

US-led coalition: Raid killed 3 militants

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

Recent raids by the U.S.-led coalition battling Islamic State in Syria resulted in the killing or capture of several people affiliated with the terrorist group, officials said.

The raids and other recent operations highlight the ongoing fighting by the international coalition in Syria, even as U.S. officials seek to emphasize a shift to noncombat support in neighboring Iraq.

In a raid over the weekend, coalition forces killed three ISIS terrorists and detained two associates, Operation Inherent Resolve spokesman Col. Wayne Marotto said Sunday on social media. A couple of days earlier, the coalition captured one known ISIS terrorist and two associates in eastern Syria, Marotto said in an earlier post.

Hundreds of U.S. troops remain deployed to help the Syrian Defense Forces battle ISIS. Marotto said the coalition also provided reconnaissance support during raids in the eastern city of Raqqa on Sunday.

The combat operations come on the heels of President Joe Biden's remark last week at the United Nations General Assembly that the U.S. is not at war "for the first time in 20 years."

Officials were working to provide further details in response to a query Monday, Marotto said in a message to Stars and Stripes, but further information wasn't available by press time.

The alliance and its SDF partners are seeking to prevent ISIS from reconstituting more than two years after it was ousted from its last territorial stronghold.

The weekend assault appears to have taken place in Deir al-Zour province. The London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitoring group reported that coalition and partner forces had targeted a house with ISIS-affiliated members holed up inside Sunday.

Over loudspeakers, coalition forces called for the occupants to hand themselves over, reported the observatory, which maintains a network of on-the-ground sources. Instead,

fighting broke out, and the coalition withdrew after arresting the occupants and burning the house, it said.

Elsewhere in the province Sunday, a coalition helicopter launched a fatal airstrike against a trio of insurgents who had been spotted near an SDF commando checkpoint, according to the observatory.

ISIS carried out 20 attacks last month, killing 15 civilians and security personnel from the Euphrates River city of Deir al-Zour to the town of Qamishli on the northeastern border with Turkey, the SDF said Sunday.

Pictures shared Sunday by the SDF show Bradley Fighting Vehicles flying the U.S. flag doing a security patrol in the city of al-Hasakah, which the observatory said was the first of its kind. The SDF said it had detained three ISIS cell members in that city during an operation with coalition ground support about a week ago.

Three simultaneous operations Sunday in the city of Raqqa's east, west and south led to the arrest of three ISIS cell leaders, the SDF said.

Milley under more scrutiny than former officials

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Army Gen. Mark Milley has been the target of more political intrigue and debate in two years as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff than any of his recent predecessors were in four. One after another, political firestorms have ignited around him — unusual for an officer who by law is a whisperer to presidents and by custom is careful to stay above the political fray.

From racial injustice and domestic extremism to nuclear weapons and the fitness of Donald Trump as commander in chief, Milley has become entangled in politically charged issues, regularly thrusting him into the news headlines.

Milley is expected to face tough questioning on those and other issues when he testifies with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin at a Senate hearing Tuesday and a House panel Wednesday. The hearings originally were meant to focus on the Afghanistan withdrawal and the chaotic evacuation from Kabul airport last month.

But since then, Milley has come under fire from Republicans for his portrayal in a new book as having taken unusual — some say illegal — steps to guard against Trump potentially starting a war with China or Iran or ordering an unprovoked nuclear attack in the final months of his presidency. Milley was reported to have agreed with House Speaker

Nancy Pelosi's assertion in a January phone call that Trump was "crazy."

Even during Milley's swing through Europe last week, headlines dogged him and reporters quizzed him. Mostly he batted questions away or buried them in detailed historical precedent.

Burly and square-jawed, with a bushy slash of eyebrows over often mischievous eyes, Milley is quick with a quip and frequently a curse. His over-size personality, born of Irish roots in Boston, belies a sharp intellect and a penchant for digging deep into military history. The Princeton-educated Milley often meets simple questions with a deep dive into history and will expound upon

the context and concepts of war.

So as he faced accusations of disloyalty for what the book "Peril," by Bob Woodward and Robert Costa, reported as assurances to a Chinese general that he would warn him of a U.S. attack, Milley gripped his identity as a soldier who answers to civilian leaders. He declined to make his case in the media, instead telling reporters that he will lay out his answers directly to Congress.

"I think it's best that I reserve my comments on the record until I do that in front of the lawmakers who have the lawful responsibility to oversee the U.S. military," Milley said. "I'll go into any level of detail Congress wants to go into."

Army to shrink reenlistment window

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

Soldiers reenlisting in the Army will soon have a one-year window before their contracts expire to do so, instead of 15 months, the service said.

Soldiers also will be able to apply for indefinite contracts earlier in their careers as part of changes to the Army's retention program that take effect Friday.

The shorter reenlistment window makes it "simple for soldiers, leaders and families to understand when they are 365 days from

their [expiration-term of service]," Sgt. Maj. Tobey Whitney, the Army's senior career counselor, said in a statement Thursday.

The vast majority of soldiers already wait somewhere between eight and 11 months before the end of their contracts to reenlist, Whitney added.

The new rules will also require soldiers who wish to extend their contracts without fully reenlisting to do so for a minimum of 18 months. Soldiers are currently allowed to extend for a minimum of 12 months.

The 18-month minimum should provide more predictability for units, soldiers and their families, the Army said.

Another change beginning Friday will allow soldiers ranked E-6 or above with a decade or more of active service to be eligible for the Career Status Program. This provides mid-career soldiers indefinite-length contracts, but has historically required a minimum of 12 years of service.

The change will not alter any of the Army's voluntary separation policies, Whitney said.

Broken mobility scooter propels a Navy veteran to TikTok fame

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

About two weeks ago, Navy veteran Kenny Jary, 79, spent a day mourning the demise of his aged mobility scooter. It had been his only means of getting out and about from his Minnesota home near St. Paul due to his chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

"I met some beautiful people on this scooter by traveling around — the coffee shop, Veteran's Park," Jary said in one of a series of TikTok videos posted in recent weeks by Amanda Kline, a neighbor and friend of the veteran. The videos have garnered the channel — @PatrioticKenny — more than a million followers and tens of millions of views.

A repairman gave Jary the bad news that his American flag-adorned scooter, which he'd been riding around on since 2003, was beyond repair because parts for such an old model were no longer available.

The viral videos led to an outpouring of generosity by viewers that will not only buy two new scooters for Jary — a portable one and a "fancy" one — but 10 more for other veterans in need of such wheels.

As of Sunday, donors had contributed more than \$110,000 to the GoFundMe account "Patriotic Kenny Needs a Ride" — far surpassing the original goal of \$5,000.

The flood of donations prompted Jary and Kline to use the extra funds to give 10 free scooters to other veterans in need.

Veterans can be nominated by filling out

and submitting a form posted at <https://forms.gle/8QFd74PCLJfjBnF87>. The deadline is Friday, Oct. 1.

Kline, who makes educational videos for deaf children, had begun posting TikToks of Jary a few months ago. Those early videos show Jary learning American Sign Language to better communicate with a deaf buddy.

"Pictures don't do Kenny justice," Kline told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Friday. "He needs full video," she said with a laugh.

Kline and others could not get hold of him early this month, but the next day Jary came out of seclusion and sat for a video lamenting the end of his scooter.

Countless viewers messaged her that she should set up a GoFundMe page for a new scooter, which she did. "I thought maybe if we're lucky, we'll get, like, a \$100 discount from a company that makes scooters," she said.

But a flurry of donations came in, and Kline posted videos of Jary reacting as she informed him of the ever-increasing amounts.

Wearing a hat bearing the name and logo of the USS Okinawa — the amphibious assault ship he served aboard as a helicopter refueler in the early 1960s — Jary alternates between giddy laughter and tears.

As of Friday, Jary had received 600 nominations for veterans needing a scooter, Kline said.

British frigate sails through Taiwan Strait

BY ALEX WILSON
Stars and Stripes

A British warship, part of the U.K. carrier strike group, steamed through the Taiwan Strait on Monday on its way to rendezvous with the Vietnamese navy.

The HMS Richmond, a Type 23 frigate that arrived in the Indo-Pacific region with the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth, tweeted through its official account that it had transited the contentious, 110-mile-wide strait that day.

"After a busy period working with partners and allies in the East China Sea, we are now en route through the Taiwan Strait to visit Vietnam and the Vietnam People's Navy," the message said.

The Chinese government routinely condemns the U.S. Navy's transits through the politically sensitive waterway that separates China from Taiwan. Beijing considers democratic Taiwan a breakaway province that must be reunited with the mainland, possibly by force.

The U.S. Navy's most recent trip through the strait happened Sept. 17, its ninth so far this year.

The Royal Navy has remained active in the Indo-Pacific region since the Queen Elizabeth strike group arrived earlier this summer. The aircraft carrier and its escorts have made port calls in Guam and Japan.

Taliban, ex-Afghan official won't address UN

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The dispute between Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers and its former government over who should speak at the United Nations' annual meeting of world leaders finally has an answer: no one.

The Taliban had challenged the credentials of the ambassador from Afghanistan's former government, and asked to represent the country at this year's General Assembly summit, which began Sept. 21 and ends Monday.

But all challenges to credentials must be heard by the assembly's credentials committee, which generally meets in November and did not convene earlier to hear the challenge.

U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said

that as of Friday, Afghanistan's currently recognized U.N. ambassador, Ghulam Isaczai, was listed as speaking for the country.

But Dujarric told The Associated Press on Monday morning: "We were notified Saturday by the Afghan Mission that they would no longer be speaking."

Afghanistan was scheduled to deliver the final address of the gathering of presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers on Monday afternoon. But it was not on the list of speakers issued Monday morning.

A phone message seeking comment was left with Afghanistan's U.N. mission.

The Taliban overran most of Afghanistan last month as U.S. and NATO forces were in the final stages of their chaotic withdrawal

from the country after 20 years and argue that they are now in charge and have the right to represent the country at the U.N. Isaczai represents former President Ashraf Ghani's government.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the Taliban's newly appointed foreign minister, Ameer Khan Muttaqi, said Ghani was "ousted" as of Aug. 15 and that countries across the world "no longer recognize him as president."

Therefore, Muttaqi said, Isaczai no longer represents Afghanistan and the Taliban was nominating a new U.N. permanent representative, Mohammad Suhail Shaheen. He was a spokesperson for the Taliban during peace negotiations in Qatar.

Singer hopes DNA leads to father she feels is Vietnam vet

BY ERICA EARL

Stars and Stripes

A Danish musician hopes she is close, after searching more than 30 years, to learning the identity of her father, whom she believes may be an American veteran of the Vietnam War.

Zindy Laursen, 50, is known in Denmark as just Zindy. She bides her time awaiting the results of a DNA profile, she recently told Stars and Stripes in a video interview, by writing songs and preparing for the day she performs again at post-pandemic concerts and music festivals.

After years of unsuccessful searches, Zindy enlisted the help of an amateur genealogist to find her father, whom she believes, based on her mother's story, is a Vietnam vet who visited Australia during the war.

"I have butterflies of hope, but my guard is still up in case I get disappointed again," she said. "The reality is that he could be dead or has other children discouraging him from meeting me. A lot is going through my mind."

Zindy said she hopes the DNA analysis she received from 23andMe will eventually lead her to her father. That road is contingent on her father, or one of his relatives, having made their own DNA profile available

for comparison.

In 1969, Zindy's mother was a go-go dancer in Sydney, where she often met U.S. service members on leave. The soldiers inevitably returned to duty, some to Vietnam, and she eventually moved back to her home country, Denmark.

Zindy grew up eager to find out who this mysterious person was that her mom met dancing, like something out of a movie.

Meanwhile, in 1992, she was runner-up for the chance to represent Denmark in the Eurovision Song Contest. Record labels scouted her during the audition process.

"I flew to America to make a record, and I had this thought that maybe my dad could be there around any corner," she said.

In 1998, she hired a private investigator to track down Cleveland Mason, an American working for Veterans Affairs in San Francisco with whom Zindy's mom had a months-long relationship, and Zindy believed could be her father.

Zindy and Mason got to know each other over the next few years. She produced a song about the meaning of family inspired by the joy of perhaps finding her long-lost dad.

But DNA tests proved Mason was not Zindy's father. The search, and her subsequent disappointment, made tabloid papers in Denmark because of Zindy's budding fame.

"I was so devastated," she said. "I thought, 'I'm going to give up. I'm never going to meet my dad.'"

Over the years, Zindy said, she has developed confidence in herself, and finding her father is more about closure than identity. But, despite her fame and success, she always felt like a piece was missing, especially growing up as a biracial woman in predominantly white Europe.

"I always felt half," Zindy said. "I wanted to be around more people who looked like me and know more about my ethnic and cultural identity."

This year, Zindy's hope was renewed when she met DNA and family lineage hobbyist Brian Hjort while waiting in line to get a coronavirus test at a Copenhagen gym. Hjort recognized Zindy from her fame as a musician and stories about her search for her father. Zindy was hesitant at first, but ultimately agreed to let him help.

Hjort, a Danish antique furniture repairman, became interested in reuniting families of war

veterans when he was backpacking in Vietnam in 1992 and heard stories about people speculating about their possible GI fathers, he told Stars and Stripes in a phone interview Aug. 10.

Once back home in Denmark, one of his Vietnamese friends asked for his help finding the American father of a person in her village. Using military records requests, an archive of the names of American soldiers who served in Vietnam and contacting the U.S. Embassy, he found a name and address. Since then, Hjort has volunteered his time helping families research their ancestry.

"I do it purely for the joy of making a difference to someone," he said. "At first it was hard; all I had was a typewriter, white pages and limited access to internet cafés. It's gotten better now with new DNA testing kits."

The hardest part of the job is taking lineage maps and family tree results and tracking down relatives. He said the toughest part, emotionally, is finding a family member who is either recently deceased or does not wish to have contact with unacknowledged family members.

"There is no manual on how to do this, but some of the successes are worth the failures," he said.

US has enough vaccines for boosters, kids

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — With more than 40 million doses of coronavirus vaccines available, health authorities said they're confident there will be enough for both qualified older Americans seeking booster shots and the young children for whom initial vaccines are expected to be approved in the not-too-distant future.

The spike in demand — expected following last week's federal recommendation on booster shots — would be the first significant jump in months. More than 70 million Americans remain unvaccinated despite the enticement of lottery prizes, free food or gifts and pleas from exhausted health care workers as the average number of deaths per day climbed to more than 1,900 in recent weeks.

Federal and state health authorities said current supply and steady production of more doses can easily accommodate those

seeking boosters or initial vaccination, avoiding a repeat of the frustratingly slow rollout of COVID-19 vaccines across the country early this year.

"I hope that we have the level of interest in the booster ... that we need more vaccines," Colorado Gov. Jared Polis said Tuesday. "That's simply not where we are today. We have plenty of vaccines."

Robust supply in the U.S. enabled President Joe Biden this week to promise an additional 500 million of Pfizer's COVID-19 shots to share with the world, doubling the United States' global contribution. Aid groups and health organizations have pushed the U.S. and other countries to improve vaccine access in countries where even the most vulnerable people haven't had a shot.

Among the challenges states face is not ordering too many doses and letting them go to waste. Several states with low vaccina-

tion rates, including Idaho and Kansas, have reported throwing away thousands of expired doses or are struggling to use vaccines nearing expiration this fall.

While most vaccines can stay on the shelf unopened for months, once a vial is opened the clock starts ticking. Vaccines are only usable for six to 12 hours, depending on the manufacturer, according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Moderna vaccines come in vials containing 11 to 15 doses. Pfizer vials contain up to six doses and Johnson & Johnson vials five doses.

"We are going to see more doses that go unused over time," said Wisconsin's health secretary, Karen Timberlake. "They come in multidose files. They don't come in nice, tidy individual single-serving packages."

State health officials said they have tried to request only what health care providers and pharmacies expect to need from the

federal supply. Those numbers have dwindled since the vaccines became widely available in early spring. But U.S. officials — holding out hope that some of the unvaccinated will change their minds — are trying to keep enough vaccines in stock so all Americans can get them.

Dr. Marcus Plescia, chief medical officer of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, which represents the public health agencies of all 50 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories, said officials anticipate that on-hand doses of COVID-19 vaccines and manufacturers' ability to supply more will meet needs across the country.

"I think states have tried to plan as if everybody's going to be offered a booster," he said, suggesting they will be overprepared for the more narrow recommendations from the FDA and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Biden, Congress face big week for agenda, funding

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a consequential week for President Joe Biden's agenda, as Democratic leaders delicately trim back his \$3.5 trillion "Build Back Better" package to win over remaining lawmakers and work to quickly pass legislation to avoid a federal shutdown.

An expected Monday vote on a related \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package is now postponed until Thursday, amid ongoing negotiations. More immediately, the Senate has a test vote set Monday to keep the government funded and avert a federal debt default before Thursday's fiscal year-end deadline. That package stands to run into a blockade by Republican senators — all but ensuring lawmakers will have to try again later in the week.

All this while Biden's domestic

agenda hangs in the balance, at risk of collapse and political fallout if he and Democratic leaders cannot pull their party together to deliver what could be a signature piece of legislation. Over the weekend, Biden spoke with lawmakers on the path forward, according to a White House official who requested anonymity to discuss the private conversations.

"Let me just say, it's an eventful week," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

Biden, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer are deep into negotiations over the president's broader proposal, which is being chiseled back to win over key senators and a few House lawmakers who have refused the \$3.5 trillion price tag and the tax increases on corporations and the wealthy to pay for it.

Man who shot Reagan set to be freed from oversight

Associated Press

A federal judge said Monday that John Hinckley Jr., who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan four decades ago, can be freed from all his remaining restrictions next year if he continues to follow those rules and remains mentally stable.

U.S. District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman in Washington said during a 90-minute court hearing that he'll issue his ruling on the plan this week.

Friedman said the plan is to release Hinckley from all court supervision in June if he remains mentally stable and continues to follow the court-issued rules that were imposed on him after he left a Washington hospital in 2016 to live in Williamsburg, Va.

Since Hinckley, 66, moved to Williamsburg, the court-imposed conditions have included

doctors and therapists overseeing his psychiatric medication and deciding how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. Hinckley also can't have a gun. And he can't contact Reagan's children, other victims or their families, or actress Jodie Foster, who he was obsessed with at the time of the 1981 shooting.

Hinckley was 25 when he shot and wounded the 40th U.S. president outside a Washington hotel. The shooting paralyzed Reagan press secretary James Brady, who died in 2014. It also injured Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy and Washington police officer Thomas Delahanty.

Jurors decided Hinckley was suffering from acute psychosis and found him not guilty by reason of insanity, saying he needed treatment and not life in prison.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man drove car over wall into house's 2nd floor

CT NORWICH — A Williamantic man was expected to face criminal charges after a car he was driving launched off a stone wall and flew through the air, crashing into the second floor of a multifamily home where someone was sleeping.

The crash occurred early Saturday in Norwich, police said. No serious injuries resulted from the incident even though the SUV came to rest just a few feet from a bed and sprayed debris throughout the room, they told The Day. The person was taken to the hospital with minor injuries, police said.

Thirty-year-old Walter Lassiter was being held on a warrant for a separate arrest for driving under the influence, police said. He was taken to a hospital and released, police said.

Flying Farmer stuntman crashes during jump

ND MAKOTI — The first car jumping attempt in five years by North Dakota's version of Evil Knievel ended in disaster when the car driven by the man known as the Flying Farmer corkscrewed off the ramp and rolled.

Authorities said John Smith, 57, was alert after the crash Saturday at a rural gravel pit and that he even tried to pull himself out of the car while talking to rescuers. He was eventually cut out and taken by a medical helicopter to a hospital, according to firefighters. The extent of his injuries wasn't known.

Smith's previous jump was in 2016, when he rose over towering flames to clear a burning trailer.

2 jailed after attempted kidnapping of 1-year-old

IN KOKOMO — Two people have been arrested after one of them allegedly tried to take a 1-year-old child from a shopping cart in a central Indiana Walmart store.

The child's mother told officers a woman appeared to purposely bump her before unbuckling the child from the cart about 11:30 a.m. Friday in Kokomo, the Kokomo Tribune reported.

The mother struggled with the woman who then fled the store without the child, police said in a release.

Officers later arrested the 36-year-old woman and a 53-year-old man who were inside a vehicle in the parking lot. The woman faces attempted kidnapping, cocaine and marijuana possession, and false informing charges. The man faces invasion of privacy and various drug charges.

Getaway car came from dealership test drive

NC RALEIGH — Authorities said a North Carolina bank robber was caught after they determined he had taken his getaway vehicle for a test drive from a car dealer.

The Raleigh-based U.S. Attorney's Office said in a news release that 68-year-old Glenn Alin Martinoff was sentenced to more than four years in prison Thursday after previously pleading guilty to bank robbery.

The news release said Martinoff entered a Wilmington bank in January wearing a mask and gloves and brandishing a large screwdriver. He robbed the location of more than \$6,000, authorities said.

Investigators using surveil-

lance video determined his getaway car was for sale at a nearby dealership. The news release said that authorities found out he had taken the car for a test drive to use as his getaway car.

Woman allegedly made 2 false bomb threats

ME PITTSFIELD — Authorities said a Maine woman who wanted to spend more time with her boyfriend called in two bomb threats to his employer, forcing the evacuation of two manufacturing plants.

Police said the first threat was made Thursday morning when a woman called Maine State Police and said she was going to place a bomb at the Puritan Medical Products plant in Pittsfield, the Morning Sentinel reported. Police said she called back two hours later and said she intended to place four pipe bombs near the plant.

The 33-year-old woman was charged with a felony count of terrorizing.

Police: Woman doused with gas, set on fire

NM ALBUQUERQUE — An Albuquerque woman is being treated at a burn center after her male roommate allegedly doused her with gasoline and lit her on fire, according to police.

Police said 39-year-old Lawrence Sedillo was booked into jail Saturday on suspicion of aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm.

The Albuquerque Journal reported that court records show the 42-year-old woman suffered severe burns to her face, arms, chest and back. She was flown to the burn center at University

Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas.

Student uses offensive sign as invite to dance

KS OLATHE — A suburban Kansas City school district is investigating after a student asked a girl to homecoming using an offensive sign.

The sign reads: "If I was Black I would be picking cotton but I'm white so I'm picking you for HOCO."

A picture of two white students holding the sign and smiling that was posted online drew sharp criticism on social media, according to the Kansas City Star.

School officials in Olathe, Kan., said they are working to contact everyone involved, including the parents of the students. Olathe South High School Principal Dale Longenecker said in a letter sent to parents that the sign "does not meet the expectations of our core values."

Inmates studying to get their bachelor's degree

IL EAST MOLINE — Inmates at East Moline Correctional Center have begun a Bachelor of Arts program through Augustana College.

State officials said 10 students began study late in the summer. They are taking courses from professors who lecture on the same subjects on Augustana's Rock Island campus.

It's the first BA program offered to East Moline inmates in more than 20 years.

Students in the Augustana Prison Education Program pay no tuition or any costs associated with coursework. The program is funded by the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation.

— From wire reports

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Reporting
World, National
and Military News

Inconsistency the constant in the NFL

Associated Press

Tom Brady led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in rushing. The Kansas City Chiefs turned the ball over on their first three possessions.

No surprise, the 2020 NFL conference champions lost Sunday.

Three weeks into this season and inconsistency has become the norm, even for some of the league's top contenders.

The Chiefs (1-2), Seahawks (1-2) and Steelers (1-2) have lost two in a row. The Buccaneers would be 1-2 if it weren't for a last-minute field goal in Week 1. Same for the Packers, who needed Aaron Rodgers' heroics and a last-second 51-yard field goal from Mason Crosby to beat the 49ers on Sunday night for their second consecutive victory after they were blown out by New Orleans in their opener.

The Ravens (2-1) had to get a record-setting 66-yard field goal by Justin Tucker to avoid losing to Detroit. The Colts (0-3) are winless and the Patriots (1-2) lost by 15 at home to the Saints.

Many teams are feeling their way through September after most of their starters barely played in August. There are exceptions, of course. The Rams held many starters out of exhibition games and they're one of four undefeated teams along with the Cardinals, Broncos and Raiders.

The defending Super Bowl champion

Bucs saw their weaknesses exposed by the Rams in a 34-24 loss. A depleted secondary couldn't stop a high-powered offense led by Matthew Stafford, and Tampa's offense didn't give Brady much help. Brady threw 55 times and led the way on the ground with 14 yards and one touchdown.

"Just not a great complementary game by us," Brady said after playing in Los Angeles for the first time in his 22-year career. "Got to learn from it ... All around, the offense needs to be better."

Patrick Mahomes had never lost a game or thrown an interception in September until last week. Now the Chiefs have dropped two in a row, giving Mahomes his first losing record in the NFL. Mahomes threw a pick on the opening possession and another one with the score tied and 1:42 left that led to Justin Herbert throwing the winning TD pass.

"Everybody isn't happy with how we played," Mahomes said. "Whenever you lose a game at home to a divisional opponent, it isn't a good thing. We haven't had a lot of that in my time here, but it's about how you respond. We have a long season ahead of us. It looks really dim right now, but if we can find a way to get better from this and learn how to win these types of games, we'll be where we want to be at the end of the season."

Mahomes is right. It's a long season made even longer by a 17th game, and there's plenty of time for the Chiefs and others to get on

track. Consistency down the stretch — not the first few weeks — is the key to postseason success.

But some of the teams off to rough starts might not have what it takes to turn things around.

Pittsburgh's loss to Cincinnati could signal a changing of the guard. The Steelers had won 14 of 16 against the Bengals, but Joe Burrow is healthy and he has weapons around him. Meanwhile, 39-year-old Ben Roethlisberger is closer to the end, and Pittsburgh is 2-6 since starting 11-0 last year.

Indianapolis hoped Carson Wentz would help the team get over the playoff hump, but his struggles in Philadelphia have carried over. The only constant for Wentz is he's banged-up and gets beat up.

While Wentz's second chance with a new team hasn't gone well so far, Teddy Bridgewater is making the most of his new opportunity in Denver. He has a 116.4 passer rating in three games against the winless Giants, Jaguars and Jets. The real test comes when the Broncos face tougher opponents.

Derek Carr is silencing critics and playing like an MVP candidate for the Raiders, who've already won twice in overtime. But a Monday night showdown against Herbert and the Chargers next week presents another challenge.

October is coming. It may take a while for consistent play to follow.

Raiders rally past Dolphins for another OT victory

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Las Vegas Raiders are off to their best start since 2002.

Coach Jon Gruden isn't about to nitpick about how they're winning.

Reigning AFC Special Teams Player of the Week Daniel Carlson's 22-yard field goal as time expired in overtime lifted the Raiders to a 31-28 victory over the Miami Dolphins on Sunday. It marked the second time in the Raiders' first three games — both at home — that they overcame a two-touchdown deficit to win in overtime. They also did so against Baltimore in Week 1 on a Monday night.

"I don't apologize for winning these games, no matter how we won them," Gruden said. "When you're down 14-0 and score 25 unanswered in the NFL against a team like that, something's going right."

Raiders quarterback Derek Carr found Bryan Edwards for 34 yards before Peyton Barber put together runs of 27 and 8 yards to put Las Vegas on the Miami 11-yard line. That eventually set up the winning score for Carlson, who missed an extra point in regulation and kicked two field goals in the extra frame.

Las Vegas is the first team to open 3-0 against teams that won 10 or more games the pre-

vious season.

Carr, who completed 26 of 43 pass attempts for 386 yards and two touchdowns, used his talented receiving depth for the third straight game. The eight-year veteran completed passes to nine targets, led by Hunter Renfrow and Darren Waller, who each had five receptions. Renfrow also scored a touchdown.

With star running back Josh Jacobs sidelined with an ankle injury, recently signed Barber led the rushing game with 111 yards and a touchdown on 23 carries.

"I think he did more than just run it — we went to him as our third-down back ... he caught a

pass out of the backfield, he picked up some blitzes, he was helpful in protection, he didn't blow any assignments, he ran hard," Gruden said. "I don't even hardly know this guy. But I gave him a big hug and a game ball."

And while the Raiders' offense outgained Miami 497-330, it was their special teams and defense that ignited the comeback after Miami scored the game's first 14 points.

One play after Zay Jones raced downfield on a punt to down the ball on the 1-yard line, cornerback Casey Hayward Jr. caught Miami receiver Jaylen Waddle on a screen pass in the end zone for a safety.

Rams, Stafford outduel Bucs, Brady

Associated Press

INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Sean McVay's excitement over the big-play potential the Los Angeles Rams have with Matthew Stafford finally got the best of him Sunday.

The Rams had a 14-7 lead against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers early in the third quarter when they faced third-and-10 at the LA 25. McVay dialed up the perfect play that would be the defining moment in the Los Angeles' 34-24 victory over the defending Super Bowl champions.

McVay called for a pass to DeSean Jackson on a go route. Jackson easily ran by cornerback Carlton Davis III, caught it at the Buccaneers 30 and then zig-zagged his way for the final 10 yards and into the tunnel. He was eventually greeted by the exuberant Rams coach, who ran down the sideline to celebrate his team going up by two touchdowns.

"I think my hamstrings are already sore. I probably pulled them both," McVay said jokingly. "I was being in the moment and having fun, enjoying watching these guys do their thing and there was a lot of reasons to be excited for our team today."

Tampa Bay coach Bruce Arians said Jackson got wide open due to totally busted coverage and lack of communication in the secondary.

Stafford, who said he wanted to come to Los Angeles to play in big games, passed for 343 yards and four touchdowns as he outdueled Tom Brady and Tampa Bay (2-1), which had their 10-game regular season and playoff winning streak snapped.

"We're up in his face one time, he finds a guy wide open down the field and gets it to him. Other guys, they see him but they can't get it to 'em. He gets it to them, so he's a special

player," Arians said of Stafford.

The Rams are 3-0 for the third time in McVay's five seasons. The Super Bowl, which they reached in the 2018 season, will be played in their palatial Hollywood Park home.

Defensive tackle Aaron Donald was asked if he thought Los Angeles was one of the favorites to get to there: "for sure."

"Everybody's always having fun together. And last time we had a team like that we went to the Super Bowl," said Donald, who had three tackles and got his first career sack against Brady.

Stafford was off-target on five of his first six attempts before getting in a groove as the Rams scored on their next six drives.

"I think Sean does a great job of giving us a game plan that really keeps the defense on their toes," said Stafford, who completed 27 of 38 passes.

Tucker's NFL record 66-yard FG propels Ravens to win over Lions

Associated Press

DETROIT — Justin Tucker ended the game as if he was starting it, backing up an extra step or two and kicking the football with every bit of force he had in his right foot.

Tucker set an NFL record with a 66-yard field goal, bouncing it through the crossbar as time expired to lift the Baltimore Ravens to a 19-17 win over the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

"That one was more like a kickoff," he said. "It's like you're a competitor in a long-drive contest. You just let it rip and hope it stays straight."

The kick topped the 64-yard field goal Matt Prater made for Denver against Tennessee on Dec. 8, 2013. Prater's attempt at a 68-yard kick for Arizona on Sunday fell short and was returned 109 yards for a touchdown by Jacksonville's Jamal Agnew, a former teammate in Detroit.

Lamar Jackson — and perhaps a break from the officials — made the record-breaking kick at Ford Field possible.

On fourth-and-19 from the Baltimore 16, he threw a 36-yard pass to Sammy Watkins to get the Ravens across midfield with 7 seconds left. The superstar quarterback spiked the ball to stop the clock, and on the next snap, he threw it away after TV footage suggested the play clock expired.

"We'll get an apology and it doesn't mean

anything," Detroit coach Dan Campbell said.

Then Tucker — who made a 61-yard kick to beat the Lions in Baltimore's previous visit to Detroit eight years ago — came out and made the record-breaking field goal.

"I love Detroit," said Tucker, who is the most accurate kicker in NFL history. "I'm thinking about getting a place here."

Referee Scott Novak told a pool reporter that he had not seen a replay of the play in which the play clock appeared on TV to expire before Jackson's incomplete pass to the sideline, adding that he had no idea if there was an error made.

"The back judge is looking at the play clock and if it were to hit zero, he sees the zero, and he then looks to see if the ball is being snapped," Novak said. "If the ball is being snapped, we will let the play go. If it's not moving, it's delay of game. Those are the mechanics that we apply on that play."

The Ravens (2-1) went into the fourth quarter with a 16-7 lead and ended up trailing briefly.

Ryan Santos made a go-ahead, 35-yard field goal with 1:04 left, giving Campbell an opportunity to win his first game with the Lions (0-3).

"It hurts because you put yourself in position to win," Campbell said. "The silver lining is we're getting better, and I'm proud of the way they competed."

Rodgers' late drive lifts GB, does in 49ers

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — With only seconds to play and no timeouts, Aaron Rodgers had no doubt where he'd look to drive the Green Bay Packers to a game-winning kick.

Rodgers completed two deep passes to Davante Adams on a last-minute drive, setting up Mason Crosby's 51-yard field goal on the final play of the game that gave the Packers a 30-28 victory over the San Francisco 49ers on Sunday night.

"My first thoughts in devising how I wanted to get us into field-goal range was how could I get 17 the ball," Rodgers said.

Rodgers did it twice on passes of 25 and 17 yards to Adams after the Packers took over at their 25 with 37 seconds left and no timeouts following Jimmy Garoppolo's 12-yard TD pass to Kyle Juszczyk.

Adams came back after taking a hard hit from Jimmie Ward that looked like it could knock him out of the game and finished with 12 catches for 132 yards.

"How can you not be romantic about football?" Rodgers said.

All that was left was for Crosby to make the kick and the Packers (2-1) to celebrate a win that came after they blew a 17-point lead.

US sends message with resounding win

Associated Press

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. — The kids are more than all right. After America's youngest Ryder Cup team handed Europe its biggest beating ever, they're more than a little cocky, too.

Two decades-and-counting worth of frustration poured out alongside plastic cups filled with champagne after the 19-9 final score was posted Sunday at Whistling Straits. Heading into the final-day singles, the U.S. players threatened to run up the score — something the Europeans did more than once while taking seven of the previous nine cup matches — and man, did they ever deliver.

Collin Morikawa, at 24 the youngest player on the team and already a two-time major champion, came up with the clinching blow. A 3-foot birdie putt at the 17th in his match against Viktor Hovland assured the Ameri-

cans at least the 14½ points they needed. Everything after that wasn't just gravy; it was designed to send the Europeans a message.

"This is a new era," U.S. captain Steve Stricker said. "These guys are young. They want it. They're motivated. They came here determined to win. I could see it in their eyes."

His kids, cockier still, promised to do it again when the event shifts to Rome in two years. With six rookies, eight players under 30 and a core of superstars that appear to genuinely like playing together, it may not be an empty boast.

"It's one thing to win it over here and it is a lot easier to do so. It's harder to win over there," said Jordan Spieth, who played on two previous losing U.S. sides. "But if we play like we did this week, the score will look the same over there in a couple years, and that's what we're here for."

Spieth wasn't alone. Stricker tried to set a different tone for the post-match news conference by talking about camaraderie and his players' willingness to sacrifice for one another. A few minutes in, however, the players were showering each other with praise and the mood was more like a celebrity roast.

Dustin Johnson, who won all five of his matches and at age 37 served as the team's elder statesman, quickly became a frequent target for the barbs.

"Poor guy went out there and tried to get six points, but all he could do was five," Justin Thomas laughed, adding, "We're following grandpa into the abyss."

For all the fun and games, the goal Stricker set heading into the weekend — that this team could change the U.S. Ryder Cup culture in a meaningful way — appeared close to a done deal.

Brewers down Mets, earn NL Central championship

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The Milwaukee Brewers clinched their second NL Central title in four years, beating the sloppy New York Mets 8-4 Sunday behind Willy Adames's two-run homer and three RBIs.

A day after New York was eliminated from postseason contention in its first season under new owner Steven Cohen, the Mets (73-82) lost for the 10th time in 11 games and were assured of a losing season for the fourth time in five years.

Freddy Peralta (10-5) won for the first time since Aug. 10, allowing four runs and five hits in 5½ innings. Carlos Carrasco (1-4) gave up five runs, seven hits and four walks in four innings.

Cardinals 4, Cubs 2: Andrew Knizner scored the go-ahead run on a ninth-inning wild pitch by Codi Heuer (7-5), and St. Louis won at Chicago for its 16th straight victory, the longest winning streak in the majors since Cleveland took 22 in a row in 2017. It is the best in the National League since the 1951 New York Giants won 16 straight.

Paul Goldschmidt and Harrison Bader homered to extend a streak that has rocketed the Cardinals into position for the second NL wild card.

Yankees 6, Red Sox 3: Twice given new life after the Red Sox dropped foul balls that would have ended his eighth-inning at-bat, Aaron Judge doubled in the go-ahead runs to lead New York to a wild-card flipping three-game sweep at Boston.

Giancarlo Stanton followed with a two-run homer over the Green Monster and out of the ballpark to give the Yankees their sixth straight victory.

Braves 4, Padres 3: Will Smith struck out the side around three walks in the ninth for his 35th save, and Atlanta opened a 2½-game lead over Philadelphia heading into their NL East showdown with a win at San Diego.

Pinch-hitter Orlando Arcia hit a go-ahead double in the sixth off Pierce Johnson (3-4).

Pirates 6, Phillies 0: Starter Hans Crouse (0-1) gave up a home run to Cole Tucker on his first major league pitch and visiting Pittsburgh stopped Philadelphia's five-game winning

streak.

Bryce Harper and the Phillies finished the home portion of their schedule 47-34.

Reds 9, Nationals 2: Tyler Stephenson and Nick Castellanos hit consecutive home runs, and Kyle Farmer broke open the game with a grand slam as host Cincinnati won its third straight.

Rays 3, Marlins 2: Rookie Shane Baz (2-0) allowed three hits and struck out nine in 5½ scoreless innings to win his second straight start for host Tampa Bay.

Blue Jays 5, Twins 2: Danny Jansen hit a go-ahead, three-run homer off Griffin Jax (3-5) and George Springer also went deep as Toronto won at Minnesota.

Athletics 4, Astros 3: Mark Canha hit an RBI single off Ryan Pressly with one out in the ninth as host Oakland completed a three-game sweep and closed within three games for the second AL wild card.

Giants 6, Rockies 2: Brandon Crawford homered off Tyler Kinney to cap a four-run ninth and visiting San Francisco won for the 15th time in 19

games and maintained a two-game lead. The Giants' 102 wins are the most since 103 in 1993.

Dodgers 3, Diamondbacks 0: Corey Seager hit two solo homers, Julio Urías (19-3) scattered five hits over five innings and World Series champion Los Angeles reached 100 wins for the third time in the last four full seasons with a win at Arizona.

Mariners 5, Angels 1: Shohei Ohtani allowed Jarred Kelenic's tying home run in the seventh, and Mitch Haniger hit a go-ahead single in a four-run eighth against the bullpen as Seattle won at Los Angeles.

White Sox 5, Indians 2: Lucas Giolito allowed five hits in six scoreless innings, and Eloy Jiménez had a two-run single in the third off Triston McKenzie (5-8) as Chicago won at Cleveland.

Rangers 7, Orioles 4: Andy Ibáñez hit a two-run homer off John Means (6-8), and visiting Texas avoided its 100th loss for at least a day by gaining a four-game split at Baltimore.

Royals 2, Tigers 1: Kris Bubic (6-6) gave up two hits in seven shutout innings in Kansas City's win at Detroit.