

## Border camp empty; Haitians await fate

*Associated Press*

DEL RIO, Texas — No migrants are left at a Texas border encampment, about a week after nearly 15,000 people — most of them Haitians — huddled in makeshift shelters hoping for the chance to seek asylum.

Some will get that chance, while the others will be expelled to their homeland. The Department of Homeland Security planned to continue flights to Haiti throughout the weekend, ignoring criticism from Democratic lawmakers and human rights groups who say Haitian migrants are being sent back to a troubled country that some left more than a decade ago.

Meanwhile, Bruno Lozano, the mayor of Del Rio, Texas, where the camp was located, said officials would search the brush along the Rio Grande to ensure nobody was hiding and finish cleaning the site before reopening the international bridge. He said that would happen Sunday night at the earliest.

Officials also want to be sure no other large groups of migrants are making their way to the Del Rio area who might decide to set up a similar camp, he said.

Lozano said there were no deaths during the time the camp was occupied and that 10 babies were born to migrant mothers, either at the camp or in Del Rio's hospital.

"It took an urban village at this scale to help prevent any loss of life and actually welcome the births of children here," said Lozano, who called the relocation of all the migrants "phenomenal."

The number of migrants peaked last Saturday as migrants driven by confusion over the Biden administration's policies and misinformation on social media converged at the border crossing connecting Del Rio, Texas, and Ciudad Acuña, Mexico.

The U.S. and Mexico worked swiftly, appearing eager to end the humanitarian situation that prompted the resignation of the U.S. special envoy to Haiti and widespread outrage after images emerged of border agents maneuvering their horses to forcibly block and move migrants.

On Friday, President Joe Biden said the way the agents used their horses was "horrible" and that "people will pay" as a result. The agents have been assigned to administrative duties while the administration investigates.

"There will be consequences," Biden told reporters. "It's an embarrassment, but it's beyond an embarrassment — it's dangerous, it's wrong, it sends the wrong message around the world and sends the wrong message at home. It's simply not who we are."

Later, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas spoke cautiously about the pending investigation. Asked about the discrepancy, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden "was not prejudging an outcome" or interfering with the investigation, but "was speaking from the heart."

Many migrants face expulsion because they are not covered by protections recently extended by the Biden administration to the more than 100,000 Haitian migrants already in the U.S., citing security concerns and social unrest in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country. A devastating 2010 earthquake forced many from their homeland.

Mayorkas said about 2,000 Haitians had been rapidly expelled on 17 flights since Sunday and more could be expelled in coming days under pandemic powers that deny people the chance to seek asylum.

The Trump administration enacted the policy, called Title 42, in March 2020 to justify restrictive immigration policies in an effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The Biden administration has used it to justify the deportation of Haitian migrants.

A federal judge late last week ruled that the rule was improper and gave the government two weeks to halt it, but the Biden administration appealed.

## Taliban hang dead body in Afghan city's main square

*Associated Press*

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban hung a dead body from a crane parked in a city square in Afghanistan on Saturday in a gruesome display that signaled the hard-line group's return to some of its brutal tactics of the past.

Taliban officials initially brought four bodies to the central square in the western city of Herat, then moved three of them to other parts of the city for public display, said Wazir Ahmad Seddiqi, who runs a pharmacy on the edge of the square.

Taliban officials announced that the four were caught taking part in a kidnapping earlier Saturday and were killed by police, Seddiqi said. Ziaulhaq Jalali, a Taliban-appointed district police chief in Herat, said later that Taliban members rescued a father and son who had

been abducted by four kidnappers after an exchange of gunfire.

He said a Taliban fighter and a civilian were wounded by the kidnappers, and that the kidnappers were killed in crossfire.

An Associated Press video showed crowds gathering around the crane and peering up at the body as some men chanted.

"The aim of this action is to alert all criminals that they are not safe," a Taliban commander who did not identify himself told the AP in an on-camera interview conducted in the square.

Since the Taliban overran Kabul on Aug. 15 and seized control of the country, Afghans and the world have been watching to see whether they will re-create their harsh rule of the late 1990s, which included public stonings and limb amputations of alleged criminals, some of

which took place in front of large crowds at a stadium.

Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, one of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan, told The Associated Press this week that the militant movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

"Everyone criticized us for the punishments in the stadium, but we have never said anything about their laws and their punishments," Turabi said.

President Joe Biden's administration signaled on Friday that the U.S. would not tolerate the Taliban's return to their past punishment methods.

# Service member assaulted by Afghan refugees in NM

*El Paso Times*

A female U.S. service member was assaulted by male evacuees at the Doña Ana County Range Complex where Afghan refugees are being housed, Fort Bliss officials said.

The woman, whose name and age were not released, was assaulted Sept. 19 by a “small group of male evacuees” at the complex in New Mexico, Fort Bliss officials said.

The incident is being investigated by the FBI.

“We take the allegation seriously and appropriately referred the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation,” Fort Bliss officials said in an emailed statement. “The safety and well-being of our service members, as well as all of those on our installations, is paramount.”

No details on the assault or the suspects have been released.

The victim was “immediately provided appropriate care, counseling and support,” officials said.

The victim is among 1,000 service mem-

bers who are part of Operation Allies Welcome.

The U.S. operation is to “support vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked alongside us in Afghanistan for the past two decades, as they safely resettle in the United States,” according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

The number of refugees at the Doña Ana County Range Complex was not immediately available. Thousands of refugees have come to the U.S. after fleeing Afghanistan as the U.S. ended its 20-year presence there in late August.

Officials said additional security and safety measures are being put into place at the complex.

“Task Force-Bliss is also implementing additional security measures to include increased health and safety patrols, additional lighting, and enforcement of the buddy system at the Doña Ana Complex,” officials said. “We will cooperate fully with the FBI and will continue to ensure the service member reporting this assault is fully supported.”

## Marine Corps Marathon moved online for 2nd year

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Marine Corps has canceled its in-person marathon for the second consecutive year, citing health concerns amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, officials announced Friday.

The 46th Marine Corps Marathon will be held as a virtual event next month, allowing those who choose to participate to do so from wherever they choose, officials said. The event had been set for the weekend of Oct. 29 through Oct. 31, featuring 10K and 50K races and the signature marathon, which is described as the world’s largest marathon without prize money.

“After exhausting all possibilities, the opportunity to safely operate and execute a live event is just not feasible at this time,” Rick Nealis, the director of the Marine Corps Marathon Organization, said in a statement. “Though we had high hopes to welcome home our running community this October, we are excited to still be able to celebrate the 46th running of ‘The People’s Marathon’ virtually.”

Nealis said he hoped the event held in Arlington, Va., and Washington, D.C., would return to an in-person marathon in 2022.

The decision follows the cancellation of the Army Ten-Miler race, which was announced Sept. 13.

That race was scheduled to be held Oct. 10 in Washington, D.C. Registrants for the in-person Army Ten-Miler have been moved to the virtual race and issued a \$30 registration credit for the 2022 version of the race, race officials said. Army Ten-Miler participants can complete the virtual race between Oct. 10 and Nov. 29.

Marine Corps Marathon virtual participants can complete their race between Oct. 1 and Nov. 10, the Corps’ 245th birthday, Marine officials said. Participants can track their run via phone applications or other fitness trackers and enter their times online, said Kristen Loflin, a spokeswoman for the marathon.

Those who were signed up for Marine Corps Marathon events will be emailed with options for a refund, to change their registration to the virtual event or defer registration to 2022, officials said.

## Biden hosts Indo-Pacific leaders

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Meeting with the leaders of India, Australia and Japan, President Joe Biden declared Friday that the U.S. and other members of the Indo-Pacific alliance known as “the Quad” are showing they “know how to get things done” in an increasingly complicated corner of the globe.

Biden and his fellow leaders— Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga — are all grappling with a rising China that Biden has accused of coercive economic practices and unsettling military maneuvering.

They made no direct mention of China as they opened the group’s first ever in-person meeting, but the Pacific power played a big part in the private talks.

Suga raised concerns about China intentions in the South China Sea, where it’s

stepped up its military presence in recent years, and the East China Sea, where a long-running dispute about a group of uninhabited islets administered by Tokyo but claimed by Beijing is a point of concern.

Suga also raised concerns about Chinese action towards Taiwan, said Japan’s foreign press secretary Tomoyuki Yoshida. On Thursday, Beijing dispatched 24 jets toward Taiwanese airspace after it submitted its application to join a trans-Pacific trade pact. The prime minister “emphasized the importance of the peace and stability in the Taiwan strait,” according to Yoshida.

Following the summit, the leaders issued a joint statement pledging “to meet challenges to the maritime rules-based order, including in the East and South China Seas.”

The Quad leaders also announced Japan would work with India on a \$100 million investment in COVID-19 vaccine and treatment drugs.

# Boosters start, even as many unprotected

Associated Press

The U.S. launched a campaign to offer boosters of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to millions of Americans on Friday even as federal health officials stressed the real problem remains getting first shots to the unvaccinated.

"We will not boost our way out of this pandemic," warned Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — even though she took the rare step of overruling the advice of her own expert panel to make more people eligible for the booster.

The vast majority of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations are among the unvaccinated, Walensky noted. And all three COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S. offer strong protection

against severe illness, hospitalization and death despite the extra-contagious delta variant that caused cases to soar. But immunity against milder infection appears to wane months after initial vaccination.

People anxious for another Pfizer dose lost no time rolling up their sleeves after Walensky ruled late Thursday on who's eligible: Americans 65 and older and others vulnerable because of underlying health problems or where they work and live — once they're six months past their last dose.

Health officials must clear up confusion over who should get a booster, and why. For now, the booster campaign is what Walensky called "a first step." It only applies to people originally vaccinated with shots made by

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech. Decisions on boosters for Americans who received Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines are still to come.

President Joe Biden said if you're vaccinated, "You're in good shape and we're doing everything we can to keep it that way, which is where the booster comes in."

He urged those now eligible for an extra shot to "go get the booster," saying he'd get his own soon — and that everyone should be patient and wait their turn.

Exactly who should get a booster was a contentious decision as CDC advisers spent two days poring over the evidence. Walensky endorsed most of their choices: People 65 and older, nursing home residents

and those ages 50 to 64 who have chronic health problems such as diabetes should be offered one once they're six months past their last Pfizer dose. Those 18 and older with health problems can decide for themselves if they want a booster.

But in an extremely unusual move, Walensky overruled her advisers' objections and decided an additional broad swath of the population also qualifies: People at increased risk of infection — not serious illness — because of their jobs or their living conditions. That includes health care workers, teachers and people in jails or homeless shelters.

"This was scientific close call," Walensky said Friday. "In that situation it was my call to make."

## Autopsy: 'The Wire' actor died of drug intoxication

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Actor Michael K. Williams died of acute drug intoxication in what New York City's medical examiner said Friday was an accidental death.

Williams, known for playing Omar Little on "The Wire" and an Emmy Award nominee this year, had fentanyl, parafluorofentanyl, heroin and cocaine in his system when he died Sept. 6 in Brooklyn.

Williams, 54, was found dead by family members in his penthouse apartment. Police said at the time that they suspected a drug overdose.

The city's Office of Chief Medical Examiner said it would not comment further. A message seeking comment was left with Williams' representative.

Williams had spoken frankly in interviews in recent years about his struggle with drug addiction, which he said persisted

after he gained fame on "The Wire" in the early 2000s.

"I was playing with fire," he told the Newark Star-Ledger in 2012. "It was just a matter of time before I got caught and my business ended up on the cover of a tabloid or I went to jail or, worse, I ended up dead. When I look back on it now, I don't know how I didn't end up in a body bag."

New York Police Commissioner Dermot Shea said in an interview shortly after Williams' death that he had spoken with the actor earlier this year about collaborating with the department on community outreach.

Williams had been working with a New Jersey charity to smooth the journey for former prison inmates seeking to reenter society, and was working on a documentary on the subject. Another project involved reaching out directly to at-risk youth.

## Firefighters hope cooling temps help battle wildfire

Associated Press

REDDING, Calif. — Firefighters hope shifting winds and cooling temperatures over the next few days will aid their efforts to battle a destructive wildfire in a drought-stricken forest in California's far north that has displaced thousands of people and burned at least 100 structures.

Authorities have arrested a 30-year-old woman on suspicion of starting the Fawn Fire in the Mountain Gate area north of the city of Redding. The blaze covered more than 10 square miles and was 10% contained on Friday night, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire.

Nearly 2,000 residents were under mandatory evacuation orders Friday and another 7,400 were under evacuation warnings, according to the California Highway Patrol.

Damage inspection teams are

expected to hit the ground Saturday to conduct assessments. Cal Fire said 9,000 structures were threatened by the fire and at least 100 structures had burned. Photos and video showed some homes blazing but the number of residences lost was not known.

The fire erupted at 4:45 p.m. Wednesday and grew explosively in hot and gusty weather Thursday in the region about 200 miles north of San Francisco.

North northeast winds on Friday night are expected to shift to become south southwest winds and be in firefighters' favor, Cal Fire said Friday during a briefing. However, firefighters will likely encounter steep terrain during their efforts to control the blaze in the coming days.

Temperatures in the 80s are likely to slowly drop into the 70s over the next several days as a cooling-off period comes, officials said.

# Biden: Budget talks stuck, may take while

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden says that talks over his \$3.5 trillion rebuilding plan have hit a “stalemate” in Congress as he made the case for his expansive effort to recast the nation’s tax and spending programs and make what he sees as sweeping, overdue investments.

Biden spoke at the White House as Democrats in the House and Senate are laboring to finish drafts and overcome differences between the party’s centrist and moderate factions. Despite efforts by the president and congressional leaders to show progress, Biden on Friday cast the road ahead as long and potentially cumbersome, even with upcoming deadlines.

“We’re getting down to the hard spot here,” Biden told reporters at the White

House. “We’re at this stalemate at the moment.”

Biden said the process is “going to be up and down” but “hopefully at the end of the day I’ll be able to deliver on what I said I would do.”

The president’s acknowledgment of Democrats’ disagreements — and they have serious differences over taxes, health, climate change and the ultimate price tag — contrasted with congressional leaders’ more upbeat tone in recent days. Using carefully chosen words, top Democrats have seemed to be trying to create a sense of momentum as House votes approach.

On Friday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., predicted passage of both pillars of Biden’s domestic agenda. One is a still-evolving \$3.5 trillion package of social safe-

ty net and climate programs, the other a separate \$1 trillion measure financing highway, internet and other infrastructure projects that’s already passed the Senate with bipartisan support.

“We’re going to pass both bills,” she told reporters.

But she did not spell out how she and her Senate counterpart, Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., would resolve disagreements and distrust between their party’s moderate and progressive wings that’s stalled both measures. And there remained confusion about the voting schedule, which will be crucial.

Pelosi promised House moderates last month that by this Monday, the chamber will consider the infrastructure bill, centrists’ top priority.

## House votes to protect abortion rights amid challenges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House passed legislation Friday that would guarantee a woman’s right to an abortion, an effort by Democrats to circumvent a new Texas law that has placed that access under threat.

The bill’s 218-211 approval is mostly symbolic, as Republican opposition will doom it in the Senate.

Still, Democrats say they are doing all they can to codify the Supreme Court’s 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision after the Supreme Court recently allowed the Texas law banning most abortions in the state to take effect. The court will hear arguments in December in a separate Mississippi bid to overturn the landmark decision.

Despite the long odds in his chamber, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said in a statement after the vote that “Congress must assert its role to protect the constitutional right to abortion” and that the Senate would hold a vote “in the very near future.”

Codifying the *Roe* ruling would mean creating a right to abortion in federal law, a monumental change that would make it harder for courts and states to impose restrictions.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has said that congressional action would make a “tremendous difference” in Democrats’ efforts to maintain access to abortion rights. She called the Supreme Court’s decision

“shameful” and counter to its own precedent.

Pelosi said just ahead of Friday’s vote that it should “send a very positive message to the women of our country — but not just the women, to the women and their families, to everyone who values freedom, honors our Constitution and respects women.”

No Republicans voted for the legislation, which would supersede state laws on the subject, give health care providers the right to perform abortions and patients the right to receive them. Republicans argue it would prevent states from setting requirements like parental involvement and could weaken laws that allow doctors to refuse to perform an abortion.

## Review finds no proof Ariz. election stolen from Trump

Associated Press

PHOENIX — A Republican-backed review of the 2020 presidential election in Arizona’s largest county ended Friday without producing proof to support former President Donald Trump’s false claims of a stolen election.

After six months of searching for evidence of fraud, the firm hired by Republican lawmakers issued a report that experts described as riddled with errors, bias and flawed methodology. Still, even that partisan review came up with a vote tally that would not have altered the outcome, finding

that Biden won by 360 more votes than the official results certified last year.

The finding was an embarrassing end to a widely criticized, and at times bizarre, quest to prove allegations that election officials and courts have rejected. It has no bearing on the final, certified results. Previous reviews of the 2.1 million ballots by non-partisan professionals that followed state law have found no significant problem with the vote count in Maricopa County, home to Phoenix. Biden won the county by 45,000 votes, key to his 10,500-vote win of Arizona.

For many critics the conclusions, pre-

sented at a hearing Friday by the firm Cyber Ninjas, underscored the dangerous futility of the exercise, which has helped fuel skepticism about the validity of the 2020 election and spawned copycat audits nationwide.

Cyber Ninjas acknowledged in its report that there were “no substantial differences” between the group’s hand count of ballots and the official count.

But the report also made a series of other disputed claims the auditors say should cast doubt on the accuracy and warrant more investigation.

**AMERICAN ROUNDUP**

**Woman found dead in freezer was ex-detective**

**CA** LOS ANGELES — An 87-year-old woman found dead inside a freezer in the garage of her Southern California home was a retired homicide detective with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, authorities said.

Miriam E. Travis retired as a detective sergeant in 1990 after 27 years with the department, including 11 in the Homicide Bureau.

No arrests have been made since the body was discovered in Riverside after another relative asked police to check on the older woman, the Riverside Press-Enterprise reported. The daughter gave inconsistent statements about the whereabouts of her mother, said Officer Javier Cabrera of the Riverside Police Department.

**Man convicted on most counts in deadly fires**

**OH** AKRON — A man accused of killing nine people in separate arson fires in his Akron neighborhood has been convicted of nearly all the charges he faced.

Stanley Ford, 62, faces a potential death sentence after he was found guilty on 26 of the 29 counts against him, including aggravated murder and aggravated arson.

Ford was accused of killing a couple in 2016 and two adults and five children in 2017. Summit County prosecutors used surveillance video footage, security alarm records and the testimony of neighbors to show

Ford was responsible.

Prosecutors said Ford set the fires because of disputes with his neighbors.

**City, state to buy 3 new buildings for homeless**

**WA** SEATTLE — Three new buildings in Seattle with 165 studio apartments that were supposed to be rented at market rates will instead house people leaving homelessness and people at risk of becoming homeless.

The nonprofit Low Income Housing Institute will buy the buildings on Capitol Hill for about \$50 million, with city and state housing programs sharing the cost equally, The Seattle Times reported. Seattle is using federal COVID-19 relief funds for their part, Mayor Jenny Durkan said

**Train that rear-ended another was 'full power'**

**MA** BOSTON — The operator of a light rail train that struck the rear of another train in the Boston area had turned the speed controller to full power, according to a federal report released, and the regional transit agency said it is moving to fire the person.

The train accelerated to 31 mph before colliding with the train ahead of it, which had been moving at about 10 mph, according to the National Transportation Safety Board's preliminary report on the crash, which sent more than two dozen people to the hospital.

The report did not say if the controller had been turned to

full power on purpose or accidentally.

**Man in custody after trash-inspired threats**

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — A New Orleans man frustrated with slow trash collections after Hurricane Ida remained in custody after he allegedly threatened the city's mayor, authorities said.

The 59-year-old man was arrested after he called the city's 911 line and allegedly threatened to go to City Hall and shoot the mayor if he could not get trash service, police said.

The man's attorney said his client has a drinking problem and argued he had no intention of actually shooting anyone.

**Purdue University sets record with enrollments**

**IN** WEST LAFAYETTE — Purdue University has nearly 50,000 students this fall, a record fueled by a freshman class of about 10,200.

Purdue said it was surprised by an increase in out-of-state students accepted for admission, the Journal & Courier reported. Families and students told Purdue that they were impressed by the school's response to COVID-19.

Purdue was expecting 8,450 freshmen but greatly exceeded that number. Total enrollment is pegged at 49,639.

**Judge rules NPR can air trial in shooting**

**MD** COLLEGE PARK — National Public

Radio can air audio recordings from the trial of the gunman who killed five Capital Gazette newspaper employees in 2018, a federal judge has ruled in a case challenging Maryland's ban on broadcasting court proceedings.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard Bennett permanently barred the state of Maryland from enforcing its "broadcast ban" against NPR, which intends to use audio from the trial of Capital Gazette newsroom shooter Jarrod Ramos in an upcoming episode of its "Embedded" podcast.

Bennett ruled it would be unconstitutional for Maryland to ban NPR from broadcasting recordings of the jury trial for Ramos' criminal case. NPR's challenge to the broadcast ban was limited to its use of recordings of Ramos' court proceedings.

**Ford invests in electric vehicle battery recycling**

**MI** DEARBORN — Ford Motor Co. is investing \$50 million in an electric vehicle battery recycling company as the automaker moves to shore up its U.S. battery supply chain.

The Dearborn, Mich., automaker will invest in Redwood Materials, a Nevada-based company founded by former Tesla executive JB Straubel.

Ford said in a statement that Redwood can recover 95% of precious metals in EV batteries such as nickel, cobalt, lithium and copper, all of which could run short as the world shifts from internal combustion to electric vehicles.

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# Ravens' Villanueva adjusting at tackle

Associated Press

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Alejandro Villanueva's military background gives him a unique perspective on life as an offensive tackle.

It's pretty intense.

"I think that offensive linemen are very dark people in a lot of ways," Villanueva said Thursday. "I think it's a position where when you close your eyes before the play, all sorts of bad things are happening, and you're hoping that they don't, because a lot of things are outside of your control.

"It's very similar to when I was jumping out of airplanes. ... A system of shoelaces and plastic bags catches me up in the air and avoids sure death. Then you get these type of feelings that there's not a lot of upside to jumping, not a lot of upside to playing tackle."

Villanueva, who was an active member of the U.S. Army

before his NFL career, offered up that comparison after experiencing the highs and lows of the offensive line in his first two games this season. When his Baltimore Ravens lost at Las Vegas in their opener, he allowed two sacks and 10 pressures, according to Pro Football Focus. The following weekend, he allowed none of either as the Ravens beat Kansas City.

Villanueva has been under scrutiny in part because Baltimore's offensive line hasn't completely come together as planned. The Ravens signed him away from rival Pittsburgh this past offseason. Then Baltimore traded left tackle Orlando Brown to the Chiefs for draft picks.

The thinking was that Ronnie Stanley, whose 2020 season ended early because of an ankle injury, would be back — and he did start the opener at

left tackle, with Villanueva on the right. But that was a rough game for the line as a whole, and Stanley didn't play the following weekend. Villanueva moved from the right side to the left.

"I just think he's getting more comfortable with what we're doing, how we're doing it and whatnot," offensive coordinator Greg Roman said.

"The crowd noise had a little factor for him in that first game, but I really think as I watch, he's really getting more comfortable with things. I think he looked at that first game and just said, 'That's not going to happen again.' So, that's a credit to him."

Lamar Jackson was sacked three times against the Raiders but only once against the Chiefs, and the Baltimore offensive line has blocked well enough for the team to reach its usual spot atop the NFL in

rushing. For a player who is still new to the Ravens, this has been an eventful start for Villanueva.

"It's not just myself learning about him, I hope a lot of people did. He took the first game seriously. A lot of people doubted him (and) were saying all type of stuff about him," Jackson said. "He moved from right tackle in the first game to left tackle to protect my blind side, and he aced it. He did a great job."

That kind of support means a lot to Villanueva, who, although he compared playing tackle to jumping out of a plane, is plenty capable of looking on the bright side of things.

"It's relying on the people in the building that are going to support you — coaches, players — and try to do the best with the next snap," he said. "That's the only thing that matters. There's always the next snap."

# Brady, Bucs will have hands full evading Donald

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The Tampa Bay Buccaneers kept Aaron Donald off the stat sheet last season.

No tackles. No sacks. No hits, hurries or passes defended for the first time in the defensive tackle's decorated career.

But it came at a price, as Donald's presence and performance created opportunities elsewhere in the Los Angeles Rams' 27-24 win.

"I just know he commands so much attention, whether it's a double team, even a triple team sometimes, that opens things up for other guys. Other guys had really, really big games, and that's a big credit to him," safety Jordan Fuller said.

It was just the third time in 112 career games Donald did not record a tackle, something Buccaneers offensive coordinator By-

ron Leftwich doesn't expect to be able to replicate this week when two of the top five betting favorites to win the Super Bowl square off.

"Obviously, you try to do things from a game-plan standpoint, but when you talk about a player of that caliber, you don't know if we're fortunate or lucky or what we try to do worked. Either way, none of that matters. None of that matters for Sunday," he said.

Donald has one sack through two games this season, but the three-time AP Defensive Player of the Year remains as disruptive as ever. Indianapolis quarterback Carson Wentz can attest to that after being knocked out Sunday by Donald in the fourth quarter of the Rams' 27-24 win.

Tom Brady has enjoyed remarkable longevity because of his ability to avoid those same

kind of hits when scrambling, moving in the pocket, or holding onto the ball for too long. He was eventually able to mesh his desire to protect himself with Buccaneers coach Bruce Arians' relentless desire to create big plays in the passing game, sparking their current 10-game winning streak and a Super Bowl title.

However, the Rams caught Brady before he was able to balance those often antithetical goals, and their relentless rush led to one of his worst games. Brady was 26-for-48 passing for 216 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions. He didn't complete a throw longer than 18 yards and his 4.5 yards per attempt was a season low.

"We did a good job of putting pressure on him, guys just giving him different looks," Donald said. "Did a great job covering things on the back end, and guys

had opportunities to make plays, get the ball in their hands, and took advantage of it."

Fuller believes Donald underplayed his role in making Brady so uncomfortable.

"I can tell you for one thing, I know opposing offenses fear him. And, I mean, I know that for a fact," Fuller said. "He wrecks the whole game. And just having a force like that in the middle of the defense, it's special. We're really lucky to have him, but I know it poses a big problem for whoever we play."

Donald is on the verge of becoming the Rams' career leader in sacks. He needs 1½ to pass Leonard Little's mark of 87½, which goes back to when sacks became an official statistic in 1982 and therefore doesn't reflect Deacon Jones' prodigious ability for bringing down the quarterback.

# US has big opening day in Ryder Cup

Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — Americans hit three unforgettable shots on the opening day of the Ryder Cup and two went for naught. Turns out they didn't need them.

Captain Steve Stricker's young squad patiently built the biggest U.S. opening-day lead since 1975, pummeling defending champion Europe in both the foursomes and fourball matches Friday for a 6-2 cushion. While the fast start wasn't new — the U.S. team has gone seven straight Ryder Cups without losing the opening session — the solid finish was.

"My message to the guys before I left," Stricker said, "is, 'tomorrow is a new day. Let's just go out tomorrow and try to win that first session again ... Pretend today never happened.'"

That would have been a lot harder for his team had things not worked out as well as they did.

The one swing from that trio of spectacular shots that actually paid a dividend was a towering 417-yard drive by Bryson DeChambeau at the par-5 fifth. Rather than play the 581-yard hole as a dogleg right, the way it was designed, the game's longest hitter chose the straightest route. In three previous PGA Championships at Whistling Straits, no one had dared to try to cross the large pond and the grassy ridge pockmarked with pot bunkers that guard the right side.

DeChambeau was counting on a 20-plus-mph wind to help boost his tee shot past all that trouble, and his calculations were spot on.

"I knew if it was a little downwind, I could take a unique line ... and I said to myself, 'all right, I have to aim at the green,'" DeChambeau said. "So I did."

With just 72 yards to the flag, he dialed down the power and turned up the finesse, lobbing a wedge to 4 feet and making the

eagle putt in an afternoon four-ball match that he and partner Scottie Scheffler halved with the European pair of Jon Rahm and Tyrell Hatton.

The less said about DeChambeau's second moonshot the better. He tried driving the green at the 394-yard, par-4 13th and landed just five yards from the flag, but in a bunker on the left. A flubbed sand shot later, he settled for par and a tie on the hole.

More maddening still was playing partner Justin Thomas wasting this beauty from Jordan Spieth. Two down with two holes to play in the morning foursomes, Thomas' tee shot at the par-3 17th skidded across the green and down a nearly vertical slope toward Lake Michigan. It wound up lodged in deep rough.

Spieth studied the shot for a long time, pulled out a wedge and swung wildly, his momentum carrying him down the hill and almost to the shoreline try-

ing to find a foothold. The ball, meanwhile, somehow settled just six feet from the flag. But Thomas missed the putt in a match the Spanish duo Jon Rahm and Sergio Garcia won 3-and-1.

Rahm turned out to be Europe's brightest light, going unbeaten in both of his matches. His partnership with Garcia enabled his countryman to notch a 23rd win, tying Nick Faldo for the Ryder Cup record. But the world's top-ranked player had a much harder slog pairing with Hatton to wrest the half-point from DeChambeau and Scheffler.

The Americans were poised for a 1-up victory until Hatton stepped up and hit 5-iron into a hard left-to-right wind that settled 7 feet away. The Englishman coolly dropped the birdie putt, salvaging something from an otherwise tough day for Europe.

"Things like this can turn the tide," Rahm said.

## Haener, No. 22 Fresno State start slow, rally past UNLV

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — When the game was on the line, Fresno State kept going to a familiar formula.

Jake Haener threw four TD passes in the second half to Jalen Cropper and No. 22 Fresno State rallied from a 12-point deficit to beat winless UNLV 38-30 on Friday night.

The Bulldogs (4-1, 1-0 Mountain West) started slow in their return to the AP poll for the first time since 2018 before Haener once again took over the game in the second half.

One week after throwing for 455 yards, including a go-ahead TD pass with 14 seconds left to Jalen Cropper, in a 40-37 win at No. 13 UCLA, that combo delivered again with four TDs in the second half.

"I just feel like there's a lot of trust between me and Jake on and off the field," Cropper said. "I feel like just everything we do from on and off the field to whatever we do in our relationship, I think that ties into what we do on the field."

Haener connected on scoring strikes of 4, 23 and 25 yards to Cropper on three straight possessions to turn a 21-9 deficit into a 29-21 lead.

Then, after UNLV (0-4, 0-1) battled back to take a 30-29 lead on Daniel Gutierrez's 30-yard field goal with 6:38 to play, Haener and Cropper struck again with a 26-yard TD that made it 35-30 with 4:53 to play.

Haener finished the game 30-for-42 for 378 yards and five TDs.

Arron Mosby then had a strip

sack that Kwami Jones recovered, setting up a 31-yard field goal by Cesar Silva that made it 38-30 with 2:29 to play.

UNLV couldn't even get a first down on the next drive and dropped to 0-10 in two seasons under coach Marcus Arroyo.

"There's no moral victories. They know that," Arroyo said. "We want that win, but we have to go find it. We're disappointed, but I'm proud. We're going in the right direction."

The Rebels scored on their first two drives of the game on a 10-yard strike from Doug Brumfield to Steve Jenkins, and then a 1-yard run by Charles Williams that capped a 95-yard drive that made it 14-0.

### The takeaway

**UNLV:** The Rebels were play-

ing a ranked team for the third straight week but were much more competitive this game than they were in getting outscored by 72 points by Arizona State and Iowa State. Brumfield threw UNLV's first two TD passes of the season to stake the Rebels to the 12-point lead, but then left with an injury. Cameron Friel came in and led the two late scoring drives but it wasn't enough.

**Fresno State:** The Bulldogs started slow but once again and got bailed out by big plays late from Haener. The defense got gashed on several screen plays, but got a couple of big stops late. They will need more complete performances when the conference schedule gets tougher.

# Yanks top streaking Boston

Associated Press

BOSTON — Gerrit Cole took a two-hit shutout into the sixth inning and Giancarlo Stanton hit a three-run homer to lead the Yankees to an 8-3 victory Friday night, snapping Boston's seven-game winning streak and pulling New York within one game of the Red Sox atop the wild-card standings.

Cole (16-8) no-hit the Red Sox for 3 2/3 innings and New York coasted to its fourth straight win.

Boston holds the first AL wild card, with the Yankees a game back and in position for the second spot.

Unless the Blue Jays — or Seattle or Oakland — can catch one of them, the Red Sox and Yankees would meet in a one-game playoff Oct. 5 for the right to advance to an AL Division Series.

**Rays 8 Marlins 0:** Ryan Yarbrough allowed two hits over six innings of splendid relief and Tampa Bay blanked visiting Miami to close in on another AL East title.

The defending American League champions got three RBIs apiece from Randy Arozarena and Kevin Kiermaier, who was a homer short of the cycle.

Tampa Bay, which clinched a postseason spot Wednesday, has a magic number of two to win the division. A Rays victory and Boston loss to the Yankees on Saturday would secure Tampa Bay's second consecutive AL East crown.

**Braves 4-5, Padres 0-6:** Max Fried retired his last 18 batters and finished with a three-hitter for his second career shutout, and NL East-leading Atlanta beat host San Diego to split an unusual night of baseball.

A few hours earlier, after a rare San Diego rain delay, Fernando Tatis Jr. homered leading off the top of the seventh inning and the Padres beat the Braves in the resumption of a game that was suspended due to rain in Atlanta on July 21.

**Phillies 8, Pirates 6:** Didi Gregorius hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh, Bryce Harper had an RBI double and host Philadelphia moved closer to first place in the NL East.

Philadelphia moved within 1 1/2 games of first-place Atlanta, which lost the completion of a suspended game against San Diego 6-5, and won the regularly scheduled game 4-0.

**Cardinals 8/12, Cubs 5/4:** St. Louis matched a team record with its 14th straight victory by completing a doubleheader sweep over host Chicago behind

Tyler O'Neill's three-run homer and a pair of solo shots from Lars Nootbaar.

The run has rocketed St. Louis into control of the second NL wild card, leading Philadelphia by five games.

**Brewers 5, Mets 1:** Eric Lauer turned in a strong outing and Milwaukee hit three home runs in snapping a five-game skid in a win over visiting New York.

Kolten Wong, Willy Adames and Christian Yelich homered for the Brewers, who reduced their magic number to two for wrapping up their first NL Central title since 2018.

**Giants 7, Rockies 2:** At Denver, Mike Yastrzemski hit a three-run homer, one of four by his team, and NL West-leading San Francisco became the season's first 100-win team.

San Francisco maintained its one-game advantage over the Dodgers, who beat Arizona. The Giants have won 16 of 20.

**Dodgers 4, Diamondbacks 2:** AJ Pollock hit a two-run homer, Chris Taylor robbed a pair of potential extra-base hits on defense in the ninth inning and visiting Los Angeles kept pace with San Francisco in the NL West race.

**Reds 8, Nationals 7 (11):** Aristides Aquino drove in TJ Friedl from second base with a game-ending single off the glove of second baseman Luis Garcia, and host Cincinnati edged Washington.

**Mariners 6, Angels 5:** Ty France homered, Jake Fraley scored the go-ahead run on a throwing error and streaking Seattle held off host Los Angeles.

**Athletics 14, Astros 2:** Frankie Montas pitched two-hit ball over seven innings and became the franchise's first pitcher in 20 years to reach 200 strikeouts in a season, helping host Oakland pound Houston.

**White Sox 1, Indians 0:** Starter Dylan Cease left after being struck on the right arm by a comebacker in the sixth inning as visiting Chicago beat Cleveland in Shane Bieber's return.

**Royals 3, Tigers 1:** Carlos Hernandez pitched five shutout innings and Whit Merrifield drove in a pair of runs in Kansas City's win over host Detroit.

**Rangers 8, Orioles 5:** Adolis Garcia hit a go-ahead two-run double in the ninth inning and visiting Texas snapped a five-game skid.

**Twins 3, Blue Jays 1:** Byron Buxton's two-run homer spoiled José Berríos' return to Minnesota and dealt a blow to Toronto's postseason hopes.

# Panthers' McCaffrey to miss 'a few weeks'

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The injury bug has bitten running back Christian McCaffrey again.

Panthers coach Matt Rhule said Friday that the 2019 All-Pro running back is expected to miss "a few weeks" with a strained hamstring. Rhule said the injury could sideline McCaffrey up to four weeks, but said he doesn't know at this point if McCaffrey will go on injured reserve.

"They are still doing a bunch of diagnostic testing so I can't tell you if that is one, two, three or four weeks," Rhule said Friday on a Zoom call. "Obviously Christian will decide the best course of action for him getting back as soon as possible."

The news isn't as good for rookie cornerback Jaycee Horn, who has three broken bones in his foot and could miss the remainder of the season. Rhule said Horn and his family will decide after further consulting with doctors what's the best course of action, but it's clear he won't be back anytime soon.

"I can't tell you at this point if that is season-ending or not," Rhule said.

Rhule also said safety Juston Burris has a groin injury, but it hasn't been determined how much time he will miss.

McCaffrey was injured in Carolina's 24-9 win over the Houston Texans on Thursday night when he pulled up after making a stutter step while running a sweep play on the team's third possession. He had 31 yards on seven carries, but did not return.

In other NFL news:

■ Pittsburgh Steelers star outside linebacker T.J. Watt won't play against Cincinnati after all.

The team has downgraded Watt to out for Sunday's visit from Cincinnati (1-1). Watt, who is dealing with a groin injury, was listed as questionable on Friday's injury report.

Watt got hurt in the second quarter of last weekend's 26-17 loss to Las Vegas. He was limited in practice this week but said Friday he was hoping to play.

Watt's absence means the Steelers (1-1) will be without both of their starting outside linebackers on Sunday. Alex Highsmith was already ruled out due to a groin injury.

Veteran Melvin Ingram, who signed on the eve of training camp, and Jamir Jones will be the starters when Pittsburgh looks to beat the Bengals for the 15th time in their last 17 meetings.