

Taliban take last holdout Afghan province

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban said on Monday that they have taken control of Panjshir province north of Kabul, the last holdout of anti-Taliban forces in the country and the only province the Taliban had not seized during their blitz across Afghanistan last month.

Thousands of Taliban fighters overran eight districts of Panjshir overnight, according to witnesses from the area who spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their safety. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid issued a statement, saying Panjshir was now under control of Taliban fighters.

“We tried our best to solve the problem through negotiations, and they rejected talks and then we had to send our forces to fight,” Mujahid told a press conference in Kabul later Monday.

The anti-Taliban forces had

been led by the former vice president, Amrullah Saleh, and also the son of the iconic anti-Taliban fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was killed just days before the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Meanwhile in northern Balkh province, at least four planes chartered to evacuate several hundred people seeking to escape the Taliban’s takeover of Afghanistan have been unable to leave the country for days, officials said Sunday, with conflicting accounts emerging about why the flights weren’t able to take off as pressure ramps up on the U.S. to help those left behind to leave.

An Afghan official at the airport in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the provincial capital, said that the would-be passengers were Afghans, many of whom did not have passports or visas, and thus were unable to leave the country. Speaking on condition of ano-

nymity because he was not authorized to talk to reporters, he said they had left the airport while the situation was being sorted out.

The top Republican on the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, however, said that the group included Americans and that they had boarded planes but the Taliban were not letting them take off, effectively “holding them hostage.” Rep. Michael McCaul, of Texas, told “Fox News Sunday” that U.S. citizens and Afghan interpreters were being kept on six planes. He did not say where that information came from and it was not immediately possible to reconcile the two accounts.

The final days of America’s 20-year war in Afghanistan were marked by a harrowing airlift at Kabul’s airport to evacuate tens of thousands of people — Americans and their allies — who feared what the future would hold, given the Taliban’s history of repres-

sion, particularly of women. When the last American troops pulled out on Aug. 30, though, many were left behind.

The U.S. promised to continue working with the new Taliban rulers to get those who want to leave out, and the militants pledged to allow anyone with the proper legal documents to leave.

Experts had doubted that resistance to the Taliban in Panjshir could succeed long-term despite the area’s geographical advantage. Nestled in the towering Hindu Kush mountains, the Panjshir Valley has a single narrow entrance. Local fighters held off the Soviets there in the 1980s and also, for a brief time, the Taliban a decade later under the leadership of Massoud. He was one of several former mujahideen leaders who had ruled Kabul between 1992-96 but turned their guns on each other, leading to the 1996 arrival of the Taliban.

Embassy workers, contractors among those left behind in Kabul

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — The day Afghanistan’s capital fell, a contractor who had worked at the U.S. Embassy for six years was dismissed from work early.

Embassy staff had collected his family’s information weeks before in preparation for a possible evacuation. But after he was told on Aug. 15 to leave the embassy’s grounds, “nobody called, nobody emailed.”

“Everyone knows where I worked, that I worked with the Americans,” said the contractor, who ran a shop at the embassy and who, like others in this report, spoke on the condition of anonymity out of fear of reprisals. He fled to the home of a relative in a neighboring province. “I gave my mother my embassy badges and

told her to put them in a box and bury it in the garden.”

Roughly 2,500 U.S. Embassy employees were among the 120,000 people the U.S. evacuated by air from Afghanistan, according to President Joe Biden. But the operation left “many of our longtime partners” behind, according to a State Department spokesperson. One person familiar with the matter said they included about 2,000 U.S. Embassy contractors and immediate family members, some of whom had worked at the embassy for more than a decade. The State Department declined to comment on that number.

For those who were not evacuated, Undersecretary of State Victoria Nuland said at a recent news conference, “we’re looking

at all possible options, but we’re also conveying to them that their safety and security is of paramount concern to us.”

Thousands of Afghans considered vulnerable and eligible for evacuation fell through the cracks. They include American University of Afghanistan students and graduates, applicants for Special Immigrant Visas and members of Afghanistan’s Special Forces. With the departure of U.S. forces from Afghanistan, many Afghans who felt threatened by the Taliban takeover now say they are in greater danger.

Among the tens of thousands who managed to reach the airport and get on planes out of the country were 5,500 Americans, thousands of citizens and diplomats of U.S. allies, and thousands of Af-

ghans who worked for the United States, according to Biden.

Planning for the evacuation began weeks before Kabul fell in mid-August, but the effort began to stumble almost as soon as it started. U.S. officials did not expect Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to flee the country so quickly and for Kabul’s security forces to collapse, leaving the civilian side of the airport unguarded.

“We made every effort to know who we were dealing with and what the numbers were, making sure we had proper resources on the ground to try to assist them. But the whole situation kind of spiraled into chaos,” said a person familiar with evacuation planning, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Vet stops suicidal man on Okinawa bridge

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A 52-year-old Okinawan man may have jumped to his death late last month had Marine Corps contractor Joe Ornauer not come along the bridge that day.

The man lost his job due to COVID-19, then his house and finally his family, Ornauer, 36, recalled Wednesday from his office at Camp Kinser, where he serves as an instructor for 3rd Marine Logistics Group's indoor marksmanship simulator.

Ornauer said he, too, has experienced homelessness and empathized with the man. The former soldier and New York paramedic was also trained to save the man's life.

"He just wanted someone to listen to him," Ornauer said. "He was pretty distraught."

Aug. 24 started like any other

day for Ornauer, who was driving to work on the Route 58 bypass in Urasoe around 7:30 a.m. when he saw a motorcycle parked on the bridge, packed with someone's worldly possessions.

Instinct told him to stop, Ornauer said. As traffic began to pile up behind his car, he saw a man on the outer side of the bridge's railing, standing on rickety aluminum scaffolding, looking down at a concrete surface 90 feet below.

Ornauer said he thought the man was a construction worker at first but knew something wasn't right after noticing his attire: T-shirt, sweatpants and flip flops.

Ornauer, who has a Japanese mother and an American father, spoke to the man in Japanese. His father is longtime Stars and Stripes sports reporter Dave Ornauer.

"I rolled the window down and I asked him, 'What are you doing?'" Ornauer recalled. "He said he was going to jump. I said, 'No, you're not.'"

Ornauer's suicide response training from being a paramedic kicked in. He exited his vehicle and approached the man, being careful not to get too close.

"I started talking to him, making eye contact, trying to get him to stop looking down at the concrete area he was about to jump into," Ornauer said.

The man told him about everything he'd lost. He had been crying for a while and had "a lot of stuff built up around his eyes," Ornauer said.

"I told him, 'Come over; let's talk,'" Ornauer recalled. "He was saying he doesn't have anybody that would listen to him, what his problems are. I said, 'I'll listen to you.'"

Meanwhile, people below

shouted for the man not to jump.

"I said, 'Let's sit here and talk and we'll figure out what's going on,'" Ornauer recalled. The man then climbed back over the railing from the scaffolding, and the two sat on the bridge together.

Ornauer said he called Okinawa police after getting control of the situation. He stayed on the phone with them while continuing to chat with the man.

The man tried to get up twice, but Ornauer pressured him to stay seated.

Police arrived not long after and took over, Ornauer said.

A spokesman from the Urasoe police station confirmed Ornauer's account in a call with Stars and Stripes on Thursday. The homeless man has since been seeing a doctor for his mental health issues.

"I pray for the guy every day," Ornauer said. "I hope everything turns out OK for him."

US bases work to reunite Afghan evacuee families

By **J.P. LAWRENCE**
Stars and Stripes

A 17-year-old boy reunited with his family at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, on Friday after they were separated during the chaotic evacuation from Afghanistan, State Department officials said.

The boy arrived by himself at Ramstein earlier last week, and was connected to the rest of his family a few hours after they flew in from Qatar on Friday, a State Department official familiar with the case said Saturday.

"Reunifications of families are happening every day," said John Stubbs, another State Department official and a spokesman at Ramstein. "The State Department is fielding hundreds of inquiries and working hard to reunite everyone possible."

The U.S. military evacuation of more than 122,000 Afghans in mid-August left an unknown number of families separated along their journey.

The U.S. believes there are "very few" Afghan children arriving on U.S. soil without an adult family member or friend, State Department spokesman Ned Price said Thursday.

"As soon as a minor child is identified as being without any trusted adult, we immediately begin working to reunite these identified minors with their families and with their loved ones," Price said.

The task of reuniting families is expected to be easier once everyone is on bases in the U.S., not in countries that can only host them for a certain number of days.

Fauci: Booster shots likely to start with Pfizer only

Bloomberg

President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser said U.S. booster shots against COVID-19 are likely to start only with the vaccine by Pfizer and BioNTech, while the Moderna shot may be delayed.

"The bottom line is very likely at least part of the plan will be implemented, but ultimately the entire plan will be," Dr. Anthony Fauci said Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation."

Fauci's comments may lead to more clarity on the administration's stance after Biden ran into resistance by medical experts who advise U.S. regulators over what they view as political interference in the review process.

While Biden has set a Sept. 20 target for kicking off the booster campaign, safety and efficacy da-

ta require signoff by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration. Top medical officials, including CDC head Dr. Rochelle Walensky, warned the White House last week that regulators may only be able to act on the Pfizer shot, and possibly for just some groups of people, in the coming weeks, The New York Times has reported.

Moderna said Friday it had completed its submission to U.S. regulators.

Fauci said plans for boosters involve using with the same brand as the original vaccination, but that mix-and-match studies are being done to determine of people who got one shot as the primary vaccine could take another as a booster.

Survivors recall tragedy and loss of 9/11

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Trapped deep in the wreckage of the World Trade Center, Will Jimeno lived through the unthinkable. Twenty years later, he's still living with it.

A brace and a quarter-sized divot on his left leg reflect the injuries that ended his police career, a lifetime dream. He has post-traumatic stress disorder. He keeps shelves of mementoes, including a cross and miniature twin towers fashioned from trade center steel. He was portrayed in a movie and wrote two books about enduring the ordeal.

"It never goes away, for those of us that were there that day," he said.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed when hijackers in Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network rammed four commercial jets into the trade center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field on Sept. 11, 2001. Yet an estimated 33,000 or more people successfully evacuated the stricken buildings.

They navigated mountains of smoky stairs in the World Trade Center's twin towers or streamed out of a flaming Pentagon. Some fled an otherworldly dust cloud at ground zero. Others willed their way out of pitch-dark rubble.

Sept. 11 survivors bear scars and the weight of unanswerable questions. Some grapple with their place in a tragedy defined by an enormous loss of life. They get told to "get over" 9/11, but they also say they have gained resilience, purpose, appreciation and resolve.

"One of the things that I learned," Jimeno said, "is to never give up."

It wasn't Bruce Stephan's first incredibly close call.

In 1989, his car got perilously wedged on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge when the Loma Prieta earthquake hit and the upper deck collapsed while he was driving across.

Twelve years later, the engineer and lawyer was settling into his workday on the 65th floor of the trade center's north tower when one of the planes crashed about 30 stories above.

Only after his roughly hour-long walk down the crowded stairs did Stephan learn that another plane had hit the south tower — the building where his wife, Joan, also an attorney, worked on the 91st floor. Above the impact zone.

Unable to reach her by cellphone, Bruce Stephan dashed to a payphone and called her relatives, who told him she'd gotten out.

Then the south tower fell, and Stephan's fear spiked anew. Had Joan been caught in the collapse? Hours later, he finally learned that she was OK.

Désirée Bouchat pauses by one of the inscribed names on the 9/11 memorial: James Patrick Berger. She last saw him on the 101st floor of the trade center's south tower.

"Some days, it feels like it happened yesterday," she said.

At first, people figured the plane crash at the north tower was accidental. There was no immediate evacuation order for the south tower. But Berger ushered Bouchat and other Aon Corp. colleagues to the elevators, then turned back to check for more people.

Just as Bouchat exited the south tower, another plane slammed into it. Nearly 180 Aon workers perished, including Berger.

For a while, Bouchat told everyone, including herself: "I'm fine. I'm alive."

But "I was a walking zombie," she says now.

She couldn't multitask anymore. Remarks that used to bother her stirred no reaction. She was functioning, but through a fog that took more than a year to lift.

Bouchat eventually felt that she needed to talk about 9/11. The Springfield, N.J., resident

has now led about 500 tours for the 9/11 Tribute Museum (it's separate from the larger National September 11 Memorial & Museum).

Bruce Powers has traveled from Alexandria, Va., to lead Tribute Museum tours, too. And every Sept. 11, the 82-year-old repeats his seven-mile walk home from the Pentagon after the attack that killed 184 people, 10 of whom he knew.

The walk, the tours and hearing other guides' personal stories "serve well in helping me deal with what happened," said Powers, a now-retired Navy aviation planner.

For a time after 9/11, Police Department Officer Mark DeMarco replayed the what-ifs in his mind. If he'd gone right instead of left. A bit earlier. Or later.

"I couldn't figure out how I got out of there alive," he said.

After helping evacuate the north tower, the Emergency Service Unit officer was surrounded by a maze of debris when parts of the skyscraper tumbled onto a smaller building where he'd been directed. Some officers with him were killed.

Now 68 and retired, DeMarco still wears a wristband with the names of the 14 ESU members killed that day. He worries that the public memory of the attacks is fading, that the passage of time has created a false sense of security.

"Have fun with life. Don't be afraid," he said. "But be mindful."

A tsunami of dust washed over emergency medical technician Guy Sanders, so thick that it clogged his surgical mask.

The 47-story building at 7 World Trade Center had just collapsed, about seven hours after the burning towers fell and debris ignited fires in the smaller high-rise.

A part-time EMS supervisor for a private ambulance company in the city, Sanders had

scrambled to respond from his day job at a Long Island collections agency.

He was en route when the towers collapsed, killing eight EMA workers, including his colleague Yamel Merino.

Sanders went to funeral after funeral for EMTs, firefighters and police.

Yet 9/11 only deepened his commitment to EMS. Though it was tricky financially, he soon went full-time.

"I never wanted to be in a situation where people needed me and I couldn't immediately respond," he said.

Buried in darkness and 20 feet or more of rubble from both towers, Will Jimeno was ready to die.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department rookie was in searing pain from a fallen wall pinning his left side. Fellow officer Dominick Pezzulo had died next to him. Flaming debris had fallen on Jimeno's arm and heated the cramped area enough that Pezzulo's gun fired, sending a flurry of bullets past Jimeno's head. He had yelled for help for hours. He was terribly thirsty.

"If I die today, at least I died trying to help people," he remembered thinking.

"We're going to get out," he told Sgt. John McLoughlin, who was trapped with him.

Jimeno was freed around 11 p.m., McLoughlin the next morning. Jimeno underwent surgeries and lengthy rehabilitation.

The Colombian-born U.S. Navy veteran hopes that people see in his story "the resiliency of the human soul, the American spirit," and the power of good people stepping up in bad times.

Sept. 11 "motivates me to live a better life," said Jimeno, 53, of Chester, N.J. "The way I can honor those we lost and those that were injured is to live a fruitful life. To be an example to others that Sept. 11 did not destroy us."

Police: Ex-Marine surrenders after 4 killed

Associated Press

A man wearing full body armor fatally shot four people, including a mother and the 3-month-old baby she was cradling, and engaged in a massive gunfight with police and deputies before he was wounded and surrendered, a Florida sheriff said Sunday. An 11-year-old girl who was shot seven times survived.

Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd said during a press conference that even after 33-year-old Bryan Riley was arrested Sunday morning, he was so aggressive that he tried to wrestle a gun from police as he lay on his hospital gurney.

Judd said Riley, a former Marine who served as a sharpshooter in both Iraq and Afghanistan, seemed to have targeted his victims at random and appeared to

be suffering from mental health issues. Judd said Riley's girlfriend told authorities he had been unraveling for weeks and repeatedly told her that he could communicate directly with God.

"They begged for their lives and I killed them anyway," Judd said he told them during an interrogation.

Investigators said preliminary evidence shows 40-year-old Justice Gleason happened to be an unlucky stranger out mowing his lawn Saturday night when Riley drove by his home in Lakeland, about 30 miles east of Tampa, saying God told him to stop because Gleason's daughter was going to commit suicide.

A second, unidentified person confronted Riley, telling him that story wasn't true and warned they'd call police if he didn't

leave, Judd said. He referred to the person as a victim but did not clarify which one.

Authorities responded to the scene but never found Riley.

About nine hours later, around 4:30 a.m., Riley returned to the home, laying out glowsticks to create a path leading to the house to draw officers "into an ambush," Judd said.

Randomly, a lieutenant far in the distance heard popping noises and immediately put the agency on active-shooter mode, bringing all state and local law enforcement in the area to the scene.

Following the sounds of gunfire, authorities arrived at the home and found Riley's white truck ablaze and an unarmed Riley outside, dressed in camouflage.

Riley immediately ran inside, where authorities heard another round of gunfire, "a woman scream and a baby whimper," Judd said.

Officers tried to enter the front of the house, but it was barricaded. When they circled to the back, they encountered Riley, who appeared to have put on full body armor including head and knee coverings and a bulletproof vest.

Authorities exchanged heavy gunfire, with dozens "if not hundreds of rounds" fired, before Riley retreated back into the home, according to the sheriff.

Everything fell silent, Judd said, until a helicopter unit alerted authorities on the ground that Riley was coming out. He had been shot once and was ready to surrender.

Parts issues to keep car prices elevated until 2023

Associated Press

TOLEDO, Ohio — Back in the spring, a shortage of computer chips that had sent auto prices soaring appeared, finally, to be easing. Some relief for consumers seemed to be in sight.

That hope has now dimmed. A surge in COVID-19 cases from the delta variant in several Asian countries that are the main producers of auto-grade chips is worsening the supply shortage. It is further delaying a return to normal auto production and keeping the supply of vehicles artificially low.

And that means, analysts say, that record-high consumer prices for vehicles — new and used, as well as rental cars — will extend into next year and might not fall back toward earth until 2023.

The global parts shortage involves not just computer chips. Automakers are starting to see shortages of wiring harnesses, plastics and glass, too.

"It appears it's going to get a lit-

tle tougher before it gets easier," said Glenn Mears, who runs four auto dealerships around Canton, Ohio.

Squeezed by the parts shortfall, General Motors and Ford have announced one- or two-week closures at multiple North American factories, some of which produce their hugely popular full-size pickup trucks. Late last month, shortages of semiconductors and other parts grew so acute that Toyota felt compelled to announce it would slash production by at least 40% in Japan and North America for two months. The cuts meant a reduction of 360,000 vehicles worldwide in September.

The result is that vehicle buyers are facing persistent and once-unthinkable price spikes. The average price of a new vehicle sold in the United States in August hit a record of just above \$41,000 — nearly \$8,200 more than it was just two years ago, J.D. Power estimated.

Guinea's new junta leaders seek to tighten grip on power

Associated Press

CONAKRY, Guinea — Guinea's new military leaders sought to tighten their grip on power Monday after overthrowing President Alpha Conde, ordering the soldiers from his presidential guard to join the junta forces and barring government officials from leaving the country.

After putting the West African nation back under military rule for the first time in over a decade, the junta had already dissolved the National Assembly and the country's constitution. On Monday, regional military commanders replaced Guinea's governors.

Junta leader Col. Mamadi Doumbouya said the military regime would not pursue vendettas against political enemies, though he also told officials from Conde's deposed government to turn over their passports.

"There will be no spirit of hatred or revenge. There will be no witch hunt," said Doumbouya,

who had led the Guinean army's special forces unit before seizing power Sunday. "But justice will be the compass that will guide every Guinean citizen."

"For former members of the government, travel outside our borders will not be allowed during the transition," he said during the brief speech. "All your travel documents and vehicles must be handed over to the general secretaries of your former departments."

The military junta has refused to issue a timeline for releasing Conde, saying the 83-year-old deposed leader still had access to medical care and his doctors. The West African regional bloc known as ECOWAS, though, called for his immediate release and threatened to impose sanctions if the demand was not met.

Conde's removal by force Sunday came after the president sought and won a controversial third term in office last year, saying the term limits did not apply to him.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Abraham Lincoln Museum digitizing rare images

IL SPRINGFIELD — The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is digitizing nearly 8,000 rare images, including a Lincoln family photo album and a poster that offered a reward for the capture of the 16th president's assassin.

The "Picturing Lincoln" project will allow people around the world to access material from the museum in Springfield, the State Journal-Register reported. It's being funded with a \$100,000 grant from the Illinois State Library.

They include the posters issued days after Lincoln's fatal 1865 shooting seeking a reward for the apprehension of John Wilkes Booth. Other images are a schedule for the funeral train carrying Lincoln's body back to Springfield for burial and the only surviving photograph of Lincoln's body lying in state.

City considers future of 28-story office tower

IN INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis officials will be asking developers for potential new uses for the 28-story City-County Building as about half of it will be vacated in the coming months with the opening of a new criminal justice complex.

City officials want proposals that include housing for the 59-year-old tower as much office space has become available in downtown Indianapolis since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Deputy Mayor Jeff Bennett said converting at least part of the building to residential use could make the city's downtown a more "resilient" area.

"We're over-reliant upon workforce and convention visitors, tourists," Bennett said. "That's 150,000 to 250,000 people a day

during normal times. But when they're all gone, restaurants and other service businesses can't make it on carryout only."

Court accepts appeal of ex-senator's conviction

NH CONCORD — The New Hampshire Supreme Court has accepted the appeal of a former state senator who seeks to overturn his convictions on misdemeanor charges of domestic violence, criminal mischief and simple assault.

Jeff Woodburn, 56, of Whitefield, was convicted of four charges in Coos County and sentenced to 60 days in jail.

Woodburn was accused of slapping a woman and punching her in the stomach, as well as biting her once on the hand, and on another occasion, on the forearm.

In his notice of appeal, Woodburn asks whether the trial judge was wrong or violated his constitutional rights by failing to give the jury a self-defense instruction and not allowing evidence of prior aggression on the part of the alleged victim, among other questions.

Wrong-way crash in tunnel critically injures 1

PA PITTSBURGH — A wrong-way driver collided head-on with another car in a western Pennsylvania tunnel, critically injuring the other driver, police said.

State police in Pittsburgh said the vehicle entered Route 1376 traveling west in the eastbound lanes.

The car entered the Fort Pitt tunnel under Mount Washington, still traveling in the wrong direction, and collided head-on with another car, police said. The 36-year-old driver of the other car was taken to a local hospital and listed in critical condition with multiple injuries. The other 21-year-old driver was uninjured, police said.

State aims to restrict rubber bullets at protests

CA SACRAMENTO — California would restrict the use of rubber bullets and chemical irritants during protests under legislation advanced in the wake of last year's widespread public demonstrations over racial injustice.

The bill would set statewide standards for using the weapons that advocates said sometimes harmed peaceful protesters. Police said they are needed to prevent violence and are often better than the alternatives.

The bill by Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez would bar law enforcement agencies from using kinetic projectiles, chemical agents or tear gas to break up peaceful demonstrations, and prohibit police from aiming rubber bullets, beanbags and foam rounds at anyone's head, neck or other vital areas.

City likely to vote on retail marijuana sales

VT RUTLAND — Voters in Rutland will likely decide at Town Meeting next March whether to allow retail marijuana sales in their community when such sales become legal in Vermont next year.

The Select Board voted 4-0 this week to have the town attorney draft a ballot article, the Rutland Herald reported.

"I really think that the town should get in front of this in terms of benefits to the taxpayers that this type of authorization would provide," said Selectman John Paul Faignant.

"There has been plenty of experience from our neighbors now down in Massachusetts and Maine, we know that retail establishments don't bring out the worst in everybody like everybody feared," he added.

Homeowner won't be charged in killing intruder

MO CLAYTON — A homeowner who fatally shot an intruder in Webster Groves will not be charged, St. Louis County Prosecutor Wesley Bell said.

Bell said in a statement that the shooting was "clearly" a case of a person protecting his home and family from an intruder.

Brian Vazquez, 43, was shot when he entered the house through a rear door and ignored the homeowner's demands that he leave, police said. Vazquez died at a hospital.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that Vazquez was staying with friends about six houses from where he was shot and his friends believe he entered the home by mistake.

Restored art deco theatre reopens as music venue

IL DES PLAINES — A former vaudeville theatre will reopen this fall after a \$6.6 million renovation partially backed by the city of Des Plaines in hopes it will drive more development in the area.

The Des Plaines Theatre has been closed since 2014. The Pioneer Press reported that the city bought it for \$1.2 million in 2018 and signed an agreement with an outside operator to manage it, including live music bookings.

The theatre's 100-year-old interior has been restored to highlight its art deco style and reveal a stage that was covered by movie screens. The renovation also added a restaurant space and a speak-easy-themed bar.

Ron Onesti, owner of the new operating firm Onesti Entertainment, said the first show is scheduled for Oct. 1.

— From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Healthy stars ready to shine in NFL

Associated Press

Dak Prescott's right shoulder and Carson Wentz's left foot sidelined the Dallas and Indianapolis quarterbacks almost all of training camp when the plan called for a normal ramp-up to their comebacks in the regular season.

Cincinnati QB Joe Burrow, New York Giants running back Saquon Barkley, San Francisco defensive end Nick Bosa and Cleveland receiver Odell Beckham Jr. knew they would be limited in the preseason coming off knee injuries that cut short their 2020 seasons.

The rest of the NFL stars seeking redemption had something approaching normal camps, and all of them — limited ones included — are eager to get back to prominent roles after watching and waiting for months.

Just don't expect them to be longing for the Comeback Player of the Year award.

"There were so many guys that were injured, not just with our team but with this league, that whoever gets that, that will be special," Prescott said. "I don't think anybody ... is shooting for that, I guess. I want to be the best player I can be, and if that comes with it, then oh well."

Prescott, whose season ended in Week 5 with a compound fracture and dislocation of his right ankle, strained his right shoulder warming up for practice the first week of camp this year. He didn't play in the preseason but should be set for the Sept. 9 opener at Super Bowl winner Tampa Bay and seven-time champ Tom Brady.

Doctors told Wentz the roots of the former Philadelphia QB's foot issue probably went back to high school. He had surgery to

remove a bone fragment Aug. 2 and returned after three weeks when the initial diagnosis was as many as 12.

After Philip Rivers retired, the Colts traded for Wentz, who struggled in his final season with the Eagles and wanted a fresh start elsewhere. The foot issue might keep him out of the opener Sept. 12.

"Unfortunately, I've been here before with limited reps and had to go play," said Wentz, who injured a knee when he was in the MVP conversation in 2017 and the Eagles went on to win the Super Bowl without him. "It wasn't one of those injuries where you go rehab and you're away for a while."

Knee injuries ended the 2020 season for Barkley and Bosa in Week 2, Beckham in Week 7 and Burrow in Week 11. Burrow was the only one of the four to play in this preseason — for 90 seconds in the finale Sunday.

"There's a lot of things I have to continue to do because it's truly a nine-month recovery process, minimum," Burrow said in late July, at the 7½-month mark. "There's still a lot of maintenance I need to do."

Barkley appears to be the only one with any doubt about being available for the Sept. 12 opener, though NFL Network Insider Ian Rapoport reported Monday that Barkley is close to being fully cleared and gearing up to play Sunday versus the Denver Broncos. He still had a noncontact jersey in practice last week.

Bosa wasn't cleared for team drills until the final week of camp, but appears on track to start the season. The 2019 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year helped the 49ers reach the Super Bowl that season, then had 12 pressures of Patrick Mahomes. Kansas City rallied to win in the fourth quarter.

"The biggest thing always coming off of an injury is just the mental hurdle of taking a hit and hitting the ground and getting up and dusting yourself off and understanding that, 'Oh, everything is still intact. I'm still OK,'" defensive coordinator DeMeco Ryans said. "I see him just continuing to progress."

Carolina running back Christian McCaffrey followed an All-Pro year in 2019 with a series of injuries that limited him to three games. He was full go from the start of camp but didn't play in the preseason.

"He will take a lot of hits during the season, more so than anyone else out there on the field," coach Matt Rhule said. "So we will save his hits for the season."

New York Jets linebacker C.J. Mosley hasn't played close to a full season since the last of his five with Baltimore in 2018. He was limited to two games with a groin injury in his New York debut two years ago before opting out over COVID-19 last season.

"You can never take this game for granted," Mosley said. "Whether it's the preseason or anything like that."

Star pass rusher Von Miller of Denver sustained a season-ending ankle injury in practice just six days before the opener last year. The 32-year-old, who missed almost half of the 2013 season with a torn ACL, is entering the final year of a six-year contract he signed after winning Super Bowl 50 MVP honors.

"It'll definitely be emotional," Miller said when asked about finally getting back in a game. "Whenever you can fight through a season-ending injury like that — twice, for me — it's definitely a milestone that you appreciate and look back on."

Hamlin opens Cup playoffs with 1st win of year

Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Denny Hamlin shook off a difficult week in the best way possible — ending his season-long winless drought with a victory at the Southern 500 to open the NASCAR Cup Series playoffs.

The week's problems included some personal issues and continued at the track Saturday when Hamlin was in line to win the Xfinity event until a pit penalty dropped him back.

This time Hamlin had to hold

off the season's top playoff seed in Kyle Larson, who closed to Hamlin's bumper racing to the finish line Sunday night.

"It's certainly significant," Hamlin said. "This one's big for us and our team and our momentum."

And it moved him into the second round without having to scrape for points with close finishes, as he did to qualify seventh for the playoffs this season.

"It wasn't a perfect night," Hamlin's crew chief Chris Ga-

behart said. "It is hard to be perfect at the Southern 500. But it was good enough."

Hamlin won for the first time this season after entering the week seeded seventh in the 16-driver postseason field and vowing if he kept running strongly up front, he'd reach Victory Lane before the year ended.

"It's as good a time as any right?" Hamlin said. "My favorite race of the year."

He looked like a comfortable

winner before the top-seeded Larson charged up on his back bumper on the final turn, smoke pouring out of Larson's car. But Hamlin held firm up near the wall to take the checkered flag.

"He was going to have to go through me," Hamlin said.

Hamlin's personal life became a topic earlier this week, with the mother of his two daughters seeming to use social media this week to end their relationship. Her account has since been deactivated.

'Happy-go-lucky' Fernandez upsets Kerber

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Leylah Fernandez is a self-described “happy-go-lucky girl” having the time of her life at Flushing Meadows, raising her fists, pumping her arms and riling up crowds while beating two past U.S. Open champions to reach her first Grand Slam quarterfinal.

A day before her 19th birthday, the unseeded left-hander from Canada grabbed the last five games to eliminate 2016 title winner Angelique Kerber 4-6, 7-6 (5), 6-2 on Sunday, demonstrating that an earlier upset of defending champion Naomi Osaka was no fluke.

With grit and guile, plus a veteran’s poise in the face of big deficits against much more accomplished opponents, Fernandez is displaying strokes and a demeanor that left Kerber offering this assessment: “She can go really far in the next few years.”

How about over the next week?

There’s no time like the present for the teens in tennis: Also into the quarterfinals with a win Sunday was Carlos Alcaraz, an 18-year-old from Spain who became the youngest man to get that far at the U.S. Open since 1963 by outlasting his 32-year-old foe, 141st-ranked qualifier Peter Gojowczyk of Germany, 5-7, 6-1, 5-7, 6-2, 6-0. Alcaraz now plays No. 12 seed Felix Auger-Aliassime, a 21-year-old from Canada who reached his second straight ma-

ior quarterfinal by defeating Frances Tiafoe of the United States 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (6), 6-4 with the help of 24 aces.

“At some point, age is just a number,” Auger-Aliassime when asked about Alcaraz. “He already feels like a player that is established.”

The 55th-ranked Alcaraz got past No. 3 Stefanos Tsitsipas in his previous match and is the youngest player with two five-set Grand Slam wins in a row since Michael Chang was 16 at the 1988 U.S. Open. There’s yet another 18-year-old in fourth-round action Monday: Emma Raducanu of Britain, who plays Shelby Rogers of the U.S.

Fernandez repeatedly mentions two factors. One is being sure to enjoy her time on court. The other is support of family, because her father, who is from Ecuador, her mother, who is Filipino Canadian, and her sisters “have definitely kept the joy for me.”

She credits her dad — who coaches her and has been offering instructions in daily phone calls while back home, taking care of a younger sibling — and her mom — who is leading the cheers with other family members and Fernandez’s fitness trainer in court-side seats — with teaching a valuable lesson that has nothing to do with tennis.

They made sure to emphasize, Fernandez said, that “you can’t take things too seriously, you’ve got to be mature, but at the same time

just be a kid, let loose, have fun, eat chocolate when you want to and just have fun, watch movies, go past your bedtime.”

Just as against Osaka in Arthur Ashe Stadium two nights earlier, Fernandez dropped the opening set against Kerber in Louis Armstrong Stadium, which was so full that would-be spectators were being turned away at the doors.

And just as against Osaka, Fernandez trailed in the second set: Kerber led by a break at 4-2.

Both times, the 73rd-ranked Fernandez managed to get folks in the seats on her side, exulting with every of her on-the-run, impossible-angle groundstrokes that added up to a 45-28 edge in winners.

Kerber is 33 and has been playing well enough lately to get to the Wimbledon semifinals in July. Instead of that experience paying off, however, Fernandez figured the age difference worked in her favor as the contest stretched past two hours.

“I was honestly tired in the third set,” Fernandez acknowledged. “But with that thought, I was telling myself, like, ‘If I’m tired, she must be exhausted.’”

Still, in the last set, Kerber held a break point with a chance to go up 3-1. Fernandez erased that chance with a cross-court forehand winner.

Irish escape with OT victory after Seminoles rally

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Notre Dame survived Florida State backup quarterback McKenzie Milton’s unlikely comeback on an emotional night when the Seminoles honored Bobby Bowden.

Jonathan Doerer made a 41-yard field goal in overtime and the No. 9 Fighting Irish escaped with a 41-38 victory after Florida State overcame an 18-point deficit Sunday.

Seminole kicker Ryan Fitzgerald’s 37-yard attempt sailed wide left on the first overtime possession, allowing the Irish to run a few plays and set up Doerer’s kick.

“What’s most important is going on the road, winning the opener against a team that presented a lot of challenges,”

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said. “We know we got work to do, but I like this team. We’ll get better and we’ll make a lot of improvement in week 2.”

Bowden, the coaching great who won two national titles with Florida State, died at 91 of pancreatic cancer Aug. 8.

A logo of Bowden’s trademark hat and the script “Bobby” was on the 25-yard line, and Seminoles coaches also wore logos on their polo shirts. Florida State’s Marching Chiefs spelled out “Bobby” on the field at halftime and played “Amazing Grace.”

Milton, the UCF grad transfer quarterback who hadn’t played in a game since suffering a gruesome leg injury in November 2018, fired a 22-yard strike to Ja’Khi Douglas on his first

pass.

Treshaun Ward completed that drive by scoring on a 2-yard run, and Fitzgerald tied it with a 43-yard field goal with 40 seconds left. Milton was 5-for-7 for 48 yards with three rushes for 6 yards.

“It was time to roll,” Milton said. “I didn’t have time to process any emotions. A job had to be done. God is real. That’s the one thing I can say. Nobody’s ever come back from an injury like this. Thousands of people praying for me from the moment I got hurt. Coaches believing in me. I’m not here without all the support, all the prayers.”

The Seminoles started the comeback with Jordan Travis connecting with Andrew Parchment on an 8-yard touchdown strike. Milton entered the game

when Travis’ helmet popped off, and he then found Douglas to keep things going.

Jack Coan completed 26 of 35 passes for 366 yards and four touchdowns in his Irish debut. Coan threw touchdown passes to Michael Mayer, Kyren Williams, Kevin Austin and Joe Wilkins. Notre Dame led 38-20 with 4:37 to go in the third quarter.

Florida State has lost five straight season openers and, while the Seminoles rallied, they can also point to three turnovers as well as nine penalties.

Travis threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score. But he also threw three interceptions — two to Irish star safety Kyle Hamilton. Notre Dame capitalized all three times by scoring touchdowns.

Power surge: Cubs outslug Pirates

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Frank Schwindel hit a go-ahead grand slam, Matt Duffy homered twice, including a grand slam, and the Chicago Cubs outslugged the Pittsburgh Pirates on Sunday for an 11-8 win.

With Chicago trailing 8-7 with two outs and the bases loaded in the seventh inning, Schwindel hit a curveball off reliever Nick Mears to the bleachers in center to turn the game around.

Duffy also had three hits and Jason Heyward also went deep as the Cubs won their sixth straight. Duffy had just one homer before Sunday.

Schwindel, who took over at first base in late July after Anthony Rizzo was traded,

has gone deep in three straight games and six of seven. It was his first career grand slam and 10th homer with Chicago. He also had a game-winning single in the ninth on Saturday, which gave him some apprehension before Sunday's game.

"I was a little worried because I had to get a new jersey," Schwindel said. "They tore the jersey off me yesterday."

Bryan Reynolds hit a grand slam and had four hits, and Yoshi Tsutsugo also went deep for Pittsburgh, which has dropped sixth straight. The three grand slams tied a major league record.

The Cubs swept the four-game series and have beaten Pittsburgh seven straight. "It's just about keeping our best foot forward,"

Ben Gamel said. "We lost four close games here. We're just gonna keep playing hard."

Adbert Alzolay (5-13) pitched a scoreless 1½ innings and Rowan Wick got the final six outs for his third save. Sam Howard (2-4) allowed two runs in one-third of an inning for the loss.

Tsutsugo got the homer barrage started with a solo blast in the first to make it 1-0.

Duffy and Heyward led off the second with back-to-back homers to put the Cubs on top.

Reynolds' grand slam — the first of his career — in the third gave Pittsburgh a 5-2 edge, but Chicago answered with five in the bottom half on an RBI single by Ian Happ and Duffy's slam for a 7-5 lead.

Vogelbach's pinch-hit slam in 9th lifts Brewers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Daniel Vogelbach hit a pinch-hit grand slam off Alex Reyes to cap a five-run rally in the ninth inning that gave the Milwaukee Brewers a 6-5 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

Reyes (5-8) entered the game after the Brewers had loaded the bases off Giovanni Gallegos. Vogelbach hit a 1-0 pitch high above the outstretched arm of right fielder Dylan Carlson.

The NL Central-leading Brewers trailed 5-1 before starting their comeback.

Giants 6, Dodgers 4: Steven Duggar hit a tiebreaking two-run triple after being called up earlier in the day, Brandon Belt homered, and host San Francisco wrapped up a key series against Los Angeles to take the NL West lead.

Albert Pujols hit career home run No. 678 with a pinch-hit, two-run drive in the ninth off Giants closer Jake McGee.

Orioles 8, Yankees 7: Gary Sánchez hit a grand slam and a two-run homer, but host New York blew a late lead and lost again to last-place Baltimore.

The Yankees wasted leads of 4-1, 5-2 and 7-4 and lost for the

sixth time in eight games.

Mets 13, Nationals 6: Javier Báez went 4 for 4 with a home run, Kevin Pillar hit a grand slam that capped a game-sealing, six-run ninth inning, and New York won at Washington.

Francisco Lindor and Jonathan Villar also homered for the Mets, who squandered an early four-run lead but got 4½ shutout innings from their bullpen to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Blue Jays 8, Athletics 0: Robbie Ray struck out 10 while pitching one-hit ball into the seventh inning, Marcus Semien hit his 35th home run and host Toronto completed a three-game sweep of Oakland.

Bo Bichette went 4-for-4, scored twice and drove in a run and Alejandro Kirk homered as the Blue Jays won for the seventh time in eight games.

Indians 11, Red Sox 5: Frammil Reyes homered over the Green Monster to spark a three-run third inning — a franchise-record tying 19th straight game with a home run — and Cleveland salvaged the finale of the series with a win at COVID-impacted Boston.

Reyes added a two-run double and went 4 for 4, and Bra-

dley Zimmer had a two-run single for the Indians, who matched their single-season record of homering in consecutive games, set in May 2000.

Braves 9, Rockies 2: Ozzie Albies homered on the first pitch of Ryan Feltner's major league debut, and Atlanta added three more home runs in a win at Colorado.

Austin Riley, Adam Duvall and Travis d'Arnaud also went deep for the Braves. Charlie Morton (13-5) pitched seven strong innings, allowing two runs on two hits. He walked two and struck out three. Atlanta has a two-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East.

Rangers 7, Angels 3: DJ Peters homered twice, had a career-high four hits and drove in four runs, and Taylor Hearn pitched seven innings of seven-hit ball as Texas snapped a three-game skid with a win at Los Angeles. Peters hit a solo shot in the second and a three-run blast in the third before adding a single and a late double.

Padres 4, Astros 3: Jake Cronenworth hit a solo home run with one out in the ninth inning and host San Diego took two of three from AL West-leading Houston.

Cronenworth, a first-time All-Star this season who has struggled at the plate recently, sent a drive to right-center off reliever Ryne Stanek for his 20th homer of the season. It was the first walk-off home run in his two-year career and his second game-winning hit.

Tigers 4, Reds 1: Jeimer Candelario snapped a scoreless tie with a two-run triple and five Detroit pitchers combined to win at Cincinnati.

Twins 6, Rays 5: Nick Gordon had a game-tying RBI single in the seventh inning and a go-ahead run-scoring hit in the ninth, leading Minnesota to a win at AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Phillies 4, Marlins 3 (10): Odúbel Herrera hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and Philadelphia averted a three-game sweep with a win at Miami.

Royals 6, White Sox 0: Brady Singer tossed seven scoreless innings and Salvador Perez hit another home run as host Kansas City beat Chicago.

Mariners 10, Diamondbacks 4 (11): Kyle Seager hit a go-ahead, two-RBI double to spark an 11th-inning rally and lift Seattle to a win at Arizona to complete a three-game sweep.