up a first down.

Browns 37, Bengals 34: Baker Mayfield overcame a terrible start to throw for five touchdowns, including a 24-yard go-ahead score to Donovan Peoples-Jones with 15

seconds left, and Cleveland won at Cincinnati.

Nursing sore ribs, Mayfield started 0-for-5 — including an interception on his first attempt of the game. He then completed 22 of his next 23 passes. The last was the leaping grab by Peoples-Jones to win it for the Browns (5-2).

The Browns did get bad news after the game, however, as Odell Beckham Jr. suffered a torn left knee ligament, ending his second season with the team early.

Saints 27, Panthers 24: Drew Brees passed for 287 yards and two touchdowns without two top receivers and rushed for another score to lead host New Orleans past Carolina. The Panthers had driven across midfield in the final minutes when Marcus Davenport's sack of Teddy Bridgewater led coach Matt Rhule to send out kicker Joey Slye for a 65-yard field goal on fourth-and-19. The kick fell just short of the crossbar.

Chiefs 43, Broncos 16: Kansas City didn't need the usual heroics from Patrick Mahomes to roll at Denver for its 10th straight win over its AFC West rival. The Chiefs (6-1) found other ways to dominate the Broncos (2-4) on a snowy afternoon.

Chargers 39, Jaguars 29: Justin Herbert got his first NFL win, throwing for 347 yards and three touchdowns as well as running for a score as Los Angeles beat visiting Jacksonville to snap a four-game skid.

Packers 35, Texans 20: Aaron Rodgers threw for 283 yards and four touchdowns. Green Bay rebounded from its first loss, winning at Houston.

Bills 18, Jets 10: Josh Allen and Buffalo were held out of the end zone for the first time this season, but Tyler Bass tied a franchise record with six field goals and the visiting Bills ended a two-game skid.