

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, September 28, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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Report: Trump paid IRS \$750 in 2016, 2017

Associated Press

President Donald Trump paid just \$750 in federal income taxes the year he ran for president and in his first year in the White House, according to a report in The New York Times.

Trump, who has fiercely guarded his tax filings and is the only president in modern times not to make them public, paid no federal income taxes in 10 of the past 15 years.

The details of the tax filings published Sunday complicate Trump's description of himself as a shrewd and patriotic businessman, revealing instead a series of financial losses and income from abroad that could come into conflict with his responsibilities as president. The president's financial disclosures indicated he earned at least \$434.9 million in 2018, but the tax filings reported a \$47.4 million loss.

The tax filings also illustrate how a reputed billionaire could pay little to nothing in taxes, while someone in the middle class could pay substantially more than him. Roughly half of Americans pay no income

taxes, primarily because of how low their incomes are. But IRS figures indicate that the average tax filer paid roughly \$12,200 in 2017, about 16 times more than what the president paid.

The disclosure, which the Times said comes from tax return data it obtained extending over two decades, comes at a pivotal moment ahead of the first presidential debate Tuesday and weeks before a divisive election against Democrat Joe Biden.

Speaking at a news conference Sunday at the White House, Trump dismissed the report as "fake news" and maintained he has paid taxes, though he gave no specifics. He also vowed that information about his taxes "will all be revealed," but he offered no timeline for the disclosure and made similar promises during the 2016 campaign on which he never followed through.

In fact, the president has fielded court challenges against those seeking access to his returns, including the U.S. House, which is suing to get

Trump's tax returns as part of congressional oversight.

During his first two years as president, Trump received \$73 million from foreign operations, which in addition to his golf properties in Scotland and Ireland included \$3 million from the Philippines, \$2.3 million from India and \$1 million from Turkey, among other nations. The president in 2017 paid \$145,400 in taxes in India and \$156,824 in the Philippines, compared to just \$750 in U.S. income taxes. The Times said the tax records did not reveal any unreported connections to Russia.

Trump found multiple ways to reduce his tax bills. He has taken tax deductions on personal expenses such as housing, aircraft and \$70,000 to style his hair while he filmed "The Apprentice." Losses in the property businesses solely owned and managed by Trump appear to have offset income from his stake in "The Apprentice" and other entities with multiple owners.

During the first two years of his presidency, Trump relied on

business tax credits to reduce his tax obligations. The Times said \$9.7 million worth of business investment credits that were submitted after Trump requested an extension to file his taxes allowed him to offset his obligations and pay just \$750 each in 2016 and 2017.

Income tax payments help finance the military and domestic programs.

Trump, starting in 2010, claimed and received an income tax refund that totaled \$72.9 million, which the Times said was at the core of an ongoing audit by the IRS. The Times said a ruling against Trump could cost him \$100 million or more.

The president could also face mounting financial pressure in the years ahead. The tax records show he's carrying a total of \$421 million in loans and debt that are primarily due within four years. Most of that debt comes from the Doral golf resort in Florida (\$125 million) and Trump's Washington hotel (\$160 million), two properties that the Times said are struggling financially.

Carrier-launched airstrikes hit ISIS targets in Iraq

BY CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

For the first time in over two years, carrier-launched U.S. aircraft conducted an airstrike against Islamic State targets in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, the global coalition battling the terrorist group in Iraq and Syria.

A pair of Navy F/A-18F Super Hornets from Carrier Air Wing 17, embarked on the USS Nimitz, conducted the strikes on Sept. 23, Cmdr. Rebecca Rebarich, a spokeswoman for the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet, confirmed via email on Monday.

"The last such strike was by USS Theo-

dore Roosevelt in [March] 2018," said Rebarich, who said the Super Hornets' strike last Wednesday was carried out in Iraq.

A coalition strike that day, coordinated with the Iraqi military, took out a cave and three shelters used as ISIS hideouts in Iraq's Wadi al-Shai, a rural area in Kirkuk province, Inherent Resolve spokesman Army Col. Wayne Marotto said Thursday on Twitter.

"Daesh operatives will continue to try and take advantage of safe havens, but there is no safe place for terrorists to hide," he said.

On Monday, Marotto confirmed to

Stars and Stripes by email that the strike was carried out by the Navy jets from the Nimitz.

While there had been no carrier-launched strikes before last week for about 30 months, aircraft embarked on amphibious landing ships in the region have conducted strikes during that time, Rebarich said.

The U.S. reportedly warned Iraq over the weekend that it was preparing to pull out of its embassy in that country's capital if Baghdad does not do more to quell the attacks, which American officials have blamed on Iran-backed militias.

New Navy destroyer named for top enlistee

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ
Stars and Stripes

The USS Delbert D. Black, the Navy's newest destroyer, entered service Saturday, more than a year after being damaged in a shipyard collision.

The Black, the 68th Arleigh-Burke class destroyer, is the first destroyer commissioned by the Navy this year. The ceremony at Port Canaveral, Fla., was kept small and private, like many other Navy ceremonies this year, due to coronavirus restrictions.

The destroyer is named for former Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Delbert D. Black, the first to hold that rank, and is equipped with the Aegis air-and-missile defense system. It's the 32nd vessel of its class built by Ingalls Shipbuilding, according to a company press release.

The next stop for the Black is its new homeport, just up the

coast at Mayport Naval Station, Jacksonville, Fla.

Ima Black, Master Chief Black's widow and a Navy veteran, gave the first order to "man our ship and bring her to life," as sponsor.

The principal speaker for the ceremony was Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy Russell Smith. Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite also spoke.

"Commissioning a ship after the first Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy is an honor without equal," Braithwaite said during the ceremony, according to the Navy. "The Navy has always been and will always be indelibly influenced by the leadership of our senior enlisted sailors epitomized by Delbert Black."

In March 2019, the Delbert D. Black had completed its acceptance trials from Ingalls' shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., when a heavy-lift vessel, the

M/V Hawk, delivering a floating dry dock, struck a testing barge alongside it, according to USNI News.

The barge in turn collided with and damaged the destroyer, which took on water, according to a statement from Huntington Ingalls Industries, the shipbuilders' parent company.

The collision delayed the destroyer's entry into service by nearly a year. The warship had been launched in 2017.

The 510-foot-long Black will be homeported alongside the destroyers USS Farragut, USS Lassen, USS The Sullivans, USS Thomas Hudner and USS Paul Ignatius.

Prior to the Black, the Paul Ignatius, commissioned in July 2019, most recently entered the Navy inventory. Ingalls has four more destroyers under construction and won a \$936 million contract for a fifth in June, according to an Ingalls

news release.

Black was a World War II veteran who survived the attack on Pearl Harbor and eventually reached the highest possible enlisted rank, master chief petty officer of the Navy.

Black defined the senior enlisted adviser position, established in the Navy in 1967, during the Vietnam War. He retired in 1971 after 30 years of naval service and died March 5, 2000. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, Va., according to Naval History and Heritage Command.

"Master Chief Black fought for increased sea-pay, family support programs, expanded uniform guidance and a host of other issues that improved the quality of life of not only junior enlisted, but all sailors and officers," Braithwaite said, according to the Navy. "By making life better for sailors, he made our Navy stronger for us all."

US warns Iraq of embassy closure if attacks continue

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Trump administration has warned Iraq that it will close its embassy in Baghdad if the government does not take swift and decisive action to end persistent rocket and other attacks by Iranian-backed militias and rogue armed elements on American and allied interests in the country, U.S., Iraqi and other officials said Monday.

The warning came as Iraqi security officials said a Katyusha rocket hit near Baghdad airport, killing three Iraqi civilians and severely wounding two others.

A U.S. official said the administration's warning was clear and given to both Iraq's president and prime minister but that it was not an immi-

nent ultimatum. There should be "no confusion" among Iraqi leaders about how seriously the U.S. takes the threat to its personnel and property, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The warning signals the administration's increasing frustration and anger with ongoing rocket fire from Iranian-supported groups on or near the vast U.S. Embassy compound in Baghdad as it steps up pressure on Iran with the re-imposition of crippling sanctions. However, closing the embassy and withdrawing U.S. personnel from Baghdad would signal a significant retreat from a country in which successive administrations have invested massive amounts of money and lives.

Pakistani court OKs appeal by slain journalist's family

Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Supreme Court on Monday accepted an appeal by the family of slain American journalist Daniel Pearl seeking to keep a British-born Pakistani man on death row over the beheading of the Wall Street Journal reporter.

The court delayed until next week hearing the appeal over the lower-court acquittal of Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who had been on death row since his conviction in 2002 over Pearl's killing.

Sheikh had been convicted of helping lure Pearl to a meeting in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi in which he was kidnapped. Pearl had been investigating the link between Pakistani militants and Rich-

ard C. Reid, dubbed the "Shoe Bomber" after trying to blow up a flight from Paris to Miami with explosives hidden in his shoes.

The lower court's April ruling acquitted Sheikh and three other accomplices, who had been sentenced to life in jail for their role in the plot. The lower court found Sheikh guilty on a single lesser charge of abduction, which he is also appealing.

The acquittal stunned the U.S. government, Pearl's family and journalism advocacy groups.

"We felt like (it was) a thunderstorm that is about to reopen our pains of 2002," Pearl's father, Judea Pearl, told The Associated Press in an email Monday.

COVID-19 deaths also illuminated treatment process

Associated Press

The nearly 1 million people around the world who have lost their lives to COVID-19 have left the world a gift: Through desperate efforts to save their lives, scientists now better understand how to treat and prevent the disease — and millions of others may survive.

Ming Wang, 71, and his wife were on a cruise from Australia, taking a break after decades of running the family's Chinese restaurant in Papillion, Neb., when he was infected. In the 74 days he was hospitalized before his death in June, doctors frantically tried various experimental approaches, including enrolling him in a study of an antiviral drug that ultimately showed promise.

"It was just touch and go. Everything they wanted to try we said yes, do it," said Wang's daughter, Anne Peterson. "We would give anything to have him back, but if what we and he went through would help future patients, that's what we want."

Patients are already benefiting. Though more deaths are expected this fall because of the recent surge in coronavirus infections in the United States and elsewhere, there also are signs that death rates are declining and that people who get the virus now are faring better than did those in the early months of the pandemic.

"Some of the reason we're doing better is because of the advances," Dr. Francis Collins, director of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, told The Associated Press. Several drugs have proved useful and doctors know more about how to care for the sickest patients in hospitals, he said.

We're in the "stormy adolescence" phase of learning what treatments work — beyond infancy but not "all grown up either," Collins said.

The nearly 1 million deaths attributed to the coronavirus in nine months are far more than the 690,000 from AIDS or the 400,000 from malaria in all of 2019. They're trending just behind the 1.5 million from tuberculosis.

Wealth and power have not shielded rich countries from the awful power of the virus. The U.S. "has been the worst-hit country in the world" with more than 7 million coronavirus infections and more than 200,000 deaths, reflecting "the lack of success that we have had in containing this outbreak," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease specialist, told a Harvard Medical School audience this month.

It's clear that treatments are affecting survival, many doctors said. People who have died from COVID-19, especially ones who took part in studies, have helped reveal what drugs do or do not help.

Navy in Naples: Prepare to wait for flu vaccine

By JOHN VANDIVER

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Navy health officials in Naples, Italy, have said they may not be able to start an annual influenza flu vaccination campaign for the community until as late as December amid uncertainty over when they will receive the vaccine.

"At this time, the hospital does not have a definitive delivery date for its annual shipment of the influenza vaccine, however we anticipate availability by December," public health officials at U.S. Naval Hospital Naples said in a recent statement.

Flu vaccine could become available in Naples before then and a mass immunization exercise could be carried out earlier, said Christina Clarke, a spokeswoman for USNH Naples.

But the hospital is "beholden to when the shipment is on-hand and temperature-verified for safety," and there were no guarantees as to when that would happen, she said.

Getting a flu vaccine "is more important than ever" this year to help reduce the strain on health care systems responding to the coronavirus pandemic, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has

said.

Flu vaccination campaigns usually begin in October, and outbreaks tend to start to ramp up in December and run through the cold, winter months. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said immunization campaigns against the potentially deadly viral illness should continue "as long as flu viruses are circulating ... even in January or later."

The military elsewhere in Europe have already begun vaccination campaigns. At the Navy's hospital in Rota, Spain, the first community flu shot event was held last week for active-duty members. More events are expected for others in the days and weeks to come.

Army health officials in Europe "don't anticipate a delay at this point" and expect to begin vaccinations in late October, said Gino Mattorano, spokesman for Regional Health Command Europe, based in Sembach, Germany.

The CDC has said there are "no significant delays" reported in vaccine deliveries, but delays could occur "because of the record number of doses being produced this season" which means production and distribution will occur over a longer period of time.

At Yokosuka, more DODEA students return to class as virus threat eases

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Though the fall semester for Defense Department schools began more than a month ago, students of the four base schools here on Monday returned to the classroom for the first time in more than six months.

Freshman Emma Snyder, 15, posed for a faux first-day-of-school photo with her siblings at about 7:30 a.m. before heading into Kinnick High School.

While students at Kinnick, Yokosuka Middle and Sullivans and Ikego Elementary schools began remote learning on Aug. 24, they hadn't been taught on campus since the coronavirus pandemic closed U.S. schools on military bases across Japan on March 19.

"Now I get to actually meet my friends and hang out with them," Emma said.

The Department of Defense Education

Activity requires all bases under Health Protection Condition-Charlie, which indicates a substantial risk of the coronavirus spreading, or higher to close their school buildings and instead provide online instruction. Yokosuka was under condition Charlie in August when school began but moved to condition Bravo, a moderate risk, on Sept. 14. Teachers and administrators spent the following two weeks preparing for the return to in-person instruction, DODEA Pacific East Superintendent Judy Allen said in a letter to parents a day later.

Navy spouse Daren Poindexter's daughters Phoenix, 7, and Cadence, 8, were well aware of the new rules as they waited for class to begin at Sullivans Elementary. Poindexter said he hoped returning to school would offer his daughters a sense of normalcy often lost during the pandemic.

"They need other people in their lives other than their parents and each other," he said.

Louisiana to expand mail-in ballot option

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana's top elections official won't challenge a federal judge's decision requiring him to offer more mail-in balloting options for the fall elections to people at higher risk to the coronavirus disease.

Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin said he must focus on implementing the required changes, suggesting an immediate appeal of U.S. District Judge Shelly Dick's Sept. 16 ruling could create confusion ahead of the Nov. 3 presidential election.

"I and the voters deserve certainty," Ardoin, a Republican, told The Advocate. "My staff, the clerks and the (voter) registrars and their staffs need to know how we're conducting this election. And for us, we're conducting this election in accordance with what the judge ruled and current law."

The expansion will allow people to seek an absentee ballot if they are at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 because of medical conditions; are subject to a quarantine order; are advised by a health provider to self-quarantine; are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and seeking medical confirmation; or are caring for someone who is isolated because of the disease.

Ardoin said he remains concerned that the number of absentee ballots will slow the tally of votes.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Little Rock teachers won't show up for in-person classes due to concerns about the spread of coronavirus in schools, the head of the local teachers union said Sunday.

The Little Rock Education Association said its members are willing to teach classes virtually, but accused district administrators of not doing enough to prevent the virus' spread in their schools since they reopened Aug. 24.

"At this juncture, LREA

members believe that our schools are not safe for in-person instruction and that the risk to our students, our staff members and our community is too great," the association said in a news release. The union said the move was not a strike or a work stoppage.

It was not clear how many teachers in the district planned to not show up for classes, but the superintendent of the 21,000-student district said they were taking additional steps to ensure schools remain open for in-person classes.

Delaware

DOVER — Delaware's Division of Public Health has reported more than 100 new coronavirus cases in the state.

The Delaware State News reported Sunday that the total number of cases is now 20,260.

The good news is that there were no new deaths reported. The state's total number of coronavirus-related deaths remained at 633.

The total number of people who are hospitalized with the coronavirus is 60. Sixteen of those cases are considered critical.

Florida

TALLAHASSEE — As coronavirus cases spike among Florida State University students, local police said Sunday they broke up a party at an off-campus student apartment complex that involved about 700 vehicles and more than 1,000 attendees.

Tallahassee police said it was one of a dozen large gatherings they broke up over the weekend, including one Sunday where two people were injured by gunfire.

Police said the vehicles at the student apartment complex were blocking travel lanes and a Leon County sheriff's helicopter was used to help disperse the crowd.

Florida State University reported that more than 1,400 students and 26 employees had tested positive for COVID-19

through Sept. 18. The university updates its coronavirus numbers weekly.

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, 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.

Montana

BILLINGS — The coronavirus pandemic in Montana continued to grow as the state recorded a record number of cases Saturday, surpassing the high marks reached two days earlier.

Montana recorded 346 new cases of COVID-19 Saturday morning, an increase from 323 cases Friday and 333 cases Thursday, The Billings Gazette reported Saturday.

Montana experienced a record number of new case totals in eight of the previous 11 days.

State health officials reported one new death from the virus Saturday, bringing the state's total to 171.

As of Saturday, Montana had 2,987 people known to be currently infected by COVID-19, with 147 people hospitalized.

Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island will stay under its current coronavirus restrictions for another month.

Democratic Gov. Gina Rai-

mondo has extended the restrictions under Phase 3 of the state's reopening plan, which were supposed to expire on Monday. Now the restrictions will remain in place until Oct. 28.

Under Phase 3, indoor catered events are limited to 50 people and outdoor events are limited to 100 people. Businesses can have up to 66% of workers on site at once as long as other virus guidance, such as physical distancing, is followed.

Raimondo signed the executive order extending Phase 3 on Friday.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — Health officials on Sunday reported 373 new positive coronavirus cases in Nevada along with three additional deaths.

That increases the statewide totals to 78,728 cases and 1,585 known deaths since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

Nevada Department of Health Services officials had reported 602 new cases on Saturday — the largest number since Aug. 29 — with nine additional deaths.

They said of the nearly 79,000 statewide cases, a majority have been in Clark County.

Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Wisconsin health officials on Sunday reported 2,217 new cases of the coronavirus, the fourth day in a row the state has confirmed more than 2,000 positive tests.

The update showed a positivity rate of 27.6% for the more than 8,000 COVID-19 test results processed in the last day. A single-day record of 2,817 cases was reported Saturday.

The death toll remained at 1,281 people as no new fatalities were reported Sunday.

Wisconsin ranks third in the country behind North Dakota and South Dakota in the number of new virus cases per capita in the last two weeks, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Motor Speedway Museum auctions cars

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Dozens of cars in the basement of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum are being auctioned off as the facility continues to revamp its collection.

Since mid-May, the museum has generated about \$320,000 after selling 14 vehicles, the Indiana Business Journal reported.

Most of the vehicles were early 20th-century cars and Ford Model T's that had not been used during races.

More than 70 cars are expected to be sold through the end of 2021, with proceeds to be reinvested in the maintenance of the museum's remaining vehicles in addition to obtaining new memorabilia.

One of the cars already sold was a 1907 Franklin Model G the Speedway Foundation bought in 1961. The Franklin Model G was sold for \$51,111 on June 26.

2012 case closed after DNA links jailed suspect

GA LAWRENCEVILLE — An 8-year-old murder case in Georgia was closed after DNA linked an incarcerated suspect to the slaying, authorities said.

The Gwinnett County Police Department's Cold Case Unit has been investigating the Nov. 2, 2012, murder of Robert Nixon with the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office for years. Nixon was shot to death inside his apartment, according to a news release.

Detectives originally assigned to the case were never able to identify a suspect, but the Cold Case unit was able to find DNA evidence and other evidence that links Nazar Matheson to Nixon's death, the

release said.

Matheson was already incarcerated for unrelated crimes in Georgia and now faces a murder charge, authorities said.

Man killed when car crashes into residence

OH HOWLAND — A man who was in the basement of his home was killed when a car crashed into the residence and struck him, authorities said.

The accident in Howland occurred when a car driven by Damien Fish, 24, of Warren, left the roadway and crashed into the home, according to the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The car struck Matthew Burke, 45, who was pronounced dead at the scene.

Fish was treated at a hospital for injuries that were not considered life-threatening.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

Man jailed for graffiti during community service

VA FREDERICKSBURG — A Virginia man accused of spray-painting property with graffiti while he was supposed to be performing community service for a vandalism conviction was sentenced to three years in jail.

The Free Lance-Star reported that Robert Singhass, 21, of Unionville, bragged on social media about spray-painting the word "Robbo" on properties in Fredericksburg and drinking liquor when he was supposed to be picking up trash earlier this year.

"You were given a chance and you blew it," Fredericksburg Circuit Court Judge Gordon Willis told Singhass.

Singhass has served six months from a previous sentence and will only have to serve half of his three-year sen-

tence because his convictions are for misdemeanor offenses, the newspaper reported.

Motorcyclist charged with assaulting ranger

NC DANBURY — A North Carolina man was arrested on charges he struck a park ranger with a motorcycle at a state park.

The charges against Kennan James Foster, 44, of Greensboro, include felony assault with a deadly weapon, assault on a law enforcement officer and fleeing the scene to elude arrest, the Stokes County Sheriff's Office said.

The park ranger was on duty at Hanging Rock Park on Sept. 6 when she heard a motorcycle on a walking trail at the park and briefly spoke to the rider before he allegedly struck her with the bike, park officials said.

Former deputy accused in series of burglaries

IA LEMARS — A former sheriff's deputy in northwestern Iowa faces several felony charges for burglaries and thefts that occurred while he was working as a deputy.

The Sioux City Journal reported that Aaron John Leusink, 41, is accused in a series of crimes that occurred between December 2017 and January of this year. Authorities said the thefts were related to prescription medications.

Leusink was working as a Plymouth County deputy at the time. Sheriff Michael Van Otterloo asked the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation to investigate after the allegations against Leusink came to light in April.

Leusink was initially placed on administrative before being fired in April.

Mansion that became restaurant being razed

IN VALPARAISO — A grand mansion in northwest Indiana that was visited by a parade of prominent guests before being turned into an upscale restaurant is meeting the wrecking ball after years of neglect.

Architectural salvage professionals rescued chandeliers, woodwork, hardware and other fixtures from the Victorian-era Calkins-Brown House before demolition work began recently in Valparaiso. The site is set to be redeveloped into townhomes.

The four-story mansion was built around 1860. It was later owned by early Valparaiso University President Henry Baker Brown. The Pappas family bought the property in 1942 and turned it into a fine-dining restaurant. After the restaurant closed in 1995, the grand building was damaged by a fire three years later.

Police: Man fled traffic stop, striking officer

NJ GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP — Authorities said a Philadelphia man fleeing a traffic stop in New Jersey struck a police officer before he was apprehended.

Gloucester Township police said the vehicle was stopped and officers suspected that the driver was under the influence of narcotics. Police allege that the driver refused to get out of the vehicle and drove away, striking an officer with the car door and running over the officer's foot.

Police said the vehicle came to a stop 3 miles away due to a mechanical issue, and Oliver Lee, 20, was taken into custody. The officer declined treatment.

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STARS AND STRIPES®

MLB playoffs include 2 losing teams

Associated Press

Christian Yelich and the Milwaukee Brewers got off to a ragged start this year. They never got above .500. And they dropped their last game to finish with a losing record.

Guess what? They're going to the playoffs.

"Weird. I guess that's the only way to describe it. It's fitting for 2020," Yelich said Sunday.

A pandemic-altered, 60-game regular season that many believed would never get completed and saw games postponed because of virus outbreaks, racial injustice protests and a hurricane went into the final day without a single playoff matchup set.

Then, in a flurry and fury, the entire, expanded 16-team postseason field was full.

Not a bad way to start, either: Gerrit Cole vs. Shane Bieber in a megawatt duel as the New York Yankees face the Cleveland Indians in the best-of-three wild-card round Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the NL gets going. That's when the Brewers, at 29-31, open their series against Los Angeles ace Walker Buehler.

In a win-and-you're-in game, St. Louis clinched by beating Milwaukee 5-2. But the Brewers also made it when San Francisco lost 5-4 to San Diego for the last wild-card spot.

Yelich, the former MVP who hit .205 this year after winning the last two NL batting titles, and the Brewers happily posed for

a team picture in their playoff-clinch T-shirts on the Busch Stadium field.

The Astros and first-year manager Dusty Baker also are in at 29-31. Houston got its spot by finishing second in the AL West, drawing an automatic berth.

The only other team in major league history to reach the playoffs with a losing record was the 1981 Kansas City Royals — at 50-53 overall, they made it by winning the second half in a strike-split season.

"It's a celebration. We're in. We're in the playoffs. That's how you see it," Brewers manager Craig Counsell said. "There's no reason to apologize for getting into the playoffs."

The other AL pairings: Top-seeded Tampa Bay-No. 8 Toronto, No. 2 Oakland-No. 7 Chicago White Sox and No. 3 Minnesota-No. 6 Houston, with all openers Tuesday.

In the NL, it's No. 1 Dodgers-No. 8 Brewers, No. 2 Atlanta-No. 7 Cincinnati, No. 3 Chicago Cubs-No. 6 Miami and No. 4 San Diego-No. 5 St. Louis on Wednesday.

Yadier Molina and the Cardinals claimed their spot despite missing 2½ weeks into August after the club was hit by a virus outbreak. St. Louis played a total of 58 games — it was prepared for a doubleheader in Detroit on Monday if needed to settle the playoff picture.

"You had to throw some of the expectations out the window not knowing what to expect after taking those couple weeks off and all those doubleheaders and so many

new guys," Cardinals first baseman Paul Goldschmidt said. "It was very different, very fulfilling to make the playoffs."

All matchups are best-of-three, with every game hosted by the top seed in ballparks without fans. With no days off, pitching strategies will be paramount, particularly how managers use their bullpens. Following the wild-card rounds, the remaining clubs will move to neutral site bubbles in Texas and Southern California to crown a champion.

The biggest losers Sunday were Philadelphia and the Giants. As it turned out, either team would've gotten in with a win.

"It's tough sitting here and not thinking (about the playoffs)," Phillies slugger Bryce Harper said after a 5-0 loss at Tampa Bay. "We had opportunities to win games and we just didn't get it done."

October on deck means the end of seven-inning games and no more automatic runners at second base to begin the 10th, but other new rules implemented this season apply: designated hitters in the National League and relievers must face three batters or end the inning.

Nothing else kooky in this 16-team tournament, though. Like, no penalty at-bats to decide extra long games.

"It's going to be wild, everything about it," Rays outfielder Kevin Kiermaier said as the playoffs approached.

"Anything can happen, we all know that, and that's why I think it's going to be must-see TV throughout both leagues."

Serena wins after slow start in French opener

Associated Press

PARIS — Serena Williams went from a 72-minute struggle of a first set that required a tiebreaker to resolve in her first-round match at the French Open to a lopsided second set in which she did not drop a game.

"I just need to play with more confidence," Williams said, by way of explanation for how her 7-6 (2), 6-0 victory over 102nd-ranked Kristie Ahn unfolded Monday, "like I'm Serena."

Well, yes, she was more herself for the latter half of the contest, which by the end really wasn't much of a contest.

And this is how Ahn described the sensation of being

across the net from that version of Williams, the one where she is at her very best.

"It feels like you're trying to push a runaway train in the opposite direction," Ahn said. "It's very difficult to try and stop, to stop her momentum when she's going, when she's feeling it."

Imagine Ahn's (bad) luck of the draw: She is the first player to face Williams in the first round at two consecutive Grand Slam tournaments, having also lost their matchup at the U.S. Open.

"I mean, I laughed," Ahn said. "I mean, what are the odds?"

They were followed onto Court Philippe Chartier by 12-time French Open champion

Rafael Nadal.

The man Nadal beat in the last two finals, Dominic Thiem, won his first match since winning the U.S. Open, advancing to the second round with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 victory over 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic.

This, too, was a recent rematch from New York.

Thiem will next face American qualifier Jack Sock, who beat Reilly Opelka 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 and was one of six men from the U.S. to get to the second round; only one did a year ago in Paris.

Among the key results on Day 2 of a chilly, pandemic-postponed French Open were losses by 2019 runner-up Marketa

Vondrousova, who was beaten 6-1, 6-2 by Polish teenager Iga Swiatek; 2017 U.S. Open finalist and 2018 French Open semifinalist Madison Keys; and men's seeds No. 14 Fabio Fognini and No. 19 Felix Auger-Aliassime.

Williams now gets another rematch, facing Tsvetana Pironkova, the player the 39-year-old American beat in the quarterfinals in New York earlier this month.

"It's always exciting to face her," Pironkova said.

Williams has won three of her professional-era record 23 Grand Slam singles titles in Paris; add one more and she'll equal Margaret Court's all-era mark.

NFL roundup

Falcons blow big lead again, lose to Bears

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Falcons suffered their second straight fourth-quarter collapse after leading by two touchdowns, this time to backup quarterback Nick Foles and the Chicago Bears, who rallied from a 16-point deficit for a 30-26 win on Sunday that could spell the end for Atlanta coach Dan Quinn.

Foles replaced Mitchell Trubisky and threw three touchdown passes in the fourth quarter for the Bears, who improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2013.

The Falcons (0-3) became the first team in NFL history lose back-to-back games in which it led by 15 or more points in the final period, according to STATS.

A week ago, Atlanta became a national laughingstock after failing to pounce on an onside kick, allowing the Dallas Cowboys to finish off their comeback from a 39-24 deficit to win 40-39 on a field goal as time expired.

Under Quinn, the Falcons also blew a 28-3 lead in the Super Bowl after the 2016 season and lost in overtime to the New England Patriots.

This time, it was Foles who guided the improbable comeback after relieving the erratic Trubisky in the third quarter. The former Super Bowl MVP had two apparent touchdown passes overturned by official reviews — and still managed to pull out the victory.

Seahawks 38, Cowboys 31: DK Metcalf made up for a huge first-half blunder by catching a 29-yard touchdown pass from Russell Wilson with 1:47 remaining, and Seattle held off visiting Dallas.

Wilson threw five touchdown passes, setting a record for most scoring passes in the first three games of a season with 14. Patrick Mahomes threw for 13 TDs in his MVP season of 2018. Wilson became the first QB to have at least four TD passes in each of the first three games.

Metcalf appeared to have a walk-in touchdown after hauling in a deep pass from Wilson late in the first quarter. But he was careless with the ball in the final few steps before the goal line, and Cowboys cornerback Trevon Diggs came up from behind and knocked the ball free. It went out of the end zone for a touchback.

But when the Seahawks needed a big play late, Wilson floated a pass into the end zone and allowed Metcalf to run underneath it for the deciding touchdown.

Wilson was 27-for-40 for 315 yards. His latest bit of fourth-quarter magic ruined Dak Prescott's attempt at a second straight major comeback.

Bills 35, Rams 32: Josh Allen completed a 3-yard touchdown pass to tight Tyler Kroft with 15 seconds remaining, and host Buffalo survived to beat Los Angeles after squandering a 25-point lead.

The Rams (2-1) were poised to match the third-largest comeback in NFL regular season history after Jared Goff led the team to touchdowns on four straight drives, capped by Darrell Henderson's 1-yard run with 4:30 remaining.

Packers 37, Saints 30: Aaron Rodgers passed for 283 yards and three touchdowns, and Green Bay remained unbeaten with a win at New Orleans.

Allen Lazard caught six passes for 146 yards for Green Bay (3-0), including gains of 48 and 72 yards on throws deep downfield that each set up touchdowns.

Rodgers' scoring passes went for 5 yards to Lazard, 18 yards to tight end Mercedes Lewis and 1 yard to tight end Robert Tonyan. Lazard's longest catch set up Aaron Jones' 1-yard TD run.

Colts 36, Jets 7: Xavier Rhodes and T.J. Carrie each returned an interception for a touchdown, Indianapolis recorded its second safety in as many weeks and Philip Rivers added his 400th career TD pass as the host Colts routed New York.

Rivers played like his old self, getting rid of the ball quickly while avoiding mistakes on a milestone day.

The 38-year-old was 17-for-21 with 217 yards and played his first turnover-free game since joining Indy (2-1). He became the sixth player in league history to throw 400 career TD passes and the sixth to top 60,000 yards.

Bengals 23, Eagles 23: Joe Burrow tossed a pair of touchdown passes to Tee Higgins in regulation and Carson Wentz dove into the end zone for the tying score in the final minute as visiting Cincinnati and Philadelphia played to a tie.

The Eagles' Jake Elliott lined up for a 59-yard field goal with 19 seconds left in overtime, but a false start on Matt Pryor forced the team to punt it away and play for the tie.

Titans 31, Vikings 30: Stephen Gostkowski made his career-high sixth field goal of game, a 55-yarder with 1:48 left that lifted undefeated Tennessee to a win at Minnesota.

Derrick Henry rushed for 119 yards and two third-quarter touchdowns for the Titans, who improved to 3-0 for the first time since 2008 after trailing for most of the game. Ryan Tannehill passed for 321 yards, guiding Tennessee on a go-ahead drive in the fourth quarter or overtime for

the sixth time in 16 games since becoming the starter.

Buccaneers 28, Broncos 10: Tom Brady threw three touchdown passes and Shaq Barrett celebrated his homecoming with a pair of sacks, one for a safety, in Tampa Bay's 28-10 win at Denver.

With his first road win for the Bucs (2-1), Brady evened his career record against the Broncos at 9-9 with just his fifth win in a dozen trips to Denver.

49ers 36, Giants 9: Nick Mullens threw for 343 yards and a touchdown to lead San Francisco to its second win at MetLife Stadium in as many weeks, this time over error-prone and winless New York.

Jerick McKinnon, Brandon Aiyuk and Jeff Wilson scored on runs on a nearly flawless day for the Niners (2-1), who stayed in West Virginia to prep for the game. Robbie Gould added three field goals for San Francisco, which last week beat the Jets 31-13 and denied Giants coach Joe Judge a chance for his first win this week.

Steelers 28, Texans 21: James Conner ran for 109 yards and the go-ahead touchdown midway through the fourth quarter as host Pittsburgh rallied past Houston.

The Steelers improved to 3-0 for the first time in a decade by putting the clamps on the Texans (0-3) in the second half. Houston managed just 51 yards and two first downs after halftime as an early 11-point lead vanished.

Patriots 36, Raiders 20: Bill Belichick became the third coach in NFL history to reach 275 regular-season victories and Rex Burkhead scored three touchdowns to lead host New England past Las Vegas.

Belichick joined George Halas (318) and Don Shula (328) as the only coaches to reach the milestone.

Sony Michel finished with nine carries for 117 yards. Burkhead had two rushing scores and an 11-yard TD reception.

Lions 26, Cardinals 23: Matt Prater made a 39-yard field goal as time expired, Matthew Stafford threw two touchdown passes and Detroit won at Arizona to snap an 11-game losing streak dating to last season.

Stafford had a deep completion called back by a holding penalty before he calmly led the Lions downfield, Prater connected on his fourth field goal of the afternoon and the Lions finally got to celebrate a victory.

Browns 34, Washington 20: Baker Mayfield threw two touchdown passes, Nick Chubb ran for two more and Hoby Cleveland beat the Washington Football Team to move over .500 for the first time since 2014.

Heat force way into NBA Finals

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — It was exactly one year ago Sunday when Jimmy Butler walked into the Miami Heat practice gym, took a seat on a makeshift stage and said he wanted to be part of the team's next title run.

He'll have that chance.

The Heat are going to the NBA Finals — surprising many, perhaps, but not themselves. Bam Adebayo scored a season-high 32 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, Butler scored 22 points and Miami won the Eastern Conference finals for the sixth time by topping the Boston Celtics 125-113 on Sunday night.

"A great series. It was so competitive," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "I mean, in many ways, this was a seven-game series, just how competitive it was. Extremely well-coached and well-put together and we are just honored to be a part of that type of series in the conference finals, and then we get an opportunity for the next stage. Our guys will look forward to it. We're going to try to enjoy it for a night."

Miami won the series 4-2 — and now, waiting on that next stage to decide the NBA title, are LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers. Game 1 is Wednesday

night.

Tyler Herro scored 19 points, Duncan Robinson and Andre Iguodala each had 15 and Goran Dragic added 13 for the Heat.

"We deserve to be here," Dragic said.

Jaylen Brown scored 26 points, Jayson Tatum had 24 and a career-high 11 assists, and Marcus Smart and Kemba Walker each scored 20 points for Boston — which fell in the East finals for the third time in the last four seasons.

"Miami deserves a lot of credit," Celtics coach Brad Stevens said. "They're super physical, super tough, very, very savvy. I think they're the best team in the East and deserve to be representing the East in the way that they have played."

The Heat were down by six early in the fourth before regaining control. A 6-0 burst — Herro had the last five of those points, needing only 31 seconds to do so — tied it at 96. Boston took the lead twice more, with Adebayo answering both times, first with a dunk, then a go-ahead three-point play with 6:16 left.

He smacked the floor in celebration.

It's like Miami knew what was coming. It never trailed again. Herro had a pair of baskets in a 9-0 burst that put the Heat up by 10, Adebayo found Butler for a layup and a 116-102 lead and everyone on the team's

bench was on their feet.

"This means everything," Herro said.

And before long, all the Celtics could do was offer their congratulations.

"Regrets, I don't have any," Walker said.

"I don't have any, man. I thought we fought hard. A lot of credit to Miami. Those guys are really good."

The Heat are the only NBA franchise with six Finals appearances in the last 15 years. They're seeking their fourth title, and this chance didn't come easily.

Miami had a 5-for-5 stretch from three-point range in the first quarter, but otherwise struggled again from beyond the arc in the first half. The Heat were 6-for-14 from deep in the first 24 minutes, Boston was 11-for-23 before the break and Miami took a 62-60 lead into halftime.

And the margin remained two going into the fourth.

Iguodala's fourth three-pointer — in as many attempts — with 4:20 left in the third put the Heat up eight, before Brown had five points in a 10-2 Celtics spurt to tie it. Dragic had a go-ahead layup on Miami's final shot of the quarter and it was 88-86 Heat with 12 minutes remaining.

The Heat scored 35 of the game's final 52 points.

Bubble won't be back in 2020-21 NHL season

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — The 64 days spent in the NHL play-off bubble feel like six months to Barclay Goodrow.

"It's tough," the Tampa Bay Lightning forward said. "It's been a grind."

It's a grind he and players won't do again next season. The league and Players' Association will meet within the next two weeks to discuss the many possibilities of what the 2020-21 season could look like, but there's no desire to stage it entirely within quarantined bubbles.

"Certainly not for a season, of course not," NHLPA executive director Don Fehr told The Associated Press on Sunday. "Nobody is going to do that for

four months or six months or something like that. Whether we could create some protected environments that people would be tested and they'd be clean when they came in and lasted for some substantially shorter period of time with people cycling in and out is one of the things I suspect we will examine."

Not long after the Stanley Cup is awarded, which could be as soon as Monday night if the Lightning beat the Dallas Stars in Game 6 of the final, the two sides will talk about when next season might start, how many games might be possible, what testing and protocols might be required and whether fans might be allowed into buildings at some capacity.

Hometown victor: Busch finally wins in Las Vegas

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Two decades of heartbreak at his home track finally ended for Kurt Busch when a little bit of luck fell his way at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Busch happened to be the leader when a late caution Sunday night jumbled the field and put him in control of his 0-for-21 losing streak in his hometown. He had three magnificent restarts, including one in overtime, to steal a vital playoff race.

The good timing helped Busch sneak his way into the third round of the NASCAR Cup playoffs. He had been ranked last among the 12 title contenders before the race;

now he's guaranteed a slot in the round of eight.

"This is 20 years of agony and defeat and today triumph," Busch said. "I don't know if I have any gas left or if I just filled my tank up to go win every race. This is my hometown and I have so many people to thank and I know they are watching on television so proud of their hometown driver."

The win, the first of the season for the 2004 Cup champion, was celebrated alongside younger brother, Kyle. The reigning NASCAR champion slammed doors with his big brother on the cool-down lap. Busch then took the checkered flag to the finish line and smacked it on each of the letters in Las Vegas.