

## Colin Powell, pioneering general, dies at 84

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Colin Powell, who served Democratic and Republican presidents in war and peace but whose sterling reputation was forever stained by his faulty claims to justify the U.S. war in Iraq, died Monday of COVID-19 complications. He was 84.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, Powell rose to the rank of four-star general and in 1989 became the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In that role, he oversaw the U.S. invasion of Panama and later the U.S. invasion of Kuwait to oust the Iraqi army in 1991.

But his legacy was marred when, in 2003, he went before the U.N. Security Council as secretary of state and made the case for U.S. war against Iraq at a moment of great international skepticism. He cited faulty information claiming Saddam Hussein had secretly stashed weapons of mass destruction. Iraq's claims that it had no such weapons represented "a web of lies," he told the world body.

In announcing his death on social media, Powell's family said he had been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus.

"We have lost a remarkable and loving husband, father and grandfather and a great American," the family said. Powell had been treated at Walter Reed National Medical Center in Bethesda, Md.

Peggy Cifrino, Powell's longtime aide, said he had been treated over the past few years for multiple myeloma, a blood cancer.

Multiple myeloma impairs the body's ability to fight infection, and studies have shown that those cancer patients don't get as much protection from the COVID-19 vaccines as healthier people.

Powell was the first American official to publicly lay the blame for the 9/11 terrorist attacks on Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and made a lightning trip to Pakistan in October 2001 to demand that then-Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf cooperate with the United States in going after the Afghanistan-based group, which also had a presence in Pakistan, where bin Laden was later killed.

As President George W. Bush's first secretary of state, Powell led a State Department that was dubious of the military and intelligence communities' conviction

that Hussein possessed or was developing weapons of mass destruction. And yet, despite his reservations, he presented the administration's case that Hussein indeed posed a major regional and global threat in a speech to the U.N. Security Council in the run-up to the war.

That speech, replete with his display of a vial of what he said could have been a biological weapon, was later derided as a low point in Powell's career, although he had removed some elements that he deemed to have been based on poor intelligence assessments.

Bush said Monday that he and former first lady Laura Bush were "deeply saddened" by Powell's death.

"He was a great public servant" and "widely respected at home and abroad," Bush said. "And most important, Colin was a family man and a friend. Laura and I send Alma and their children our sincere condolences as they remember the life of a great man."

Powell gained national prominence under Republican presidents and considered a presidential bid of his own, but ultimately

moved away from the party.

In 1962, he was one of more than 16,000 military advisers sent to South Vietnam by President John F. Kennedy. A series of promotions led to the Pentagon and assignment as a military assistant to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, who became his unofficial sponsor. He later became commander of the Army's 5th Corps in Germany and later was national security assistant to President Ronald Reagan.

During his term as Joint Chiefs chairman, his approach to war became known as the Powell Doctrine, which held that the U.S. should only commit forces in a conflict if it has clear and achievable objectives with public support, sufficient firepower and a strategy for ending the war.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, a retired Army general and the first Black Pentagon chief, said the news of Powell's death left "a hole in my heart."

"The world lost one of the greatest leaders that we have ever witnessed," Austin said. "Alma lost a great husband and the family lost a tremendous father and I lost a tremendous personal friend and mentor."

## STRATCOM chief: China's nuke capability advancing

**By JOHN VANDIVER**

*Stars and Stripes*

STUTTGART, Germany — China's nuclear capability is advancing at a breathtaking pace, U.S. Strategic Command's top officer said Monday following a report that Beijing tested a nuclear-capable hypersonic missile that orbited the Earth before closing on its target.

"It almost seems like we can't go through a month without some new revelation coming about Chi-

na," said Adm. Charles Richard, who heads the U.S. nuclear weapons mission. "I am not surprised at reports like this. I won't be surprised when another report comes next month."

Richard is in Europe this week for talks with U.S. Africa Command's Gen. Stephen Townsend and U.S. European Command's Gen. Tod Wolters, who also serves as NATO's supreme allied commander. His visit comes amid a report showcasing the

kind of military advances that Richard refers to as China's "strategic breakout," which, when combined with Russia's nuclear capabilities, has the United States in "uncharted waters." Never before has the U.S. had to simultaneously deter two potential adversaries with such capable nuclear arsenals, Richard said in an interview with Stars and Stripes.

On Saturday, Financial Times reported that China recently carried out a hypersonic missile test

that U.S. intelligence officials said took them by surprise.

The report, citing five unidentified U.S. government sources, said the Chinese launched a rocket carrying a hypersonic glide vehicle that flew through low orbit.

Richard declined to confirm the details in the report. But the "breathtaking expansion of strategic and nuclear capabilities" means that "China can now execute any possible nuclear employment strategy," he said.

# China condemns trips by US, Canada ships

By SETH ROBSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

China's military has complained about the latest transit of the Taiwan Strait by foreign warships, this time involving U.S. and Canadian vessels.

The guided-missile destroyer USS Dewey and the frigate HMCS Winnipeg sailed through the contested waterway last week, Cmdr. Hayley Sims, a spokeswoman for the U.S. 7th Fleet at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, said by phone Monday.

The transits happened Thurs-

day and Friday, she said in a follow-up email.

"Dewey's and Winnipeg's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the commitment of the United States and our allies and partners to a free and open Indo-Pacific," she said in the email. "Cooperation like this represents the centerpiece of our approach to a secure and prosperous region."

China "sent naval and air forces to track and monitor the two warships in the whole course," Senior Col. Shi Yi, spo-

kesperson for the Eastern Theater Command, was quoted as saying Sunday by the official China Military website.

The "US and Canada made provocations with odious nature and stirred up troubles in cahoots, which seriously jeopardized the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," according to Shi's statement. "Taiwan is a part of China. Troops of the [People's Liberation Army] Eastern Theater Command are staying on high alert at all times, and ready to resolutely counter all threats and

provocations."

China recently conducted beach-storming drills that appeared to simulate an invasion of Taiwan, which China regards as a rebellious province. In a separate demonstration, nearly 150 Chinese warplanes flew into Taiwan's air defense identification zone over a four-day period beginning Oct. 1.

Last week's strait transit was the 10th by a U.S. warship this year. The guided-missile destroyer USS Barry sailed through the waterway on Sept. 17.

## Naval officer gets 3 years in fatal crash

By ALEX WILSON  
AND HANA KUSUMOTO  
*Stars and Stripes*

NUMAZU, Japan — A U.S. naval officer charged in a car crash that killed two pedestrians broke down in tears as a Japanese judge found him guilty of negligent driving on Monday.

Lt. Ridge Hanneman Alkonis, 33, was sentenced to three years in Japanese prison during a hearing at Shizuoka District Court in Numazu, a punishment just short of the 4½-year-sentence requested by prosecutors. Alkonis' defense attorneys, on the other hand, had asked for a suspended sentence, effectively a term of probation.

Alkonis was charged with negligent driving causing death and injury after his car crashed into pedestrians and parked vehicles at a soba restaurant parking lot in Fujinomiya on May 29. The city is in Shizuoka prefecture, about two hours from Yokosuka Naval Base, where he's stationed as a weapons officer on the guided-missile destroyer USS Benfold.

The incident resulted in the

death that day of a woman, 85, and her son-in-law, 54, who died in a hospital on June 11. A second woman, 53, the daughter and wife of the victims, suffered bruises to her knees and elbows.

Prior to the sentencing, Alkonis in court thanked the victims' family for agreeing to an unspecified monetary settlement in a separate civil case against him and then apologized for his actions.

"I am so sorry for all the pain and suffering I caused because of this accident," he said.

Alkonis testified on Aug. 24 that he lost consciousness while driving due to a case of acute mountain sickness, a common set of symptoms that occur with a trip to high altitude. The day of the accident, Alkonis, his wife and their three children had taken a trip to Mount Fuji.

The court ultimately rejected Alkonis' defense, however, according to Shizuoka District Judge Kumiko Maesawa. She pointed to Alkonis' own testimony from the first hearing, in which he said he had felt fine when he left Mount Fuji.

## Japan leader urges greater military capability, spending

*Associated Press*

TOKYO — Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called for increases in Japan's military capability and spending in response to what he described as growing threats from China and North Korea in a public debate with eight other political party leaders ahead of upcoming national elections.

The party leaders also discussed ways to mend the pandemic-hit economy and respond to any future waves of the coronavirus — issues expected to feature prominently in the Oct. 31 elections.

As head of the governing Liberal Democratic Party, Kishida was selected prime minister earlier this month and called the election for the 465-seat lower house, the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber Diet, or parliament. He said he is seeking a public mandate for his leadership and policies. Official campaigning for the election begins Tuesday.

Kishida said Japan's security environment has been rapidly changing. He noted that

North Korea likely possesses several hundred missiles capable of reaching Japan, and said Japan should consider acquiring the ability to strike back at an enemy base as a deterrence option allowable under international law.

Preemptive strike and strike-back options are controversial and critics have said they go beyond Japan's war-renouncing Constitution, which strictly limits the use of force to self-defense.

"We have to prepare for realistic possibilities to protect our people and discuss a wide range of options," he said.

Separately on Monday, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno also proposed stepping up Japan's missile defense capability, noting China's reported test of a supersonic missile in August.

Matsuno called it a "new threat" that conventional equipment have difficulty dealing with. He said Japan will step up its detection, tracking and shooting-down capability of "any aerial threat."

# Biden faces critical 2 weeks for agenda

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is entering a crucial two weeks for his ambitious agenda, racing to conclude contentious congressional negotiations ahead of both domestic deadlines and a chance to showcase his administration's accomplishments on a global stage.

Biden and his fellow Democrats are struggling to bridge intraparty divides by month's end to pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a larger social services package. The president hopes to nail down both before Air Force One lifts off for Europe on Oct. 28 for a pair of world leader summits, including the most ambitious climate change meeting in years.

But that goal has been jeopardized by fractures among Democrats, imperiling the fate of promised sweeping new efforts

to grapple with climate change. There's also rising anxiety within the party about a bellwether gubernatorial contest in Virginia and looming Senate fights over the federal debt limit and government funding that could distract from getting the president's agenda across the finish line.

Biden is trying to stabilize his presidency after a difficult stretch marked by the tumultuous end of the Afghanistan War, a diplomatic spat with a longtime ally and a surge in COVID-19 cases that rattled the nation's economic recovery and sent his poll numbers tumbling. His team has continued its strategy — one that served it well during the campaign and earlier this year — of blocking out the outside noise to stay focused on a singular mission, this time to pass the two-part package that will give Democrats a platform

on which to run in next year's midterm elections.

"These bills, in my view, are literally about competitiveness versus complacency, about opportunity versus decay, and about leading the world or continuing to let the world move by us," Biden said Friday while pushing the legislation in Connecticut.

Yet beneath the White House's pleas for patience — reminding people that hard things take time — is a bubbling sense of urgency that a deal needs to be struck rapidly.

For the White House, there are the explicit target dates, including an end-of-month deadline on transportation funding and Biden's upcoming foreign trip. But there are also more abstract imperatives: proving Democrats can deliver on their promises to voters and protect-

ing Biden's waning political capital.

With new urgency, the administration has sent signals to Capitol Hill in recent days that it is time to wrap up negotiations, that a deal needs to be reached, according to two White House officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations. Biden himself has expressed impatience and will be increasing his own personal outreach this week to push lawmakers to find a compromise and bring the bills to a vote, the officials said.

West Wing officials are still optimistic that an agreement will ultimately be struck, but there are also fears that the messy, drawn-out negotiation has clouded the tangible benefits of what Biden aims to deliver to voters.

## Large cargo ship dragged pipeline, Coast Guard says

Associated Press

Investigators believe a 1,200-foot cargo ship dragging anchor in rough seas caught an underwater oil pipeline and pulled it across the seafloor, months before a leak from the line fouled the Southern California coastline with crude.

A team of federal investigators trying to chase down the cause of the spill boarded the Panama-registered MSC DANIT just hours after the massive ship arrived this weekend off the Port of Long Beach, the same area where the leak was discovered in early October. During a visit by the ship during a heavy storm in January, investigators believe its anchor dragged for an unknown distance before striking the 16-inch steel pipe, Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Sondra-Kay Kneen said Sunday.

The impact would have knocked an inch-thick concrete casing off the pipe and pulled it more than 100 feet, bending but

not breaking the line, Kneen said.

Still undetermined is whether the impact caused the October leak, or if the line was hit by something else at a later date or failed due to a preexisting problem, Kneen said.

"We're still looking at multiple vessels and scenarios," she said.

The Coast Guard on Saturday designated the owner and operator as parties of interest in its investigation into the spill, estimated to have released about 25,000 gallons of crude into the water, killing birds, fish and mammals.

The accident just a few miles off Huntington Beach in Orange County fouled beaches and wetlands and led to temporary closures for cleanup work. While not as bad as initially feared, it has reignited the debate over offshore drilling in federal waters in the Pacific, where hundreds of miles of pipelines were installed decades ago.

## Crews make gains against Southern California blaze

Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Fire crews made significant progress overnight against a wildfire burning for nearly a week in Southern California coastal mountains, officials said Sunday.

More than 1,600 firefighters were battling the blaze in the Santa Ynez Mountains west of Santa Barbara on land and by air. They were able to stop its forward growth, and the blaze was 78% contained, federal officials said.

The Alisal Fire started last Monday and has scorched nearly 27 square miles. It is threatening about 400 structures.

A 1½-acre spot fire that ignited outside a retardant line on the blaze's northwestern corner was quickly contained by firefighters who used bulldozer and hand lines on the ground

and doused the flames with water from the air. On Sunday, few hot spots remained, and fire crews were focused on increasing containment.

Cooler temperatures were forecast for Sunday, but winds with gusts around 20 mph were still expected in the area, officials said.

The fire erupted during fierce winds last week and spread rapidly down the face of the mountain range, leaping a highway and railroad to the beach below. Firefighting weather greatly improved since then, allowing airplanes and helicopters to bombard the fire with retardant and water.

California wildfires have scorched nearly 3,900 square miles this year and destroyed more than 3,600 homes, businesses and other structures, according to the state Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.



# US seeks to free missionaries taken in Haiti

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — American officials are working with Haitian authorities to try to secure the release of 12 adults and five children connected with a U.S.-based missionary group who were abducted over the weekend by a gang notorious for killings, kidnappings and extortion.

Police say the group was snatched Saturday by the 400 Mawozo gang in the community of Ganthier, which lies within the gang's territory in the Croix-des-Bouquets area east of the capital of Port-au-Prince.

As authorities sought the release of the 16 Americans and one Canadian from the Ohio-based

Christian Aid Ministries, local unions and other organizations launched a strike Monday to protest Haiti's worsening security. The streets of Port-au-Prince and other cities were largely empty as public transportation drivers stayed home. Businesses and schools also closed to join the strike.

Barricades of burning tires closed off some streets in the capital and in other cities, including Les Cayes in southern Haiti, with some people throwing rocks at the occasional car that drove past.

Only a handful of moto taxi drivers like Marc Saint-Pierre zoomed through Port-au-Prince looking for customers. He said he

was attacked for working on Monday but had no choice.

"I have children, and I have to bring food to my house today."

The Western Hemisphere's poorest nation is again struggling with a spike in gang-related kidnappings that had diminished in recent months, after President Jovenel Moïse was fatally shot at his private residence on July 7 and a magnitude 7.2 earthquake killed more than 2,200 people in August.

"Everyone is concerned. They're kidnapping from all social classes," Méhu Changeux, president of Haiti's Association of Owners and Drivers, told Magik9 radio station.

He said the work stoppage would continue until the government could guarantee people's safety.

The kidnapping of the missionaries came just days after high-level U.S. officials visited Haiti and promised more resources for Haiti's National Police, including another \$15 million to help reduce gang violence, which this year has displaced thousands of Haitians who now live in temporary shelters in increasingly unhygienic conditions.

The U.S. State Department said Sunday that it was in contact with senior Haitian authorities and would continue to work with them and interagency partners.

## Kids in county's care found sleeping on floor

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — A central California county executive has pledged immediate changes after a news report revealed that vulnerable children removed from their families were living in deplorable conditions inside an office building — sleeping on conference tables, eating fast food and urinating into water bottles until social workers could find homes for them.

Fresno County Administrative Officer Jean Rousseau apologized Thursday to the children forced to stay at the office building that is the main hub for Fresno County's Child Protective Services and to the workers who oversee them, The Fresno Bee reported Friday. The news organization first reported about the conditions on Wednesday.

"When I saw the conditions in the office, when I saw the mats being used as beds, I said, 'This is unacceptable.' I should have known earlier, and we're going to rectify it immediately," Rousseau said, expressing frustration that he was not informed about the situation sooner.

Social workers told The Bee the county's child welfare system is understaffed and overwhelmed, and that there's a lack of housing for children who have been removed from their homes for their own safety. As a result, some children stay at the offices of Child Protective Services until foster homes can be found for them.

The Fresno Bee described children sleeping on conference tables or on yoga mats on the floor in rooms with lights that do not turn off.

They share a single bathroom, cannot shower and use water bottles to relieve themselves, the news outlet reported.

Lorraine Ramirez, a veteran social worker with Fresno County Department of Social Services' child welfare agency, told The Bee that children stay in the building for a few hours to several weeks. Some days, there are no children in the building and on other days there can be a dozen, she said. They vary in age and in their medical needs.

"The conditions that the kids are staying in is not tolerable, it's inhumane," Ramirez said.

## Protesters breach lighting of Beijing Winter Games torch

Associated Press

ANCIENT OLYMPIA, Greece — Three activists protesting human rights abuses in China broke into the archaeological site where the flame lighting ceremony for the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics was being held Monday and ran toward the newly lit torch holding a Tibetan flag and a banner that read "No genocide games."

The protesters climbed over a fence to enter the grounds and attempted to reach the Temple of Hera, where the ceremony was being held. They were thrown to the ground by police and detained.

"How can Beijing be allowed to host the Olympics given that they are committing a genocide against the Uyghurs?" one protester said, referring to the treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's northwest region of Xinjiang.

The flame was lit at the birthplace of the ancient Olympics in southern Greece under heavy police security.

With the public excluded amid pandemic safety measures and a cloudless sky over the ver-

dant site of Ancient Olympia, the flame was ceremoniously kindled using the rays of the sun before being carried off on a mini torch relay.

Earlier, other protesters were detained by Greek police before they could reach the site. Pro-democracy protests had also broken out during the lighting ceremony for the 2008 Beijing Summer Games.

Despite widespread international criticism of China's human rights record, the International Olympic Committee has shied away from the issue, saying it falls outside its remit.

In his speech in the ancient stadium of Olympia, IOC President Thomas Bach stressed that the modern Games must be "respected as politically neutral ground."

"Only this political neutrality ensures that the Olympic Games can stand above and beyond the political differences that exist in our times," he said. "The Olympic Games cannot address all the challenges in our world. But they set an example for a world where everyone respects the same rules and one another."

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Delay in apartments made from shipping containers

**UT** SALT LAKE CITY — The opening of affordable apartments in a six-story building made out of recycled shipping containers will be delayed because of a shortage of materials.

Eco Box Fabricators owner Rod Newman said a delay in getting roofing materials and an elevator have pushed back the opening to the end of the year.

The project called Box 500 had been scheduled to open over the summer in Salt Lake City with affordable rents.

When completed, the shipping container building will have 48 studio apartments, 18 one-bedroom and 17 two-bedroom apartments. Studios are 320 square feet, while one- and two-bedrooms are about 640 square feet.

### New biking trail opens in popular state park

**IN** NASHVILLE — One of Indiana's most popular state parks now has a new section of mountain bike trail as it continues expanding that network.

A ceremony opening the 1.6-mile Limekiln East trail in Brown County State Park was held earlier this month for the beginner-level mountain bike trail.

The trail is the second of three new routes being completed in the park with a \$200,000 state grant to the Hoosier Mountain Bike Association for developing 7.5 miles of new mountain bike trails, according to the Indiana Department of

Natural Resources.

The projects will give the southern Indiana park 43.5 miles of mountain bike trails that are also open to hikers and trail runners.

### State's largest town solar array unveiled

**NH** HANOVER — New solar arrays in Hanover are expected to generate enough electricity to meet nearly 100% of the town's municipal electricity needs through group metering.

The town unveiled two adjacent ground-mounted arrays consisting of more than 4,000 panels on Thursday. They were installed by Enfield-based Re-Vision Energy, which said the project is the largest single-site municipal solar array in New Hampshire.

The purchase agreement will allow the town to acquire clean electricity at below-market rates for five years and then acquire the solar arrays as a long-term clean energy endowment.

### Gun metal to be used to make watches, art

**ME** FALMOUTH — A police department on Saturday destroyed a cache of weapons that's going to be melted down to be transformed into peaceful products.

Several dozen guns that were seized or turned in were rendered inoperable in the parking lot of the Falmouth Police Department. They'll be melted down and converted into a trademarked steel called Humanium Metal.

The event marked the U.S. launch by a Swedish develop-

ment partner that's marketing Humanium Metal. The product is being used in a number of products including watches, jewelry and art.

Over the next year, the Swedish organization IM aims to partner in at least five major cities with local law enforcement, gun-safety advocacy groups and others seeking to address gun-related violence.

### Ex-teacher found guilty of luring by computer

**ND** FARGO — A former West Fargo teacher has been convicted of luring a minor by computer.

Prosecutors said 59-year-old Ron Thompson believed he was communicating with a 14-year-old girl.

KFGO reported West Fargo police received a tip from an out-of-state investigator on Jan. 28 that Thompson was attempting to solicit a minor online. The "minor" who Thompson was attempting to lure was actually an out-of-state investigator posing as a minor.

Assistant Cass County States Attorney Ryan Younggren said the jury deliberated about four hours before reaching a verdict Friday. Younggren said Thompson faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine. A pre-sentence investigation was ordered. A sentencing date has not been set.

### Driver, 11, 2 teens arrested after chase

**NE** OMAHA — An 11-year-old driver and two 14-year-old passengers were arrested Saturday after a police chase that topped 100 mph.

The Nebraska State Patrol said the chase involving a Jeep Gladiator that had been stolen in Lincoln took place on Interstate 80 in Omaha around 1 a.m. Saturday.

A trooper who spotted the stolen Jeep tried to stop the three boys, but the vehicle stopped only briefly before the boys fled, according to the Omaha World-Herald. The State Patrol said a handgun was thrown from the window of the Jeep as the vehicle reached speeds of 110 mph.

Then the Jeep stopped voluntarily and all three boys were taken into custody after a second handgun was found. Investigators determined that both handguns had been stolen.

### 'Hamburglar' sought in caper at McDonald's

**NY** NEW YORK — In a real-life "Hamburglar" caper, police in New York City are searching for a man they said stole the McDonald's employee's credit card and used it to buy food there.

They said the man had entered the fast food restaurant last week in the Union Square area of Manhattan through the basement. Once inside, he stole several wallets from an employee break room and then made his purchase.

Police released security camera photos of the man showing him wearing an "I (heart) New York" t-shirt. He was still at large on Sunday.

"The Hamburglar" was a character once used in McDonald's commercials.

— From wire reports

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# Braves take 2-0 NLCS lead over Dodgers

Associated Press

More late-night magic has the Atlanta Braves just two wins away from the World Series.

Eddie Rosario delivered Atlanta's second straight walk-off hit in the ninth inning, giving the Braves a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday in Atlanta and a commanding 2-0 lead in the NL Championship Series.

Rosario's fourth hit of the game was a two-out single off shortstop Corey Seager's glove after the Braves twice rallied from two-run deficits.

"These guys have always been like that," Atlanta manager Brian Snitker said. "They're never out."

Rosario delivered a 105 mph scorcher up the middle on the first pitch after closer Kenley Jansen relieved. Seager tried for a backhand snag, but the ball skidded off his glove into center field.

There was no chance to get Dansby Swanson, who raced around from second with the winning run, dropping his helmet as he crossed the plate — a virtual repeat of Game 1 when Austin Riley came through with a winning hit in the ninth for a 3-2 victory.

The series resumes in Los Angeles, where Game 3 in the best-of-seven series is set for Tuesday night.

"We all have that dream, that desire to get to the World Series," Rosario said. "That's just what we're going for."

The Braves are halfway to their first World Series appearance since 1999, but they can't celebrate just yet.

A year ago, Atlanta held leads of 2-0 and

3-1 over the Dodgers in the NLCS, only to lose the last three games of a series played in Arlington, Texas, because of the pandemic. Los Angeles went on to beat Tampa Bay in the World Series, while the Braves stewed for another shot.

They rallied in the eighth off Julio Urias, who pitched three hitless innings to finish Game 7 against the Braves last October.

Seventy-three of 87 teams taking 2-0 leads in best-of-seven baseball postseason series have gone on to win.

"We were up on them 2-0 last year, so it's like one of those things where you can't stop now, you got to continue to apply the pressure and come out every day and get after it," Riley said.

Seager and Atlanta's Joc Pederson traded two-run homers — Pederson adding to his "Joctober" lore with his third homer of this postseason and first off his longtime team — before Chris Taylor put the Dodgers ahead again with a two-run, bases-loaded hit in the seventh.

But it was another night of wasted chances for Los Angeles, which went 1-for-10 with runners in scoring position and dropped to 2-for-18 in the series.

Six outs from tying the series, the Dodgers brought in expected Game 4 starter Urias to protect the lead before turning it over to Brusdar Graterol in the ninth.

Rosario led off with a single and tagged up to move up to second on Freddie Freeman's flyout.

Ozzie Albies lined to right for another hit off Urias. Rosario zipped around third as third base coach Ron Washington sent him

home, just beating the throw with a brilliant slide that avoided catcher Will Smith's swipe.

Then it was Riley coming through again. He ripped a double to wall in right center, bringing Albies all the way around from first with the tying run as Washington made another aggressive send.

Travis d'Arnaud led off the ninth with a broken-bat single to center on a 101 mph pitch from Graterol and was replaced by pinch-runner Cristian Pache. Swanson tried to move Pache along with a bunt, only to have the attempted sacrifice result in a forceout at second when Seager made a backhand stop on Graterol's bounced, offline throw.

Swanson managed to get to second himself when Guillermo Heredia grounded out to third base. The Dodgers turned to their closer to face Rosario, who connected on the very first pitch for the fifth walk-off in 23 postseason games this year.

Braves closer Will Smith picked up the win with a 1-2-3 ninth, breathing a big sigh of relief when Trea Turner's drive was caught at the base of the wall in left.

Scherzer, who had earned his first career save in the deciding game of the Division Series against San Francisco, returned to a more familiar role as Game 2 starter.

But, with only two days of rest between appearances, he departed after just 4½ innings, having thrown 79 pitches. He surrendered four hits, two runs, one walk and struck out seven.

"My arm was dead," Scherzer said. "I could tell when I was warming up that it was still tired."

## Head coach Orgeron leaving LSU after season

Associated Press

For Ed Orgeron, LSU's Cajun coach, a dream job is coming to an end.

LSU and Orgeron have agreed to part ways after this season, 21 months after he coached the Tigers to a national championship with what is considered one of the greatest teams in college football history.

"I'm always going to appreciate my time here my time here. I have no regrets," Orgeron said while sitting next to athletic director Scott Woodward, who made the announcement at

LSU's Baton Rouge campus Sunday night.

"We haven't won enough games the last two years," Orgeron continued. "I totally get it."

Woodward spoke fondly of Orgeron even as he outlined what compelled him to make a change.

"Ed Orgeron's a friend. We're both Louisiana guys through and through. We both deeply care about this football program. And I will always be grateful for coach Orgeron for leading the Tigers to the greatest season in the history of college football," Woodward began. "With that said, the job re-

quires us to set personal feelings aside.

"We expect to compete for SEC and national championships year in and year out," Woodward added. "Our last two seasons have simply not met that standard."

Orgeron, who signed a six-year extension after the 2019 season, will receive a buyout of \$16.9 million in a variety of installments made through 2025, according to copies of a new employment agreement for the rest this season and termination agreement, both provided by LSU.

While the timing of the an-

nouncement — the day after the Tigers (4-3) upset Florida — came as a surprise, the end for Coach O at LSU seemed to be approaching after a blowout loss to Kentucky last week.

That's when Orgeron said he recognized "we were heading down road wasn't positive for LSU and there was going to be a change made ... I just knew it wasn't LSU style football. It wasn't pretty. I was embarrassed."

LSU is 9-8 since beating Clemson in New Orleans for the national championship on Jan. 13, 2020.



# Murray, Cards crush Browns

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — As loud music blasted inside Arizona's locker room, players danced and could be heard shouting "undefeated" while coach Kliff Kingsbury smiled at the wild scene via a FaceTime call from home.

The Cardinals survived — undaunted and perfect.

Kyler Murray threw four touchdown passes as the Cardinals remained the NFL's only unbeaten team and continued their best start since 1974 — without Kingsbury on Sunday — with a 37-14 win over the battered, reeling Cleveland Browns.

The Cardinals (6-0) built a 20-0 lead in the first half and kept their perfect record intact despite not having Kingsbury or star linebacker Chandler Jones, who both tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

"It was a rough week," said Cardinals defensive coordinator Vance Joseph, who took on some of Kingsbury's duties. "No one wavered. No one blinked. Every day it was bad news."

Murray connected with DeAndre Hopkins for two TDs, and Arizona's shifty quarterback came up with a clutch play whenever the Cardinals needed one.

Following the game, owner Michael Bid-

well reached Kingsbury, who was able to talk to several players and coaches.

"I couldn't really hear him because it was pretty loud," said Murray, who joked that Kingsbury's absence allowed him to freelance a little more. "It might be a product of not having a coach out there. I have a little more leeway without him."

Murray said he and his teammates weren't unfazed by the succession of COVID-19 cases.

"I think we were even more excited because the odds seemed stacked against us," Murray said. "It was on us to give them our best."

The Browns (3-3) have lost two straight under coach Kevin Stefanski for the first time and Cleveland has bigger concerns, most notably a growing list of major injuries.

The latest was to running back Kareem Hunt, carted to the locker room in the fourth quarter with a calf injury. Coach Kevin Stefanski said Hunt did not injure his Achilles tendon and will undergo further imaging Monday.

Cleveland was already missing star running back Nick Chubb (calf) and the Browns, who host Denver on Thursday night, played without both their starting offensive tackles.

# Ravens shut down Herbert, Chargers

Associate Press

BALTIMORE — This Baltimore victory ended with the backup quarterback taking a knee.

No overtime, no last-second kick. No late drama, period.

Lamar Jackson threw for 167 yards and a touchdown, and the Ravens frustrated Justin Herbert and the Los Angeles Chargers in a 34-6 win Sunday. Baltimore completely controlled this matchup of division leaders in a victory that should resonate throughout the AFC.

"This is definitely the first game this season where we played complementary football — all three phases," linebacker Josh Bynes said. "We definitely appreciate these kind of games, especially what we've been through these last several weeks."

The Ravens (5-1) have won five straight. They've already split two overtime games this season, and they needed a late fumble to hold off Kansas City and a 66-yard field goal to beat Detroit. Even in a convincing win at Denver, they had to fight to the finish to keep their streak of 100-yard rushing games alive.

That streak ended a week ago, but Baltimore re-established its running game against the Chargers and never looked back after scoring the game's first 17 points.

Los Angeles, meanwhile, came up empty on its first five possessions and was held under 16 points for only the second time since drafting Herbert before last season. This dud of an offensive performance came a week after the Chargers (4-2) scored 47 points in a win over Cleveland.

"It's a lot of looks that we didn't see on film that they kind of constructed for us," Herbert said. "They did a great job of disguising their looks and bringing pressure from one way and hiding from another. Looks that they haven't showed all season, looks that we have to be better at adjusting to during a game."

Each of Baltimore's three veteran running backs — Latavius Murray, Le'Veon Bell and Devonta Freeman — scored a touchdown.

Jackson went 19 of 27 with two interceptions. Herbert was 22 of 39 for 195 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

# Steelers force OT fumble, top Seahawks

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin insists there is nothing "mystical" to the way outside linebacker T.J. Watt goes about his business.

The perennial All-Pro is talented. He's focused, he's relentless and as of last month, he's also one of the highest-paid defenders in the NFL.

And he's playing like he's worth every penny.

Watt strip-sacked Seattle quarterback Geno Smith in the waning minutes of overtime on Sunday night. Teammate Devin Bush pounced on the loose ball to set up Chris Boswell's game-winning 36-yard field goal as the Steelers escaped with a 23-20 victory.

"I don't think anyone is surprised about his ability to deliver in those moments," Tomlin said of Watt.

Maybe, but Watt's second sack of the night, the one that helped the Steelers (3-3) win their second straight to reach .500 heading into their bye week, began innocently. Watt wasn't sure he had a path to Smith only to somehow thread his way to the former starter turned longtime backup. One mighty chop at Smith's right arm and the ball was on the ground.

"I don't think I had a good rush or anything," Watt said.

In the end, it didn't matter. Watt finished a remarkable game in which he knocked down three passes and recorded three tackles for loss by making the play that allowed Pittsburgh to avoid a deflating setback.

The Steelers have won two straight following a 1-3 start and will have two weeks to get ready for a visit to Cleveland on Halloween.

"It's kind of crazy, don't know if it's really sunk in yet," quarterback Ben Roethlisberger said. "We got to our goal, which was to get to .500 before the bye, get healthy and get prepared for a long stretch."

Roethlisberger threw for 229 yards and a touchdown, and rookie running back Najee Harris added 83 yards rushing and caught his second scoring toss of the season. Eric Ebron scored the third rushing touchdown of his career as the Steelers found creative ways to move the ball with star wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster lost for the season with a shoulder injury.

## Prescott TD pass lifts Dallas in OT

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Dak Prescott wasn't going to let anything prevent him from enjoying the moment.

While his team celebrated around him after he threw a 35-yard touchdown pass to Cee-Dee Lamb in overtime to beat the New England Patriots 35-29 Sunday, the Cowboys quarterback felt pain in his right calf.

It wasn't the perfect ending, but he was willing to accept it after he helped Dallas survive a wild finish and earn its first victory over Bill Belichick's Patriots.

"Just came down funny. Didn't like what I felt," said Prescott, who wore a walking boot to his postgame news conference. "Life keeps throwing punches and I'm gonna keep throwing them back ... But I'll be fine. I'll promise you that."

Dallas hadn't won at New England since 1987 and was 0-5 against Belichick. The Cowboys (5-1) have won five straight, their longest winning streak since 2016.

The Cowboys led 17-14 entering the fourth quarter, and that's when the fun began. The teams traded five scores in the period and three in the final 2 1/2 minutes.

"We went toe-to-toe with them for 60 minutes," Belichick said. "They just made a few more plays than we did."

Prescott, whose calf injury will be evaluated further on Monday, finished 35-for-51 for 445 yards, three touchdowns and an interception. Lamb had nine catches for 149 yards and two scores.

Patriots quarterback Mac Jones finished 15-for-21 for 229 yards, two touchdowns and that critical interception, and Damien Harris rushed 18 times for 101 yards and a score.

# Texas win makes Larson first into Cup final four

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — Kyle Larson was willing to play it smart in the closing laps at Texas. He also had a fast car that stayed in front through all of the restarts to secure the first of the four championship-contending spots in NASCAR's season finale.

Larson led 256 of 334 laps at the 1 1/2-mile track and got his eighth win this season. He led the final 218 laps, staying in front through seven restarts in the final stage that included three late after incidents involving playoff contenders Joey Logano, Denny Hamlin and Martin Truex Jr.

"Even if I didn't come out with the lead or the win or whatever, I wanted to play it smart and take what I could get," Larson said. "But I got good shoves from behind every restart, and it allowed me to get clear into the lead into (Turn) 1 and do some blocking for a few laps. ... We had a great race car to allow me to be aggressive with the blocks, and fast too."

Already with a significant points lead, after closing out the second elimination round a week earlier with a win on the road course at Charlotte, the opening

race in the round of eight provided the first chance to get into the championship four Nov. 7 in Phoenix.

There were two laps remaining on the final restart, and with a push from playoff contender Brad Keselowski, Larson was able to stay out in front of teammate William Byron.

"Kyle really deserves it, they've been awesome all year, flawless on pit road and they do everything right," Byron said.

The seven remaining playoff contenders leave Texas with two more chances to advance for a title shot, with Kansas and Martinsville left before the finale. Texas had always been the eighth of the final 10 races, and the middle race of the third and final elimination round, before this season.

Ryan Blaney, Hamlin and Kyle Busch are above the cutline going to Kansas, where Busch won earlier this year. Defending Cup champion Chase Elliott is fifth, ahead of Keselowski, Truex and Logano.

Larson's first appearance in NASCAR's championship four comes in the same season that Rick Hendrick gave him an opportunity to get back into the Cup Series. He also won at Texas

in the \$1 million, non-points All-Star race in June.

The 29-year-old Larson, who made his Cup debut in 2013, also won in his previous All-Star race, in 2019 with Chip Ganassi Racing. But he missed the big-money exhibition last year and the rest of that season while suspended for using a racial slur during a livestream while in a virtual race when NASCAR was on pause during the pandemic. That cost him nearly every sponsor, his seat with Ganassi and nearly his career before Hendrick signed him before this season.

"We're going to race for a championship. This is crazy," Larson said.

Keselowski's fourth-place finish was the best among the other playoff drivers, with Blaney, Elliott and Busch finishing sixth through eighth.

"Well, we didn't need all those yellows," Keselowski said. "We needed the long runs to be able to keep them honest. We had long-run speed, but the 5 and 24 were just blistering fast on the restart and drove away from me. I just wanted some laps to let their stuff wear down."

## Tierney powers Senators past Stars

Associated Press

OTTAWA, Ontario — Chris Tierney scored on two second-period power plays and Filip Gustavsson made 32 saves in the Ottawa Senators' 3-2 victory over the Dallas Stars on Sunday night.

"I'm just trying to do whatever I can to help the team win," Tierney said. "A couple good bounces. But that's what they say, is if you go to the net you're

going to get bounces, so it's good."

The Senators improved to 2-1-0, rebounding from a 3-1 loss at Toronto on Saturday night in the second game of an opening home-and-home series with the Maple Leafs.

Ottawa has started well after opening 1-8-1 last season.

"I still have nightmares about how long it took us to get our second win," Senators coach

D.J. Smith said.

"To get two wins in three games is good for us, especially going into a three-day break here."

Nick Paul also scored for Ottawa and Connor Brown had three assists to reach 100 for his career.

Gustavsson played his first regular-season NHL game since May 12.