China changing world order
International status quo entering uncharted waters

By Ken Moritsugu
Associated Press

T

wice in the 20th century, Japan challenged the West, first in a military-led attempt to become an imperial power and then as an industrial powerhouse. Now it is China's turn to take the global stage.

Seventy-five years after Japan's surrender in World War II, and 30 years after its economic bubble popped, the emergence of a 21st century Asian power is shaking up the status quo.

As Japan did, China is butting heads with the established Western powers, which increasingly see its growing economic and military prowess as a threat. In turn, China, again like Japan, feels the West is trying to limit its rise, fueling nationalistic sentiment among both its public and leaders.

What's changed, though, is the global landscape — post-colonial to start, and...
By Lori Aratani
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Transportation Security Administration is launching a pilot program at Reagan National Airport that will use facial scanners — rather than humans — to verify travelers’ identities.

The program is part of a longstanding push by the agency to automate the process for travelers’ identities.

“In light of COVID-19, advanced health and safety precautions have become a top priority and part of the new normal for TSA,” Administrator David Pekoske said in a statement that accompanied the announcement. “As a result, we are exploring rapid testing and deployment of this touchless, self-service technology.”

But the use of facial scans is controversial and has raised concerns among lawmakers, privacy advocates and civil rights groups. They said that even during a pandemic, it is important to make sure measures are put into place to ensure the technology is used properly and that efforts are made to safeguard any data that is collected.

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**WEATHER OUTLOOK**

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Exchange doubles credit limit on troops’ uniforms

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Most U.S. troops can now receive up to $1,000 credit with no interest for one year on military uniform purchases through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s credit program, officials announced this week.

The change marks the first major adjustment to the Military Star card, the exchange’s credit program since it was launched in 1979, and it comes as the Army’s new World War II-inspired Army Green Service Uniform hits shelves at exchange shops at some installations. The changes double the long-standing $500 credit limit on zero-interest uniform-purchasing plans and extend them from nine-month payment plans to 12-month plans, exchange officials said in a Tuesday statement.

Soldiers, airmen, Marines and members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to participate in the program. About 474,000 troops are now enrolled in the Army and Air Force Exchange Service’s credit program, according to the exchange statement.

Credit and Coast Guard members are eligible for a promotional 0% plan for purchasing uniforms on the Military Star card’s standard credit line, which is separate from its uniform credit line.

The credit increase on the military clothing plan is meant to give troops new opportunities to build credit and give them more flexibility to pay for their uniforms, said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, the senior enlisted leader for the exchange.

The Military Star card offers this benefit as a service to the stores, reflecting the Exchange Credit Program’s commitment to improving the readiness and resiliency of warfighters across the globe,” Osby said in the statement.

It will also allow soldiers to pay over time for the new green uniforms, which will replace the blue Army Service Uniform soldiers’ standard office attire by 2027. The blues will become the Army’s uniform for more formal settings, such as unit galas.

The Army Greens are expected to be available at most exchange stores within the continental United States by December and at Army posts across the globe by March, the exchange said.

Some soldiers have already adopted the new look, modeled after the popular World War II uniform known as “pinks and greens.” Drill sergeants, recruiters, and general officers who deal with the public have been among the first to receive the new uniforms.

By December, the Army expects to issue the Army Greens to incoming recruits.

Early adopters of the new uniform will pay for more of it. The standard uniform now costs about $500, said Daniel Koglin, a military clothing manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service. That does not include any optional items available to soldiers, including the so-called “Ike” jacket, inspired by the cropped jacket made iconic by Gen. Dwight Eisenhower during World War II.

Correction

The date after which packages found in the mail with handwritten customs forms will be returned to sender was incorrect in a story about new electronic customs forms in some Friday editions. The date should be Oct. 2, the Military Postal Service Agency has said.

USMC base barbecue blamed for firefighting foam leak

By Matthew M. Burke
and Aya Ichihashi
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An outdoor barbecue near the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma on April 10, according to a Marine Corps investigation released Friday. About 22,000 gallons of the aqueous foam used at Futenma contains PFOS and PFOA. The Marine statement indicated they were contained on base. The remaindertraveled off base through a storm drain and into a nearby stream and neighborhood.

Japan set a combined safety threshold for PFOS and PFOA on April 1. The threshold is not law, but a policy standard guideline. The United States’ threshold is 0.05 micrograms per liter for PFOS and PFOA on April 1. The threshold is not law, but a quality standard guideline. The United States’ threshold is 0.05 micrograms per liter.

With its statement, the Marines provided a table of test results showing PFOS and PFOA levels at several locations. The results were derived from soil and water samples taken by the U.S. military and the Japanese and Okinawa prefectural governments.

The Marine statement indicated they would replace the firefighting foam. Friday evening, the Okinawa Defense Bureau, which represents Japan’s Ministry on the island, referred Stars and Stripes to the Defense Ministry for comment on the Marines’ statement. A ministry spokesperson could not be reached.

An Okinawa prefectural spokesman said the island government is relieved the levels of PFOS and PFOA, cancer-causing agents, reported by the Marines’ review of the spill were not “obscene.” He said the prefecture would request further details about the incident.

“If we have seen any indication that the Marine Corps plan to not repeat this incident again,” said a prefectural spokesman from the U.S. military matters section. “We will monitor to make sure they follow the new prevention protocol.”

Japanese government representatives often speak on condition of anonymity as a requirement of their positions.

“Such a statement is a red flag that we will keep asking Marine officials to allow us into the base to investigate the other locations where the high amounts … have been detected.”

Austral USA delivers 12th fast transport ship to Navy

By Christian Lopez
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of its 12th Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport, the USNS Independence-class ship that carries special forces from shipbuilder Austal USA’s shipyard in Mobile, Ala., on Wednesday.

The USNS Newport is the third Austral delivery to the fleet this year. Earlier, it handed over Independence-class littoral combat ship (LCS) USS Kansas City and USSS Oakland.

The Newport, 337-feet-long and capable of an average of 35 knots in the water, was built by Austal USA under the U.S. Navy Sea-Lift Command. The command provides ocean transport and sealift to all U.S. military branches as well as government agencies.

“I am proud to be a part of delivering this highly-capable ship that can successfully meet a wide range of missions,” Tim Roberts, strategic and theater sealift program manager, Program Executive Office, Ships, said in a Navy release Thursday.

The Navy in 2008 awarded Aus- tal USA, the American branch of an Australian defense firm, a $1.6 billion contract for 10 Spearhead-class vessels. Two more contracts followed: $248.8 million in 2016 for the 11th and 12th fast transports, and $261.8 million in March 2019 for the 13th and 14th ships, according to Austal USA.

Austal is building the 13th fast transport ship, the USNS Apalachee, and construction on the 14th, the USNS Cody, is expected to begin before the end of the year.
The guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald returns to Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, following a collision with a merchant vessel on June 17, 2017.

Findings: NTSB report cites ‘ineffective communication and cooperation’ in crash

FROM FRONT PAGE

sustained $300 million worth of damage. Contributing factors included “ineffective communication and cooperation among the Fitzgerald crew on the bridge and in the combat information center, and the Fitzgerald commanding officer’s insufficient planning for the hazards of the vessel’s intended transit,” according to the report.

The report also pointed to the Navy’s “ineffective operations scheduling, crew training and fatigue mitigation.”

The findings mirror those of the Navy’s 2017 post-collision report that called the accident preventable. That report identified the bridge team’s failure to “plan for safety,” adhere to sound navigation practices,” “properly use available navigation tools” and “respond deliberately and effectively” as contributing factors in the collision.

Though the NTSB report identified the Navy failings as the probable cause of the collision, the agency “does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident.”

The report also noted the ACX Crystal’s failure to detect the Fitzgerald early and “insufficient actions to avoid collision.”

“Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations,” the board said in its report.

The transportation board’s findings are also similar to those in a Japan Transport Safety Board report released last year. The Japanese government ordered that investigation, which also did not assign blame, because the incident took place in Japanese waters.

The U.S. transportation board’s report recommended revising “fleetwide training and qualification requirements for officers of the deck” and improving communication between the bridge and combat information center teams.

Previously, the Navy said it had already made such revisions and has implemented 107 of 111 recommendations in its own post-collision report, including improved training and certification standards, tightened surface warfare officer qualifications and changed sleep schedule policy to better complement circadian rhythm. The remaining four recommendations are expected to be implemented by the end of December.

The Fitzgerald returned to sea in February, after about 2 ½ years of repair work.

The Fitzgerald crash was the first of two deadly collisions that the Navy suffered in 2017. The USS McCain collided with another civilian ship in Augs, claiming the lives of 10 sailors. The McCain returned to sea in October 2019.

BY KATHY GANNON

Assocated Press

ISLAMABAD — Taliban officials said a senior delegation returned early Saturday to Qatar, paving the way for the start of peace talks with the Afghan government that are expected to take place in the tiny Gulf state.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The delayed negotiations are the second, critical part to a peace deal the United States signed with the Taliban in February in Doha. The recent Taliban delegation’s arrival in Qatar, where the group keeps its political office, came as a top Afghan government body.began negotiations for delays in starting talks.

In a tweet on Saturday, the spokesman for Kabul’s High Council for National Reconciliation, Faraidoon Khwazoon, said the government was ready to start direct talks with the Taliban.

“The process of releasing the prisoners is over and there is no excuse for delaying the talks, but the Taliban are still not ready to take part in the talks,” he said, without further elaboration.

In a surprise late night Saturday tweet, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed announced a Taliban delegation will be in Qatar on Sunday by a new team.

The Taliban’s “Chief Justice Abdul Hakim has been named the lead negotiator replacing Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai, who will be deputy negotiator. The appointment of Hakim, who is close to the Taliban leader Hafizullah Akhunzada, brings the Taliban’s negotiating team to 21.

There was no explanation for the sudden changes.

Until its deal with the U.S., the Taliban refused to directly negotiate with the Afghan government. The current Kabul negotiating team is a collection of government and opposition officials.

The U.S. State Department said in a statement Saturday that it envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, who brokered the February deal, left for Qatar on the previous day to press for an “immediate” start to negotiations between the warring Afghan sides.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Afghans on both sides of the conflict to open negotiations as part of a peace deal, left for Qatar on the previous day to press for an “immediate” start to negotiations between the warring Afghan sides.

Washington has ramped up pressure on Afghans on both sides of the conflict to open negotiations for a stop to fighting. The Department of Defense allows military members on active-duty to express their personal opinions on political candidates, donate to campaigns, sign petitions and attend political events as spectators. But they are not allowed to participate in any discussions as an advocate or partake in partisan activities.

The organization was created after 9/11 to defend the country and coordinate Department of Defense civilian disaster response efforts. It is based at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs.

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US Northern Command apologizes for retweeting Trump campaign update

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The U.S. Northern Command based in Colorado Springs has apologized for retweeting a post by President Donald Trump that announced his campaign stop earlier this week in a western Pennsylvania city.

Before addressing supporters, Trump tweeted, “I’m going to Latrobe, Pennsylvania, the home of the late, great Arnold Palmer — There was nobody like him. I got to know Arnold well, played golf with him, and miss him. See you tonight in Latrobe!”

Northern Command spokeswoman Navy Capt. Pamela Kunze said the tweet was “inadvertently retweeted on the official U.S. Northern Command Twitter account” on Thursday by a new staff member and one of the account’s administrators, The Gazette reported.

The retweet was deleted after several minutes, Kunze said, apologizing on behalf of the military organization. The Northern Command is apolitical and non-partisan, she said.

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“Taliban members return to Doha for Afghan peace talks”

The Afghan people are ready for a sustainable reduction in violence and a political settlement that will end the war, the State Department statement said.

Taliban members reportedly met a second time with Baradar on Friday before his return to Doha again pressing for a swift start to Afghan peace talks, it is believed.

U.S. and Afghan officials have both said they want to see a reduction in violence in the conflict going into talks with the Taliban, but the militant group maintains a cease-fire would only be on the table once talks begin.

Washington’s February agreement with the Taliban was reached to allow the exit of American troops after nearly 20 years at war in keeping with a promise President Donald Trump made during the 2016 U.S. election campaign.

“The Afghan people are ready for a sustainable reduction in violence and a political settlement that will end the war,” the State Department statement said.

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Sexual Abuse Claims in Boy Scouts Bankruptcy

Regardless of how old you are today or when the sexual abuse occurred, you need to file your claim by 5 p.m. (Eastern Time) on November 16, 2020.

The Boy Scouts of America ("BSA") has filed bankruptcy in order to restructure its nonprofit organization and pay Sexual Abuse Survivors. Please read this notice carefully as it may impact your rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack and provides information about the case, In re Boy Scouts of America and Delaware BSA, LLC, No. 20-10343 (Bankr. D. Del.). This notice is a short summary. For more detail, visit www.OfficialBSAClaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721.

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

Anyone who was sexually abused during their time in Scouting, on or before February 18, 2020, must file a claim. This includes sexual abuse in connection with Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, or any entity or activity associated with Scouting. Sexual Abuse Claims include, but are not limited to: sexual misconduct, exploitation, or touching, sexual comments about a person or other behaviors that led to abuse, even if the behavior was not sexual or against the law, and regardless of whether you thought the behavior was sexual abuse or not. These acts could be between: (1) child and an adult or (2) child and another child.

When and How Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

You should file a claim using the Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim by November 16, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). If you do not file a timely Sexual Abuse Claim, you may lose rights against BSA, BSA Local Councils or organizations that sponsored your troop or pack, including any right to compensation. Only BSA is in bankruptcy. If you have a claim against the BSA Local Councils or other organizations, you must take additional legal action to preserve and pursue your rights.

Your information will be kept private. You can download and file a claim at www.OfficialBSAClaims.com or call 1-866-907-2721 for help on how to file a claim by mail. Scouting participants who were at least 18 years of age at the time the sexual abuse began may also have claims related to sexual abuse and should consult the appropriate claim form at www.OfficialBSAClaims.com.

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

- File a Sexual Abuse Survivor Proof of Claim.
- If your claim is approved, you may receive compensation from the bankruptcy.
- Have questions? Call or visit the website for more information.

If a plan to reorganize BSA is approved, it could release claims you hold against certain third parties, including against BSA Local Councils and organizations that sponsored your troop or pack. Please visit the website to learn more.

Other Support

BSA will fund in-person counseling for current or former Scouts or their family. To request in-person counseling, please call 1-866-907-2721 or email restructuring@scouting.org.

Your information will be kept private.

www.OfficialBSAClaims.com  1-866-907-2721
Barbecues help Yokota’s new airmen get through coronavirus quarantine

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Some summer barbecues at the home of U.S. Forces Japan in western Tokyo are a little out of the ordinary this year.

The events for newly arrived airmen are choreographed affairs where the guests of honor don masks and keep their distance from the folks cooking their food.

U.S. personnel arriving in Japan must spend 14 days in quarantine, which the military calls “restriction of movement” or “ROM,” that’s designed to stop them spreading the coronavirus to others in their new homes.

To make sure the experience doesn’t feel like a short stint in jail, the Air Force has come up with all sorts of ways to make the quarantined single airmen, including fortnightly barbecues.

Staff Sgt. Valesia Williams, 30, of Rochester, Minn., was at a barbecue hosted by the Yokota First Sergeants’ state.

“I’m here to check on these airmen who are in ROM,” he said. “I’m seeing how their mental state is and making sure they’re being taken care of by their units.”

Yokota community support organizer Debbie Stevens, 60, of Wyoming, said the barbecues are just one of the things the Air Force is doing to support airmen in quarantine.

Barbecues help people修为 physical, spiritual, relational and emotional wellness, according to the Air Force veteran and licensed clinical social worker.

“They take care of so many things in one session and they’re fun,” Stevens said. “We can get them outside … get them some fresh air and sunshine, get them a homecooked meal. For some of them, just to be able to get out into the daylight is huge.”

The barbecues, which last about 90 minutes and include a performance by members of the Air Force Band of the Pacific-Asia, have been going since late May and have fed about 150 quarantined airmen so far.

“We keep it short and sweet because we are trying to make sure we exercise all the proper safety measures,” Stevens said.

Other support for quarantined airmen includes deliveries of letters from schoolkids, a game involving chopsticks and beans, more homecooked food and a bag of Japanese treats, she said.

A few airmen who have had birthdays in quarantine received cakes baked by Stevens.

“Having been an airman myself in rather austere settings, I think they have got it pretty sweet,” she said. “It is not so much the setting as it is the human contact.”

For Germany, that’s the Robert Koch Institute, he said.

In its latest update issued Wednesday, the Germany public health agency said the whole of Spain, including the Canary Islands, has been classified as a risk area, as has Zadar county in Croatia, joining Sibenik-Knin and Split-Dalmatia counties, which were added to RKI’s list last month. Antwerp in Belgium has been removed from the list of at-risk areas, but Brussels is still on it.

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US Army bans masks with valves for soldiers in S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. Army has banned masks with valves for soldiers and other personnel in South Korea, joining a growing consensus that the high-tech face coverings may do more harm than good in preventing the coronavirus’ spread.

The decision followed new guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which said last month that such masks “allow air to be exhaled through a hole in the material, which can result in expelled respiratory droplets that can reach others.”

South Korea’s Ministry of Food and Drug Safety also recommended against wearing masks with valves.

U.S. Forces Korea made it mandatory for people to wear masks when in public off-base, in accordance with rules set by local communities after another coronavirus outbreak began last month.

On base, people must wear them inside stores and other crowded facilities, according to an email sent to anyone in-eligible to maintain a safe distance from other people, USFK said.

However, the Eighth Army announced last Tuesday that masks with valves were no longer authorized.

“Neck gaiters and other cloth items, such as bandannas and scarves, are authorized as face masks along with masks without valves,” it said in a post distributed on social media.

“Face coverings or masks must cover both the mouth and nose and extend to the chin or below as well as to the sides of the face. Stop the spread!” it added.

Many commenters expressed frustration about the decision, noting that the high-tech masks had previously been recommended as most effective against pollution.

Some also asked if refunds would be provided since the Vogmask costs about $30.

The Eighth Army said the ban applies to all personnel including troops, civilians, contractors and their family members.

“The U.S. CDC and Army Public Health Command state the exhalation valves allow unfiltered exhaled air and droplets to escape the mask that may contain viruses,” the public affairs office said in response to questions from Stars and Stripes.

Eighth Army said all unit and base facilities that require face coverings may restrict entry to those wearing masks with valves.

The post exchange, which still had valve masks on display at Camp Humphreys last week, said its standard return policy applies.

“Shoppers who have purchased a Vogmask with valves may return their unused mask in its original packaging for a full refund,” said Army Staff Sgt. Mark Kauffman of the regional Army and Air Force Exchange’s public affairs office.

“The Air Force has begun encouraging people not to wear them based on the CDC recommendations but hasn’t issued a policy,” according to the 51st Fighter Wing.

Face masks have long been a controversial topic for the U.S. military in South Korea, where people commonly wore them even before the pandemic as protection against high levels of pollution.

USFK previously banned soldiers from wearing masks while working at the base this spring, but every year to allow face coverings under certain conditions following complaints that more protection was needed against poor air quality in South Korea.

As the coronavirus took hold earlier this year, the policy evolved to encourage face masks as one of the simplest and most effective ways to save lives.

Masks with valves, a common site among construction workers, may be more comfortable and make it easier to breathe. However, recent studies have found that they are less effective at preventing the spread of the coronavirus because they put people near the wearer at risk.

Research published last week in the scientific journal Physics of Fluids included dramatic visualizations showing that vented masks and face shields allow large plumes of particles to escape.

“Masks with exhalation ports include a one-way valve, which restricts airflow when breathing in, but allows free outflow of air,” the article said.

“The inhaled air gets filtered through the mask material; however, the exhaled breath passes through the valve unfiltered.”

Stars and Stripes reporters Yoo Kyong Chang and Matthew Keeler contributed to this report.

Yokota creates specialized medical squadrons to improve health care

BY ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The medical group at the home of the 374th Airlift Wing in western Tokyo is shuffling and reassigning health care providers as part of a program designed to improve military health care.

The restructuring is part of a transition announced by the 374th Medical Group on Aug. 28. It creates two new medical squadrons — one solely for active-duty troops and another to treat family members and Defense Department civilians.

The tweaks were scheduled prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

“Change can be difficult, and to have a new [primary care manager], someone who knows your intimate concerns and health issues, can be challenging,” Lt. Col. Kenisha Heath, the Healthcare Operations Squadron commander, said Thursday.

“We are at an unconventional time with COVID-19, so the health care team had to modify,” COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The restructuring of military health care is part of a congressional mandate to improve medical care across the Department of Defense.

“Active duty can involve a litany of paperwork and evaluations,” she said. “Deployment health assessments and administrative paperwork should have its own space and time. When you have your active-duty patients and your dependent patients who have different types of appointments, you have to shift gears in a way that can lead to mistakes or things being missed.”

What used to be known as the Medical Operations Squadron is now the Health Care Operations Squadron. Its primary care providers will see DOD civilians, including families and children.

The Aerospace Medicine Squadron is now known as the Operational Medical Readiness Squadron, which serves active-duty service members.

Heath said the patient administration office, also known as TOPA, is emailing active-duty and civilian clients about changes to their primary care team. Anyone wanting that information immediately can call the office directly.

For appointments, all patients may continue to call the Yokota hospital central appointment line. Some people may end up with new providers. Heath said, but everyone who already qualified for health care at Yokota remains eligible.


In a February report, “Restructuring and Realignment of Military Medical Treatment Facilities,” Defense Secretary Mark Esper ordered the tweaks be implemented this year.

Changes like those at Yokota are already underway at bases in the United States. According to the report, overseas military health care facilities will be the last to align, with bases in the Pacific region adjusting to their new structures by October.

Heath said that being among the last groups to make the changes allows her to see how the transition took place elsewhere. She said she would like to see Yokota do a better job than its stateside counterparts of notifying its clients of their new primary care managers.

Heath said preliminary arrangements were made to put members of squadrons on Yokota under the same care provider.

There are some concerns over medical facilities being able to absorb the patient workload that could come with entire squadrons under one care provider.

Heath said the 374th Medical Group is seeking outpatient reactions and requesting feedback during the transition. People may contact the patient advocates in each of the hospital’s departments, fill out customer comment cards on site or complete surveys after appointments.

Heath said providers will eventually be relocated inside the Yokota hospital to keep all care providers under each squadron in the same space. The timeline of this change is uncertain.

“The purpose is not to separate patients, but to get staff that should be working as a team together in one location,” she said.
As deaths slide, vigilance urged over long weekend

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Florida officials continued urging vigilance over the Labor Day holiday weekend, even as the coronavirus pandemic continued on a downward trajectory Saturday with the fewest number of new deaths — about 60 — since mid-July.

Officials have been urging Floridians to wear face masks and observe social distancing throughout the three-day holiday weekend, particularly at beaches and other public places.

On Saturday, the state reported nearly 3,800 new cases of COVID-19, pushing the total number of infections to nearly 3,800,000 since the outbreak began in the spring.

The 60 new deaths from the coronavirus brought the weekly average of deaths — now at 102 — to its lowest since July 18.

Arizona

PHOENIX — A suburban school district in metro Phoenix has put off its plan to return its high school to in-person instruction from remote learning starting Tuesday.

Cactus Shadows High School principal Tony Vining announced late Friday that Cave Creek Unified School District’s sole high school called in sick this week to be safely open and will need to revert to our distance learning model.

Vining said in a statement that remote learning would be provided Tuesday when the district would provide an update on “the situation for the rest of the week with our goal to open safely for our students and staff as soon as possible.”

Some Arizona schools have reopened for in-person instruction, but J.O. Combs Unified in San Tan Valley, was thwarted last weekend when a few dozen schools statewide were originally set to end Sept. 7.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — There were a reported 515 new coronavirus cases in Arkansas on Saturday and nine additional deaths due to COVID-19, the lowest loss caused by the virus, according to the Arkansas Department of Health.

There are a total of 64,690 total cases and 882 people have died, the health department said, an increase from 64,175 cases and 837 deaths reported Friday. The true number of cases in Arkansas is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies have suggested people can be infected and not feel sick.

The department also reported 5,840 active cases and that 57,968 people have recovered.

The number of newly confirmed cases on Saturday is a drop from the record 1,094 new cases reported Friday and comes as health officials said they’re worried about the possibility of an outbreak growing during the Labor Day weekend.

Illinois

CHICAGO — Illinois health authorities reported 2,806 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Saturday. Illinois has reported 248,177 cases and 8,166 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

An additional 23 deaths linked to the coronavirus were reported Saturday. Illinois has reported 248,177 cases and 8,166 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

State health officials reported 61,935 tests during the past 24 hours.

On Friday, state health officials said the backlog included two days worth of test results from Tuesday through Thursday.

Indiana

SOUTH BEND — Some Indiana high school athletic programs are resuming practices and games as the state slowly reopens the state.

The broadcasting, run by Mishawaka High School, for example, is charging fans $9.99 to view the games, with the school receiving 60% of the revenue from each purchase. The broadcasts, run by Mishawaka students and faculty, had been free to watch for the past three years.

The football broadcasts are produced by the school’s Mishawaka Athletic Department and streamed on the IHSAA Champions Network. Concord High School and Lafayette Jeff High School have several dozen schools statewide that have partnered with the IHSAA Champions Network to create and produce the broadcasts of their home games.

Iowa

DES MOINES — An Iowa judge has refused to allow some Des Moines area bars to reopen while their lawsuit challenging Gov. Kim Reynolds’ new round of bar closures makes its way through the courts.

Missouri

ST. LOUIS — Missouri added 77 coronavirus-related deaths to its total Saturday, most of which occurred weeks or months ago.

The state’s Department of Health and Senior Services blamed technical issues in a tweet for the spike that brought the state’s total number of deaths since the pandemic began to 1,639. The newly reported deaths included five that occurred over the past 24 hours, with the bulk occurring from June to August.

Missouri has put off its plan to return its high school to in-person instruction from remote learning starting Tuesday.

People gather during a “Trash Your Mask Protest” rally hosted by the Utah Business Revival at the Utah State Capitol on Saturday in Salt Lake City. The rally was to support parents’ rights to refuse mandates.

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

People gathering asework forces begin vaccine rollout}

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is expected to authorize emergency use for a leading coronavirus vaccine as soon as Monday, according to people familiar with the process.

The regulatory green light would allow the vaccine made by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE to be distributed across the United States. The government has already purchased 200 million doses of the vaccine, which is expected to be about 95% effective.

Since early July, the United States has been struggling with how to quickly vaccinate an estimated 210 million Americans in need of the vaccine while ensuring an even geographic distribution. The vaccine authorization is expected to come after months of negotiations between the Trump administration and vaccine manufacturers.

Some states have already begun planning the public health effort necessary to vaccinate millions of Americans. The approval is seen as a crucial step toward achieving herd immunity and eventually ending the coronavirus pandemic.

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Trump brings campaign to battleground states of Fla., N.C., this week

By Kathleen Ronayne
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump will highlight his environmental agenda as he campaigns in the battleground states of Florida and North Carolina on Tuesday.

The White House says Trump will stop in Jupiter, Fla., on Tuesday to remind voters there of his conservation and environmental efforts in the Everglades region.

For the federal budget year beginning Oct. 1, the White House said, Trump asked Congress for $250 million in annual funding to accelerate construction of infrastructure for the Everglades as part of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration. The project aims to improve the Everglades by enhancing regional water storage capacity and reducing harmful discharges from Lake Okeechobee.

The president will also hold a campaign rally Tuesday in Winston-Salem, N.C.
PORTLAND protests hit its 100th day, no sign of ending

BY ANDREW SELSKY
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Hundreds of people gathered for rallies and marches against police violence and racial injustice Saturday night in Portland, Ore., as often violent nightly demonstrations that have happened for 100 days since George Floyd was killed showed no signs of ceasing.

Protesters, most wearing black, had gathered around sunset Saturday at a grassy park in the city. Wooden shields were placed on the grass for protesters to use as protection.

Demonstrations in Portland started in late May after the police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis. During the clashes, some have broken windows, set small fires and pelted police with rocks and other objects.

On the 100th day of protests in Portland, demonstrators vowed to keep coming into the streets.

Tupac Lealhy, a 23-year-old Black man from Portland, said he had probably been out to protests for about 70 of the 100 days of demonstrations.

Lealhy said he wanted to see a significant reduction to the local police budget, with the money directed to other community needs. He said the demonstrations would continue for some time.

“I think it’s going to keep going on until the election,” Lealhy said.

“I don’t see it slowing down.”

Earlier Saturday, hundreds of people gathered in a park just north of Portland in Vancouver, Wash., for a memorial service for Aaron “Jay” Danielson, a supporter of a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer, who was killed Aug. 29. The suspect was shot and killed by police Thursday.

More than 200 airlifted to safety from Calif. wildfire

Associated Press

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. — More than 200 people were airlifted to safety early Sunday after a fast-moving wildfire trapped them in a popular camping area in California’s Sierra National Forest, one of several fires that broke out amid record-breaking, triple-digit temperatures that baked the state.

The California Office of Emergency Services said Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters were used for the rescues that began late Saturday and continued overnight. At least two people were severely injured and 10 more suffered moderate injuries.

The wildfire, named the Creek Fire, started Friday and by Saturday afternoon exploded to 56 square miles, jumped the San Joaquin River and cut off the only road into the Mammoth Pool Campground, national forest spokesman Dan Tune said. At least 2,000 structures were threatened in the area about 290 miles north of Los Angeles, where temperatures in the city’s San Fernando Valley reached 117 degrees.

“Once the fire gets going, it creates its own weather, adding wind to increase the spread,” Tune said.

Ashley Wagner was among those rescued, along with two relatives and a friend. They were trapped in Logan’s Meadow behind Wagner’s Store, a 63-year-old business run by her aunt that was destroyed.

“My family’s history just went up in flames,” she told Fresno station ABC30.

In Southern California, a fire in the foothills of Yucaipa east of Los Angeles prompted evacuation orders for eastern portions of the city of 54,000 along with several mountain communities. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire, said the fire scorched at least 4.2 square miles of brush and trees.

In eastern San Diego County, the Valley Fire broke out Saturday afternoon and fire officials warned the blaze was burning at a “dangerous rate of speed.” By Sunday morning it had destroyed at least 10 structures after burning 6.25 square miles and prompting evacuations near the remote community of Alpine in the Cleveland National Forest.

Pacific Gas & Electric, the state’s largest utility, warned customers Saturday that it might cut power starting Tuesday because of expected high winds and heat that could create even greater fire danger.

Crowsd pack beaches as temperatures rise

LOS ANGELES — California is sweltering under a dangerous heat wave Labor Day weekend that was spreading triple-digit temperatures over much of the state, raising concerns about power outages and the spread of the coronavirus as throngs of people packed beaches and mountains for relief.

Death Valley hit a record-high temperature of 125 degrees Fahrenheit Saturday, eclipsing the previous record of 119 Fahrenheit set in 2017, according to the National Weather Service.

One death was reported because of the heat. Officials urged people to conserve electricity to ease strain on the state’s power grid.

From The Associated Press
Police searching for man groping women

URBANA — Police in Urbana have been looking for a man who is allegedly grabbing and slapping women's buttocks in public areas.

The Urbana Police Department has been receiving groping reports since April 2019, unable to identify the offender, according to The News-Gazette. The reports stopped between Sept. 18 and March 25, but they picked back up with about 10 more since late March.

Most of the reports appear to have come from near the University of Illinois campus in “neighborhoods with a lot of foot traffic, densely populated with students,” Lt. Dave Smysor said.

“It’s not a prank and not something we’re taking lightly,” Smysor said.

Paddlewheels from 1819 sunkener steam found

VT COLCHESTER — The two paddlewheels from the second commercial steamboat that sailed Lake Champlain more than two centuries ago have been found on the bottom of the lake, officials said.

The paddlewheels from the steamboat Phoenix were discovered recently off Colchester Shoal in separate dives by Gary Lefebvre of Colchester using a remotely operated vehicle.

The discovery was announced by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum.

The Phoenix was launched in 1815. It sailed a regular schedule between Whitehall, N.Y., and St. Johnsbury, Vt., stopping at ports along the lake.

Man, child, dog rescued after 48 hours in ravine

OR MOUNT HOOD — A man and his young daughter, along with their dog, were rescued from a ravine where the man had been injured and stuck for more than 48 hours without supplies, officials said.

Peter Munro, a 37-year-old Canby resident, had gone to Kinzel Lake in the Mount Hood National Forest to set up camp. Munro’s wife, Camille Munro, arrived that evening, but found the camp empty.

She figured the rest of the family had gone for a hike, but when no one returned by Wednesday morning, they called officials. Peter Munro was injured and unable to get help.

When garbage and other at-

tractive objects are left unsecured and available to bears, human safety becomes a huge concern, and bear mortalities are the un-fortunate result,” department southwest Montana Regional Su-
pervisor Mark Deleray said.

The department decided to eu-
thanize the bears over concerns for human safety after consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Un-bee-lievable

Local beekeeper Tim Vermillion is surrounded by worker bees in his backyard as he inspects a hive for healthy honeybees and a queen bee for the coming fall season in Roanoke, Va. Backyard beekeeping is increasing in popularity across the nation even as honeybees and other bee species, crucial for pollinating crops are facing declines in population.

FBI: Coach posed as a girl to get explicit pics

KS TOPEKA — The FBI said an assistant boys high school basketball coach in Topeka posed as a teenage girl on social media to get explicit photos from other teenagers.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that the FBI is seeking tips from anyone who may have been contacted by Jeffrey Pierce, 40, on Instagram, Snapchat, Kik and Grindr. The usernames he is alleged to have used included Addie Strode, Kennedy and Jordy Rey Rey.

Pierce was suspended from his job at Seaman High School because of the investigation that resulted in two federal counts of producing child pornography and one count of possessing it.

The Seaman Board of Educa-
tion voted to fire Pierce.

2 bears killed after entering campgrounds

MT BOZEMAN — Wildlife officials in Montana said two grizzly bears were killed last week after entering an occupied tent and a recreational vehicle storage compartment near Yellowstone National Park.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks responded to 15 reports of two bears getting into garbage, approach-
ing houses and entering camp-
grounds, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported.

‘Casket’ seen in river turns out to be dock

KS TOPEKA — Local and federal law enforce-
ment authorities recovered 26 firearms while executing a search warrant at a Topeka house, police said.

Topeka police said in a news release that Rodolfo V. Arzate, 42, of Topeka was taken into custody. He was booked on suspicion of criminal possession of a firearm, interference with a law enforce-
ment officer and Topeka bench warrants.

Couple believed dead after blast, standoff

WA HOQUIAM — Authorities said a husband and wife are believed to be dead after a standoff with police ended in a gun battle and explosions at a home near Hoquiam.

KOMO reported deputies re-
sponded to a 911 call about a do-

mestic violence shooting.

The Grays Harbor County Undersheriff Brad Johansson said the 911 caller, a 47-year-old woman, said her 18-year-old son had been shot in the hand and her 56-year-old husband had been shot in the chest.

The son and another person fled from the residence to try and get help.

After more than three hours of negotiations, a large explosion erupted from the front of the house followed by another large explosion. After the two explosions, authorities said the husband started firing multiple rounds out of the front of the house at the law enforcement officers.

Seven members of the crisis team responded by returning fire at the suspect. No law enforce-
ment officers were injured.

As the house burned, multiple loud explosions came from the home. The suspect was not seen leaving the house and investigators believe he and his wife were still in the house when it was on fire.

From wire reports
Order: China proves to be force to reckon with

FROM FRONT PAGE

one of nuclear-armed states, global institutions and much deeper economic interdependence. China’s goals are similar to Japan’s — to assert control in its immediate neighborhood while securing resources for its economic growth — but its means are different. Rather than imposing direct control through armed invasion, China is relying on economic enticements, cultural outreach and a gradual buildup of its military forces to boost its standing.

“The means by which China would increase its power are vastly different, as are the means by which other countries might resist it,” said Jennifer Lind, an Asian expert at Dartmouth University. The rest of Asia is watching with a mixture of opportunism and trepidation, eager to benefit from China’s trade and investment, wary of its size and strength and its sprawling territorial claims. Much larger than Japan, with 10 times the population, it is potentially better able to go toe-to-toe with an established superpower.

China’s Belt and Road Initiative is building ports, railways and other infrastructure across not just Asia but also Africa and elsewhere in the developing world. Less welcome is China’s growing presence in the South China Sea, where it chases away the fishing boats of its Southeast Asian neighbors and has built artificial islands to stake out its territorial claims. Much larger than Japan, with 10 times the population, it is potentially better able to go toe-to-toe with an established superpower.

China formally surrendered 75 years ago this week onboard the USS Missouri, its empire-building ambitions in tatters, ushering in the nuclear age. Chinese leaders marked the anniversary Thursday in a brief and solemn ceremony at a memorial hall that remembers those who fought the Japanese.

Rana Mitter, an Oxford University scholar and author of a book on the Japanese invasion of China, cautions against comparing different eras. “The sense that … no matter what they do, the West will always see them as a threat” and seek to contain or sabotage China’s rise, he said.

Economically, the U.S. and some others are pressing companies to reduce their reliance on China. The Trump administration is putting curbs on Chinese tech companies, from telecom giant Huawei to the highly popular TikTok video app, and leaning on its allies to do the same.

But for many, breaking up with China’s efficient factories and huge consumer market would be difficult and costly.

China assembles most of the world’s smartphones, personal computers and other electronics. Its growing market is critical to industries when American and European demand is flat.

More fundamentally, China’s ruling Communist Party fears that its one-party system will never be accepted by the West, even in the Pacific. “There was just no way that Japan could match the United States, even in the Pacific,” Heydarian said. “Where China is different is that its sheer size gives it increasing parity with the United States in ways that Japan never enjoyed.”

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By Yuri Kageyama  
Associated Press

TOKYO — The second powerful typhoon to slam Japan in a week unleashed fierce winds and rain on southern islands on Sunday, blowing off rooftops and leaving homes without power as it edged northward into an area vulnerable to flooding and mudslides.

Weather officials warned that the rainfall from what could be a record storm would be fierce. Warnings were issued days in advance for people to be ready to take shelter and stock up on food and water.

Several rivers on the main southwestern island of Kyushu were at risk of overflowing, officials said. Public broadcaster NHK TV said evacuation warnings were issued for more than 50,000 people in Okinawa and Kyushu, including Kagoshima and Nagasaki prefectures.

News footage showed people in Kyushu starting to gather at gymnasiums, before winds gather momentum in the evening. Social distancing will be in place to guard against the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Typhoon Haishen, which means “sea god” in Chinese, was packing sustained winds of up to 100 miles per hour after battering Okinawa and the southern Kyushu island of Amami Oshima early Sunday.

Alerts for strong winds, waves, high tides, rainfall and lightning were issued for Amami Oshima alongside evacuation orders.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries in Okinawa, home to more than half of the roughly 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan under a bilateral treaty.

Haishen was not only powerful — equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane — but also large in its reach, according to the meteorological agency.

Political protests in Hong Kong lead to about 290 arrests

Associated Press

HONG KONG — About 290 people were arrested Sunday at protests against the government’s decision to postpone elections for Hong Kong’s legislature, police said.

The elections were to have taken place Sunday but Chief Executive Carrie Lam on July 31 postponed them for one year. Lam blamed an upsurge in coronavirus cases, but critics said her government worried the opposition would gain seats if voting went ahead on schedule.

Anti-government protests have been held in Hong Kong almost every weekend since June 2019. They erupted over a proposed extradition law and spread to include demands for greater democracy and criticism of Beijing’s efforts to tighten control over the former British colony.

On Sunday, one woman was arrested in the Kowloon district of Yau Ma Tei on charges of assault and spreading pro-independence slogans, the police department said on its Facebook page. It said such slogans are illegal under the newly enacted National Security Act.

Also Sunday, police fired pepper balls at protesters in Kowloon’s Mong Kok neighborhood, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported.

In the Jordan neighborhood, protesters raised a banner criticizing the election delay, the Post said.

“I want my right to vote!” activist Leung Kwok-hung, popularly known as Long Hair, was quoted as saying. The newspaper said Leung was later arrested.

Are you in the picture?

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Chart-topping pop "Dynamite," the group's first all-English song, debuted at No. 1 on the U.S. music charts last week, making BTS the first Korean pop act to top the chart. The upbeat song supplanted "WAP," the raunchy smash hit by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion, according to a person familiar with the production who did not want to comment.

BTS, on gaining respect in the US: ‘We definitely feel that’

BTS has built a global army of K-pop fans. For that, band members might not have to serve in a real one.

Legislation proposed in South Korea would add entertainers who have made “great contributions” in popular culture to the list of men who can delay mandatory military service. That would almost certainly include BTS. The bill would ensure that the boy band can perform with its current lineup for at least a few more years. The group’s oldest member, Kim Seok-jin, is 27 and would normally be required to enter the military by the end of next year. BTS grossed $170 million last year, ranking it fifth among the world’s top concert draws, according to concert trade publication Pollstar. All male citizens aged 18 to 28 are required to serve in the military for about two years. Current law allows waivers for some elite athletes and classical musicians, but doesn’t include popular entertainers.

By Mesfin Fekadu
Associated Press

"Never expected it," RM tells The Associated Press of "WAP" for the top spot. "Never! It’s like the song of the year." Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion supplanted "WAP," the raunchy smash hit by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion, according to a person familiar with the production who did not want to comment.

But getting their first chart-topping track seemed inevitable for the K-pop boy band. They’ve had four albums top Billboard’s 200 albums chart, they’ve achieved Top 10 successes on the Hot 100 with “Boy With Luv,” "Dynamite," “SUGA’s Demon,” and in just minutes they’ve sold out U.S. football stadiums. And even at U.S. awards shows, they’ve gone from winning honors like “top social artist" to being named best group and best pop act, beating out Maroon 5, Imagine Dragons, twenty one pilots, Jonas Brothers and others. At the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 30, they won all four prizes they were nominated for.

When asked if BTS — who released their debut single in 2013 — felt like they’ve begun to earn more respect from the U.S., RM said: "We definitely feel that. “I think in the perspective of culture, I think it’s really important to be familiar. So first, we think — that for many Americans (they were) not familiar with (us) — we look different, we (sing) different, we got some different choreography, music videos, like everything, even lifestyle. But I think as time goes by, we’re doing these shows and songs and concerts and awards, I think quite a lot of people in the American music market is getting, like, kind of close to us," he said.

Though "Dynamite" has charted new territory for BTS, the song wasn’t even supposed to be released, RM explained. BTS had plans to tour, but that changed due to the coronavirus: "The pandemic blew everything away." So they recorded "Dynamite" to give their die-hard fans “hope, positive energy," RM said. "And we think that it really touched their hearts."
**Eugene Sheffer Crossword**

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**ACROSS**
- 56 — Angeles
- 57 — Carton sealer

**DOWN**
- 1 — Lucy’s partner
- 2 — Grade sch.
- 3 — Spill the beans
- 4 — Rational state
- 5 — Where the school starts
- 6 — Historic time
- 7 — Lawman Wyatt
- 8 — Swear (to)
- 9 — Three-sided instrument
- 10 — Daly and Allen
- 11 — Pulitzer winner
- 12 — Three-sided instrument
- 13 — Lawman Wyatt
- 14 — Swear (to)
- 15 — Three-sided instrument
- 16 — March in place
- 17 — Carrier to Amsterdam
- 18 — Have a cocktail (or two)
- 19 — The pair
- 20 — Make happy
- 21 — Ripped
- 22 — Byegone Ford
- 23 — Unruly group
- 24 — “The Greatest”
- 25 — Comprehended
- 26 — Merits
- 27 — Charged bit
- 30 — Obese
- 33 — Pakistan’s continent
- 36 — Takes the helm
- 38 — Walmart competitor
- 40 — Roman 650
- 42 — Walk Like —
- 43 — Design
- 44 — List-ending abbr.
- 46 — Corn Belt state
- 47 — Sporty car roof
- 48 — Oxen’s burden
- 50 — Tic-tac-toe loser

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

BYUQHCISOYVA SGCS
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BCSSPEUUHWWLBCX:UPCIX
ACV.

Saturday’s Cryptoquip: IF A GAL PAL OF HARRY POTTER WERE WALKING SHAKILY, IT COULD BE DUE TO A HERMIONE IMBALANCE.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: O equals B
Russia using media to wage war in Belarus

By Eli Lake

Bloomburg Opinion

If you believe the message from the Kremlin, Russia currently has no plans to send police or military forces to neighboring Belarus. But it has sent in some reinforcements — to the news media, as part of a strategy that should stand as a warning to democracies around the world.

Of course, President Vladimir Putin recently mused, Russia may eventually need to intervene in Belarus militarily. But as his spokesman put it last week: “At present we see that the situation is under control.”

Putin is trying to convey the impression that he has contained the political crisis that has exploded in national unrest since Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko declared victory in a stolen election last month. Russia, Putin wants the world to believe, is holding back.

This perception is deceiving. In reality, Russia is waging a kind of stealth intervention in Belarus, the first part of which is taking place in the media. Belarusian state television is now more friendly toward the Alexander Lukashenko-led network, which Lukashenko confirmed last week in an interview: “You understand how difficult it is to transform the whole country in a difficult period,” he told an RT correspondent.

“And what you demonstrated technically, your IT specialists, and journalists, and correspondents, and so on … and your manager. This is worth a lot.”

An early warning about the Russian takeover of Belarusian state television came from George Barros, who works for the Washington, D.C.-based Institute for the Study of War. Barros wrote on Aug. 20 about new montage videos that depicted Russian support for Lukashenko and raised questions about Belarus, as well as slick propaganda videos being released through Belarus’ interior ministry. State TV was engaged in an effort “to humanize Belarusian officials,” he told me in an interview, while portraying protesters “as threatening the families and lives of security personnel.”

This is the opposite of what was happening in Belarus. The state began arresting protesters “as threatening the families and lives of security personnel” after the disputed election last month. The BBC has reported that some of those detained said they were tortured in jail.

Russia’s assistance to Lukashenko did not end there, either. Barros and his colleague Mason Clark have also tracked how the government-owned jet passengers fly Lukashenko and his family, from Moscow to Minsk. The first such plane, they say, belonged to the FSB, the Russian Federal Security Service.

There is no direct evidence that FSB officers were on those flights. But Barros and Clark argue there is circumstantial evidence — the FSB is advising Lukashenko on how to disperse the protests. After that first flight on Aug. 18, for example, the Belarusian security services ended a policy of mass arrests, which fueled unrest, and began a strategy of targeted detentions of organizers and opposition leaders.

What all this means for the future of Belarus is not good. If Lukashenko is able to retain power, he will have to reverse any policies or stances that sought or promoted greater independence from Moscow. What will happen to his opposition to an economic and political union between Belarus and Russia? Will he still boast his anti-Russian bona fides, as he did during the presidential campaign, when Belarusian law enforcement agencies arrested 33 Russian mercenaries?

More broadly, Putin’s offensive in Belarus is yet more evidence that Russia considers the media landscape a battlefield for its own interests. As we’ve seen with its incursions into telecommunications, the war requires actual troops, as in 2014 in Ukraine. Other times, the goal is to sow chaos and mistrust in democracy. This time in Belarus, it seems to involve trying to quell a democratic uprising without firing a single shot.

Eli Lake is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering national security and foreign policy.

Rest of Asia will miss Abe more than Japan will

By Mihir Sharma

Bloomburg Opinion

A month before he ended his first stint as prime minister in 2007, Shinzo Abe addressed the Indian Parliament in New Delhi. Quoting the Mughal scholar-prince Dara Shikoh, Abe spoke of the “confluence of the two seas” — the Indian and Pacific oceans — that were undergoing a “dawning cultural and seascape of agriculture and prosperity.”

India, a country that today struggles to attract Western finance and investment, and Japan, the country that doesn’t have too many other options than to seek out regional allies. Yet, I, for one, still worry that the energy, infrastructure and financial difficulties involved in making over Japan’s role in the world will be lost now that he’s left the scene.

That would be a disaster for the region’s democracies. Abe’s reference to “like-minded” countries in his 2007 speech seems poignant today, given the global slide toward illiberalism, including within our own political parties. The day Abe returned to office in 2012, he wrote a column that put forward the idea that Japan’s influence should be further, specifying that the region’s democracies needed to commit themselves to “preserving the common good.”

This was a prime minister who, for better or worse, seemed to see himself first of all as a convener of and evangelizer to the democracies of a “Free and Open” Indo-Pacific. Today, as India confronts Chinese troops in the high Himalaya, Australia wrestles with how to counter China’s rise, and the borders of the U.S. and China are consumed by internecine divides, Abe’s very Japanese form of assertiveness seems more irreplaceable than ever.

Mihir Sharma is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He was a columnist for the Indian Express and the author of "Resort: The Last Chance for the Indian Economy."
My daughter blames herself when 1st grade crashes

By Jason Burwen
Special to The Washington Post

Nearly 20 minutes into my daughter’s second day of school, her first-grade class is still focused on how to mute and unmute during the videoconferences. The teacher is making valiant attempts to keep 6-year-olds engaged while guiding them through the ins and outs of their new digital, virtual environment. My very kid-unfriendly user interface of Microsoft Teams. To break up the muting-unmutting experiments, she calls on the students, one at a time, to say what their favorite animal is.

What turns into a nearly 10-minute exercise occurs against a jarring sonic backdrop of crying babies, television shows and ad-share announcements on the workers’ screens persist. Throughout my daughter is fidgeting, then flopping on her bed, then rolling around on the floor. Sitting in her bedroom with her, I offer continuous, gentle reminders that she can move anywhere in her bedroom that she wants, as long as she stays in front of her laptop’s webcam — which she keeps evading.

A low point comes a few minutes later when the teacher, heroically trying to teach physical writing over the internet, asks the students to put a sentence on paper. My daughter is distracted and off-camera — which means she doesn’t hear the request, so I coax her back to the screen to respond. She raises her hand to ask the teacher what to do. The class activity continues without anyone acknowledging her; we only see nine of 16 video tiles, so perhaps my daughter’s raising her hand is not noticeable to her. Frustrated, she unleashes a high-pitched moan through gritted teeth. “Daddy, I don’t want to!” she says.

I reassure her that she is great and that everything is new and hard. But we are doing our best. The pandemic has been an implausible challenge, as instructors face the challenge not only of teaching young children to read, math and write via a video link — but also of navigating many kids through their first encounters with a computer. Like my wife, I am extremely fortunate both to be employed and to be able to work from home. But we wonder how we will manage our daughter for many more days, and many more hours, than we expected. Still, an hour into the day, my daughter’s attention begins to flag: She is multitasking.

It’s clear that my wife and I will be helping our daughter for many more days, and many more hours, than we expected. One day, I go over to look at the screen, which reveals that she has discovered Microsoft Paint and is experimenting with electronic doodling while the teacher talks. “I can still listen while I do this!”

GOP attempts to limit vote-by-mail put veterans at risk

By Sen. Tammy Duckworth
Special to Stars and Stripes

When you’re deployed to a war zone where even a fleeting moment of decompression or a dream, thousands are dying for, the significance of being able to take part in your own country’s free, fair elections comes into sharp relief.

I still remember the afternoon I received a vote-by-mail ballot by my Army Helicopter Battalion Operations Center in Balad, Iraq. The election was 10 days before an RPG exploded in the Black Hawk I was flying in, killing my co-pilot and me. While I was in the hospital, the pride I felt in that moment: Six thousand miles away from my usual polling place, my unit and I were among the most American act possible. We were making our voices heard, even if it was from a hospital bed.

It shouldn’t have been easier for troops to vote from Iraq in 2004 than it is for veterans to vote in 2020 on U.S. soil. Nevertheless, that’s the reality as millions of veterans now face an impossible decision: whether to risk their lives to go to the ballot box in the midst of a deadly pandemic.

But let’s be clear: That’s the reality only because certain Republicans are making serious respiratory issues that, in turn, make those suffering more susceptible to COVID-19.

These are heroes who went to war to protect our constitutional rights, including our right to vote. Yet by refusing to expand vote-by-mail access, Trump is forcing them to wager their lives to participate in the very democracy they already risked everything to defend. Their health or their ballot; their peace of mind or their piece of democracy — that’s the choice the president is giving them, all for the sake of his personal gain.

That’s a shameful, shameless strategy from a president who is far more concerned with having his way than with the lives of our veterans or the least American thing I’ve ever heard.

Our veterans deserve better. Because while we have never been able to pay the debt we owe them, it’s on us to try — and allowing them to exercise a constitutional right they fought so hard to defend is not the bare minimum. That should be a given. That’s not only the right thing to do, but the patriotic one as well, and every day that Republicans refuse to pass legislation ensuring they can do so is an insult to all those who’ve worn an American flag on their shoulders.

Tammy Duckworth, a Democrat, represents Illinois in the U.S. Senate.
Saturday’s transactions

SATURDAY’ S BASEBALL
MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

BALTIMORE O’MALLEYS — Traded OF Andrew Stevenson to the Nationals for OF Keury贝尔
PHILLIES — Placed LF Roman Quinn on the IL with a hand injury. Activated RH Ken Matthews from the IL. Activated OF Scott Kingery from the injury list. Activated OF Didi Gregorius from the IL. Placed OF Michael Saunders on the IL with a back injury. Activated OF Marcell Ozuna from the IL to make his debut for the team.

CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed OF designated hitter Yermin Mercedes on the IL with a hand injury. Activated P Collin Tartt from the IL. Activated OF Daniel Lockhart from the IL. Activated OF Brian Goodwin from the IL. Activated OF Hernan Perez from the IL.

HOUSTON ASTROS — Placed P Lance McCullers Jr. on the IL with a shoulder injury. Activated P Eric Soderholm from the IL.

NEW YORK METS — Placed 1B Pete Alonso on the IL with a left foot injury. Activated P Jordan Montgomery from the IL. Activated OF Garrett Mitchell from the IL. Activated P Taijuan Walker from the IL.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Placed OF Julio Rodriguez on the IL with a left hamstring strain. Activated P Marco Gonzales from the IL.

TOKYO BLUES — Placed P Masahiro Tanaka on the IL with a shoulder injury. Activated P Kenta Maeda from the IL.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

Head Coach Pete Carroll announced the following roster moves:

- Placed CB Julian Love on the Reserve/Injured list
- Placed LB Shaquem Griffin on the Reserve/Injured list
- Placed WR Tyler Lockett on the Reserve/Injured list
- Activated TE Coby Fleener from the Reserve/Injured list
- Activated P Mesiu Mungo from the Reserve/Injured list

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Activated P Madison Bumgarner from the IL.

ATLANTA BRAVES — Activated P Jacob Webb from the IL. Placed P college player Sam Hentges on the IL.

CHICAGO CUBS — Placed P Kyle Hendricks on the IL.Activated P Collin Noto from the IL. Activated P John Tusa from the IL. Activated P Kyle Hendricks from the IL.

PHILADELPHIA PHILADELPHIANS — Placed OF Andrew McCutchen on the IL with a shoulder injury. Activated P Adam Morgan from the IL.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Placed P Max Scherzer on the IL with a right hamstring strain. Activated P Anibal Sanchez from the IL.

CINCINNATI REDS — Placed P Sonny Gray on the IL with a shoulder injury. Activated P Tyler Mahle from the IL.

MIAMI MARLINS — Placed OF Miguel Rojas on the IL with a left hamstring strain. Activated P John../../../../Ocean Drive 100

WBC Session

The main event of the night will be the WBSC Women’s Softball World Cup, which will feature 12 teams from around the world. The tournament is being held at the Olympic Stadium in Tainan, Taiwan, and is the culmination of a year-long selection process. The top eight teams from the tournament will qualify for the Olympic Games in Tokyo in 2020.

Ticket information:

- Games will be played from September 3 to September 12.
- Tickets are available at the stadium or through the WBSC website.
- There will be a limited number of seats available for each game.

Social media:

- Follow @WBSC on Twitter for updates and highlights.
- Visit the official WBSC website for more information.

Contact information:

- WBSC Media Relations: media@worldbaseball Softball.org
- Press hotlines: 0922 333 555
- Website: www.wbsoftball.org
Williams tops Stephens after slow start

23-time Grand Slam champ rallies to win 10 of last 12 games

By Howard Fendrich
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In danger of her earliest exit at the U.S. Open since her debut 22 years ago, Serena Williams turned things around and took over against Sloane Stephens.

Williams emerged from the third-round matchup between two Americans who are past champions at Flushing Meadows&Wilms's won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles at the place — with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over 2017 U.S. Open champ Stephens on Saturday. Afterward, Williams' 3-year-old daughter, Olympia, wore a mask and waved at Mom while sitting on her father's lap in a front-row seat. On her way to the locker room, Williams waved back.

"I hope," Williams said, "that she saw her mama fighting."

Williams did it, as she so often does, with her best-in-the-game service, hitting 12 aces at up to 122 mph as it got really dialed in midway through the second set, and an ability to re-calibrate her groundstrokes, so awry early, to be superb down the stretch.

"She served a lot better," said Stephens, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 against Wil-

In that first set, I don't think she made any errors, honestly. She was playing so clean. I said, 'I don't want to lose in straight sets," said Williams, whose only career U.S. Open loss before the fourth round came in the third against Irina Spiri1a in 1998 at age 16. Williams, who turns 39 in three
weeks, said she told herself Saturday: "OK, Serena, just get a game. Get a game."

there were, of course, no fans — banned because of the coro-

whole thing was flush with the feel of a practice session, rather than a high-stakes contest on a Grand Slam stage.

There were some other play-

ers on hand to watch, including 15th-seeded Maria Sakkari, who sipped orange juice on the practice court, while on her player suite's balco-

Sakkari had a vested interest: She faces Williams for a berth in the quarterfinals.

Other women into the fourth round: No. 2 Sofia Kenin, No. 16
Elise Mertens, No. 20 Karolina Muchova, Tsvetana Pironkova and Alize Cornet. Pironkova defeated No. 18 Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-1. Cornet lost 7-6 (4), 3-2 when No. 7 Madison Keys retired because of a neck injury.

In men's action, 2019 runner-

up Daniil Medvedev and another semifinalist from a year ago, No. 6 Matteo Berrettini moved on, as did No. 2 Dominic Thiem, No. 10 Andrey Rublev, No. 15 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 21 Alex de Minaur, American Frances Tiafoe and Vasek Pospisil, who's been in the news lately because he teamed up with Novak Djokovic to set up a new association with represent-

Pospisil eliminated No. 8 Ro-
berto Bautista Agut 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, and next faced another five-set winner, de Minaur, who defeated No. 11 Karen Khachanov 6-4, 6-0, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.

Sixth: Hall of Fame trainer Baffert does it again with Authentic

FROM BACK PAGE
socially distanced in the winner's circle. "Johnny V. gave him an incredible ride."


"Bob, he's got the magic touch," said Jack Knowlton of Sackatoga Stable, owner of Tiz the Law. "He had this horse ready at the right time and he beat us."

Sent off at 3-5 as the biggest Derby fa-

vorable in 31 years and part of a smaller field than usual, Tiz the Law settled into fourth while Authentic ran unopposed in front. With a quarter-mile to go, Tiz the Law pulled alongside Authentic and the two hit the top of the stretch together.

Under Manny Franco, Tiz the Law briefly

struck his head in front only to have Authentic right back and out clear of the Belmont winner, who came in 4-4-0 this year.

"Yes! Yes!" Baffert shouted in the pad-

ock, where he watched on the video screen.

In the winner's circle, the long ribbons hanging off the garland of red roses keptAuthentic's hind leg, agitating him, and in turn he knocked the white-haired trainer to the ground.

"He spun around and he was like a bowling ball. He just spun us all around," Baf-

felt. "The turf course is pretty soft here, so it wasn't too bad. I was probably more embarrassed than anything."

It's been that kind of year for Baffert. The Hall of Fame trainer was loaded with promising 3-year-olds early on. Then Nadal got hurt and had to be retired and Charla-
tan went on the shelf with a minor injury. Authentic had issues, so Baffert gave him an extended break.

In between, Charlatan and another of Baffert's horses had positive drug tests in Arkansas. Baffert is appealing his result.

"It's been a roller-coaster year, but thank-

fully it's the love of the horses that keeps me going," said Baffert, his voice breaking. "They're the best therapy a human can have. I love being around them."
American League

## East Division

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## Friday's Games

- Minnesota at Detroit (8-7, 9 innings), 2nd game.
- Yanks at Bos (9-0), 1st game.
- Yanks at Bos (1-0), 2nd game.

## Saturday's Games

- Milwaukee at Cleveland (14-0), 1st game.
- St. Louis at Cleveland (7-5), 2nd game.

## Sunday's Games

- N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland (1-0), 2nd game.
- N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland (4-3), 1st game.
- St. Louis at Cleveland (6-3), 1st game.

## West Division

- San Diego at Colorado (6-5), 1st game.
- San Diego at Colorado (5-4), 2nd game.

## Wild Card

- Minnesota at Detroit (3-2), 1st game.
- Chicago at St. Louis (3-2, 10 innings), 2nd game.

## East Division

- Atlanta at St. Louis (2-1), 2nd game.

## West Division

- San Diego at Los Angeles (3-2), 1st game.

## National League

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## West Division

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## Friday's Games

- Minnesota at Detroit (8-7, 9 innings), 2nd game.
- Yanks at Bos (9-0), 1st game.
- Yanks at Bos (1-0), 2nd game.

## Saturday's Games

- Milwaukee at Cleveland (14-0), 1st game.
- St. Louis at Cleveland (7-5), 2nd game.

## Sunday's Games

- N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland (1-0), 2nd game.
- N.Y. Yankees at Cleveland (4-3), 1st game.
- St. Louis at Cleveland (6-3), 1st game.

## West Division

- San Diego at Colorado (6-5), 1st game.
- San Diego at Colorado (5-4), 2nd game.

## Wild Card

- Minnesota at Detroit (3-2), 1st game.
- Chicago at St. Louis (3-2, 10 innings), 2nd game.

## East Division

- Atlanta at St. Louis (2-1), 2nd game.

## West Division

- San Diego at Los Angeles (3-2), 1st game.

## National League

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ANAHEIM, Calif. — Anthony Rendon hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning, Albert Pujols drove in three runs and the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a 7-6 victory over the Houston Astros to sweep the doubleheader.

It was not a walk-off win for the Angels, though. They were the visiting team in the nightcap because it was a makeup of the Aug. 26 game in Houston that was postponed due to Tropical Storm Laura.

Mike Trout became the Angels’ career home run leader with No. 308 in the fifth inning and Jo Adell celebrated with a game-winning, two-run single in the seventh inning to give Los Angeles a 10-9 win.

The Angels have won a season-high four straight following their first doubleheader sweep since 2015.

“It seems like when we get down we are fighting back. We’re not giving up and it’s face has to good to see,” Trout said.

Rendon hitting homers to sink the Astros is nothing new: He had a three-run shot for the Washington Nationals in Game 6 of last year’s World Series and then a solo drive in the deciding game to start the Nationals’ comeback.

Rendon did admit there was some brief confusion after his latest homer because the Angels were the visitors. Houston pitcher Humberto Castellanos started to walk off the mound before realizing the game wasn’t over.

“Everyone assumes it was the last inning and that was the first thought that crossed our mind. As I was rounding the bases, I realized it is not over yet,” Rendon said.

Noe Ramirez (1-0) worked a scoreless sixth to get the win and it was not over yet, “Rendon hitting homers to sink the game wasn’t over. I was rounding the bases, I realized it was not over yet,” Rendon said.

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Isles romp to East finals

New York blanks Flyers in Game 7, advances to conference finals for first time since 1993

Associated Press

TORONTO — Coach Barry Trotz has spent the past two seasons attempting to instill a team-first, all-in identity with the New York Islanders. No more was that evident than Saturday night, when the Islanders handily confronted their biggest test of the year — decades perhaps — in beating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-0 in Game 7 of the second-round series.

The Islanders advanced to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 1993, when they’ll face the Tampa Bay Lightning. The win came courtesy of a baggage goal from Thomas Greiss, stopping 16 shots for his first playoff career shutout in his first Game 7. Brock Nelson scored a goal and set up two others. And defencemen Scott Mayfield, with his first career playoff goal, and late-season trade addition Andy Greene, spurred the victory by scoring 3:46 apart in the first period.

“We didn’t get small by the moment. We got big by the moment,” said Trotz, who landed in New York after leading the Washington Capitals to a Stanley Cup championship in 2018.

“I liked the fact that we recognized when we’re at our best. And when we’re at our best, there’s always a sharp focus,” he added. “It’s the commitment. If you need to block a shot, you block a shot. Don’t go halfway in, be all in. It was a game in which the Islanders outshot the the Flyers 28-16, and showed resilience in bouncing back after losing the past two games in overtime.

For Nelson, the win helped ease the memories of past Islanders playoff losses, including the sting of losing Game 7 to Washington in the opening round of the 2015 playoffs.

“I’m sure everybody remembers that day. It wasn’t our best game, and it’s always tough losing a Game 7,” Nelson said. “And getting this one tonight definitely feels good.”

The Flyers ran out of gas, with coach Alain Vigneault pulling Carter Hart for an extra attacker, with seven minutes remaining, which led to Anthony Beauvillier sealing the win with an empty netter.

Hart stopped 22 shots.

“After they scored that first goal, we just never had that same bounce or the same pop,” Vigneault said. “We weren’t good enough tonight. That’s why we lost.”

Flyers forward Sean Couturier returned after missing Game 6, and revealed he had a sprained knee ligament.

“We didn’t create enough. We didn’t win enough 1 on 1 battles to get our chances,” said Couturier, who hit the post in the opening minute. “It wasn’t good enough.”

Defense became an issue for Philadelphia. After allowing just nine goals through the first seven playoff games, they closed giving up 31 in their last two.

The Islanders became the third team of the second round of the playoffs to win Game 7 after squandering a 3-1 series lead. The Dallas Stars and Vegas Golden Knights advanced to the meet in the Western Conference finals after each won Game 7 of their series on Friday night.

McCoy runs for 3 TDs as Army wins opener

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Sanborn McCoy ran for three first-half touchdowns and Army opened its season with a 42-0 victory over Middle Tennessee on Saturday.

McCoy scored on runs of 1, 2 and 4 yards, twice finishing drives that began after Blue Raider turnovers.

Quarterback Christian Anderson added 24 rushing yards and caught a 43-yard touchdown pass from fourth-stringer Max Habegger with the fourth quarter. Army’s longest touchdown came on a 43-yard interception return by Jon Rhattigan.

Army’s triple-option offense rushed for 340 yards on an average of 5.5 yards per carry on 62 attempts.

The shutout was the first since a 17-10 victory over Wake Forest in 1997 and the largest shutout win over an FBS team since a 47-0 victory over Wake Forest in 1963.

Middle Tennessee quarterback Asher O’Hara, who rushed for 1,058 yards last season, ran for just 37 yards on 10 carries and was 9-for-14 passing for 46 yards and two interceptions before being pulled in the second quarter.

Army limited fan attendance to the academy’s approximately 4,300 cadets who were spread out over Michie Stadium, which has a capacity of 38,000. As the academy is under federal jurisdiction, they were not limited by New York state Covid-19 restrictions regarding crowds.
NBA PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Playoffs
All games in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.
CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

Best-of-seven; x-if necessary
Eastern Conference
Miami 3, Milwaukee 0
Monday, September 7, 2020
Miami 115, Milwaukee 104
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Miami 115, Milwaukee 104
Miami 115, Milwaukee 100

Western Conference
Denver 3, Dallas 1
Monday, September 7, 2020
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25
Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25

NUGGETS AND CLIPPERS

Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25
Saturday, September 12, 2020
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25
Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 25

NUGGETS have way with Clippers in Game 2

Toronto's Pascal Siakam drives past the Boston Celtics' Robert Williams III during the first half on Saturday, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Siakam had 23 points and 11 rebounds in the Raptors' 100-93 win.

The Nuggets got their own shooting untracked late in the third quarter to open the first sizable lead by either team but Boston couldn't hit nearly enough shots to put much of a dent in it.

The Nuggets were physical on both ends, getting whatever they wanted offensively and setting a tone defensively.

"We were a noticeably different team," Maloney said.

It led to a noticeably different result, too. Blown out in Game 1, the Nuggets led wire-to-wire in Game 2 of their Western Conference semifinal series with the Los Angeles Clippers. Jamal Murray scored 27 points, Nikola Jokic had 26 points and 18 rebounds and the Nuggets prevailed 110-101 to knot the series at a game apiece.

Gary Harris and Paul Millsap each added 13 points for Denver, which lost by 23 in the series opener.

"We were tired," Murray said about the Game 1 performance. "We came out sloppy, we came out exhausted, we didn't make shots and it showed.

That wasn't the case Saturday. Murray and Jokic were a combined 20 for 38 from the floor, 7-for-13 from three-point range.

Paul George scored 22 points for the Clippers, who got 15 from Ivica Zubac and even more from the bench. Leonard led the way with 51 points.

The two-time NBA Finals MVP had 13 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, but shot only 5-of-13 on Saturday.

"We dug ourselves in a 20-point hole early," Leonard said. "A few easy ones didn't fall early, and that was it from there," Leonard said.

The Clippers trailed by 23 and got as close as five in the fourth quarter, but no closer. Murray and Harris made three-pointers on consecutive possessions down the stretch to help keep the Nuggets on top, and Patrick Beverley getting ejected with a pair of technicals with 1:04 left helped seal matters.

"Honestly, I thought they just played more aggressively," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "They got into us the entire game."
Baffert gets record-tying sixth victory

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Bob Baffert endured the lowest of lows and highest of highs within minutes in the Kentucky Derby.

He was bummed before the horses left the paddock after Thousand Words reared up and fell on its side, getting disqualified and injuring Baffert’s assistant trainer. That emotion was quickly replaced by Authentic’s front-running victory that gave Baffert a record-tying sixth Derby win.

Then Baffert found himself down again, literally, getting knocked to the grass by a skittish Authentic in the winner’s circle.

“This is the craziest year ever,” he said.

Authentic kicked away from heavy favorite Tiz the Law in the stretch on Saturday, winning the 146th Derby by 1 ¼ lengths without the usual crowd of 150,000 on hand at Churchill Downs for the first time because of the coronavirus pandemic. The bay colt ran 1 ¼ miles in 2:00.61 under John Velazquez, who won his third Derby.

“I’ve had some great Derby rides, but what that guy did,” Baffert said, gesturing toward Velazquez, who stood...