

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Tensions in Korea rise over killing at sea

By KIM GAMEL

*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — Despite a rare North Korean apology, Seoul and Pyongyang continued to spar Sunday over the North's killing of a South Korean official at sea.

The North accused South Korean ships of crossing a disputed maritime boundary to search for the man's body, warning that it "may lead to an escalation of tensions."

President Moon Jae-in's administration, meanwhile, called on the communist state to participate in a joint investigation into the killing and to reopen a military hotline to facilitate the probe.

The dispute began last week when North Korean troops fatally shot a South Korean fisheries inspector who had floated into their waters. He had been in a patrol boat in the Yellow Sea off the peninsula's west coast. It is not clear how he ended up adrift.

Both sides were struggling to respond because the incident caught them by surprise as opposed to past planned provocations,

according to John Delury, a North Korea expert at Yonsei University in Seoul.

"I think probably since neither side planned it, it's more about deescalating and managing without looking weak, without losing face internally and externally," he said in a telephone interview.

South Korean military officials said the North Koreans shot the 47-year-old man in the water after a six-hour interrogation as he remained in the water, then burned his body in line with coronavirus prevention measures.

In an earlier message, the North insisted its troops had shot an "illegal intruder" who refused to answer questions and tried to escape.

It also denied burning the body, saying the troops had set fire to the bloodied flotation device but that the man was no longer on it.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un "feels very sorry to have disappointed President Moon Jae-in and other South Korean compatriots because of an unexpected, unfortunate incident," according to the message, which was read by a senior presidential

adviser.

Kim's rare apology was seen as an attempt to prevent the shooting from boiling over into conflict as his regime struggles with economic woes caused by U.S.-led sanctions over his banned nuclear program, as well as the coronavirus pandemic.

Moon's office tried to strike a delicate balance following an emergency security meeting Sunday, as it welcomed the North's "speedy apology" but demanded a joint investigation into the killing.

Suh Choo-suk, deputy director of the national security office, said the most urgent task is to retrieve the official's body and belongings to aid in the probe and in consideration of his bereaved family members, according to the Yonhap News Agency.

The statement came hours after the North accused the South of violating its territorial waters.

"We urge the south side to immediately halt the intrusion across the military demarcation line in the west sea that may lead to escalation of tensions," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said Sunday.

## Roosevelt returns to sea after outbreak

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

Though the crew of the USS Theodore Roosevelt completed a six-month deployment this year, the aircraft carrier returned to sea once again last week.

The ship recently completed a maintenance period after returning to its San Diego, Calif., homeport on July 9, according to a Navy statement released Wednesday. The Roosevelt had been gone since Jan. 17 on a deployment to the Western Pacific during which more than 1,150 of its sailors tested positive for coronavirus — one of whom died.

The Roosevelt spent about a month in Guam after the outbreak during that deployment,

as it underwent sanitization and sailors were tested, treated and isolated.

While the carrier is at sea, pilots attached to the Roosevelt will conduct carrier-landing qualifications, "relying on the systems and personnel on the ship to safely guide them to the flight deck during both day and nighttime operations," according to the Navy statement.

"Conducting carrier qualifications for two fleet replacement squadrons has a two-fold benefit," the Roosevelt's commander, Capt. Eric Anduze, said in the statement. "It generates readiness for the fleet by providing aviators capable of supporting currently deployed squadrons, and it sharpens the skills of my

crew before we set sail over the horizon again in support of our nation's defense."

Anduze in August took over the ship's command from Capt. Carlos Sardiello, who oversaw recovery efforts aboard the carrier and its eventual return to San Diego. Sardiello was assigned to the ship in April after its former commander, Capt. Brett Crozier, was relieved by then-acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly.

The Navy did not say when the ship plans to leave for another patrol, but carrier flight operations are typically one of the final steps in the workup to a deployment. The Navy by policy does not discuss future ship movements, citing security

risks.

Sources "from within the carrier's community" told Navy Times the ship will deploy "anywhere from November to January," the newspaper reported Saturday.

The Roosevelt's return to sea comes as the aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower does the same — just over a month after returning from a grueling deployment on Aug. 9, according to the Eisenhower's Facebook page.

The Eisenhower spent a record-breaking 206 consecutive days at sea during that deployment due to the Navy-wide cancellation of port visits in response to the coronavirus pandemic, according to the Navy.

# China's carriers complete September drills

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

China's two aircraft carriers, the Liaoning and the Shandong, recently completed military drills in the South China Sea, according to a statement by the Chinese Ministry of Defense on Thursday.

It was the first time the Chinese navy has sent two carriers to sea at once, though the ships did not train together. The Shandong was commissioned in December; the Liaoning was commissioned in 2012.

While at sea, the Liaoning completed "regular exercises" while the Shandong conducted sea trials, according to a Thursday article by the Chinese state-run newspaper Global Times. Sea trials are a testing phase of ships and their systems.

"The moves aimed to test the equip-

ment's performance and troops' training results, and boost their capability to carry out missions," Defense Ministry spokesman Senior Colonel Tan Kefei said at a press conference Thursday, according to the Global Times.

Both of the carriers went to sea in early September, according to the newspaper. The Shandong steamed into the Bohai Sea and the Liaoning was seen in the Yellow Sea, according to the Global Times.

The Chinese military also completed combat exercises near the Taiwan Strait last weekend that were "meant to target foreign interference and Taiwan separatists," Tan said Thursday, according to the Chinese Communist Party-owned China Daily news.

"If Taiwan separatist forces dare to attempt Taiwan's secession under any cir-

cumstances, we will do whatever it takes to thwart their efforts," Tan said, according to China Daily.

The exercises came a day after U.S. Sen. Rick Scott, R-Fla., introduced the "Taiwan Invasion Prevention Act" into the Senate.

The bill would pledge to help Taiwan "counter Communist China's military buildup across the Taiwan straits," authorize the president to use military force to protect Taiwan and encourage the Defense Department to send "appropriate personnel" to Taiwan's National Defense Academy, according to a Sept. 17 statement by Scott's office.

"Communist China continues to threaten our important ally — a threat not only to the people of Taiwan, but to the United States and our allies around the globe," Scott said in the statement.

## Guam Coast Guard gets its first of three cutters

BY WYATT OLSON  
*Stars and Stripes*

The first of three 154-foot, fast-response Coast Guard cutters arrived Thursday in Guam after completing a two-month, 10,000-nautical-mile journey from the mainland.

The crew of the Myrtle Hazard sailed from Key West, Fla., to the cutter's new homeport in Santa Rita, the Coast Guard confirmed in a statement Thursday.

The three Sentinel-class cutters will eventually replace Guam's 110-foot Island-class patrol boats that the Coast Guard has been using for about three decades, the statement said. The arrival dates of the final two cutters have not been specified.

The Coast Guard took delivery of the Myrtle Hazard from Louisiana-based Bollinger Shipyards in May, according to news reports.

Fast-response cutters are equipped with advanced systems for command, communications, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance.

They also have superior speed and range, reaching speeds of up to 28 knots and enduring five days out at sea while covering over 2,500 nautical miles, the statement said. They are armed with four .50-caliber machine guns and a remote-controlled 25-millimeter cannon.

The cutters can be used for drug interdiction, defense operations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, marine safety and environmental protection, the statement said.

"[Fast-response cutters] in Guam strengthen and affirm the U.S. Coast Guard's operational presence in Oceania," Lt. Tony Seleznick, commander of the Myrtle Hazard, said in the statement. "We increase the fleet's range, endurance and capabilities to deter illegal behavior, support Search and Rescue, promote maritime stability and strengthen partnerships."

The cutter's namesake was the first woman to enlist in the Coast Guard. Myrtle Hazard enlisted in January 1918, the statement said.

## Trump caps judiciary remake with Barrett pick

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, capping a dramatic reshaping of the federal judiciary that will resonate for a generation and that he hopes will provide a needed boost to his reelection effort.

Barrett, a former clerk to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, said Saturday that she was "truly humbled" by the nomination and quickly aligned herself with Scalia's conservative approach to the law, saying his "judicial philosophy is mine, too."

Barrett, 48, was joined in the Rose Garden by her husband and seven children. If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill the seat vacated by liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

She would be the sixth justice on the nine-member court to be appointed by a Republican president, and the third of Trump's first term in office.

Trump hailed Barrett as "a woman of remarkable intellect and character," saying he had studied her record closely before making the pick.

Republican senators are lining up for a swift confirmation of Barrett ahead of the Nov. 3 election, as they aim to lock in conservative gains in the federal judiciary before a potential transition of power. Trump, meanwhile, is hoping the nomination will galvanize his supporters as he looks to fend off Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump joked that the confirmation process ahead "should be easy" and "extremely non-controversial," though it is likely to be anything but that. No court nominee has been considered so close to a presidential election before, with early voting already underway. He encouraged legislators to take up her nomination swiftly and asked Democrats to "refrain from personal and partisan attacks."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate will vote "in the weeks ahead" on Barrett's confirmation.



# Late night Portland protests unlawful

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Law enforcement declared an unlawful assembly late Saturday, forcing protesters from downtown Portland, Ore., and making several arrests just hours after demonstrations ended earlier in the day without many reports of violence.

Hundreds of people were gathered downtown in Oregon's largest city when the unlawful assembly was announced just before midnight by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office.

Images showed protesters crowded in and around a park near the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse — the same courthouse that had been the scene of nightly unrest over the summer. A protester was seen burning an American flag.

Earlier, protesters had shot fireworks at police. Video posted by KOIN-TV showed officers warn that protesters who hurl projectiles will be subject to arrest.

Several arrests were made, according to reporters at the

scene, but a specific number was not immediately available.

The unrest came just hours after a right-wing rally and counterprotesters largely dispersed without serious violence. Police were, however, investigating an assault after one person who was documenting the event was pushed to the ground and kicked in the face.

Separately, police said a criminal citation was issued after officials confiscated firearms, paintball guns, baseball bats and shields from a pick-up truck that was initially stopped for having obscured license plates as it left the rally.

Oregon State Police Superintendent Travis Hampton and Multnomah County Sheriff Mike Reese praised the minimal violence in a joint statement late Saturday.

"Our Unified Command worked well to prevent violence before it started," Hampton said in the statement. "Law enforcement officers performed a number of traffic stops and took weapons off the streets."

# PG&E announces series of power shutoffs to help prevent more wildfires

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — One of California's largest power companies announced Saturday that it plans to temporarily shut off power to residents of 16 counties and a tribe to prevent wildfires sparked by electrical equipment.

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. said it will initially shut off power to about 15,000 customers in Butte, Plumas, Shasta and Tehama counties starting midnight Saturday. Power would be shut off to another 74,000 customers in 12 other counties and one tribe on Sunday evening, the company said.

The customers are expected to get power back on Monday night, the company said.

Pacific Gas & Electric said during the shutoffs, employees will check power lines for any damage. The company has opened up 28 community resource centers to help customers who lost power.

The shutoffs come as fire-weary California prepared for a new siege of hot, dry weather with potentially strong winds

that could cause power lines to arc and spark new blazes in parched vegetation that's ready to burn.

Red Flag warnings for extreme fire weather conditions were to go into effect in northern and central areas of the state at 9 p.m. Saturday and last into Monday, the National Weather Service said.

A second burst of winds was expected in those regions late Sunday into Monday. In Southern California, the most critical wind conditions were expected Monday, although it was unclear how strong they would be.

More than 8,000 California wildfires so far this year have scorched 5,600 square miles, destroyed more than 7,000 buildings and killed 26 people.

Most of the loss has occurred since a massive outbreak of fires ignited by a freakish frenzy of dry lightning strikes in mid-August. The causes of other fires remain under investigation, and authorities have said one was caused by a pyrotechnic device at a gender reveal event.

# Deadly water warning lifted for all but 1 Texas city

Associated Press

LAKE JACKSON, Texas — Texas officials on Saturday lifted a warning for all but one Houston-area community to stop using tap water because it might be tainted with a deadly brain-eating microbe.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality warned the Brazosport Water Authority late Friday of the potential contamination of its water supply by *Naegleria fowleri*.

The authority initially warned eight communities not to use tap water for any reason except to flush toilets, but on Saturday it lifted that warning for all communities but Lake

Jackson. The city of more than 27,000 residents is the site of the authority's water treatment plant. The advisory was also canceled for two state prisons and Dow Chemical's massive Freeport works.

The advisory will remain in place until the authority's water system has been thoroughly flushed and tests on water samples show the system's water is again safe to use. The authority said in a statement that it was unclear how long it would be before the tap water was safe again.

The authority's water source is the Brazos River.

Earlier this month, 6-year-

old Josh McIntyre died after contracting the microbe. The investigation into his death led to the detection of the amoeba after health officials conducted water sample tests, Lake Jackson City Manager Modesto Mundo said in a news release.

Three of 11 sample tests indicated preliminary positive results for the brain-eating microbe, with one sample coming from the boy's home hose bib, Mundo said.

*Naegleria fowleri* is a free-living microscopic amoeba, or single-celled living organism commonly found in warm freshwater and soil, according to the U.S. Centers for Dis-

ease Control and Prevention. It usually infects people when contaminated water enters the body through the nose. From there, it travels to the brain and can cause a rare and debilitating disease called primary amebic meningoencephalitis.

The infection is usually fatal and typically occurs when people go swimming or diving in warm freshwater places such as lakes and rivers. In very rare instances, *Naegleria* infections may also occur when contaminated water from other sources (such as inadequately chlorinated swimming pool water or heated and contaminated tap water) enters the nose.

# NY records over 1,000 daily virus cases

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — More than 1,000 New Yorkers tested positive for COVID-19 in a single day, marking the first time since June 5 the state has seen a daily number that high.

The number of positive tests reported daily in the state has been steadily inching up in recent weeks, a trend possibly related to increasing numbers of businesses reopening, college campuses reopening and children returning to school. Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced Saturday there were 1,005 positive cases tallied on the previous day, Friday, out of 99,953 tests, for a 1% positive rate.

From late July through the start of September, the state was seeing an average of around 660 people test positive per day. In the seven-day period that ended Friday, the state had averaged 817 positive tests per day.

Cuomo aide Gareth Rhodes stressed Saturday that the new positive-case number came out of nearly 100,000 tests, compared to about 60,000 tests daily in June.

## Massachusetts

AUBURN — Twenty students in Auburn Public Schools are being asked to quarantine after the district found that they were potentially exposed to a bus monitor who tested positive for COVID-19.

In a letter sent to parents Friday, Superintendent Casey Handfield said the bus monitor was removed from work Sept. 18 after complaining of symptoms associated with COVID-19, according to MassLive.com. The monitor tested negative for the coronavirus on Sept. 19 but tested positive Sept. 23.

The superintendent's letter said affected staff, students and siblings have been asked to quarantine "out of an abundance of caution" and to follow up with their medical providers. The letter said school officials would stay in contact with anyone affected until they are cleared to return to school.

## Arizona

WINDOW ROCK — Navajo Nation health officials reported 32 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus, but no additional deaths.

The latest figures released Saturday night bring the total number of cases to 10,269 with the known death toll at 552.

Tribal officials said 104,746 people have been tested on the vast reservation that covers parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, and 72,250 have recovered from COVID-19.

The Navajo Nation has implemented a stricter weekend lockdown as it looks into new clusters of coronavirus cases from family gatherings and off-reservation travel.

Residents are now being required to stay home from Friday evening until early Monday morning. More recent weekend lockdowns were a day shorter.

## New Hampshire

CONCORD — The governor's economic reopening task force has approved updated guidance allowing full capacity at retail stores, which have been hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Retailers have been limited to half capacity, and while some sectors like garden centers have done well, some clothing stores have seen sales drop by 80%.

Nancy Kyle, head of the state's retail association, told the task force that allowing stores to return to 100% capacity will be critical to the holiday shopping season. Many stores will be starting holiday sales earlier than usual in hopes of recouping losses, she said.

The task force sent its recommendations to the governor and public health officials for approval.

## California

Two prisoners have died at hospitals of coronavirus-related complications, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation reported

Saturday.

One prisoner was at the California Institution for Men in Chino. He was the 22nd inmate at the prison to die of coronavirus complications, the department said. The second prisoner was at Avenal State Prison in Avenal. He was the sixth inmate to die of complications from the virus at the facility, the department said.

The department did not provide more details about the deaths.

## Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — The number of reported Arkansas coronavirus cases has topped 80,000 after the addition Saturday of 809 cases of the virus that causes COVID-19, the Arkansas Department of Health reported.

Those new cases brought the state's total caseload since tracking of the pandemic began in March to 80,755, including 2,495 probable cases.

Active cases rose by 165 to 7,414. There have also been 19 COVID-19 deaths reported Saturday, bringing the state's death toll to 1,285.

Arkansas ranks third in the country for new cases per capita, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

Gov. Asa Hutchinson said with the latest figures the test had exceeded its goal of 200,000 tests for the month, and that the state was working to increase its testing capacity.

## Connecticut

HAMDEN — Quinnipiac University has sent home or suspended more than 20 students in recent days for violating visitor and other policies, both on- and off-campus, that are aimed at preventing the spread of the coronavirus, a top school official said.

Tom Ellett, the school's chief experience officer, said in an email sent Thursday to students that 11 undergraduates have been sent home for four weeks and a dozen off-campus

students were suspended. He said they've been accused of violating the school's no visitor policy for residence halls, having non-Quinnipiac University guests on campus and/or exceeding capacity limits on indoor gatherings.

As of Friday, there has been only one positive case of COVID-19 at the school. More than 11,500 tests have been conducted since Aug. 5.

## North Dakota

BISMARCK — North Dakota reported 497 people who have tested positive for the coronavirus on Saturday, contributing to an all-time high for active coronavirus cases statewide at 3,672.

The state also reported one of the largest single-day tallies for deaths from COVID-19, with eight people dying from the disease. The waves of cases and hospitalizations have prompted concerns that hospitals are nearing their capacity, the Bismark Tribune reported.

There are currently 104 people in hospitals statewide with COVID-19. They occupy roughly 5% of the state's total hospital beds, but employees of hospitals in the Bismark area told the COVID-19 task force for Burleigh and Morton counties that the influx in patients has disrupted hospital operations.

## Wisconsin

MADISON — Wisconsin on Saturday hit a record for coronavirus cases reported in a single day as health officials reported that 2,817 people have tested positive for the virus.

The state has seen some of the nation's fastest coronavirus spread over the last two weeks. The rolling average number of daily new cases has increased by 950, an increase of nearly 97%, according to Johns Hopkins researchers. In that time, the state has reported the nation's third-highest number of new cases per capita, with about 423 new cases per 100,000 people.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Neighbor calls 911 on shouting hockey fans

**FL** TAMPA — A neighbor called sheriff's deputies on some rabid Tampa Bay Lightning fans who were screaming "Shoot! Shoot!" as they watched Game 3 of the Stanley Cup final on television.

The call prompted several Hillsborough County Sheriff's deputies to show up at Devon Garnett's apartment door.

The caller told dispatchers someone was yelling loudly in the apartment above, according to Hillsborough County Sheriff's spokesperson Natalia Verdina.

## 3 suspended for man cave under terminal

**NY** NEW YORK — Three railroad workers were suspended for turning a storage room under New York's Grand Central Terminal into an unauthorized "man cave" with a television, a refrigerator, a microwave and a futon couch, officials said.

A Metropolitan Transportation Authority investigation found that managers at Metro-North Railroad were unaware of the hideaway beneath Track 114.

"Many a New Yorker has fantasized about kicking back with a cold beer in a prime piece of Manhattan real estate — especially one this close to good transportation," MTA Inspector General Carolyn Pokorny said in a news release.

## Officer rearrested for theft of cash

**CA** LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles police officer was arrested for a second time for allegedly stealing cash from the backpack of an

employee at a cannabis grow facility, prosecutors and police said.

Officer Luis Mota was initially charged with misdemeanor theft after his first arrest in January. Following his arrest last week, the 46-year-old was charged with felony burglary, the Los Angeles Times reported.

An employee at the facility alerted an LAPD supervisor that money was missing from her backpack after police conducted enforcement at the pot grow, the newspaper said. Surveillance video pointed to Mota as the alleged thief, prosecutors said.

## 2-year-old finds gun, shoots cousin, 12

**AL** MOBILE — A 2-year-old in Alabama was able to gain access to a handgun and accidentally shoot his 12-year-old cousin, according to authorities.

Mobile police responded to a report of a shooting, where the 12-year-old's mother told officers her toddler nephew had found a gun on a bed and accidentally shot her son, news outlets reported, citing the agency.

The juvenile suffered wounds that were not considered life-threatening, police said.

## Graves to move from eroding cemetery

**NH** STARK — Residents of a New Hampshire town voted to move the remains of around three dozen people from a cemetery that is eroding into a river.

In a secret ballot last week, residents of Stark voted 34 to 1 to discontinue Blake Cemetery as a town cemetery and move the remains of the people buried there — including

Revolutionary War and Civil War soldiers — to another cemetery, the Caledonian Record reported.

The cemetery is on a bluff overlooking the Upper Ammonoosuc River. The ground has eroded, toppling headstones into the water and exposing human remains.

## Man shot, killed bear his dog confronted

**CT** THOMASTON — A Connecticut man shot and killed a black bear that his dog confronted near his yard, police said.

William O'Connor, 26, of Thomaston, will appear in court on a summons for illegally killing the animal, the Republican-American reported. It is illegal to shoot bears in Connecticut with few exceptions.

O'Connor let his dog out of his home when it confronted a black bear and her two cubs at the edge of his property, the state's environmental conservation police said.

O'Connor got a .22 caliber rifle and shot at the bear to scare it.

"The shot struck the bear, which moved about 30 yards to a neighboring property's driveway, collapsed, and eventually died," Will Healey, a spokesperson for the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said.

## Small hamlet named Swastika keeps name

**NY** SWASTIKA — The rural upstate New York hamlet of Swastika is keeping its name, despite a complaint that it symbolizes the hate and intolerance of the Nazi regime.

The unincorporated crossroads in the Adirondack Mountain town of Black Brook, about

35 miles south of the U.S.-Canada border, has been known as Swastika for more than a century.

But town council members considered a name change after a visitor from New York City said it was offensive.

Council members met and unanimously nixed a name change.

## Farm device triggers 911 shooting call

**KS** WICHITA — Authorities responding to a call about deputies being shot at briefly shut down the Kansas Turnpike and sent an armored vehicle and drone to the scene.

It turned out the ruckus was coming from a propane cannon an 87-year-old watermelon farmer uses to scare away raccons and coyotes from his crops near Haysville, the Wichita Eagle reported.

Officers were originally called about shots fired, said Sedgwick County Lt. Benjamin Blick. Two deputies made their way toward an abandoned vehicle and announced their presence.

"Their announcement was met with what they believed to be three gunshots," Blick said in an email.

## Baby orca born to endangered pod

**WA** SEATTLE — The Center for Whale Research has confirmed that another baby orca was born to a pod of endangered southern resident orcas that frequent Puget Sound.

It's the second calf born this month for J pod, according to director Ken Balcomb, who confirmed the birth in a text message to The Seattle Times on Friday.

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## Top 25 roundup

# No. 8 Texas rallies to win in overtime

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Sam Ehlinger threw a 12-yard touchdown pass to Joshua Moore in overtime, sending No. 8 Texas to a wild 63-56 victory over Texas Tech on Saturday that saw the Longhorns rally with two touchdowns in the final 3 minutes of regulation.

Moore's second touchdown catch came with 40 seconds left and Ehlinger's 2-point conversion pass to Brennan Eagles tied it to get to overtime. Texas got the ball first and quickly scored when Ehlinger and Moore connected for their third score of the day.

Texas Tech's possession ended when Alan Bowman was forced to scramble and threw a wild pass that was intercepted by Caden Sterns.

**Kansas State 38, No. 3 Oklahoma 35:** Skylar Thompson threw for 334 yards and ran for three touchdowns and the Wildcats rallied from 21 points down.

Freshman Deuce Vaughn caught four passes for 129 yards and ran for a touchdown in Kansas State's first road victory over a top-three team in the AP poll. They rebounded from an opening loss to Arkansas State.

Sooners freshman Spencer Rattler passed for 387 yards and four touchdowns, but threw three interceptions.

The Wildcats upset Oklahoma 48-41 in Manhattan last year.

**No. 2 Alabama 38, Missouri 19:** Mac Jones threw for 249 yards and two touchdowns in less than three quarters of work, many of his throws landing in the capable hands of Jaylen Waddle, and the Crimson Tide began their Southeastern Conference-only schedule with a road romp.

Waddle finished with eight catches for 134 yards and two touchdowns, and Najee Harris ran for 98 yards and three more scores, helping Alabama spoil the debut of new Tigers coach Eli Drinkwitz and win its

27th straight over the SEC East before a COVID-19-curtailed crowd of 11,738 fans at Faurot Field.

**No. 4 Georgia 37, Arkansas 10:** Stetson Bennett threw two touchdown passes in the third quarter and the Bulldogs rallied to beat the host Razorbacks in the season opener for each school.

Bennett replaced D'Wan Mathis in the second quarter and finished 20 for 29 for 211 yards. Bennett put Georgia ahead to stay when he tossed a 19-yard touchdown pass to George Pickens and ran in the 2-point conversion to make it 13-10 with 6 minutes left in the third.

**No. 5 Florida 51, Mississippi 35:** Kyle Pitts caught four of Kyle Trask's six touchdown passes and the visiting Gators spoiled coach Lane Kiffin's debut at Ole Miss.

Trask completed 30 of 42 passes for 416 yards, throwing touchdown passes of 1, 16, 71 and 17 yards to Pitts. The star tight end had 170 yards receiving in the season and Southeastern Conference opener for both teams.

**Mississippi State 44, No. 6 LSU 34:** K.J. Costello passed for an SEC-record 623 yards and threw five touchdown passes in the debut of Mike Leach's "Air Raid" offense, and the visiting Bulldogs knocked off the defending national champion Tigers.

Costello's passing yardage in his first game since transferring from Stanford to Starkville, Miss., eclipsed the 544 yards Georgia's Eric Zeier had against Southern Mississippi in 1993 to set the Southeastern Conference record. And Costello needed most of it to make up for his two interceptions and two lost fumbles, which helped LSU rally to tie the game at 34 before he engineered a pair of scoring drives in the final 10 minutes.

The Tigers became the first defending national champion to lose an opening game since

Michigan in 1998 lost at Notre Dame.

LSU quarterback Myles Brennan intermittently showed promise in his debut as starter in place of 2019 Heisman Trophy winner and 2020 top NFL draft choice Joe Burrow. He had 345 yards and three touchdowns passing.

**No. 8 Auburn 29, No. 23 Kentucky 13:** Bo Nix threw for 233 yards and three second-half touchdowns, including a pair to Seth Williams, and the host Tigers scored twice in the fourth quarter to pull away from the Wildcats in the season opener for both teams.

**No. 10 Texas A&M 17, Vanderbilt 12:** Isaiah Spiller had 117 yards rushing and Ainias Smith ran for a touchdown to help the No. 10 Aggies overcome three turnovers in a mistake-filled game in the season-opener for both teams.

**No. 12 Miami 52, Florida State 10:** D'Eriq King threw for 267 yards and two touchdowns in three quarters and the host Hurricanes beat the Seminoles.

Cam'Ron Harris and Don Chaney scored twice and Brevin Jordan and Dee Wiggins each caught touchdown passes for Miami (3-0, 2-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

**No. 13 Central Florida 51, East Carolina 28:** Dillon Gabriel threw for 408 yards and four touchdowns to help the Knights open their American Athletic Conference schedule with a road win.

Jaylon Robinson and Marlon Williams each had huge games as Gabriel's top targets for Central Florida (2-0, 1-0). Robinson had nine catches for 150 yards and two touchdowns, and Williams had a career-best 13 catches for 136 yards.

Holton Ahlers threw for 215 yards and three TDs for the Pirates (0-1, 0-1). They had delayed start to the season after coronavirus-related scheduling changes.

**No. 14 Cincinnati 24, No. 22 Army 10:** Desmond Rid-

der passed for 258 yards and two touchdowns and the host Bearcats won the first match-up of ranked teams at Nippert Stadium since 2008.

The Black Knights' vaunted triple-option offense came in averaging 389.5 rushing yards, but the Bearcats held Army (2-1) to 182, including 81 by junior quarterback Christian Anderson.

**No. 15 Oklahoma State 27, West Virginia 13:** Chuba Hubbard scored on a 23-yard run with 1:17 remaining to salvage a difficult afternoon and help the host Cowboys beat the Mountaineers.

**No. 16 Tennessee 31, South Carolina 27:** Jarrett Guarantano threw a tiebreaking touchdown pass to Josh Palmer with 9:35 left and the visiting Volunteers won their seventh straight game.

**No. 18 BYU 48, Troy 7:** Zach Wilson threw for a career-high 392 yards and two touchdowns, leading the host Cougars.

**No. 19 Louisiana-Lafayette 20, Georgia Southern 18:** Nate Snyder hit a 53-yard field goal on the final play to lift the host Ragin' Cajuns to a defeat of the Eagles.

**No. 20 Virginia Tech 45, North Carolina State 24:** Quincy Patterson II came off the bench to throw two touchdown passes and run for another score, leading the host Hokies past the Wolfpack.

Despite playing without 23 players and four coaches because of coronavirus issues and injuries — including starting quarterback Hendon Hooker — Virginia Tech started quickly in the season opener and Atlantic Coast Conference delayed two weeks because of two COVID-related postponements.

**No. 21 Pittsburgh 23, No. 24 Louisville 20:** Kenny Pickett threw for 220 yards and two touchdowns and the host Panthers sacked Cardinals quarterback Malik Cunningham seven times.



# Lakers reach first finals in 10 years

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Here's a list of just some of the things the Los Angeles Lakers have gone through in the last 12 months: playing through a politically charged situation in China during the preseason and more massive fallout after returning home, the death of Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash, a pandemic and four-plus-month suspension of play, the season being moved to a bubble 2,500 miles from their homes, the ongoing battle against racial inequality in this country and emotions fraying to the point where giving up was considered.

And here they are.

After all that drama, all that angst, all those challenges, the NBA Finals await.

A most unpredictable season has a very predictable finalist. LeBron James, the once-perennial Beast of the East, is now the Best in the West. James and the Lakers are the Western Conference champions, the team's best player now set to go to the finals for the 10th time — the first nine of those coming during his Eastern Conference stints with Cleveland and Miami — and his team set to hit the title series for the first time in 10 years, when Bry-

ant won his fifth and final championship.

"Every time you put on purple and gold, you think about his legacy," James said. "You think about him and what he meant to this franchise for 20-plus years. What he stood for, both on the floor and off the floor. What he demanded out of his teammates, what he demanded out of himself. We have some similarities in that sense."

James had 37 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists as Los Angeles clinched that finals berth Saturday night, ousting Denver 117-107 in Game 5 of the West finals, the game just happening to be 365 days removed from the team's first media session to start this season. Yes, that means this season is now stretching into a second year for the Lakers.

Get four more wins, and a season filled with anguish will have the sweetest possible finish.

"This is what I came here for," James said.

James is making his ninth finals trip in the last 10 seasons; the lone exception in that stretch was last year when Los Angeles didn't make the playoffs. Anthony Davis, who had 27 points Saturday, is going to the title round for the first time.

# Stars stay alive with 2OT victory

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — More than a decade since Corey Perry won the Stanley Cup as a young player and years after Joe Pavelski fell two wins short, the greybeards aren't ready to leave the bubble and give up on another opportunity for a championship.

Pavelski tied it with 6:45 left in regulation, laid out to block a shot in the first overtime and Perry's second goal of the game came in double OT to give the Dallas Stars a 3-2 win over Tampa Bay and force a Game 6 in the Stanley Cup Final.

"Get one, keep going," Perry said. "We start building here, and I think we're starting to do something special."

Anton Khudobin made 39 saves and Perry's winner 9:23 into the second OT was a manner of redemption for the Stars a night after they lost in OT on a questionable penalty call when the Lightning scored on the ensuing power play. Game 6 is Monday night.

The 36-year-old Pavelski and 35-year-old Perry have combined for the last six Dallas goals.

So much for hockey being a young man's game.

"With how they play, I don't know if you can call them old," Stars center Tyler Seguin said. "They seem to have the best endurance of all of us. Joe keeps

getting the late goals and Perry played a great game."

Dallas stayed alive despite going down to five defensemen for half of regulation when Andrej Sekera was injured blocking a shot midway through the first. Sekera returned for the third, a gutty performance that may have saved a team that looked to be running on fumes.

"That shows you his compete," Stars coach Rick Bowness said. "Give him a ton of credit for coming back. That was tough."

Dallas didn't have much time to regroup from Friday night's loss, not with the NHL scheduling the first back-to-back games in the final since 2009.

Pavelski led the way. In the final for the second time in his career after losing in 2016 with San Jose, he followed his two-goal performance in Game 5 with a season-saver 24 hours later by scoring on a rare juicy rebound allowed by Andrei Vasilevskiy.

Tampa Bay coach Jon Cooper compared his team's situation now to the Eastern Conference final when an overtime loss to the New York Islanders in Game 5 extended the series. The Lightning finished that series off in six.

"We've felt this feeling before," Cooper said. "We have felt this sting and then we've rebounded."

# Adesanya dominates Costa to retain belt at UFC 253

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — Unbeaten Israel Adesanya defended his middleweight title in style with a dominant second-round stoppage of Paulo Costa at UFC 253 on Sunday.

Poland's Jan Blachowicz also stopped Dominick Reyes late in the second round on Fight Island, the mixed martial arts promotion's bubble performance venue in the Middle East, to claim the light heavyweight title vacated by Jon Jones.

Adesanya (20-0) carved up his previous-

ly unbeaten Brazilian opponent with flair and ease, battering Costa with leg kicks before ending it late in the second round. Adesanya crumpled Costa with a combination at the center of the octagon, and the champion finished on the ground with 61 seconds left in the round.

"I told you guys that it was going to be violent, and it was going to end fast," Adesanya said. "That's what I did. It was a little bit sloppy, but I'm a dog, so I do what I do."

The win was the ninth straight in the UFC for Adesanya, the Nigeria-born, New Zealand-based phenomenon who has

soared to prominence in mixed martial arts over the past three years.

In UFC 253's co-main event, the 37-year-old Blachowicz (27-8) capped his late-career surge by winning his first UFC title.

After controlling most of the action in a slow first round, Blachowicz apparently broke Reyes' nose during the second round, and he abruptly ended it when he landed a high left hook to the side of Reyes' head. Reyes wobbled, stumbled and fell, and Blachowicz promptly finished him on the ground with 24 seconds left in the round.

# Yankees' LeMahieu closes in on batting title

Associated Press

NEW YORK — DJ LeMahieu is on the verge of a first in more than a century of Major League Baseball: the first player to win undisputed batting titles in both the American and National Leagues.

Luke Voit is about to become a more common name atop the leaderboards but part of an illustrious list, joining Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, Roger Maris and Alex Rodriguez as New York Yankees to top the majors in home runs.

"I've always admired the Babe," Voit said after the Yankees woke up from their latest slump to beat the Miami Marlins 11-

4 Saturday and kept their hold on the AL's No. 5 postseason seed going into the final day. "It's just awesome company. That guy hit 700 home runs (714 to be exact). That means I got to start hitting like 150 a year to catch up to him. So that's never going to happen."

Voit hit his major league-leading 22nd homer. Jose Abreu of the Chicago White Sox is second with 19.

LeMahieu had his fourth four-hit game and three RBIs while raising his average to .359. He passed Washington's Juan Soto (.346) for the big league lead and opened a large margin over defending AL batting champion Tim Anderson of the White Sox,

second in the AL at .328 after an 0-for-5 night.

"This game's been around for a long time, and I think anyone who's watched knows just how special a player DJ LeMahieu's been for us in these two years," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said.

LeMahieu won the 2016 NL batting title with a .348 average for Colorado. Ed Delahanty hit .410 for the Philadelphia Phillies to win the NL championship in 1899; he is credited by some researchers with the 1902 AL championship at .376, while others accept Nap Lajoie as winning that title at .378 despite lacking the plate appearances required in more modern times.

## MLB roundup

# Twins clinch first round home-field edge

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Luis Arraez matched career highs with four hits and three RBIs in his return to the lineup, and the Minnesota Twins beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-3 Saturday to clinch home-field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Minnesota maintained its one-game lead in the AL Central over the Chicago White Sox. The Twins can wrap up their second consecutive division crown — and the No. 2 seed in the American League — with another win Sunday against Cincinnati or a White Sox loss.

If the teams finish tied, Chicago wins the division because it holds the tiebreaker over the Twins.

**White Sox 9, Cubs 5:** Yoan Moncada homered, Jose Abreu hit a three-run double and the playoff-bound White Sox beat the NL Central champion Cubs 9-5 at Guaranteed Rate Field to snap a season-high six-game skid.

The crosstown Cubs clinched their third division title in five years when St. Louis lost 3-0 to Milwaukee. They will be home at Wrigley Field for a best-of-three playoff series beginning Wednesday.

**Brewers 3, Cardinals 0:**

Brandon Woodruff allowed two hits in eight innings and Milwaukee won at St. Louis to boost its playoff prospects in a big way. Ryan Braun and Daniel Vogelbach hit back-to-back home runs in the fourth for Milwaukee.

**Rays 4, Phillies 3:** Mike Zunino, Brandon Lowe and Willy Adames each hit a run-scoring single with two outs in the fifth inning as AL East champion Tampa Bay damaged visiting Philadelphia's postseason hopes.

Andrew McCutchen had four hits for the Phillies, who have lost six of seven. But Philadelphia avoided elimination when San Francisco lost to San Diego later. Heading into the final day of the regular season, the Phillies need a win over the Rays and losses by the Giants and Brewers to grab the final NL wild card.

**Nationals 4-5, Mets 3-3:** New York was eliminated from playoff contention in a mistake-filled loss at Washington in the opener of a doubleheader, and not much changed in the nightcap as an error extended a big inning for the Nationals, who swept the twinbill.

Entering Saturday, the Mets (26-33) needed to win their three remaining games and re-

ceive help from multiple teams to sneak into the final wild-card spot in the expanded playoffs.

**Pirates 8, Indians 0:** Cleveland had a setback in its bid to host a first-round playoff series, losing to Joe Musgrove and visiting Pittsburgh. Musgrove (1-5) earned his first victory in a year.

**Padres 6, Giants 2:** Fernando Tatis Jr. hit his 17th home run and San Diego left San Francisco in need of help to make the playoffs.

The Giants fell to 29-30 and are tied with Milwaukee for the final NL playoff spot. San Francisco needs a win Sunday over San Diego and a Brewers loss to St. Louis to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2016.

**Dodgers 7, Angels 6:** Mookie Betts exited early after getting hit by a pitch, giving the Dodgers a scare with the playoffs approaching, but they beat the Angels following a power outage in the Dodgers' ballpark.

**Blue Jays 5, Orioles 2:** Cavan Biggio broke up a no-hit bid with a solo home run in the sixth inning, Randal Grichuk added a three-run shot and Toronto beat visiting Baltimore for its fourth straight win. The Blue Jays need a victory in Sunday's regular-season finale,

and a Miami win over the Yankees in New York, to move up to second place in the AL East and the fifth seed in the league.

**Mariners 5-12, Athletics 1-3:** J.P. Crawford hit an RBI double in an eight-run third inning as Seattle completed a doubleheader sweep at AL West champion Oakland.

**Rangers 6, Astros 1:** Jeff Mathis hit a tiebreaking, three-run home run and Leody Taveras followed with a solo shot, all in a five-run seventh inning, as host Texas beat playoff-bound Houston.

**Red Sox 8, Braves 2:** Rookie right-hander Tanner Houck struck out 10 in another dominant performance, Christian Vazquez capped a big inning with a grand slam, and Boston won at Atlanta.

**Tigers 4, Royals 3:** Niko Goodrum and Austin Romine keyed a three-run first inning and Detroit won at Kansas City. Adalberto Mondesi homered in the first for the Royals and had an RBI double in the third.

**Rockies 10, Diamondbacks 3:** Elias Diaz and Ryan McMahon each hit two-run homers, German Marquez threw seven impressive innings and Colorado overcame sloppy fielding to win at Arizona.