BEIJING — Countries began evacuating their citizens Wednesday from the Chinese city hardest-hit by a new virus that has now infected more people in China than were sickened in the country by SARS.

The number of confirmed cases jumped to 5,974, surpassing the 5,327 in mainland China during the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003.

The death toll rose to 132, which is still lower than the 348 people who were killed in China by SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome. Scientists say there are still many questions to be answered about the new virus, including just how transmissible and severe it is.

Chartered planes carrying about 200 evacuees each arrived in Japan and the United States early Wednesday, as other countries planned similar evacuations from the city of Wuhan, which authorities have shut down to try to contain the virus.

American evacuees get temporary housing at Calif. base Page 8

The first cases in the Middle East
GM’s Detroit plant going all-electric next year

By David Welch
Bloomberg

General Motors affirmed plans to build electric pickups and SUVs at its Detroit-Hamtramck plant and scheduled the start of production for late next year.

Output of electric Cruise Origin driverless vehicles will follow soon after the initial pickups roll off the line, GM said in a statement on Monday. The automaker committed to investing $2.2 billion in the factory as part of the labor agreement reached last year with the United Auto Workers union.

GM’s investment saves a factory that was marked for closure over a year ago. Detroit-Hamtramck will become GM’s second plant in Michigan making plug-in models, as Chief Executive Officer Mary Barra bets on a demand for electric vehicles that only Tesla Inc. has sold in significant volume thus far.

“It’s not if, it’s when,” GM President Mark Reuss said of EVs catching on with consumers. “Nothing happens by turning on a light switch, making vehicles and seeing consumers adopt them. But the turning point is now and we have to plan for adoption.”

Once fully operational, the Detroit-Hamtramck plant will employ 2,200 workers, according to GM. The automaker plans to build a family of EVs at the factory, including a Hummer truck that will be sold by GMC dealers, people familiar with the matter said earlier this month.

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

INTEREST RATES

| Prime rate | 4.25 |
| Discount rate | 2.25 |
| 3-month bill | 1.55 |
| 30-year bond | 2.69 |

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-euros.
Report calls for revamped Indo-Pacific strategy

BY WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. and its allies must establish new rules, norms and institutions in the Indo-Pacific region as a means of blunting China’s growing military and economic might, a report recommends in a congressionally mandated report released Tuesday.


The lengthy report includes specific proposals for creating new trade and technology standards, multilateral methods for coordinating on technology issues, and a piece to test weapon optics rests on the build plate of the 3rd Maintenance Battalion’s new Markforged Metal X 3D printer.

A part used to test weapon optics rests on the build plate of the 3rd Maintenance Battalion’s new Markforged Metal X 3D printer.

Marine Staff Sgt. Quincy Reynolds of the III Marine Expeditionary Force’s 3rd Maintenance Battalion shows off the furnace for the unit’s new Markforged Metal X 3D printer at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, earlier this month.

“Right now, the sky is the limit,” he said.

“The only drawback to the Metal X is the size,” Reynolds said, which is about half of the printer capacity. He said plans are already in the works to upgrade to a larger furnace.

“Whereas with our new metal 3D printer they say will pay dividends in cost and efficiency when it comes to manufacturing vehicle or weapon parts in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Markforged Metal X 3D printer arrived at the 3rd Maintenance Battalion shop at Camp Kinser piece by piece, finally becoming operational in December, Marine officials said. Using spoons of powdered stainless steel, tool steel and nickel alloy, it can simultaneously produce multiple metal parts that would be otherwise difficult to machine or cast.

III MEF is the first expeditionary force to be equipped with one of the 100,000 machines, said 3rd Marine Logistics Group spokesman Lt. Tori Sharpe.

The printer is expected to free up Marines who would otherwise spend hours carving parts out of blocks of metal, save money on waste and avoid the downtime associated with ordering parts from the United States.

Plastic 3D printers “are great for prototyping, but where they fall short is, it’s very few [finished] components that they’re able to produce,” said shop foreman Staff Sgt. Quincy Reynolds, 36, of Baltimore.

Reynolds said plastic 3D printers have been in the fleet for only four or five years.

“We already have a new metal 3D printer, that opens up a whole new world for us,” he said. “This piece of equipment is going to increase the production time with the multiple prints and then you’re able to have a completed [piece] ... that does not need any machining.”

Reynolds’ shop has 12 Marines who spend their days repairing components for vehicles and weapon systems for all III MEF units, he said. This can mean milling parts out of blocks of metal, which can be both wasteful and time consuming.

This process, known as subtractive manufacturing, often requires multiple tool changes and the dedicated attention of at least one Marine working on a single piece for eight to 12 hours at a time. One miscalculation and the entire process must start over.

The Metal X 3D printer can print multiple pieces at the same time, Reynolds said. Once a Marine makes sure the print’s base layers are correct at the outset, it can be left alone to finish the job, freeing up that Marine.

Marines can now take on as many as four projects at a time, Reynolds said.

With the Metal X, Marines can design their own parts for printing in a computer-aided design program called SolidWorks or download approved blueprints from the Marine Corps system, Reynolds said.

The printer comes in three separate stations, Reynolds said. The first is the printer itself, which prints metal objects as large as 13 inches square and bound in plastic layers. The next stage is a wash-and-dry station, which soaks the printed piece in liquid argon to remove the plastic support filament.

The final station is a 290-cubic-inch, coil-heated furnace, Reynolds said. Metal parts can be welded for as long as 24 hours at up to 2,700 degrees Fahrenheit and are infused with gases that solidify the metal. Some finished products can even be welded.

The only drawback to the Metal X is the size, Reynolds said, which is about half of the printer capacity. He said plans Reynolds holds a .50 caliber machine gun gauge made by their new metal 3D printer.

The battalion’s goal is to be able to print or manufacture any metal part that III MEF needs, Reynolds said. Thus far, they have made gauges for .50-caliber machine guns, sockets for wrenches and a piece to test weapon optics at the armory.

They hope to expand their portfolio in the days to come.

“We’re asking units, ‘Hey, just give us a problem. Let us figure out the solution for you,’” he said. “Right now, the sky is the limit honestly with this printer. If you can think of it, we can literally do it.”

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France urges US to keep up counterterrorism efforts in West Africa

By Karen DeYoung
The Washington Post

French Defense Minister Florence Parly pressed the Trump administration this week to continue U.S. military assistance to the French-led counterterrorism mission in West Africa, arguing against tentative plans to reduce U.S. deployments as part of a broader Pentagon realignment.

“Will we do our utmost, and I’ve made the case with [Defense Secretary] Mark Esper, for continuation of U.S. assistance, because it achieves so much with comparatively little in such a sensitive time,” Parly told reporters Tuesday after meetings with Esper, White House national security adviser Robert O’Brien and other senior officials.

Parly is the latest of a steady stream of French officials to visit in recent weeks, as the Pentagon moves toward a decision as early as the end of next month.

France has said that a reduction in the U.S. contribution could seriously undercut the overall French effort. “If the U.S. decided to withdraw from Africa, it would be bad news for us,” President Emmanuel Macron said this month at a summit with leaders of five countries in the region.

As counterterrorism has moved further down the list of priorities, President Donald Trump has also called for an end to “endless wars,” particularly in places where he has deemed conflict to be “tribal” and not directly affecting the United States.

Allies operating in the parts of the world most immediately affected by potential U.S. withdrawals, in the Middle East and Africa, have said they are willing to increase their contributions in those areas but expect the United States to continue its own involvement.

Although he has recently deployed thousands more troops to the Middle East, Trump has called for Europe and NATO to pick up more of the burden.

“France is OK with a larger European role in the Middle East,” Parly said, “provided this means an enduring U.S. commitment.” European countries that are part of a NATO training mission in Iraq, and which deployed troops as part of the U.S.-led coalition against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, depend on the United States for key “enablers” that allow them to operate, including intelligence and logistical support.

The United States has by far the largest presence in both countries, although Trump has cut the U.S. presence in Syria by about half, down to around 1,000 troops. In Iraq, U.S. deployments have increased, from about 5,000, to provide greater security after the Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike there that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani. European troops number in the hundreds.

TBI cases from Iranian attack increase to 50

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon on Tuesday added 16 service members newly announced with traumatic brain injury, 15 have returned to duty in Iraq, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Thomas Campbell said in a statement.

Thirty-one of the 50 service members injured were treated in Iraq and returned to duty, he said. Another 18 have been taken to Germany for further treatment.

One service member who had been moved to Germany for other health reasons was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury after arriving there, he said.

Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said on Friday that eight of the injured troops had been taken to the United States to receive treatment as outpatients at either their home stations or at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland.

Campbell said Tuesday no information was available whether additional service members had been sent stateside.

The Pentagon said previously it will review its injury reporting requirements in light of the shifting accounts of casualties from the missile strike.

Hoffman said Friday that the changing injury reports were partly a reflection of an existing policy that does not require incidents of traumatic brain injury be reported directly to the Pentagon.

Iran launched 11 ballistic missiles into Iraq in retaliation over a U.S. drone strike Jan. 3 in Baghdad on Iran’s top military official, Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, who commanded the elite Quds Force.

The missiles landed in al Asad, a base in western Iraq’s Anbar province where about 1,500 U.S. and allied troops are stationed.

TBI cases from Iranian attack increase to 50

By Wyatt Olson
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon on Tuesday added 16 service members to the list of those suffering traumatic brain injury from a Jan. 8 Iranian missile attack on al Asad Air Base in Iraq, raising the total to 50.

The Pentagon has increased the number of service members injured at least four times since the missile strike, with the last announcement of a total of 34 on Friday.

President Donald Trump and the Pentagon have said there had been no U.S. injuries.

In the immediate wake of the attack, President Donald Trump and the Pentagon said there had been no U.S. injuries.

In Iraq, U.S. deployments have increased, by about half, down to around 1,000 troops.

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In Iraq, U.S. deployments have increased, from about 5,000, to provide greater security after a Jan. 3 U.S. drone strike there that killed Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani. European troops number in the hundreds.
Air Force faces critical gaps in aerial refueling

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Boeing’s failure to deliver its new KC-46 Pegasus aerial refuelers on schedule could force the military to rely either on private defense contractors or keep using aging tankers to meet its needs, the U.S. Transportation Command’s top officer said.

“We’ve got to figure out a way to mitigate the delayed fielding of the KC-46,” Gen. Stephen Lyons said Tuesday, while speaking at the Atlantic Council in Washington.

The Air Force has already planned on the retirement of a select number of its KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-10 Extenders, even as the Boeing-run KC-46 program struggles to develop and field new tankers, he said.

“If we’re not careful we’re going to see a real dip, … in taskable tails for the joint force,” Lyons said, referring to the number of mission-ready tankers. He said he was working with the Air Force to fill in the gaps, “so we have continuous coverage of the joint force while we work through the issues … with the KC-46.”

The Air Force has been seeking to replace its Eisenhower-era KC-135 since the early 2000s. The service has 153 of the refuelers in active-duty units and another 243 in the National Guard and Reserve, the Air Force says on its website.

In 2008, the service selected a modified tanker version of the Airbus A330 commercial airliner over Boeing’s offer of a 767 derivative. But that decision was nullified after Boeing complained about the selection process, and in 2011 Boeing won the $44 billion project. The company had promised to deliver 18 combat-ready aircraft by 2017, but Air Force leaders said this fall that likely won’t happen for several more years.

In the meantime, the Air Force has taken delivery of 30 tankers for training purposes, while Boeing continues to fix some of the aircraft’s problems, including an issue with the cameras used to guide the extended 59-foot boom into a fuel receptacle on the receiving plane.

Some solutions to the tanker shortfall include the “ability to retain some number of legacy tails,” Lyons said, referring to the KC-135s and KC-10s.

Leasing commercial tankers would “take pressure off the force,” he said, but limits include not being able to employ private tankers in a combat environment.

“I think it’s worth a look,” he said.

Aerial refueling is “the most stressed” capability across Transportation Command, Lyons said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Slobodan Lekic contributed to this report.
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A U.S. Air Force F-16 receives fuel from a KC-46 Pegasus, the service’s new tanker, during a mission over Florida in December.
USFK warns of worker furloughs if no deal reached

BY KIM GAMEL
and YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — Facing furloughs, the United States warned South Korean employees Wednesday that they may be placed on unpaid leave in April if Seoul and Washington are unable to reach a new defense cost-sharing deal.

The 60-day notice being sent to nearly 9,000 employees upper the ante as the allies remain deadlocked over U.S. demands for a sharp increase in South Korea’s contribution nearly a month after the previous contract known as the Special Measures Agreement expired.

U.S. Forces Korea said the notice was required by law and would be sent to all employees by Friday.

"United States Forces Korea began providing Korean National employees today with a 60-day notice of a potential administrative furlough for the month of April 1, 2020, absent an agreed upon SMA," USFK said in a statement.

The issue doesn’t affect non-appropriated fund organizations such as on-base restaurants, exchange stores, bowling alleys and other community activities that receive money from other sources.

‘Unprecedented situation’

The dispute has become a major irritant in the decades-old alliance between the two countries as they face a growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

"The way we’ve organized our workplaces requires us to have this interoperability and be able to fight together," John Rood, the Pentagon’s policy chief, said Tuesday during a House Armed Services Committee hearing in Washington.

"Burden-sharing doesn’t come just down to dollars and cents obviously," he said, noting South Korea’s large defense budget.

This is part of our message to our State Department colleagues that as you’re approaching these negotiations — and everyone wants equitable burden-sharing — some consideration just needs to be given about maintaining the health of that alliance, as we go forward."

Many South Koreans expressed anger and frustration during a packed town hall-style meeting at the chapels on Camp Humphreys, the largest U.S. overseas base and home to USFK headquarters.

"The only people who will be hurt at our Korean National employees," Geddah Hwang, a 59-year-old vehicle maintenance worker, said in an interview. He’s worried people may be fired, although officials insisted that employees would return to work as soon as possible.

Dwindling funds

Camp Humphreys officials told the audience that the remaining U.S. funds budgeted for South Korean employees would run out at the end of March, forcing the need for a furlough to begin April 1 if a new deal for South Korean funding isn’t reached.

A woman asks a question during a town hall meeting about possible furloughs for South Korean workers at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Wednesday.

"USFK cannot meet its Korean employee payroll with the lapse of the SMA," said Paul Stuart, a deputy to the garrison commander, adding that a final decision was expected by the end of next month.

"Nothing we talk about today is a value judgment on you or your work as an employee," he said.

"We are all facing an unprecedented situation and endeavor to minimize impacts wherever possible. We are quite transparent and bring clarity to the situation that we are facing."

Affected employees would be placed on a "nonpaid and nonduty" status and would not receive back pay, he said, adding that they won’t be eligible for unemployment benefits.

USFK already has implemented "austerity measures" including a freeze on local hiring and overtime pay for groups that use funds appropriated by Congress. Officials warned residents that they will likely face delays in non-emergency services with reduced hours at the post office and after-hours maintenance work.

Six rounds of talks since last year failed to reach a consensus, although negotiators from both sides say they have narrowed their differences, and the United States has softened its initial demand for nearly $5 billion per year, a fivefold increase.

Washington also is reportedly seeking to broaden the scope of the agreement beyond logistical and salary support to include money for American rotational troops and other off-peak costs.

Consequences

Garrison officials said they couldn’t discuss the SMA talks, which are being held at a higher level.

"We don't affect that down here. We deal with the consequences of it," Stuart said.

South Korea has helped support U.S. troops under the agreement since 1991, with most of the funds used for administrative and logistical support as well as construction projects and the bulk of South Korean salaries.

USFK sent a notice in October to the Korean Employees Union, saying it may need to place local workers on unpaid leave beginning in April if an agreement isn’t reached.

The two sides also missed the deadline last year but eventually reached a retroactive deal for South Korea to pay some $920 million for 2019.

But that was a stopgap measure because it lasted for only one year. Previous deals had lasted five years.

Negotiators have gone public this year with their demands and complaints while anti-American activists held several rallies, including a group that briefly broke into the ambassador’s residence.

South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo stressed the importance of an "ironclad combined defense posture" during a separate meeting with Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy and Army Pacific Commander Gen. Paul LaCamera on Wednesday in Seoul, according to the ministry.

BY J.P. LAWRENCE
Stars and Stripes

49ers’ Kittle to play in Super Bowl in honor of fallen soldier

A player in this year’s Super Bowl will be playing in honor of a soldier killed in Iraq, as part of a program that gave the soldier’s family a trip to the big game.

George Kittle, star tight end for the San Francisco 49ers, met with the family of Sgt. Mick LaMar last Friday ahead of Sunday's clash with the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIV in Miami.

The visit and the tickets to the Super Bowl left Josie LaMar, Mick's widow, "over-the-moon excited," she said, as her husband was a big 49ers fan.

"We're looking forward to enjoying the game and saying, 'George Kittle is playing for our dad, our husband,'” Josie LaMar said in a phone call Tuesday.

"I wasn’t going to be able to travel to the game and cheer or do anything, just make them smile a little bit, then I’ve just done a little part in their lives."

NFL players Christian McCaffrey, Von Miller, Deshawn Watson, Jarvis Landry, James Conner, Ryan Tannehill and coach Ron Rivera also participated in the program.

George Reilly, a Marine veteran who served in Vietnam, will also be at the game with his son as part of the program, although he’ll be rooting for the Chiefs.

"I never even saw it as a far-off fantasy, to be able to go to Super Bowl,” Reilly, a former New York City detective, said on the phone, "but here I am."
Gallagher attacks SEALs who testified against him

BY ANDREW DYER
The San Diego Union-Tribune

SAN DIEGO — A retired Navy SEAL whose war crimes trial made international news has launched a video attack on former SEAL teammates who accused him of murder and shooting civilians, and who testified against him at his San Diego court-martial in June.

In a three-minute video posted to his Facebook page and Instagram account on Monday, retired Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher, 40, referred to some members of his former platoon as “cowards” and highlighted names, photos and — for those still on active duty — their duty status and current units, something former SEALs say places those men — and the Navy’s mis-sts — in jeopardy.

Gallagher was accused of several war crimes by some of his platoon subordinates, including that he shot civilians and stabbed a wounded Islamic State fighter in the neck, killing him, while in Iraq in 2017. He pleaded not guilty and was acquitted of most charges, but was convicted of posing for a photo with an Islamic State fighter’s corpse, a crime for which the jury reduced his rank.

The case and its fallout received extensive media coverage, including lobbying President Donald Trump on-air for months to intervene on Gallagher’s behalf.

Trump intervened in the case several times, including ordering Gallagher released from confinement before trial and conceding the SEAL’s rank post-conviction.

Two former SEALs who served in Gallagher’s platoon in Iraq during his 2017 deployment spoke to the Union-Tribune on Monday about the video. Neither testified at Gallagher’s court-martial.

David Shaw, a former petty officer 1st class, said that he questioned Gallagher’s decision to publicize information that’s normally kept quiet for operational security.

“Attempting to call attention to (those SEALs’) status in the way it’s been done does not serve the mission or the interests of the Navy,” Shaw said when reached by phone. “To attempt to out (their) status raises questions about the decision to do it.”

Shaw also defended his former teammates and their decisions to testify against their chief.

“Each and every one of the guys who came forward were performers of the highest caliber and people of the highest reputations within the platoon,” Shaw said. “(One) was selected to serve at the most premier institution at Naval Special Warfare, and that tells you everything you need to know about his performance and speaks volumes about his character.”

Another former SEAL from the platoon said that publicizing the facts of active-duty SEALs — including one assigned to the elite Development Group, or SEAL Team 6 — could put the lives of the men and their families in danger.

The former SEAL asked the San Diego Union-Tribune not to use his name, but said that because SEALs have been the targets of terrorist organizations, exposing their names, faces and current units was an egregious breach of norms within the community.

The video appears to be a trailer for an unspecified future project. Tim Parlatore, one of Gallagher’s attorneys, declined to say on Monday what that project is or when it will be published.

Navy Capt. Tamara Lawrence, a spokesperson for Naval Special Warfare Command in San Diego, said in a statement late Monday that the Navy, as a practice, does not identify active-duty SEALs.

“While every action and decision is critical to our organization, publicly naming individuals, even those not identified as active-duty SEALs, may negatively impact the force,” Lawrence said.

Parlatore dismissed concerns about highlighting the names and faces of active-duty SEALs.

“There’s nothing in that video that’s not already public,” he said.

Chief Petty Officer Edward Gallagher celebrates with his wife, Andrea, in July at Naval Base San Diego after being acquitted of premeditated murder.

SANDY HUFFAKER, TNS/Getty Images

Lapses: Review also cites leadership, accountability issues

FROM FRONT PAGE

platoon in Iraq was ordered home amid charges of drinking and an alleged sexual assault, and two senior leaders were fired.

The review released on Tuesday concluded that while there is no “systemic ethics problem,” the sustained war tours since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and limited time for force development have set the conditions at times for unacceptable conduct.

It acknowledged that previous internal assessments have come to similar conclusions, yet the problems persist.

“We did find that certain aspects of our culture have, at times, set conditions favorable for inappropriate behavior,” Army Gen. Richard Clarke, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command, told reporters at the Pentagon. “We have a ‘can do’ culture with a bias toward action.” This is “part of what makes us great,” he said, but sometimes it goes too far.

The report said that over time, deployment to areas that promise combat has come to be valued “above all other things.” Those who experience combat “are held as almost an infallible standard bearer” for others to emulate — even if that combat experience is marred by unconstitutional acts.

“Nearly 20 years of continuous conflict have imbalanced that culture to favor force employment and mission accomplishment over the routine activities that ensure leadership, accountability and discipline,” Clarke said on Tuesday. “This is a problem, and our review team recommended more than a dozen ways to address it. Most importantly, we need to improve our leader development programs and improve accountability in our training and management processes.”

The review left no doubt that the force has suffered from lapses in leadership and accountability.

It said that this evolved from an imbalance between the demands to deploy to war zones and the need to properly develop troops.

The result was a “vicious cycle” that normalized a culture in which leadership development was lacking.

“The review team uncovered not only potential cracks in the SOF (Special operations forces) foundations at the individual and team level, but also through the chain of command, specifically in the core tenets of leadership, discipline and accountability,” the report said.

there are those to this day who refuse to accept that fact.

“The fight to clear my name is not over,” Gallagher says.

Parlatore told the Union-Tribune on Monday that the video project will include more footage from NCIS interviews and from Gallagher’s 2017 deployment.

“What’s coming is the truth,” Parlatore said, adding that the video project was a direct response to The Weekly.

Parlatore dismissed concerns about highlighting the names and faces of active-duty SEALs.

“There’s nothing in that video that’s not already public,” he said.

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· H&R BLOCK
US evacuees from China to be housed at California base

Americans who arrived Wednesday will be monitored by CDC in LA

BY COREY DICKSTEIN Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An airplane carrying more than 200 Americans evacuated from Wuhan, China, the center of an outbreak of a deadly virus that has quickly spread across the globe, landed Wednesday at an Air Force reserve base in Southern California, Pentagon officials said.

The Defense Department will provide the evacuees temporary housing on March Air Reserve Base in Riverside, Calif., said Alyssa Farah, the Pentagon’s press secretary. Officials from the Health and Human Services Department will be at the base to observe and care for the evacuees, the largely Reserve State Department personnel and their family members.

“HHS is responsible for all care of the evacuees, and DoD personnel will not be directly in contact with the evacuees and evacuees will not have access to any base location other than their assigned housing,” Farah said in a statement.

Wuhan is the center of the coronavirus outbreak that has killed at least 132 people and infected some 5,300 in China. The Associated Press reported Wednesday the city, and several others nearby, have been locked down by the Chinese government in an attempt to slow the spread of the virus.

Cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed in more than a dozen other countries, including at least five in the United States, according to the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

It was not immediately clear Wednesday why March ARB was chosen to house the individuals arriving from Wuhan. They were initially expected to land at Ontario International Airport, about 30 miles away, U.S. officials said.

March, a former active-duty Air Force base, is home to the 452nd Air Mobility Wing, the Air Force Reserve’s largest air mobility wing, which moves troops and equipment across the globe and provide refueling operations.

The base also houses other units from the Air Force Reserve, the Army, Army Reserve and the National Guard, according to the Air Force. It is home to F-15 fighter jets, C-17 cargo jets and KC-135 air tankers, and it boasts a 13,300-foot runway, among the longest runways in the United States.

Farah said DoD officials deter the AP the presence of the evacuees would not make any impact to military missions on the base.

She said if any individuals show symptoms of the disease, they adopted procedures to securely transport them to a local civilian hospital.

The military has been monitoring the spread of the virus for more than a week in case it needs to take any measures to protect its personnel and their families, officials said.

“DoD will work closely with our interagency partners and continue to monitor the situation,” Farah said. “The department’s primary responsibility at this time is the safety of our force, our families, and our base communities.”

The CDC said Wednesday that the evacuees were screened before they left Wuhan, monitored throughout the entire flight by medical professionals, screened again in Anchorage, Alaska, where they landed the night before, and were evaluated once they arrived at March ARB. They will continue to be monitored at the base for an unspecified amount of time, according to a CDC statement.

“Our primary objective is to facilitate the safe return of these Americans while protecting the public’s health,” the statement said.

Medical officials in Alaska told The Associated Press that most of the evacuees had displayed symptoms of the coronavirus during refueling, which include fever, coughing and in severe cases can cause shortness of breath or pneumonia.

A passenger from Beijing is screened as part of measures to prevent coronavirus infection at Hazrat Shahjalal International airport in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on Wednesday.

Virus: Source of new illness still unknown

FROM FRONT PAGE

were confirmed Wednesday, a family of four from Wuhan that was visiting the United Arab Emirates. Officials world announced they were cutting flights to China, and Hong Kong was suspending rail travel to and from the mainland at midnight.

The number of cases in China rose 1,459 from the previous day, a smaller increase than the 1,771 new cases reported Tuesday. Australia and Singapore were among those reporting new cases, as the number outside China topped 70. The vast majority are people who came from Wuhan.

Australia, New Zealand and Britain were among the latest countries to announce they are planning evacuations.

British Airways said it was suspending all flights to and from mainland China after the U.K. government warned against unnecessary travel to the country. The airline has daily flights from London to Shanghiai and Beijing.

British health secretary Matt Hancock tweeted that “anyone who returns from Wuhan will be safely isolated for 14 days, with all necessary medical attention.” The measures are a step up from those during the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak, when returning travelers from West Africa were asked to monitor themselves for symptoms.

Mark Woolhouse, a professor of infectious disease epidemiology at the University of Edinburgh, said the steps are justified to prevent the introduction of the virus and its spread.

“There’s always a balance between the draconian measures of public health and what people might want to do, and obviously it’s regrettable if people who turn out not to have the virus are quarantined unnecessarily,” he said.

In China’s Hubei province, 17 cities including Wuhan have been locked down, trapping more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease control measures imposed.

The new virus is from the coronavirus family, which includes those that can cause the common cold as well as more serious illnesses.

The source of the new virus and the full extent of its spread are still unknown. However, the World Health Organization said most cases reported to date “have been mild, with around 20% of those infected experiencing severe illness.”

Scientists expect many crucial questions about the virus’ behavior will be answered in the coming weeks as the outbreak evolves and it becomes clearer how people are infected.

More airlines drop flights to China

Associated Press

BANGKOK — British Airways halted all flights to China and American Airlines suspended flights to and from Shanghai and Beijing as efforts to contain a new and deadly virus intensifies.

The coronavirus has now infected more people in China than were sickened in the country by the SARS outbreak in 2002-2003.

The British and U.S. carriers on Wednesday joined several Asian carriers that are either suspending or significantly cutting back service there as fears spread about the broader economic impact of the virus outbreak. Hotels, airlines, casinos and cruise operators are among the industries suffering the most immediate repercussions, especially in countries close to China.

BA said it was immediately suspending all flights to and from mainland China after the U.K. government warned against unnecessary travel to the country amid a virus outbreak.

The airline operates daily flights from London’s Heathrow Airport to Shanghai and Beijing. It took the measure a day after Britain’s Foreign Office updated its travel advice on China, warning against “all but essential travel” to the mainland, not including Hong Kong and Macao.

American Airlines said Wednesday it will suspend flights between Los Angeles and Beijing and Shanghai from Feb. 9 through March 27. The airline cited “the significant decline in demand for travel to and from China.”

China has cut off access to the central city of Wuhan, epicenter of the outbreak, and 16 other cities to prevent people from leaving and spreading the virus further. That has trapped more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease control measures ever imposed. The outbreak has infected more than 6,000 on the mainland and abroad.

Online flight notice boards for the Beijing and Shanghai airports showed numerous cancellations for both domestic and foreign airlines on Wednesday.
WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump’s impeachment trial is shifting to questions from senators, a pivotal juncture as Republicans lack the votes to block witnesses and face a potentially significant setback in their hope of ending the trial with a quick acquittal.

Despite Trump’s defense team’s idea for it to “end early,” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell privately told senators he doesn’t yet have the votebrush back Democrat demands for witnesses now that revelations from John Bolton, the former national security adviser, have roiled the trial.

Republican senators are trying to carve out a way to deal with fallout from Bolton’s forthcoming book, which provides a potential eyewitness account of Trump’s actions at the heart of the impeachment charges.

But ideas being floated are fizzling almost as soon as they arise — among them, a witness “swap” with Democrats or issuing a subpoena for Bolton.

GOP senators are sternly warned by party leaders that calling Bolton as a witness would subject the trial to lengthy legal battles and delay Trump’s expected acquittal.

One key Republican, Sen. Susan Collins, of Maine, gave fresh momentum Wednesday to a one-for-one witness deal for Bolton.

GOP senators are sternly warned by party leaders that calling Bolton as a witness could unravel the trial in lengthy legal battles and delay Trump’s expected acquittal.

It’s irrelevant. It’s a distraction,” said Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer.

Bolton wrote in a forthcoming book that Trump told him he wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it helped with investigations into Democratic rival Joe Biden.

But Democrats dismissed those offers, especially as Republicans want to draw Joe Biden’s son, Hunter, deeper into the impeachment proceedings.

One person watching from the sidelines Wednesday is Lev Parnas, the indicted associate of Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani, who arrived at the Capitol saying, “I want to testify.” Parnas, who has turned over evidence for the proceedings, cannot enter the Senate with his court-ordered electronic-tracking device.

The two days set aside for questions, Wednesday and Thursday, also allow each side more time to figure out a way to deal with Bolton’s manuscript without extending the proceedings or jeopardizing the president’s expected acquittal.

Some Republicans including Sens. Pat Toomey want reciprocity — bringing in Bolton or another Democratic witness in exchange for one from the GOP side. It’s an idea initially proposed by conservative Sen. Josh Hawley, Ted Cruz and Mike Braun, separate from the centrists whose votes are in doubt. Some Republicans want to see Bolton testify at the outset as many as possible.

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., says he would have a problem hearing from Hunter Biden, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company, in the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump, but he doubts it will happen.

Sen. Roy Blunt, R-Mo., says he thinks Bolton probably has something to offer.


The president had tweeted shortly after midnight about his former adviser, asking why Bolton didn’t complain earlier. Bolton left the White House last September and says he offered his resignation.

The uncertainty about witnesses arises days before crucial votes on the issue. In a Senate split 53-47 in favor of Republicans, at least four GOP senators must join all Democrats to reach the 51 votes required to call witnesses, decide whom to call or do nearly anything else in the trial.

Several Republicans apparently are ready to join Democrats in calling witnesses.

Bolton didn’t complain earlier. He was told an audience in Sarasota, Fla., that he doubts it will happen.

The witness swaps seem likely to most Republican senators don’t want to call Bolton and most Democrats would rather avoid dragging the Bidens further into the impeachment proceedings. The Bidens were a focus of defense arguments though no evidence of wrongdoing has emerged.

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Boeing continues to see losses from 737 Max grounding

By Aaron Gregg
The Washington Post

Boeing reached new financial lows in 2019 as the 737 Max — once a cash-generating machine whose flawed control systems played a role in two deadly crashes — remains at the center of a historic safety crisis with no end in sight.

Boeing closed out the fourth quarter with $17.9 billion in revenue, the company announced Wednesday, a 37 percent drop from the fourth quarter of 2018. The losses stem from the continued worldwide grounding of Boeing’s Max jets and a production halt this year in the wake of two fatal crashes.

The company’s stock price has lost about 13 percent of its value over the past year at a time when the market has surged.

Once a cash-generating machine that was the envy of its competitors and a darling of Wall Street, Boeing has been forced to borrow billions of dollars to cover the cost of building airplanes it can’t deliver to customers. CNBC reported Monday Boeing has secured more than $12 billion in loans from lenders to provide cash for operations over the next two years.

It has been forced to compensate airlines for the cost of flight cancellations, taking a $5.6 billion charge in July. And a bruising congressional inquiry has pointed to deeper problems with the company’s management culture, leading to the ouster of its two highest-ranking executives.

Boeing’s new CEO, David Calhoun, will be under intense pressure to navigate the company back to financial health.

The 737 Max has been out of commission for more than 10 months as regulators remain unconvinced it is safe to fly. It was grounded in mid-March when the Federal Aviation Administration recognized similarities in a pair of deadly plane crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia, both of them involving new 737 Max jets, that killed 346 people.

Boeing later admitted that a new flight control program, interacting with bad data from the did last year.” An other said: “This is what these regulators get when they try and get in the way.” And in 2017, long before either of the two crashes, a Boeing employee wrote: “This airplane is designed by clowns, who in turn are supervised by monkeys.”

Apple holiday season tops projections as iPhone bounces back

By Michael Liedtke
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple is still reaping huge profits from the iPhone while mining more moneymaking opportunities from the growing popularity of its smartwatch, digital services and wireless earbuds.

That combination produced a banner holiday season for a company whose fortunes appeared to be sliding just a year ago amid declining sales for the iPhone, its marquee product for the past decade.

Apple’s fiscal first-quarter results, released Tuesday, provided the latest proof that the fears hanging over the consumer electronics icon might have been unfounded.

Apple’s profit and revenue for the October-December period topped analysts’ projections, providing another boost to a stock that has more than doubled in less than 13 months.

The shares surged more than 1% to $322.14 in extended trading after the numbers came out. That’s up from $142 in January 2019 after Apple warned that consumers weren’t buying as many new iPhones as they once were, especially in China, the company’s biggest market outside the U.S. and Europe. China is also where Apple makes most of its iPhones and several other products.

A deadly viral outbreak in China, which has curtailed travel and threatens the world economy, looms as a potential concern for Apple. But investors for now are focusing on what looks like an even more prosperous road ahead for a company that turned a $55 billion profit in its past fiscal year.

In a conference call Tuesday, CEO Tim Cook said the coronavi- rous outbreak has already caused some of Apple’s suppliers in China to delay reopening their factories closed for the Lunar New Year holiday from the end of this month until Feb. 10. And some stores in China selling Apple products already have temporarily closed or reduced their operating hours because fewer customers are shopping as virus worries escalate.

“The situation is emerging and we’ve still gathering lots of data points and monitoring it very closely,” Cook said.

Trump shores up support for newest GOP congressman in NJ

By Jonathan Lembke
Associated Press

WILWOOD, N.J. — Moving on several fronts toward shoring up support for his reelection bid, President Donald Trump capped off a busy Tuesday by heaping praise on the newest Republican member of Congress and savaging Democrats he said are engaged in “demented hoaxes” like his impeachment trial.

On the day his legal team wrapped up its opening arguments on the Senate floor, Trump spoke to an enthusiastic audience in New Jersey in support of Rep. Jeff Van Drew, who recently switched from the Democratic Party to the GOP after breaking ranks with House lawmakers to back Trump’s call for the impeachment trial.

“We are creating jobs and killing terrorists, the congressional Democrats are obsessed with demented hoaxes, crazy witch hunts and deranged partisan crusades. That’s all they know how to do,” Trump said.

Trump’s visit to Democratic-leaning New Jersey generated a boisterous audience that lined the streets to greet him. He called Van Drew on stage, saying, “Jeff had the guts to defy the left-wing fanatics in his own party.”

Trump highlighted the economy during much of his speech, noting that 7 million jobs have been created since his election. He also continued to boast of the U.S. drone strike in Baghdad that killed Iran’s most powerful general, Qassem Soleimani, on Jan. 3.

“We stopped him cold, yet Washington Democrats like crazy Bernie Sanders and nervous Nancy Pelosi, they opposed our actions to save American lives. They opposed it,” Trump asserted to a roar of boos.

Pelosi and other Democrats have questioned the strategy behind Trump’s order to kill Iran’s general, which was made without prior approval from Congress. They pointed to potential consequences of heightened tensions that could endanger U.S. troops and lead to war with Iran.

On Tuesday, Trump sought to push past the ongoing impeachment trial. Earlier in the day, he released a Middle East peace plan that was immediately met with skepticism that it would go anywhere without Palestinian buy-in.

Minutes after he unveiled the plan, the president’s impeachment trial resumed as his legal team wrapped up its defense presentation. While Trump’s lawyers argued that the Democrats were trying to undo the last election, the president’s focus Tuesday night was on the next one. For his first rally since the Senate trial began, Trump was traveling not to a 2020 battleground state but instead to the Democratic stronghold of New Jersey.

The setting was atypical for Trump: a Jersey shore town where people camped out overnight to get a spot in line for the rally.

Van Drew said Trump has helped restore the military and protect the economy. “Do we want to keep it that way?” he asked the crowd.

Laurie Hess, 37, of Ridley Park, Pa., wears Trump glasses at a rally in Wildwood, N.J., on Tuesday.
LAS CRUCES — A former state lawmaker’s emu that was missing since Thanksgiving is safely back at its home near Las Cruces.

Former state Rep. Brad Cates learned his emu had resurfaced thanks to a barrage of images people shared on social media, the Las Cruces Sun-News reported.

Pictures of the emu around the scene.

The person driving the tow truck had been stealing from or why it was taken.

The tow truck initially hit the seal, 35, dies at zoo

The number of points on a whitetail deer shot by a Kansas bow hunter. The nontypical whitetail deer was shot in October by Brian Butcher of Andover, earning the title of “King of Kansas” during the final day of the Kansas Monster Buck Classic in Topeka. The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that the rack unoffically measured in at 321 1/4 inches on the Boone and Crockett scale. Official measurements will be taken in 2022 for world-record status, as it would be the fourth-largest nontypical deer recorded. The title was previously held by Mark Watson for a 175-plus-inch nontypical whitetail deer in 2019.

**Spinning one's wheel**

People take part in a “Forms in Clay” pottery class Monday at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History in Danville, Va. Six six-class, six-week sessions are held throughout the year Monday nights.

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San Francisco faces federal corruption charges

By Jane Har and Juliet Williams
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A top San Francisco public official andgoto bureaucrat to mayors over two decades was charged with public corruption on Tuesday, upending City Hall as elected leaders scrambled to reassure the public that bribery and kickbacks would not be tolerated.

The complaint unsealed against San Francisco Public Works Director Mohammed Nuru and restaurant owner Nick Bovis focuses on an aborted attempt to build homeless shelters and space.

Nuru was arrested in late January and agreed to cooperate with officials, but violated his agreement to not discuss the case and was re-arrested, Anderson said.

Nuru could face 25 years in prison, while Bovis could face 20 years.

The allegations say that the two participated in a scheme “to defraud the public of its right to the honest services of a public official through bribery or kickbacks” in violation of their duty.

San Francisco Mayor London Breed said that Nuru was placed on administrative leave on Monday. She has asked the city attorney to not discuss the case and was re-arrested, Anderson said.

Police officer charged with murder in death of handcuffed man

Associated Press

TEMPLE HILLS, Md. — A Maryland police officer who fatally shot a handcuffed man in the front seat of a police cruiser will face a murder charge, the police chief said on Tuesday.

Prince George's County Police Chief Hank Stawinski said during a news conference that he asked his special investigations response team to file multiple charges, including a second-degree murder count, against Cpl. Michael Owen, Jr., a 16-year veteran of the force.

Owen was also charged with voluntary and involuntary manslaughter, first-degree assault and use of a firearm in the commission of a crime of violence. He was arrested on Tuesday, department spokeswoman Jennifer Donelan said.

The victim was identified as William Howard Green, 43, of Washington. Authorities did not reveal Green's race, citing department policy.

Stawinski called the announcement the most difficult of his tenure as police chief.

"I am unable to come to our community this evening and provide you with a reasonable explanation for the events that occurred last night, " the chief told reporters. "I concluded that what happened last night is a crime." The deadly shooting occurred on Monday night inside the cruiser after Prince George's County police officers responded to reports that a driver had struck multiple vehicles near the Temple Hills community, department spokeswoman Christina Cotterman told news outlets during an earlier news conference.

When officers located the driver, they smelled PCP and believed that the man was under the influence, Cotterman said.

Stawinski later said, however, that PCP did not appear to have been involved. He also could not corroborate a witness' account of a struggle in the cruiser.

The officer got into the driver's seat after the suspect was taken into custody and placed in the front passenger seat, which is consistent with the department's policy.

"A short time later, for reasons that are now at the center of the investigation, Green was struck seven times by the officer's duty weapon," according to a news release issued Tuesday night.

After the shooting, Owen and another officer removed Green from the cruiser and provided medical aid. Green was transported to a hospital a short time later.

The shooting wasn't caught on body-camera video because the officer didn't have one, Cotterman said.

Owen had been placed on administrative leave prior to the announcement that charges would be filed against him.

Prince George's County State's Attorney, Aisha Braveboy, said in a statement on Tuesday that her office will conduct a "thorough and independent investigation.

"We will seek truth, and will vigorously pursue justice in a way that is fair and responsible," Braveboy said, according to The Washington Post. "Once we have reviewed all the information and completed our own investigation and analysis, I assure you that my office will be transparent and accountable to the public about our findings and how we will move forward."
536 stranded anglers rescued

Associated Press

MOSCOW — In a nearly seven-hour operation, Russia’s emergency services rescued 536 ice fishermen after they got stranded on a giant ice floe that broke off the island of Sakhalin in eastern Siberia, officials said.

Around 60 more people were able to get back onto the shore on their own Tuesday evening, emergency officials said.

Footage of the incident showed groups of people using smaller pieces of ice as rafts and trying to row to the Russian coast on them as the giant ice floe with the stranded fishermen slowly drifted further away from the land.

According to some of the Russian fishermen, by the time they had been rescued the frigid water rift between the ice floe and the coast was already 660 feet wide.

It’s the third time in a week that emergency services in the Sakhalin region had to rescue ice fishermen stuck on drifting glacial masses. On Jan. 22, around 300 people got stranded on an ice floe and on Sunday 600 others did.

Local authorities blamed the fishermen for ignoring safety warnings and going ice fishing despite the danger of being stranded on ice floes.
Bad Bunny releases song paying tribute to Kobe Bryant

From wire reports

Bad Bunny is paying his respects to the late basketball legend Kobe Bryant the way he knows best: through music.

The singer released the song “6 Rings” on Monday in honor of the late Lakers star, who died in a helicopter crash over the weekend along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and seven others.

The two-minute track, sung in Spanish, includes commentary from Bryant’s 2009 game against the Toronto Raptors in which the Lakers player scored a staggering 81 points.

It’s an earnest song filled with sorrow, mourning and admiration for the sports star, and it also grieves for Bryant’s young daughter. As Rolling Stone noted, the song’s title is a nod to wife Vanessa Bryant and No. 24’s five NBA championships.

Bad Bunny joins a chorus of musical figures from across the globe who’ve remembered the NBA legend. During the 62nd occasionally award-winning, Hollywood output, including “A Beautiful Mind,” “Apollo 13” and “Splash,” Howard has made documentaries, but of a different sort.

“My film on Jay-Z (‘Made in America’) was behind the scenes, the Beatles (‘Eight Days a Week’) and Luciano Pavarotti (‘Pavarotti’) were mostly archival biographies, but this would be my first verite documentary.

There was no thesis here. I checked my expectations at the door. I wanted to cover something where I had no idea what the story would be, to find out what was going on after the cameras leave and the spotlight is turned off.

“What were lives going to be like after this? What does it look like to rebuild? What will it take? This was a story I didn’t know anything about.”

“Rebuilding Paradise” ended up following several of the town’s residents, including the indomitable superintendent of schools, a high school grief counselor, a former mayor and a police officer who’d watched his own house burn down.

“I discovered there was a grief cycle, kind of a graph of mourning, and that it applied to the whole town,” Howard reports, adding that the grief is far from over.

Showing his film’s raging fire segment (“I don’t think I’ve ever put together more disturbing footage”) at a Sundance panel, he looked over at the Paradise residents in the audience.

“They were all holding each other and crying,” the director reports. “What we don’t realize is that this is a long, complex tale of trauma, and people are still feeling it.”

Though the film’s title might create the impression that the rebirth of the town went forward in one unstoppable wave, that couldn’t be further from the truth, and “Rebuilding Paradise” is at its best detailing the disheartening obstacles, from residential burglaries to an at-times difficult FEMA bureaucracy, that stood in the way.

“The process was jaggied as hell, imperfect in the extreme,” Howard reports. “What was needed was not a superficial, sentimental kind of hope that was warm and fuzzy, but a brand of deep hope; something determined.”

By KENNETH TURAN

Los Angeles Times

Ron Howard has already dealt with fire, lots of it. (“Backdraft,” nominated for three Oscars, including sound and visual effects.) And he’s made documentaries, more than one. But this time it was different. This time it was personal. This time it was for real.

The director’s latest documentary, “Rebuilding Paradise,” recently unvieled at the Sundance Film Festival, deals with the beyond-devastating Camp fire, the most destructive wildfire in California history, which nearly destroyed the Sierra Nevada town of Paradise, demolishing more than 14,000 homes, ending 85 lives and displacing tens of thousands more.

It’s an area of the state that Howard knows well. He’s spent time in the town, where his mother-in-law lived for five years, and has lots of relatives in nearby Redding. And that made a difference.

“We’ve grown numb to images of devastation, but when you are close to the people affected, you think of it on a more human level,” said the Oscar-winning filmmaker about the motivation behind the project that turned into his first Sundance appearance.

Talking to his assistant when the fire broke out on Nov. 8, 2018, Howard had the title “Rebuilding Paradise” pop into his head almost immediately.

The decision to go ahead with a doc was nailed down within a few days (National Geographic ended up as distributor), Howard’s first camera crew was on site soon after and the director arrived at the three-week mark.

“ Asking questions, collecting footage, trying to reach people and getting them to open up — these things were not necessarily in my skill set,” the director remembers.

Howard admits his celebrity helped the film get off the ground. “Asking questions, collecting footage, trying to reach people and getting them to open up — these things were not necessarily in my skill set,” the director remembers.

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**ACROSS**

1 Sleeve end
5 Soap unit
8 Con job
12 Milky gem
13 Foot rub response
14 Chorus syllables
15 Author Ferber
16 24 hours
17 Fashion magazine
18 Soldier’s ID
20 Nest setting
22 Wed
26 Origami need
29 Ref
30 Conk out
31 Country singer Jackson
32 Rx writers
33 Lion’s pride?
34 Dijon denial
35 Corp. boss
36 Does the job
37 Wed
40 Injure
41 Haystack find
45 - cheese dressing
47 “You’ve got mail” co.
49 Satan’s purchase
50 Disposition
51 Roth svgs. plan
52 Albacore, e.g.
53 Diminish

**DOWN**

1 Not single-sex
2 High hairstyle
3 Sharp tooth
4 Level
5 Police ID
6 Bond rating
7 Beats
8 Streamlined
9 Its days are numbered
10 100%
11 Fannie —
12 100%
13 Fannie —
14 Football filler
15 Fannie —
16 Football filler
17 Football filler
18 Football filler
19 Football filler
20 Football filler
21 Football filler
22 Football filler
23 Football filler
24 Football filler
25 Casual tops
26 Hunger reminder
27 Lotion additive
28 Temple to all the gods
29 Disney’s Ariel, for one
30 Gallo winery setting
31 ‘38 All in the Family” spinoff
32 Acquired relative
33 Gloomy
34 Moth variety
35 Israeli airline
36 Upscale auto
37 Mauna —
38 Raw mineral

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

| I R S | J A W |
| S L O T | A U R A E |
| S U I T E | G L E N D A |
| P E A C E | T R E A T | I E S |
| A D D | P R E P S | T I A |
| A L E E | C O O P |
| B A N E S | N E H R U |
| N A S | A | T Y N E |
| A S P | C R U E T | S R S |
| P I E C E | O F | T H E | P I E |
| S C U L P T | U N I O N |
| T R E E S | S I T S |
| L B S | E D S |

**CRYPTOQUIP**


Yesterday’s Cryptoquip: The playful sea mammal had a yen for succulent fruit, so it polished off some otter-melon.

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: S equals D
Secure Syrain oil is still a terrible idea

BY JERROD A. LAKER
Special to Stars and Stripes

U.S. and Russian troops in north-eastern Syria are disrupting one another’s movements along a major highway as part of the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights.

“I think the Russians are always testing us,” said Air Force Maj. Gen. Alexus G. Grynkewich after Turkish media reported that there was a standoff earlier this month, as U.S. forces blocked access to an oil field. Reporters in Moscow had encountered a roadblock on a major highway, according to the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights.

“Think we had some encounters in Syria, and it was just a matter of time before we had to avoid mistakes that could turn things violent. 

However, tensions between the two sides are growing, perfectly illustrating why the U.S. should have expelled Syria a long time ago. President Donald Trump’s decision to keep a handful of troops in Syria protected the oil fields needlessly puts American forces in harm’s way. Before an accident puts us in a bind, we need to avoid a conflict with a nuclear superpower, the U.S. should finally pack up and leave Syria.

There’s no vital U.S. security interest at stake here. The American military intervention in Syria was conducted by ISIS against the homeland emerged, U.S. global intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance and strike capabilities allow it to carry out this threat without a permanent presence in Syria or anywhere else in the Middle East. Last year’s raid that killed the leader of ISIS took place in a region of Syria without a U.S. presence, proving that targeted raids remain effective even without a permanent military presence in the region.

U.S. policy in Syria represents a counterproductive “regime change-lite” approach. The U.S. military intervention in Syria is designed to overthrow the Assad regime, though it did early on in the conflict. But since then, the Syrian military has learned to deny Bashar Assad the ability to fully bring Syria back under his control. Given the bad blood between Assad and ISIS, that means that Russian forces can safely tolerate Syrian oil fields being commanded by ISIS. In other words, the U.S. presence effectively denies Damascus access to Syria’s oil revenue, which could be used to recover from the civil war. Assad is an abomination, but keeping Syria splintered in this way benefits ISIS more than it hurts him, as he remains fully supported by Moscow.

Much like the U.S. killing of Iranian Maj. Gen. Qassem Soleimani, U.S. actions seem to be intent on simply punishing bad guys. But foreign policy should be about securing our own national interests — not merely a moral crusade to twist the world’s arm to conform to our view of justice.

Perhaps the most important reason the U.S. should not fight the Russians is that the risks are unendured conflict with Syria, Iran or Russia. As the reports of U.S. and Russian standoffs show, we are merely one accident or miscommunication away from a war.

While thankfully nothing has happened yet, it is possible that antagonistic parties that are armed to the teeth rub up against each other the wrong way, mistakes can happen. It’s not a foregone conclusion that every encounter with a mortal enemy. This is a risk the U.S. should not take.

Syria is a weak, poor state in a region that is becoming less strategically significant by the day. Sticking around makes ending the civil war more difficult and puts a very limited number of U.S. troops in harm’s way. It is time for the U.S. to learn to stop trying to make us here at home any safer. It’s time to take the U.S. presence in Syria off autopilot. It’s time to come home.

Let’s move on from this counterproductive, memory-less defense. Priorities: A foreign policy organization that seeks “to inform citizens, thought leaders, and policymakers of the importance of a strong, dynamic military — used more judiciously to protect America’s narrowly defined national interests — and promote a realistic grand strategy prioritizing restraint, diplomacy, and free trade to ensure U.S. security.”
College basketball

Tuesdays’ men’s scores

EAST

Butler 69, Georgetown 64

Hunter 75, York (NY) 52

Old Westbury 78, Merchant Marine 73

Johntay Zalming had 19 points and seven rebounds for the Devils.

University of Rhode Island 89, UMBC 58

University of North Carolina at Charlotte 77, Liberty 63

Virginia 87, Colgate 60

Virginia won 10 straight games after its loss to Duke.

Baylor 83, Iowa St. 62

North Dakota State 78, South Dakota State 71

Bryant 78, UAB 51

Elon 76, Appalachian St. 69

College basketball roundup

Cavaliers and Seminoles’ 10-game winning streak

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Kihei Clark scored 15 points, including a go-ahead layup with 59 seconds left, and Virginia ended No. 5 Florida State’s 10-game winning streak, 61-56 on Tuesday night.

Mamadi Diakite had 19 points and nine rebounds for the Cavaliers, who have won two straight after losing four of their previous five. That stretch raised questions about whether the defending national champions would make the NCAA Tournament even this year.

The game was tied 11 times and neither team could get any separation over the final 10 minutes. Virginia trailed 56-58 before Clark drove down the left side of the lane, reached across and banked his shot in on the right side. After Devin Vassell missed a jumper for the Seminoles, Diakite hit a pair of free throws with 13.9 seconds left for the Cavs (14-6, 4-4 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Florida State (17-3, 7-2) had two chances to tie it, but Wyatt Wilkes missed badly on a three-point attempt from the top of the key and Trent Forrest also missed from the left corner. Braxton Key added a pair of free throws for the Cavs.

Vassell led the Seminoles with 17 points. The loss was FSU’s first since Dec. 3 at Indiana.

No. 9 Duke 79, Pittsburgh 67: Vernon Carey Jr. had 26 points and 13 rebounds as the Blue Devils beat the Panthers after both teams honored Kobe Bryant during a pregame ceremony at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

Tre Jones consisted 14 points and Duncan Goldwire scored 13 as Duke (17-3, 6-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) won its second straight game after dropping consecutive decisions to Clemson and Louisville.

Pitt (13-8, 4-6) was led by Au’Diese Toney’s game-high 27 points, but lost for the fourth time in six games.

No. 8 Villanova 79, St. John’s 59: Saddiq Bey scored 23 points, Collin Gillespie had 17 points and 13 rebounds, and the visiting Wildcats won their seventh straight game, easily handling the Red Storm.

Justin Moore, starting for injured forward Jeremiah Robinson-Earl had 13 points and 14 rebounds as balanced Villanova (17-3, 7-1 Big East) won for the 13th time in 14 games.

No. 16 Butler 69, Georgetown 64: Kamar Baldwin heated up after halftime for the second consecutive game, helping the visiting Bulldogs overcome another deficit to beat the Hoyas.

Baldwin scored 12 of his 13 points in the second half, and now Butler (17-4, 5-3 Big East) has won two consecutive games after dropping three in a row in Big East play.

No. 17 Auburn 83, Mississippi St. 20 (2T): Isaac Okoro converted a big three-point play with 1:41 left in the second overtime, and the visiting Tigers topped the Rebels.

Oklahoma’s points and nine rebounds for Auburn (18-2, 5-2 SEC), which trailed by as many as 19 early in the second half. Anfernee McLemore led the Tigers with 19 points, and Samir Doughty had 17.

No. 25 Rutgers 70, Purdue 63: Caleb McConnell scored 16 points, making all 12 of his free-throw attempts, and the host Scarlet Knights nearly blew a 17-point lead before holding off the Boilermakers.

Rutgers (16-5, 7-3 Big Ten) built the lead to 44-27 before Purdue (11-10, 4-6) whittled the lead to three with a minute and a half to go. It was the closest the Boilermakers got.

Fresno State 79, Air Force 68: New Williams scored 25 points and Nate Grimes added 21 points, nine rebounds and three blocks as the visiting Bulldogs beat the Falcons.

Jarred Hyder had 10 points for Fresno State (7-14, 3-7 Mountain West Conference). Orlando Robinson added seven rebounds. Williams made six of the Bulldogs’ 14 three-pointers and the team went 15-16 from the free-throw line.

The Bulldogs scored the first bucket of the second half to take a lead (38-36) they didn’t relinquish. The lead peaked at 13 points when Anthony Holland hit a three-pointer for a 71-58 advantage with 4:12 remaining.

Sid Tomes had 16 points, six rebounds and six assists for Air Force (9-13, 3-7), whose losing streak reached four games. Caleb Morris added 15 points. Ryan Swan had 14 points and three assists.

Virginia forward Jay Huff, second from right, blocks a shot by Florida State forward Malik Osborne during the second half of Tuesday’s game in Charlottesville, Va. Virginia won 61-56.

Associated Press

Virginia forward Jay Huff, second from right, blocks a shot by Florida State forward Malik Osborne during the second half of Tuesday’s game in Charlottesville, Va. Virginia won 61-56.
Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid goes up for a shot against Golden State Warriors forward Omari Spellman. Embiid wearing No. 24 for the first time, had 24 points in a 115-104 win in Philadelphia.

**Roundup**

No Antetokounmpo, no worry, as Bucks’ Middleton scores 51

Career-high night leads team past Wizards

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Khris Middleton scored a career-high 51 points in the absence of injured teammate Giannis Antetokounmpo, leading the Milwaukee Bucks to a 151-131 victory over the Washington Wizards on Tuesday night.

Middleton, hoping to be chosen an All-Star reserve for the second straight year on Thursday, helped the Bucks hold off a second-half Wizards rally. Middleton also had 10 rebounds and six assists.

Milwaukee (41-6) scored a franchise-record 88 points in the first half, finished with its highest ever total of the season and won its ninth straight game despite the absence of Antetokounmpo, who sat out with a right shoulder injury.

Bradley Beal led Washington (15-31) with 47 points, his second straight 40-point game and sixth of the season.

**Bucks 125, Cavaliers 111**

Dillon Brooks scored 24 points and Jonas Valanciunas had 23 points and 12 rebounds, leading host Memphis to its third straight win. Ja Morant had 14 points as the Grizzlies led from start to finish. Jaren Jackson Jr. had 10 points and blocked a career-high seven shots.

**Hawks 114, Raptors 104**

Devin Booker started the scoring in the third quarter, Deandre Ayton had a season-high 31 points and the Phoenix never trailed in a win at Dallas.

Booker started the scoring in the third before the ball had even been thrown in, making a free throw after the last of three first-half technicals against the Mavs was called against Tim Hardaway Jr. after the halftime buzzer.

**Middleton scores 51**

Middleton, hoping to be chosen to the NBA’s all-star game, had a career-high 51 points against the Wizards on Feb. 18.

**Embiid dons No. 24, scores 24 in victory**

BY DAN GELSTON

PHILADELPHIA — Joel Embiid had to do it like the kids on the playground, a yelp of “Kobe!” as he shot a fadeaway in the one-night-only No. 24 jersey he wore for his basketball idol.

Embiid buried the bucket to give him a tidy 24 points — and yes, eight defensive rebounds — in a somber night in Philly dedicated to Kobe Bryant.

Embiid returned early from a hand injury, in part to help the Sixers in their push for a better playoff seed in the East, but also because he wanted to honor Bryant. Embiid was a teen in Africa when he first got hooked on basketball watching Bryant in the 2010 NBA Finals. Bryant’s style and swagger inspired the 7-foot Embiid to give up volleyball and convince his father he had a new direction in his promising athletic career.

“That was the turning point in my life,” Embiid said. “It was watching Kobe. After watching, I just wanted to be like him.”

Wearing No. 24 in honor of Bryant, Embiid powered Philadelphia to a 115-104 win over the Golden State Warriors on Tuesday.

Embiid and the rest of the Sixers wore No. 24 and No. 8 Bryant jerseys in warmups in honor of the Los Angeles Lakers star, who was killed Sunday in a helicopter crash. Embiid was granted permission from Hall of Fame Bobby Jones to wear the retired No. 24 instead of his usual 21 for his first game since he tore a ligament in a finger in his left hand.

“It was tough but that’s how you honor him, you go out there and you do your best,” Embiid said. “You work hard and you play through stuff.”

The Sixers went 6-3 without Embiid, the first Sixer to be voted three straight All-Star Games since Allen Iverson.

Embiid had averaged 23.4 points and 12.3 rebounds in 31 games this season. Against the Warriors, Embiid played with a splint on his hand that didn’t affect him when he buried a three that sent the Sixers into halftime with a 59-54 lead.

“For his first game back, it was pretty impressive,” coach Brett Brown said.

Philadelphia’s Ben Simmons had “Mamba Forever” and “RIP Gigi” (for Bryant’s daughter, among the nine killed in the crash) on each sneaker and scored 17 points.

The Sixers were the latest team to honor Bryant in a pregame ceremony. Bryant led suburban Lower Merion High School to the Class AAAAA state title at Hershey Park Arena in 1996, the school’s first since 1943.

He framed No. 33 Aces jersey was displayed at midcourt and the Sixers held a 33-second moment of silence to honor Bryant and the other eight passengers who died in the helicopter crash.

The 10-win Warriors gave the Sixers a serious challenge. The Sixers were 12-point favorites but D’Angelo Russell, who scored a team-high 28 points, kept the Warriors within single digits for most of the fourth quarter.

Al Horford buried a three and Shake Milton followed with another to push it to a 16-point lead and send the Sixers on their way to a whopping 22-2 record at home.

Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid goes up for a shot against Golden State Warriors forward Omari Spellman. Embiid wearing No. 24 for the first time, had 24 points in a 115-104 win in Philadelphia.

On Friday, the Sixers will open a four-game West Coast road trip at Portland. They have beaten the Trail Blazers in Portland the past two games and will be looking for their third win in a row.

The Sixers also played on Friday, winning 108-106 at home against Brooklyn.

On Wednesday, the Sixers will host the Washington Wizards at Wells Fargo Center.

Each of the next three games will count as a road game, with the Sixers facing the Portland Trail Blazers, Indiana Pacers and Denver Nuggets.

Embiid, who sat out Wednesday’s game against the Knicks with a right hand that didn’t affect him, will be available for the trip after missing three games with a hand injury.

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League teams continue their tributes to Kobe

By Tim Reynolds

MIAMI — In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid paid tribute to Kobe Bryant by wearing one of his jerseys. In Los Angeles, for a couple more days anyway.

So, too, is the grief after the fiery helicopter crash in Southern California on Sunday that took the life of Bryant, his daughter Gianna and seven others. And the tributes are continuing as well, such as the separate decisions by Dinwiddie and Ross to no longer wear the No. 8 that Bryant donated at the start of his NBA career.

“We often search for meaning in numbers,” Dinwiddie tweeted.

Dinwiddie will now wear No. 26. Ross is going back to No. 31. The moves, evidently, are showing their appreciation for Bryant and his impact on their careers.

The games are going on — except in Los Angeles, for a couple more days anyway.

Jayson Tatum saw all those qualities in Bryant. He considered him a friend, mentor, idol, hero.

“Everybody knows how much he meant to me,” Tatum said, his voice barely rising to a whisper, his eyes looking down nearly the whole time. “From somebody I used to talk to and help me out with a bunch of things on and off the court. It’s been a tough couple of days.”

DENVER — Folded conveniently into the narratives about his “complicated past” was the detail about Kobe Bryant that could have wrecked him. It was a rape allegation by a 19-year-old employee of a Colorado hotel. It happened in 2003. Some argued that making that life-altering detail a mere footnote to the stories detailing Bryant’s life and unexpected death was the human thing to do on such an awful day. Others felt it was another example of an icon being given a pass of sorts because he was a successful athlete.

While dozens of high-profile figures — including senators, movie producers, news anchors and athletes — have seen their careers vanquished by allegations of sex abuse and domestic violence, high-profile sports figures have skirted past similar accusations at a far more frequent rate.

“We look up to them to win games,” said Miki Turner, a longtime journalist who is now a professor at USC’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. “But we don’t really scrutinize their values as closely as we might for politicians or news anchors. I think there’s just a different line there.”

Here’s a quick list from the recent past: relief pitcher Roberto Osuna, soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo, running back Ezekiel Elliott, quarterbacks Jameis Winston and Ben Roethlisberger, Sacramento Kings coach Luke Walton and Super Bowl 54-bound receiver Tyreek Hill of the Chiefs. All are among the athletes who have had stomach-churning allegations leveled against them but have skirted major repercussions — from their leagues, the team, law enforcement or, in large part, in the court of public opinion.

“The idea of the black-and-white of it that’s open for debate.

There’s something about the instant gratification of being someone who wins a game that night versus, say, being an actor and taking a year to make a movie,” said Courtney Cox, a former ESPN staffer who teaches a class on communication ethics at the University of Oregon. “If (sports stars are) treated differently, part of that is the instant way they’re visible, and the way they are able to rectify and rebrand themselves” by the final buzzer of the next game.

In other words, winning makes up for a lot.

The case of troubled wide receiver Antonio Brown could be instructive. He was released by the Patriots early this season when rape allegations surfaced. The NFL is investigating the accusations, and until that is over we will know what appellate teams might have to sign him.

Among the central questions in the Bryant story, and how his life is being remembered, is whether the pass he received in the obituaries and tributes was more about the passage of time than any bias toward him, or athletes in general.

It’s been 17 years since the allegations. A good section of Bryant’s fan base either wasn’t born, or was barely able to understand the news, when reports of his case first surfaced.

And yet, here we are in the #MeToo era, in which everyone’s past is easily re-searched on Google, and any transgression or poorly thought-out meme on social media is not only downloadable, but has the potential to change the narrative for any career.

Allegations of sex abuse are leveled with greater frequency against the rich and famous; more of the accusers, but certainly not all, are increasingly treated with greater respect, and their complaints are being taken more seriously.

“I don’t know if something like that happened now, even with Kobe Bryant, if people would be as forgiving in this current climate,” Turner said.

But Bryant was a sports celebrity, not a movie, television or media star, and that reality almost certainly impacts the calculus, regardless of era.

“Sometimes, it’s OK to not have a right answer,” Cox said. “We’re all very morally righteous with our Twitter fingers. The idea of the black-and-whiteness of it all. But it’s not that easy. We grieve family members who had problematic past. But with athletes, it seems like we need a neat, tidy story even when it’s not always there.”

For celebrities who aren’t athletes — don’t play a game every other night, aren’t as frequently accessible for the media and therefore don’t have as many chances to shift the conversation — the story lines aren’t as malleable.

The torrent of allegations against movie producer Harvey Weinstein in 2017 marked a turning point in the #MeToo era. Hollywood and, to some extent, Washington, took the brunt of the blame. Bill Cosby, Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K., Al Franken, Matt Lauer, Charlie Rose and Placido Domingo are a small part of a list of more than 250 public figures in entertainment, politics and media who have been accused of wrongdoing since the start of #MeToo.

The majority have seen their careers either stymied or completely brought to a halt.

And while nobody sheds any tears about that, there’s an argument to be made the law and the public have meted out a different kind of judgment for them than for their brethren in sports.

Bryant’s case was litigated both in the media and the courtroom. But the case never went to trial, and though sponsors cut ties with Bryant in the aftermath, his losses didn’t last long. Bryant walked away from his charges — chastened and clearly changed man. He issued an apology through his attorney and later settled a civil case brought by his accuser.

He missed a few games while attending hearings in the case, but the best of his career, and his life, was still to come.

In the 17 years that followed, Bryant became a father of four girls and a vocal champion of women in sports. He became even better known for his alpha-male psyche and his uncompromising work ethic. To some, he is the GOAT — Greatest Of All Time — in a sport that triggers plenty of discussion about that title.

But that’s not the only part of his legacy that’s open for debate.
Briefly

Hall of Fame DE Doleman dies after bout with cancer

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Hall of Fame defensive end Chris Doleman, who became one of the NFL’s most feared pass rushers during a 14-season career in the league, has died. He was 58.

The Minnesota Vikings and Pro Football Hall of Fame president and CEO David Baker offered their condolences in separate statements late Tuesday night. The news came hours after the announcement of Doleman’s death, but he had surgery in January 2018 to remove a brain tumor and Baker said he passed away “after a prolonged and courageous battle against cancer.”

Among other honors of my life was being witness to the Jordan River during a Hall of Fame trip to Israel. The legacy of Chris Doleman will live forever in Canton, Ohio, for generations to come."

Doleman, an Indianapolis native, was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2012.

Sources: Cubs’ Bryant loses grievance

All-Star third baseman Kris Bryant has lost his service-time grievance against the Chicago Cubs, two people with direct knowledge of the situation said.

The decision provides some clarity for the Cubs after the situation had hovered over the team throughout its quiet offseason.

Bryant could be traded now that the delay violated baseball’s informal roster.

The Chicago Cubs, two people with direct knowledge of the situation said.

Souza’s current team, the Toronto Blue Jays, which had been heavily involved in developing the 28-year-old native of Monterrey, Mexico, before Suarez also spent two seasons with the Atlanta Braves.

House supports new rules for horse racing

The federal government would be firmly in charge of horse racing in the United States under legislation that now has the support of a majority of House of Representatives members as lawmakers and racing advocates warned that Congress’ urgent action is needed to boost the sport’s sagging image.

The sport is currently governed by the “patchwork of 38 states’ laws.”

The 70-year-old Baker becomes the oldest manager in the big league as he was inducted into the Hall of Fame on Tuesday.

Baker, who spent last season in a Ford for the Stewart-Haas Racing team, is staying with the Boston Red Sox, agreeing to a one-year deal with an additional $200,000 in incentives.

Chase Briscoe said he is questionable for open.

The U.S. forward Christen Press, left, attempts a shot on goal as Haiti defender Runy Madurin closes in during the U.S. team’s 4-0 win Tuesday in Houston in a women’s Olympic qualifying soccer match.

US women shut out Haiti

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Christen Press scored the opening goal off a shoeless assist from Lynn Williams and the United States beat Haiti 4-0 on Tuesday in its opening match of the CONCACAF Women’s Olympic Qualifying tournament.

The U.S., which won the Women’s World Cup last summer, extended its unbeaten streak to 24 straight games dating back to a loss to France a year ago.

The goal by Press came in the second minute on a cross from Williams, who had lost her cleat in her run up the field. It was the 52nd international goal of Press.

Lloyd made her 15th start in Olympic qualifying, sitting Abby Wambach for most in team history.

Rapinoe, the reigning Ballon d’Or winner and FIFA World Player of the Year, played off the bench in the second half.

An announced crowd of 4,363 attended the game, which was hit in the first half by a sudden downpour at BBVA Compass Stadium.

The United States looked rusty at the start and Haiti appeared to tie the game with a goal in the 18th minute, but it was called back. Then the top-ranked Americans simply wore down their opponents in the second half.

Eight teams are in the tournament, with the title match set for Feb. 9 in Carson, Calif. The top two finishers will earn berths to the Tokyo Games this summer.

The United States and Haiti were in the same group with Costa Rica and Panama, who played in the early match Tuesday. Costa Rica won 6-1.

The U.S. has qualified for every Olympics since women’s soccer was introduced in 1996.

Six teams have already made the field for Tokyo: Japan, Brazil, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden and New Zealand.

Coronavirus affects international sports

Associated Press

GENEVA — Amid growing concern at the spread of a new virus outbreak in China, international sports have been postponed and Olympic qualifying tournaments are being taken elsewhere.

The decision on Tuesday by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) to postpone Pro League games in China follows qualifiers for the Tokyo Olympics scheduled in February in soccer, basketball and boxing being moved outside of China.

The Chinese women’s field hockey team was due to host Belgium for two games on Feb. 9-10 in Changzhou. Those were postponed on Tuesday by the FIH citing “current uncertainties around the outbreak of the coronavirus in China.”

The Lausanne, Switzerland-based governing body said it was “following the recommendations of the World Health Organization,” ahead of future matches.

China is scheduled to host Australia for two games on March 14-15.

Olympic qualifying events scheduled in China in February to help decide entries for the Tokyo Games have also been affected in recent days.

Women’s soccer and women’s basketball games were moved from Wuhan, at the center of the outbreak, to Nanjing. Boxing tournaments for the Asia and Oceania regions will be held in Jordan in March.

The first World Cup races testing the mountain venue for alpine skiing at the 2022 Beijing Olympics are also at risk. A men’s downhill is scheduled for Feb. 15 at Yanqing to start a two-race weekend.

China is also due to host track and field’s indoor world championships from March 13-15 in Nanjing.

Tokyo Olympic organizers put out a generic statement on Tuesday and offered no details.

“Countermeasures against infectious diseases constitute an important part of our plans to host a safe and secure games,” the statement said. It said Tokyo would “carefully monitor any incidence of infectious diseases and we will review any countermeasures that may be necessary with all relevant organizations.”

More than 100 deaths in China have been recorded so far, with the disease, including the first in Japan.

More than 4,500 cases have been reported in China, almost 1,000 people in serious condition, national health authorities said.

The coronavirus seems to spread less easily than SARS or influenza. Most cases involve family members and health workers who had contact with patients.
Thiem reacts during his quarterfinal match against Dominic Thiem at the Australian Open on Wednesday. Thiem upset the No. 1 seed, winning each of his three sets in a tiebreaker.

"If you want to have a chance in your game," the fifth-seeded Thiem said. "I honestly didn't play a bad match." Unseeded at a major for the second year in a row, Thiem showed Rafa-like game in victory; No. 1 Nadal upset Wawrinka on physical baseline... 

Thiem will play No. 7 Alexander Zverev on Friday for a berth to the semifinals with straight-set victories. Halep, who has yet to drop a set, needed just 53 minutes to dismiss Anett Kontaveit 6-1, 6-1, before Muguruza eliminated Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 7-5, 6-3.

Halep has been close before at Melbourne Park. She saved match points in the third round and in the semifinals in 2018 before losing the final in three sets to Caroline Wozniacki.

"It’s the opposite this year. It’s better, though. I feel with more energy going to the semifinals. I feel more confident. I feel my game," she said. "All in all, I’m confident."

Unseeded at a major for the first time since 2014, Murray still is in the Australian Open semifinals for the first time and in the last four at a Grand Slam for the first time since the 2016 French Open, when she lost to eventual champion Halep.
**SUPER BOWL**

**Stadium renovation led to Miami’s return**

Super Bowl returns to city for 11th time after 10-year hiatus

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**BY STEVEN WINE**  
*Associated Press*

MIAMI — It's appropriate the Super Bowl to end drought is Miami-bound. The Kansas City Chiefs are playing in the game for the first time in 50 years against the San Francisco 49ers, who have a chance to win their first NFL title in 25 years. And the game is returning to Miami for the first time in a decade, lured back after a stadium renovation costing more than $550 million.

The Who wouldn't recognize the stadium. They performed at halftime the last time the Super Bowl took place in Miami, in 2010. Now the game is back for the 11th time, the most of any city, as the NFL concludes its centennial season on Feb. 2.

“We’re thrilled to be back in Miami,” said Peter O’Reilly, NFL executive VP and leader of league events and club business development. “It feels like the right way to finish this 100th season, because we’ve had so many great games here.”

Miami is where Vince Lombardi won his final NFL title in the second Super Bowl, and where Joe Namath delivered on his guarantee, and where Peyton Manning and Drew Brees won their first championship rings.

But the Dolphins’ stadium, which opened in 1987, needed a significant makeover to remain part of the Super Bowl rotation. Team owner Stephen Ross, who also owns the stadium, spent his own money on the multiyear renovation.

“The Super Bowl would not be here had it not been for massive private investment by the Dolphins,” said Rolando Aedo, an executive with the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau. “But all credit to Stephen Ross, who wrote the big check to modernize the stadium.”

Ten years between Super Bowls matched the longest such stretch for Miami. It was painful,” said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee. “It was painful,” said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee. “It was painful,” said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee. “It was painful,” said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee. “It was painful,” said Rodney Barreto, chairman of the Miami Super Bowl Host Committee. “But all credit to Stephen Ross, who wrote the big check to modernize the stadium.”

Upgrades included new seats, suites, concessions, bathrooms, pedestrian bridges and tunnels, and a canopy to protect spectators from sun and rain.

New trees and plazas transformed the grounds into much more than a parking lot, and the complex is now the home of the Miami Open tennis tournament. The stadium in the suburb of Miami Gardens also plays host to the college football championship, Miami Hurricanes games, international soccer matches and concerts.

“It’s maybe the only place in the world where you can see Patrick Mahomes, Serena Williams, Lionel Messi and Jay-Z all in the same venue,” said Tom Garfinkel, the Dolphins’ president and CEO.

While the stadium looks different from 10 years ago, when Brees and the Saints beat Manning and the Colts in the title game, the Super Bowl has changed, too.

Opening night will be Monday at Marlins Park, Super Bowl LIVE is a free fan event in downtown Miami’s Bayfront Park and a three-night music festival is planned at the Heat’s arena. Those events didn’t exist a decade ago.

In addition, the Super Bowl Experience will turn the Miami Beach Convention Center into an amusement park.

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**BY JOSH DUROW**  
*Associated Press*

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kyle Shanahan’s play calls from his first trip to the Super Bowl as an offensive coordinator have been heavily scrutinized.

That’s to be expected after Shanahan’s Falcons blew a 28-3 lead to the New England Patriots and lost in overtime three years ago in part because Atlanta was unable to run out the clock or add to the lead.

Shanahan is back in the title game as head coach for the San Francisco 49ers. That’s led to a reshaping of that game in Houston even if Shanahan has put it far behind him.

“No much at all anymore, to tell you the truth,” he said this week when asked if he still goes over that game. “You do it every day. The days after were real tough. Losing a Super Bowl is extremely tough for everybody, especially when you lose one when you have a 28-3 lead. The way it came down on me personally, I didn’t react to that, the way people would expect, because there were definitely parts in that Super Bowl that I would love to have back and stuff I was very hard on myself, but the whole narrative of if I would’ve just run it, we would’ve won. I know that wasn’t the case.”

Shanahan said there’s just one play call he’d like to have back from that day and it’s not calling for a third-down pass mid-way through the fourth quarter that led to a sack-fumble that allowed the Patriots to make it a one-possession game.

The call he’d like back came on the next drive after the Falcons had used two long pass plays to move the ball down to the New England 22 with less than five minutes left.

Three straight runs could have forced the Patriots to burn their timeouts and led to a field goal that would have given Atlanta an 11-point lead that might have been too much for even Tom Brady to overcome.

But after losing a yard on a first-down run, Shanahan called for a pass play that he still regrets.

“They played a different coverage, didn’t get the call I wanted so I didn’t like the call,” he said. “I was hoping we could just get rid of it, but they had a pretty good rush and got a sack.”

Now backed up to the 35, Shanahan called for another pass to get back into field-goal range on third down only to have a 9-yard gain negated by a holding penalty.

An incompletion on third down led to a punt from the 45, setting up Brady’s game-tying drive.

Now the coordinator who called one too many pass plays in his first trip to the Super Bowl is back to the title game as a head coach with one of the most run-dominant play scripts in NFL history.

The Niners have run the ball 89 times in the past two games.

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**Huge playoff comebacks**

**32**  
The then-Houston Oilers led the Buffalo Bills 35-3, a 32-point advantage, in the 1993 AFC wild-card game before losing 41-38 in overtime.

**25**  
The Atlanta Falcons led the New England Patriots 28-3 before the Pats won 34-28 in overtime in the 2017 Super Bowl, overcoming a 25-point deficit.

**24**  
The Kansas City Chiefs rallied from a 24-0 deficit in the AFC divisional round this season to defeat the Houston Texans 51-31 in regulation.

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**SAN FRANCISCO**

San Francisco 49ers head coach Kyle Shanahan was the offensive coordinator for the Atlanta Falcons when they blew a 28-3 lead in the 2017 Super Bowl.
Kansas City quarterback capable of beating foes with his legs, too

BY DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - Patrick Mahomes was just trying to run out of bounds, not make the kind of shake-your-head, what-did-he-just-do-play that will be shown on highlight reels for as long as the Kansas City Chiefs are in existence.

It was late in the second quarter of the AFC championship game, and the Chiefs were trailing Tennessee 17-14. Mahomes had already marched them nearly the length of the field, giving Kansas City at worst a chance for a tying field goal, when he scrambled from the pocket and headed toward the sideline with every intention of avoiding any kind of hit.

Then he made a defender miss and saw nobody in front of him, so he turned upfield instead. Mahomes barreled toward the goal line and right over one defender, then spun away from two more, and crashed into the end zone for the go-ahead score.

The momentum of his TD run spurred the Chiefs to two more fourth-quarter touchdowns and a 35-24 victory, and into their first Super Bowl.

mission of his TD run was about half of his 53-yard total, and his total was just 16 yards shy of what bruising Titans running back Derrick Henry managed against the revamped Kansas City rush defense. The Chiefs certainly would prefer their running backs — Damien Williams, Darwin Thompson and LeSean McCoy — do most of the heavy lifting in the ground game against San Francisco. But they aren't about to curtail Mahomes' competitive fire, even when it manifests itself in running the ball — and especially when it seems to be working.

"His understanding of space and understanding of coverage is incredible," offensive tackle Mitchell Schwartz said. "Most guys look at a play. ‘Oh, that's good. Let's do that.’ But he understands coverages and, ‘We can do this because this guy is here and we can exploit him.' It's pretty awesome."

FOLLOW THE LEADER

The Chiefs' Patrick Mahomes runs for a touchdown as Tennessee Titans defensive tackle DaQuan Jones tries to bring him down during the first half of the AFC championship game.

ED ZURGA/AP

Loose: Chiefs know when to put silliness aside

"There's a certain way we handle opportunities like this where we're in front of the media," Kelce said during the team's pre-practice availability Tuesday, "but he wants you to be yourself and that's the best thing you can do in his position is let you be yourself, how you're most comfortable."

Kelce is one of the biggest characters on the team — remember his reality TV show, "Catching Kelce?" He often wears outlandish outfits and his fashion sense is, to put it mildly, unique. But Kelce also exemplifies the almost uncanny way the Chiefs can flip a switch from silly to serious, as evidenced by his four consecutive, 1,000-yard receiving seasons.

The Chiefs showcased their appreciation for their coach — and the way he treats them — when they donned his trademark Hawaiian-style shirt for the trip to Miami. Other teams might deplane the week before the Super Bowl wearing suits and an all-business attitude, but the Chiefs bounced across the tarmac as if they were headed to Disney World.

"Coach is an awesome dude to play for. He is 100 percent in this whole thing with us," Chiefs left tackle Eric Fisher said. "A big part of why we're here is we want to succeed for him. He puts in so much work every day in making us successful, and making sure we do good. The least we can do is give him our all."

Reid has a natural habit of deflecting such plaudits, so it's no surprise that he pointed to the players themselves as the reason the Chiefs are such a tight-knit group.

"When you get them all together," Reid said, "they all kind of feed off each other. That is kind of this, this time of life, at this time, being 2020. This is how it has evolved since I came in the league. We were barely getting cell phones back then. Now, you give them a break so that they can be on the cell phone. It's a different world."

"But they do have a great personality," the coach added with a smile.
Loose locker-room culture helps spur Chiefs’ success

BY DAVE SKERETTA
Associated Press

MIAMI

If you’re planning to walk through the middle of the Kansas City Chiefs locker room between lunch and their usual afternoon practice, you might want to grab someone’s shoulder pads and helmet and brace for impact.

There’s a good chance you’ll find yourself in the middle of a pickup basketball game involving 300-pound linemen.

It’s a scene that plays out daily during the regular season, big bodies banging into each other as defensive tackles Chris Jones and Khalen Saunders try to post up under the hoop — hung just over the doorway leading into the showers. Usually, teammates will gather around them, playing the dual role of vocal fans and even more vocal referees.

“When you check in, it’s nonstop competition,” Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce explained this week. “Guys are always trying to play some type of game or compete in”

SEE LOOSE ON PAGE 23

Kansas City head coach Andy Reid is known for his trademark Hawaiian-style shirts.

Cool aid

US women top Haiti in Olympic qualifier

Soccer, Page 20

Middleton scores 51 in Bucks’ victory

NBA, Page 18