

## Biden urged to help low-income troops

*CQ-Roll Call*

WASHINGTON — Two dozen groups representing military families urged President Joe Biden last week to address a growing problem of hunger among lower-ranking U.S. military personnel and their families.

The groups, in a Tuesday letter to Biden obtained by CQ Roll Call, recommended that the president support a “basic needs allowance” to help lower-income military families make ends meet.

“Reports of military families who struggle with food insecurity, turning in desperation to food pantries around the country, are shocking and unacceptable,” the letter said.

Biden and a broad swath of Congress want to launch such an aid program to combat poverty and hunger in the ranks — a problem that by all accounts the coronavirus has worsened. But lawmakers disagree on how generous to make the proposed aid, and the White House has said it is undecided on that question.

“There can be no denying that food insecurity among military families remains a real and painful reality and that government safety net programs are not

adequately meeting the needs of those who serve our country,” the organizations wrote. “The scope and severity of food insecurity for military families have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.”

The letter’s signatories include MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger and other influential groups, such as the Military Officers Association of America, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, National Military Families Association, Blue Star Families and Vote Vets.

Both the House-passed version of the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act and the Senate Armed Services one would provide a basic needs allowance. It would cover the difference between a service member’s income and 130% of the poverty level.

But CQ Roll Call reported last month that the House bill explicitly requires that the income calculations must not include the basic allowance for housing, a stipend that about two-thirds of service members get to cover the cost of living off-base or in privately operated housing on base.

The amount of the housing allowance, which is determined by a number of

factors, varies.

But most Army privates, for example, earned an average housing allowance last year of just over \$15,000 on top of just under \$21,000 in basic pay, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The Senate bill is silent on whether the new program should count the housing allowance as part of income.

The White House Office of Management and Budget, in a Sept. 21 Statement of Administration Policy on the House bill, said the administration supports the basic needs allowance but “needs a more comprehensive data analysis” on whether the housing allowance should be counted toward income under the program.

In Tuesday’s letter to Biden, the military family groups urged him to back a version of the NDAA that excludes the housing allowance from counted income in order to provide assistance to as many families as possible.

Even the more generous House bill is fiscally manageable for the Pentagon.

The Congressional Budget Office reckons the House provision would provide 3,000 families about \$400 a month — at an annual cost of \$14 million.

## Marine officer reprimanded for Afghanistan criticism

*Associated Press*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — A military judge issued a reprimand for a Marine lieutenant colonel and ordered him to forfeit \$5,000 in pay Friday for his criticism of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, his attorney said.

The decision from Col. Glen Hines followed the guilty plea Lt. Col. Stuart Scheller entered Thursday during a special court-martial at Camp Lejeune. Scheller faced six charges, including contempt toward officials and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.

Scheller now awaits a decision on whether he will be honorably discharged from the Marines or be given a general discharge under honorable conditions, according to his attorney, Tim Parlatore. Marine regula-

tions define a general discharge under honorable conditions as one that acknowledges acceptable service with an instance of misconduct.

“We’re very happy with the results,” Parlatore told The Associated Press. “The judge was very well reasoned as he considered all the evidence. I think he gave a very intelligent sentence and reasoning for his sentence.”

Parlatore said Scheller is “both relieved and satisfied” about the judge’s ruling.

“He made a decision to bring attention to these issues at the expense of his own career,” Parlatore said. “There is a sense of satisfaction that, at least, what he sacrificed his career for, which is to get this message out, that it was heard.”

Parlatore said that in going through

Scheller’s service record, the judge made a strong case for the secretary of the Navy giving him an honorable discharge.

In an Aug. 26 video posted on Facebook, Scheller said he was willing to risk his career to call out military leaders regarding the withdrawal from Afghanistan after 13 U.S. troops were killed in Kabul.

“I am willing to throw it all away to say to my senior leaders: I demand accountability,” he said in the video while wearing a camouflage uniform.

Scheller followed that comment with a series of social media posts, including an Aug. 29 video in which he resigned his commission and said “follow me and we will bring down the whole ... system.” On Thursday, he said that remark was meant “in a constitutional manner.”

# Female general takes over TransCom

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Air Force Gen. Jacqueline Van Ovost on Friday became only the second woman to lead one of the Pentagon's 11 so-called combatant commands, the multi-service organizations that spearhead U.S. military operations around the world.

At a change-of-command ceremony at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin applauded Van Ovost's historic rise to lead U.S. Transportation Command. He called her a "legend of a leader," a pilot by training and a pivotal

player in the airlift of tens of thousands of evacuees from Kabul in August. She helped orchestrate the airlift as commander of the Air Force Air Mobility Command.

"We need every Jackie Van Ovost we can get," Austin, a retired Army general, said. "As she likes to say, 'As young women looking up, it's hard to be what you can't see.' So General Van Ovost knows the importance of breaking barriers."

Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, applauded Van Ovost's depth of experience.

"There is not a single person out there

who is more prepared to lead TransCom than Jackie Van Ovost," he said.

Van Ovost, a 1988 graduate of the Air Force Academy and a former vice director of the Joint Staff at the Pentagon, took over Transportation Command for Army Gen. Stephen Lyons, who is retiring. The only other woman to lead a U.S. combatant command is Army Gen. Lori Robinson, now retired, who took charge of U.S. Northern Command in 2016. Army Gen. Laura Richardson is scheduled to take over U.S. Southern Command on Oct. 29, succeeding Navy Adm. Craig Faller.

## US vows to pay relatives of Afghan strike victims

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Defense Department said Friday that it is committed to offering condolence payments to relatives of the 10 people who were killed in an errant U.S. drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, in August.

Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said in a statement that the Defense Department was also working with the State Department to help surviving family members relocate to the United States.

Kirby said the matter arose in a meeting Thursday between Dr.

Colin Kahl, under secretary of defense for policy, and Dr. Steven Kwon, founder and president of the nonprofit group Nutrition & Education International.

"Dr. Kahl reiterated Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin's commitment to the families, including offering ex gratia condolence payments," Kirby said. He did not say how much money would be offered.

On Aug. 29, a U.S. Hellfire missile struck a car driven by Zemerai Ahmadi, who had just pulled into the driveway of the Ahmadi family compound. In all, 10 members of the family, including sev-

en children, were killed in the strike.

Weeks later, Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, called the strike a "tragic mistake" and said innocent civilians were indeed killed in the attack.

During the meeting Thursday, Kwon told Kahl that Ahmadi had worked with NEI for many years, "providing care and lifesaving assistance for people facing high mortality rates in Afghanistan," according to Kirby.

The U.S. military initially defended the strike, saying it had targeted an Islamic State "facili-

tator" and disrupted the militants' ability to carry out attacks during the chaotic final stage of the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan.

Discrepancies between the military's portrayal of the strike and findings on the ground quickly emerged. The Associated Press and other news organizations reported that the driver of the targeted vehicle was a long-time employee at a U.S. humanitarian organization. There were no signs of a large secondary blast, despite the Pentagon's assertion that the vehicle contained explosives.

## Islamic State claims mosque bombing in Afghanistan

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — Islamic State claimed responsibility for a deadly suicide bombing on a Shiite mosque in southern Afghanistan that killed 47 people and wounded scores more.

In a statement posted late Friday on social media, ISIS said two of the group's members shot and killed security guards manning the entrance of the Fatimiya mosque in Kandahar province.

One detonated his explosives at the entrance of the mosque and the other inside.

ISIS's news agency Amaq in a statement gave the names of the attackers as Anas al-Khurasani and Abu Ali al-Baluchi, both Afghan nationals.

The attack came a week after a bombing claimed by the local Islamic State affiliate killed 46 people at a Shiite mosque in northern Afghanistan, raising fears that ISIS — an enemy of both the Taliban and the West — is expanding its foothold in Afghanistan.

Friday's attack was the deadliest to strike Afghanistan since the dramatic U.S. exit from the country, which allowed the Taliban to seize con-

trol of the Afghan capital. It was also the first major attack by the group in the country's south.

ISIS carries out frequent attacks in its eastern stronghold, but recently has shown signs of expansion, with attacks in the north and Kabul.

The attacks have brought into question the Taliban's ability to counter the growing ISIS threat. The Taliban have pledged to restore peace and security after decades of war and have also given the U.S. assurances that they will not allow the country to be used as a base for launching extremist attacks on other countries.

## Police unions, cities clash over vaccine orders

*Associated Press*

Police departments around the U.S. that are requiring officers to get vaccinated against COVID-19 are running up against pockets of resistance that some fear could leave law enforcement shorthanded and undermine public safety.

Police unions and officers are pushing back by filing lawsuits to block the mandates. In Chicago, the head of the police union called on members to defy the city's Friday deadline for reporting their COVID-19 vaccination status.

Seattle's police department sent detectives and non-patrol officers to emergency calls last week because of a shortage of patrol officers that union leaders fear will become worse because of vaccine mandates.

The standoffs are playing out at a time when many police departments already are dealing with surging homicide rates and staff shortages unrelated to the vaccine. Cities and police leaders are now weighing the risk of losing more officers to resignations, firings or suspensions over their refusal to get vaccinated.

Chicago's mayor on Friday filed a complaint in court against the leader of the local Fraternal Order of Police, accusing him of "engaging in, supporting and encouraging work stoppage or strike" by saying the city's more than 12,000 uniformed officers should ignore the order to report their vaccination status.

On Thursday, Mayor Lori Lightfoot said officers would not be sent home if they showed up to work Friday and refused to provide their information. Instead, she said, they would be put on unpaid leave after the weekend, because confirming compliance would take a few days.

Refusing to provide the information, Lightfoot said, would constitute an act of insubordination.

John Catanzara, president of the local FOP in Chicago, said about half of his members have not been vaccinated and called a mandate requiring inoculation "absolutely wrong."

In Los Angeles County, Sheriff Alex Villanueva said he won't force his 18,000 employees to be vaccinated despite a county mandate.

In recent weeks, judges have rejected attempts by a group of Oregon State Police troopers and Denver police officers to block vaccine mandates.

## Biden open to trimming length of new programs

*Associated Press*

HARTFORD, Conn. — President Joe Biden says he would prefer to cut the duration of programs in his big social services and climate change package rather than eliminate some entirely, as Democrats struggle to win support from moderates by trimming what had been a \$3.5 trillion proposal.

Biden's comments on Friday, reassuring progressives on what he hopes will be a landmark piece of his legacy, marked his clearest indication yet on how he hopes negotiations over the bill will play out. Appearing to side with a strategy preferred by progressive lawmakers, it marked at least a subtle break with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has suggested that most Democrats prefer to focus on establishing a few enduring programs.

He also said there is no deadline for a deal. "I'm of the view that it's important to establish the principle on a whole range of issues without guaranteeing to get the whole 10 years," Biden told reporters before boarding Air Force One to return to Washington from a trip to Connecticut. "It matters to establish it."

"So what happens is, you pass the principle and you build on it," he added. "You look back and either it works or it doesn't work."

Pelosi, however, in a Monday note to fel-

low Democratic lawmakers, said, "Overwhelmingly, the guidance I am receiving from members is to do fewer things well."

Biden said Friday that although he expects the package to shrink, "we're going to come back and get the rest" after it's passed.

"We're not going to get \$3.5 trillion. We'll get less than that, but we're gonna get it. And we're going to come back and get the rest," Biden said during remarks at a child care center in Connecticut.

Democrats on Capitol Hill are working to reduce the sweeping package to about \$2 trillion in spending, which would be paid for with higher taxes on corporations and the wealthy. The proposal includes everything from free child care and community college to dental, vision and hearing aid benefits for seniors and a number of significant provisions meant to combat climate change. They're all key items for progressives, but moderates have balked at the original \$3.5 trillion price tag.

One almost certain reduction would be in the proposal for free community college.

"I doubt whether we will get the entire funding for community colleges but I'm not going to give up on community colleges as long as I'm president," Biden said. His wife, Jill, is a professor of English at Northern Virginia Community College.

## DOJ will ask Supreme Court to block Texas' ban on abortions

*Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — The Biden administration said Friday it will turn next to the U.S. Supreme Court in another attempt to halt a Texas law that has banned most abortions since September.

The move comes as the Texas clinics are running out of avenues to stop the GOP-engineered law that bans abortions once cardiac activity is detected, which is usually around six weeks. It amounts to the nation's biggest curb to abortion in nearly 50 years and makes no exception for cases of rape or incest.

By going to the Supreme Court, the Justice Department is taking the route that

clinics have sought as other legal challenges have failed. In the meantime, Texas women have turned to abortion clinics in neighboring states, some driving hours through the middle of the night and including patients as young as 12 years old.

The latest defeat for clinics came Thursday night when a federal appeals panel in New Orleans, in a 2-1 decision, allowed the restrictions to remain in place for a third time in the last several weeks alone. Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said the federal government will now ask the Supreme Court to reverse that decision but did not say how quickly.

# UK stabbing is labeled terrorist incident

Associated Press

LEIGH-ON-SEA, England — Leaders from across the political spectrum came together Saturday to pay tribute to a long-serving British lawmaker who was stabbed to death in what police have described as a terrorist incident.

Conservative Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Keir Starmer, and the non-partisan speaker of the House of Commons, Lindsay Hoyle, arrived at the church where David Amess was stabbed multiple times while meeting with constituents. A 25-year-old British man is in custody over the attack.

The politicians went up individually to the front of Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, a town about 40 miles east of London, to pay their respects to the Conservative lawmaker, who had been a member

of the British Parliament since 1983. After laying flowers, they returned to their vehicles, escorted by a police convoy.

In a statement early Saturday, the Metropolitan Police described the attack as terrorism and said the early investigation “has revealed a potential motivation linked to Islamist extremism.”

It did not provide any details about the basis for that assessment.

As part of the investigation, officers were searching two locations in the London area, the police force said.

Authorities have not identified the suspect, who was held on suspicion of murder. Police said they believed the suspect acted alone, and were not seeking anyone else in connection with the killing, though investigations continue.

Amess, 69, was attacked around midday

Friday. Paramedics tried without success to save him. Police arrested the suspect and recovered a knife.

Amess, a popular lawmaker, did not serve as a government minister during his long career. Though he was a social conservative on issues such as capital punishment and abortion, he had a reputation of being a fixer in Parliament, of being able to forge alliances across the political divide.

He died doing what he most cherished — helping out residents in his seaside constituency of Southend West. Under Britain's parliamentary system, lawmakers have direct links with their local voters, often hosting open meetings, or “surgeries,” on Fridays to listen to their concerns.

The meetings often take place in local facilities, such as churches and community halls and are often publicly advertised.

## Chinese crackdown on Apple hits Bible, Quran apps

Associated Press

Amazon's audiobook service Audible and phone apps for reading the holy books of Islam and Christianity have disappeared from the Apple store in mainland China, the latest examples of the impact of the country's tightened rules for internet firms.

Audible said Friday that it removed its app from the Apple store in mainland China last month “due to permit requirements.”

The makers of apps for reading and listening to the Quran and Bible say their apps have also been removed from Apple's China-based store at the government's request.

Apple didn't return requests for com-

ment Friday. A spokesperson for China's embassy in the U.S. declined to speak about specific app removals but said the Chinese government has “always encouraged and supported the development of the Internet.”

“At the same time, the development of the Internet in China must also comply with Chinese laws and regulations,” said an emailed statement from Liu Pengyu.

China's government has long sought to control the flow of information online, but is increasingly stepping up its enforcement of the internet sector in other ways, making it hard to determine the causes for a partic-

ular app's removal.

Chinese regulators this year have sought to strengthen data privacy restrictions and limit how much time children can play video games. They are also exerting greater control over the algorithms used by tech firms to personalize and recommend content.

The popular U.S. language-learning app Duolingo disappeared from Apple's China store over the summer, as have many video game apps. What appears to link Audible with the religious apps is that all were recently notified of permit requirements for published content.

## NASA's asteroid hunter Lucy now on 12-year mission

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft named Lucy rocketed into the sky with diamonds Saturday morning on a 12-year quest to explore eight asteroids.

Seven of the mysterious space rocks are among swarms of asteroids sharing Jupiter's orbit, thought to be the pristine leftovers of planetary formation.

An Atlas V rocket blasted off before dawn, sending Lucy on a roundabout journey spanning nearly 4 billion miles. Researchers grew emotional describing the successful launch — lead scientist Hal Levison said it was like witnessing the

birth of a child. “Go Lucy!” he urged.

Lucy is named after the 3.2 million-year-old skeletal remains of a human ancestor found in Ethiopia nearly a half-century ago. That discovery got its name from the 1967 Beatles song “Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds,” prompting NASA to send the spacecraft soaring with band members' lyrics and other luminaries' words of wisdom imprinted on a plaque. The spacecraft also carried a disc made of lab-grown diamonds for one of its science instruments.

In a prerecorded video for NASA, Beatles drummer Ringo Starr paid tribute to

his late colleague John Lennon, credited for writing the song that inspired all this.

“I'm so excited — Lucy is going back in the sky with diamonds. Johnny will love that,” Starr said. “Anyway, if you meet anyone up there, Lucy, give them peace and love from me.”

The paleoanthropologist behind the fossil Lucy discovery, Donald Johanson, had goose bumps watching Lucy soar — “I will never look at Jupiter the same ... absolutely mind-expanding.” He said he was filled with wonder about this “intersection of our past, our present and our future.”

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Nearly 1-ton pumpkin sets record at state fair

**NC** RALEIGH — The record-setting pumpkin at this year's North Carolina State Fair can make a lot of pies.

A news release from the fair says Chris Rodebaugh of Lewisburg, W.Va., set a record with a 1,965.5-pound pumpkin. That's short of the world record of 2,703 pounds set by Stefano Cutrupi of Italy.

The news release said the top three winners in the pumpkin competition get between \$1.50 and \$3 per pound.

Joseph Pitchford, spokesperson for the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, told The News & Observer of Raleigh that the fair's giant pumpkin competition is recognized by Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, which allows the fair to accept out-of-state entries.

### City bans whips because of sound like gunshot

**NV** RENO — The Reno City Council has banned the possession and use of whips without a permit in the greater downtown area after police reported a steep increase over the past two years of 911 calls from residents who mistake the sound of a cracking whip for gunfire.

Whips are a part of daily life in many rural areas where ranchers and livestock operators use the sharp "crack" produced when the whip's tip breaks the speed of sound to scare and direct or herd animals.

The council voted 6-1 to ap-

prove the new ordinance.

Police recommended banning their use downtown because the sound resembles that of shots being fired from a firearm, Reno Police Chief Jason Soto said. He said they're also being used in public areas for fights and intimidation.

### Dog trapped in crevice for 5 days rescued

**NY** KERHONKSON — A dog trapped for five days deep inside a narrow, rocky crevice at a state park north of New York City was rescued unharmed — though it was hungry and thirsty, parks officials said.

While the 12-year-old dog, Liza, went days without food or water at the Minnewaska State Park Preserve, it was observed licking the damp walls of the crevice before a rescuer was finally able to shimmy in, the state parks agency said in a news release.

Rescuer Jessica Van Ord shimmied through the passage and used a hot dog hanging from the end of a modified catch pole to attract the dog into putting its head into a loop. That allowed another rescuer nearby to close the loop.

The dog was placed into a rescue pack, brought to the surface and reunited with its owner.

### Schools drop Halloween and Valentine's Day

**MI** EAST LANSING — No little ghosts or goblins this year at elementary schools in East Lansing.

Valentine's Day parties are scratched, too.

Officials told parents that Halloween and Feb. 14 celebrations are being dropped be-

cause of concerns over hurt feelings and uncomfortable families, the Lansing State Journal reported.

"We have young children who become overwhelmed and sometimes frightened of the costumes and others who come to school with no costume at all," the elementary school principals wrote.

As for Valentine's Day, some families and students "do not feel comfortable with the idea of boys and girls exchanging valentines or participating in a celebration that focuses on 'love,'" the principals wrote.

### 3 charged after chase and botched carjacking

**VA** STAFFORD — Three men are facing charges after a botched carjacking led to a high-speed, wrong-way chase on Interstate 95 in Virginia, authorities said.

Stafford Sheriff's Maj. Shawn Kimmitz said the men tried to take an Anytime Fitness patron's car, The Free Lance-Star reported. Witnesses told deputies that they hit the patron with a stick, but being trained in martial arts he fought back. When other patrons came to help, the men fled in their own car, Kimmitz said.

A deputy tried to make a traffic stop, but they got onto I-95 and headed north at speeds just under 100 mph, Kimmitz said. The car then crashed through barrier arms and into high occupancy vehicle lanes and went 2 miles in the wrong direction before the men stopped and ran off.

A police dog found the men and two surrendered after a warning that the dog would be

turned loose, Kimmitz said. The dog captured the third man who ran. He was treated for a dog bite. The men were charged with carjacking, robbery, conspiracy and other offenses.

### Pedestrian unhurt after 15-foot fall into drain

**NH** CONCORD — A pedestrian survived a 15-foot plunge down a storm drain and was rescued by the Concord Fire Department, officials said.

Firefighters were told that the cover for the storm drain was off and that the pedestrian unwittingly stepped into the hole near the Steeplegate Mall.

The victim was reported to be unhurt. It was unclear why the storm drain was uncovered.

Fire crews had to check to make sure there were no dangerous sewer gases before rescuing the man. The victim, whose name was not released, declined medical treatment.

### Man sentenced for stealing shipyard metal

**ME** OLD ORCHARD BEACH — A Maine man has been sentenced to a year of probation for stealing scrap metal from a naval shipyard.

A federal judge sentenced Michael Gamash, 65, of Old Orchard Beach and ordered Gamash to pay more than \$62,000 to the Navy.

Gamash took the scrap metal from dumpsters located at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and sold them to local metal dealers, court records state. He was an employee of the shipyard at the time.

-From Associated Press

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# Astros edge Red Sox in ALCS opener

*Associated Press*

HOUSTON — Carlos Correa paused a few seconds at the plate and tapped the spot on his wrist where a watch would be.

"It's my time!" the Houston Astros star screamed.

That it is.

And if his time with the Astros runs out at the end of this season, the star shortstop sure is making this an October to remember.

Correa hit a tiebreaking home run in the seventh inning, holering toward his dugout before beginning his trot around the bases and propelling the Astros over the Boston Red Sox 5-4 Friday night in the AL Championship Series opener.

"When the playoffs start, (my teammates) always tell me: 'It's your time. Now to go out there, hit homers,'" Correa said. "They told me to hit the watch when I hit the homer."

Correa teamed with Jose Al-

tuve to do just enough to overcome the heroics of Kiké Hernández, who starred with his bat and glove for the wild-card Red Sox.

"I've been watching them for years, and it's a pleasure to be watching them up close and personal," manager Dusty Baker said. "And, boy, they are some clutch guys."

Altuve tied the game with a two-run shot in the sixth before Correa connected off losing pitcher Hansel Robles with two outs in the seventh to put the Astros ahead 4-3.

Correa, who has been with the Astros since being selected first overall in 2012, becomes a free agent at season's end and it seems likely that he won't remain in Houston.

Correa has a history of big hits for Houston that includes 18 postseason home runs, several of them in key, late situations.

"Playoff time, baby," Correa

said. "We want to be in the spotlight. ... We want to be in the moment."

He had three hits, and his performance gave him 55 postseason RBIs, passing Albert Pujols for the most among active MLB players.

Hernández, who won a World Series with the Dodgers last year, homered twice among his four hits and likely saved multiple runs with two terrific catches.

His second homer came off closer Ryan Pressly to start the ninth and cut the lead to 5-4. But Pressly retired the next three batters to get the save.

"It would have been a lot cooler if we won the game," Hernández said.

Ahead 4-3, the Astros loaded the bases with no outs in the eighth when Hirokazu Sawamura plunked Martín Maldonado. Houston added some insurance when Yuli Gurriel slid in just

before the tag to score on a sacrifice fly by Altuve that made it 5-3, beating a terrific throw by Hernández.

Hernández has been red hot for the Red Sox this October, with 13 hits in his last four games to set an MLB record for most hits in a four-game span in one postseason.

"Enrique is en fuego," Red Sox manager Alex Cora said.

Both teams leaned heavily on their bullpens after both Boston starter Chris Sale and Houston's Framber Valdez were chased in the third.

Ryne Stanek got the last out of the seventh for the win.

Sale, who was tagged for five runs in one inning in his previous start against Tampa Bay in the AL Division Series, permitted five hits and a run in 2 2/3 innings Friday. Valdez gave up six hits and three runs — two earned — while also getting just eight outs.

## Source: No one else cited with inappropriate emails

*Associated Press*

The NFL has found no other current team or league personnel to have sent emails containing racist, homophobic or misogynistic language similar to messages written by Jon Gruden that led to his resignation as Las Vegas Raiders coach, according to a person familiar with the documents.

The person familiar with the investigation as well as emails told The Associated Press on Friday that the league "did not identify other areas and other individuals it has to contact at club leadership or league leadership levels." The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the league has not publicly released what is in the 650,000 emails the independent investigators collected during an investigation of sexual harassment and other workplace conditions at the Washington Football Team.

"The NFL did not identify any problems anywhere near what you saw with Jon Gruden," the person said. The person did not address any other areas of potential issues found in the emails beyond similarities with Gruden's comments.

Gruden resigned Monday as Raiders coach after the denigrating comments expressed in emails written from 2011-18 to then-Washington club executive Bruce Allen were reported. Gruden was not in the NFL during those years, when he was an analyst for ESPN.

The NFL would conduct a probe of Allen, who was fired in December 2019, should he attempt to return to the league, the person said.

The NFL also has categorized comparisons of Gruden's correspondences with Allen to those by top league counsel Jeff Pash as a mischaracterization. The person said that the league finds those emails "in a different category" as a part of Pash's job, and "appropriate."

Pash has been a conduit between the NFL office and teams for years.

The timeline of when the NFL was made aware of the content of the emails also has come into question. Such knowledge came toward the end of the investigation of the Washington franchise, with the investigating firm viewing the emails as beyond the scope of their probe. When the league be-

came aware of some emails potentially of concern, it began to review those.

That led to the Gruden emails.

Confidentiality has been cited by the NFL and by the investigating firm in the Washington Football Team case for not publicly releasing specifics. The majority of those who participated in the investigation were promised they would remain anonymous.

But the league certainly is upset that detailed emails to and from Allen have been leaked, though the only comments it has made have been on the content of Gruden's emails.

"The league definitely is concerned about it, not happy what is viewed as confidential emails and part of confidential investigations show up in the newspaper," the person said.

NFL Players Association chief DeMaurice Smith again called for the league to release every email from the investigation.

"Our players deserve a full accounting of any other NFL misconduct," he said on Twitter, adding "any evidence or knowledge that this has been suppressed must be brought to light."

# No. 9 Oregon holds off tenacious Cal

Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Quarterback Anthony Brown shut out the noise to lead Oregon to a fourth-quarter comeback, then let the defense seal a victory over California.

Brown scored on an 11-yard keeper with 4:50 left and the ninth-ranked Ducks held off surprisingly tenacious Cal 24-17 on Friday night.

The Golden Bears took a 17-10 lead early in the final quarter, but Brown answered with a 20-yard touchdown pass to Jaylon Redd to tie it. The Ducks (5-1, 2-1 Pac-12) pulled in front on Brown's scamper into the end zone.

Cal threatened on the ensuing possession. The Golden Bears got to the Oregon 3 after Chase Garbers' fourth-down pass to Kekoa Crawford preserved the drive, but his fourth-and-2 attempt with just 2 seconds left fell incomplete.

Oregon was coming off a bye following an overtime loss at Stanford. The rebound win was the Ducks' 16th straight victory at Autzen Stadium.

California (1-5, 0-3) has not defeated a Football Bowl Subdivision opponent this

season — the team's lone win came against Sacramento State.

**No. 24 San Diego State 19, San Jose State 13 (20T):** The Aztecs needed a spark on the road, and Lucas Johnson delivered.

Johnson threw TD passes to Jesse Matthews in both overtime periods for his only completions of the game as San Diego State finally got going offensively after a rough regulation and beat the Spartans on Friday night.

Johnson relieved an ineffective and banged-up Jordon Brookshire in the fourth quarter and came through in overtime after a few shaky moments in regulation.

"We just thought we were a little stagnant and we needed to do something different," coach Brady Hoke said.

Neither team scored a touchdown in regulation before Johnson delivered a 14-yard pass on the opening possession of overtime for the Aztecs (6-0, 2-0 Mountain West).

Tyler Nevens answered with a 1-yard run for the Spartans (3-4, 1-2).

But Trenton Thompson intercepted Nick Nash to start the second overtime, setting the stage for Johnson and Matthews to end

it with a 24-yard pass on third down against man coverage to help San Diego State improve to 6-0 for the second time in 46 years.

**Clemson 17, Syracuse 14:** DJ Uiagalelei passed for 181 yards and one touchdown, Kobe Pace rushed for 76 yards and another score, and the visiting Tigers held off the Orange.

Clemson (4-2, 3-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), coming off a bye week, played its first game as a team not ranked by the AP since Nov. 22, 2014, a 28-0 win against Georgia State, and held on for the victory after Syracuse place-kicker Andre Szymt missed a 48-yard field-goal attempt with 38 seconds left.

"Until our offense grows up a little bit, we've got to find a way to win," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said. "Four one-possession games in a row, if that's who we are, that's who we are."

Syracuse (3-4, 0-3) is in the same boat, but the Orange aren't winning. They came into the game after consecutive ACC losses to Florida State and then-No. 19 Wake Forest that were decided on the final play of each game.

## Elliott eases into Texas after NASCAR-ordered cease-fire

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — It only took about a day after Chase Elliott wished Kevin Harvick "a merry offseason and Happy Christmas" for NASCAR's reigning champion to get the zinger on merchandise on his official website.

The holiday-themed gear even has its own tab in the online store.

It's the kind of trolling that typically would infuriate Harvick and incite another round of retaliation in his raging feud with Elliott.

Elliott need not worry: NASCAR squashed this rivalry in a conference call with both teams before the drivers even arrived at Texas Motor Speedway for Sunday's opening race of the third round of the playoffs. In a short message delivered to the drivers, their crew chiefs, car owners and manufacturer representatives, NASCAR last

week warned of severe consequences if Elliott and Harvick continue their fight.

Alan Gustafson, Elliott's crew chief, indicated the NASCAR intervention was to protect the integrity of the playoffs.

"The message that NASCAR has delivered is they tried to do the best job they could do in allowing it to happen and they're over it," Gustafson said on SiriusXM NASCAR Radio. "I commend them for allowing us to race, but I think they've had enough. They made that pretty clear."

Elliott is trying to advance to the championship finale to defend his Cup title. Harvick was eliminated earlier this month when he wrecked himself as Elliott closed in on his rear bumper.

Harvick had wrecked Elliott earlier in the race at Charlotte Motor Speedway as payback for Elliott costing him a win three

weeks earlier at Bristol. After the crash last Sunday at Charlotte, which briefly put Elliott in danger of playoff elimination, Elliott was told by his crew to wreck Harvick if given the chance.

He didn't have to do a thing, though, because as Elliott and Harvick headed into the tricky first turn on the hybrid road course/oval, Harvick inexplicably drove straight into the wall. He later indicated the first crash was deliberate payback for Bristol, but Harvick walked away when asked if the feud was over.

Elliott then delivered his verbal jab, team owner Rick Hendrick called on NASCAR to intervene, and NASCAR ultimately shut it down.

"They try to allow the competitors to compete and the competitors to be the ones to determine the outcome of the races and let the competitors take care of it on

their own," Gustafson said. "I think that's the way it should be, right? The story shouldn't be NASCAR; it should be about the competitors, racing and being the best they can be."

Harvick had a series-high nine wins last year but has yet to reach victory lane in 2021.

Harvick has never gone winless since joining Stewart-Haas Racing in 2014, the year of his only title, and only twice in his entire 21-year Cup career.

"It's probably one of the worst years he's ever had, and this has been a frustrating year for all of us in the organization, but for him I guarantee it's been frustrating because this is not the standard that he's used to and that he expects and that he commands," team owner Tony Stewart said. "And that's a champion. All champions are that way. They are not content and he's not content and we all know that."

# Hughes, Devils top Blackhawks in OT

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Not only did defenseman Dougie Hamilton pay instant dividends for the New Jersey Devils, Jack Hughes had a game worthy of a No. 1 overall pick.

Hughes scored his second goal of the game less than a minute into overtime, the high-priced Hamilton scored on his first shot as a Devil and New Jersey posted a 4-3 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks after blowing a late two-goal lead on Friday night.

"I mean it was awesome," said Hamilton, who signed a seven-year, \$63 million free-agent contract in the offseason. "It's nice to have that for sure. It's been a while since we had crowds but just to have them back and loud and excited, it was awesome."

The fans got a wild game.

Dominik Kubalik and Kirby Dach of Chicago forced the overtime, scoring in the final 3:53 of regulation with the Blackhawks' net empty.

Hughes got his game winner on an odd-man rush. He faked a shot in close to get Kevin Lankinen out of position and slid the puck into an open net.

"I think it was a 2 on 1 for most of the rink so I had a lot of options going through my mind during the skate and Gravy (Ryan Graves) drove the net so I had the patience and kind of moved the goalie," Hughes said. "I had an empty net after that."

Andreas Johnsson also scored for New Jersey and Jonathan Bernier made 24 saves for the Devils, who are looking to make the playoffs for the first time since the 2017-18 season.

Alex DeBrincat also scored for Chicago, which is off to an 0-1-1 start after revamping its roster. Lankinen made 25 saves after being beaten by Hamilton 17 seconds after the opening face-off.

"A lot of what they created was when we were sloppy with the puck," said Blackhawks coach Jeremy Colliton, who was happy rallying to get a point.

Dach narrowed the margin to 3-2 with Chicago on a power play after rookie Dawson Mercer was called for a four-minute high-sticking penalty at 12:49.

Dach got his goal on a rebound in close while Kubalik got his second in two games with 25.5 seconds left in regulation.

Hamilton converted a pass from Pavel Zacha between the circles and ripped a shot past Lankinen at 17 seconds. It was the fastest goal to start a season for the Devils. The old mark was 26 seconds by Zach Parise in 2006-07.

**Canucks 5, Flyers 4 (SO):** Elias Pettersson and J.T. Miller scored shootout goals and visiting Vancouver scored four times in the second period to beat Philadelphia.

Travis Konecny and Claude Giroux scored over the final 2:17 of regulation in the Flyers' season opener that tied it 4-all and sent the crowd into an absolute frenzy.

The shootout ended the late-game enthusiasm and sent Van-

couver to its first win of the season.

Vasily Podkolzin scored his first NHL goal and Alex Chiasson also had one against Carter Hart in the second period. Pettersson and Miller also scored in the second. Thatcher Demko stopped 31 shots.

Cam Atkinson and Joel Farabee also scored for Philadelphia. Hart finished with 35 saves.

**Wild 2, Ducks 1:** Marcus Foligno scored with 7.2 seconds remaining in regulation to lift visiting Minnesota over Anaheim.

Foligno beat Anthony Stolarz between his legs from the slot to give the Wild a win in their season opener after dramatically remaking their roster, including buying out franchise stalwarts Ryan Suter and Zach Parise.

Kevin Fiala had a power-play goal and Cam Talbot made 28 saves for Minnesota.

Jakob Silfverberg scored on the power play for Anaheim, and Stolarz made 41 saves.

## NBA finds high-tech option for COVID-19 testing

Associated Press

If so inclined, an NBA player could now test himself for the coronavirus and get results on his phone in no more than 20 minutes.

And the league is convinced those tests are both fast enough and accurate enough.

It's a high-tech answer to the issue of waiting for test results. The NBA has partnered with a company called Cue Health, which is providing the league with technology that allows anyone to essentially test themselves for COVID-19. A person applies the swab to the inside of their nose, places it in a reader — roughly the size of two decks of cards — connected wirelessly to their smartphone and gets the results

back much faster than most other alternatives can deliver.

The NBA, based on a study done by the Mayo Clinic, says the tests are right 97.8% of the time. Cue was in the process of using the technology for flu tests when the pandemic began, then pivoted quickly when the scope of the world's global fight against the coronavirus became clear.

"We were in clinical studies when COVID hit," Cue CEO and co-founder Ayub Khattak said. "It was a pretty quick transition for us because the platform is really modular, so making COVID-19 tests was relatively routine for us."

Testing results last season, in some cases, kept NBA teams and players waiting for hours.

The relationship with Cue and the league has now touched parts of three seasons. It essentially began when the league was assembling plans for the NBA's restart bubble to finish the 2019-20 season, and the technology has only continued evolving since. The test is of the molecular diagnostic variety and is authorized by the Food and Drug Administration.

"We have great experience with the Cue test and are confident in its effectiveness to identify cases when testing is necessary in our highly vaccinated population," said Jimmie Mancell, the team physician for the Memphis Grizzlies and vice president of the NBA Physician's Association. "The Cue

test's accuracy is more than acceptable for point of care screening, as no test is 100% accurate. If clinical suspicion remains high, we are capable of validating the results with additional testing."

For now, it doesn't seem likely that many in the NBA will have to use the Cue test on a regular basis.

Those who are fully vaccinated will not be tested regularly; only the players who are unvaccinated — roughly 4% of the league, or basically one per team on average — will be subject to taking the tests on practice, meeting and travel days.

Game-day clearance for those players will still require a conventional PCR test.