

Pfizer says its shot effective for kids 5 to 11

Associated Press

Pfizer said Monday that its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization for this age group soon — a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech already is available for anyone 12 and older. But with kids now back in school and the extra-contagious delta variant causing a huge jump in pediatric infections, many parents are anxiously awaiting vaccinations for their younger children.

For elementary school-aged kids, Pfizer tested a much lower

dose—a third of the amount that's in each shot given now. Yet after their second dose, children ages 5 to 11 developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as teenagers and young adults getting the regular-strength shots, Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president, told The Associated Press.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects — such as sore arms, fever or achiness — that teens experience, he said.

“I think we really hit the sweet spot,” said Gruber, who's also a pediatrician.

Gruber said the companies aim to apply to the Food and Drug Ad-

ministration by the end of the month for emergency use in this age group, followed shortly afterward with applications to European and British regulators.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data “hopefully in a matter of weeks” to decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

An outside expert said scientists want to see more details, but called the report encouraging.

“These topline results are very good news,” said Dr. Jesse Goodman of Georgetown University, an ex-FDA vaccine chief. The lev-

el of immune response Pfizer reported “appears likely to be protective.”

Many Western countries so far have vaccinated no younger than age 12, awaiting evidence of what's the right dose and that it works safely. Cuba has begun immunizing children as young as 2 with its homegrown vaccines, and Chinese regulators have cleared two of its brands down to age 3.

While kids are at lower risk of severe illness or death than older people, over 5 million children in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pandemic began and at least 460 have died, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

After 24 years in Japan, USS McCain leaves 7th Fleet

By **ALEX WILSON**

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS John S. McCain sailed out of Tokyo Bay on Friday, leaving Japan after 24 years with 7th Fleet and the heartbreaking loss of 10 crew members from a collision in 2017.

The Navy announced the guided missile destroyer's departure on Friday. It is named for three generations of naval officers bearing the same name, including the late Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican who was his party's nominee for president in 2008.

The McCain is headed for Naval Station Everett, Wash., its new homeport, according to the Navy. While stationed at Yokosuka, the destroyer and its crew landed in the heart of unsought controversy.

The ship collided with a Liberian-flagged tanker, the Alnic MC, in the Strait of Malacca near Singapore, on Aug. 12, 2017. The col-

lision killed 10 sailors and heavily damaged the destroyer.

The incident was one of two collisions by 7th Fleet destroyers that summer. On June 17, 2017, seven sailors died aboard the USS Fitzgerald when it collided with a Philippine-flagged container ship, ACX Crystal, about 80 miles southwest of Tokyo.

The McCain was sidelined for repairs until June 2020. The destroyer bears a memorial plaque engraved with the names of the 10 sailors who lost their lives on the ship.

“John S. McCain and her Sailors have proven time and time again our Navy's resolve to answer the call in support of our nation and our allies,” the ship's skipper, Cmdr. Tin Tran, said in a Navy news release. “After 24 years of faithful overseas service, we are ready to head back home to America, back to Washington State. Our sailors will forever remember the bonds of friendship and hospitality Japan has shown

us.”

The McCain will join 3rd Fleet, which operates in the Eastern Pacific.

The McCain will be replaced by the USS Ralph Johnson, which is en route to Japan, said 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Mark Langford.

“It is definitely a changing of the guard with USS John S. McCain and her crew departing the 7th Fleet after over 24 years in Japan,” the commander of Destroyer Squadron 15, Capt. Chase Sargeant, said in the release. “The contributions of the current and all previous crews in defending peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific cannot be overstated.”

The McCain arrived at Yokosuka in summer 1997. In 1998, it deployed to support the USS Independence battle group as part of Operations Southern Watch and Desert Thunder. During the beginning of the War on Terror, the McCain supported the USS Kitty Hawk strike group in 2002 and 2003 as part of Operations

Enduring and Iraqi Freedom.

In 2011, the ship took part in Operation Tomodachi, which provided humanitarian assistance following the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami.

The ship made headlines again in May 2019, when multiple media outlets reported that the White House had asked the Navy to keep the destroyer “out of sight” during then-President Donald Trump's visit to Yokosuka.

Trump did not deny the report, which first appeared in The Wall Street Journal.

“I would never do a thing like that,” he told reporters at the time. “Now, someone did it because they thought I didn't like him. OK? And, they were well meaning, I will say ... they thought they were doing me a favor because they know I'm not a fan of John McCain.”

The McCain's homeport shift follows the departures of other Arleigh Burke-class destroyers in recent years.

Navy sails through Taiwan Strait again

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Another U.S. guided-missile destroyer has steamed through the Taiwan Strait, marking the Navy's ninth journey through the politically sensitive waterway this year.

The Yokosuka-based USS Barry made the trip Friday, the Navy announced in a news release that day.

"The ship's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," a 7th

Fleet spokesman, Lt. Nicholas Lingo, said in the release. "The United States military flies, sails and operates anywhere international law allows."

The guided-missile destroyer USS Kidd and the Coast Guard cutter Munro made the last trip through the strait on Aug. 28.

The Navy routinely steams through the approximately 110-mile waterway that separates China and Taiwan.

The Chinese government routinely condemns the operations as provocative. Beijing

considers Taiwan, a functioning democracy, a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, possibly by force.

China had maintained for years that unification with Taiwan would be peaceful and mutual, but the turnabout in Hong Kong has led many international observers to ponder whether Beijing is preparing for forcible reunification.

The Barry's passage comes a little over a week after another Yokosuka-based destroyer, the USS Benfold, steamed through

the South China Sea during a freedom-of-navigation operation on Sept. 8. The Benfold sailed within 12 nautical miles of Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands, a disputed chain that's claimed either partially or wholly by several countries.

China has built up Mischief Reef and constructed underground storage, radar and communications arrays and other improvements, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

The U.S. does not recognize any territorial claim to the reef.

Typhoon and holiday add to commissaries' supply woes

By DAVID CHOI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A typhoon passing through the southern coast of South Korea last week exacerbated shipping delays at commissaries on U.S. bases on the peninsula and postponed deliveries for chilled and frozen goods for several weeks.

Osan Air Base, which is located 30 miles from Seoul, is experiencing shipping delays due to Typhoon Chanthu, the base said in a Facebook post Friday. The delayed shipment includes chilled items, such as juice and dairy products. The base advised shoppers to shop instead at grocery stores off-base until the items were restocked.

Camp Humphreys notified shoppers earlier this month that fresh meats and U.S.-grown potatoes would be affected by upcoming supply disruptions. The commissary limited short ribs to one 10-pound package per customer and re-

stricted shoppers to one gallon of milk each per day.

Commissaries in South Korea were already backed up for around three weeks prior to the typhoon, commissary officer Myung Brown told Stars and Stripes on Monday.

Many of the products expected to arrive by the weekend passed their shelf-dates because they were held up on ships. Much of the U.S. goods bound for central distribution centers in South Korea arrive from the port in Busan, on the southern coast of the peninsula.

The delays also come amid Chuseok, a national three-day harvest holiday observed this year from Monday to Wednesday. Most employees in South Korea, including those who work at the shipping docks, are not required to work on the national holiday.

Brown said the delayed goods are expected to hit store shelves by early October and added that the holdup was "beyond our control."

USS Reagan goes back to 7th Fleet after aiding Afghan exit

By ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

The USS Ronald Reagan is back with the 7th Fleet after spending nearly three months in the Arabian Sea supporting the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The aircraft carrier, homeported at Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan, arrived in the Middle East with its strike group on June 25. Its movement out of 5th Fleet and into the Indian Ocean — first reported by USNI News on Thursday citing an anonymous Navy official — was confirmed Saturday by 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Joe Keiley.

The strike group, which includes the guided-missile destroyer USS Halsey and the guided-missile cruiser USS Shiloh, had been "supporting naval operations and providing airpower to protect U.S. and coalition forces as they conducted drawdown operations from Afghanistan," Keiley told Stars and Stripes in an email.

Upon its arrival in the Middle

East, the Ronald Reagan teamed up with and eventually relieved the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower, which Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin had ordered to remain in the region after the Afghanistan drawdown started May 1.

Among other missions, the Ronald Reagan's F/A-18 Super Hornets flew missions over Kabul to maintain "enhanced security," according to Army Maj. Gen. William Taylor, Joint Staff deputy director for regional operations. The carrier also trained alongside the HMS Queen Elizabeth in mid-July as the Royal Navy carrier made its way toward the Indo-Pacific region.

As the Ronald Reagan left 5th Fleet, the Essex Amphibious Ready Group entered the Persian Gulf, the Navy announced Sept. 13. Led by the amphibious assault ship USS Essex, the group includes the amphibious transport dock USS Portland, dock landing ship USS Pearl Harbor and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

US to relax its limits on travelers from abroad

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. will ease foreign travel restrictions to the country beginning in November, allowing foreigners in if they have proof of vaccination and a negative COVID-19 test, the White House said Monday.

The new rules will replace a hodgepodge of restrictions that had barred non-citizens who had been in Europe, much of Asia and certain other countries in the prior 14 days from entering the U.S. The changes will allow families and others who have been separated by the travel restrictions for 18 months to plan for long-awaited reunifications.

White House COVID-19 coordinator Jeff Zients announced the new policies, which still will require all foreign travelers flying to the U.S. to demonstrate proof of vaccination before boarding, as well as proof of a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days of flight. President Joe Biden will also tighten testing rules for unvaccinated American citizens, who will need to be tested within a day before returning to the U.S., as well as after they arrive home.

Fully vaccinated passengers will not be

required to quarantine, Zients said.

The new policy will replace the patchwork of travel bans first instituted by President Donald Trump last year and tightened by Biden that restrict travel by non-citizens who have in the prior 14 days been in the United Kingdom, European Union, China, India, Iran, Republic of Ireland, Brazil and South Africa.

Those travel bans had become the source of growing geopolitical frustration, particularly among allies in the U.K. and EU where virus cases are far lower than the U.S. The easing comes ahead of Biden meeting with some European leaders on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly this week.

“This is based on individuals rather than a country-based approach, so it’s a stronger system,” Zients said.

The EU and U.K. had previously moved to allow vaccinated U.S. travelers into their territories without quarantines, in an effort to boost business and tourism travel. But the EU recommended last month that some travel restrictions be reimposed on U.S. travelers to the bloc because of the rampant spread of the delta variant in America.

Calif. firefighters scramble to protect sequoias

Associated Press

THREE RIVERS, Calif. — Flames on Sunday reached a grove of sequoia trees in California as firefighters battled to keep fire from driving further into another grove, where the base of the world’s largest tree has been wrapped in protective foil.

Fire officials warned that hot, dry weather and stronger winds were contributing to “critical fire conditions” in the area of the KNP Complex, two lightning-sparked blazes that merged on the western side of Sequoia National Park in the Sierra Nevada. The fire reached Long Meadow Grove, where the Trail of 100 Giant Sequoias is a national monument. Fire officials haven’t yet been able to determine how much damage was done to the groves, which are in remote and hard-to-reach areas. However, an Associated Press photographer saw active flames burning up a trunk, with the forest floor ablaze below.

The National Weather Service issued a red flag warning through Sunday, saying gusts and lower humidity could create conditions for rapid wildfire spread.

The fires forced the evacuation of the park last week, along with parts of Three Rivers, a foothill town of about 2,500 people. Firefighters using bulldozers expanded a line between the fire and the community, fire spokesperson Rebecca Paterson said Sunday.

More than 34 square miles of forest land have been blackened.

The National Park Service said Friday that fire had reached the westernmost tip of the Giant Forest, where it scorched a grouping of sequoias known as the “Four Guardsmen” that mark the entrance to the grove of 2,000 sequoias. Since then crews have managed to keep the flames from encroaching further into the area.

“The fire perimeter kind of wraps around the Giant Forest at this point,” Paterson said.

Firefighters swaddled the base of the General Sherman Tree and others in the Giant Forest in a type of aluminum that can withstand high heat. The General Sherman Tree is the largest in the world by volume, at 52,508 cubic feet, according to the National Park Service. It is 275 feet high and has a circumference of 103 feet at ground level.

US base in Japan has new COVID case

BY JOSEPH DITZLER

Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The number of new coronavirus infections in Japan’s capital city fell Monday to its lowest level in nearly three months.

Tokyo reported 302 newly infected people Monday, according to public broadcaster NHK. Monday is typically the day with the lowest case count. But not since June 28, a Monday, when the city reported 317 new cases has that number been this low, according to metro government data online.

One U.S. military base in Japan had reported one new case of COVID-19, since Friday. Naval Air Facility Atsugi, 28 miles southwest of Tokyo, in a news release said a mandatory test prior to international travel discovered one person on Friday. The base has three active patients.

On Okinawa, five classrooms at Kadena

High School on Kadena Air Base were cleared to reopen on Monday in the wake of reported case of coronavirus there on Wednesday. Principal Kristopher Kwiatek in a message to families and staff Sunday said all students identified as close contacts had been notified. The message was posted on the Marine Corps Community Services, School Liaison Officer Facebook page.

Okinawa reported 80 new COVID-19 cases Monday, according to the prefectural Department of Public Health and Medical Care.

Japan on Sunday reported 3,408 new coronavirus infections and 41 deaths, according to the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center. New case numbers in Japan peaked Aug. 26 at 2,050, the height of the fifth coronavirus wave in the country, according to World Health Organization data online. More than 17,000 people have died of COVID-19 complications in Japan.

Shooter kills 6 on Russian university campus

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A student opened fire Monday at a university in Russia, leaving six people dead and 28 hurt, before being shot by police and detained, officials said.

Beyond saying that he was a student, authorities offered no further information on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-story windows.

In some footage, a black-clad helmeted figure could be seen striding on a campus sidewalk cradling a long-barreled weapon. Russia's Investigative Committee, the country's top body for criminal probes, said the gunman fired a smoothbore

hunting weapon. That could indicate he used a shotgun.

The university, which has 12,000 students, said about 3,000 people were on campus at the time of the shooting. The school is in Perm, a city 700 miles east of Moscow with a population of about 1 million.

The Investigative Committee said six people were killed, revising down its earlier figure of eight dead. No explanation was given for the change. It said 28 people were injured and some of them were hospitalized. The Health Ministry said 19 of them were shot; it was not clear how the others were injured.

In a video released by the Interior Ministry, a witness whose name was not given said he saw the man outside after shooting two people and that he appeared to be wearing a bulletproof vest.

A traffic police unit was the

first to reach the scene, and the suspect opened fire on them, according to the Interior Ministry. He was wounded when police returned fire and then was disarmed. The gunman also was armed with a knife, the ministry said.

One traffic officer said people were rushing out of the university building as gunshots were heard.

"I entered the building and saw an armed young man walking down the stairs. I shouted at him, 'Drop it!'" That's when he pointed the gun at me and fired. At that point I used my gun," officer Konstantin Kalinin said in the ministry video.

Although firearms laws are strict in Russia, many people obtain permits for hunting. News reports cited officials as saying the suspect had a permit for a pump-action shotgun, al-

though it was not clear if it was for the weapon used.

School shootings are infrequent in Russia, but the Perm attack was the third in recent years. In May, a gunman opened fire at a school in the city of Kazan, killing seven students and two teachers with a registered weapon. A student at a college in Russia-annexed Crimea killed 20 students and himself in 2018.

After the Kazan shooting, President Vladimir Putin called on the national guard to tighten gun regulations. Russia then passed a law raising the minimum purchase age from 18 to 21.

The Russian leader offered his condolences on Monday.

"It is a tremendous tragedy, not only for the families who lost their children but for the entire country," Putin said.

Spanish volcano's lava slowly heads toward sea

Associated Press

LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE, Spain — Lava continued to flow slowly from a volcano that erupted in Spain's Canary Islands off northwest Africa, but the head of the regional government said Monday he expects no injuries to people in the area after some 5,000 were evacuated.

Lava was flowing on the island of La Palma toward the sea, moving at 2,300 feet per hour, according to the Canary Islands Volcanology Institute.

The lava was moving in two streams through a mostly unpopulated area, Canary Islands government chief Ángel Víctor Torres told SER radio. Around 100 houses were destroyed, private Spanish news agency Europa Press reported.

"We're not expecting any other eruption," Torres said, adding that air traffic was not affected.

"There will be considerable

material damage," he said. "We hope there won't be any personal injuries."

No further evacuations were expected, officials said.

"The lava probably won't take any lives but it will destroy everything it encounters," Nemesio Pérez, scientific coordinator at the Canary Islands Volcanology Institute, told SER.

The eruption opened two fissures, about 650 feet apart. Officials said the lava streams would likely merge before reaching the sea.

The lava crept into the town of Los Llanos de Aridane, which lies close to the volcano. Town Mayor Noelia García said people had been evacuated from houses all the way down to the shoreline.

The Military Emergencies Unit is increasing its deployment on La Palma to 180 soldiers and 57 vehicles, backed up with three water-dropping aircraft.

US launches mass expulsion of Haitian migrants in Texas

Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas — The U.S. is flying Haitians camped in a Texas border town back to their homeland and blocking others from crossing the border from Mexico in a massive show of force that signals the beginning of what could be one of America's swiftest, large-scale expulsions of migrants or refugees in decades.

More than 320 migrants arrived in Port-au-Prince on three flights Sunday, and Haiti said six flights were expected Tuesday. In all, U.S. authorities moved to expel many of the more 12,000 migrants camped around a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, after crossing from Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

The U.S. plans to begin seven expulsion flights daily on Wednesday, four to Port-au-Prince and three to Cap-Haitien, according to a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly. Flights will con-

tinue to depart from San Antonio but authorities may add El Paso, the official said.

The only obvious parallel for an expulsion without an opportunity to seek asylum was in 1992 when the Coast Guard intercepted Haitian refugees at sea, said Yael Schacher, senior U.S. advocate at Refugees International whose doctoral studies focused on the history of U.S. asylum law.

Similarly large numbers of Mexicans have been sent home during peak years of immigration but over land and not so suddenly.

Central Americans have also crossed the border in comparable numbers without being subject to mass expulsion, although Mexico has agreed to accept them under pandemic-related authority in effect since March 2020. Mexico does not accept expelled Haitians or people of other nationalities outside of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

7 people injured by falling branch of big banyan tree

H HONOLULU — At least seven people were injured Saturday in the collapse of a large tree branch in Honolulu's Waikiki neighborhood, Hawaii News Now reported.

A large branch of a banyan tree came crashing down about 12:15 p.m. at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in the heart of the popular tourist district, Honolulu Emergency Medical Services told Hawaii News Now.

The seven people who suffered multiple injuries included those with serious head injuries and multiple cuts. Four of the seven patients were treated and transported to a nearby hospital, Honolulu EMS said.

Among those seriously injured was a 50-year-old man, a 22-year-old woman, a 28-year-old woman and another woman whose age was not disclosed, Hawaii News Now reported. The three others who were evaluated at scene refused to be transported.

The banyan reaches a height up to 100 feet and spreads laterally indefinitely.

State is popular route for American white pelicans

IL CHICAGO — A kind of bird that not that long ago was so rare in Illinois that people traveled hours just to catch a glimpse of one have lately been winging their way through the Chicago area.

Snow-white 30-pound birds called the American white pelican are on their semiannual migration through Illinois right now. It is a trip that means hundreds of them stop to rest near the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon,

50 miles southwest of Chicago. Thousands more stop for a bit about 150 miles beyond Channahon at the Emiquon National Wildlife Refuge in Lewistown.

There are a number of reasons this might be happening. For starters, decades of wetland restoration across the country have helped increase the number of birds from about 40,000 in the 1960s to 180,000 today.

As to why Illinois has seen so many more, American Birding Association webmaster Greg Neiss told the Chicago Tribune that perhaps the birds that traditionally breed in Canada and the Great Plains and migrate to the Gulf Coast every winter started breeding in northern Wisconsin.

Shooting at baby shower wounds 3; man arrested

PA NEW KENSINGTON — A suspect is in custody following a shooting at a baby shower at a western Pennsylvania fire hall that wounded three people, authorities said.

Police in Lower Burrell in Westmoreland County were called to the Kinloch Fire Department shortly after 6 p.m. and found the suspected shooter leaving the fire hall, police said. He was taken into custody without incident, officials said.

Chief John Marhefka said the shooting was initially reported as an active shooter situation, but was instead “an isolated family incident” during a baby shower. A preliminary investigation indicated that a family argument at the shower turned physical, and the suspect pulled out a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun and opened fire, police said.

Police said a 23-year-old man, a 19-year-old woman and a 16-year-old youth were wounded

and were taken to hospitals, where condition reports weren't immediately available. Reporters were told that the victims were conscious when they were transported and the injuries weren't considered life-threatening.

The Tribune-Review reported that the 25-year-old suspect faces aggravated assault and reckless endangering charges.

Man arrested in assault seen on subway stop video

NY NEW YORK — A New York City man is facing charges he kicked a woman down an escalator at a Brooklyn subway station in an ugly incident captured on security video.

Bradley Hill, 32, was arrested Friday on assault charges, police said.

According to an initial police report, Hill attacked the 32-year-old woman Sept. 9 after they had a “verbal exchange” on an escalator at a station serving the Barclays Center arena.

Security video showed a man turning around and kicking the woman “in her chest, which caused her to fall several feet down the escalator,” the police report said.

Report: School official wrongly got free dirt

AZ PHOENIX — A former Wickenburg school district official illegally hit pay dirt — up to 700 truckloads of it — from a district-owned excavation site and then used it for his own property, state watchdog officials said.

A grand jury indictment charged William Moran, former operations director for the Wickenburg Unified School District,

with conflict of interest and other crimes, the Auditor General's Office said Thursday in a report.

The office said it conducted an investigation and presented its findings to the Attorney General's Office after the district alleged financial misconduct by Moran, who resigned in 2018 when questioned by the superintendent.

Moran should have paid up to \$70,000 for the dirt delivered to his property by a contractor who did the excavation work and who had suggested the dirt be used to flatten the district's own property, the office said.

Alcohol banned at beach to discourage 'frat beach'

GA ST. SIMONS ISLAND — Officials are banning alcohol at a Georgia beach for the weekend of the Georgia-Florida football matchup, hoping to discourage big crowds amid a high rate of coronavirus infections.

Commissioners in Glynn County voted 6-to-1 to prohibit possession or consumption of booze on the beach at St. Simons Island on Oct. 29 and 30, news outlets reported.

The island has become a hot spot for Georgia Bulldogs fans on their way to the big game in Gainesville, Fla., each fall, with residents derisively referring to the surfside crowds as “frat beach.”

Glynn County Commissioner Cap Fendig, who proposed the alcohol ban that was approved Thursday, said that he is hoping it will reduce the need for police and other public safety personnel at the beach, and therefore limit their potential exposure to the virus.

— From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES®

Single source convenience, reliably independent. Visit www.stripes.com.

Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Jackson finally gets better of Chiefs

Associated Press

BALTIMORE — With a vault and a jump pass, and all the confidence from his coach and teammates he could ask for, Lamar Jackson finally beat Patrick Mahomes and the Kansas City Chiefs.

Jackson rushed for 107 yards and two touchdowns — including a flip into the end zone for the winning score — as the Baltimore Ravens defeated the Chiefs 36-35 on Sunday night.

Jackson was 0-3 against Kansas City, and he needed all of his skills to break through to hand Mahomes his first loss in September after 11 victories. The matchup of NFL MVPs — Mahomes in 2018, Jackson the next year — was a wild affair from the start.

And the Ravens needed a fumble by Clyde Edwards-Helaire as the Chiefs were marching into field goal range to clinch it.

With Jackson leading Baltimore's 251 yards rushing and throwing for 239 and a score, the team ensured that all four AFC North teams would have 1-1 records. Kansas City, which allowed 481 yards and gained 405, also is 1-1 in the rugged AFC West.

Jackson had his ninth career 100-yard rushing game, tied with Michael Vick for most by a quarterback.

The dynamic Jackson twice got into the end zone to his right with dives — well, the last TD was more of a somersault.

"I landed on my butt," he claimed, laughing.

Twice the Ravens misfired on two-point conversions, but Jackson's run for a first down on fourth-and-1 after Edwards-Helaire fumbled secured the victory.

"He (coach John Harbaugh) asked if we wanted to go for it," Jackson said. "I said, 'Hell yeah.'"

"I said, 'Man, I got to get this first down no matter what.'"

Like a video game with no controller for defense, the teams moved up and down the field with little opposition. Most thrilling was Travis Kelce's 46-yard slalom in which he avoided nearly the entire Baltimore defensive unit before falling into the end zone, exhausted. But it was not enough because Mahomes finally threw an interception in September, to Tavon Young, which set up Jackson's first touchdown run.

"We were strong and together

and we kept that focus," Jackson said, referring to the overtime loss at Las Vegas to open the season. "I know my team is going to look at me and I got to do it for my guys."

The Chiefs broke a 14-14 tie with a precise drive late in the first half, sparked by a 20-yard screen pass to backup tight end Blake Bell. Darrel Williams ran it in from the 10 with 51 seconds to go.

That was enough time for the Ravens to reach field-goal range for Justin Tucker, who nailed a 43-yarder. The problem for Baltimore: Kansas City got the second-half kickoff.

Mahomes capped a quick 74-yard drive with a short pass to Byron Pringle, who eluded two tacklers for a 40-yard score and a 28-17 lead.

And the problem for the Chiefs was their defense, which was getting shredded — aside from Tyrann Mathieu's interceptions — had to take the field. It completely lost Marquise Brown on a 42-yard jump pass TD four plays after Pringle scored.

"Lamar's a heck of a football player," Kansas City DE Frank Clark said. "He does everything that he can ... They took it. They

came in, beat us in the rushing attack. We missed tackles."

Of course, with Mahomes chucking the ball and guys like Kelce catching it, the Chiefs barely shrug in such circumstances. Kelce's highlight-reel TD restored the 11-point lead; he finished with seven catches for 109 yards.

Young's pick — Mahomes said, "It's probably one of the worst interceptions I've probably ever had" — set up the Ravens near midfield and yet another quick drive was finished by Jackson's sprint right and dive for a 2-yard score. But a two-point conversion pass to Brown was negated by a penalty and the Ravens failed on the next try.

They didn't miss the winning score when they got the chance to go ahead. That Jackson made like a gymnast added a twist to it all.

"I love being around this team," Harbaugh said of his undermanned group. "I told them it would be an honor to be on the field with them. What makes me proud of these guys is that's who we are and what we do."

Mahomes was 24-for-31 for 343 yards and three TDs, with the interception.

Cards survive thriller after Vikings miss late FG try

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — Arizona's Jordan Hicks didn't dare turn around as Minnesota's potential game-winning field goal floated toward the uprights. Instead, he watched the videoboard for a moment and then locked eyes with Ezekial Turner, who had been knocked to the turf, his expression slowly turning to disbelief.

The Cardinals were 2-0. After being really good in a season-opening win last week, Arizona enjoyed a little good fortune in Week 2.

Kyler Murray threw for 400 yards and three touchdowns, and the Cardinals beat the Vikings 34-33 on Sunday after Greg Joseph missed a 37-yard field goal wide right in the final seconds.

"I'd rather be lucky than good some-

times," Arizona tight end Maxx Williams said. "We got the 'W' with that missed field goal and I'm gonna celebrate it. It's hard to be 2-0 in this league, it's hard to win games in this league.

"It doesn't matter how it happens."

It was a fitting end to a seesaw game that saw the lead change hands eight times. The dizzying offensive pace — the Cardinals had a 24-23 halftime lead — slowed considerably in the final minutes, and there were no touchdowns in the final quarter.

Murray also ran for a touchdown and threw two costly interceptions, including one that was returned for a score. But there were a lot more good moments than bad.

"The game is really slowing down for him," Arizona coach Kliff Kingsbury said.

"He's doing stuff that he did at the collegiate level where he's very confident in legs and moving around, extending plays."

The Cardinals looked as if they were about to lose before Joseph's last-second miss. He made two 52-yard field goals earlier in the game, giving no indication he'd have trouble pushing Minnesota to a win.

It's another dispiriting setback for the Vikings (0-2), who lost in overtime at Cincinnati last weekend. Kirk Cousins threw for 244 yards and three touchdowns while Dalvin Cook ran for 131 yards on 22 carries.

Minnesota's Nick Vigil returned an interception 39 yards for a touchdown on the second play of the third quarter, jumping in front of a pass Murray intended for Rondale Moore. It gave the Vikings a 30-24 lead.

Brady, Bucs pull away from Falcons

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — It's good to be 2-0 with a franchise-best 10-game winning streak and an even more impressive run of nine straight 30-plus point performances in a victory.

The defending Super Bowl champion Tampa Bay Buccaneers insist, however, that they still haven't played anywhere near up to their potential after pulling away in the fourth quarter to rout the Atlanta Falcons 48-25 on Sunday.

"I think we've got a lot to learn from," coach Bruce Arians said. "It's always better to learn from winning. I like the way we finished the game."

Tom Brady threw for 276 yards and five touchdowns, and Mike Edwards returned two of Tampa Bay's three interceptions for TDs as the Bucs scored 30-plus points in a victory for a NFL-record ninth straight time.

Brady, 44, was also part of teams with New England that scored at least 30 in eight straight wins in 2007 and 2010.

"We were a little loose with the ball. Some penalties at different times that knocked us out of some scoring drives. Some missed

throws and missed reads. I certainly wish I had made a few better throws," Brady said.

"But it's good to get the win. 2-0," the seven-time Super Bowl winner added. "There's a lot to build on."

Brady improved to 9-0 lifetime against the Falcons (0-2), who've lost seven in a row going back to last season, with three of those setbacks coming against Tampa Bay, which has outscored NFC South rivals 124-62 over the past 10 quarters of those outings.

Rob Gronkowski caught two TD passes for the third straight game, including the Super Bowl, as he and Brady continued to climb the career list for regular-season TDs by a passing duo with 88 — one behind Philip Rivers and Antonio Gates for second place. Peyton Manning and Marvin Harrison are first with 112.

Mike Evans also scored on receptions of 3 yards and 1 yard, the latter set up by Shaquil Barrett's third-quarter interception of Matt Ryan, who fell to 0-6 against teams led by Brady, who rallied New England from a 28-3 deficit to beat Atlanta in Super Bowl 51.

Ryan, who tossed TD passes to Calvin Ridley and Cordarrelle Patterson before running for a two-point conversion to trim an

18-point deficit to 28-25 late in the third, threw two interceptions that Edwards returned for fourth-quarter TDs that broke the game open.

"These guys kept coming back, back, back," Arthur Smith, the Falcons' first-year coach said. "It's a shame. You get in there, it's a three-point game and then it ends the way it does."

"When the score got out of hand, a lot of that was on the offense, right? You can almost put four of those touchdowns — two of them for sure, pick-6's (on the offense)," Smith added. "Everybody feels sick when you see that box score, but there were some positives."

Since trailing the Falcons 17-0 at halftime of their Week 15 meeting in Atlanta last December, Brady has thrown for 11 touchdowns vs. one interception in guiding the Bucs to three victories in a series that's seen Tampa Bay win four of the past five meetings.

Brady completed 24 of 38 passes without an interception. He was sacked three times, losing a fumble on one of them.

Ryan finished 35-for-46 for 300 yards, two touchdowns and three interceptions.

Henry powers Titans' late rally to shock Seahawks

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Derrick Henry and the Tennessee Titans found a way to silence Seattle's notorious noise that hadn't been heard for nearly two years.

The Titans leaned on their All-Pro star and staged the kind of comeback they haven't pulled off in a regular-season game in more than a decade.

"I don't think anyone expected us to come here and get a 'W,'" Henry said. "I knew if we stuck together, trust in what we preach and what Coach preaches, play the way we practice, it would eventually come together for us."

Henry ran for 182 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns, Randy Bullock hit a 36-yard field goal midway through overtime, and Tennessee rallied from a 14-point deficit to stun the Seahawks 33-30 on Sunday.

"It just never ceases to amaze me. We just got to keep being in opportunities and being in football games where he can help us affect the outcome," Titans coach Mike Vrabel said. "That's really what happened today."

Down 24-9 at halftime and 30-16 early in the fourth quarter, Tennessee leaned on its All-Pro running back, who carried them on the day Seattle welcomed fans back for a regular-season game for the first time since the end of the 2019 season.

They left in silence, thanks to Henry, a terrific fourth-quarter drive from Ryan Tannehill and the Seahawks' missed opportunities.

The Titans rallied from a 21-3 halftime deficit to beat Kansas City 22-21 in the 2017 playoffs. The last time Tennessee pulled off a bigger comeback in the regular season was 2006 when it

erased a 21-0 halftime deficit to beat the Giants 24-21.

Seattle led by 14 after Freddie Swain busted free from coverage for a 68-yard touchdown with 13:06 left. But Jason Myers missed the extra point, hitting the upright and setting the stage for a wild conclusion.

Henry rumbled 60 yards for his second touchdown of the game less than a minute after Swain's TD catch. His 1-yard run with 29 seconds left in regulation and the extra point from Bullock tied the game at 30.

And when the Titans needed yards in overtime after nearly ending the game with a safety, Henry had four runs for 21 yards to set up Bullock's winning kick.

Henry also had a career-high six receptions for 55 yards and his 182 yards rushing matched the most allowed by the Seahawks during coach Pete Car-

roll's tenure. Tannehill was 27-for-40 for 347 yards and Julio Jones had the 59th 100-yard game of his career with six receptions for 128 yards.

Most importantly, Tennessee avoided an 0-2 start.

"I don't get caught up in all the scenarios and records," Henry said.

Russell Wilson was splendid for three-plus quarters, but struggled in the closing minutes of regulation and overtime when Seattle had chances to put the game away.

Wilson was 22-for-31 for 343 yards and two touchdowns, including a 63-yard strike to Tyler Lockett in the first half. Chris Carson added a pair of short TD runs.

It was the fourth time in franchise history the Seahawks lost when leading by at least 15 points at halftime.

Indians pound reeling Yankees again

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gerrit Cole stumbled when the New York Yankees needed an ace-like outing, allowing seven runs over 5⅓ innings in a costly 11-1 defeat to the Cleveland Indians on Sunday.

After losing consecutive games by eight or more runs for the first time since May 2008, New York dropped 1½ games behind Toronto for the second AL wild card and 2½ games back

of wild card leader Boston with 12 games left.

“Just couldn’t get that out, couldn’t get that third out and couldn’t get the ball off the bat, I guess,” Cole said. “It wasn’t falling our way, but at the same time it’s September. It’s a crucial game and that was too many runs to come back from.”

Cleveland’s Harold Ramírez hit a pair of two-run singles and drove in a career-high four runs before leaving as a precaution

with a right shoulder injury. He banged into the right-field wall in the third inning on a drive Gio Urshela that hit the top of the fence and bounced over for a home run.

José Ramírez hit his 35th homer, had four hits and reached five times for the Indians, who scored double-digit runs for the third time in four games.

“He’s such a good hitter,” Cleveland manager DeMarlo Hale said, “There’s a consistency to

him. He will have ups and downs, but he’s a big threat in the middle of the lineup.”

The Yankees were outscored 22-4 in the final two games of a series against a team with a losing record. New York is 7-15 since a 13-game winning streak, tied with 102-loss Baltimore for the worst record in the AL over that span.

It was the third time since 2016 the Yankees allowed double-digit runs in consecutive games.

Cardinals get help for 8th straight

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — San Diego center fielder Fernando Tatis Jr. dropped Nolan Arenado’s bases-loaded popup and heaved the ball home, leading to a five-run first inning, and the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Padres 8-7 Sunday for an eight-game winning streak.

Tatis’ brutal error and mental mistake — he chose not to make an easy throw to second or third for a forceout — came one day after his dugout dustup with teammate Manny Machado.

St. Louis completed a three-game sweep and padded its lead for the second NL wild card over Cincinnati and Philadelphia. The Cardinals had not won eight in a row since Aug. 7-15, 2018.

St. Louis was 8½ games out of a wild card spot on Aug. 10.

Mets 3, Phillies 2: Jeff McNeil hit a tie-breaking homer leading off the seventh inning, and host New York beat Philadelphia, damaging the Phillies’ playoff hopes.

Athletics 3, Angels 2: Shohei Ohtani struck out 10 but went winless in consecutive starts on the mound for the first time since June, and visiting Oakland overcame a bullpen meltdown to beat Los Angeles.

Blue Jays 5, Twins 3: José Berríos (12-9) allowed three runs and four hits in 6⅓ innings to beat the team that traded him to host Toronto on July 30.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 6: Kiké Hernández’s game-tying RBI single caromed off the second-base bag and into shallow center field, sparking a three-run, seventh-inning rally that carried host Boston to a three-game sweep and a five-game winning streak.

Tigers 2, Rays 0: Wily Peralta (4-3) gave

up three hits in seven innings, Eric Haase homered off Shane McCann (9-6) and Dustin Garneau went deep against Nick Anderson as visiting Detroit beat AL East-leading Tampa Bay.

Mariners 7, Royals 1: Rookie Jarred Kelenic homered and doubled twice, wrapping up his impressive series and leading visiting Seattle over Kansas City.

White Sox 7, Rangers 2: José Abreu capped visiting Chicago’s five-run fourth inning with a two-run single that tied him with Kansas City’s Salvador Perez for the major league RBIs lead at 113.

Dodgers 8, Reds 5: Clayton Kershaw (10-7) allowed one run and three hits in five sharp innings for his first win since June 27, and Gavin Lux and Corey Seager hit two-run homers as visiting Los Angeles won for the eighth time in nine games.

Marlins 6, Pirates 5: Lewin Díaz led off the bottom of the 10th with a two-run homer off Chad Kuhl (5-7), denying visiting Pittsburgh what would have been its first series sweep this season.

Cubs 6, Brewers 4: Patrick Wisdom set a Cubs rookie record with his 27th homer, hitting a three-run drive that capped visiting Chicago’s five-run comeback in the eighth.

Astros 7, Diamondbacks 6: Jose Siri and Chas McCormick hit back-to-back home runs in the eighth to help host Houston win for the fourth time in five games and cut Tampa Bay’s lead for the best record in the AL to 3½ games.

Nationals 3, Rockies 0: Juan Soto hit his 26th home run this season to back Paolo Espino, who allowed three hits in 5⅓ innings, and helped end Colorado’s rare five-game road winning streak.

Rosario hits for cycle as Braves defeat Giants

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Eddie Rosario became the second Atlanta player in a month to hit for the cycle, Max Fried pitched seven strong innings and the Braves beat the San Francisco Giants 3-0 Sunday in a matchup of division leaders.

Atlanta has a two-game lead over Philadelphia in the NL East after the Phillies lost to the New York Mets. The Braves ended a four-game losing streak.

“It’s been a good day, especially for me,” Rosario said. “It was a really tough series for us with the Giants here.”

San Francisco got just four hits and had its lead in the NL West cut to one game by the Los Angeles Dodgers, who lead the NL Wild Card race.

“I feel like we’ve been playing great baseball, and (the Dodgers) have been matching us,” the Giants’ Kris Bryant said. “That’s annoying.”

Rosario, acquired by Atlanta from Cleveland on July 30, hit a double in the second inning and a triple in the third. He homered in the seventh and then singled in the ninth. Freddie Freeman was the last Braves player to hit for the cycle, accomplishing the feat on Aug. 18 at Miami.

Fried (12-7) allowed just three hits, striking out five and walking one. The left-hander has yielded three earned runs or fewer in 10 consecutive starts, and Atlanta owns an 8-2 record in those games.