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WAR ON TERRORISM

THE BATTLE FOR MOSUL

Iraqi forces launch their most ambitious fight against the Islamic State group

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A peshmerga convoy drives toward a frontline in Khazer, about 19 miles east of Mosul, Iraq, on Monday. The Iraqi military and the country's Kurdish forces say they launched operations to the south and east of militant-held Mosul early Monday morning.

BRAM JANSSEN/AP

After storm, US servicemembers from Haiti volunteered to help

BY DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

MATTHEW AFTERMATH

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Vladimir Massillon was in college in the U.S. in 2010 when a powerful earthquake struck this place where he was born.

His mother was safe. But one of his cousins had been standing outside his home in the capital with his wife and two of his six children when the quake struck, collapsing the house and killing their four children inside — just beyond their reach.

Massillon, 29, who was born in the U.S. to Haitian parents but grew up in Haiti, watched from afar as the U.S. military helped his homeland and it left an impact on him. "They were helping a lot of people and really enjoying what they were doing," he said.

A year later, he joined the U.S. Navy.

Two weeks ago, as Hurricane Matthew tore its way through the Caribbean and up the coast of Florida, Massillon made sure his wife and two children were safely evacuated from their home in Jacksonville. Then he joined the military relief effort in Port-au-Prince, part of a small cadre of Haitian servicemembers who volunteered to help.

Massillon has remained in the capital, his language skills needed to translate conversations between military and Navy officials. It isn't high-profile work, but he is satisfied knowing he was here, helping, he said.

"No matter where I go or what I do, I think this is going to be the highlight of my career," he said. "Because I was able to help the country that molded me into the person with the values I have today. Just to be able to be part of this effort made my day."

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's no longer like a hobby for most of us. It's become an obsession."

— Nelson Illinski, who pans for gold, runs a Facebook page about gold mining in Vermont and teaches a class that has attracted 300 people the past two summers

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Limited booze, no strip clubs: In Thailand, the party is on hold after the king's death
2. Airman killed in 1-vehicle crash at Yokota Air Base
3. Duterte's deadly drug war reaches former US bases in the Philippines
4. Muslim woman settles in at Vermont military college
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New generation keeps "Gears of War" franchise spinning

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MATTHEW AFTERMATH

Help: Haitian servicemembers step up for relief mission

FROM FRONT PAGE

Since days after the Oct. 4 hurricane hit Haiti, the U.S. military has been operating an emergency response mission out of the international airport in Port-au-Prince, using its helicopters and logistics to help ferry U.S. Agency for International Development relief supplies to the hardest hit parts of the country.

In that time, the operations involving all four branches of the U.S. military have flown 212 hours and delivered more than 507,000 pounds of supplies to the stricken southwest peninsula, where Hurricane Matthew cleared miles of trees, flooded roads, destroyed homes and left 1.4 million people in need of assistance.

As those efforts wind down and the military shifts the remainder of its relief mission to a Navy ship offshore, Haitian servicemembers reflected on what it meant to them to be part of the response in a country so close to their hearts.

Staff Sgt. Vladimir Dorcelus, 35, a Marine reservist in Combat Logistics Battalion 23, was born in Florida, but raised in Haiti. His language skills were also needed in Port-au-Prince, but he went on one delivery flight to the fingertip of the southwest peninsula. Seeing the destruction was hard.

"It was actually devastating just looking at it," he said. "You feel so bad.

"At the same time, it was refreshing, because the people were so happy. It made me feel better. It made me not take anything for granted."

That's the thing about Haiti, he said. Even after two natural disasters in six years, people are always laughing and smiling. "That's how most of us cope."

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Dinel Mesadieu was a young sailor in 2010 when the earthquake struck.

His was one of the first units in country and the devastation was oppressive, he said. Buildings were crumbling and people were afraid to go inside. The computer technician helped the medics, translating as needed, and transporting the worst cases to the Navy medical ship that was nearby. He even helped deliver a baby.

It was the most fulfilling mission he's ever been on.

PHOTOS BY DIANNA CAHN/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Vladimir Dorcelus, left, a cook in the reserve Marine Combat Logistics Battalion 23, talks with fellow Haitian, Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Vladimir Massillon, a database manager based in Jacksonville, Fla. Both grew up in Haiti and volunteered to assist in the Haiti hurricane relief mission.

> **'I helped a little bit. I put a smile on somebody's face. It's worth more than anything else out there.'**
>
> **Staff Sgt. Vladimir Dorcelus**
> Marine reservist raised in Haiti

This time, Mesadieu, 27, who was born in the United States to Haitian parents, returned to help with the Hurricane Matthew relief effort. While the devastation is not as widespread — the capital was barely affected — the mission was in some ways more difficult. He, too, remained in the capital to translate — far from where the hurricane struck.

He knew he was helping, but the results were difficult to see — until last weekend, when Mesadieu got to hop on an Army Black Hawk delivering rice to the hard-hit village of Abricot.

"I got to see the relief on their faces," he said. "The effort that we are all doing here — I got to see the result of it. It helps motivate you more to think you are doing something significant."

Marines from the Southern Command Marine Air-Ground Task Force pack up supplies as the military operation to assist the USAID-led hurricane relief efforts shifts gear. Defense Department efforts are now being handled from the amphibious assault ship Iwo Jima, which is anchored off the coast of Haiti.

Dorcelus acknowledged the difficulty of not being closer to the crisis. But as much as he loves this country, he's still a U.S. Marine.

"I was needed to translate," Dorcelus said. "Marines and the military — the mission comes first. That's the way I take it.

"I helped a little bit," he added. "I put a smile on somebody's face. It's worth more than anything else out there."

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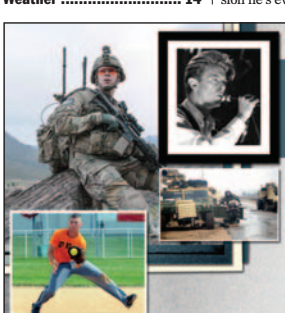

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PACIFIC

LCS arrives in Singapore

Despite concerns, Navy expresses confidence in the ship program

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The littoral combat ship USS Coronado arrived in Singapore on Sunday as Navy officials continue to express confidence in the ship program amid concerns.

The Coronado is the first trimaran-hulled variant of the fast, shallow-draft ships to deploy to Southeast Asia on a two-crew, rotational basis.

"There's a huge amount of demand for the littoral combat ship by every nation out here in terms of exercise and integration," Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson, commander of Task Force 73, told reporters Sunday, according to Bloomberg News.

Coronado takes the place of the USS Fort Worth, which returned to its San Diego homeport Oct. 7 after 23 months away.

Damage to the Fort Worth's propulsion gears while in port in January delayed the ship's return after what was scheduled to be a 16-month deployment.

The Coronado's deployment is expected to last 14 to 16 months, although that could change based on operational requirements, CTF-73 spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Arlo Abrahamson said Monday.

'There's a huge amount of demand for the littoral combat ship by every nation out here in terms of exercise and integration.'
Rear Adm. Don Gabrielson
Task Force 73 commander

The Coronado's design allows for a larger flight deck than the Fort Worth, giving it the ability to deploy dual MQ-8B Fire Scout unmanned helicopters.

The ship also has an embarked MH-60S Seahawk helicopters, which is a first for an LCS deployed to Singapore.

Coronado, an Independence-class LCS variant, also has a larger fuel capacity than the Freedom-class littoral ships, according to a Navy statement.

The Coronado's surface-warfare package includes two boarding teams, two rigid-hull inflatable boats, two 30 mm machine guns and the helicopters.

It's a design meant for taking on swarms of smaller craft, particularly in nearshore waters where destroyers can't safely navigate.

However, the LCS was also meant to replace the service's aging mine-countermeasure ships and take on an anti-submarine role.

Development testing for the delayed anti-submarine package is now estimated to be completed in 2018, according to a June Congressional Research Service report.

The original mine-countermeasure package included a remote mine-hunting system with "significant reliability issues," according to the CRS report, leaving the Navy to look for other technologies before adding a mine-hunter capability to the littoral ships.

JOSHUA FULTON/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The USS Coronado arrives at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, for a rotational deployment on Sunday.

Concerns in Congress and from some in the Pentagon over the ship's survivability led to changes in the LCS program that will build the final 16 of the 40-ship program as heavier frigates.

The frigates won't be relied upon for mine countermeasures but are expected to have more built-in defenses for submarines and aircraft, the CRS said.

In the meantime, the Navy is moving forward with LCS deployments in its current configuration. The service plans to have four of them in Southeast Asia by 2018.

The Navy has prioritized security in the South China Sea, where about $1.2 trillion in U.S. trade and $5 trillion in global trade transits annually.

China's claims on about 90 percent of the South China Sea, including areas considered by the U.S. and the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague to be international waters, have stoked tensions in the region.

The LCS deployment isn't a specific message to China, Gabrielson said, according to the Bloomberg report.

"It's not a message to anyone other than what is going on in this part of the world matters to the whole world," he said.

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PHOTOS BY AARON KIDD/Stars and Stripes

Cat people

Clockwise from left: A man hams it up for the camera during the Bakeneko Festival on Sunday in Tokyo; a girl wearing "paws" crawls like a cat; and a woman with cat goggles waves to photographers. The annual Halloween-like festival, the name of which translates roughly to "ghost cat with supernatural powers," includes a long and lively parade of costumed revelers, live music and street dancing.

US airman dies in car collision at Yokota base

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — An airman assigned to the 374th Maintenance Squadron died in a one-vehicle crash early Sunday near the southern overrun of the runway that cuts through the middle of Yokota Air Base.

First responders pronounced Airman 1st Class Isaac Colligan, 21, dead at the scene of the accident, which happened about 2:30 a.m.

An investigation is underway into the cause of the crash.

"Team Yokota is united in supporting Airman 1st Class Colligan's friends and family," said Col. Kenneth Moss, the 374th Airlift Wing commander. "His loss leaves a deep scar, but we will come together in this time of mourning, honor and cherish our memories of him and begin the painful process of healing."

The south overrun was closed until mid-afternoon Sunday.

Because of limited space, drivers at Yokota cross an active runway at both the south and north ends of the base.

It was the first traffic fatality at the western Tokyo air base since January 2014, when a motorcyclist was killed in a crash in front of the Yokota Community Center.

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MILITARY

AF wants to train on preserve land in Nev.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The Air Force wants to extend a training area onto a portion of the 1.6 million acres that make up a massive wildlife refuge north of Las Vegas.

Defense Department plans announced in August would expand the Nevada Test and Training Range by more than 300,000 acres.

About 278,000 acres are on part of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge, the biggest wildlife refuge in the Lower 48 and Hawaii. About half the 1.6 million acres of the refuge are blocked from the public and controlled by the military.

A public hearing in North Las Vegas on Thursday wraps up a series of meetings to get input from residents, reported the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

Refuge manager Amy Sprunger and her boss, Christy Smith, are worried about the proposal's impact on wildlife and public access.

"In the desert, once you damage it, it's done," Smith said. "You're going to wait eons and eons for it to recover."

Sprunger said the refuge is home to as many as 700 bighorn sheep and is one of the few places near the Las Vegas Valley where people can find seclusion.

"It's rare to see other vehicles. It's rare to see other people," she said. "Even if you only come here once, you might experience something you'd never experience anywhere else."

Air Force civilian project manager Mike Ackerman says the expansion would allow faster, higher-altitude training exercises that more closely resemble real life.

"There's not a whole lot of ground disturbance associated with what the Air Force wants to do," he said. "Less than one-quarter of 1 percent of the ground would be disturbed."

Ackerman said the Air Force is partnering with wildlife officials on the state and federal level to track bighorns in the Sheep Mountains.

He said people will be able to provide more input after the Air Force releases a draft environmental impact statement, likely later this year. A final version is expected early in 2018.

Smith said she wants pilots to get training as much as anyone.

"We all share those values," Smith said. "But can't we do it and maintain this as well? Can't we do it together?"

Congress isn't expected to vote on the proposal before 2018.

Navy in 1st phase of rate revamp

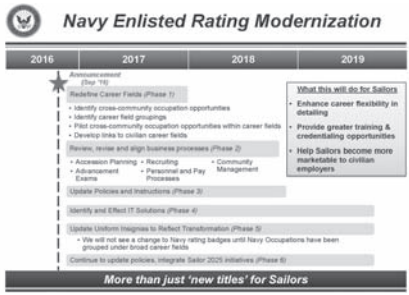
By Tyler Hlavac and Chris Church
Stars and Stripes

The Navy has released a timeline for its Enlisted Rating Modernization plan, which led to widespread confusion about how it would be implemented, emphasizing that changes will be phased in gradually over a number of years.

"While there is rarely a right or perfect time to roll out a plan as significant and ambitious as this rating modernization effort, I firmly believe this change needs to occur, and now is the right time to do so," Vice Adm. Robert Burke, chief of Naval Personnel, said in a statement Sunday.

The Navy's plan to implement these changes is a six-phase approach. Since it announced the changes late last month, the Navy has begun to implement phase one, which includes identifying cross-community occupation opportunities, career field groupings and developing links to civilian career fields.

Phase two, which sees drastic changes in business practices, will include reviews of and revisions to the advancement system, recruiting and pay processes. That phase will run through 2018.



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Navy officials say changes to the enlisted ratings system will allow sailors more flexibility in advancement and duty station choices.

Other changes will be reflected through updated policies and instructions, IT solutions and updated uniform insignia.

"The Navy's working group on this project will be significantly expanded in the coming months to ensure [sailors] have a voice," a Navy statement said. "While we have a good path forward, it will take several years to make all the changes to policies and IT systems that currently rely on rating titles and support the way the Navy does business today."

The Navy's recent decision to abandon its enlisted ratings system is unpopular with many sailors who feel the changes disregard centuries of the service's history. An internet petition posted to whitehouse.gov demanding the return of the traditional rating system had more than 74,000 signatures as of Monday.

The new system groups enlisted sailors into broad occupational specialties, similar to the Army and Marine Corps' military occupational specialties and the Air Force's Air Force Specialty Code systems. Enlisted sailors will also be addressed only by their attained military rank, similar to how servicemembers in the other branches are recognized.

Sailors in pay grades E-1 through E-3 will be addressed as seaman. Those in pay grades E-4 through E-6 will be called petty officer third class, second class and first class, respectively. Sailors in the senior enlisted pay grades of E-7 through E-9 will be addressed as chief, senior chief or master chief.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus had ordered the review of Navy titles in January as part of the plan to open all positions to women.

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Reports: US, Norway mull Marines basing plan

By John Vandiver
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The United States and Norway are considering basing a rotational force of up to 300 Marines in the Nordic country, but the measure still requires the approval of the Norwegian parliament, media reports say.

The move would place Marines, who have a long-standing training partnership with their Norwegian counterparts, at a military compound about 700 miles from the Russian-Norwegian border, the newspaper Adresseavisen reported.

The plan doesn't call for a permanent basing of U.S. forces in the country. Instead, rotational troops would offer more opportunity for training as well as storage of equipment, defense officials told Norwegian media.

During the Cold War, Norway was extensively used by NATO forces for cold weather training — surviving and operating in the harsh, freezing conditions. Troops were taught practical skills such as skiing, using snowshoes, and building snow caves, as well as surviving avalanches.

With 300 Marines as a steady presence on the Norwegian frontier, the U.S. troops could serve as a trip-wire force in place to back up Norway in the event of a crisis.

The potential moves come at a time when relations between the West and Russia are at a post-Cold War low. Since Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine, the U.S. has sought to beef up its presence along NATO's eastern edge in the Baltics. Next year, the U.S.-led NATO alliance will establish multinational battalions in Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania and Poland, where a contingent of U.S. Army cavalrymen will serve as the U.S. contribution to the NATO plan.

In Norway, officials have expressed growing concern over Russia.

"We have an increasingly unpredictable neighbor to the east which is strengthening its military capacity, and showing willingness to use military force as a political tool," Prime Minister Erna Solberg said in June.

Chad McMeen/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

U.S. Marines assigned to The Combined Arms Company out of Bulgaria use small burners to melt snow into water as the unit sets up camp for the night in Rena, Norway, in February.

Last week, Norway unveiled a plan to increase 2017 spending on its armed forces by $230 million as well as a more comprehensive plan to boost expenditures over 20 years.

The Marines already store tanks, artillery and other armored vehicles in climate-controlled caves in Norway as part of a pre-positioning program that dates to the Cold War. For the Corps, that has cut down on costs when it trains in the region and serves as ready weaponry in the event of a crisis.

For U.S. European Command, building up weapons stockpiles is a key part of its strategy to establish a more combat-ready force. U.S. Army Europe also is moving forward with plans to warehouse tanks, artillery and other fighting vehicles at locations around Europe.

"It always takes time to deploy forces to a certain area. When you have the equipment pre-positioned, you can fly in the personnel and you will be faster and ready to conduct operations, so that's always the advantage of having [the stocks] in Norway," Norway's Maj. Gen. Yngue Odlo said earlier this year while speaking about U.S. pre-positioning of equipment.

For the past several years, the Marines have relied on rotational units to enhance their forward presence in Europe, particularly in the Black Sea region. In addition, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Forces are situated in Moron, Spain, for crisis-response missions in Africa, and a unit focused on training efforts in Africa is based in southern Italy.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Iraqi forces begin long-awaited move to reclaim Mosul

By Susannah George and Adam Schreck
Associated Press

KHAZER, Iraq — Columns of Iraqi and Kurdish forces backed by U.S.-led airstrikes slowly advanced on Mosul from several directions on Monday, launching a long-awaited operation to retake Iraq's second-largest city from the Islamic State group.

As airstrikes sent plumes of smoke into the air and heavy artillery rounds rumbled, troops pushed into abandoned farming villages on the flat plains outside the city. But they were slowed by roadside bombs and suicide car and truck bombs hurled at them by the militants.

The unprecedented operation is expected to take weeks, even months. Although some of the forces are less than 20 miles from Mosul's edges, it was not clear how long it will take to reach the city itself. Once there, they have to fight their way into an urban environment where more than 1 million people still live.

Aid groups have warned of a mass exodus of civilians that could overwhelm refugee camps.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced the start of the operations on state television, launching the country's toughest battle since American troops withdrew from Iraq nearly five years ago.

"These forces that are liberating you today, they have one goal in Mosul, which is to get rid of Daesh and to secure your dignity," al-Abadi said, addressing the city's residents and using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group. "God willing, we shall win."

Mosul fell to the Islamic State group in the summer of 2014 as the militants swept over much of the country's north and central areas. Weeks later, the head of the extremist group, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, announced the formation of a self-styled caliphate in Iraq and Syria from the pulpit of a Mosul mosque.

If successful, the liberation of Mosul would be the biggest blow yet to the Islamic State group. Al-Abadi pledged the fight for the city would lead to the liberation of all Iraqi territory from the militants this year.

In Washington, Defense Secretary Ash Carter called the launch of the Mosul operation "a decisive moment in the campaign" to defeat the Islamic State group. The U.S. is providing airstrikes, training and logistical support, but insists Iraqis are leading the charge.

More than 25,000 troops will be involved in the operation, launching assaults from five directions, according to Iraqi Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil. The troops include elite special forces who are expected to lead the charge into the city, as well as Kurdish forces, Sunni tribal fighters, federal police and state-sanctioned Shiite militias.

The Kurdish forces, known as peshmerga, advanced in long columns of armored vehicles followed by hundreds of pickup trucks on a cluster of some half-dozen villages east of the city on Monday.

Airstrikes and heavy artillery pounded the squat, dusty buildings. The area — historically home to religious minorities brutally oppressed by the militants — was almost completely empty of civilians, allowing air power to do much of the heavy lifting.

But Lt. Col. Mohammad Darwish said the main roads and fields were littered with homemade bombs and that suicide car bomb attacks slowed progress.

Fighters entered the villages in Humvees but did not get out of their vehicles because it was too dangerous, a Peshmerga major said, speaking on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to brief the press.

The Kurdish Rudaw TV broadcast images of Kurdish tanks firing on two trucks it said were Islamic State suicide attackers. One of the trucks crashed into a tank and exploded. There was no immediate word on casualties from that attack or other fighting on Monday.

Just outside Baghdad — more than 225 miles southeast of Mosul — a suicide car bomber hit a checkpoint of security forces in the town of Youssifiyah, killing at least 12 people and wounding more than 30, officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to talk to the media.

AP

Kurdish security forces take up a position overlooking the Islamic State-controlled villages surrounding Mosul, Iraq, on Monday.

Activists: Airstrikes in Aleppo province kill at least 36

By Bassem Mroue
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Airstrikes on rebel-held areas in the northern province of Aleppo, Syria, on Monday killed at least 36 people, including children, opposition activists said, as violence in Syria continued while a major operation began against the Islamic State group in neighboring Iraq.

Most of the deaths were in the village of Oweijel, just west of the city of Aleppo, where at least 23 people were killed in an airstrike that also wounded dozens, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Another monitoring group, the Local Coordination Committees, said the air raid was carried out by Russian warplanes and put the death toll at 30.

More than a dozen people were also killed in a besieged eastern rebel-held neighborhood in Aleppo. The eastern parts of the city, Syria's largest, have been subjected in recent weeks to the worst aerial attacks in years. The airstrikes have claimed hundreds of lives, wounded many others and demolished entire buildings. Opposition activists have blamed Russian and Syrian government warplanes for the strikes.

The Observatory said Monday's airstrikes hit in the Marjeh neighborhood. The Aleppo Media Center, an activist collective, said those killed included 11 people with the same family name of Qabs, ranging from a month-old girl to a 25-year-old man.

There have been concerns the government in Damascus could press its onslaught in Aleppo while world attention is diverted to developments in Iraq.

Also Monday, Syrian state media claimed 49 rebels were killed and wounded in fighting in the neighborhoods of Sheikh Saeed and Shurfa on the southern edges of Aleppo.

In the nearby province of Idlib, a U.S.-led coalition drone struck a car in the provincial capital that carries the same name, killing all inside, according to the Observatory and a jihadi official. It was not immediately clear who was in the vehicle, but such attacks have previously targeted officials with al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, known as the Fatah al-Sham Front.

The Observatory said the attack targeted a faction commander. An official with Fatah al-Sham Front, formerly known as Nusra Front, said all those in the car were "martyred." The man, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was not clear if members of his group were targeted.

Courtesy of the Syrian Civil Defense group White Helmets/AP

Rescue workers try to rescue a boy stuck in the debris of a building in the neighborhood of Qaterji in rebel-held east Aleppo, Syria, following an airstrike on Monday.

Russia urged to end bombing

Associated Press

LUXEMBOURG — The European Union urged Russia to bring an end to the bombing of Aleppo in Syria but refrained from imposing any sanctions on Moscow.

At a regular meeting of foreign ministers from the EU's 28 member states Monday, several ministers said sanctions against Russia would have no impact and could even be counterproductive in the search for an overall settlement to the conflict in Syria.

"At present, I don't see how sanctions, with a possible long-term effect, are supposed to contribute to improving supplies to the civilian population," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said. "So I am not the only one who, in this case, is rather skeptical about sanctions."

Russia has been heavily involved along with the Syrian regime in the onslaught of Aleppo over the past few weeks since a cease-fire broke down.

While EU ministers were discussing Syria, the head of Russia's military general staff said Russian and Syrian forces are preparing a "humanitarian pause" for the besieged city on Thursday.

Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi was quoted by Russian news agencies as saying Monday that Russian and Syrian forces will halt their fighting from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday in order to allow civilians and rebels safe passage out of the city as well as for the evacuation of the sick and wounded.

EU Foreign Affairs Chief Federica Mogherini described the apparent Russian move as "a positive step" but noted that U.N. agencies have indicated that at least 12 hours would be needed for such an operation to be successful.

"I believe that there will be a little bit of work to be done to find the common ground," she said.

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NATION

Trump: Republicans 'naive' about voter fraud

By Kathleen Hennessey
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump lashed out on Monday at Republicans who have tried to tone down his rhetoric about election fraud, calling his party's leaders "so naive" and claiming without evidence that large-scale voter fraud is real.

Trump's claims were part of a Monday morning blast of tweets that took on his party, the women who've accused him of sexual misconduct, the media and Vice President Joe Biden.

The defensive barrage, interrupting a relatively quiet day on the campaign trail, comes as Republicans are under pressure to rebuke Trump's claims that the presidential election is "rigged" in Hillary Clinton's favor. The push reflects growing worries that their nominee's unsubstantiated rhetoric could erode public trust in elections and lead to damaging disputes if he loses.

Trump's running mate, Mike Pence, declared Sunday the ticket will "absolutely accept the results of the election." But Trump seemed to brush back against his vice presidential pick.

"Of course there is large scale voter fraud happening on and before election day. Why do Republican leaders deny what is going on? So naive!" he tweeted Monday.

There is no evidence to back up Trump's claim of widespread voter fraud. A study by a Loyola Law School professor found that out of 1 billion votes cast in all American elections between 2000 and 2014, there were only 31 known cases of impersonation fraud.

Pence and other Republicans have tried to argue that Trump is claiming that media bias is rigging the election in Democrats' favor, particularly in the reporting of allegations by several women that Trump had sexually assaulted them.

Trump pushed back against those women Monday, tweeting: "Can't believe these totally phoney stories, 100% made up by women (many already proven false) and pushed big time by press, have impact!"

In another tweet, Trump linked to a video montage of Biden greeting and hugging women at various events. The Democrat has not been accused of sexual improprieties, but has raised eyebrows for his lingering or awkward embraces of women.

The tweets abruptly returned the focus to the Republican candidate's list of troubles on an otherwise quiet day on the campaign trail ahead of the final presidential debate Wednesday. Trump was spending much of the day out of sight before campaigning in Green Bay, Wis., on Monday evening. Clinton was slated to spend Monday preparing with advisers near her home in New York.

As the candidate prepares, Clinton's campaign continues to have to answer for the contents of hacked emails being released by the thousands by WikiLeaks. The most recent batch showed Clinton generally avoided direct criticism of Wall Street as she examined the causes and responses to the financial meltdown during a series of paid speeches to Goldman Sachs.

WikiLeaks said Monday that founder Julian Assange's internet access has been cut by an unidentified state actor. Few other details were immediately available.

The fraud concerns raised by Trump aren't new to Republicans. They often cite the risk of fraud as they make a case for tightening access to the polls through voter identification laws and other restrictions. But Trump's often repeated claim that the election is "rigged" has put the party in the unusual position of expressing faith in the legitimacy of the election system.

Leaders in both parties fear Trump's claims will encourage his most ardent supporters not to accept the results, leading to prolonged litigation, possible violence or hardened divisions — or some combination of the three. That could make it even more difficult to govern and take a long-term toll on the democracy.

Jonathan Drew/AP

A burned couch is shown next to warped campaign signs at the Orange County Republican Headquarters in Hillsborough, N.C., on Sunday. Someone threw a bottle containing flammable liquid through a window overnight, and someone spray-painted an anti-GOP slogan on a nearby wall, authorities said.

Firebombing of GOP office condemned by candidates

By Jonathan Drew
Associated Press

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. — Authorities are investigating after a local Republican Party office in North Carolina was vandalized and set on fire in what a state GOP official called an act of "political terrorism."

A bottle filled with flammable liquid was thrown through the window of the Orange County Republican Party headquarters overnight, damaging the interior before burning out, according to a Sunday news release from the town of Hillsborough. The office was empty and no one was injured.

Also, someone spray-painted "Nazi Republicans leave town or else" on a nearby wall.

There were no new developments overnight in the investigation, Hillsborough Police Chief Duane Hampton said in an email Monday morning.

The violent act in the key battleground state has been condemned by public figures across the political spectrum.

A tweet from Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton on Sunday said the attack "is horrific and unacceptable. Very grateful that everyone is safe." An hour later, Trump tweeted, "Animals representing Hillary Clinton and Dems in North Carolina just firebombed our office in Orange County because we are winning."

At a news conference, state GOP executive director Dallas Woodhouse urged Republicans to respond peacefully by turning out to vote in November. He said he'd received messages of support from Democrats.

Democrats also joined a campaign to raise $10,000 to reopen the GOP office, meeting the goal in less than 40 minutes and "showing that Americans are thirsty for civility and decency, and that we love our democracy above all differences," said the GoFundMe drive's creator, David Weinberger, a researcher at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University.

Trump controversies threaten charity events at Mar-a-Lago Club

By Jeff Horwitz, Bernard Condon and Mae Anderson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A staple of Palm Beach's high-end philanthropy circuit, the Mar-a-Lago Club boasts rich history, an 800-seat ballroom and ocean views. But some major charities and fundraisers are now concerned with a different feature: the property's owner, Donald Trump.

Following the leak of Trump boasting about grabbing women by their genitals and allegations that he inappropriately touched women — in two instances at Mar-a-Lago — the Susan G. Komen Foundation is leaning toward finding a new location for its Jan. 14 Perfect Pink Party, a million-dollar breast cancer fundraiser it booked a year ago.

The charity has no position on Trump, the GOP presidential nominee, but wants to keep its event separate from "controversies unrelated to our mission," said Andrea Rader, a spokeswoman for the organization. The group won't make a final decision about whether to abandon its deposit until after October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

But, Rader said, "those are things that have to be discussed."

Event planners who spoke with The Associated Press forecast trouble ahead for the high-end party space.

"There's a cloud over Mar-a-Lago," said Lynne Goldberg, of Boca Entertainment Inc., a party planner who has overseen numerous weddings and fundraisers at the venue, including a 2014 gala for the March of Dimes. She stressed her opinion had nothing to do with politics.

Margaret Holman, who runs the fundraising consulting firm Holman Consulting, said charities would have to focus on the fact that they had already signed contracts with Mar-a-Lago and put down deposits. But behind the scenes, she said: "People are going to take this to the full board and let them air their full concerns. Charities who have already engaged are between a rock and a hard place."

Those large, nonrefundable deposits may minimize any rush for the exits this year.

The Palm Beach Habilitation Center, which serves the disabled community, said it won't break its contract for a Feb. 20 fundraiser at Mar-a-Lago, but president Tina Philips said the party's organizers would be mindful of Trump's controversies going forward.

"I can assure you that will be a big consideration when we discuss it next year," Philips said.

The Cleveland Clinic, the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and the Palm Beach Zoo and Conservation Society also said they are committed to this year's events.

Longer term, Holman said, charities that continue renting out Mar-a-Lago could rub donors the wrong way.

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NATION

Wilson Ring/AP

Sana Hamze speaks about her time as a "rook," or first-year student, in Norwich University's Corps of Cadets. The Vermont school has allowed Hamze to wear her Muslim headscarf as part of her uniform.

Vt. military college student in hijab as she fits into outfit

By Wilson Ring
Associated Press

NORTHFIELD, Vt. — Despite being the first woman allowed to wear a Muslim headscarf beneath her military uniform at the nation's oldest private military college, Sana Hamze says she doesn't feel like a pioneer. Her focus is on learning details of life as a "rook" at Vermont's Norwich University, in the school's Corps of Cadets and not running afoul of the many rules and customs new students are required to master.

As do all aspiring members of the corps, she's learned to walk at the side of the pathways, make square corners when turning, line up before eating and sleep when she is told. Like her freshman classmates, she yearns for the time when her class is "recognized" and they become official members of the Corps of Cadets and the rook restrictions end.

But the uniform for the 18-year-old student from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., is a little different. Unlike other female members of the corps, Hamze wears her Muslim hijab, or head covering, beneath.

As part of her effort to fulfill her lifelong dream of continuing her family's legacy of military and public service while staying true to her devout religious beliefs, she asked for a uniform accommodation to wear the hijab when she was applying to colleges earlier this year. Norwich, one of the nation's so-called six senior military colleges, agreed to make the accommodation.

"I don't really see it as me changing the world or changing the U.S., even," she said during an interview on the Norwich parade ground. "I just kind of see it as the school allowing an American student to practice her faith while also training to be an officer in the Navy."

Hamze's great-grandmother was in the Air Force and two of her grandparents met while serving in the Navy in Puerto Rico. Her father is a police officer.

Hamze said that she has been subject to hostile stares and comments while wearing her hijab in public, but never at Norwich, where she is not the first Muslim to attend the school, or in Vermont. The hostility to her faith hasn't curbed her dream of serving her country.

"It doesn't scare me because I know what I'm doing is not to harm anyone," she said. "I know what I'm doing is to actually protect the country. I'm joining the task force that protects this country."

Hamze's plans made headlines this past spring when The Citadel — the Charleston, S.C., military college she had hoped to attend — refused to change its uniform policy to accommodate her hijab.

Ali Shahidy, a Muslim senior civilian student at Norwich from Afghanistan, said he had met Hamze and attended a religious service with her at a nearby mosque, but did not know her well. Nevertheless, he thinks she's a leader even if she doesn't see herself that way.

"I am definitely sure there will be students in the future like her (and) it will encourage other Muslim students who have the ambition to serve their country in the military yet are concerned about their look and their hijab," he said.

Judge nominees still waiting on Senate to vote

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Federal judges in New Jersey have struggled with a workload approaching 700 cases each, nearly double what's manageable, because of judicial vacancies. In Texas, close to a dozen district judgeships remain open, more than any other state.

Senate confirmation of President Barack Obama's nominees slowed to a halt this election year, a common political occurrence for the final months of divided government with a Democratic president and a Republican-controlled Senate. The vacancy on the Supreme Court attracted the most attention as Republicans refused to even hold confirmation hearings for Merrick Garland, insisting that the choice to fill the vacancy created by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia in February rests with the next president.

But more than 90 vacancies in the federal judiciary are taking a toll on judges, the courts and Americans seeking recourse. Obama has nominated replacements for more than half of those spots, including 44 nominees for the district court and seven for the appeals court. Yet the Senate has confirmed only nine district and appeals court judges this year — and only four since Scalia died.

The U.S. court system has declared 35 of the vacancies "judicial emergencies," a designation based on how many filings are in the district and how long the seat has been open.

Senate Democrats, along with some Republicans who want to fill vacancies in their home states, are pushing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to hold confirmation votes in the lame-duck session between the election and the end of the year. But McConnell has said repeatedly that Obama has already gotten more judges confirmed over his eight years in office than President George W. Bush did.

"I think President Obama has been treated very fairly by any objective standard," McConnell, R-Ky., said last month.

The Senate has confirmed 329 of Obama's federal judicial nominees to lifetime appointments; 326 federal judges were confirmed under Bush. Obama prevailed in part because Democrats controlled the Senate for six of his eight years. Both Obama and Bush have had fewer confirmations than previous two-term presidents Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan, who had 377 and 382 federal judges confirmed, respectively.

But Democrats counter that they confirmed 68 judicial nominees after taking control of the Senate in the last two years of the Bush administration. Republicans have only confirmed 22 nominees since taking control of the Senate early last year.

"These vacancies make it harder for the federal courts to do their job," said Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Senate Democrat. "Right now there are 30 outstanding judicial nominees who have been reported out of committee and who are waiting for a vote on the Senate floor, but the Republican majority will not give them votes even though some of these nominees have been waiting for nearly a year and even though they would be easily confirmed."

In Texas, there are 11 district court seats open and some of the districts are along the case-heavy border with Mexico. Obama has nominated replacements for five of the open district seats in Texas, and the state's two Republican senators support them. But none has received a vote.

Those pushing McConnell to move on the nominations are hoping that if Democrat Hillary Clinton wins, McConnell will hold votes on the current nominees since she is likely to renominate many of the same judges. If Republican Donald Trump wins, the process starts anew.

Defendant, former Christie appointee, testifies in bridge closure trial

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — One of the defendants in the George Washington Bridge lane-closing trial took the stand Monday.

Bill Baroni, a former executive with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, began testimony Monday. He and Bridget Kelly, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's former deputy chief of staff, are in the fifth week of their fraud and conspiracy trial.

They face up to 20 years in prison on the most serious charge.

They're alleged to have concocted the lane closures to create traffic gridlock to punish the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee for not endorsing Christie, a Republican, in 2013.

Both defendants contend David Wildstein, a former subordinate of Baroni's at the Port Authority, conceived and carried out the scheme. Wildstein has pleaded guilty and has already testified at the trial.

Baroni, an attorney and former New Jersey state lawmaker, was appointed by Christie in 2010 to serve as deputy executive director of the Port Authority, the powerful bistate agency that operates New York-area bridges, tunnels, ports, airports and the World Trade Center.

Monday's testimony constituted Baroni's first public comments on the case since he made a statement in May 2015 after his indictment.

Wildstein testified earlier in the trial that Baroni and Kelly were active participants in the scheme to punish Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich for his decision not to endorse Christie's re-election bid in 2013.

Christie wound up winning by more than 20 points at a time when he was considered a potential top Republican presidential candidate.

According to Wildstein's testimony, during a Sept. 11, 2013, memorial event at the World Trade Center, Baroni told Christie about the traffic jams and of the conspirators' efforts to ignore Sokolich's pleas for assistance, on a day when the gridlock was bringing traffic in Fort Lee to a standstill.

Christie, who hasn't been charged, has denied knowing about the scheme beforehand or during.

NATION

Arrests made in fatal shooting of Olympian's child

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Three men have been charged in connection with a shootout police say left the daughter of Olympic sprinter Tyson Gay dead.

Trinity Gay, 15, died at a Lexington, Ky., hospital Sunday after she was shot in the neck about 4 a.m. during an exchange of gunfire between people in two parked vehicles in the parking lot of a nearby Cook Out restaurant.

Dvonta Middlebrooks fired multiple shots during the incident, Lexington police investigators said Sunday. He was charged with wanton endangerment and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. A father and son were also charged Sunday. Chazerae Taylor, 38, and his son, D'Markeo, 19, both face wanton endangerment counts, police said in an online statement.

Police spokeswoman Brenna Angel said police don't believe Trinity Gay was in either of the vehicles involved.

Tyson Gay said he and his daughter were very close, according to Lexington TV station WLEX, which spoke to him Sunday. "It's so crazy. I have no idea what happened," Gay told the station.

Grief counselors will be at Lexington's Lafayette High School on Monday for students and staff, Fayette County Public Schools spokeswoman Lisa Deffendall said. Both Gay and his daughter attended the school.

Trinity Gay was a standout sprinter, placing in the top five in several events at the state championships in May. Her father still holds the state record in the 100 set in 2001.

Tyson Gay competed in the last three Summer Olympics. He was part of a team that won a silver medal in the 4-by-100-meter relay at the 2012 London Games, although that medal was ultimately stripped after Gay tested positive for steroids in 2013.

MARK MALONEY, THE LEXINGTON (KY.) HERALD-LEADER/AP

Sprinter Trinity Gay, a seventh-grader racing for her Scott County High School team, poses for a photo with her father, Tyson Gay, after she won the 100-meter race and was part of the winning 4-by-100 and 4-by-200 relays at a meet in Georgetown, Ky., in May 2014.

Last summer's Games in Rio featured another stinging disappointment for Gay, 33, who has battled injuries. He was a member of the American men's 4-by-100-meter relay team that finished third in the final before being disqualified for an illegal baton exchange between Mike Rodgers and Justin Gatlin. The team's appeal was denied, giving Canada the bronze medal.

The sports world has been mourning the news of the death on social media.

USA Track and Field tweeted, "Sending our thoughts & prayers to #TysonLGay & his loved ones as they mourn the tragic & senseless loss of his daughter, Trinity." Several of Gay's USA track teammates echoed the comment, including Natasha Hastings and Arman Hall.

Former NFL wide receiver Santonio Holmes, NBA veteran Vince Carter and tennis great Martina Navratilova have also tweeted messages of support for Gay.

Divisive sign pulled from Philly shop

BY BEN GUARINO
The Washington Post

It was a small sign showing an American flag and a stern eagle, occupying a rectangle of window no larger than a hoagie roll. But glued to the front of Geno's Steaks, the Philadelphia cheesesteak shop, it cried out for reaction with just eight words: "This Is America. When Ordering Please 'Speak English.'"

Posted by Geno's owner, Joseph Vento, in December 2005 — before sparking a debate about language, discrimination and immigration in the early summer of 2006 — it sat in the storefront window for a decade, until at some point, Vento's son Geno took it down.

After the sign's absence was noticed by a reporter for news outlet BillyPenn on Wednesday, the shop acknowledged it was removed without fanfare before July's Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. On Thursday, Philadelphia Daily News columnist Helen Ubinas wrote about ordering cheesesteaks at Geno's for the first time in years — "Dos, con Whiz, por favor." It worked.

Spanish would not fly in 2006, however. Only English would.

The sign, of course, was not just about language. Here was Wolf Blitzer on CNN in June 2006: "The cheesesteak is a symbol of Philadelphia, but now it's a symbol of the battle over illegal immigration as well, and that battle is raging in the City of Brotherly Love."

Vento argued that his message was tough love from a colorful son of Italian immigrants to South Philly. On the subject of immigrants who did not speak English, Vento told The Associated Press in 2006: "They don't know how lucky they are. … All we're asking them to do is learn the English language. We're out to help these people, but they've got to help themselves too."

For many, the sign was more divisive than encouraging. Rachel Lawton, then acting executive director of Philadelphia's Commission on Human Relations, told the AP in 2006 that the message discriminated against non-English-speaking patrons and, therefore, violated the city's Fair Practices Ordinance. A spokeswoman for the American Civil Liberties Union told the Philadelphia Inquirer that although the cheesesteak shop "has a right to express its opinion, however offensive," it was close to making a "public accommodation" unavailable to everyone.

Comey: Lack of data fuels talk of police bias

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dramatic videos of deadly law enforcement encounters and the absence of reliable data about how often police use force contribute to a regrettable narrative that "biased police are killing black men at epidemic rates," FBI Director James Comey said.

That story line has formed amid a lack of comprehensive, national data about how many citizens are killed or injured at the hands of police officers.

Videos of fatal police encounters that capture the public's attention and are shared broadly across the internet can fuel the perception that "something terrible is being done by the police," even if the data aren't there to back it up, Comey said Sunday, speaking in San Diego during a gathering of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

'It is a narrative driven by video images of real and gut-wrenching misconduct, by images of possible misconduct, by images of perceived misconduct.'

James Comey
FBI director

"It is a narrative driven by video images of real and gut-wrenching misconduct, by images of possible misconduct, by images of perceived misconduct," Comey said. "It's a narrative given force by the awesome power of human empathy."

Americans "actually have no idea if the number of black people or brown people or white people being shot by police is up, down or sideways over the last three years, five years, 10 years," or if black people are more likely than white people to be shot during police encounters, Comey said.

That narrative creates a wedge between law enforcement and the public, keeping "good officers in their car" and perhaps causing them to think twice before making a certain traffic stop at midnight, Comey said.

"Our officers see the videos. They desperately do not want to be in one. They think about that all the time," he added.

On the other side of the divide are distrustful community members who stay quiet instead of sharing information with the police after a crime, he said.

"And so into the chasm, into that gap of distrust, fall more dead young black men. In places like Chicago, we know what the chasm looks like and how much pain it causes," the FBI director said.

The FBI is moving forward with plans for a national database to track information about police use of force, Justice Department officials announced last week.

"We need to collect actual, accurate and complete information about policing in this country so that we have informed debates about things that matter enormously," Comey said.

NATION

Some absentee ballots in NJ returned to voters

SOMERVILLE, N.J. — Officials say some New Jersey absentee ballots have been returned to voters instead of reaching their local boards of elections.

Somerset County Clerk Brett Radi told MyCentralJersey.com an estimated 50 to 100 ballots out of thousands were sent back to the voters.

The U.S. Postal Service said its automated mail-processing technology was reading the return address on the envelopes, sorting them and then sending them back to the sender.

USPS said it has changed its mail-processing equipment to reduce the effects of missing barcodes.

Rail service restored at damaged station

HOBOKEN, N.J. — Rail service was fully restored Monday at a New Jersey transit station damaged last month when a train traveling more than twice the speed limit crashed, killing a woman on the platform and injuring more than 100 other people.

The return of full service into Hoboken Terminal comes less than three weeks after the crash.

Six more tracks opened at 4 a.m. Monday.

Jury selection set in Rolling Stone lawsuit

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Jury selection is set to begin in a University of Virginia administrator's defamation case against Rolling Stone magazine over its now-discredited story about a rape on campus.

The trial was scheduled to begin Monday at the federal court in Charlottesville.

The November 2014 story told the harrowing story of a woman, identified only as "Jackie," who claimed she was gang-raped by seven men in a fraternity initiation. An investigation by Charlottesville police found no evidence to back up Jackie's claims, and details in the lengthy narrative did not hold up under scrutiny.

U.Va. administrator Nicole Eramo is seeking $7.85 million from the magazine. She claims the article portrayed her as indifferent to Jackie's plight and only interested in protecting the university's reputation.

Powdered alcohol ban considered in capital

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers in the nation's capital are considering a ban on alcohol in powdered form that can be added to drinks.

More than half the states in the country have already banned powdered alcohol, a product that was introduced in 2014 under the name "Palcohol." A D.C. council committee will hold a hearing Monday on the proposed ban, which was introduced last year.

Supporters of the ban say the product is dangerous and will appeal to kids. The makers of Palcohol say it's designed to appeal to hikers and other active people who want to enjoy an alcoholic beverage without carrying it around.

From The Associated Press

High school graduation rates up

Improvement seen among all ethnic groups as numbers hit record high

By Kevin Freking
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — High school graduation rates have reached a record high of 83.2 percent, continuing a steady increase that shows improvement across all ethnic groups, the White House said Monday.

President Barack Obama planned to talk about the gains when he visited a Washington high school on Monday morning.

Increases in the graduation rate for the 2014-15 school year were seen for all ethnic groups, as well as for disabled students and students from low-income families.

The growth in graduation rates has been steady since states adopted a uniform way of tracking students.

Still, there were significant differences among groups. Asian-Americans had a 90.2 percent graduation rate, while whites were at 87.6 percent, followed by Hispanics at 77.8 percent, African-Americans at 74.6 percent and Native Americans at 71.6 percent.

The growth in graduation rates has been steady since states adopted a uniform way of tracking students. In 2008, the Bush administration ordered states to begin using a formula that is considered a more accurate count of how many actually finish school.

The White House said the graduation rate has increased by about 4 percentage points since the 2010-11 school year. Obama frequently cites the increase when he talks to groups about progress made during his presidency.

The White House said money invested through a grant program called "Race to the Top" has helped improve some of the nation's lowest-performing schools.

The administration also said millions of students have gained access to high-speed broadband in their classrooms and that the states and federal governments have helped hundreds of thousands more children gain access to preschool education programs.

The White House said the District of Columbia made the most progress in 2014-15 compared with the previous year. The District improved its graduation rate by 7 percentage points.

NATION

EUREKA!

A new generation of gold miners heads for the hills

By Michael Casey
Associated Press

PLYMOUTH, Vt.

Al Davis Jr. cracks a smile as he spots a speck of gold glittering in a plastic pan full of muck pulled from a Vermont brook, revealing a gold tooth made from some earlier finds.

Davis, decked in waders and wearing a hat festooned with a tiny bottle filled with gold flakes, is part of a community of prospectors who number about 3,000 in New England.

Often equipped with little more than a shovel and a pan, they can be found knee-deep in streams and rivers on most summer weekends in places like Plymouth, Vt.; Byron, Maine; and Bath, N.H.

'It gives you a rush to know that people have been digging gold for 200 years, and you found a piece they missed.'

Nelson Illinski
pans for gold in Camp Plymouth State Park, Vt.

"There is something magical about it. You always keep coming out because you want to see if you can beat the one you got," said Davis, who has been mining for nearly a half-century. "Can I get one a little bigger?"

These days, the rivers Davis and other aging prospectors once had to themselves are getting more crowded, they say, as a younger generation of miners in the Northeast and Pacific Northwest gives prospecting a try. Old-timers are seeing new clubs on Facebook and people taking gold mining classes. Some newbies are turning to mechanized mining means, raising environmentalists' hackles.

Miners attribute the growth to people seeking more solace in the outdoors; to shows like "Gold Rush" and "Yukon Gold" that make mining seem adventurous and profitable; and to history buffs who want to trace the Appalachian gold belt, which stretches from South Carolina to Nova Scotia and sparked a gold rush in the 1800s.

Then there was Tropical Storm Irene, which hit Vermont in 2011. It sparked a gold frenzy after reports surfaced that the storm had disgorged precious metal into streams.

"It was a true gold rush," said Nelson Illinski, panning recently within shouting distance of Davis on the Buffalo Brook in Vermont's Camp Plymouth State Park with his wife, Ashley, and their son, Shane, 2.

Illinski, 39, in many ways, represents the younger generation of miners. A mix of rugged outdoorsman and Brooklyn-style hipster, he runs a Facebook page about gold mining in the state and teaches a class that has attracted 300 people the past two summers.

"It's no longer like a hobby for most of us. It's become an obsession," Illinski said. "It gives you a rush to know that people have been digging gold for 200 years, and you found a piece they missed."

While miners have traditionally panned for gold, more are turning to machinery. Tools include motorized suction dredges that vacuum up materials on the river bed and filterlike sluice boxes that capture gold and discard the rest.

Concerned about the environmental effects, California last year banned suction dredging. Oregon in January enacted a five-year moratorium on dredging, and environmentalists are pushing for something similar in Washington. Maine and Vermont also have put limits on dredging.

Miners in the Northeast have mostly made peace with the current limits. But even those like Illinski, who traded his metal detector for a pan about a decade ago, fear all miners will eventually get caught in the kinds of battles playing out West.

"We worry that the federal government is going to come and say you can no longer use the land … for that kind of thing," he said. "That scares me more than anything — that all of sudden the land we pay taxes on, that belongs to us, will be taken away."

Above: Chris Hall gets ready to search for gold in the Wild Ammonoosuc River in Bath, N.H., in early September. Mining for gold began in the late 1800s in New Hampshire. All the big mining operations are now gone, but recreational mining is done in some areas of the state. Left: Hall shows off a vile of gold he mined from the river that day.

PHOTOS BY JIM COLE/AP

WORLD

1 dead, at least 6 hurt in blast at German plant

By Oliver Sachgau and Sheenagh Matthews
Bloomberg

BASF SE said one employee died and at least six people were missing following an explosion and fire at the chemical maker's main plant on the banks of the River Rhine in Germany.

Another six people were seriously injured after a fire at a supply line led to a series of blasts, Peter Friedrich, the head of the local fire service, said at a press conference Monday in Ludwigshafen, the German town where BASF has its headquarters and biggest manufacturing hub. Chemical products were escaping from the scene of the incident and burning, he said.

The air in the area is being monitored and a "security perimeter" has been established, Friedrich said. Smoke billowed over the neighboring town of Mannheim, which is across the river, where residents have also been informed, although the company said there is "no danger."

The deadly explosion is a setback for the world's biggest chemicals maker whose businesses span from oil to shampoo ingredients. The incident affected 14 facilities at the site, leading the company to halt two steam crackers and some other production equipment. The blast took place at the sprawling chemical park's Landhafen Nord site about 11:30 a.m. local time while work was taking place on piping, the company said.

Noga Ami-rav/Stars and Stripes

BASF didn't disclose which pipelines were affected nor did it provide details about any substances released into the atmosphere.

"We know there was a deflagration at a supply line; how it came to explosions we don't know right now," BASF plant manager Uwe Liebelt said, confirming work was being carried out at the time in that area of the plant.

German prosecutors and police in Ludwigshafen will start an investigation into the explosion, according to police spokesman Sebastian Burkhard. Authorities plan to release a statement Tuesday.

Nearby residents were advised to close their doors and windows. Footage posted under the hashtag on Twitter showed plumes of smoke and flames raging from the chemical park. One eye witness reported three blasts and flames as high as 328 feet, according to Die Rheinpfalz's online edition.

Liebelt declined to discuss the financial costs of the explosion, saying, "Today is a day of mourning."

The Landhafen Nord port is a terminal for combustible fluids such as naptha, methanol and compressed liquified gases. More than 2.6 million tons of goods are handled there each year, and an average seven ships a day moor at its docks, according to BASF's website. It is one of three ports BASF operates at the Ludwigshafen site.

Photos by Ralf Teutsch, dpa/AP

A huge cloud of dark smoke and fire rises from the BASF chemical plant site in Ludwigshafen, Germany, on Monday. One person was killed and several were injured in a late-morning explosion.

Russia-Germany pipeline opposed by 4 EU nations

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Four Central European nations are united in opposing a pipeline that would deliver natural gas directly from Russia to Germany because it would harm Europe's ability to create an efficient energy system, Poland's president said Saturday.

President Andrzej Duda described the Nord Stream 2 project, which would bypass traditional transit pipelines in Ukraine and Slovakia, as having "no economic justification," describing it as a political project implemented by Gazprom on behalf of Russia.

All four presidents agreed that an efficient-energy union means one that will ensure competitive energy supplies in Europe, combined with a "real diversification of sources of gas supplies," Duda said, according to a report from the Polish news agency PAP.

Duda spoke in Rzeszow, southern Poland, on the last day of a two-day meeting with the presidents of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. Known as the Visegrad Four, those nations, with a common history of shaking off communism and joining the European Union and NATO, meet regularly to forge common positions where they can.

In the last year, they have opposed an EU plan to impose obligatory migrant quotas on member states.

Duda said the four also oppose efforts by some EU states to create a greater union, favoring the idea of a union made up of strong nation states.

"We all want a Europe of homelands, but at the same time, we absolutely cannot imagine our homelands without Europe," Duda said. "We want to speak with one voice about issues that are common and most important to us."

He also reiterated the group's opposition to migrant quotas and said its preference for "flexible solidarity" — each nation offering what it can to help the migrant crisis — is beginning to gain support elsewhere in the EU.

Dmitry Lovetsky/AP

Warlord Arsen Pavlov, right, appearing with Igor Strelkov, a pro-Russia separatist commander, in Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, in July 2014, has been reported killed in a bombing.

Notorious warlord killed in E. Ukraine bombing

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A notorious warlord has been killed in a bombing in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk, eastern Ukraine, separatist officials said.

The separatist Donetsk News Agency said Arsen Pavlov, also known as Motorola, was killed on Sunday in Donetsk when a bomb exploded in an elevator in an apartment building where he was staying.

He is one of several prominent warlords who have been killed in bombings in the past year that Ukraine watchers attribute to infighting among the separatists. Pavlov once admitted to killing 15 prisoners of war.

Separatist officials have blamed previous bombings on Ukrainian saboteurs operating in the rebel-controlled areas.

The conflict between separatists and Ukrainian government forces has been raging since April 2014, killing more than 9,600 people.

Russian-born Pavlov, 33, worked in a car wash before he crossed the border and joined the separatists in 2014 and becoming one of the most recognizable faces of the Donetsk separatist movement.

Ukraine still has not adopted a law which under peace accords signed in 2015 will grant amnesty to Donetsk separatists. Pavlov was one of the figures that the Ukrainian government has used to back up its assertion that people implicated in war crimes should not be allowed to get away with it.

WORLD

Video shows detained American

Iran's hard-liners release footage of businessman arrested a year ago

By Jon Gambrell
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Hard-liners in Iran posted a video online Monday showing a detained Iranian-American businessman for the first time since his arrest in the country a year ago, a taunting challenge to the United States in the wake of the nuclear deal with Tehran.

The minute-long video featuring Siamak Namazi, dubbed over with what sounded like a dramatic film score, highlighted recent tensions between the Islamic Republic and the U.S.

It also comes as hard-liners in Iran's security forces continue to target dual nationals and anyone with Western ties after the nuclear deal negotiated by the moderate administration of President Hassan Rouhani.

The montage of clips includes an Iranian drone flying over a U.S. aircraft carrier and American sailors on their knees after being briefly detained by Iran in January. It shows Namazi's U.S. passport, his United Arab Emirates ID card and a clip of him in a conference room, his arms raised at his sides.

At the end of the video, it shows a still image of U.S. Rep. Ed Royce, a California Republican who chairs the House's Foreign Affairs Committee. It quotes a statement by Royce from last year describing Namazi's arrest as the "latest show of contempt for America."

A request for comment to Royce was not immediately answered early Monday.

It wasn't clear why hard-liners chose to release the video, which was posted online Monday by Iran's state-run Mizan judicial news agency. However, it comes as Namazi, who earlier advocated for closer ties between Iran and the U.S., faces his one-year anniversary of being detained in Iran.

Namazi is a son of Baquer Namazi, a former UNICEF representative who once served as governor of Iran's oil-rich Khuzestan province under the U.S.-backed shah. His father was arrested after apparently being lured to Iran over his son's detention.

The two were not released as part of a January deal that freed detained Washington Post journalist Jason Rezaian and three other Iranian-Americans in exchange for pardons or charges being dropped against seven Iranians.

That deal also saw the U.S. make a $400 million cash delivery to Iran.

Analysts and family members of those detained in Iran have suggested Iran wants to negotiate another deal with the West to free those held. In September, Iran freed a retired Canadian-Iranian university professor amid negotiations to reopen embassies in the two nations.

Iran does not recognize dual nationalities, meaning those detained cannot receive consular assistance. In most cases, dual nationals have faced secret charges in closed-door hearings in Iran's Revolutionary Court, which handles cases involving alleged attempts to overthrow the government.

Others with Western ties recently detained in Iran include:

■ Robin Shahini, an Iranian-American detained while visiting family who previously had made online comments criticizing Iran's human rights record.

■ Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe , a British-Iranian woman sentenced to five years in prison on allegations of planning the "soft toppling" of Iran's government while traveling with her young daughter.

■ Nizar Zakka , a U.S. permanent resident from Lebanon recently sentenced to 10 years in prison and a $4.2 million fine.

Still missing is former FBI agent Robert Levinson, who vanished in Iran in 2007 while on an unauthorized CIA mission.

China's longest crewed space mission blasts off

Associated Press

BEIJING — Two Chinese astronauts began the country's longest crewed space mission Monday, blasting off on a spacecraft for a 30-day stay on an experimental space station as China steadfastly navigates its way to becoming a space superpower.

Ahead of the launch, one astronaut shouted: "We are ready! Please give instructions!" in front of dozens of people dressed in colorful dress representing China's ethnic minorities, in footage shown prominently on Chinese TV. The commander-in-chief of the manned space program, Gen. Zhang Youxia, replied, "Proceed!" followed by blaring marching music as the astronauts boarded a bus to take them to the launch pad.

China, Russia and the United States are the only countries that have independently launched humans into space, and while the others have more experience in manned space travel, China's military-backed program has made methodical progress in comparatively short time.

The launch is China's sixth manned mission, the previous longest being about two weeks.

For this mission, the astronauts will dock their spacecraft with the Tiangong 2 station within two days, conduct experiments in medicine and space-related technologies, and test systems and processes in preparation for the launching of the station's core module in 2018. A fully functioning space station is on course to begin operating six years from now and slated to run for at least a decade.

Since China conducted its first crewed space mission in 2003, it has staged a spacewalk and landed its Yutu rover on the moon. The Tiangong, or "Heavenly Palace," space stations are considered stepping stones to a mission to send a rover to Mars by the end of the decade. Administrators suggest a crewed landing on the moon may also be in the program's future.

The Shenzhou 11 astronauts are Jing Haipeng, who is flying his third mission, and Chen Dong, 37.

"It is any astronaut's dream and pursuit to be able to perform many space missions," Jing, who turns 50 during his time in space, told a briefing Sunday.

China was excluded from the International Space Station mainly due to U.S. concerns over the Chinese space program's strongly military character. Chinese officials are now looking to internationalize their own program by offering to help finance other countries' missions to Tiangong 2, which, at 60 tons when completed, would still be considerably smaller than the 420-ton ISS.

Li Gang, Xinhua News Agency/AP

The Long March-2F carrier rocket carrying China's Shenzhou 11 spacecraft blasts off from the launch pad at the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Jiuquan on Monday.

China's space program also opened a fourth spacecraft launch site at Wenchang on the island province of Hainan in June. It was inaugurated with the launch of the newly developed Long March 7 rocket that was hailed as a breakthrough in the use of safer, more environmentally friendly fuels.

A source of enormous national pride, China's space program plans a total of 20 missions this year at a time when the U.S. and other countries' programs are seeking new roles.

Protesters throw excrement at university

JOHANNESBURG — A South African university said protesters demanding free education broke windows, forced open doors and threw human excrement in an effort to disrupt the resumption of classes.

The University of Cape Town reopened Monday after closing because of security concerns, but police were on campus and used a stun grenade to disperse protesters outside a university building. The university said another building was evacuated because of vandalism by protesters.

Separately in Johannesburg, students blocked a road during the morning rush hour and threw stones before returning to their residential building at the University of the Witwatersrand.

N. Korea wants UK to pull out of military drills

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea said Monday that it wants Britain to pull out of upcoming military exercises in South Korea, calling the drills a "hostile act."

Britain has announced that it will send fighter jets and support planes to Asia, and that it will take part in exercises in South Korea together with South Korean and U.S. forces in early November.

"This is a hostile act, openly joining the U.S. and South Korean forces in moves for a new war against us," said North Korean Foreign Ministry official Pak Yun Sik.

North Korea views the drills as an invasion rehearsal, but Seoul and Washington say the exercises are defensive in nature.

German man offers infant daughter on eBay

BERLIN — German police say a 28-year-old man has admitted listing his infant daughter for sale on eBay but maintains that it was meant as a joke.

The 40-day-old girl was listed on the internet auction site last week at a price of $5,500. Police in the western city of Duisburg raided the parents' apartment and put the girl into care.

Police have described the family as refugees, without giving further details.

WikiLeaks: Internet link 'severed' by state actor

PARIS — WikiLeaks said that founder Julian Assange's internet access has been cut by an unidentified state actor. Few other details were immediately available.

Assange has been holed up at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London for more than four years after skipping bail to avoid being extradited over sex crimes allegations.

The cramped quarters haven't prevented the Australian transparency activist from working, and WikiLeaks continues to deliver scoops, including revelations that have rattled Hillary Clinton's campaign for president as the U.S. election enters its final stretch.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

Elaine Kurtenbach/AP

A sign of KFC's Colonel Sanders is lit outside its outlet in Yangon, Myanmar.

End to sanctions a boon to Myanmar

By Elaine Kurtenbach
Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — KFC's grinning Colonel Sanders and his goatee are among the few prominent signs of U.S. brands or business in Myanmar's biggest city, Yangon.

That will likely change after President Barack Obama ended most remaining U.S. sanctions against this fledgling democracy on Oct. 7. But much hinges on how the government led by former political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi revamps the country's outdated laws and other policies.

The U.S. had imposed broad prohibitions on investment and trade on this Southeast Asian country of about 60 million over two decades. The more targeted restrictions that ended earlier this month were mostly on dealings with army-owned companies and officials and associates of the former ruling junta. A ban on imports of jadeite and rubies from Myanmar also ended.

Up to now, the rush to invest in Myanmar has been dominated by Asian countries, especially China, its main investor and trading partner during its years of isolation. Most U.S. businesses and many other Western ones stayed away, mindful of fines potentially in the millions of dollars and jail terms of up to 20 years.

Foreign investment slowed earlier this year as companies awaited changes in the investment law, company law and other regulations.

"Genuinely, a lot of American business was extraordinarily wary of the sanctions, especially for financial services, because of the massive fines," said Sean Turnell, a Myanmar expert and adviser to Suu Kyi's government.

For many Western firms, restrictions on financial transactions in U.S. dollars, which are processed by banks doing business in the U.S., were the biggest constraint.

"It was too hard. … You had great difficulty just moving money in and out of the country," Turnell said.

The garment industry could be one of the biggest beneficiaries of the end to sanctions. The United States stopped giving Myanmar special market access under the Generalized System of Preferences in 1989 due to worker rights concerns. When those benefits are restored on Nov. 13 it will regain the right to export about 5,000 products to the United States duty-free.

Nay Aung, whose travel services company, Oway, has launched a car-booking app that is providing about 500 to 600 rides a day in Yangon, is hoping that will help drive an export boom.

"If multinationals come in, we will benefit," he said. "For us, if the country grows, we are the beneficiary of those investments."

Myanmar was governed by a military junta for more than a half-century. Nearly five years after it began its shift toward a civilian government and a year since Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party won a landslide election, the country is still just beginning to develop a modern financial sector and rebuild its crumbling roads, ports and buildings, many of which date to Britain's colonial rule.

Kin Cheung/AP

Giant panda Jia Jia eats bamboo next to her birthday cake made with ice and vegetables at Ocean Park in Hong Kong in July 2015 as she celebrated her 37th birthday.

Oldest-ever panda in captivity euthanized

Associated Press

HONG KONG — The world's oldest-ever panda in captivity was euthanized Sunday at the Hong Kong theme park where she lived because her health had deteriorated.

Ocean Park said in a statement that a veterinarian euthanized Jia Jia, 38, to prevent further suffering and for ethical reasons.

Guinness World Records recognized Jia Jia as the oldest giant panda to live in captivity. The average lifespan for a panda in the wild is 18 to 20 years, while in captivity it's 30 years, according to Guinness.

Born in the wild, Jia Jia was taken to live at a wildlife reserve's breeding center in central China's Sichuan province in 1980, when she was about 2 years old.

She and another panda, An An, were given to Hong Kong as a gift from Beijing in 1999 on the second anniversary of the city's handover from Britain to China.

Pandas, a beloved symbol of China, were long considered one of the world's most endangered animals, although last month a leading international group lowered its classification to "vulnerable."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature cited conservation efforts that helped the wild panda population jump to 1,864 in 2014 from 1,596 in 2004.

However, the Chinese government rejected the group's decision, saying the panda's status was no less serious because its natural habitats have been splintered by human and natural causes.

Jia Jia, who celebrated her birthday in August, had shown signs of poor health in her old age, including high blood pressure and arthritis, which required regular medication.

Over the past two weeks, her condition had worsened significantly, with her weight falling as she stopped eating.

"This is a day we knew would eventually come, but it is nevertheless a sad day for everyone at the park, especially for the park's keepers who took care of her over the years," Ocean Park Chairman Leo Kung said in the statement.

Three other pandas still live at Ocean Park — An An, 30, and Ying Ying and Le Le, both 11.

Akihito's desire to abdicate studied

By Mari Yamaguchi
Associated Press

TOKYO — Experts on a government-commissioned panel held their first meeting Monday to study how to accommodate Emperor Akihito's apparent abdication wish in a country where he is not supposed to say anything political.

Unlike many European countries where abdication of kings and queens are relatively common, Japan's modern imperial law doesn't allow abdication, and Japan's postwar constitution stipulates the emperor as a mere "symbol," with no political power or say.

Allowing Akihito to abdicate would be a major change to the system and raises a series of legal and logistical questions, ranging from laws subject to change to the emperor's postabdication role, his title and residence.

Akihito

The six panel members — five academics and a business organization executive — are to compile a report early next year after interviewing specialists on the constitution, monarchy and history.

Akihito, 82, suggested his wish to abdicate in a rare video message to the public in August, citing his age and concern that he may not be able to fulfill his official duties. His message was subtle, and the emperor did not use the word "abdication" because saying that openly could have violated his constitutional status.

Current law, set in 1947, largely inherits a 19th-century constitution that banned abdication as a potential risk to political stability.

About 80 percent of the general public supports Akihito's abdication, saying he should be allowed to retire and enjoy life while he is still in good health. In addition to receiving foreign dignitaries, Akihito still travels across the country to attend ceremonies and has repeatedly visited disaster-hit areas to console survivors.

The government reportedly wants to allow Akihito's abdication as an exception and enact a special law to avoid dealing with divisive issues such as a lack of possible successors.

Akihito suggested in his public message a need to consider how to make the succession process smoother. He recalled the difficulties he faced when his father, Hirohito, died in 1989. He said he doesn't wish to cling to his title if his responsibilities have to be severely reduced and he has to rely on a regent.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US air passengers with Note 7s face fines

By Mary Schlangenstein and Alan Levin
Bloomberg

Passengers who try to carry Samsung Electronics Note 7 smartphones on flights will have them confiscated and may face fines under an emergency U.S. order that significantly expands restrictions on the devices linked to almost 100 incidents of overheating and fires.

The devices won't be allowed aboard passenger or cargo aircraft even if they've been shut off, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration announced Friday. Flight restrictions were extended to each of the 1.9 million Note 7s sold in the U.S. on Saturday.

"We recognize that banning these phones from airlines will inconvenience some passengers, but the safety of all those aboard an aircraft must take priority," U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement. "We are taking this additional step because even one fire incident in flight poses a high risk of severe personal injury and puts many lives at risk."

JONI GANTZ BARWICK/AP

Joni Gantz Barwick, of Marion, Ill., was woken up Sept.8 by smoke and sparks from her Samsung Galaxy Note 7. The U.S. has banned the phones from passenger and cargo flights.

Samsung last week said it was halting production and sales of the device following the latest spate of smoke, overheating and fire incidents in what was supposed to be a version that replaced a faulty lithium-ion battery with a safe one. The company estimates the crisis will cost it $5.3 billion in profits.

The government urged passengers not to side-step the order.

"Passengers who attempt to evade the ban by packing their phone in checked luggage are increasing the risk of a catastrophic incident," the DOT said in a release. "Anyone violating the ban may be subject to criminal prosecution in addition to fines."

People in the midst of travel who have the phones were urged by the government to contact Samsung or their wireless carrier "immediately" to arrange for a replacement phone.

The government now considers the Note 7s "forbidden hazardous material" under U.S. law. Anyone observed with one of the phones will be prohibited from boarding an aircraft, the release said.

Samsung is working with U.S. officials and airlines to notify owners of the phone about the emergency order, SungIn Cho, a spokeswoman for Samsung Electronics America, said in an e-mail.

For passengers who arrive at the airport with a Note 7, and can't return it to their car or hand it to someone not flying, American Airlines will place the device in an area for storage of hazardous materials. The person can reclaim it after the trip, said Ross Feinstein, a spokesman for the carrier.

A number of foreign-based airlines adopted the U.S. ban Saturday, including Sydney-based Qantas Airways Ltd., Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. and Rome-based Alitalia.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Oct. 18)	$1.1285
Dollar buys (Oct. 18)	€0.8861
British pound (Oct. 18)	$1.25
Japanese yen (Oct. 18)	102.00
South Korean won (Oct. 18)	1,112.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	$1.5719
Canada (Dollar)	.8222
China (Yuan)	6.7370
Denmark (Krone)	6.7649
Egypt (Pound)	8.8838
Euro	$1.1/0.9091
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7594
Hungary (Forint)	279.52
Israel (Shekel)	3.8260
Japan (Yen)	103.94
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3027
Norway (Krone)	8.2101
Philippines (Peso)	48.52
Poland (Zloty)	3.94
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3889
South Korea (Won)	1,138.27
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9888
Thailand (Baht)	35.26
Turkey (Lira)	3.0962

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.50
Discount rate	1.00
Federal funds market rate	0.36
3-month bill	0.29
30-year bond	2.46

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

TUESDAY IN EUROPE

WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	86	62	Clr	Fort Wayne	81	67	Cldy	Louisville	88	67	Clr	Pocatello	51	36	Cldy	Sioux City	68	48	Clr
Abilene, Texas	90	68	Clr	Cheyenne	56	37	PCldy	Fresno	72	50	Clr	Lubbock	81	53	Clr	Portland, Maine	62	52	Cldy	Sioux Falls	65	46	Clr
Akron, Ohio	82	66	PCldy	Chicago	75	67	Clr	Goodland	67	40	Clr	Macon	87	59	Clr	Portland, Ore.	59	52	Rain	South Bend	78	67	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	83	57	PCldy	Cincinnati	86	66	PCldy	Grand Junction	68	42	PCldy	Madison	68	60	PCldy	Providence	77	58	PCldy	Spokane	52	41	Cldy
Albuquerque	79	50	Clr	Cleveland	82	67	PCldy	Grand Rapids	73	65	PCldy	Medford	59	45	Cldy	Pueblo	70	42	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	82	68	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	83	58	Clr	Colorado Springs	62	44	Clr	Great Falls	54	39	Cldy	Memphis	88	69	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	82	57	Clr	Springfield, Mo.	79	67	Cldy
Amarillo	76	51	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	83	60	Clr	Green Bay	67	58	PCldy	Miami Beach	83	76	PCldy	Rapid City	62	40	PCldy	Syracuse	82	62	PCldy
Anchorage	40	27	Snow	Columbus, Ga.	88	63	Clr	Greensboro, N.C.	82	60	Clr	Midland-Odessa	93	60	Clr	Reno	61	37	Clr	Tallahassee	88	65	Clr
Asheville	80	56	Clr	Columbus, Ohio	85	66	PCldy	Harrisburg	85	59	Clr	Milwaukee	70	63	Clr	Richmond	86	61	Clr	Tampa	87	70	PCldy
Atlanta	85	63	Clr	Concord, N.H.	77	53	Cldy	Hartford Spgfld	82	59	PCldy	Mpls-St Paul	64	51	PCldy	Roanoke	81	58	Clr	Toledo	81	68	Cldy
Atlantic City	81	62	Clr	Corpus Christi	93	74	Clr	Helena	52	34	Cldy	Missoula	48	36	Cldy	Rochester	83	65	Clr	Topeka	74	57	Clr
Austin	91	69	PCldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	90	71	Clr	Honolulu	88	74	Cldy	Mobile	86	67	PCldy	Rockford	73	63	Clr	Tucson	92	58	Clr
Baltimore	84	61	Clr	Dayton	83	66	PCldy	Houston	92	72	PCldy	Montgomery	89	63	PCldy	Sacramento	71	49	PCldy	Tulsa	84	70	PCldy
Baton Rouge	88	68	PCldy	Daytona Beach	85	68	PCldy	Huntsville	89	62	PCldy	Nashville	89	66	PCldy	St Louis	86	70	Cldy	Tupelo	89	64	Clr
Billings	57	39	PCldy	Denver	62	40	PCldy	Indianapolis	83	67	Cldy	New Orleans	85	72	PCldy	St Petersburg	85	73	PCldy	Waco	92	70	PCldy
Birmingham	87	65	PCldy	Des Moines	71	57	Clr	Jackson, Miss.	89	67	PCldy	New York City	82	64	Clr	St Thomas	87	79	Cldy	Washington	85	62	Clr
Bismarck	58	42	Cldy	Detroit	78	67	Cldy	Jacksonville	85	63	PCldy	Newark	84	63	Clr	Salem, Ore.	58	51	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	83	76	PCldy
Boise	57	48	Rain	Duluth	59	47	PCldy	Juneau	47	39	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	83	63	Clr	Salt Lake City	54	43	Cldy	Wichita	76	57	Clr
Boston	79	58	Cldy	El Paso	90	62	Clr	Kansas City	74	59	Clr	North Platte	67	40	PCldy	San Angelo	94	66	Clr	Wichita Falls	86	65	Clr
Bridgeport	79	61	Clr	Elkins	81	56	Clr	Key West	85	78	PCldy	Oklahoma City	82	64	Clr	San Antonio	91	70	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	83	60	Clr
Brownsville	93	74	PCldy	Erie	79	67	Clr	Knoxville	86	61	Clr	Omaha	70	53	Clr	San Diego	74	61	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	83	61	Clr
Buffalo	79	66	Clr	Eugene	59	50	Rain	Lake Charles	87	70	PCldy	Orlando	86	68	PCldy	San Francisco	70	55	PCldy	Yakima	62	42	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	78	56	Cldy	Evansville	87	68	PCldy	Lansing	75	66	PCldy	Paducah	89	68	Clr	San Jose	69	52	PCldy	Youngstown	82	65	PCldy
Caribou, Maine	50	35	Rain	Fairbanks	33	13	Snow	Las Vegas	83	62	Clr	Pendleton	59	44	Cldy	Santa Fe	76	42	Clr				
Casper	55	33	PCldy	Fargo	59	44	Cldy	Lexington	86	65	Clr	Peoria	78	66	Clr	St Ste Marie	62	56	Cldy				
Charleston, S.C.	83	62	Clr	Flagstaff	69	37	Clr	Lincoln	70	50	Clr	Philadelphia	84	64	Clr	Savannah	83	63	Clr				
Charleston, W.Va.	87	61	Clr	Flint	75	68	Cldy	Little Rock	89	69	Clr	Phoenix	91	66	Clr	Seattle	58	49	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	83	60	Clr	Fort Smith	89	69	PCldy	Los Angeles	81	60	Clr	Pittsburgh	81	62	Clr	Shreveport	89	68	PCldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sun., 102, Perryton, Texas
Lo: Sun., 25, Berlin, N.H.

SHIFTING GEARS

Ride of his life

92-year-old collector celebrates 50 years with his Mustang

By David Whiting
The Orange County (Calif.) Register

LAKE FOREST, Calif. — The garage door flips up at Virgil Pletcher's house and it's time to get down with one of the coolest cars ever made.

Two clues about this honey of a machine: Wilson Pickett recorded what song in what year about a man who buys a car for his girlfriend?

OK, one more hint: That girl's name was Sally.

That's right, I'm looking at a half-century-old Mustang that is almost exactly like it was the day Pletcher and his wife drove from Southern California to Michigan to buy it hot off the assembly line.

I open the maroon door, settle into the black bucket seat, shift the four-on-the-floor stick into neutral, turn the ignition key and squash the gas pedal.

"Oh, Lord," as Pickett sings, "what I say now."

Plowboy at heart

Pletcher, 92, is nearly twice as old as his favorite car. He has several. But don't think Pletcher has a fancy garage. Far from it. Though he has a few classic cars, including a 1965 VW Beetle in need of tender love, Pletcher stays close to his roots.

Pletcher grew up on an Indiana farm. By age 7, he fed chickens, gathered eggs and milked cows by hand. By age 11, he hitched up the family's four horses and maneuvered a monster mower to cut hay in the back swath of the 118-acre farm.

"I'm an Indiana plowboy," Pletcher said during a visit at his Lake Forest home.

It was in high school when Pletcher discovered his first love — cars.

Pletcher went from a one-room schoolhouse to a regular high school — graduating class 50 — but there were no buses to ferry students. Sixteen years old and armed with a driver's license, Pletcher asked his father if he could borrow the family's 1935 Ford flathead V-8 to bus kids to school.

Oh, the job paid $1 per student per week. Before long Pletcher was making $9 a week.

Yes, the school was just fine squeezing nine teenagers into a car, stacking kids on one another's laps. And, yes, times have changed.

When World War II broke out, Pletcher and his brother received farm deferments. But by 1944, the deferments expired and Pletcher found himself at the draft office. The clerk asked what military branch he wanted. Army, the plowboy said, anything but the Navy because he didn't know how to swim.

He was handed a document stamped with a big "N." Soon, three months of Navy boot camp were squeezed into five weeks and Pletcher found himself on a train to San Francisco.

Next stop: Guadalcanal.

"I've lived in two worlds," Pletcher said. "The farm before I was drafted, and everything after."

California-bound

Pletcher spent his tour in the Navy working as a clerk and bouncing around various Pacific islands. Eventually, he wound up at the "Lighter-Than-Air Station," as it was known then; today it's known as the Tustin blimp base.

But what really interested him was roller skating, a mighty big pastime in the 1940s. And — not incidentally — a mighty fine way to meet mighty fine girls.

Pletcher hitched up his courage and made his way to the local roller rink. The rink is long gone, but the Navy veteran has no trouble remembering the building or recalling the months he courted his future wife, Marcheta Teter.

Eventually, Mrs. and Mr. Teter invited the young sailor over for dinner, a landmark event.

But after Pletcher was discharged, he felt duty-bound to head back to the farm to help with the heavy lifting. Soon, though, it was clear there were enough Pletchers to work the land.

The young man borrowed his brother's Pontiac and drove straight to Santa Ana.

Pletcher found a job mixing and maintaining wet plaster. It was a job he held for 42 years. The couple married and bought a home. Three daughters followed, and today all are married and remain in Orange County.

Pletcher and his wife shared a passion for singing, he as a baritone in barbershop quartets and she as a Sweet Adeline.

All the while, Pletcher remained a car guy at heart.

He bought a Studebaker Champion nearly straight from the factory in South Bend, Ind. It cost him $1,500, and he figures the Studebaker worker he got it from paid half that.

After arriving in California, Pletcher and his wife cruised in a 1949 Ford convertible.

Later, Pletcher bought a 1954 Studebaker for its sloped racing hood.

But when the 1966 Ford Mustang came out, well, as Pickett sings, "H'uh, oh, yeah."

Mustang Pletcher

As luck would have it, Pletcher's brother knew a car dealer in Dowagiac, Mich., that offered rock-bottom prices.

More luck: Pletcher's brother was a trucker for a company that shipped cars. That allowed him to haul his Pontiac to California so Pletcher and his wife could drive east.

Photos by Cindy Yamanaka, Orange County (Calif.) Register/TNS

Above: Virgil Pletcher, 92, says he used to be four inches taller, but it doesn't make any difference when he's in his 1966 Mustang. Top: Pletcher zips along in his Lake Forest, Calif., neighborhood occasionally in his Mustang, which is in pristine shape, with original parts and paint.

That suited Pletcher. After all, he was the kind of man who understood the value of a dollar. Likewise, he had no need for power steering, power brakes or air conditioning.

But on the way back to California, his wife sweated in the humid, 100-degree Nebraska heat. Nearly faint, she asked to turn on the air conditioner.

Pletcher explained there was no A/C. It just clutters up the engine compartment, he said, and hurts performance.

His wife didn't buy it.

"Oh," Pletcher remembers, "she was all steamed up."

Still, both husband and wife loved the Mustang so much they drove it at least four times to visit relatives in Indiana.

Later, Pletcher spotted a 1984 Camaro Z28. He couldn't resist.

Let's just say — hypothetically, of course — that husband and wife decided on a little race. Husband climbed in the Mustang. Wife climbed in the Camaro. For a few seconds, it was a dead heat.

But, gradually, the Mustang, with its 289 cubic-inch V-8 engine packing 225 horses, pulled ahead.

"From the very start," Pletcher said of the model, "the Mustang was a winner."

Today, the Camaro is gone. But the Mustang, original parts intact and chrome gleaming, still hums — just as it has for 50 years.

Although Pletcher's wife has been hit by age, her husband remains nimble and drives a minivan to barbershop quartet practices.

But every once in awhile, the plowboy slides into the maroon cocoon, turns the key, punches the clutch and the engine comes to life with a rumble and a roar.

"Ride, Sally, ride."

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School apologizes for 'Hitler' football play

CT GREENWICH — The headmaster of a Connecticut high school has apologized after its football team named one of its plays "Hitler."

Chris Winters, of Greenwich High School, issued the apology Friday. He called the designation offensive and said the practice has been stopped.

A Trumbull mother told the Connecticut Post her son's freshman football team was playing Greenwich on Thursday when the players charged onto the field shouting, "Hitler!" Debbie Levison said the signal for the play was an index finger laid across the upper lip.

The football team and coaches met with the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League to make sure they understand why it was offensive. The group's executive director told the newspaper he did not see intent to intimidate or anti-Semitism.

Workers refuse to return after I-65 death

IN HOBART — A union spokesman said highway workers are refusing to return to an Interstate 65 construction zone unless a buffer is added after the death of a fellow worker Wednesday.

The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported that the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the death of Brandon Beau Dewayne Fiscus, 35, of LaPorte at the construction site after a motorist lost control and struck him as he worked along I-65.

Ed Maher, of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 150, said other workers for E&B Paving of Anderson have refused to return to work. Indiana Department of Transportation spokesman Matthew Deitchley said the agency and contractor decided to halt work through the weekend in memory of Fiscus.

Judge rebukes state's top election official

FL ORLANDO — A federal judge on Saturday issued a scathing rebuke to Florida's top election official in an order cancelling a hearing on a lawsuit over vote-by-mail ballots.

U.S. District Judge Mark Walker accused Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner of delaying a hearing on the lawsuit "so that he could use every second available to run out the clock" so there wouldn't be enough time to address problems raised in the lawsuit. The judge also said Detzner's actions amounted to an "undeclared war' on the right to vote in Florida, the largest swing state in the presidential election.

The judge in Tallahassee, Florida said he will make a decision on the lawsuit without a hearing that had been set for Monday.

A spokeswoman for the Secretary of State's Office, Meredith Beatrice, said in an email that her office wasn't the right defendant in the lawsuit since canvassing of mail-in ballots is done by county canvassing boards.

THE CENSUS

27.3

The weight in pounds of a cabbage plant raised by an Alabama third-grader who was honored by the state's agriculture department. Simon Roberts was named the state winner of the National Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program, and he received a $1,000 savings bond toward education from Bonnie Plants. There were 37,423 Alabama third-graders who participated in the program, according to the Green Earth Media Group.

JEFF TAYLOR, THE WINCHESTER (VA.) STAR/AP

Beer stein staredown

David Kovak, of Berryville, Va., participates in the Beer Stein Holding Contest, part of the OctoBeer Fest in downtown Winchester, Va. Contestants were challenged with seeing who could hold their heavy, water-filled beer stein straight-armed without lowering their arm for the longest amount of time.

Police: Attack might have been recorded

NJ NEWARK — Newark police are seeking a man who is suspected of beating a woman and firing shots at a group of men who apparently captured the attack on video.

Bail was set at $100,000 for Akim Fairley, 26. He is charged with aggravated assault and two weapons offenses stemming from the incidents Friday.

Witnesses say Fairley was repeatedly punching a woman when he saw the men in a parked car and noticed they apparently were recording the assault with their cellphones. Fairley allegedly fired some shots at the men, who quickly drove away.

Authorities were asking the men to contact them as part of the ongoing investigation.

Memo: Inmate moved for writing to newspaper

MS GREENWOOD — A Department of Corrections memo shows an inmate was transferred to a separate unit inside the Mississippi State Penitentiary at Parchman for writing a newspaper letter that criticized Corrections Commissioner Marshall Fisher.

The Greenwood Commonwealth reported that it published a letter Sept. 27 from Tim Turner, 52, who's serving a 20-year sentence for a 2012 drug conviction in Itawamba County. Turner's letter said Fisher excessively uses lockdowns and revokes inmates' privileges to try to curb violence and contraband.

The newspaper obtained a memo showing Turner was transferred inside the prison Sept. 30. The memo, signed by Parchman Superintendent Earnest Lee, cited Turner for writing the letter and said he violated a rule banning "unauthorized communication with any member of the public, staff or between inmates."

City: Old template led to threatening tickets

IA CEDAR RAPIDS — The city of Cedar Rapids says staff error led to thousands of wrongly worded traffic-camera speeding tickets being sent to drivers.

Cedar Rapids television station KCRG reported that 4,800 of the tickets include language that threatens the recipient's credit score if the fine isn't paid on time. The city said a staff member accidentally used an old template.

The Iowa Attorney General's Office reached out to the city after it received complaints from people who received the citations from Cedar Rapids. The office says an agreement enacted last year prohibits traffic camera citations from being sent to collection agencies.

A Cedar Rapids representative said the error has been fixed.

Misconduct charge against deputy dropped

WA TACOMA — A deputy who was accused of agreeing not to arrest a woman in exchange for sex is no longer facing a felony charge.

The News Tribune reported Deputy Joey Tracey, 35, pleaded not guilty earlier this year to first-degree custodial sexual misconduct and official misconduct.

John Sheeran, of the Pierce County prosecutors' office, said evidence did not prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Tracey had sex with the woman while she was detained. The sexual misconduct charged was dropped Oct. 4.

Defense attorney Brad Merryhew said he gave prosecutors text message conversations between the woman and the deputy that called into question who initiated the contact and whether it was consensual.

40 head of cattle killed by battery in feed

IA ALVORD — Officials in the northwestern corner of Iowa said about 40 head of cattle died after eating from a feed wagon that contained a ground-up battery.

The Lyon County Sheriff's Department is investigating the incident at the Alvord farm.

Farmer Joel Moser said about 100 head of cattle have been affected by the tainted feed. He said that about 40 had died.

Sheriff Stewart Vander Stoep said investigators are trying to determine whether the incident was accidental or foul play.

Drunken man accused of assault at hospital

LA BATON ROUGE — Authorities said a drunken Mandeville man who was taken from the Louisiana State University football game in an ambulance assaulted three emergency room workers.

Multiple media outlets reported that Michael Curry, 20, was arrested Saturday on charges of battery of emergency room personnel after being brought from LSU's game against Southern Miss to Our Lady of the Lake Hospital in Baton Rouge.

Investigators said Curry hit one employee in the head repeatedly with his fists after she asked him for a urine sample. Another worker said Curry pushed her when she tried to intervene, and a third employee said she was kicked and punched in the ambulance.

From wire reports

FACES

LAURA ROBERTS, INVISION/AP

Artists Charlie Daniels (from left), Duane Allen, Charley Pride, Joe Bonsall, Randy Travis, William Lee Golden and Richard Sterban sing "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" Sunday at the Country Music Hall of Fame medallion ceremony at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in Nashville.

Travis brings Country Music Hall of Fame crowd to tears

By KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Country singer Randy Travis found his distinctive voice three years after a life-threatening stroke and sang "Amazing Grace" during his induction Sunday into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

The Grammy-winning baritone singer battled back from the stroke in 2013 to sing again during the medallion ceremony in Nashville. He was inducted along with fiddler Charlie Daniels and record producer Fred Foster.

Fellow artists including Kris Kristofferson, Dolly Parton, Alan Jackson, Brad Paisley, Garth Brooks and more honored the three inductees with musical tributes.

But it was Travis' singing that brought a stunned silence and tears to the crowd after years of rehabilitation and therapy to regain his voice.

Mary Davis-Travis, his wife, spoke about the numerous procedures and surgeries to save his life and a six-month stay in the hospital after a viral infection caused his stroke.

"Randy stared death in the face, but death blinked," Davis-Travis said. "Today, God's proof of a miracle stands before you."

The 57-year-old singer was honored for being the first country artist whose debut album "Storms of Life" went platinum in its first year and he ushered in a wave of neo-traditional singers like Alan Jackson, Clint Black and Brooks in the 1990s.

Jackson, who performed "On the Other Hand," talked about going out on tour with Travis in the early '90s and compared him to Elvis.

"When he sang, the women were screaming and fainting, and it was crazy," Jackson said. "I loved it. Someone singing real country music and having that effect and selling all those records, it just made me so happy."

Daniels, the fiddler player behind the hit song "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," was honored for his multi-genre style blending Southern rock, bluegrass, gospel and country music.

"A plaque on this wall is not just another award or accolade," Daniels said. "It's a page in a history book. An unending history book."

Foster, 85, ran the influential Monument Records, which helped launch the careers of Roy Orbison and Willie Nelson as well as Parton and Kristofferson.

London Film Festival honors 'Certain Women,' McQueen

Associated Press

Writer-director Kelly Reichardt's spare and subtle Montana drama "Certain Women" has won the best-picture prize at the London Film Festival, while "12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen received a major career award.

McQueen

McQueen, a filmmaker and Turner Prize-winning video artist, was presented with the British Film Institute Fellowship — the organization's highest honor — by Michael Fassbender on Sept. 15. The Irish actor has appeared in all three of the director's feature films — "Hunger," "Shame" and "12 Years a Slave."

Fassbender called McQueen, whose movies have tackled subjects including starvation, addiction and slavery, "a rarity — both a sensitive and a dangerous man."

McQueen, 47, said "there's only two things I'm sure about: One, I'm black ... Two, I'm a Londoner."

"Certain Women" beat other nominees including Paul Verhoeven's provocative revenge thriller "Elle;" Barry Jenkins' Miami coming-of-age drama "Moonlight;" and Chilean director Pablo Larrain's poet biopic "Neruda."

French director Julia Ducournau's horror story "Raw" was named best first feature.

Iranian director Mehrdad Oskouei's portrait of teenage inmates, "Starless Dreams," was named best documentary, and Syrian photographer Issa Touma's unflinching "9 Days — From My Window in Aleppo" won the short-film prize.

The 12-day festival screened some 250 documentary and fiction features across London.

Trump says his 'SNL' spoof is a 'hit job,' calls for end of show

The Washington Post

Donald Trump has generally had a pretty good sense of humor about how "Saturday Night Live" has portrayed him, even when it has been hugely unflattering. He didn't even have much to say when SNL called his supporters racist multiple times on the same show, for example.

But no more. After this weekend's show, SNL is now part of the media conspiracy trying to rig this election, according to Trump. He tweeted on Sunday morning, "Watched Saturday Night Live hit job on me. Time to retire the boring and unfunny show. Alec Baldwin portrayal stinks. Media rigging election!"

So what happened?

During SNL's cold-open sketch about the presidential town hall debate, Alec Baldwin, playing Trump, is asked about whether he likes kids. He replies: "I love the kids, OK? I love them so much I marry them."

After it's pointed out that Trump has said Bill Clinton's accusers should be believed, Baldwin-as-Trump says of his own accusers: "They need to shut the hell up."

And after stalking Clinton repeatedly during last week's town hall debate — something Trump denies he actually did — Baldwin-as-Trump is asked by a black man whether he can be a "devoted president to all the people." He responds by calling the man "Denzel" and launches into an answer about violence in the inner cities.

Affleck's 'The Accountant' tops box office with $24.7 million

Associated Press

Ben Affleck is still a box office draw outside of the bat suit.

His new thriller "The Accountant" opened to a chart-topping $24.7 million this weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. Gavin O'Connor directed the R-rated thriller, starring Affleck as an autistic mathematician. The film didn't play especially well with critics, but audiences gave it a promising "A" CinemaScore.

It's the continuation of what proves to be a long and fruitful partnership between Affleck and Warner Bros. Although "The Accountant," which cost a reported $40 million to produce, didn't quite hit the heights of "Gone Girl's" $37.5 million opening, it is in the range of some of his other R-rated fall openings with the studio. "Argo," for instance, launched to $19.5 million in 2012, and "The Town," took in $23.8 million in 2010.

"The Accountant" also far surpassed Warner Bros.' early predictions for the film, which had it in the $15 to $20 million range.

"We're in the Ben Affleck business, and we're proud of it. We've had a lot of movies with him, and we have a lot of movies coming up with him," said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. president of domestic distribution. "Audiences just love him."

The weekend's other new star-driven project, "Kevin Hart: What Now?" narrowly took second place over last week's champ "The Girl on the Train." The Kevin Hart concert film took in $11.98 million.

In third place, "The Girl on the Train" netted $11.975 million, bringing its domestic total to $46.6 million.

Holdovers "Miss Peregrine's Home For Peculiar Children" and "Deepwater Horizon" rounded out the top five with $8.9 million and $6.4 million, respectively.

The weekend's other new opener, the Mattel-inspired "Max Steel," bombed with $2.2 million. The film, starring Ben Winchell, currently has a zero percent rating on Rottentomatoes.com.

Posthumous book by Nobel laureate Shimon Peres coming

A book about Israel's character and the "turning points" in its history that Nobel laureate Shimon Peres completed just weeks before he died will come out next spring.

The HarperCollins imprint Custom House told The Associated Press on Monday that Peres' "No Room for Small Dreams" will be published April 4. The book by the former prime minister had been planned since 2014 and was completed earlier this year. Peres, whose previous books included the memoir "Battling for Peace," died last month at age 93.

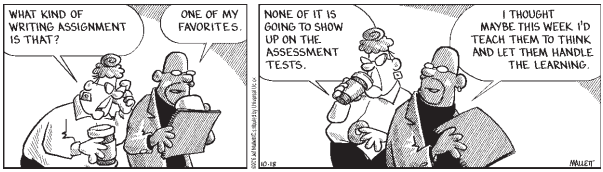
According to Custom House, Peres will reflect on everything from war to Israel's high-tech industry and will touch on his role in some of the country's most crucial decisions. He also will address younger generations and their "obligations and opportunities."

Other news

■ **Toni Braxton** says she has been released from a Cleveland hospital after being admitted for complications with her battle against lupus for the second time in a month. The hospitalization forced her scheduled Oct. 15 show in Cleveland to be cancelled. In announcing the hospitalization, a message on the singer's Twitter account said, "Lupus needs to be constantly monitored and this minor setback should not affect the rest of her tour." Braxton announced that she was out of the hospital Sunday.

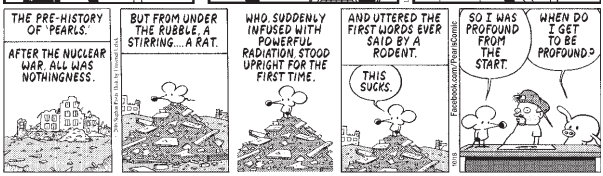
■ Media reports say an intruder outside the mansion of supermodel **Miranda Kerr** has been shot by a security guard, and Kerr wasn't home at the time. A Los Angeles Sheriff's Department spokesman said that an intruder at a Malibu residence Oct. 14 was shot three times after he stabbed a security guard. Sgt. Jeff Delrio said both men were taken to a hospital. He said they are expected to be OK.

Frazz

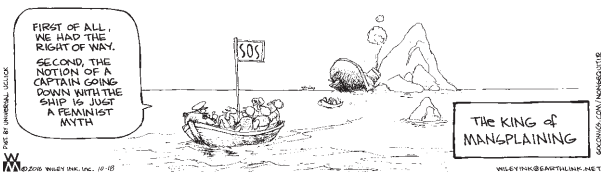


Dilbert

Pearls Before Swine

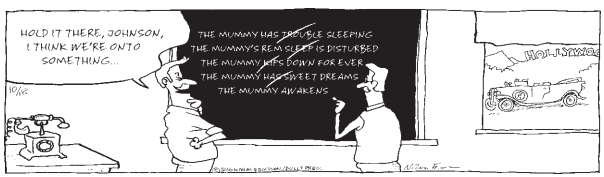


Non Sequitur

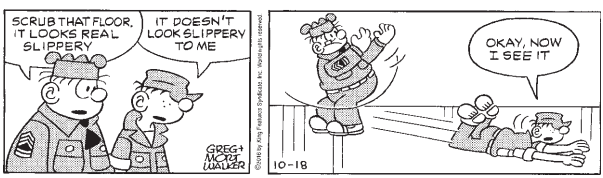


Candorville

Carpe Diem

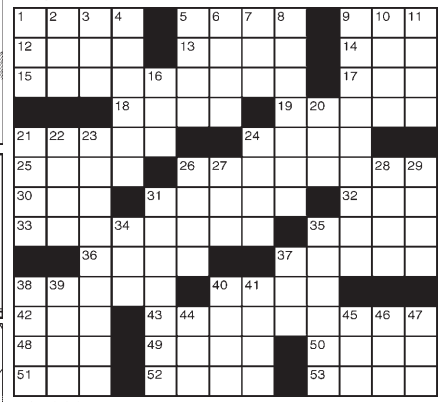


Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Obama predecessor
5 Drudge
9 Light brown
12 Birthright barterer
13 Gumbo need
14 Mineral suffix
15 Notting Hill residents
17 Greek vowel
18 Iditarod team
19 Pop singer Paula
21 Song of praise
24 Sax range
25 Hayseed
26 Meal in a container
30 "— Little Teapot"
31 Lucre
32 TV Tarzan Ron
33 Venetian vessels
35 Cartoon vamp Betty
36 Grime
37 Sonata movement
38 Below-the-abdomen area
40 Denny's rival
42 Charged bit
43 Jakarta's land
48 Reuben bread
49 Yuletide tune
50 Franc replacer
51 Leary's drug
52 Pesky insect
53 High point

DOWN

1 — canto
2 GI entertainers
3 — Diego
4 Football conference?
5 Vintage video game
6 Stretches (out)
7 Hockey's Bobby
8 With a twang
9 Got drunk
10 Aleutian island
11 "Hud" Oscar winner
16 — -pah band
20 A/C stat
21 Bluenose
22 Wrestling style
23 Stranded
24 Chopping tools
26 Piece of hardware
27 Stop — dime
28 Oaf
29 Syringe, for short
31 Before noon
34 Cato's 502
35 Shepherd of rhyme
37 Director Howard
38 Lass
39 Rogers and Orbison
40 Notion
41 NBC news anchor Lester
44 "Smoking or —?"
45 Take to court
46 Nest egg acronym
47 Fine, to NASA

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	H	E	M		R	E	O		P	L	E	D
P	A	V	I	L	I	O	N		A	U	T	O
P	H	A	S	E	O	N	E		G	L	A	D
			T	N	T		A	P	O	L	L	O
C	A	M	E	O		C	L	A	D			
A	P	E	R		P	H	A	L	A	N	X	
D	O	S		S	E	A	R	S		O	R	E
	P	H	A	N	T	O	M		A	L	A	N
			B	E	E	S		L	L	O	Y	D
N	E	A	R	E	R		L	I	U			
E	R	G	O		P	H	A	R	M	A	C	Y
A	S	I	A		A	B	S	E	N	T	E	E
T	E	N	D		N	O	S		I	O	L	A

10-18 CRYPTOQUIP

A I S Q S C S M R Z Q S X D H H S Q F R X W E M W S H W Z E C Z O H E J S M W E O Q X D Y S M X W E M C Z J E F O X W, A E X X I S Y E M O E I J E M S R?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TERRITORIAL DIVISION OF ENGLAND THAT'S NAMED AFTER A HIGHLY PROMINENT VAMPIRE: COUNTY DRACULA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

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OPINION

Encourage women who are a fit for combat

By John Spencer
Special to the Los Angeles Times

In December, the Pentagon finally opened all combat jobs to women. Since then only 180 have signed up for the two branches that previously were off-limits — infantry and armor. To illustrate how few that is, the Army's active-duty infantry is made up of more than 60,000 soldiers. The number of female troops volunteering for the newly opened "close-combat" jobs is a pittance.

The Army's highest-ranking noncommissioned officer recently sent an email to every soldier in the ranks, asking women to step up, but a single email won't do it.

We can't merely open the door to women; we need to help them walk through it with recruitment campaigns to encourage the most qualified to apply, specific messages that explain why they are needed on the battlefield, and special programs to help them prepare physically. Female mentors are important, but experience and common sense indicate that male soldiers and senior leaders have to engage women, face to face, if the military is going to be fully integrated.

Of course, women have served with men on the battlefield for a long time. Many have fought bravely in Iraq and Afghanistan. But until the Pentagon's policy change, female troops didn't have the opportunity to be trained, equipped and deployed specifically to fight alongside men in units designed to engage in front-line close combat.

In 2010, women were offered the chance to be "attached" to the elite special operations forces, in support roles. Special forces commanders decided they needed women to work with their units in Afghanistan because cultural and religious sensitivities prohibit male troops from questioning, searching or even interacting with half the population — Afghan women.

Stories of how active-duty female soldiers learned about the special forces "Cultural Support Teams" are detailed in the book "Ashley's War." Recruiters were assigned to seek out the best-qualified women. Fliers were plastered on the walls of gyms and malls at all the major bases. Emailed notices invited female troops to be "a part of history," to "join the elite special forces." More telling, many who signed up were specifically persuaded by male superiors, family members and friends who recognized their abilities and urged them to apply.

Last year, three female officers made headlines when they successfully completed a "gender integrated assessment" in the Army's most rigorous combat leadership course, Ranger School. (All male officers joining the infantry must attend the course; fewer than half pass.) One of the graduates, Maj. Lisa Jaster, told interviewers that she hadn't even considered enrolling in the course until her husband and her (male) command sergeant major insisted she try.

All close-combat units have high entry standards. Infantry troops have to be able to carry heavy weights on their backs over long distances. The physical and mental demands of close combat are extreme. The job is not for the average soldier. A yearlong Marine Corps study found that all-male infantry units were faster, more lethal and able to evacuate wounded soldiers in less time than mixed-gender test groups. Simply put, the study found that the average man was stronger than the average woman.

My experience training women confirms this, and what I tell them about the infantry is that average women shouldn't apply, but the above average should — those who are strong physically and mentally and who want to lead infantry soldiers in combat. Because it's crucial to maintain the same physical standards for men and women in close-combat assignments, the military should establish long-term physical training programs to help women develop the abilities to meet those requirements.

A "We Want You" campaign directed at women isn't merely a frivolous, politically correct exercise. The United States is fighting in cultural settings far different from our own. Having female troops in every combat role is crucial for intelligence gathering and interacting with local populations. Besides, men haven't cornered the market in decision-making under stress. The complexities and chaos of combat environments demand diversity of thought, skills and capabilities.

The military must identify the best female candidates in high schools, colleges and military academies, sell them on the importance of their presence in the newly opened combat roles and get them proper training. Military men — husbands, bosses, coaches and friends — can help on all those counts.

If men don't step up, we risk that so few women will apply for close-combat jobs that their value will be little felt on the battlefield, or worse, that the women who are accepted will only just make the cut. That could confirm the biases of those who think that women never should have been on the battlefield in the first place.

Army Maj. John Spencer is an infantry soldier with 23 years' experience, including two combat tours. He is a scholar with the Modern War Institute at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Rushing to reclaim Raqqa has its own risks

By Josh Rogin
The Washington Post

The crucial phase in the war against the Islamic State group is imminent; the battle to liberate the Iraqi city of Mosul has begun. That has military planners speeding up preparations for the corresponding operation into Raqqa, the Syrian capital of the terrorist group's self-proclaimed caliphate. But in the rush to rob the Islamic State of territory, scant attention is being paid to what happens the day after the city falls.

Inside the Obama administration, there is concern in some quarters that the military planning for retaking Raqqa is outpacing the planning needed to make sure that the city does not descend into new chaos or follow-on conflict once liberated. There's no agreed-upon governance plan, no comprehensive humanitarian response and no consensus on who will provide security for the area once the terrorists are ousted, administration officials told me.

No one thinks the mostly Kurdish force, known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, preparing to move on Raqqa could occupy the Arab city peacefully. Sunni Arab rebel groups are already stretched thin throughout Syria's vast northeast. Turkish forces inside Syria complicate the picture even more. The battle itself promises to be long and bloody. Unlike in Iraq, there's no host government to cooperate with and the scarce U.S. special forces in Syria can't go near the actual fighting.

Nevertheless, many top officials believe that the need to begin the Raqqa operation outweighs the weaknesses in the plan and the risks inherent in not knowing what happens next. For one thing, some officials argue, the Islamic State group may right now be preparing terrorist attacks against the West inside the city.

"There's an imperative to start moving on Raqqa," said one senior administration official, who requested anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. "We need to get after these guys, because if we don't they are going to hit us and our partners in a fairly dramatic way."

The operation will be conducted in two parts: an isolation phase of an undetermined length followed by an attack phase. The operation is not imminent, officials said, but ideally it should follow the Mosul operation closely so terrorist leaders can't just escape from Iraq to Syria.

Preparations are already well underway. The U.S. military is arming and training SDF units and recruiting Arab rebels willing to participate. The administration is considering direct arming of the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, militia for the operation, over Turkey's objections. Officials know there are limits to what Kurdish troops should be allowed to do.

"We're not going to have the YPG go in and hold Raqqa. We are actively recruiting an Arab force, and we'll have as many Arabs as possible," the senior administration official said. "If you want to build another force to do it, Daesh will be in Raqqa another two years. You've got to work with what you've got." (Daesh is an Arabic language acronym for the Islamic State group.)

Not all administration officials agree that Raqqa should be liberated as soon as possible. Some advocate slowing the preparations and waiting for more pieces to fall into place. Recent victories over the Islamic State group in the nearby Manbij pocket in Syria are still fresh and fragile. Tensions are high between the Turkish and Kurdish forces eyeing each other there. Arab rebel groups have inflicted heavy losses but also have taken them.

"Inside the administration, there are those who would advocate taking their time, having a more competent stabilization force and developing a plan for the day after," said Charles Lister, a senior fellow at the Middle East Institute. He said rushing too fast into Raqqa is "setting us up for a disaster."

There must be a clear understanding of how long SDF forces will stay inside Raqqa and who will displace them when they leave, he said. And all of the anti-Islamic State group forces have to find a way to temporarily set their differences aside.

"We need to hold back on Raqqa and make sure this whole Turkish-Kurdish-opposition-SDF conflict finds some kind of detente. More than a halt in fighting, there needs to be some sort of agreement here," said Lister. "The implications of getting this wrong could be huge."

The intra-administration debate over the Raqqa operation is part and parcel of the overall split between those who want to prioritize the fight against the Islamic State group above all else and those who believe the Islamic State can only be truly defeated as part of a holistic solution for Syria. If history is any guide, the counter-terrorism-focused folks will win the day.

Winning the battles against the terrorists is the easy part. Stabilizing places like Raqqa is the real challenge. Sometimes that necessitates taking our time.

Josh Rogin is a columnist for the Global Opinions section of The Washington Post. He writes about foreign policy and national security.

Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

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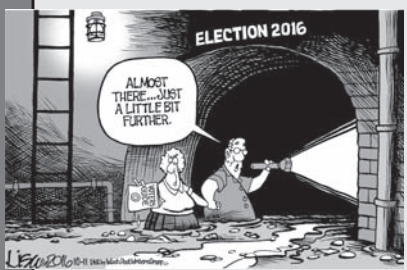

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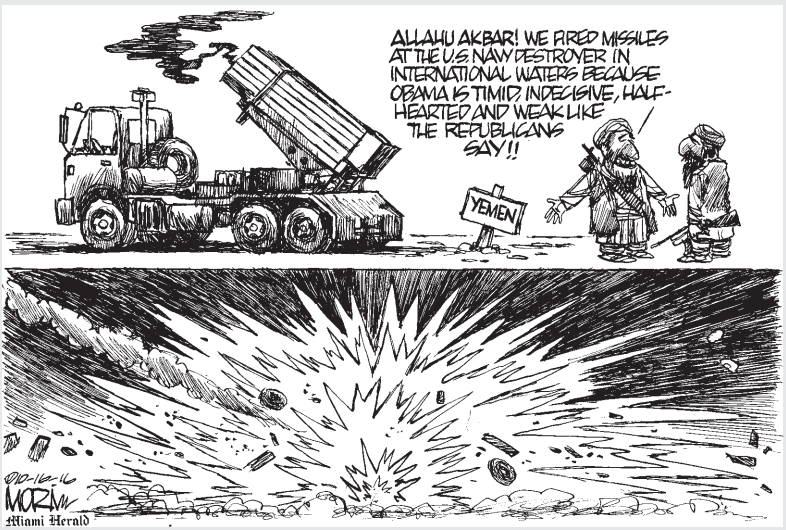

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Automotive 140

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MERCEDES, GLK 350, 2014 $33000.00 Exterior Color: White Interior Color: Sahara Beige MB-Tex! Mocha 21,500 miles, Sunroof con roof, Navigation System, Alloy Wheels, Bluetooth, Backup Camera, Premium Package, 3.5 liter V6 DOHC engine, 302 hp horsepower, 4 Doors, 4-wheel ABS brakes, 8-way power adjustable drivers seat, Air conditioning with dual zone climate control, Audio controls on steering wheel, Automatic Transmission, Bluetooth, and much more. Rastaluvy**yahoo 0172-257-8604**

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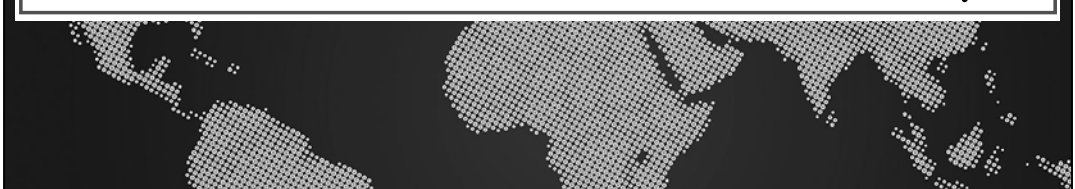

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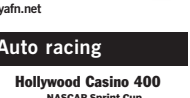

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Auto racing

Hollywood Casino 400

NASCAR Sprint Cup
Sunday
At Kansas Speedway
Kansas City, Kan.
Lap length: 1.500 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (11) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 267 laps, 137.4 rating, 44 points.
2. (3) Carl Edwards, Toyota, 267, 127.7, 40.
3. (6) Joey Logano, Ford, 267, 115.8, 39.
4. (21) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 267, 112.6, 37.
5. (2) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 267, 104.4, 36.
6. (12) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 267, 96.7, 36.
7. (5) Alex Bowman, Chevrolet, 267, 94.0, 0.
8. (10) AJ Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 267, 92.6, 33.
9. (1) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 267, 119.8, 34.
10. (20) Kasey Kahne, Chevrolet, 267, 84.0, 31.
11. (4) Martin Truex Jr, Toyota, 267, 97.8, 30.
12. (9) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 267, 79.3, 29.
13. (15) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 267, 72.8, 29.
14. (17) Ryan Blaney, Ford, 267, 76.5, 27.
15. (7) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 267, 84.5, 27.
16. (14) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 267, 80.7, 25.
17. (25) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 267, 67.9, 24.
18. (19) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 267, 65.0, 23.
19. (18) Ricky Stenhouse Jr, Ford, 267, 59.8, 22.
20. (16) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 267, 69.2, 21.
21. (30) Chris Buescher, Ford, 267, 59.9, 20.
22. (33) Michael McDowell, Chevrolet, 267, 53.7, 19.
23. (29) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 267, 56.9, 19.
24. (27) Matt DiBenedetto, Toyota, 267, 47.7, 17.
25. (22) Greg Biffle, Ford, 266, 56.3, 16.
26. (31) Clint Bowyer, Chevrolet, 266, 47.4, 15.
27. (34) Landon Cassill, Ford, 266, 41.6, 14.
28. (32) Brian Scott, Ford, 265, 43.7, 13.
29. (26) Regan Smith, Chevrolet, 265, 47.5, 12.
30. (24) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 265, 67.6, 11.
31. (13) Chase Elliott, Chevrolet, 264, 88.4, 11.
32. (37) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 264, 35.9, 9.
33. (36) Cole Whitt, Chevrolet, 262, 32.6, 8.
34. (39) Reed Sorenson, Ford, 261, 29.5, 7.
35. (38) Joey Gase, Ford, 260, 28.8, 0.
36. (28) David Ragan, Toyota, 258, 33.5, 5.
37. (23) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 233, 46.7, 4.
38. (8) Brad Keselowski, Ford, accident, 190, 66.9, 4.
39. (40) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, accident, 108, 23.9, 2.
40. (35) Aric Almirola, Ford, accident, 36, 28.0, 1.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 133.155 mph.
Time of Race: 3 hours, 0 minutes, 28 seconds.
Margin of Victory: 1.183 seconds.
Caution Flags: 8 for 38 laps.
Lead Changes: 16 among 10 drivers.
Lap Leaders: M.Kenseth 1-27; Ku.Busch 28; M.Kenseth 29-86; J.Logano 87; B.Keselowski 88; D.Hamlin 89; C.Mears 90-94; M.Kenseth 95-125; K.Harvick 126-168; C.Elliott 169-172; C.Edwards 173; J.Logano 174; C.Edwards 175-221; K.Harvick 222; A.Dillon 223-224; C.Edwards 225-237; K.Harvick 238-267.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): M.Kenseth, 3 times for 113 laps; K.Harvick, 3 times for 71 laps; C.Edwards, 3 times for 58 laps; C.Mears, 1 time for 4 laps; C.Elliott, 1 time for 3 laps; A.Dillon, 1 time for 1 lap; J.Logano, 2 times for 0 laps; Ku.Busch, 1 time for 0 laps; D.Hamlin, 1 time for 0 laps; B.Keselowski, 1 time for 0 laps.

Wins: Ky.Busch, 4; B.Keselowski, 4; M.Truex, 4; D.Hamlin, 3; K.Harvick, 3; J.Johnson, 3; C.Edwards, 2; M.Kenseth, 2; C.Buescher, 1; Ku.Busch, 1; K.Larson, 1; J.Logano, 1; T.Stewart, 1.

Top 16 in Points: J. Johnson - 3,082; M. Kenseth - 3,074; Kyle Busch - 3,072; C. Edwards - 3,069; Kurt Busch - 3,062; M. Truex Jr. - 3,058; K. Harvick - 3,048; J. Logano - 3,045; A. Dillon - 3,045; D. Hamlin - 3,039; B. Keselowski - 3,038; C. Elliott - 3,020; T. Stewart - 2,131; K. Larson - 2,120; C. Buescher - 2,090; J. Mcmurray - 2,088.

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New York	15	9	9	54	59	44
New York city FC	14	10	9	51	58	56
Toronto FC	13	9	11	50	48	37
D.C. United	11	9	13	46	51	43
Montreal	11	10	12	45	49	50
Philadelphia	11	13	9	42	52	53
New England	10	10	9	39	41	54
Orlando City	8	11	14	38	51	58
Columbus	8	13	12	36	49	54
Chicago	7	16	10	31	40	55

Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	17	8	8	59	50	40
Colorado	15	6	12	57	38	31
Los Angeles	12	6	15	51	54	39
Real Salt Lake	12	11	10	46	43	44
Seattle	13	14	6	45	42	42
Sporting KC	12	13	8	44	40	41
Portland	12	13	8	44	47	49
San Jose	8	11	14	38	32	38
Vancouver	9	15	9	36	41	51
Houston	7	14	12	33	38	44

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's game
Houston 0, Seattle 0, tie
Thursday's games
Columbus 2, Chicago 2, tie
Colorado 2, San Jose 1
Sunday's games
Chicago 2, New England 1
D.C. United 3, New York City FC 1
New York 3, Columbus 2
Orlando City 2, Philadelphia 0
Toronto FC 2, Montreal 2, tie
FC Dallas 2, Seattle 1
Los Angeles 1, Houston 0
Portland 2, Colorado 1
Sporting Kansas City 0, Real Salt Lake 0, tie
Vancouver 0, San Jose 0, tie
Sunday, October 23
Chicago at Toronto FC
Columbus at New York City FC
D.C. United at Orlando City
FC Dallas at Los Angeles
Houston at Colorado
Montreal at New England
New York at Philadelphia
Portland at Vancouver
Real Salt Lake at Seattle
San Jose at Sporting Kansas City

Sunday
Real Salt Lake 0, Sporting KC 0

Kansas City	0	0—0
Real Salt Lake	0	0—0

Goalies—Kansas City, Tim Melia, Alec Kann; Real Salt Lake, Nick Rimando, Lalo Fernandez.

Yellow Cards—Mulholland, Real Salt Lake, 32nd; Glad, Real Salt Lake, 58th; Beckerman, Real Salt Lake, 84th.

Timbers 1, Rapids 0

Colorado	0	0—0
Portland	1	0—1

First half—1, Portland, Adi, 2 (penalty kick), 35th minute.

Goalies—Colorado, Tim Howard, Zac MacMath; Portland, Jake Gleeson, Chris Konopka.

Yellow Cards—Ridgewell, Portland, 21st; Calvert, Colorado, 26th; Williams, Colorado, 33rd; Burling, Colorado, 34th; Chara, Portland, 50th; Azira, Colorado, 79th; Doyle, Colorado, 89th; Watts, Colorado, 93rd; Andriuskevicius, Portland, 94th.

Fire 2, Revolution 1

New England	1	0—1
Chicago	1	1—2

First half—1, Chicago, De Leeuw, 10 (Vincent), 9th minute. 2, New England, Fagundez, 8, 43rd.

Second half—3, Chicago, Accam, 16 (Campbell), 80th.

Goalies—New England, Brad Knighton, Bobby Shuttleworth; Chicago, Sean Johnson, Patrick McLain.

Yellow Cards—Kamara, New England, 29th; Fabian, Chicago, 44th; Woodberry, New England, 51st; Polster, Chicago, 93rd.

Red Cards—Solignac, Chicago, 54th; Knighton, New England, 74th.

FC Dallas 2, Sounders 1

Seattle	1	0—1
Dallas	0	2—2

First half—1, Seattle, Lodeiro, 6, 41st minute.

Second half—2, Dallas, Urruti, 16, 79th. 3, Dallas, Ruiz, 0 (Diaz), 89th.

Goalies—Seattle, Stefan Frei, Tyler Miller; Dallas, Chris Seitz, Jesse Gonzalez.

Yellow Cards—Gruezo, Dallas, 40th; Urruti, Dallas, 47th; Mears, Seattle, 57th; Barrios, Dallas, 97th.

Galaxy 1, Dynamo 1

Los Angeles	0	1—1
Houston	0	0—0

Second half—1, Los Angeles, Gordon, 4, 72nd minute.

Goalies—Los Angeles, Brian Rowe, Dan Kennedy; Houston, Joe Willis, Calle Brown.

Whitecaps 0, Earthquakes 0

Vancouver	0	0—0
San Jose	0	0—0

Goalies—Vancouver, Paolo Tornaghi, David Ousted; San Jose, David Bingham, Andrew Tarbell.

Yellow Cards—Godoy, San Jose, 44th; Techera, Vancouver, 69th.

Orlando City 2, Union 0

Orlando	0	2—2
Philadelphia	0	0—0

Second half—1, Orlando, Rosenberry (own goal), 59th minute. 2, Orlando, Baptista, 8, 96th.

Goalies—Orlando, Joe Bendik, Earl Edwards Jr; Philadelphia, Andre Blake, John McCarthy.

Yellow Cards—Marquez, Philadelphia, 38th; Herbers, Philadelphia, 44th; Aja, Orlando, 57th; Barnetta, Philadelphia, 67th.

Toronto FC 2, Impact 2

Toronto	0	2—2
Montreal	1	1—2

First half—1, Montreal, Piatti, 29 (Donadel), 19th minute.

Second half—2, Toronto, Altidore, 18 (Morrow), 51st. 3, Montreal, Piatti, 30 (penalty kick), 55th. 4, Toronto, Ricketts, 4 (Altidore), 86th.

Goalies—Toronto, Clint Irwin, Alex Bono; Montreal, Evan Bush, Eric Kronberg.

Yellow Cards—Bradley, Toronto, 25th; Beitashour, Toronto, 46th; Donadel, Montreal, 59th; Giovinco, Toronto, 68th; Moor, Toronto, 78th.

United 3, NYC FC 1

New York City	0	1—1
D.C. United	3	0—3

First half—1, D.C. United, Mullins, 14 (Sam), 27th minute. 2, D.C. United, Boswell, 2 (Sam), 31st. 3, D.C. United, Vincent, 2, 46th.

Second half—4, New York City, Villa, 42 (penalty kick), 72nd.

Goalies—New York City, Josh Saunders, Eirik Johansen; D.C. United, Bill Hamid, Travis Worra.

Yellow Cards—Pirlo, New York City, 53rd; DeLeon, D.C. United, 75th.

Red Bulls 3, Crew 2

Columbus	0	2—2
New York	0	3—3

Second half—1, New York, Grella, 12 (Kljestan), 53rd minute. 2, New York, Wright-Phillips, 41 (Mayu), 58th. 3, New York, Wright-Phillips, 42 (Collin), 70th. 4, Columbus, Jahn, 8 (Meram), 73rd. 5, Columbus, Afful, 4 (Parkhurst), 83rd.

Goalies—Columbus, Brad Stuver, Steve Clark; New York, Luis Robles, Kyle Reynish.

Yellow Cards—Collin, New York, 3rd; Tchani, Columbus, 14th; Trapp, Columbus, 38th; Martinez, Columbus, 40th; Meram, Columbus, 94th.

Tennis

Generali Ladies Linz

Sunday
At Intersport Arena Linz
Linz, Austria
Purse: $128,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Singles
Championship
Dominika Cibulkova (2), Slovakia, def. Viktorija Golubic, Switzerland, 6-3, 7-5.

Tianjin Open

Sunday
At Tianjin Tennis Centre
Tianjin, China
Purse: $500,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Peng Shuai, China, def. Alison Riske, United States, 7-6 (3), 6-2.
Doubles
Championship
Christina McHale, United States, and Peng Shuai (4), China, def. Magda Linette, Poland and Xu Yifan, China, 7-6 (8), 6-0.

Hong Kong Open

Sunday
At Victoria Park Tennis Stadium
Hong Kong
Purse: $250,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
Caroline Wozniacki (5), Denmark, def. Kristina Mladenovic, France, 6-1, 6-7 (4), 6-2.

Shanghai Rolex Masters

Sunday
At Qizhong Tennis Center
Shanghai
Purse: $7.56 million (Masters 1000)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
Andy Murray (2), Britain, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (15), Spain, 7-6 (1), 6-1.
Doubles
Championship
John Isner and Jack Sock, United States, def. Henri Kontinen, Finland, and John Peers, Australia, 6-4, 6-4.

College football

AP Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 15, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pv
1. Alabama (60)	7-0	1524	1
2. Ohio St.	6-0	1457	2
3. Michigan (1)	6-0	1368	4
4. Clemson	7-0	1337	3
5. Washington	6-0	1304	5
6. Texas A&M	6-0	1218	6
7. Louisville	5-1	1168	7
8. Nebraska	6-0	1037	10
9. Baylor	6-0	1021	11
10. Wisconsin	4-2	935	8
11. Houston	6-1	766	13
12. West Virginia	5-0	744	20
13. Florida St.	5-2	733	14
14. Boise St.	6-0	694	15
15. Florida	5-1	626	18
16. Oklahoma	4-2	612	19
17. Arkansas	5-2	584	22
18. Tennessee	5-2	550	9
19. Utah	6-1	479	21
20. W. Michigan	7-0	285	24
21. Auburn	4-2	277	23
22. North Carolina	5-2	254	NR
23. Mississippi	3-3	188	12
24. Navy	4-1	163	25
25. LSU	4-2	123	NR

Others receiving votes: Colorado 110, Miami 95, Oklahoma St. 47, Washington St. 39, Virginia Tech 38, South Florida 31, Stanford 15, Iowa 7, Arizona St. 6, Southern Cal 5, NC State 4, San Diego St. 3, Pittsburgh 2, Troy 1, TCU 1.

Coaches Top 25

The Amway Top 25 football coaches poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Oct. 15, total points based on 25 points for first place through one point for 25th, and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Alabama (61)	7-0	1597	1
2. Ohio State (2)	6-0	1524	2
3. Clemson (1)	7-0	1432	3
4. Michigan	6-0	1413	4
5. Washington	6-0	1366	5
6. Texas A&M	6-0	1287	6
7. Louisville	5-1	1207	7
8. Baylor	6-0	1130	8
9. Nebraska	6-0	1114	9
10. Wisconsin	4-2	874	10
11. Houston	6-1	841	12
12. Florida	5-1	830	14
13. West Virginia	5-0	781	18
14. Boise State	6-0	772	15
15. Florida State	5-2	709	16
16. Oklahoma	4-2	600	20
17. Arkansas	5-2	570	22
18. Utah	6-1	538	21
19. Tennessee	5-2	457	11
20. Western Michigan	7-0	317	23
21. North Carolina	5-2	250	—
22. Mississippi	3-3	182	13
23. Louisiana State	4-2	176	25
24. Auburn	4-2	156	—
25. Navy	4-1	133	—

Others Receiving Votes: Colorado 121; South Florida 108; Miami (Fla.) 74; Oklahoma State 51; Washington State 49; Virginia Tech 37; North Carolina State 18; Stanford 16; Memphis 14; San Diego State 13; Troy 10; Pittsburgh 7; Southern California 6; TCU 6; Arizona State 6; Iowa 4; Appalachian State 2; Brigham Young 1; Tulsa 1.

Pro basketball

NBA preseason

Saturday's games
Detroit 97, Philadelphia 76
Sacramento 112, Washington 119
Boston 119, New York 107
Minnesota 101, Miami 96
Memphis 134, Houston 125
Chicago 117, Milwaukee 86
Golden State 112, L.A. Lakers 107
Sunday's games
Atlanta 105, Orlando 98
Oklahoma City 112, Minnesota 94
Denver 106, Portland 97
Monday's games
Brooklyn at Boston
Milwaukee at Detroit
Charlotte at Chicago
L.A. Clippers at Utah
Tuesday's games
Washington at Cleveland
New Orleans at Atlanta
Orlando at Miami
Denver at Oklahoma City
L.A. Clippers at Sacramento
Wednesday's games
New York at Boston
Toronto at Detroit
Indiana at Milwaukee
Memphis at Minnesota
Houston at Dallas
Portland at Utah
Golden State at L.A. Lakers

WNBA playoffs

Finals
(Best-of-5)
Los Angeles 2, Minnesota 2
Los Angeles 78, Minnesota 76
Minnesota 79, Los Angeles 60
Los Angeles 92, Minnesota 75
Sunday: Minnesota 85, Los Angeles 79
Thursday: Los Angeles at Minnesota

Golf

Safeway Open

Sunday
At Silveradio Resort, North Course
Napa, Calif.
Purse: $6 million
Yardage: 7,166; Par: 72
Final

B. Steele, $1,080,000 — 67-71-67-65—270 -18
Patton Kizzire, $648,000 64-71-66-70—271 -17
Paul Casey, $288,000 64-68-71-69—272 -16
Michael Kim, $288,000 73-67-65-67—272 -16
Scott Piercy, $288,000 62-67-73-70—272 -16
J. Wagner, $288,000 65-67-70-70—272 -16
Kevin Na, $201,000 71-66-70-66—273 -15
Cody Gribble, $162,000 67-69-70-68—274 -14
Chris Kirk, $162,000 73-65-70-66—274 -14
Martin Laird, $162,000 67-68-68-71—274 -14
Phil Mickelson, $162,000 69-69-69-67—274 -14
Justin Thomas, $162,000 75-66-66-67—274 -14
M. Hughes, $120,000 69-69-69-68—275 -13
Whee Kim, $120,000 69-71-66-69—275 -13
Derek Fathauer, $98,000 68-68-68-74-66—276 -12
Troy Merritt, $96,000 66-67-74-69—276 -12
Jon Rahm, $96,000 66-71-72-67—276 -12
Vaughn Taylor, $96,000 70-67-74-65—276 -12
H. Varner III, $96,000 71-67-73-65—276 -12
Bill Haas, $75,000 66-70-71-70—277 -11
J. Lovemark, $75,000 70-71-70-66—277 -11
Keegan Bradley, $60,000 69-72-71-66—278 -10
Trey Mullinax, $60,000 69-67-73-69—278 -10
Chez Reavie, $60,000 69-70-68-71—278 -10
Kyle Stanley, $60,000 65-73-71-69—278 -10
B. de Jonge, $40,833 72-69-69-69—279 -9
Tony Finau, $40,833 70-69-71-69—279 -9
Emiliano Grillo, $40,833 69-70-71-69—279 -9
Steven Alker, $40,833 71-69-72-67—279 -9
Ryan Blaum, $40,833 69-68-71-71—279 -9
Jon Curran, $40,833 68-72-70-69—279 -9
R. Garrigus, $40,833 73-68-72-66—279 -9
Fabian Gomez, $40,833 71-70-70-68—279 -9
Luke List (28), $40,833 70-68-71-70—279 -9
D. Bozzelli, $23,516 70-71-69-70—280 -8
Joseph Bramlett, $23,516 71-70-71-68—280 -8
R. Castro, $23,516 69-70-70-69—280 -8
Brett Drewitt, $23,516 70-71-70-69—280 -8
Harris English, $23,516 72-68-69-71—280 -8
A. Gonzales, $23,516 71-68-70-71—280 -8
Brandon Hagy, $23,516 72-67-72-69—280 -8
John Huh, $23,516 70-68-72-70—280 -8
Peter Malnati, $23,516 67-72-71-70—280 -8
Kyle Reifers, $23,516 71-69-74-66—280 -8
Tag Ridlings, $23,516 68-70-71-71—280 -8
John Senden, $23,516 70-70-71-69—280 -8
Cameron Smith, $23,516 70-70-70-70—280 -8
Nick Watney, $23,516 71-69-73-67—280 -8
Richy Werenski, $23,516 69-69-69-72—280 -8

British Masters

Sunday
At The Grove
Chandler's Cross, England
Purse: $3.68 million
Yardage: 7,121; Par: 71
Final

Alex Noren, Sweden 67-65-65-69—266
B. Wiesberger, Austria 68-66-67-67—268
Lee Westwood, England 67-68-67-67—269
Alexander Levy, France 70-66-68-67—271
G. McDowell, N.Ireland 68-68-67-68—271
T. Fleetwood, England 66-67-68-70—271
Peter Hanson, Sweden 70-65-66-70—271
Richard Bland, England 67-64-69-71—271

SAS Championship

Sunday
At Prestonwood Country Club
Cary, N.C.
Purse: $2.1 million
Yardage: 7,082; Par: 72
Final

Doug Garwood, $315,000 65-71-64—200 -16
Bernhard Langer, $184,800 67-67-70—204 -12
Tom Byrum, $125,300 69-71-65—205 -11
Jeff Sluman, $125,300 70-67-68—205 -11
Larry Mize, $125,300 67-69-69—205 -11
M. Angel Jimenez, $84,000 69-72-65—206 -10
C.Montgomerie, $71,400 70-70-67—207 -9
Joe Durant, $71,400 69-69-69—207 -9
Tom Pernice Jr., $54,600 74-69-65—208 -8
Steve Pate, $54,600 70-70-68—208 -8
Glen Day, $54,600 70-70-68—208 -8
Michael Allen, $46,200 72-70-67—209 -7

KEB Hana Bank Championship

Sunday
At Sky 72 GC (Ocean Course)
Incheon, South Korea
Purse: $2 million
Yardage: 6,366; Par: 72
(a-amateur; x-won on first playoff hole)
Final

x-C. Ciganda, $300,000 69-70-69-70—278 -10
Alison Lee, $184,255 65-70-68-75—278 -10
S. Feng, $118,531 73-69-68-70—280 -8
Min-Sun Kim, $118,531 72-67-70-71—280 -8

Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Named Mike Hazen executive vice president and general manager.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NEW YORK RANGERS — Agreed to terms with F Justin Fontaine and assigned him to Hartford (AHL).
COLLEGE
DELAWARE — Fired football coach Dave Brock; volleyball coach Bonnie Kenny and associate head volleyball coach Cindy Gregory. Named co-defensive coordinator Dennis Dottin-Carter interim football coach. Announced Brian Toron, Dana Griskowitz and Colleen Caskey will lead the volleyball team for the reminder of the season.
PURDUE — Fired football coach Darrell Hazell.

NHL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Roundup

Bailey OT goal lifts Islanders

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Islanders coach Jack Capuano thought Josh Bailey could give New York a spark, and Bailey delivered for the team's first win of the season.

Bailey scored 54 seconds into overtime to give the Islanders a 3-2 victory over the Anaheim Ducks in their home opener Sunday night.

Capuano bumped Bailey to the top line with captain John Tavares and Andrew Ladd during regulation. In the 3-on-3 extra period, Bailey skated with Nick Leddy and Cal Clutterbuck.

Capuano was pleased with his changes.

"[It was] something that we wanted to try going into tonight's game and I thought they played well," he said. "It was one of the better camps that [Bailey's] had. ... If he plays with confidence as I told him, and his work ethic that he has, he's a skilled player and he has the ability to play on that line."

Tavares and Brock Nelson also scored for the Islanders, who recovered after giving up a two-goal lead in the third period to get the win after opening with two losses.

"The first win is always big," Tavares said. "Eases that pressure especially way those first two games went. ... A big win is always a good feeling."

Jason Chimera, who was moved down to the second line with Nelson and Anders Lee, had an assist on Nelson's score for his first point since signing with New York in the offseason.

Cam Fowler and Ryan Getzlaf scored in the third period for the Ducks and John Gibson finished with 27 saves. Anaheim fell to 0-2-1 on its season-opening five-game trip that includes four home openers before playing their own next Sunday.

Sabres 6, Oilers 2: Ryan O'Reilly had two goals and two assists and Buffalo pounded host Edmonton for its first victory of the season.

Brian Gionta also scored twice, and Kyle Okposo and Matt Moulson had Buffalo's other goals. Robin Lehner made 31 saves.

The Oilers, who had won back-to-back games before the loss.

Canucks 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT): Brandon Sutter scored 32 seconds into overtime and host Vancouver erased a three-goal deficit.

Sutter beat goalie Eddie Lack on a quick shot on a 2-on-1 run rush for the Canucks' second straight comeback win.

Markus Granlund had a goal and an assist and Bo Horvat and Ben Hutton also scored for Vancouver, which got 19 stops from Jacob Markstrom.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	2	2	0	0	4	9	7
Tampa Bay	2	2	0	0	4	9	6
Florida	2	2	0	0	4	6	2
Montreal	2	1	0	1	3	7	5
Toronto	2	1	0	1	3	8	6
Buffalo	2	1	1	0	2	7	6
Boston	2	1	1	0	2	7	7
Detroit	2	0	2	0	0	5	10

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	0	4	6	4
Philadelphia	2	1	0	1	3	7	6
Washington	2	1	0	1	3	4	4
N.Y. Rangers	2	1	1	0	2	7	6
Carolina	2	0	0	2	2	7	9
N.Y. Islanders	3	1	2	0	2	7	9
New Jersey	2	0	1	1	1	3	5
Columbus	2	0	2	0	0	5	9

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	3	3	0	0	6	11	6
Colorado	1	1	0	0	2	6	5
Nashville	2	1	1	0	2	6	7
Winnipeg	2	1	1	0	2	8	8
Minnesota	2	1	1	0	2	6	6
Dallas	2	1	1	0	2	9	8
Chicago	3	1	2	0	2	9	11

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	2	2	0	0	4	5	3
Vancouver	2	2	0	0	4	6	4
Edmonton	3	2	1	0	4	14	13
Arizona	1	1	0	0	2	4	3
Calgary	3	0	2	1	1	8	14
Anaheim	3	0	2	1	1	6	10
Los Angeles	2	0	2	0	0	3	6

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's games

N.Y. Islanders 3, Anaheim 2, OT
Buffalo 6, Edmonton 2
Vancouver 4, Carolina 3, OT

Monday's games

Colorado at Pittsburgh
San Jose at N.Y. Rangers
Ottawa at Detroit
Boston at Winnipeg

Tuesday's games

San Jose at N.Y. Islanders
Colorado at Washington
Anaheim at New Jersey
Arizona at Ottawa
Pittsburgh at Montreal
Florida at Tampa Bay
Los Angeles at Minnesota
Dallas at Nashville
Philadelphia at Chicago
Buffalo at Calgary
Carolina at Edmonton
St. Louis at Vancouver

Sunday

Sabres 6, Oilers 2

Buffalo	2	2	2	**—6**
Edmonton	2	0	0	**—2**

First Period—1, Buffalo, Okposo 1 (O'Reilly, Reinhart), 2:37. 2, Buffalo, O'Reilly 1 (Okposo, Ristolainen), 7:14. 3, Edmonton, Pouliot 1 (Kassian, Nugent-Hopkins), 17:20. 4, Edmonton, Lucic 1 (Eberle, Draisaitl), 19:00.

Second Period—5, Buffalo, O'Reilly 2 (Franson, Ristolainen), 3:53. 6, Buffalo, Gionta 1 (McCabe, Foligno), 9:22.

Third Period—7, Buffalo, Gionta 2 (Larsson), 0:37. 8, Buffalo, Moulson 2 (Ristolainen, O'Reilly), 4:36.

Shots on Goal—Buffalo 10-11-12—33. Edmonton 10-6-8—24.

Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 2 of 6; Edmonton 0 of 1.

Goalies—Buffalo, Lehner 1-1-0 (33 shots-31 saves). Edmonton, Talbot 2-1-0 (23-17), Gustavsson 0-0-0 (1-1).

A—18,347 (18,641). **T—**2:40.

Islanders 3, Ducks 2 (OT)

Anaheim	0	0	2	**0—2**
N.Y. Islanders	1	0	1	**1—3**

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Nelson 2 (Chimera, Hickey), 7:47.

Third Period—2, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 1 (Clutterbuck, Hamonic), 7:59. 3, Anaheim, Fowler 2 (Ritchie, Getzlaf), 8:31. 4, Anaheim, Getzlaf 1 (Fowler, Vatanen), 19:00.

Overtime—5, N.Y. Islanders, Bailey 1 (Leddy, Clutterbuck), 15:54.

Shots on Goal—Anaheim 16-5-7-2—30. N.Y. Islanders 3-13-10-0—26.

Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 4; N.Y. Islanders 0 of 4.

Goalies—Anaheim, Gibson 0-1-1 (30 shots-27 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Halak 1-1-0 (26-24).

A—15,795 (15,813). **T—**2:40.

Canucks 4, Hurricanes 3 (OT)

Carolina	2	1	0	**0—3**
Vancouver	0	1	2	**1—4**

First Period—1, Carolina, Rask 2 (Stempniak), 17:36. 2, Carolina, Teravainen 1 (Aho, Faulk), 19:10.

Second Period—3, Carolina, Faulk 1 (Nordstrom), 5:28. 4, Vancouver, Horvat 1 (Granlund), 12:03.

Third Period—5, Vancouver, Granlund 1 (Sutter, Hansen), 1:11. 6, Vancouver, Hutton 1 (Gaunce, Dorsett), 14:10.

Overtime—7, Vancouver, Sutter 1, 15:32.

Shots on Goal—Carolina 10-7-13-1—31. Vancouver 7-10-5-0—22.

Power-play opportunities—Carolina 1 of 2; Vancouver 0 of 2.

Goalies—Carolina, Lack 0-0-1 (31 shots-27 saves). Vancouver, Markstrom 1-0-0 (22-19).

A—17,832 (18,890). **T—**2:25.

LYNNE SLADKY/AP

North Carolina quarterback Mitch Trubisky (10) runs during the first half Saturday against Miami. A week ago, the Tar Heels were fourth in the ACC Coastal Division. After beating Miami, they're first.

Potential for chaos in ACC Coastal Division looms again

BY TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Chaos rested last season in the Atlantic Coast Conference's Coastal Division.

It may reign again this year.

North Carolina, a team in fourth place in the division two weeks ago, is now on top. Virginia Tech and Virginia, the last Coastal unbeatens, are perfect no more in league play after Saturday defeats. And for the 10th time in 12 years, the Coastal representative in the league title game will get there with at least one conference loss.

In other words, here they go again.

"The ACC is up in the air," Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya said.

He's likely right, though the Tar Heels have taken a big step toward successfully defending their Coastal title with wins at Florida State and now-reeling Miami in the last three weeks.

A year ago, North Carolina made it look easy with an 8-0 record in Coastal play — emerging unscathed from a division that had a three-way tie for first in 2012 and sent two-loss champions to the title game in 2013 and 2014. No Coastal club is getting to Orlando unblemished for this year's title game, and there's still potential for a logjam at the top when it's all said and done.

More than half the league season remains, but players know that every week might mean everything.

"Guys knew that if we didn't come out of here with a win, we'd be hard-pressed to get to Orlando," North Carolina receiver Ryan Switzer said after the Tar Heels held off Miami 20-13 on Saturday.

There are only two games affecting the Coastal this coming week. North Carolina goes to Virginia on Saturday, a game where most of the division will likely be pulling for the Cavaliers. But first, Miami visits Virginia Tech on Thursday night — and it's not a stretch to say it's a must-win for the Hurricanes' divisional hopes.

"We've got to find a way," Virginia Tech coach Justin Fuente said.

Here's a look at the Coastal clubs, and what each has left on its ACC slate:

North Carolina (5-2, 3-1)

What's left: at Virginia, Georgia Tech, at Duke, N.C. State.

Outlook: Now the likely favorite, the Tar Heels could become the first back-to-back Coastal champion since Virginia Tech in 2010 and 2011.

Pittsburgh (5-2, 2-1)

What's left: Virginia Tech, at Miami, at Clemson, Duke, Syracuse.

Outlook: Blowing a two-touchdown lead in the final 6 minutes against North Carolina is keeping the Panthers out of the Coastal driver's seat.

Virginia Tech (4-2, 2-1)

What's left: Miami, at Pittsburgh, at Duke, Georgia Tech, Virginia.

Outlook: The Hokies have beaten the Tar Heels, a factor if tiebreakers come into play. Thursday night at home against Miami is huge for both.

Virginia (2-4, 1-1)

What's left: North Carolina, Louisville, at Wake Forest, Miami, at Georgia Tech, at Virginia Tech.

Outlook: Extremely daunting schedule awaits the Cavaliers, who weren't expected to be a Coastal contender in Bronco Mendenhall's first year.

Miami (4-2, 1-2)

What's left: at Virginia Tech, Pittsburgh, at Virginia, at N.C. State, Duke.

Outlook: Depth issues taking a toll. If the Hurricanes are to finally reach their first ACC title game, it might take a 5-0 finish and some help.

Georgia Tech (4-3, 1-3)

What's left: Duke, at North Carolina, at Virginia Tech, Virginia.

Outlook: The Yellow Jackets played in the ACC title game two years ago and are a mere 2-10 in conference games since. They could be a spoiler.

Duke (3-4, 0-3)

What's left: at Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, North Carolina, at Pittsburgh, at Miami.

Outlook: Duke still has four opponents with realistic division hopes. Will scaring Louisville empower the Blue Devils, or was that their last gasp?

NFL

Rookies Prescott, Elliott keep Dallas rolling

Cowboys top Packers for fifth straight win

By Genaro C. Armas
Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Dallas Cowboys' dynamic rookie duo is showing no signs of slowing down.

Quarterback Dak Prescott beat the Green Bay Packers' depleted secondary through the air. Running back Ezekiel Elliott wore the defense down on the ground.

Prescott threw three touchdown passes and Elliott pounded away at the Packers for 157 yards on 28 carries in Dallas' 30-16 road win Sunday.

"That's how we play with our physical style," Elliott said. "A lot of teams, they don't want to bang in there for four quarters and as the game goes on, we get stronger and they get a little bit weaker."

The surging Cowboys (5-1) won their fifth straight with Prescott and Elliott reaching new milestones.

Elliott now has 703 yards rushing, the second-most in a player's first six career games behind only Eric Dickerson (787). Elliott also became the only rookie to rush for at least 130 yards in four consecutive games.

Prescott was 18-for-27 for 247 yards. He shook off two fumbles — losing one — and an interception to lead Dallas on a seven-play, 75-yard touchdown drive that ended with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Cole Beasley for an 18-point lead with 10:26 left over Green Bay (3-2).

Prescott is starting for veteran Tony Romo, who injured his back in the preseason. Romo seems to be getting healthier and could be close to returning. Following a bye, the Cowboys next play on Oct. 30 against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Prescott is making coach Jason Garrett's impending decision on whether to go back to Romo tougher every week.

"This is his team. This is Tony's team and I'm just here to help my team win each and every game that I can," Prescott said.

There is no quarterback controversy in Green Bay, though there are plenty of questions about the state of the passing game.

Four turnovers ultimately doomed the Packers. But once again, drops were a problem a few times with receivers. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers was 31-for-42 for 294 yards, but also accounted for two turnovers with an interception and fumble.

"Taking care of the ball, that's the No. 1 priority. We had opportunities today and gave it up, and multiple times, and that's never been something we've done here," receiver Jordy Nelson said. "So we've got to get that fixed quickly."

Other notes and takeaways from Sunday's game:

Boo birds: Even Rodgers wasn't immune from the uncharacteristic boos from Packers fans at times directed at the struggling offense.

"Look, we're upset, they're upset, it's part of it," Rodgers said of the booing. "It's not the first time. Probably won't be the last time." The Packers didn't get into the end zone until Rodgers and Cobb connected on a 6-yard touchdown pass with 6:53 left to get within 27-16.

Record streak over: Prescott threw the first interception of his career after he was picked off on third-and-8 from the Dallas 6, throwing out of his end zone with 20 seconds left in third quarter. Safety Morgan Burnett had the diving interception. Prescott's NFL-record streak for a quarterback at the start of his career without an interception ended at 176 pass attempts. He broke the mark of 162 previously held by New England's Tom Brady earlier in the game.

Mike Roemer/AP

Dallas Cowboys rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott leaps over players during the second half of Sunday's game against the Packers in Green Bay, Wis. Elliott pounded away at the Packers for 157 yards on 28 carries in Dallas' 30-16 win.

Did you know

Cowboys rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott now has 703 yards rushing, the second-most in a player's first six career games behind only Eric Dickerson (787).

SOURCE: Associated Press

Steelers suffer briused egos, more in loss to Miami

By Steven Wine
Associated Press

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. — In the losing locker room, Ben Roethlisberger had an ice bag on each knee, a welt on his back and a bruise on his ego.

That was part of the toll Sunday from the Pittsburgh Steelers' 30-15 loss to the Miami Dolphins.

Damage was still being assessed. The Steelers (4-2) retained a lead in the AFC North, but Roethlisberger was expected to undergo an MRI on his left knee, which had him limping to the locker room when he missed a series late in the first half.

"We'll pray it's nothing too serious," he said.

While the Steelers' recent momentum was halted, the Dolphins (2-4) revived their season with their most impressive performance by far under first-year coach Adam Gase.

"Today proved to a lot of our guys and coaches what we possibly could be, but this league is week to week," Gase said. "Once we hit next Sunday, nobody is going to care about what we did this week."

Here are things to know as both teams begin looking to Week 7:

Banged-up Ben: Roethlisberger was held to 83 yards passing in the first 55 minutes. He finished 19 for 34 for 189 yards with two interceptions, and his only score came with 1:02 to go.

Roethlisberger missed the end of the first half when he hyperextended his knee scrambling on a play that resulted in an interception by Reshad Jones.

"It happened before I threw the ball," he said. "I felt something funny in my knee."

Roethlisberger returned for the second half and said the injury didn't hamper his mobility.

"I'm not really that mobile anymore anyway," he said.

Full strength: For the first time in two weeks, no Miami player hurt himself in a pregame shower , and the offensive line was intact for the first time this year.

It showed. Second-year pro Jay Ajayi reached 100 yards rushing for the first time in his career, and then kept going to finish at 204. Ryan Tannehill threw 32 times without a sack, after being sacked 17 times in the first five games.

Tannehill noted that taxed Pittsburgh defenders were throwing up even before halftime. Afterward, the Dolphins basked in their physical domination.

"It's weird," guard Jermon Bushrod said. "After a win, I don't feel as sore."

Up and down: The dud was the second of the season for the Steelers, who lost to Philadelphia 34-3 in Week 3. They have outscored opponents 136-59 in four wins, and have been outscored 64-18 in two losses.

"We got beat soundly," coach Mike Tomlin said. "We didn't take care of the football. We didn't stop the run."

Up next: The result took a little luster off the Steelers' game next Sunday at home against AFC East leader New England (5-1). Did that make Miami a trap game?

"You can characterize it as such because we lost," Tomlin said. "But when I look at it, I don't look at who we play or their records or things of that nature. I look at how we perform. We didn't perform well enough to win today."

Miami is at home for the third consecutive week Sunday against AFC East-rival Buffalo (4-2).

Roethlisberger has torn meniscus

The Post-Gazette learned Sunday night Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger has a torn meniscus in his left knee and was to have surgery Monday morning. There is no timetable for his return to the team.

Roethlisberger

Roethlisberger was injured midway through the second quarter of a 30-15 loss Sunday to the Miami Dolphins when he stepped out of a tackle try by defensive tackle Jordan Phillips and hyperextended the knee. His subsequent pass on the play was intercepted by safety Reshad Jones.

Roethlisberger immediately went to the locker room and missed the rest of the first half but returned to play the second half.

The Steelers play the New England Patriots on Sunday at Heinz Field and then have their off week. It is possible he could return to play Nov. 6 against the Baltimore Ravens.

Landry Jones, who replaced Roethlisberger in the second quarter Sunday, is expected to get the start against the Patriots.

— Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

NFL ROUNDUP

27 23

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Odell Beckham Jr. reined in some of the emotions, the exaggerated behavior, the penalties and on-field feuds. Then he did what he does best — make big plays.

A banged-up Beckham turned a short fourth-and-1 pass into a winning 66-yard catch and run with 1:24 to play as New York snapped a three-game losing streak with a stunning victory over hurting Baltimore (3-3).

Beckham caught eight passes for a career-best 222 yards and two touchdowns despite having to leave the field in the first half with a hip pointer in carrying the Giants (3-3) to their 700th win in franchise history.

"I am going to go out there and play the same way every time," Beckham said of his many problems on the field this season. "I don't think I played any different besides me being injured. It was the same passing. I think because I was hurt I couldn't express it as much as I wanted to."

That's debatable. After catching a 75-yard scoring pass in the third quarter, Beckham imitated a triple jumper — playing off a line in a commercial in which he appears. He then went to the Giants' sideline and smashed the kicking net with his helmet. When it flopped to the ground, he laid under it.

After his winning catch, he took off his helmet and drew a 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty.

The Ravens (3-3) got to the Giants 24 in the waning seconds, thanks to a questionable roughing-the-quarterback penalty on Joe Flacco, but the Giants broke up a pass in the end zone.

BILL KOSTROUN/AP

Giants wide receiver Odell Beckham (13) runs away from the Ravens' Lardarius Webb (21) during the second half Sunday.

41 38

NEW ORLEANS — After Drew Brees broke another NFL record with his latest 400-plus-yard passing performance, he stood on a podium and moved his right hand in an ascending motion while discussing the direction of the New Orleans Saints.

"We want to be on this trajectory," Brees said as he moved his hand up and away from his body. "I feel like we are."

Brees passed for 465 yards and four touchdowns, Wil Lutz kicked a 52-yard field goal with 11 seconds left, and New Orleans pulled out a victory.

With his 15th 400-yard game, Brees broke a tie with Peyton Manning for the most all time in the regular season.

Brees also led the Saints (2-3) to a second straight victory while Carolina (1-5) lost its fourth straight despite the return of quarterback Cam Newton, who missed last week's loss to Tampa Bay because of a concussion.

Newton passed for 322 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran for a 2-yard score and threw a 2-point conversion to Devin Funchess that tied the game at 38 with 2:58 left, completing a comeback from an early 21-0 deficit.

However, Newton was also intercepted by Sterling Moore in the back of the end zone, stalling a promising first-half drive.

26 10

OAKLAND, Calif. — Spencer Ware ran for a career-high 131 yards and a touchdown and Alex Smith picked apart Oakland's struggling defense.

In their first game since getting blown out by 29 points in Pittsburgh two weeks ago, the Chiefs (3-2) efficiently handled a Raiders team that had overcome defensive shortcomings with a big-play offense to lead the AFC West.

Smith completed 19 of 22 passes for 224 yards, Jamaal Charles and big defensive lineman Dontari Poe each ran for scores, and the Chiefs forced two turnovers by Derek Carr to dampen a fast start to the season by the Raiders (4-2), who are trying to end a 13-year playoff drought.

26 OT 23

HOUSTON — Nick Novak made a 33-yard field goal in overtime to give Houston a comeback victory over Indianapolis.

Brock Osweiler threw a 36-yard pass to Jaelen Strong to get Houston to the 12 and Novak's field goal came two plays later. Indianapolis (2-4) got the ball first in overtime, but Benardrick McKinney sacked Andrew Luck on third down to force a punt.

Osweiler shook off a tough start to throw two touchdown passes in less than 2 minutes in the fourth quarter as Houston (4-2) erased a 14-point deficit to tie it at 23 with 54 seconds left. He found Lamar Miller on a 10-yard catch-and-run TD with 2:47 left and, after a stop by the defense, connected with C.J. Fiedorowicz on a 26-yarder.

35 17

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Playing in his first game in Foxborough since the end of his "Deflategate" suspension, Tom Brady had three touchdown passes and went over 5,000 completions for his career.

Brady finished 29-for-35 for 376 yards. Tight end Rob Gronkowski had seven receptions for a career-high 162 yards and a touchdown.

Cincinnati dropped to 2-4 for the first time since 2010, when it finished 4-12 — its worst season under coach Marvin Lewis.

The Bengals had their moments offensively, scoring on a 2-yard touchdown run by Andy Dalton and 5-yard pass from Dalton to Brandon LaFell. But New England (5-1) bounced back from some sluggish drives early with several big plays in the third quarter.

28 26

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Marcus Mariota threw for 284 yards and three touchdowns, and the Titans got their second straight victory — the first time they've won consecutive games since the end of the 2013 season.

The Titans (3-3) matched their win total for all of last season when they went 3-13 and wound up with the No. 1 draft pick overall. They also beat a team other than Jacksonville on their own field for the first time since the 2013 season finale and improved to 3-16 in Nashville.

Cleveland (0-6) is mired in its worst start since 1999 when the Browns lost their first seven as an expansion franchise.

27 20

LANDOVER, Md. — Kirk Cousins threw for 263 yards and two touchdowns and the Redskins ran roughshod over one of the NFL's top defenses.

The three-headed running attack of Matt Jones, Robert Kelley and Chris Thompson combined for 231 yards and a touchdown as the Redskins (4-2) won their fourth consecutive game. After starting the season 0-2, Washington has its best record through six games since 2008, when it went 8-8.

The Redskins put up 493 offensive yards against the Eagles (3-2), who came in allowing an average of 266.8 yards and 12.6 points as the league's second-best defense. Cousins connected with Jamison Crowder on a 16-yard touchdown and with Vernon Davis on a 13-yarder. Davis started at tight end in place of Jordan Reed (concussion). Jones ran for a 1-yard touchdown and sealed the victory with a 57-yard run.

45 16

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — LeSean McCoy scored three times and the Bills extended their winning streak to four. McCoy had 140 yards rushing and shook off what appeared to be a frightening injury to his right knee late in the second quarter.

Tyrod Taylor threw two touchdown passes in helping Buffalo (4-2) win four straight for the first time since the 2008 season.

Colin Kaepernick provided the 49ers a spark in his first start in nearly a year. Blaine Gabbert was benched following a 33-21 loss to Arizona, and Kaepernick finished 13-for-29 for 187 yards, including a 53-yard touchdown pass to Torrey Smith. But San Francisco (1-5) couldn't finish drives, settling for three field goals by Phil Dawson, in losing its fifth straight game.

Kaepernick was the target of numerous boos and chants when he kneeled during the national anthem in his continuing protest.

31 28

DETROIT — Matt Prater made a tiebreaking, 34-yard field goal with 1:29 left and Rafael Bush followed with a victory-sealing interception two plays later. The Lions (3-3) have won two straight games with Prater making the winning kick and a defensive back following up with an interception on the ensuing possession.

The Rams (3-3) have lost two straight.

Case Keenum completed a Rams-record 19 straight passes, but couldn't connect with Lance Kendricks on the long throw that Bush stepped in front of near midfield. Keenum finished 27 of 32 for 321 yards with three touchdowns — two to Kenny Britt, one to Kendricks — and an interception.

Britt had season highs with seven receptions and 136 yards, 47 of which came on a highlight-reel catch.

Matthew Stafford threw for four Detroit touchdowns.

17 16

CHICAGO — Blake Bortles threw for 271 yards and hit a slipping Arrelious Benn for a 51-yard touchdown in the closing minutes.

The Jaguars (2-3) wiped out a 13-0 deficit in the fourth quarter in a matchup of last-place teams. And the go-ahead touchdown might have been helped by the oft-criticized turf at Soldier Field.

Benn slipped as he caught a slant and so did Tracy Porter as he tried to tag the receiver. That allowed Benn, who spent the past three seasons on injured reserve, to get up and run untouched for his first touchdown in five seasons.

That gave the Jaguars a one-point lead with 2:49 left and sent the Bears (1-5) to another loss after they dropped the previous game to Indianapolis on a late TD pass by Andrew Luck. Chicago came up short despite racking up 389 yards.

NFL

RBs show there's still value in position

By Barry Wilner
Associated Press

Even the guys who tote the ball recognize that the NFL is a passer's league. No argument here.

As this week shows, however, running backs still have a prime role in the outcome of games. When the weather turns cool, then cold, then frigid, and the winds begin to whip on the tundras, they will become even more critical.

So it was enlightening to see runners young and old making a difference — or keeping their teams in games. From veterans Frank Gore, Jonathan Stewart and especially LeSean McCoy, to kids such as rookie sensation Ezekiel Elliott, Spencer Ware, Matt Jones and Jay Ajayi, it was impressive, win or lose.

McCoy and Gore have all-star credentials and are showing they remain dangerous and dependable. McCoy ran 19 times for 140 yards and scored three touchdowns as the Bills, who want to pound opponents on the ground, thumped the 49ers 45-16 with their best rushing performance in 24 years. Gore, at 33, became the first Colt in 3½ years to rush for more than 100 yards, getting 106 in a 26-23 loss at Houston.

"He's just very dynamic," Bills quarterback Tyrod Taylor, a pretty good runner himself, said of McCoy. "I've said this before. Whether it's in the running game or the passing game, he's a playmaker. He wants the ball, and when he gets the ball he knows what to do with it, and he can create plays. Some of those plays he made out there from the backfield position, there are only one or two guys — maybe just him — who can do that in the National Football League."

Matt Ludtke/AP

Cowboys rookie running back Ezekiel Elliott tries to run past the Packers' LaDarius Gunter during the second half on Sunday. Elliott ran for 157 yards, his fourth straight game with more than 130 yards.

Jeffrey T. Barnes/AP

Bills running back LeSean McCoy scores one of his three touchdowns in front of 49ers defensive end Arik Armstead during the first half.

It's not just him Tyrod, though few runners have as good a pedigree or nickname, "Shady," as McCoy.

You can be sure Bills coach Rex Ryan will keep feeding McCoy the ball, too.

"I think, talking to LeSean, he was really disappointed how he played last year," Ryan said. "And all of us as we know, and I've told him several times, like all of us here in Buffalo, we think, 'Hey man, you've played great.'

"And he's like, 'No, I can play better.' And I guess he was right, but we would have been happy with how he played last year."

Ware, Jones and Ajayi weren't big factors last year. Ware had 72 carries for Kansas City, though he scored six times; Jones rushed 144 times for 490 yards as a backup to Alfred Morris in Washington. Ajayi barely saw the field in Miami with 49 carries.

On Sunday, they were prime-timers as Ware went for 131 yards and a touchdown on 34 runs, Jones had 135 on 16 and scored once, while Ajayi had a breakout game in a stunning upset of Pittsburgh with 204 yards on 25 carries and two scores — including a clinching 62-yard scamper.

"From last week, coach [Adam] Gase told me that he would feature me more in the run game and he would try to get me a good amount of touches," said Ajayi, whose previous high was 13 carries.

The Dolphins had to do something with their offense stagnant and their season spiraling away. Ajayi was the answer, and he certainly will get more opportunities because the Dolphins' air game is so inconsistent.

Ware's numbers are even more impressive because he's one of three RBs the Chiefs can use moving forward. Their star, Jamaal Charles, finally is back from a long rehab after knee surgery, and Charcandrick West showed last year with Charles sidelined that he can be the main man behind Alex Smith.

"Having them both out there, that's a win-win, I think," coach Andy Reid said of Ware and Charles. "They're completely different players, and they both did a nice job."

Jones also was part of a committee of runners. Washington already has a solid corps of receivers, particularly when tight end Jordan Reed is healthy — he missed the win over Philadelphia with a concussion. In Jones, Robert Kelley and Chris Thompson, they could find plenty of offensive balance.

That trio combined for 231 yards and a touchdown against the Eagles.

"I think just us three guys coming together and believing in ourselves and going out there and doing things we know we can do," Kelley said. "That's why they got us here."

Even more promising for the rushing game's influence in the NFL moving forward in 2016 is that such stars as Le'Veon Bell, DeMarco Murray, Todd Gurley and Doug Martin weren't factors in Week 6. Look for them to be heading into November and December.

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NFL SCOREBOARD

American Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	5	1	0	.833	149	91
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	162	103
Miami	2	4	0	.333	118	134
N.Y. Jets	1	4	0	.200	92	136
South						
Houston	4	2	0	.667	108	127
Tennessee	3	3	0	.500	120	127
Jacksonville	2	3	0	.400	101	127
Indianapolis	2	4	0	.333	160	174
North						
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	154	123
Baltimore	3	3	0	.500	117	115
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	109	145
Cleveland	0	6	0	.000	113	176
West						
Oakland	4	2	0	.667	152	163
Denver	4	2	0	.667	140	108
Kansas City	3	2	0	.600	109	102
San Diego	2	4	0	.333	173	155

National Conference

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	5	1	0	.833	159	107
Washington	4	2	0	.667	142	142
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	135	78
N.Y. Giants	3	3	0	.500	116	131
South						
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	199	166
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	.400	94	142
New Orleans	2	3	0	.400	155	168
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	161	176
North						
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	119	63
Green Bay	3	2	0	.600	114	113
Detroit	3	3	0	.500	150	153
Chicago	1	5	0	.167	101	143
West						
Seattle	4	1	0	.800	105	78
Los Angeles	3	3	0	.500	110	137
Arizona	2	3	0	.400	125	101
San Francisco	1	5	0	.167	127	185

Thursday's games
San Diego 21, Denver 13
Sunday's games
Jacksonville 17, Chicago 16
New England 35, Cincinnati 17
Detroit 31, Los Angeles 28
Miami 30, Pittsburgh 15
Washington 27, Philadelphia 20
Tennessee 28, Cleveland 26
Buffalo 45, San Francisco 16
N.Y. Giants 27, Baltimore 23
New Orleans 41, Carolina 38
Kansas City 26, Oakland 10
Dallas 30, Green Bay 16
Seattle 26, Atlanta 24
Houston 26, Indianapolis 23, OT
Open: Tampa Bay, Minnesota
Monday's games
N.Y. Jets at Arizona
Thursday, Oct. 20
Chicago at Green Bay
Sunday, Oct. 23
N.Y. Giants at Los Angeles
Minnesota at Philadelphia
New Orleans at Kansas City
Oakland at Jacksonville
Baltimore at N.Y. Jets
Washington at Detroit
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Buffalo at Miami
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at San Francisco
San Diego at Atlanta
New England at Pittsburgh
Seattle at Arizona
Open: Dallas, Carolina
Monday, Oct. 24
Houston at Denver

Sunday

Saints 41, Panthers 38

Carolina	0	10	7	21—38
New Orleans	14	10	7	10—41

First Quarter
NO—Fleener 2 run (Lutz kick), 8:55.
NO—Cooks 87 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 2:31.
Second Quarter
NO—Thomas 9 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 13:47.
Car—FG Gano 42, 3:02.
Car—Funchess 17 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 1:15.
NO—FG Lutz 33, :10.
Third Quarter
Car—Dickson 1 pass from Newton (Gano kick), 6:49.
NO—Fleener 50 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 4:56.
Fourth Quarter
Car—Stewart 2 run (Gano kick), 14:49.
Car—Stewart 1 run (kick failed), 9:38.
NO—Hill 8 pass from Brees (Lutz kick), 6:02.
Car—Newton 2 run (Funchess pass from Newton), 2:58.
NO—FG Lutz 52, :11.
A—73,138.

	Car	NO
First downs	32	23
Total Net Yards	406	523
Rushes-yards	27-103	21-63
Passing	303	460
Punt Returns	4-32	2-63
Kickoff Returns	3-66	2-29
Interceptions Ret.	1-19	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	27-47-1	34-49-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-19	1-5
Punts	5-48.4	4-52.8
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-Yards	5-51	10-126
Time of Possession	31:05	28:55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Carolina, Stewart 19-85, Tolbert 3-12, Ginn 2-6, Newton 2-1, Whittaker 1-(minus 1). **New Orleans**, Ingram 16-51, Lasco 2-5, Cadet 1-3, Fleener 1-2, Cooks 1-2.
Passing—Carolina, Newton 27-47-1-322. **New Orleans**, Brees 34-49-1-465.
Receiving—Carolina, Benjamin 8-86, Olsen 6-94, Ginn 5-54, Dickson 3-23, Brown 2-33, Funchess 2-28, Whittaker 1-4. **New Orleans**, Cooks 7-173, Fleener 6-74, Thomas 5-78, Snead 4-47, Cadet 4-27, Lewis 2-24, Hill 2-23, Ingram 2-9, B.Coleman 1-6, Lasco 1-4.
Missed field goals—New Orleans, Lutz 53.

Jaguars 17, Bears 16

Jacksonville	0	0	0	17—17
Chicago	0	10	3	3—16

Second Quarter
Chi—FG Barth 36, 14:12.
Chi—Howard 1 run (Barth kick), 4:29.
Third Quarter
Chi—FG Barth 24, 1:53.
Fourth Quarter
Jac—Ivory 1 run (Myers kick), 14:50.
Chi—FG Barth 32, 8:28.
Jac—FG Myers 30, 4:59.
Jac—Benn 51 pass from Bortles (Myers kick), 2:49.
A—61,054.

Jac	Chi	
First downs	20	22
Total Net Yards	317	389
Rushes-yards	20-54	27-92
Passing 263	297	
Punt Returns	1-3	3-14
Kickoff Returns	1-26	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-25
Comp-Att-Int	20-33-1	30-49-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-8	1-5
Punts 5-55.0	6-43.5	
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-50	10-87
Time of Possession	24:13	35:47

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Jacksonville, Ivory 11-32, Yeldon 6-21, Bortles 3-1. **Chicago**, Carey 9-50, Howard 15-34, Bellamy 1-7, Lasike 1-1, Hoyer 1-0.
Passing—Jacksonville, Bortles 20-33-1-271. **Chicago**, Hoyer 30-49-0-302.
Receiving—Jacksonville, Lee 6-61, Hurns 5-74, A.Robinson 3-49, Thomas 2-28, Ivory 2-3, Benn 1-51, Yeldon 1-5. **Chicago**, Meredith 11-113, Jeffery 7-93, Z.Miller 6-36, Royal 4-54, Howard 2-6.
Missed field goals—None.

Seahawks 26, Falcons 24

Atlanta	0	3	21	0—24
Seattle	7	10	0	9—26

First Quarter
Sea—Michael 9 run (Hauschka kick), 2:02.
Second Quarter
Atl—FG Bryant 33, 8:38.
Sea—A.Collins 2 run (Hauschka kick), 4:32.
Sea—FG Hauschka 42, :42.
Third Quarter
Atl—J.Jones 36 pass from M.Ryan (Bryant kick), 11:01.
Atl—Sanu 10 pass from M.Ryan (Bryant kick), 6:11.
Atl—Toilolo 46 pass from M.Ryan (Bryant kick), :17.
Fourth Quarter
Sea—Michael 1 run (kick failed), 4:43.
Sea—FG Hauschka 44, 1:57.
A—69,071.

	Atl	Sea
First downs	22	22
Total Net Yards	362	333
Rushes-yards	18-52	27-72
Passing	310	261
Punt Returns	1-11	3-21
Kickoff Returns	2-46	5-109
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-5
Comp-Att-Int	27-42-1	25-37-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	4-25	1-9
Punts	4-41.3	5-46.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-1	3-0
Penalties-Yards	8-66	3-30
Time of Possession	29:51	30:09

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Atlanta, Freeman 12-40, Coleman 5-10, M.Ryan 1-2. **Seattle**, Michael 18-64, Wilson 6-7, Lockett 1-2, A.Collins 1-2, Spiller 1-(minus 3).
Passing—Atlanta, M.Ryan 27-42-1-335. **Seattle**, Wilson 25-37-0-270.
Receiving—Atlanta, J.Jones 7-139, Sanu 5-47, Toilolo 3-69, Hardy 3-30, Freeman 3-10, Tamme 2-16, Robinson 1-8, Coleman 1-7, Gabriel 1-6, DiMarco 1-3. **Seattle**, Graham 6-89, Baldwin 4-31, Spiller 3-38, Kearse 3-35, Lockett 3-23, Michael 3-19, McEvoy 1-17, A.Collins 1-9, Willson 1-9.
Missed field goals—Seattle, Hauschka 29.

Chiefs 26, Raiders 10

Kansas City	7	6	10	3—26
Oakland	7	3	0	0—10

First Quarter
Oak—Holmes 3 pass from Carr (Janikowski kick), 11:58.
KC—Ware 2 run (Santos kick), 2:16.
Second Quarter
KC—Charles 4 run (kick failed), 7:11.
Oak—FG Janikowski 46, :00.
Third Quarter
KC—Poe 1 run (Santos kick), 11:37.
KC—FG Santos 22, 7:48.
Fourth Quarter
KC—FG Santos 44, 9:51.
A—54,211.

	KC	Oak
First downs	22	16
Total Net Yards	406	286
Rushes-yards	40-183	17-65
Passing	223	221
Punt Returns	1-50	2-13
Kickoff Returns	1-30	4-108
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	19-23-0	22-34-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-1	2-4
Punts	3-40.7	3-53.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	2-1
Penalties-Yards	2-10	3-25
Time of Possession	36:45	23:15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Kansas City, Ware 24-131, Charles 9-33, West 3-19, Poe 1-1, A.Smith 3-(minus 1). **Oakland**, Washington 10-49, Carr 3-8, Richard 4-8.
Passing—Kansas City, A.Smith 19-22-0-224, Maclin 0-1-0-0. **Oakland**, Carr 22-34-1-225.
Receiving—Kansas City, Maclin 3-49, Kelce 3-32, Conley 3-26, Ware 2-32, Hill 2-20, Thomas 2-14, Charles 2-14, Wilson 1-26, Harris 1-11. **Oakland**, Cooper 10-129, Roberts 3-29, Walford 2-25, Holmes 2-11, Crabtree 2-10, Richard 2-5, Rivera 1-16.
Missed field goals—Kansas City, Santos 38. **Oakland**, Janikowski 52.

Cowboys 30, Packers 16

Dallas	7	10	3	10—30
Green Bay	3	3	0	10—16

First Quarter
Dal—Beasley 1 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 10:03.
GB—FG Crosby 37, 5:11.
Second Quarter
GB—FG Crosby 43, 12:16.
Dal—FG Bailey 44, 6:01.
Dal—Butler 20 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), :27.
Third Quarter
Dal—FG Bailey 22, 6:58.
Fourth Quarter
GB—FG Crosby 34, 14:48.
Dal—Beasley 4 pass from Prescott (Bailey kick), 10:26.
GB—Cobb 6 pass from A.Rodgers (Crosby kick), 6:53.
Dal—FG Bailey 32, 3:41.
A—78,481.

	Dal	GB
First downs	24	24
Total Net Yards	424	372
Rushes-yards	33-191	24-78
Passing	233	294
Punt Returns	0-0	1-25
Kickoff Returns	1-21	2-64
Interceptions Ret.	1-14	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	18-27-1	31-42-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-14	1-0
Punts	2-41.5	1-47.0
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	5-3
Penalties-Yards	7-60	5-23
Time of Possession	29:50	30:10

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Dallas, E.Elliott 28-157, Whitehead 1-26, Prescott 1-6, Morris 3-2. **Green Bay**, Lacy 17-65, A.Rodgers 3-7, Montgomery 3-6, Ripkowski 1-0.
Passing—Dallas, Prescott 18-27-1-247. **Green Bay**, A.Rodgers 31-42-1-294.
Receiving—Dallas, Beasley 6-58, Williams 4-75, Witten 4-42, E.Elliott 2-17, Whitehead 1-35, Butler 1-20. **Green Bay**, Montgomery 10-98, Cobb 7-53, Nelson 5-68, Adams 2-34, R.Rodgers 2-15, Janis 2-14, Lacy 1-6, Perillo 1-4, Ripkowski 1-2.
Missed field goals—None.

Redskins 27, Eagles 20

Philadelphia	0	14	0	6—20
Washington	7	14	3	3—27

First Quarter
Was—Crowder 16 pass from Cousins (Hopkins kick), :51.
Second Quarter
Was—Davis 13 pass from Cousins (Hopkins kick), 7:48.
Phi—Smallwood 86 kickoff return (Sturgis kick), 7:37.
Phi—M.Jenkins 64 interception return (Sturgis kick), 3:55.
Was—M.Jones 1 run (Hopkins kick), :06.
Third Quarter
Was—FG Hopkins 32, 8:40.
Fourth Quarter
Phi—FG Sturgis 38, 12:56.
Was—FG Hopkins 50, 9:43.
Phi—FG Sturgis 28, 5:20.
A—78,934.

	Phi	Was
First downs	12	26
Total Net Yards	239	493
Rushes-yards	21-94	33-230
Passing	145	263
Punt Returns	3-31	3-13
Kickoff Returns	2-111	3-52
Interceptions Ret.	1-64	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	11-22-0	18-34-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	5-34	0-0
Punts	6-44.3	4-52.8
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	13-114	9-75
Time of Possession	25:47	34:13

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Philadelphia, Mathews 9-60, Sproles 4-20, Barner 2-6, Smallwood 4-6, Wentz 2-2. **Washington**, M.Jones 16-135, Kelley 5-59, Thompson 9-37, Cousins 2-8, Crowder 1-(minus 9).
Passing—Philadelphia, Wentz 11-22-0-179. **Washington**, Cousins 18-34-1-263.
Receiving—Philadelphia, Matthews 3-75, Agholor 3-34, Green-Beckham 1-23, Ertz 1-22, Smallwood 1-14, Burton 1-7, Sproles 1-4. **Washington**, Garcon 6-77, Jackson 4-55, Crowder 3-52, Thompson 3-29, Davis 2-50.
Missed field goals—None.

Bills 45, 49ers 16

San Francisco	3	10	0	3—16
Buffalo	7	10	7	21—45

First Quarter
SF—FG Dawson 33, 5:43.
Buf—McCoy 4 run (Carpenter kick), :14.
Second Quarter
SF—Smith 53 pass from Kaepernick (Dawson kick), 13:56.
Buf—McCoy 12 run (Carpenter kick), 10:18.
SF—FG Dawson 48, 5:54.
Buf—FG Carpenter 40, :21.
Third Quarter
Buf—Hunter 30 pass from Taylor (Carpenter kick), 2:34.
Fourth Quarter
SF—FG Dawson 47, 14:48.
Buf—McCoy 18 run (Carpenter kick), 10:53.
Buf—Woods 5 pass from Taylor (Carpenter kick), 10:32.
Buf—Gillislee 44 run (Carpenter kick), 5:40.
A—70,003.

	SF	Buf
First downs	16	29
Total Net Yards	300	491
Rushes-yards	28-133	44-312
Passing	167	179
Punt Returns	1-12	2-16
Kickoff Returns	4-70	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	13-29-0	17-28-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-20	3-0
Punts	5-41.8	3-50.7
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	3-2
Penalties-Yards	6-52	7-71
Time of Possession	24:49	35:11

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—San Francisco, Kaepernick 8-66, Hyde 14-52, Davis 5-13, Draughn 1-2. **Buffalo**, McCoy 19-140, Taylor 8-68, Gillislee 6-60, J.Williams 5-21, Manuel 3-11, Woods 1-6, Bush 2-6.
Passing—San Francisco, Kaepernick 13-29-0-187. **Buffalo**, Taylor 17-26-0-179, Manuel 0-2-0-0.
Receiving—San Francisco, Patton 4-52, Smith 3-76, McDonald 2-25, Kerley 2-12, Streater 1-16, Davis 1-6. **Buffalo**, Clay 5-52, Woods 5-44, O'Leary 2-29, Goodwin 2-22, McCoy 2-2, Hunter 1-30.
Missed field goals—None.

Giants 27, Ravens 23

Baltimore	10	0	3	10—23
N.Y. Giants	0	7	10	10—27

First Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 23, 10:10.
Bal—West 1 run (Tucker kick), 6:42.
Second Quarter
NYG—R.Lewis 24 pass from Manning (J.Brown kick), 2:28.
Third Quarter
NYG—FG J.Brown 21, 9:48.
Bal—FG Tucker 39, 2:22.
NYG—Beckham 75 pass from Manning (J.Brown kick), 2:10.
Fourth Quarter
Bal—FG Tucker 35, 9:14.
NYG—FG J.Brown 31, 5:54.
Bal—West 2 run (Tucker kick), 2:04.
NYG—Beckham 66 pass from Manning (J.Brown kick), 1:24.
A—78,487.

	Bal	NYG
First downs	22	19
Total Net Yards	391	435
Rushes-yards	26-98	17-38
Passing	293	397
Punt Returns	1-3	3-11
Kickoff Returns	1-26	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	2-16	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	26-48-0	32-46-2
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-14	1-6
Punts	5-47.8	4-51.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-Yards	15-111	7-119
Time of Possession	35:04	24:56

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Baltimore, West 23-87, Dixon 2-11, Flacco 1-0. **New York**, Jennings 9-15, Rainey 6-13, Perkins 2-10.
Passing—Baltimore, Flacco 26-48-0-307. **New York**, Manning 32-46-2-403.
Receiving—Baltimore, Pitta 6-36, Wallace 4-97, Aiken 4-64, West 4-36, Juszczyk 4-25, Perriman 3-48, Dixon 1-1. **New York**, Beckham 8-222, Donnell 6-34, Shepard 4-25, Jennings 4-20, Cruz 3-31, Rainey 2-16, Perkins 2-16, Tye 2-15, R.Lewis 1-24.
Missed field goals—None.

Texans 26, Colts 23 (OT)

Indianapolis	3	10	0	10	0—23
Houston	0	3	6	14	3—26

First Quarter
Ind—FG Vinatieri 41, 5:56.
Second Quarter
Ind—Doyle 22 pass from Luck (Vinatieri kick), 14:55.
Ind—FG Vinatieri 37, 6:55.
Hou—FG Novak 27, 1:57.
Third Quarter
Hou—L.Miller 1 run (kick failed), 7:06.
Fourth Quarter
Ind—Luck 14 run (Vinatieri kick), 14:53.
Ind—FG Vinatieri 36, 7:04.
Hou—L.Miller 10 pass from Osweiler (Novak kick), 2:37.
Hou—Fiedorowicz 26 pass from Osweiler (Novak kick), :49.
Overtime
Hou—FG Novak 33, 8:10.
A—71,891.

	Ind	Hou
First downs	19	26
Total Net Yards	392	414
Rushes-yards	32-161	28-158
Passing	231	256
Punt Returns	2-13	2-23
Kickoff Returns	6-109	1-17
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-32-1	25-39-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-21	1-13
Punts	5-45.4	5-40.4
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-Yards	7-42	7-59
Time of Possession	36:33	30:17

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Indianapolis, Gore 22-106, Luck 7-53, Turbin 3-2. **Houston**, L.Miller 24-149, Blue 2-13, Osweiler 2-(minus 4).
Passing—Indianapolis, Luck 21-32-1-252. **Houston**, Osweiler 25-39-1-269.
Receiving—Indianapolis, Rogers 4-63, Doyle 4-53, Turbin 4-22, Hilton 3-49, Swoope 2-42, Dorsett 2-12, D.Allen 1-9, Gore 1-2. **Houston**, Hopkins 9-71, Fiedorowicz 6-85, Griffin 3-31, L.Miller 3-29, B.Miller 2-13, Strong 1-36, Ervin 1-4.
Missed field goals—None.

Titans 28, Browns 26

Cleveland	6	7	0	13—26
Tennessee	7	7	7	7—28

First Quarter
Ten—Matthews 11 pass from Mariota (Succop kick), 10:37.
Cle—FG Parkey 45, 8:47.
Cle—FG Parkey 37, 2:08.
Second Quarter
Ten—K.Wright 48 pass from Mariota (Succop kick), 11:51.
Cle—Pryor 7 pass from Kessler (Parkey kick), :40.
Third Quarter
Ten—Murray 3 run (Succop kick), 9:33.
Fourth Quarter
Ten—Fasano 15 pass from Mariota (Succop kick), 6:43.
Cle—Pryor 5 pass from Kessler (pass failed), 2:07.
Cle—D.Johnson 1 run (Parkey kick), :27.
A—60,897.

	Cle	Ten
First downs	16	19
Total Net Yards	341	407
Rushes-yards	15-40	31-137
Passing	301	270
Punt Returns	2-6	5-30
Kickoff Returns	1-19	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	1-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	27-42-0	17-24-1
Sacked-Yards Lost	6-36	2-14
Punts	7-50.9	5-45.0
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	11-69	7-96
Time of Possession	28:59	31:01

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Cleveland, D.Johnson 4-18, Crowell 9-16, Kessler 1-3, Pryor 1-3. **Tennessee**, Murray 21-65, Mariota 7-64, Henry 2-7, Sharpe 1-1.
Passing—Cleveland, Kessler 26-41-0-336, Pryor 1-1-0-1. **Tennessee**, Mariota 17-24-1-284.
Receiving—Cleveland, Pryor 9-75, Louis 5-65, D.Johnson 4-56, Barnidge 3-59, Hawkins 3-48, Crowell 2-20, Higgins 1-14. **Tennessee**, K.Wright 8-133, Matthews 3-70, Supernaw 2-25, Henry 2-20, Walker 1-21, Fasano 1-15.
Missed field goals—Tennessee, Succop 58.

Dolphins 30, Steelers 15

Pittsburgh	8	0	0	7—15
Miami	3	13	7	7—30

First Quarter
Mia—FG Franks 30, 8:34.
Pit—Heyward-Bey 60 run (Bell pass from Roethlisberger), 5:39.
Second Quarter
Mia—FG Franks 23, 8:18.
Mia—FG Franks 30, 5:23.
Mia—Da.Williams 1 run (Franks kick), :21.
Third Quarter
Mia—Ajayi 1 run (Franks kick), 1:39.
Fourth Quarter
Pit—Hamilton 23 pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 1:02.
Mia—Ajayi 62 run (Franks kick), :50.
A—65,351.

	Pit	Mia
First downs	15	24
Total Net Yards	297	474
Rushes-yards	16-128	36-222
Passing	169	252
Punt Returns	0-0	2-26
Kickoff Returns	3-57	0-0
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	2-24
Comp-Att-Int	19-35-2	24-32-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-20	0-0
Punts	5-36.0	2-38.5
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	6-65	8-95
Time of Possession	23:30	36:30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Pittsburgh, Heyward-Bey 1-60, Bell 10-53, De.Williams 3-10, Brown 1-6, L.Jones 1-(minus 1). **Miami**, Ajayi 25-204, Da.Williams 6-12, Tannehill 2-3, A.Foster 3-3.
Passing—Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 19-34-2-189, L.Jones 0-1-0-0. **Miami**, Tannehill 24-32-0-252.
Receiving—Pittsburgh, Bell 6-55, Brown 4-39, Rogers 4-35, Hamilton 2-36, Je.James 2-13, Grimble 1-11. **Miami**, Landry 7-91, Parker 5-28, Gray 3-81, A.Foster 2-12, Stills 2-12, Da.Williams 2-5, Sims 1-12, D.Jones 1-8, Ajayi 1-3.
Missed field goals—Miami, Franks 50.

Lions 31, Rams 28

Los Angeles	7	7	7	7—28
Detroit	7	7	7	10—31

First Quarter
Det—Jones 7 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 10:44.
LA—Britt 20 pass from Keenum (Zuerlein kick), 5:15.
Second Quarter
LA—Keenum 1 run (Zuerlein kick), 11:01.
Det—Roberts 2 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 3:07.
Third Quarter
Det—Boldin 4 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 9:50.
LA—Kendricks 15 pass from Keenum (Zuerlein kick), 6:33.
Fourth Quarter
LA—Britt 9 pass from Keenum (Zuerlein kick), 14:09.
Det—Tate 23 pass from Stafford (Prater kick), 6:02.
Det—FG Prater 34, 1:29.
A—56,018.

	LA	Det
First downs	23	20
Total Net Yards	387	348
Rushes-yards	22-76	26-83
Passing	311	265
Punt Returns	1-2	1-4
Kickoff Returns	2-39	2-44
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	27-32-1	23-31-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-10	1-5
Punts	2-47.0	2-52.0
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-62	7-62
Time of Possession	27:48	32:12

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing—Los Angeles, Gurley 14-58, Cunningham 2-9, Keenum 3-7, Austin 3-2. **Detroit**, Zenner 14-58, Stafford 5-14, Forsett 5-5, Tate 1-3, Jones 1-3.
Passing—Los Angeles, Keenum 27-32-1-321. **Detroit**, Stafford 23-31-0-270.
Receiving—Los Angeles, Britt 7-136, Quick 5-61, Kendricks 5-34, Gurley 4-39, Austin 3-24, Cunningham 2-14, Marquez 1-13. **Detroit**, Tate 8-165, Boldin 8-60, Zenner 2-19, Roberts 2-13, Jones 2-10, Harbor 1-3.
Missed field goals—None.

SEE SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 29

NFL

Seattle tops Atlanta; both are impressive

By Tim Booth
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Matt Ryan dissected the best defense in the NFL for 15 memorable minutes. Richard Sherman unloaded on his teammates with an intense sideline tirade rarely seen in public. And Russell Wilson led another fourth-quarter comeback.

Eventful would be one way to describe Seattle's 26-24 win over Atlanta on Sunday.

But it was also validating. At this point of the season, the Falcons and Seahawks are clearly among the handful of contenders in the NFC.

Yes, both have flaws that were displayed at times in Seattle's win. Both also showed they have the ability to overcome them.

"I like where our team identity is now, so badly that I want the identity to happen right away," Atlanta coach Dan Quinn said. "It's growing stronger, that toughness, that resolve where we can attack in all three phases. That identity, I am pleased we are starting to become."

That sounds like something Seattle coach Pete Carroll might say. But the Seahawks' identity has been proven over time and was shown once again against the Falcons. Wilson led Seattle on a 70-yard touchdown drive midway through the fourth quarter to pull within 24-23. Then it was Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas teaming up to intercept a pass that slipped through Julio Jones' fingers and set up Steven Hauschka's 44-yard field goal that proved the game-winner.

The victory was Wilson's 20th fourth quarter or overtime comeback. Seattle's been down the path of being in close games in the fourth quarter against good teams and finding a way to pull out a win beginning in Wilson's rookie season. Sunday was the second time in five games this season Wilson led the Seahawks to a go-ahead score in the final 2 minutes.

That would seem to be the next step for the Falcons to learn.

"We had a really nice first half. Then came back when we needed to in the fourth quarter to get the stops we needed to get it done, and we made the one kick we needed to make," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "Very difficult game. Dan's team is playing like crazy. They were hard to beat today."

Here's what else to know from Seattle's victory:

Ripping Ryan: Ryan's third quarter was stunning. He was 13-for-17 for 220 yards and three TDs. Ryan found Jones for a 36-yard score on the first drive of the second half; found Mohamed Sanu on a 10-yard TD; and later connected with Levine Toilolo on a 46-yarder as the Falcons rallied from a 14-point halftime deficit to lead 24-17 going to the fourth quarter.

"They started making catches, started making deep throws and they made some good plays you have to give them that. That's a real good team over there," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said.

Here's Jimmy (again): Jimmy Graham continues to show his importance to Seattle's offense.

Graham finished with six catches for 89 yards, his third straight game with six receptions. He nearly became the first player in team history to top 100 yards receiving in three straight games, but fell just short.

It's the first time Graham has caught five or more passes in three straight games since early in the 2014 season, when he was still in New Orleans.

Running nowhere: While Ryan had a big day throwing the ball, Atlanta's run game had no success.

Devonta Freeman and Tevin Coleman combined for 52 yards rushing and averaged just 2.9 yards per carry. Freeman had 40 yards on 12 carries, but that included an 18-yard run.

No flag: Atlanta probably has a right to be upset with the decision not to flag Sherman for pass interference on its final offensive play. Replays showed Sherman clearly pulling at Jones' arm on the deep throw before the ball arrived. The Falcons sideline screamed begging for a call, but no flag ever appeared.

Sherman did not believe he got away with one.

"No. I felt like we won the ballgame," he said.

Elaine Thompson/AP

Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman, right, and Earl Thomas (obscured) break up a pass intended for Falcons wide receiver Julio Jones in the second half on Sunday in Seattle. The Seahawks beat the Falcons 26-24.

Scoreboard

FROM PAGE 28

Patriots 35, Bengals 17

Cincinnati	0	7	7	3—17
New England	3	7	15	10—35

First Quarter

NE—FG Gostkowski 46, 12:06.

Second Quarter

Cin—Dalton 2 run (Nugent kick), 3:10.

NE—White 15 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 1:01.

Third Quarter

Cin—LaFell 5 pass from Dalton (Nugent kick), 11:14.

NE—safety, 7:05.

NE—Gronkowski 4 pass from Brady (Gostkowski kick), 5:00.

NE—White 4 pass from Brady (kick failed), 2:58.

Fourth Quarter

Cin—FG Nugent 25, 12:34.

NE—FG Gostkowski 31, 6:04.

NE—Blount 1 run (Gostkowski kick), :57.

A—66,829.

	Cin	NE
First downs	20	25
Total Net Yards	357	437
Rushes-yards	32-120	23-79
Passing	237	358
Punt Returns	2-12	3-49
Kickoff Returns	3-57	2-46
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-31-0	29-35-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	2-17	3-18
Punts	4-41.0	3-44.3
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Penalties-Yards	7-46	6-55
Time of Possession	32:03	27:57

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING—Cincinnati, Bernard 15-49, Hill 13-38, Dalton 2-17, Burkhead 2-16. **New England**, Blount 13-50, White 7-19, Edelman 1-8, Brady 2-2.

PASSING—Cincinnati, Dalton 21-31-0-254. **New England**, Brady 29-35-0-376.

RECEIVING—Cincinnati, Green 6-88, Boyd 4-79, Bernard 4-45, Kroft 2-19, LaFell 2-13, Uzomah 1-6, Hill 1-3, Wright 1-1. **New England**, White 8-47, Gronkowski 7-162, Bennett 5-48, Edelman 4-30, Amendola 2-30, Blount 2-20, Hogan 1-39.

MISSED FIELD GOALS—None.

Most 400-yard passing games

Through Oct. 16, 2016

15 — Drew Brees, SD-NO
14 — Peyton Manning, Ind-Den
13 — Dan Marino, Mia

Newton has little to say after Panthers fall to 1-5

By Guerry Smith
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — It took Cam Newton nearly an hour to show up for his postgame interview after the Carolina Panthers' fourth straight loss Sunday. He was in a much bigger hurry once he got there, walking out after 90 seconds of terse, sullen responses.

If there was any good news for the defending NFC champion Panthers (1-5), Newton resembled his old self during — and after — a 41-38 loss to the New Orleans Saints.

Back from a concussion that sidelined him for a week, he rallied Carolina from a 21-0 deficit to tie the score in the fourth quarter. But he had a hard time handling the frustration of another tough defeat.

"We just have to find ways to win football games," he said.

He did his best to reverse the slide, throwing for 322 yards and two touchdowns. He then ran 2 yards to bring the Panthers within 38-36 with 2:58 remaining before connecting with Devin Funchess on a tying 2-point conversion.

But he had to watch from the sideline as Drew Brees, who threw for 465 yards, guided the Saints to a winning 52-yard field goal with 11 seconds left.

"He (Newton) did great," said tight end Greg Olsen, who had a team-high 94 yards on six catches. "We scored 38 points and should have had 50."

Aside from acknowledging a miscommunication on an interception he threw in the end zone when the Panthers trailed 21-0, Newton was in no mood to talk, He answered eight questions with a total of 51 words and responded to several inquiries by saying, "Next question."

Teammates spoke for him.

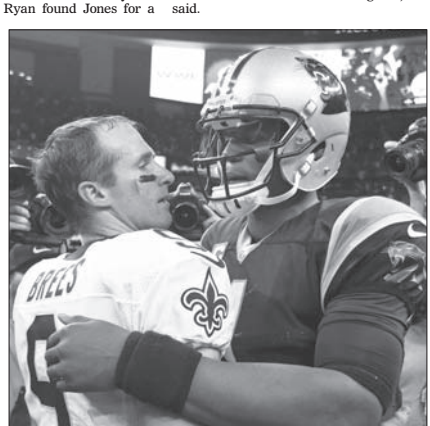
"He's a warrior," said tight end Ed Dickson, who caught Newton's second touchdown pass. "Whenever No. 1 is on the field, we have a chance to win."

Newton, who returned to practice on Wednesday and was cleared to play Saturday, ran only twice but completed several passes when he scrambled out of the pocket.

"Cam was not limited at all in his mobility," Panthers coach Ron Rivera said. "He made some really good decisions. When you score 38 points, you need to give yourself more of a chance to win."

Heading into their bye week, the Panthers are running out of chances to turn around their season. Although Newton played well, Carolina bore little resemblance to the team that won its first 14 games of 2015 on the way to the Super Bowl.

"This is not the team from last year," wide receiver Ted Ginn, Jr. said. "That's what everybody was expecting, but it's not. We're still finding ourselves."



Butch Dill/AP

Saints quarterback Drew Brees, left, and Panthers quarterback Cam Newton greet each other after Sunday's game. The Saints won 41-38. Newton was terse in his post-game news conference.

AUTO RACING/SPORTS BRIEFS

COLIN E. BRALEY/AP

Driver Kevin Harvick celebrates in Victory Lane after winning Sunday's Sprint Cup race at Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kan., Sunday.

Harvick advances in Chase

Kansas race leaves Keselowski, Elliott in must-win mode

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Kan. — After departing the celebration in Victory Lane at Kansas on Sunday, Kevin Harvick reflected on how his Stewart-Haas Racing team always seems to rally when its back is against the wall.

Chase Elliott and Brad Keselowski just may need to follow suit.

Harvick dealt with a mechanical issue a week ago at Charlotte that put him in a big hole heading to the second stop in the Chase's round of 12. But he rebounded by winning the Sprint Cup race at Kansas, not only locking up his spot in the next round but taking the pressure out of Talladega.

"Things are going to happen," said Harvick, who also rebounded from a poor Chase opener to win at New Hampshire. "Things can break and you just have to be able to rebound from them."

Elliott and Keselowski are in precisely that situation.

While several contenders were busy wrapping up top-10 finishes — Carl Edwards was second, followed by Joey Logano, Charlotte winner Jimmie Johnson, Kyle Busch and Austin Dillon — Elliott and Keselowski had been snared by late-race trouble that leaves them in desperation mode.

Elliott was running near the front when his left rear tire began rubbing on his fender, forcing a stop that left him a lap down. He managed to get back on the lead lap, only to have the same issue with another set of tires that forced him into another unscheduled stop.

"I don't know if we got the left rear getting up on the track or something, and it got into the fender and it cut it down. I don't know," Elliott said. "We had such a good car today."

He wound up finishing 31st and is now 25 points out of the eighth and final spot in the next round, which basically turns the unpredictable race at Talladega into a must-win scenario.

"Race our hearts out and try to win, I guess," he said. "That's about all we can do."

Keselowski had a similarly dreadful day. He began wiggling with 78 laps left and Denny Hamlin was unable to check up in time, the gentle tap sending the No. 2 car shooting down the track. He slammed into the grassy turf and tore up the front of his car.

Keselowski wound up 38th, putting him seven points out of the final Chase spot.

"I like Talladega. Talladega has been good to me," said Keselowski, who has won four times there, including earlier this year. "I'm going to drive my butt off and at the end of the day I have faith that if it is meant to be, it is meant to be. We can't get down. There is a long way to go still."

Things are more comfortable for other Chase contenders.

Edwards ran up front all day and thought he had the car to beat at Kansas before Harvick pulled away from him on a late restart. He still finished second to move up two spots in the points race and now has a 24-point buffer between himself Logano in eighth place.

Of course, that was of little solace to the Missouri native. He considers the speedway just across the Kansas border his home track and always has thousands of fans in the stands. He's wanted to win at Kansas more than anywhere else on the circuit but has yet to reach victory lane.

"There's so many people that come to this track that support me," he said. "Maybe a day or two will pass and I'll be more excited about the points situation going to Talladega."

Martin Truex Jr. had issues with the refueling mechanism that forced him to pit out of sequence and wound up 11th. Kurt Busch finished two spots back in 13th after having to go to his backup car following a spin in practice. Hamlin dealt with an issue with the front splitter and was 15th.

As a result, Logano sits in the tenuous eighth spot in points — tied with Dillon and six ahead of Hamlin — as the Chase heads to the elimination race at Talladega.

"We came out swinging. That's what we had to do. We did everything we were supposed to do," Logano said. "It's not comfortable being tied with Austin going into next week but that'll be fun."

Briefly

Kyrgios suspended, fined for 'tanking'

Associated Press

LONDON — Nick Kyrgios will miss the rest of the season after being suspended by the men's tour and fined an additional $25,000 on Monday for "tanking" a match and insulting fans in the mercurial Australian's latest run-in with tennis authorities.

The ATP said Kyrgios was sanctioned for "conduct contrary to the integrity of the game" following an investigation into his behavior during a second-round loss to German qualifier Mischa Zverev last week at the Shanghai Masters.

Kyrgios gave little effort during the 6-3, 6-1 defeat, even patting easy serves over the net and turning away before his opponent's serve had crossed the net.

The 21-year-old Australian had already been fined a total of $16,500 for failing to give a full effort, unsportsmanlike conduct and verbal abuse of a spectator.

The ATP said Monday that, in addition to the extra $25,000 fine, Kyrgios was handed an eight-week suspension lasting through Jan. 15 — a day before the start of the Australian Open, the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

However, the tour said the suspension will be reduced to three weeks if Kyrgios agrees to enter "a plan of care under the direction of a sports psychologist or an equivalent plan approved by the ATP." That means he would eligible to return on Nov. 7.

There are no regular tournaments on the schedule after Nov. 7. The only event in November is the ATP finals in London from Nov. 13-20. The 12th-ranked Kyrgios has not qualified for the eight-player finals, so he will have to wait until next year in any case to return to the tour.

Kyrgios issued a statement Monday offering another apology for his conduct in Shanghai and saying he will be back in 2017. He did not say whether he would enter the treatment program mandated by the ATP.

During the match, Kyrgios was cautioned by the chair umpire about his conduct as a professional and booed and jeered by the crowd. He responded angrily to the taunt of a fan by shouting, "You want to come here and play?"

In other tennis news:

■ Serena Williams will miss the season-ending WTA Finals for the second year in a row, citing a right shoulder injury.

Clemson TB Gallman in concussion protocol

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson coach Dabo Swinney says starting tailback Wayne Gallman will be out of practice this week as he goes through concussion protocol.

Gallman missed most of No. 4 Clemson's 24-17 overtime win against North Carolina State when he took a hard hit in the opening quarter and was taken into the locker room.

Swinney says Gallman looked and sounded good when he spoke with him Monday, but added he would the running back will be kept from workouts until he's cleared. The Tigers (7-0, 4-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) are off Saturday.

Purdue fires Hazell after 9-33 record

Darrell Hazell never won consecutive games at Purdue and his latest failed attempt to string together a couple victories turned out to be his last.

Purdue fired Hazell on Sunday midway through his fourth season and less than 24 hours after the Boilermakers again could not win two in a row.

Hazell was 9-33 overall with just three Big Ten victories since taking over in 2013. At .220, He finished with the worst winning percentage of any Purdue coach in 95 years.

Wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator Gerad Parker was named interim coach. Parker is in his fourth season on staff.

■ No. 22 North Carolina has lost top deep threat Mack Hollins for the season to a broken right collarbone. The 6-foot-4 former walk-on from Rockville, Maryland last year led the country by averaging 24.8 yards per catch, finishing with 30 catches for 745 yards and eight touchdowns. Hollins had a 49-yard catch at Miami, giving him 16 catches for 309 yards and four scores this season.

Steele rallies to win Safeway Open

NAPA, Calif. — Brendan Steele figured out how to finish at Silverado and won the Safeway Open for his first PGA Tour victory in more than five years.

One year after losing a 54-hole lead with a 40 on the back nine, Steele rallied from a four-shot deficit on a rain-soaked course and closed with three straight birdies for a 7-under 65, giving him a one-shot victory over a faltering Patton Kizzire.

Johnson Wagner stayed close to Kizzire the entire back nine but had to settle for pars over the final eight holes. He closed with a 70 and tied for third with Paul Casey (69), former Cal star Michael Kim (67) and Scott Piercy (70).

In other golf news:

■ Carlota Ciganda beat Alison Lee with a birdie on the first hole of a playoff Sunday in the rainy LPGA KEB HanaBank Championship after each player lost big leads.

■ Doug Garwood ran away with the SAS Championship for his first PGA Tour Champions title, closing with an 8-under 64 for a four-stroke victory.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Division Series

(Best-of-five)
American League
Toronto 3, Texas 0
Toronto 10, Texas 1
Toronto 5, Texas 3
Toronto 7, Texas 6, 10 innings
Cleveland 3, Boston 0
Cleveland 5, Boston 4
Cleveland 6, Boston 0
Cleveland 4, Boston 3
National League
Chicago 3, San Francisco 1
Chicago 1, San Francisco 0
Chicago 5, San Francisco 2
San Francisco 6, Chicago 5, 13 innings
Chicago 6, San Francisco 5
Los Angeles 3, Washington 2
Los Angeles 4, Washington 3
Washington 5, Los Angeles 2
Washington 8, at Los Angeles 3
Los Angeles 6, Washington 5
Los Angeles 4, Washington 3

League Championship Series

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
American League
Cleveland 2, Toronto 0
Cleveland 2, Toronto 0
Cleveland 2, Toronto 1
Monday: at Toronto
Tuesday: Cleveland (Clevinger 3-3) at Toronto (Sanchez 15-2)
x-Wednesday: at Toronto
x-Friday: at Cleveland
x-Saturday: at Cleveland
National League
Chicago 1, Los Angeles 1
Chicago 8, Los Angeles 4
Sunday: Los Angeles 1, Chicago 0
Tuesday: Chicago (Arrieta 18-8) at Los Angeles (Hill 3-2)
Wednesday: at Los Angeles
Thursday: at Los Angeles
x-Saturday: at Chicago
x-Sunday, Oct. 23: at Chicago

Sunday
Dodgers 1, Cubs 0

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Utley 2b	3	0	0	0	Fowler cf	4	0	0	0
C.Sager ss	3	0	0	0	Bryant 3b	4	0	0	0
Ju.Trnr 3b	2	0	0	0	Rizzo 1b	3	0	0	0
Ad.Gnzl 1b	3	1	1	1	Zobrist lf	3	0	0	0
Reddick rf	4	0	1	0	Russell ss	3	0	0	0
Jansen p	0	0	0	0	J.Baez 2b	3	0	1	0
Pderson cf	3	0	0	0	Cntrras c	3	0	1	0
Grandal c	1	0	0	0	Heyward rf	3	0	0	0
Toles lf	2	0	0	0	Hndrcks p	1	0	0	0
E.Hrnnd ph-lf	2	0	0	0	Edwards p	0	0	0	0
Kershaw p	3	0	1	0	Soler ph	1	0	0	0
Puig rf	1	0	0	0	Mntgmry p	0	0	0	0
					Strop p	0	0	0	0
					M.Mntro ph	1	0	0	0
					A.Chpmn p	0	0	0	0
Totals	**27**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**Totals**	**29**	**0**	**2**	**0**

Los Angeles 010 000 000—1
Chicago 000 000 000—0

E—Grandal (2). DP—Chicago 2. LOB—Los Angeles 8, Chicago 3. HR—Ad.Gonzalez (2). SB—Pederson (1). S—Grandal (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Los Angeles						
Kershaw W,2-0	7	2	0	0	1	6
Jansen S,3-3	2	0	0	0	0	4
Chicago						
Hendricks L,0-1	5⅓	3	1	1	4	5
Edwards	⅔	0	0	0	0	0
Montgomery	1	0	0	0	2	1
Strop	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chapman	1	0	0	0	1	0

HBP—by Strop (Turner). T—2:45. A—42,384 (41,072).

Calendar

Oct. 25 — World Series starts, city of AL champion.
November TBA — Deadline for teams to make qualifying offers to their eligible former players who became free agents, fifth day after World Series.
November TBA — Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 12th day after World Series.
Nov. 7-10 — General managers' meetings, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Nov. 16-17 — Owners meetings, Chicago.

Did you know

The Cubs lost a 1-0 game in the postseason for the first time since Babe Ruth and the Boston Red Sox blanked them in the 1918 World Series opener.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Cubs' sluggers looking for answers

Rizzo, Russell struggling through untimely slump

By Jim Litke
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Star slugger Anthony Rizzo hit a soft liner for the Chicago Cubs' final out, which only seemed fitting.

While the rest of Chicago's lineup can take consolation knowing Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw is about to get a few days off, Rizzo and shortstop Addison Russell won't share in that small solace. The duo that totaled 204 RBIs in the regular season is a combined 2 for 45 through six games in the postseason.

Kershaw only underscored their struggles during Los Angeles' 1-0 win Sunday night that tied the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

Kershaw held Chicago to two hits over seven innings and Kenley Jansen finished with two perfect innings, but that 1-2 punch could quiet Murderers' Row.

The other Cubs have done plenty of damage, with six players getting a hit in an 8-4 Game 1 victory. Rizzo and Russell, however, were a combined 0-for-9 Saturday night before going hitless in six at-bats in Game 2.

Rizzo said changing his plate approach at this point in the series would be foolish. While it sounds counterintuitive, he's learned that patience is the quickest way to end a slump.

"I don't think it's fair to everyone trying to get six, seven, eight hits at one time. I've done that before in my career," he laughed ruefully, "and it doesn't work.

"You just keep going through the process," he added. "Keep battling, keep grinding."

Rizzo and Russell were key contributors for baseball's best regular season team, but both have made every pitcher look unhittable in October, even as Chicago rolled past San Francisco in four games during an NL Division Series.

"We've been taking some good hacks," said Russell, whose tailspin actually began at the end of the regular season. "They're just not falling."

Nam Y. Huh/AP

The Cubs' Anthony Rizzo avoids getting hit by a pitch during the fourth inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series against Los Angeles on Sunday in Chicago. The Dodgers won 1-0.

Rizzo batted .292 with 32 home runs and 109 RBIs during the regular season. He's gone 1-for-23 in the playoffs with just a single and three walks, including the only one Kershaw issued in seven innings.

When Rizzo got to 3-0 in that at-bat, he was bristling for a pitch to hit.

"No doubt," he said. "It's a 1-0 game at that point. One swing changes that."

He nearly did that in the fourth inning, turning a 1-1 fastball from Kershaw into a towering shot that cleared the outfield wall in right by plenty — it landed on Sheffield Avenue, behind Wrigley Field — but hooked just outside the foul pole. Kershaw threw high and tight on the next pitch, then coaxed Rizzo into grounding out.

Rizzo was hoping for a second bite at the long ball in the seventh. But Kershaw walked him on the next pitch.

"Anytime you can get on," Rizzo said, his voice trailing off.

Russell hit only .238 in the regular season, but contributed plenty of power, with 21 homers and 95 RBIs. Yet, like Rizzo, he's got only a single in his 22 at-bats. He sat out the Cubs' playoff run last year due to an injury, but he said that lack of experience wasn't an excuse.

"He got ahead early and he throws strikes," Russell said. "He had his stuff tonight. ... I've got to learn to grind out the at-bats better, extend the pitchers more."

Kershaw yielded only two hits in seven innings. Tough as he was on Rizzo, the left-hander dominated Russell, who grounded out in his first at-bat then produced a pair of routine flyouts.

Rizzo said neither he nor Russell had a reason to hang their heads, at least on this night.

"We just faced the best pitcher on the planet," he said.

By the numbers

0-for-15

Combined line at the plate for Chicago Cubs' sluggers Anthony Rizzo and Addison Russell in the first two games of the NLCS. The duo, which totaled 204 RBIs in the regular season, is a combined 2-for-45 through six games this year in the postseason.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Script: Kershaw rehabilitating postseason reputation

FROM BACK PAGE

"He hit it pretty good," Kershaw said. "And yeah, after Dave came out and that, I kind of talked my way into it. I really wanted to — he was probably not going to trust me again after that, but, fortunately, he hit it at somebody, so it was good."

Baez's drive was one of a precious few hard-hit balls for the Cubs. Kershaw was that good.

The Dodgers needed a clutch pitching performance after their heartbreaking 8-4 loss in the series opener. And Kershaw responded with a gem that continued his reputation repair after a handful of playoff duds over the years. He was just 3-6 with a 4.79 ERA in 16 career postseason games coming into this series.

"I feel like every start he has the chance to be great," catcher Yasmani Grandal said. "It's just unbelievable to see him pitch, it's unbelievable to see him compete."

Game 3 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles. Cubs right-hander Jake Arrieta, who pitched a no-hitter at Dodger Stadium last August, faces left-hander Rich Hill.

"Playoffs is always about pitching and defense," said Miguel Montero, the Game 1 hero for the Cubs. "Tonight we played great defense as well and we couldn't score."

David J. Phillip/AP

Los Angeles Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw throws during the fourth inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series against the Cubs on Sunday in Chicago.

Chicago, trying for its first pennant in 71 years, wasted a solid start by major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks, who pitched 5⅓ innings of three-hit ball in his first outing since he left his Division Series start against San Francisco with a bruised right forearm.

Hendricks' only mistake was a second-inning fastball that Gonzalez drove over the wall in left-center for his second homer of the playoffs. Gonzalez also had a tying two-run single in the eighth inning of the series opener, but Montero's pinch-hit grand slam was the big blow in a dramatic win for Chicago.

Gonzalez became the seventh player in major league history to homer in at least six consecutive playoff series, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. It was the third go-ahead homer of his postseason career.

A day later, the Cubs couldn't get anything going against Kershaw.

"He kept the ball off the fat part of our bat," manager Joe Maddon said. "He threw strikes like he normally does. So despite not having rest, his command and velocity were still good."

Nothing seemed to bother Kershaw on a muggy night at Wrigley Field. After Grandal dropped a foul popup in the seventh, Kershaw responded with a wry grin, and then struck out Ben Zobrist.

"I honestly thought with him pitching with a couple of days' rest, he wasn't going to be that nasty," Baez said, "but obviously he came ready for us and he just did his job."

SPORTS

Super bad
Panthers fall to 1-5 with loss to Saints » NFL, Page 29

NLCS: GAME 2

Rewriting the script

Dodgers' Kershaw puts his struggles in past to deliver best start of playoff career

NAM Y. HUH/AP

Los Angeles starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw looks up before a pitch during the fourth inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series against the Cubs on Sunday in Chicago. Kershaw retired his first 14 batters and allowed just two hits with six strikeouts and one walk in seven innings. The Dodgers won 1-0.

BY JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — So much for October closer. With his Dodgers desperate for a win, Clayton Kershaw delivered the best start of his checkered playoff career.

The ace left-hander pitched seven sparkling innings, Adrian Gonzalez homered and Los Angeles beat the Chicago Cubs 1-0 Sunday night to tie the NL Championship Series at a game apiece.

> **'I feel like every start he has the chance to be great.'**
> **Yasmani Grandal**
> Dodgers catcher

Kershaw retired his first 14 batters and allowed just two hits in first outing since he pitched three times in the NL Division Series, including a two-out save in Game 5 on Thursday night in Washington. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner struck out six and walked one while throwing just 84 pitches in a brisk outing that could help when he returns later in the NLCS.

"It was one of those games where one pitch could have been the deciding factor," Kershaw said. "So, really just kind of couldn't look up for a minute for air and just kind of kept going through it and fortunate to get through it tonight."

Did you know

The Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw, a three-time NL Cy Young Award winner, was just 3-6 with a 4.79 ERA in 16 career postseason games coming into this series.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Kenley Jansen then struck out four in two perfect innings for his third save of the playoffs. The teams combined for just five hits for the lowest total in a playoff game since the Cardinals and Pirates had four in Game 4 of their 2013 NL Division Series.

"I think that you couldn't have scripted it any better," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. "And it was just another fun ballgame."

Roberts almost went to Jansen with a runner on first and two out in the seventh, but Kershaw argued successfully to stay in the game. Javier Baez then hit a drive to the warning track in deep center, but Joc Pederson was there for the catch.

SEE SCRIPT ON PAGE 31

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

The Dodgers' Adrian Gonzalez, left, celebrates with Joc Pederson after hitting a home run during the second inning on Sunday.

Harvick reaches next round of Chase » Auto racing, Page 30

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