

## Vaccine mandated for 100M Americans

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — In his most forceful pandemic actions and words, President Joe Biden ordered sweeping new federal vaccine requirements for as many as 100 million Americans — private-sector employees as well as health care workers and federal contractors — in an all-out effort to curb the surging COVID-19 delta variant.

Speaking at the White House Thursday, Biden sharply criticized the tens of millions of Americans who are not yet vaccinated, despite months of availability and incentives.

“We’ve been patient. But our patience is wearing thin, and your refusal has cost all of us,” he said, all but biting off his words. The unvaccinated minority “can cause a lot of damage, and they are.”

Republican leaders — and some union chiefs, too — said Biden was going too far in trying to muscle private companies and workers, a certain sign of legal challenges to come.

Gov. Henry McMaster of South Carolina said in a statement that “Biden and the radical Democrats (have) thumbed their noses at the Constitution,” while American Federation of Government Employees National President Everett Kelley insisted that “changes like this should be negotiated with our bargaining units where appropriate.”

On the other hand, there were strong words of praise for Biden’s efforts to get the nation vaccinated from the American Medical Association, the National Association of Manufacturers and the Business Roundtable — though no direct mention of his mandate for private companies.

The expansive rules mandate that all employers with more than 100 workers require them to be vaccinated or test for the virus weekly, affecting about 80 million Americans. And the roughly 17 million workers at health facilities that receive federal Medicare or Medicaid also will have to be fully vaccinated.

Biden is also requiring vaccination for employees of the executive branch and contractors who do business with the federal government — with no option to test out. That covers several million more workers.

Biden announced the new requirements in a Thursday afternoon address from the White House as part of a new “action plan” to address the latest rise in coronavirus cases and the stagnating pace of COVID-19 shots.

Just two months ago Biden prematurely declared the nation’s “independence” from the virus. Now, despite more than 208 million Americans having at least one dose of the vaccines, the U.S. is seeing about 300% more new COVID-19 infections a day, about two-and-a-

half times more hospitalizations and nearly twice the number of deaths compared to the same time last year. Some 80 million people remain unvaccinated.

“We are in the tough stretch and it could last for a while,” Biden said.

After months of using promotions to drive the vaccination rate, Biden is taking a much firmer hand, as he blames people who have not yet received shots for the sharp rise in cases killing more than 1,000 people per day and imperiling a fragile economic rebound.

In addition to the vaccination requirements, Biden moved to double federal fines for airline passengers who refuse to wear masks on flights or to maintain face covering requirements on federal property in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

He announced that the government will work to increase the supply of virus tests, and that the White House has secured concessions from retailers including Walmart, Amazon and Kroger to sell at-home testing kits at cost beginning this week.

The administration is also sending additional federal support to assist schools in safely operating, including additional funding for testing. And Biden called for large entertainment venues and arenas to require vaccinations or proof of a negative test for entry.

## Green Berets escorted out amid Guinea coup chaos

**BY JOHN VANDIVER**

*Stars and Stripes*

A team of U.S. Green Berets on a recent training mission in the West African nation of Guinea needed local security forces’ help to make it through a chaotic street scene after the country’s president was ousted, U.S. Africa Command confirmed Friday.

A video circulating on social media this week shows three U.S. soldiers in a car that is surrounded by people jumping up and down as it’s making its way to the U.S. Embassy in the Guinean capital of Conakry. Armed Guinean troops are seen providing security.

“Guinean security forces provided an escort to Conakry to ensure the safe passage of the team,” U.S. Africa Command said in a

statement.

The soldiers were part of an Army special operations team that was forced to cancel planned training activities after a military seizure of power Sunday, AFRICOM said. It added that they had been moved to the U.S. Embassy.

The video appears to depict part of that relocation, AFRICOM said. During the video, the soldiers’ car is surrounded by a crowd, which appears to be more excited than threatening.

The soldiers don’t appear to be overly concerned. One Green Beret in the video is smiling and holding his arm out the window to shake hands with passers-by.

U.S. special operations units routinely conduct small training missions with local

forces in Africa and other countries known as Joint Combined Exchange Training events, or JCETs.

A military team led by Guinean Col. Mamady Doumbouya seized control over the weekend and deposed the country’s president. Doumbouya had received extensive training in France, served for a time with the French military and took part in various international missions, including in Afghanistan, according to the BBC.

“The U.S. government and military are not involved in this apparent military seizure of power in any way,” AFRICOM said. “The United States strongly condemns these actions in Guinea and any attempts at forceful seizures of power or unconstitutional actions.”

# Study: USAF women, minorities face bias

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About a third of the female service members in the Air Force and Space Force say they've experienced sexual harassment and many can describe accounts of sexism and a stigma associated with pregnancy and maternity leave, a study released Thursday has found.

The review, done by the Air Force inspector general, also concluded that minorities and women are underrepresented in leadership and officer positions, particularly at the senior levels, and get promoted less frequently. It echoed many of the findings of an initial review, released last December, which found that Black service members in the Air Force are far more likely to be investigated, arrested, face disciplinary actions and be discharged for misconduct.

The two reviews into racial, ethnic and gender disparities across the Air Force and Space Force broadly confirm that biases exist, but the data does not fully explain why. The studies

also reflect broader campaigns within the Defense Department and the Biden administration to root out extremism and racism.

President Joe Biden has declared domestic extremism an urgent national security threat and the Defense Department is working to identify extremist behavior and eliminate it from the force. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, earlier this year, ordered military leaders to spend a day talking to their troops about extremism in the ranks, after a number of former and current military members took part in the assault on the U.S. Capitol in January.

In addition, the Defense Department late last year endorsed a slate of initiatives to more aggressively recruit, retain and promote a more racially and ethnically diverse force.

"There are a lot of disparities within the Air Force," said Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall in a call with reporters. "This includes things like promotions, how people are treated in their careers, how they're treated in assignments, other areas under

the judicial system, if you will, and also about perceptions that people have."

In the latest study, about half of all female respondents said maintaining work/life balance and taking care of family commitments adversely affect them, while only 18% of men responding to the survey shared that view.

It also found that about 25% of female Air Force and Space Force civilians said they had experienced sexual harassment during their careers. And it said some women across the force didn't trust their chain of command to address the bad behavior, and feared retribution.

Women and minorities also said they believe they have to work harder to prove their competency.

While the first study looked at disparities for Black service members, the latest one involved women, Asian, American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latino personnel in active duty, the National Guard, Reserves and ci-

vilian workforce.

As a result, the report said, thousands of female and minority Air and Space Force members reported instances of bias, discrimination and sexual harassment that contribute to the racial, ethnic and gender disparities laid out in the document.

Lt. Gen. Sami Said, the inspector general, told reporters that some of the largest gaps are in operational jobs, which include pilots and other combat-related posts.

As an example, in 2020, nearly 84% of the pilots in the active duty Air Force were white, and more than 92% were male.

In contrast, 7.7% were female, 3% were Hispanic/Latino, 2.7% were Asian American, 2% were Black, 0.5% were Native American and 0.3% were Pacific Islander.

The problem, according to Said, starts with recruiting. A common theme in surveys and group discussions, he said, was that women and minorities believe there is a "lack of people that look like us that can mentor us and advise us."

## Pensacola sailor charged with murder of husband

Associated Press

PENSACOLA, Fla. — A chief petty officer at Naval Air Station Pensacola is accused of locking her husband in their garage and fatally shooting him as he spoke to a 911 dispatcher, officials said.

Bree Kuhn, 34, of Gulf Breeze was arrested Wednesday night and charged with first-degree premeditated murder in the death of Collin James Turner, 34. The couple's children were inside the house during the shooting.

"It's just a sad case — a very sad case — of people arguing, and then, it gets to this point," Santa Rosa County Sheriff Bob Johnson said during a news conference Thursday.

Johnson said the couple had argued

about their children.

"He wanted to take the kids out of state, and she didn't want to go," Johnson said.

Deputies went to the home about 12:53 p.m. Wednesday after the couple got into a heated argument and Kuhn called 911. They found no evidence of a physical altercation and left.

A second call came in about 5 p.m.

"He called that time," Johnson said. "Same thing — another argument."

Responding deputies found nothing alarming and left again.

At 6:22 p.m., Turner called 911 again.

"While on the phone, he says that he's locked in the garage," Johnson said. "During the phone call with dispatch, you hear gunshots. He states, basically, 'She

just shot me.' Then, you hear three more."

When deputies arrived at the home four minutes later, they found Turner dead and Kuhn in a state of shock, the sheriff said.

"I can't go into what she said or anything like that," Johnson said. "But to put it the best way, I'd say (she was in) shock, probably. You're a Navy chief one day, and the next day, you're in jail."

He said two children were placed in the custody of the Florida Department of Children and Families, while a third child was turned over to the biological father.

Kuhn was booked into the Santa Rosa County Jail. Jail records didn't list a lawyer who could speak on her behalf.

# DOJ sues Texas over new abortion law

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — The Justice Department has sued Texas over a new state law that bans most abortions, arguing that it was enacted “in open defiance of the Constitution.”

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in federal court in Texas, asks a federal judge to declare that the law is invalid, “to enjoin its enforcement, and to protect the rights that Texas has violated.”

“The act is clearly unconstitutional under longstanding Supreme Court precedent,” Attorney General Merrick Garland

said at a news conference announcing the suit.

The Justice Department argues the law unlawfully infringes on the constitutional rights of women and violates the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution, which says federal law supersedes state law.

Federal officials are also concerned other states could enact similar laws that would “deprive their citizens of their constitutional rights,” he said.

“It is settled constitutional law that ‘a State may not prohibit any woman from making the

ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy before viability,’” the lawsuit reads. “But Texas has done just that.”

The Texas law, known as SB8, prohibits abortions once medical professionals can detect cardiac activity — usually around six weeks, before some women know they’re pregnant.

Courts have blocked other states from imposing similar restrictions, but Texas’ law differs significantly because it leaves enforcement to private citizens through civil lawsuits instead of criminal prosecutors.

Pressure had been mounting on the Justice Department not only from the White House but also from Democrats in Congress, who wanted Garland to take action. Earlier this week, Garland vowed the Justice Department would step in to enforce a federal law known as the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act.

The attorney general also argued the Texas law could expose some federal employees at different agencies across the government to civil liability for doing their jobs.

# Biden calls Xi over rocky US-China relations

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden spoke with China’s Xi Jinping on Thursday amid growing frustration on the American side that high-level engagement between the two leaders’ top advisers has been largely unfruitful in the early going of the Biden presidency.

Biden initiated the call with Xi, the second between the two leaders since Biden took office. It comes at a moment when there is no shortage of thorny issues between the two nations, including cybersecurity breaches originat-

ing from China, Beijing’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic and what the White House has labeled as “coercive and unfair” trade practices by the Chinese.

But Biden’s aim with the 90-minute call was less focused on any of those hot-button issues and instead centered on discussing the way ahead for the U.S.-China relationship after it got off to a decidedly rocky start in his tenure.

The White House said in a statement the “two leaders had a broad, strategic discussion in which they discussed areas where our interests converge,

and areas where our interests, values, and perspectives diverge.”

The White House is hopeful the two sides can work together on issues of mutual concern — including climate change and preventing a nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula — despite growing differences.

Xi in the call appeared to echo some of the complaints, telling Biden that U.S. government policy toward China caused “serious difficulties” in relations, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

“This is not in the basic inter-

ests of the two peoples,” the Chinese leader said, according to Xinhua.

“Chinese-U.S. confrontation will bring disaster to both countries and the world,” Xi added.

Xi said the two sides should cooperate on climate change, epidemic prevention, economic recovery and other issues, Xinhua reported.

The White House said the leaders during the call agreed to engage “openly and straightforwardly” on issues where the nations are at odds and where there is agreement.

# White House to withdraw its nomination for ATF director

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House said Thursday it would withdraw the nomination of a gun-control advocate to lead the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives after nominee David Chipman ran into bipartisan opposition in the Senate.

Chipman’s nomination had stalled for months and he was widely seen as one of the administration’s most contentious nominees. The White House and top Democrats had been

pushing to save his nomination for weeks but could not secure the necessary votes, with some Democrats saying privately they would not vote for him.

Despite that, President Joe Biden blamed Republicans.

“He would have been an exemplary director of the ATF,” Biden said in a statement. “Unfortunately, Republicans in Congress have made clear that they intend to use gun crime as a political talking point instead of taking serious steps to address it.”

Chipman is a former federal agent and adviser at the gun control group Giffords. He won praise from advocates for his work pushing for greater regulation and enforcement on ghost guns, overhauling the background check system and moves to reduce the trafficking of illegal firearms.

But that same advocacy drew opposition from moderate Republicans such as Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, as well as independent Sen. Angus King of

Maine, dooming his prospects for confirmation in the divided Senate.

In a statement, Chipman said he remained committed to addressing the issue of violent crime and domestic terrorism.

“I knew this confirmation process would be difficult, and while ultimately we weren’t successful, it remains essential that ATF is led by a confirmed director who is accountable to the public and places no special interests before the safety of our children and our communities,”

# New Orleans recovery efforts continue

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Supply trucks are once again delivering beer on Bourbon Street and the landmark Cafe Du Monde is serving beignets, fried pastries covered with white sugar, even though there aren't many tourists or locals around to partake of either.

With almost all the power back on in New Orleans nearly two weeks after Hurricane Ida struck, the city is showing signs of making a comeback from the Category 4 storm, which is blamed for more than two dozen deaths in the state. More businesses are opening daily, gasoline is easier to find and many roads are lined with huge debris piles from cleanup work.

Thousands are still struggling without electricity and water outside the metro ar-

ea, and officials say oppressive heat is contributing to both health problems and the misery. It could still be weeks before power is restored in some areas, and many residents who evacuated haven't returned.

"It is not lost on anybody here at the state level and certainly not on our local partners just how many people continue to suffer," Gov. John Bel Edwards said Thursday. "While things are getting better and we can be thankful for that ... this is going to be a very long-term recovery."

Power crews reached a "major milestone" in the New Orleans area by restoring electricity to the vast majority of customers, Phillip May, chief executive of the state's largest power provider, Entergy Louisiana, said in a conference call with reporters Thursday. About 201,000 of Entergy's

205,000 customers, or 98% percent, now have power, the company said, and those that don't had more severe damage.

But more than 270,000 homes and businesses remained without power, according to the Louisiana Public Service Commission. In Jefferson Parish, 46,000 homes and businesses are still without electricity, May said, but progress is being made in hard-hit places including LaPlace, a town in St. John the Baptist Parish where service has been restored to a hospital.

Other parts of the state's health care network, which was slammed with COVID-19 cases even before Ida, are struggling. Executives of Ochsner Health System, Louisiana's largest care provider, estimate it will take about four weeks to get two of its damaged hospitals fully operational.

# Beard research among winners of IG Nobel Prize

Associated Press

Beards aren't just cool and trendy — they might also be an evolutionary development to help protect a man's delicate facial bones from a punch to the face.

That's the conclusion of a trio of scientists from the University of Utah who are among the winners of this year's Ig Nobel prizes, the Nobel Prize spoofs that honor — or maybe dishonor, depending on your point of view — strange scientific discoveries.

The winners of the 31st annual Ig Nobels announced Thursday included researchers who figured out how to better control cockroaches on U.S. Navy submarines; animal

scientists who looked at whether it's safer to transport an airborne rhinoceros upside-down; and a team that figured out just how disgusting that discarded gum stuck to your shoe is.

For the second year in a row, the ceremony was a roughly 90-minute prerecorded digital event because of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic, said Marc Abrahams, editor of the *Annals of Improbable Research* magazine, the event's primary sponsor.

No faces were punched for the beard study published in the scientific journal *Integrative Organismal Biology*.

Instead, University of Utah scientists

Ethan Beseris, Steven Naleway and David Carrier used a fiber epoxy composite to simulate human bone, and sheepskin to act as the human skin — sometimes with the fleece still on, sometimes sheared. They then dropped weights on them.

The sample with the fleece still attached absorbed more energy than the sheared samples.

"If the same is true for human facial hair, then having a full beard may help protect vulnerable regions of the facial skeleton from damaging strikes, such as the jaw," they said. "Presumably, full beards also reduce injury, laceration, and contusion to the skin and muscle of the face."

# House Dems begin moving parts of Biden's \$3.5T plan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats began pushing plans for providing paid family and medical leave, easing climate change and bolstering education through House committees Thursday as they battled Republicans and among themselves over President Joe Biden's \$3.5 trillion vision for reshaping federal priorities.

Five committees worked on their slices of the 10-year proposal, early steps in what looms as a fraught autumn for Democrats hoping to enact a remarkable range of major policy changes. They face not only solid GOP opposition but internal divisions among pro-

gressives and moderates in a Congress they control so narrowly that they can afford only three House defections, none in the Senate.

"We have a once-in-a-generation chance to make transformative, beneficial change," said House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., as his tax-writing panel debated its pivotal chunk of the voluminous legislation. "This is our moment to lay a new foundation of opportunity for the American people."

Republicans cast the still-evolving measure as an economy killer that would raise taxes, cost jobs, worsen federal debt and make people increasingly reliant on govern-

ment. In a signal of the broad political potency they believe the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan offers, they repeatedly conjured that image to belittle Democrats' economic plans.

"Following the humiliating Afghanistan surrender, now President Biden is leading America on an economic surrender to China, Russia, Europe and the Middle East," said the top Republican on Ways and Means, Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas.

Top Democrats want to quickly assemble the overall bill, which 13 House committees are crafting, by late September in hopes of moving it through the full House and Senate.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Handcuffed woman shoots deputy in hand

**AZ** KINGMAN — A handcuffed woman who was arrested with a gun at a highway gas station near Kingman on Tuesday managed to grab a revolver from a detective's holster and shoot him in the hand before another officer tased her.

The Mohave County Sheriff's Office detective was treated at a local hospital for the injury.

Bullhead City police said they are investigating the shooting after sheriff's deputies responded at 9:15 a.m. to reports of an erratic female with a gun inside the Maverick Country Store on U.S. 68 in Golden Valley 25 miles east of Bullhead City.

She was combative before officers arrested her for disorderly conduct with a weapon and resisting arrest, police said in a statement.

On Aug. 19, the agency sent 21 deputies to the scene, the Sun reported. Sixteen deputies were deployed to the second threat and seven were sent to the third.

Alachua County Public Schools sent a letter to Buchholz High School students and families detailing the severity of the situation if the threats continue, the newspaper reported.

Anyone caught calling in a bomb threat will face "stiff penalties," including an automatic expulsion.

### Report finds pandemic is driving alcohol sales

**WI** MADISON — A new report suggests people are buying dramatically more alcohol as the COVID-19 pandemic drags on.

Revenue from state excise taxes on alcohol during the fiscal year that ended June 30 totaled \$73.8 million, up almost 17% from \$63.3 million the previous year, according to preliminary data from the state Department of Revenue cited in the report from the nonpartisan Wisconsin Policy Forum.

### Repeat offender has long record in 3 states

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — Police have arrested a suspect in a burglary at houses in northwest Albuquerque who has been arrested more than two dozen times on a variety of sex, fraud and burglary charges in New Mexico, Nevada and Washington state.

Police said Tuesday that Morgan Fuller, 30, has been arrested in New Mexico six times since June 11.

The the most recent was on Saturday on two counts each of burglary and larceny in connection with the theft of two electrical breakers removed from the two houses in Albuquerque.

Earlier this summer, he was arrested on battery, larceny, shoplifting charges in Bernalillo County, where he's been booked into the county jail a total of 17 times, including for multiple probation violations. He has 27 total arrests in the three states.

### 4 injured in crash into homeless camp

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Four men were hospitalized with injuries early Tuesday after a car crashed into a sidewalk homeless camp in Los Angeles, authorities said.

The crash occurred around 6

a.m. west of downtown in the Koreatown area.

One person was taken to the hospital in moderate condition and three were in fair condition, authorities said.

A 65-year-old man was trapped under the white Dodge Dart but a couch on which he was sleeping at the time may have saved his life by holding up the car, KNBC-TV reported.

Fire Department spokesman Nicholas Prange says a special rescue truck was brought in to lift the vehicle off a person.

The other three injured men were inside the car but managed to get out on their own.

The cause of the crash was under investigation.

### 4 hospitalized after driver flees from police

**KS** ARKANSAS CITY — Four people were hospitalized after a collision that occurred when a driver fled as police tried to stop her Tuesday in Arkansas City, police said.

Officers tried to stop a pickup truck driven by Casio Price, 27, of Arkansas City, because she was believed to be driving with a suspended license, police said.

Price drove away and went through an intersection before colliding with a van, according to police.

The 46-year-old driver of the van was listed in stable condition at a Wichita hospital.

A 3-year-old passenger was taken to an Arkansas City hospital and was in stable and good condition.

A 37-year-old passenger was flown to a Wichita hospital after being listed in critical condition

at an Arkansas City hospital, KAKE-TV reported.

Price was taken to the Arkansas City hospital and was listed in fair to critical condition, according to police.

The Kansas Highway Patrol is assisting in the investigation.

### Charge in assault on student with pride flag

**GA** VALDOSTA — A Georgia teenager faces juvenile charges after he attacked a student who was draped in a gay pride flag in a school cafeteria, authorities say.

Video of the incident was recorded last week at Lowndes High School in the south Georgia city of Valdosta.

It shows a male student charging across the cafeteria and jerking the flag from the second boy's back as he falls to the floor. A third student tries to push away the attacker, who slams the flag into a garbage can.

Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk told The Valdosta Daily Times that the juvenile had been charged with disorderly conduct, simple battery and disruption of a public facility. Paulk said the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice, which detains some juveniles accused of misconduct, was called.

Lowndes High School Assistant Principal Rodney Green said the victim was not physically injured and that school officials investigated after learning of the video.

— From Associated Press

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# 9/11 never far from minds of academy players, coaches

Associated Press

On a clear day, the New York skyline is visible from the top of Army's Michie Stadium at West Point.

So after the second plane hit the World Trade Center, former Black Knights coach Todd Berry ran to the top. Some of his staff members, too.

To watch in horror. In fear. In disbelief.

The awful impact of the 2001 terrorist attacks can be gauged in countless ways. Some measure it in what was lost that day and in the days that followed. Others look to America's resolve and response.

For Berry and others in charge of the hundreds of young athletes at the nation's three service academies that day, the memories that have stuck are tinged with sadness, anger and, above all, immense pride in watching their players realize that their mission to protect their country had suddenly been put front and center. And they were ready for it.

"There was a little bit of a comfort level in knowing," Berry said, "that's the group that's going to respond to this crisis."

There will be football games played around the country on Saturday, the 20th anniversary of the attacks, and those games include Air Force at Navy and Army hosting Western Kentucky. There will be powerful tributes and memorials to remember those lost at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in a field in rural Pennsylvania, along with first responders who rushed to help.

The truth is, what happened that day is never far from anyone's mind at the academies.

The significance didn't really fully hit senior linebacker Demonte Meeks until he arrived at Air Force. Only through time has he understood the magnitude.

"Once you realize the amount of pain that went into this event and the amount of people that are still going through it, that's when you start to realize it," Meeks said. "For me, it really hit home when everyone started graduating and commissioning and it's like, 'Dang, these people have a job and actually have a role to fill.' That's where I'm sitting at right now."

Navy senior linebacker John Kelly III was born and raised on Staten Island, N.Y. His father was — and remains — a firefighter for Engine 201 in Brooklyn. His dad was at a golf outing as part of a fundraiser for firefighters in need on the day of the attacks.

"Once everything happened, he came right

home, kissed me and my mom and my other brother Patrick goodbye," Kelly said. "Took his stuff, went in, and my mom had to say her prayers."

Kelly's father headed to ground zero to help. He survived that day, but four members of his firehouse didn't.

"What saved him I can say was the fact that he was at this golf outing," Kelly said. "There's so many stories like that: 'What if I was on duty?' He'll say that himself."

The tragedy played a big role in leading Kelly to Navy, one of the untold numbers of service academy enlistees who — as Army coach Jeff Monken puts it — "will run toward trouble and when they know others are in danger they'll be there to serve."

"I would say that is my why, for coming and serving, period, besides the football aspect and coming here and playing," said Kelly, whose father will attend Saturday's game. "It took on a whole new meaning of what happened and who was affected, and all the people I knew, families, my best friend ... who lost their fathers and husbands."

Navy punter Kellen Grave de Peralta was born on July 25, 2001. His mother, Tiffany, who worked at the Pentagon as a human resources officer, happened to be on maternity leave with him and not in the building on Sept. 11. His father, Ricardo, is a former Navy SEAL who was in Virginia training with an FBI SWAT team that day.

"Once he received word of the attacks, they immediately raced back to D.C., and he actually ended up passing the Pentagon that was on fire at the time," Grave de Peralta said. "Two weeks later, he was assigned to the 9/11 investigation and spent the next two-plus years helping put four al-Qaida terrorists, who were part of the 9/11 plot, in Guantanamo Bay."

Berry coached Army from 2000-03 and now serves as the executive director of the American Football Coaches Association. His youngest daughter was born right after Army beat Navy in the season finale that December. She's about to turn 20.

"I think it's important for her generation and for her as an individual to understand what happened and why," Berry said. "While I recognize the time has passed, like many events that are very emotional days, they say you don't remember days, you remember moments. I remember it like it was yesterday."

## Iowa-ISU not just for bragging rights

Associated Press

The state of Iowa, of all places, is college football central this week.

The Iowa-Iowa State game has been played 67 times since 1884, always for nothing more than bragging rights. That changes this year.

The national spotlight is on Ames on Saturday with the Big Ten's Iowa coming in ranked No. 10 and the Big 12's Iowa State No. 9. Never before have the teams met when both were ranked, let alone in the top 10.

The Big Ten and Pac-12 are matched up in two games.

The big one is in Columbus, where No. 3 Ohio State hosts No. 12 Oregon in the only other Top 25 matchup. The Buckeyes' defense still has much to prove, and Oregon will test all three levels.

The other game between the venerable conferences, Washington at Michigan, lost some of its luster after the Huskies dropped their opener to FCS member Montana.

Fans feeling nostalgic will want to tune in to see No. 5 Texas play Arkansas in a renewal of rivalry that was at its hottest in the 1960s and '70s when the Longhorns and Razorbacks ruled the old Southwest Conference.

This will be the teams' first meeting since Arkansas won 31-7 in the 2014 Texas Bowl in Houston.

### Best game

**No. 10 Iowa at No. 9 Iowa State:** Iowa was a Week 1 revelation with its dominant win over Indiana. While Ohio State is the favorite to win a fifth straight Big Ten title, the Hawkeyes certainly are the team to beat in the West. A win in this nonconference showdown is a must if the Hawks hope to become part of the College Football Playoff conversation.

Iowa State struggled to beat FCS member Northern Iowa last week in what has become a habitually slow-starting Cyclones program. All the high expectations for ISU remain intact, but the Cyclones must be much sharper to end the Hawks' five-game winning streak in the series.

### Heisman watch

**Cincinnati QB Desmond Ridder:** Road games against Indiana next week and Notre Dame on Oct. 2 will determine Ridder's viability as a Heisman candidate. For now, expect him to put up big numbers against Murray State on Saturday.

The third-year starter was 20-for-25 and matched his career high with four touchdown passes in last week's 49-14 win over Miami (Ohio).

# Brady, Bucs edge Cowboys on final drive

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers didn't flinch.

Down one point with 1:24 to go in the kickoff to the NFL season, the defending Super Bowl champions were confident their 44-year-old quarterback would find a way to win again Thursday night.

It's simply what Brady, who threw for 379 yards and four touchdowns in a 31-29 win over the Dallas Cowboys, does.

"There was no doubt that we're going to win the game with him," coach Bruce Arians said. "It's just who's going to make plays."

With seats in an NFL stadium filled to full capacity for the first time since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, Ryan Succop won it with a 36-yard field goal with 2 seconds remaining. Brady set it up with a last-minute drive directed on the same field where the Bucs became the first team to play and win a Super Bowl in its home stadium seven months ago.

It was the 49th game-winning drive the three-time NFL MVP has led in the fourth-quarter or overtime during the regular sea-

son. That's third on the all-time list behind Peyton Manning (54) and Drew Brees (53), who are both retired.

"There's obviously a lot to clean up," Brady said after completing 32 of 50 passes with two interceptions.

The Bucs, hoping to become the first team to repeat as champions since Brady led the 2003 and 2004 New England Patriots to consecutive titles, turned the ball over four times.

"We won," the quarterback said, "but we know it was far from perfect."

For Brady, a seven-time champion, it was the 300th regular-season start in a sparkling 22-year career — a record for a quarterback. The 44-year-old also joined Drew Brees as the only players to throw for 300-plus yards in a game 100 times.

Chris Godwin, Rob Gronkowski and Antonio Brown caught first-half touchdown passes, and the Bucs (1-0) extended their winning streak to nine games dating to last December. Brady's second TD pass of the night to Gronkowski put the defending champs up 28-19. Succop's field goal came after Greg Zuerlein put the Cowboys ahead

with a 48-yarder with 1:24 to go.

"As I told our guys, I learned a long time ago we don't learn anything more from losing than you do from almost losing. We've got a lot to learn," Arians said. "Obviously not pleased with the start of the game. Loved the finish. Our guys are winners. They're going to finish."

Dak Prescott threw for 403 yards and three TDs for Dallas in his first game since suffering a severe injury ankle that ended his 2020 season after just five games. The sixth-year pro didn't play in the preseason after straining his right shoulder early in training camp, and limitations on his throwing weren't lifted until about two weeks before the opener.

"I thought Dak played well," Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy said. "I really like the way our team played, the preparation coming into it. ... We had tough looks, particularly some of the things they did defensively. I thought our guys did a good job adjusting, did a good job distributing the ball on the perimeter."

The Cowboys have never beaten Brady, who improved to 6-0 against them.

## Unseeded teens Raducanu, Fernandez, advance to US Open final

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Emma Raducanu and Leylah Fernandez are so similar in so many ways: They possess enviable quickness and anticipation. They take balls low to the ground and redirect them with ease. They don't care how much better-known or more successful opponents are. They love the big moment.

There's more. They're both teenagers. They're both unseeded at the U.S. Open. They're both getting loud backing from the crowds. And now, remarkably, they're both Grand Slam finalists.

Raducanu, an 18-year-old from Britain who is ranked 150th, and Fernandez, a 19-year-old from Canada who is ranked 73rd, took wildly different paths to the championship match at Flushing Meadows on Thursday night. They'll be back in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday for the first major final between two teens since the

1999 U.S. Open, when Serena Williams, 17, defeated Martina Hingis, 18.

Raducanu became the first qualifier to reach a Grand Slam final in the professional era by overwhelming 17th-seeded Maria Sakkari 6-1, 6-4. Appearing in just her second major tournament, Raducanu won all 18 sets she has played during three matches in qualifying rounds and six in the main draw.

"I've just been taking care of each day," Raducanu said, "and before you know it, three weeks later, I'm in the final and I can't believe it."

Who can? Not Raducanu, who originally bought a plane ticket to leave New York after qualifying ended, figuring that might be the end of her stay.

Quickly, she led Sakkari 5-0 and nothing really changed from there. Sakkari earned seven break points in that span; Raducanu got three. The difference? Sakkari couldn't convert

any; Raducanu took advantage of two chances — or, better, accepted her opponent's generosity on two of them, once on a netted backhand, once on a double-fault.

By the end, Raducanu made just 17 unforced errors to Sakkari's 33 and now is the youngest Slam finalist since Maria Sharapova won Wimbledon at age 17 in 2004.

Fernandez isn't much older — her birthday was Monday — and she made it through a semi-final filled with momentum swings to edge No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka 7-6 (3), 4-6, 6-4.

"They are both young. They play fearless," Sakkari said about Raducanu and Fernandez. "They have nothing to lose playing against us."

Raducanu agreed with that assessment, saying: "Being young, there is an element of you do play completely free."

Wimbledon was Raducanu's only previous major tournament; she entered via a wild-

card entry with a ranking outside the top 300 and made it to the fourth round before stopping in the second set because of trouble breathing. Fernandez's best past showing at a Slam was getting to the third round at Roland Garros last year.

Raducanu was born in Toronto to a Chinese mother and Romanian father; the family moved to England when Emma was 2.

Raducanu and Fernandez met each other for the first time when they were both playing in under-12 tournaments and bonded over their shared connection to Canada. On Saturday, they will share a court for the first time in a tour-level match.

They did play, however, in the Wimbledon junior tournament's second round in 2018.

Raducanu won that one. Three years later, they'll play again — on a grander stage and with much, much more at stake.

# O'Neill helps Cards split 4-game series

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Tyler O'Neill hit a tie-breaking homer, Cardinals relievers combined for five scoreless innings, and St. Louis salvaged a split of its four-game series against the Los Angeles Dodgers with a 2-1 win on Thursday.

The Cardinals climbed within three games of the San Diego Padres for the final NL wild-card spot, while the Dodgers fell 2½ games behind the NL West-leading San Francisco Giants.

"Two-and-a-half games is not very much," Dodgers shortstop Trea Turner said. "A lot of things can happen in the last 20 games and I don't try to watch the scoreboard or pay attention to that stuff. You try to control what's in front of you and today was this game and didn't get the job done so we move on to tomorrow."

O'Neill's fifth-inning drive off Phil Bickford (3-2), his 25th homer this season, barely cleared the left field wall, inching past the outstretched glove of Steven Souza Jr.

"He's really grown into the consistent player that he really wanted to be and is capable of," Cardinals manager Mike Shildt said. "He's prepared for every at-bat. This is a sharp kid. He does his home-

work."

The homer made a winner out of Alex Reyes (6-8), who pitched two scoreless innings in his fifth appearance since being demoted from the closer's role.

**Blue Jays 6, Yankees 4:** Bo Bichette homered in the first inning and singled in the tiebreaking run in the seventh, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. hit his 42nd homer, and visiting Toronto beat New York for its eighth straight win.

The Blue Jays completed their first four-game sweep in the Bronx since 2003 and pulled within a half-game of New York for the final AL wild card. Toronto has its longest winning streak since an 11-game spurt in 2015.

**Athletics 3, White Sox 1:** Sean Manaea (9-9) struck out nine in seven dominant innings, leading host Oakland past Chicago.

Manaea allowed one run and five hits in his first win since July 28. The left-hander went 0-3 with an 8.00 ERA in his previous six starts.

**Braves 7, Nationals 6 (10):** Joc Pederson hit a tiebreaking single with two out in the 10th inning, lifting host Atlanta over Washington.

The NL East-leading Braves moved 3½ games ahead of second-place Philadelphia.

**Rockies 4, Phillies 3:** Pinch-hitter Ryan McMahon and Sam Hilliard hit back-to-back home runs with two outs in the ninth inning, rallying visiting Colorado past Philadelphia.

Bryce Harper hit his 30th homer to bolster his MVP candidacy, and the Phillies looked as if they were going to start a pivotal home stretch with a victory before their bullpen faltered.

**Marlins 3, Mets 2:** Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the eighth inning, sending host Miami past New York.

Javier Báez homered and doubled for the Mets, who dropped five games back of NL East-leading Atlanta.

**Indians 4, Twins 1:** Franmil Reyes, Oscar Mercado and José Ramirez homered, and host Cleveland scored for the first time in three games to beat Minnesota.

The Indians managed just two runs while dropping the first three games of the series, including 3-0 losses on Tuesday and Wednesday.

**Royals 6, Orioles 0:** Carlos Hernández pitched six impressive innings for visiting Kansas City, and Nicky Lopez and Hunter Dozier homered.

Kansas City won for only the fifth time in its last 19 games in Baltimore.

## Big 12 extends membership invitations to 4 schools

Associated Press

The Big 12 extended membership invitations Friday for BYU, UCF, Cincinnati and Houston to join the Power Five conference that will be losing Oklahoma and Texas to the Southeastern Conference.

The eight continuing members of the Big 12 unanimously approved the applications of the four schools.

The moves come six weeks after the SEC invited Texas and Oklahoma to join its league in time for the 2025-26 season. There remains the possibility that could happen sooner, but the Big 12 is focused on its additions for now.

After identifying its primary expansion targets last week, the Big 12 moved quickly to make it happen. The four schools had previously been vetted and in-

terviewed by the league in 2016 when it considered expansion before staying at 10 teams.

BYU said all its sports will begin Big 12 schedules in the 2023-24 athletic season. BYU is an independent in football, but competes in the West Coast Conference for basketball and its Olympic sports.

UCF, Houston and Cincinnati are in the American Athletic Conference, which requires members to give 27 months' notice if they plan to leave the league, though there could be negotiations between the schools and that league to reduce the time before beginning Big 12 play.

**Source: Steelers, Watt agree to extension**

PITTSBURGH — Ben Roeth-

lisberger believes T.J. Watt is perhaps the best player in the NFL.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have decided to pay the game-wrecking outside linebacker like it.

A person with knowledge of the agreement says the team and the two-time All-Pro have come to terms on a four-year extension worth \$112 million that will make Watt the highest-paid defensive player in the league. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the financial terms were not publicly announced.

Watt, who is entering the final year of his rookie contract, will be paid an average of \$28 million a season over the course of the extension, which exceeds the \$27 million annually made by Los Angeles Chargers defensive end Joey Bosa.

## Red Sox lefty Sale scratched for COVID-19

Boston ace Chris Sale has tested positive for COVID-19, sidelining the left-hander while the Red Sox fight for positioning in the crowded AL playoff picture.

A Red Sox spokesman confirmed the result on Friday. The seven-time All-Star had been scheduled to start Sunday in Chicago against the White Sox.

The 32-year-old Sale missed all of last season recovering from Tommy John surgery.

Any prolonged absence for Sale would be a big blow for the Red Sox, who entered Friday with a one-game lead over the New York Yankees for the AL's top wild-card spot.