Stars and Stripes

President’s doctors optimistic about condition

Associated Press

BETHESDA, Md. — President Donald Trump’s blood oxygen level dropped suddenly twice in recent days, but he “has continued to improve” since then, the White House physician said Sunday, adding a new layer of confusion to the president’s fight with COVID-19 even while suggesting he could be discharged from the hospital as early as Monday.

Trump’s doctors, speaking on the steps of the military hospital where he was being treated for a third consecutive day, again refused to answer key questions about his condition, including the timing of the president’s second dip in oxygen, which they neglected to mention in multiple statements the day before, or whether lung scans showed any damage.

Pressed about the conflicting information he and the White House released the previous day, Navy Cmdr. Dr. Sean Conley acknowledged that he had tried to present a somewhat rosy description of of the president’s condition.

“I was trying to reflect the upbeat attitude of the team, that the president, that his course of illness has had. Didn’t want to give any information that might steer the course of illness in another direction,” Conley said. “And in doing so, came off like we’re trying to hide something, which wasn’t necessarily true. The fact of the matter is that he’s doing really well.”

SEE OPTIMISTIC ON PAGE 6

ELECTION EFFECTS

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden was at home in Delaware on Sunday with no plans for in-person campaigning or other public appearances. The 77-year-old former vice president already tested negative, and he was expected to release the results of a new test later Sunday.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Nap to!

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army on Thursday released its new field manual and has officially embraced an afternoon snooze for tired soldiers unable to maintain full nights of sleep during training exercises or other operations.

Entitled Holistic Health and Fitness, FM-22 outlines coming changes to how the Army intends to use more holistic health approaches to help improve a soldier’s performance.

The update is the first revamp of the service’s health and fitness approach since 2012, and it intends to build more resilient, healthy solders by concentrating on their individual wellness instead of the service’s decades-old focus on the health of whole units.

“We’ve made leaps and strides, by not looking at soldiers as carbon copies of one another, but as individuals. That’s the point of Health and Holistic Fitness,” said Maj. Gen. Lonnie Hibbard, the commander of the

SEE APPROVAL ON PAGE 5

A paratrooper sleeps while waiting for a flight to Colombia in January at Fort Bragg, N.C.

SOURCE: The Associated Press
Exploding Takata air bag inflator kills US driver

By Tom Krissher
Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. — Another person was killed by an exploding Takata air bag inflator, bringing the total death toll to at least 26. The latest death occurred Aug. 20 in Mesa, Ariz., in the crash of a 2002 Honda Civic, according to a statement released Saturday by Honda. It was the 17th death reported in the United States. Others have been reported in Malaysia and Australia.

Takata used volatile ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion to inflate air bags in a crash. But the chemical can deteriorate over time when exposed to moisture in the air. The explosion can blow apart a metal canister and hurl shrapnel into the passenger compartment.

Honda said in a statement that it inspected the Civic in the Mesa crash Wednesday, along with the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and determined that the inflator in the driver's side air bag had ruptured. The inflator in the passenger air bag also ruptured.

Honda said the Civic was recalled in December 2011 for the driver's side inflator and in November of 2014 for the passenger side. The company said it mailed more than 15 notices to the owners over eight years, but the free repairs were never done. The company said it also made numerous phone calls and even visited the current registered owner's home and left recall information.

Military rates

BUSINESS/WEATHER

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate ........................................ 3.25
Discount rate .................................. 0.25
Fed funds market rate ................. 0.09
3-month bill .................................. 0.09
10-year bond ................................. 1.48

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Oct. 5) ....................... $1.14
Dollar buys (Oct. 5) ................. 0.8817
British pound (Oct. 5) ................. $1.26
Japanese yen (Oct. 5) ................. 103.00
South Korean won (Oct. 5) .... 1,440.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar) ......................... 0.3771
British pound ......................... $1.2933
Canada (Dollar) ...................... 1.3306
China (Yuan) .................. 6.7909
Denmark (Krone) ................. 6.3536
Egypt (Pound) .................. 16.9488
Euro ........................... $1.1712/0.8538
Hong Kong (Dollar) .......... 7.7905
Hungary (Forint) ................. 305.37
Israel (Shekel) .................. 3.4301
Japan (Yen) .................. 105.40
Kuwait (Dinar) .............. 0.3062
Lao (Kip) ...................... 1,102.00
Malaysia (Ringgit) ......... 4.2000
Netherlands (Guilder) ...... 1.7051
Norway (Krone) .............. 9.3278
Philippines (Peso) .......... 48.49
Poland (Zloty) ............... 3.84
Saud Arabia (Riyal) .... 2.5609
Singapore (Dollar) ....... 1.3063
South Korea (Won) ...... 1,166.34
Switzerland (Franc) .... 0.9206
Thailand (Baht) .......... 31.55
Turkey (Lira) .................. 7.7964

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, which is dollars-to-euro, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euros.

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Weather Outlook

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

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Weather Outlook

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Study touts Roosevelt isolation decision

**BY WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

An urgent appeal to superiors by the former commander of the USS Theodore Roosevelt to transfer sailors infected by a coronavirus outbreak aboard the carrier in March was well founded, according to a study published Thursday by an American Medical Association journal.

The virus tore through the ship’s crew of roughly 4,800 sailors in the weeks after leaving port from Danang, Vietnam, early that month. After docking in Guam on March 25, Capt. Brett Crozier urged his superiors to clear the ship to prevent the spread of the disease because it was not possible to adequately quarantine and maintain physical distance while aboard.

Crozier was fired after a letter he sent to Navy higher-ups seeking help surfaced in the San Francisco Chronicle soon after.

The authors of the JAMA Network Open study over the U.S. Navy Public Health COVID-19 Task Force, concluded that the act of isolating and quarantining hundreds of sailors on the island dramatically interrupted the acceleration of the outbreak.

“The rapid increase in case numbers as incubating cases disseminated, followed by the precipitous decrease in cases, suggests that the shore-based nonpharmaceutical interventions implemented on Guam interrupted a probable acceleration in case incidence that would have likely resulted in a substantial disease burden,” the study concluded.

Roosevelt’s outbreak peaked March 30 with 30 new infections. Infected sailors began being moved off the ship the next day for isolation at Naval Base Guam.

For more troop rotations at various bases.

Pompeo’s visit also came as tensions rise high between Greece and neighboring Turkey, both NATO members but longtime adversaries who are at odds over energy rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

Some security analysts have speculated that the U.S. expansion in the Mediterranean could be a prelude to a bigger adjustment, with Soleda Bay to eventually become an alternative to Turkey’s Incirlik Air Base used by the Air Force. But in a statement to Turkish media last week, the Pentagon gave no indication that such a plan is in the works.

“The continuing presence of the U.S. in Incirlik demonstrates the strong relations between the U.S. and our NATO ally Turkey,” the Pentagon statement said.

From Soleda Bay, the USS Hershel ‘Woody’ Williams will conduct missions in the Mediterranean as well as south and western Africa to coordinate with regional partners, the Navy said.

Due to the ship’s extended overseas assignment, Military Sealift Command will conduct maintenance at Soleda Bay and other overseas ports, the Navy said.

The 784-foot-long ship features a 52,000 square-foot, four-spot flight deck that helicopters can land on. There also is living space for the crew, which has a complement of about 250.

The ship has a “Blue Crew” and a “Gold Crew,” which will turn over periodically to allow the vessel to remain forward-based at Soleda Bay. About 130 person- nnel will rotate to Soleda Bay on roughly six-month assignments from their home base in Norfolk, Va., 8th Fleet said.

Guam governor announces ‘sobering’ coronavirus milestone for island

**BY JOHN VANDIVER**
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. Navy muscled up in the eastern Mediterranean Sea this week, announcing that it will homeport a major vessel at Souda Bay in Greece for the first time in at least 40 years.


The ship, an expeditionary sea base designated to carry Marines and special operations troops to hot spots or train with partners, is assigned to U.S. Africa Command but will also be available to support other commands.

The move, which took effect Thursday, comes at a time when U.S. defense officials are worried about a Russian military buildup in the Mediterranean. Moscow has a base in Syria and an expanding influence in Libya, where Russia has deployed hundreds of state-backed mercenaries, fighter planes and other weaponry.

Recently retired Adm. James Foggo, who commanded U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa for three years, said in June that Russia was turning the eastern Mediterranean into “one of the most kinetic areas in the world.”

Souda Bay, the base also has an airfield, port facility and new pier that can support an aircraft carrier.

Decision to base the ship in the country was announced Tuesday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo during a visit to Greece, where the U.S. has deepened military ties during the past year with an updated security cooperation agreement that calls for more troop rotations at various bases.

Pompeo’s visit also came as tensions run high between Greece and neighboring Turkey, both NATO members but longtime adversaries who are at odds over energy rights in the eastern Mediterranean.

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Hot Pockets in short supply due to virus

By Chad Garland
Stars and Stripes

A snacking staple in many U.S. military barracks could be in short supply into next year as Hot Pockets fall victim to coronavirus-related lockdowns, told the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and other retailers that it will have “severe inventory constraints” in its Hot Pockets product lines because of the global outbreak, AAFES spokeswoman Julie Mitchell said.

Limited quantities will be available, but will be strictly controlled, she said.

“As a result, Exchange customers may expect to see shortages of Hot Pockets to continue into 2021,” she said.

The Defense Commissary Agency was told it won’t be getting some varieties of the popular snacks, including Lean Pockets and Del Monte meat- and cheese-filled crusts that many Americans turned to during pandemic-related lockdowns, told the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and other retailers that it will have “severe inventory constraints” in its Hot Pockets product lines because of the global outbreak, AAFES spokeswoman Julie Mitchell said.

Limited quantities will be available, but will be strictly controlled, she said.

“Several factors have caused short-term changes in availability for some products, including the stromboli-like “sandwiches” which were added after two minutes in the microwave, Nestle USA spokeswoman Lauren Rubbo said.

“So hot we burned out a little,” the Hot Pockets brand said Wednesday on Twitter, acknowledging the shortages. “We know you’re missing your favorites, and we want you to know they’ll be back in the future — we’re focusing on the classics now so you can still enjoy us.”

The tweet didn’t specify which classics would remain available.

In the early months of the pandemic, as the virus spread and restrictions went into place, Hot Pockets were among the brands filling many American shoppers’ carts, Bloomberg News reported in April.

Demand for the frozen dough pouches helped boost Nestle to its largest quarterly sales in a decade, Bloomberg reported in April.

Company officials attributed that partly to Americans stockpiling food and eating more meals at home.

New Eighth Army leader seeks readiness for US, S. Korea troops

By Kim Gamel
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Lt. Gen. Willard “Bill” Burleson III assumed command of the Eighth Army on Friday, stressing the need for U.S. and South Korean troops “to train rigorously and realistically” to maintain readiness on the divided peninsula.

Wearing a camouflage mask to match his uniform and ward off the coronavirus, Burleson accepted the Eighth Army colors from Lt. Gen. Michael Bille during a ceremony in a gym on Camp Humphreys, the Army’s main headquarters in South Korea.

The change of command occurred amid fears of renewed tensions as U.S.-led nuclear talks with North Korea have stalled.

Many experts have predicted that the North may conduct a missile test or another provocation in connection with the upcoming U.S. presidential election.

“Eighth Army’s presence here in Korea and in the Pacific certainly sends a strong signal, not just to the Republic of Korea but to our regional allies on the United States commitment to deter our potential adversaries,” Burleson said during the ceremony, which was streamed live on Facebook.

“While we all hope and pray for peace, we must never forget that we’re not there yet,” he said, promising to help maintain a strong alliance with South Korea.

“The ability of our (South Korean) and U.S. forces to train rigorously and realistically is essential to maintaining our readiness,” he added.

Joint military exercises have long been a linchpin of the alliance between the two countries that was forged in the 1950-53 Korean War.

However, the militaries have had to cancel or curtail several drills over the past two years because of diplomatic efforts with North Korea.

Training also has faced challenges from the coronavirus pandemic and complaints about noise and other annoyances from local residents who live near training ranges.

Burleson was previously the assistant chief of staff for U.S. Forces Korea, the United Nations Command and the Combined Forces Command, which are led by Gen. Robert Abrams.

Burleson began Eighth Army commander in January 2018, retired in a separate ceremony on Friday.

Abrams praised him for leadership in helping to curb the spread of the coronavirus, noting that the U.S. military in South Korea has not reported a locally transmitted case since mid-April.

“Mike improved the overall fight tonight readiness of Eighth Army. He strengthened the (South Korean)-United States alliance. And he protected national security initiatives to ensure we maintained a strong deterrent against North Korea,” Abrams added.

The Eighth Army oversees six major subordinate commands, including the 2nd Infantry Division and smaller units in South Korea.

Burleson also will serve as chief of staff for the Combined Forces Command.

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Lt. Gen. Willard “Bill” Burleson, left, is Eighth Army’s new commander following a change-of-command ceremony on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Friday.

Gavin Lewis/U.S. Army

USS Ronald Reagan changes commanders while on patrol

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes

Capt. Fred Goldhammer took the helm of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan from Capt. Pat Hannifin on Thursday during a scaled-down change-of-command ceremony in the Philippine Sea, according to a Navy statement.

Due to coronavirus precautions, the ceremony took place in the ship’s pilot house, broadcast over the public address system, in lieu of a traditional ceremony, according to the Thursday statement. Photos of the event show Hannifin, Goldhammer and others wearing masks. Pre-pandemic change-of-command ceremonies were often all-hands events, gathering large groups of sailors to see a departing commander off and welcome a new one.

The aircraft carrier, homeported at Yokosuka, has been patrolling the Indo-Pacific region since June. Command changes while a warship is under way are not unusual.

“Reagan is and will always remain poised for the fight and win the war,” Goldhammer said during the ceremony, according to the statement.

“Every year and every age has challenges — we have certainly had ours here — but this team wins.”

Since taking command in Sep-

Goldhammer

By Caitlin Doornbos
Stars and Stripes
tember 2018, Hannifin has led the ship through numerous multinational exercises, including Talisman Saber and Keen Sword, in the Indo-Pacific region.

The carrier in July also took part in two carrier exercises with the USS Nimitz in the South China Sea, the first time in eight years that two U.S. aircraft carriers have worked together in the contested region.

“To the crew and the full team that’s onboard Reagan: I appreciate you service. It is the honor of my life to have served among you,” Hannifin said, according to the statement.

“Goldhammer, of New York City, comes to the Reagan after commanding the amphibious transport dock USS Mesa Verde, home-ported in Norfolk, Va., according to the statement.

After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1993, Goldhammer began his career as a naval aviator flying E-2C Hawkeyes, according to his biography on the Reagan’s website. He later worked in the Pentagon in several assignments, including an executive assistant to the director of Navy staff.

Hannifin’s next assignment will be at the Navy’s Air Warfare Division in Washington, D.C., according to the statement, which did not say in what role he would serve.

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Gavin Lewis/U.S. Army

Lt. Gen. Willard “Bill” Burleson, left, is Eighth Army’s new commander following a change-of-command ceremony on Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Friday.

Gavin Lewis/U.S. Army


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Army's new field manual focuses on holistic health, fitness

FROM FRONT PAGE

Army's Center for Initial Military Training, which spearheaded the service's health reform efforts outlined in the new field manual, focused on holistic health, fitness and improvements in soldier wellness. The directive is not the first attempt by the Army to revamp how it assesses readiness, the Army said. The Army's new fitness assessment, dubbed H2F by the service, replaces the hours-long Physical Readiness Test that Thursday replaced the annual testing, a track, climbing pods, taser testing, a timed 2-mile run, sit-ups, crunches, push-ups, pull-ups, and strength-testing equipment, according to the field manual. The Army has yet to determine how much the new facilities will cost, Reed said.

The Army envisions building a 40,000-square-foot Soldier Performance Readiness Center for each of its brigades. The facilities are to include indoor and outdoor training areas, dedicated ACFT testing space with the equipment necessary to train for and conduct testing, a track, climbing pods, and strength-training equipment, according to the field manual.

The Army's top leaders believe it is a necessary “culture shift” for soldiers to move away from its hourlong fitness test that Thursday replaced the service's health reform efforts, according to the field manual. The Army has yet to determine how much the new facilities will cost, Reed said.

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Trump diagnosis reminds US of virus’ magnitude

Associated Press

ST. CHARLES, Mo. — President Donald Trump’s startling COVID-19 diagnosis serves as a cruel reminder of the pervasive spread of the coronavirus and shows how tenous of a grip the nation has on the crisis, health experts said.

With U.S. infections rising for several weeks, Trump became one of the tens of thousands of Americans who test positive each day. He went through a “very concerning” period Friday and the next 48 hours “critical,” in his care, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Saturday.

The diagnosis differed dramatically from the rosy assessment by Trump’s staff and doctors, who took pains not to reveal the president had received supplemental oxygen at the White House before he went to a military hospital. Some of Trump’s top advisers and allies also have tested positive recently.

“No one is entirely out of the virus’s reach, even those supposedly inside a protective bubble,” said Dr. Reed Tuckson, board chair of the Kaiser Family Foundation in Washington.

Eight months after the virus reached the United States, warning signals mounted of what’s ahead this fall. The NFL has postponed two games after players on three teams tested positive. Some hospitals in Wisconsin have run low on space, and experts warned of a likely surge in infections during the colder months ahead.

Some economists say it could take as long as 2023 for the job market to fully recover. The U.S. is in the world in numbers of confirmed infections, with more than 7 million, and deaths, with more than 208,000. Only a handful of countries rank higher in COVID-19 deaths per capita.

The stats are so mindboggling, they make us numb to the reality of just how painful, unacceptable and absurd this is,” said Dr. Reed Tuckson, board chairman of the nonpartisan Health Policy Alliance in Washington. “Every single American must double down on their vigilance. If we don’t, then we are being foolhardy and irresponsible.

“Every single American must double down on their vigilance. If we don’t, then we are being foolhardy and irresponsible.”

A man wearing a face mask walks past a mural in South Central Los Angeles, on Thursday.

Optimistic: Doctors say president had ‘high fever’ and drop in blood oxygen levels

FROM FRONT PAGE

The briefing lasted just 10 minutes.

Before walking away, Conley said the president had a “high fever” and a blood oxygen level below 94% on Friday and during “another episode” on Saturday. He was evasive when asked whether Trump’s level had dropped below 90%: “We don’t have any record-ings here on that.”

The level currently stands at 98%, Trump’s medical team said.

Blood oxygen saturation is a key health marker for COVID-19 patients. A normal reading is between 95 and 100. A drop below 90 is concerning. People with the virus sometimes do not realize their oxygen levels are low.

Trump offered his own assessment of his status the night before in a video from his hospital suite, saying he was beginning to feel better and hoped to “be back soon.” And it was back on social media early Sunday morning, sharing a video of flag-waving supporters, most not wearing masks, gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The changing, and at times contradictory, accounts from the Trump administration high-lighted a credibility crisis for the White House at a crucial moment, with the president’s health and the nation’s leadership on the line.

Moreover, the president’s health represents a national security issue of paramount importance not only to the functions of the U.S. government but also to countries around the world, friendly and otherwise.

Trump’s Democratic challenger, Joe Biden, pulled his attack ads off the air during Trump’s hospitalization, and on Sunday, he dispatched senior aides to deliver alargely friendly message.

“We are sincerely hoping that the president makes a very quick recovery, and we can see him back out on the campaign trail very soon,” Biden adviser Symone Sanders said on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

She added: “This is a glaring reminder that the virus is real.”

Biden was at home in Wilmington, Del., Sunday with no plans for in-person campaigning or other public appearances. Having already tested negative, he was expected to release the results of a new coronavirus test later in the day, and the campaign has pledged to disclose those results and all other future test results for the 77-year-old candidate.

On Saturday, White House chief of staff Mark Meadows told reporters outside the hospital, “We’re still not on a clear path yet to a full recovery.” In an update Saturday night, Trump’s chief doctor expressed cautious optimism but added that the president was “not yet out of the woods.”

On Sunday, Conley’s assessment was more positive, even while he acknowledged for the first time a second sudden drop in Trump’s blood oxygen level on Saturday.

Another member of the president’s medical team, Dr. Brian Garibaldi, told Trump on Sunday “has been up and around” and “feels well.”

“Our plan for today is to have him eat and drink, to be up out of bed as much as possible, to be mobile,” Garibaldi said. “And if he continues to look and feel as well as he does today, our hope is that we can plan for a discharge as early as tomorrow to the White House where he can continue his treatment course.”

Meanwhile, Trump’s handling of the pandemic and his own health faced new scrutiny.

More than 209,000 Americans have been killed by the virus, by far the highest number of confirmed fatalities in the world.

In all, nearly 74 million people have been infected in the United States, and few have access to the kind of around-the-clock attention and experimental treatments as Trump.

The doctors revealed that Trump was given a dose of the steroid dexamethasone after the drop in oxygen levels on Saturday.

That was in addition to the single dose he was given Friday of an experimental drug from Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc. that supplies antibodies to help the immune system fight the virus.

Trump offered his own assessment of his status the night before in a video from his hospital suite, saying he was beginning to feel better and hoped to “be back soon.” And it was back on social media early Sunday morning, sharing a video of flag-waving supporters, most not wearing masks, gathered outside Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Senate work called off; except Barrett hearings

BY LAURIE KELLUM AND LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The coronavirus crisis pushed another big GOP senator into the Republican ranks on Saturday, forcing the Senate to call off lawmaking as a third GOP senator tested positive for COVID-19.

Even so, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell declared he would make the final call to voters of the party's commitment to remake the court with a muscular conservative majority. But the hospitalization of Trump, and the infection of a trio of GOP senators, shattered any notion of changing the subject entirely from the virus that's killed more than 205,000 Americans.

So great was the threat posed by COVID-19 that McConnell called off floor proceedings but said Barrett's hearings, slated to begin Oct. 12, would be postponed. The Kentucky Republican, who is battling to save the GOP majority and running for re-election, had tested positive Saturday morning.

"The Senate's floor schedule will not interrupt the thorough, fair and historically supported confirmation process," McConnell wrote Saturday. Judiciary Committee Chairman Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who like McConnell is running for reelection, added that senators can attend the hearings remotely.

"Certainly," McConnell said, "all Republican members of the Senate will participate in these important hearings."

But by weeks' end, the relentless virus made clear it wouldn'tcede the national stage to anyone.

It had sidelined the president of the United States after a busy week of ceremonies and other events where few attendees wore masks, including on Air Force One. In the wee hours of Friday, Trump announced that he and first lady Melania Trump had been infected. Hours later, Trump was given supplemental oxygen and flown to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

Republicans in the Senate who had attended GOP events were beginning to announce that they too had tested positive. First was Utah Sen. Mike Lee, then North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis. On Saturday, Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin announced he too had been infected. Several other Republicans announced they were awaiting test results or quarantining at home just to be safe.

McConnell, who advocates often for mask-wearing, bowed to the concerns by pushing Senate business to Oct. 19. But he made clear that the Barrett nomination would open Oct. 12 as planned.

"Just had another great call with @POTUS," McConnell tweeted Saturday afternoon. "He sounds well and says he's feeling good. We talked about the people's business — fighting the pandemic, confirming Judge Barrett, and strengthening the economy for American families."

Democratic leader Chuck Schumer took aim at McConnell's plan, saying that if the Senate's COVID threat is too great for Senate sessions, it makes Barrett's confirmation perilous, too.

The Republicans' insomniac drive to confirm Judge Barrett at all costs needlessly threatens the health and safety of senators, staff and those who work in the Capitol complex, Schumer said in a statement.

McConnell has said Democrats would block McConnell's plan. Doing so could force the Senate back into the confines of the Capitol, where most senators want to be, without the mandatory testing of lawmakers and their aides.

Senator misspoke in TV interview about COVID test

ORLANDO, Fla. — U.S. Sen. Rick Scott said he misspoke Saturday when he said on national television that he had tested positive for COVID-19.

The Republican from Florida told "Fox & Friends" that he was unexpectedly tested on Friday morning in his Fox News interview. I was tested yesterday for COVID and tested negative," Scott said.

During an interview Saturday morning on "Cavuto Live," when asked about three Senate colleagues who had contracted the virus in recent days, Scott said, "I was tested yesterday, I think for the 6th time, and I tested positive again."

At least three Republican colleagues — U.S. Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Ron Johnson of Wisconsin — have been diagnosed with the virus in recent days. A few more senators notably had tested positive before he misspoke, Scott had said. Scott notably did not say senators were still doing their jobs.

"They’re talking to people. They’re doing their job every day," Scott said Saturday.

Scott later told his campaign's spokesman, Chris Hartline, tweeted, "For everyone calling and texting right now, Senator Scott misspoke on tv this morning. He tested negative for COVID yesterday."
Kentucky reports its highest number of new daily cases

From wire reports

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Kentucky reported its highest number of new coronavirus cases Saturday.

"We now have 1,275 new cases announced today, meaning 1,275 Kentuckians have just tested positive," Gov. Andy Beshear said in a new release. "This is our highest number of cases. This is the highest number of cases per week and we have one more day that will add to the count, and it shows that we have to do better."

As of 3 p.m. Saturday, there were at least 72,601 coronavirus cases in Kentucky, Beshear said. Of the newly reported cases, 169 were in children age 18 or younger. Twenty-seven of the cases were in children age 5 or younger, with the youngest child just two months old, according to the news release.

Kentucky also recorded eight new deaths Saturday, bringing the total number of virus deaths in the state to 1,205.

Alaska

ANCHORAGE — The Municipality of Anchorage reported 70 new cases of the coronavirus each day last week compared to a daily average of 48 new confirmed cases the previous week.

Anchorage officials on Friday expressed concern regarding the spread of the virus in the fall and winter. Their concerns include intensive care unit staffing, cases linked with an associated living facility and a spike in new cases over the past week, the Anchorage News reported.

The city could run out of ICU beds as early as this month or November, said Janet Johnston, epidemiologist in the Anchorage Health Department.

Johnston said she thought that as restrictions throughout the state relax, people have become less mindful of the risks of the pandemic.

Arizona

PHOENIX — Numerous inmates said Arizona’s prison system has failed to provide necessary testing, tracking and treatment during the coronavirus pandemic, with one saying that effectively meant the state’s prisons were sentenced to get infected with COVID-19.

Dozens of letters from inmates in recent months said the Arizona Department of Corrections, Rehabilitation and Reentry wasn’t protecting staff and inmates during the outbreak, the Arizona Republic reported.

A department spokesperson denied many allegations by inmates, including that sick inmates weren’t tested. The spokesperson, Judy Keane, also cited health and safety protocols announced during the pandemic.

"All inmates described fears and frustrations and asked for help, while some provided details about infecting the virus, the Republic reported. The newspaper reported that it received nearly 90 inmate letters from late March to September and that it withheld the inmates’ identities due to their concerns about possible retaliation.

Florida

ORLANDO — Thousands of prospective Florida attorneys were left in limbo by delays to the bar exam due to the traditional in-person version, due to the coronavirus pandemic, and then one way due to concerns about possible retaliation.

But the program excludes people who failed the exam before 2020 and signed up to retake it, as well as people who are already licensed to practice law outside of Florida. Out of about 3,400 who signed up to take the exam, only a fraction — 308 applicants — were certified to participate in the program as of Sept. 8, according to the Florida Board of Bar Examiners.

Critics have called the program’s requirements overly restrictive, but BBRE executive director Michele Gazvani said the “overarching goal is to make sure the public is protected.” The program also places strict supervision requirements on law firms, which some say creates a disincentive to take on program participants.

Hawaii

HONOLULU — Hawaii reported 87 new confirmed cases and three deaths from the coronavirus.

The reports Friday bring the total in the state since the start of the pandemic to 1,262 deaths and 12,601 confirmed cases.

The three deaths were a man who died on Tuesday in his 80s and two women in their 60s, the state Department of Health said.

The state’s tally Thursday was the second day in a row that health officials reported three Oahu deaths from the virus.

Kansas

TOPEKA — Kansas state education commissioner Randy Watson said schools will need to rethink the way they deliver education amid the coronavirus pandemic, because whether it is happening now is “not sustainable.”

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported Watson, a member of the Kansas Association of School Boards on Friday that one of the best solutions is to return schools to five-day-a-week learning, while keeping class sizes to fewer than 15 students while maintaining masks and social distancing.

Watson said schools may need to partner with other organizations in the community, like churches or businesses that are closed anyway because of the pandemic to get enough room to space out students.

Watson also suggested that schools favor online school staff and use non-teaching school staff — like librarians, paraeducators, substitute teachers, central office staff and teaching specialists — to fill the ranks.

He said his staff also plans to ask Washburn University of Education to make it easier for people to become substitute teachers.

Michigan

LANSING — The health department in Michigan’s second-largest county issued an order requiring residents to wear masks when they leave their homes, a day after the state Supreme Court struck down a law used by Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to mandate face coverings and issue restrictions to curb the coronavirus.

Oakland County officials acted late Friday, following a Republican legislative leader’s declaration that he opposes continuing the Democratic governor’s statewide mask requirement. The court ruling, which will not take effect for at least 19 days, gives lawmakers a role because their approval will be needed to extend a state of emergency that underpins the governor’s orders.

Health Officer Leigh-Anne Stafford cited her authority to take emergency steps to control an epidemic under a 1978 law that gives the governor “solemn responsibility.”

Other counties could follow suit with similar restrictions.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS — Hundreds of Nevada university students will be trained and employed as contact tracers as the state faces increased COVID-19 pressure.

A $3.4 million grant from the state will pay for the 200-student program, a partnership between the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and the Southern Nevada Health District, officials announced Friday.

UNLV’s contact tracing team was formed in March with a core team of volunteers who have been supporting SNHD through the pandemic.

So far, 60 students have been trained through the grant. A team of at least 20 to 25 people is training additional contact tracers.

Utah

SALT LAKE CITY — An increase in Utah COVID-19 cases continued Saturday with another 1,068 reported infections — making it the eighth day case numbers have jumped above 1,000 in the last two weeks.

It’s also the third day in a row of daily case counts topping 1,000, with 1,107 cases Friday and 1,008 on Thursday, according to the Utah Department of Health.

State health officials are cautioning that with every increase, a wave of hospitalizations and deaths will follow, The Salt Lake Tribune reported. Two more residents died from the virus, officials said Saturday.

The latest deaths were a man, between the ages of 65 and 84, in Wasatch County and another man, older than 85, in Juab County. Both lived in long-term care facilities. At least 476 people have died from COVID-19 since the pandemic began, officials said.

Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Wisconsin health officials on Saturday said the state set a single-day record for COVID-19 cases with nearly 2,900 positive tests.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services reported 20.5 percent positivity rate from 14,084 tests that were processed in the last day. The previous record for new cases in a single day came Thursday, with 2,887.

Health officials also announced 19 deaths in the last day, raising the number of fatalities due to complications from the virus to 1,372.

More than 24,000 people in Wisconsin have tested positive for COVID-19. There have been nearly 527 new cases per 100,000 people over the past two weeks, which ranks third in the country for new cases per capita, according to The COVID Tracking Project.

Washington

SEATTLE — After two COVID-19 clusters in Washington’s most populous county last week, a public health official said Friday that people need to remain vigilant.

KING-TV reported King County is averaging 119 cases a day in the past week, which is up 40% from the previous week, according to Dr. Jeff Duchin, head of Public Health — Seattle & King County.

University of Washington officials said Saturday that 22 additional COVID-19 cases have been confirmed among nearly a dozen sorority and fraternity organizations in Seattle for a total of 139 cases.

An outbreak also was reported last week at the Salish Lodge and Spa in Snoqualmie, where at least 25 people tested positive.
India records 75K more cases, recovery high

**Associated Press**

NEW DELHI — India has registered 75,829 confirmed coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, a day after crossing 100,000 total fatalities.

The Health Ministry said India’s confirmed total to more than 6.5 million Sunday, and said at least 101,782 people have died of COVID-19 since the pandemic began.

India is still registering the highest number of daily cases globally, but with the recovery rate at more than 83%, the number of those recovered has surpassed 5.5 million, the Health Ministry said.

India also has the low fatality rate of 1.56%, which is nearly half the global one.

The Health Ministry credited the increased testing in the country for a sustained low death rate. India has conducted nearly 79 million tests, according to official data.

India is preparing to reopen cinemas and entertainment parks with limited capacity beginning Oct. 15 in an effort to revive the economy. Health experts have warned that the move has the potential to fuel the recent wave of infections.

The Health Ministry said India was also preparing to start the vaccination drive. The Serum Institute said it would produce 200 million doses of AstraZeneca’s vaccine for countries developing for countries, including India.

The kingdom held a dramatic opening of the Grand Mosque, which is the world’s biggest, on Sunday as 1,000 took part after being tested for coronavirus.

**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

**Britain records 12,872 new virus infections Sunday, by far the highest number of daily cases since the outbreak began.**

**By Jill Lawless**

**Associated Press**

LONDON — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson defended his handling of the coronavirus pandemic Sunday despite weeks of rising infections, but warned that the country faced a “bumpy” winter ahead.

Britain has Europe’s highest coronavirus death toll at more than 42,400, and Johnson’s Conservative government is facing criticism from all sides. Opponents say tougher social restrictions are needed to suppress a second virus wave that is already sweeping the country. But many in Johnson’s right-of-center party argue that restrictions must be eased to save the economy.

Johnson told the BBC the government had to strike a difficult balance, and he couldn’t “take a course that could expose us to tens of thousands more deaths in very short order.”

“It is a moral imperative to save lives ... but on the other hand, we have to keep our economy moving. That is the balance that we are trying to strike,” he said.

Britain went into a national lockdown in March, with most businesses closed and all but essential travel barred. Restrictions began to be lifted in June as the pandemic tided recede. But like other European countries, daily new coronavirus infections began to rise again when pubs and restaurants reopened, children went back to school and students returned to university.

The United Kingdom is now under national restrictions on socializing, including a 10 p.m. curfew for bars and restaurants, and groups limited to six, with areas of high infection facing stricter local measures, which Johnson and other ministers have sometimes struggled to explain clearly.

Critics have said that months of mixed messages and changes of advice on everything from wearing masks to whether or not to work from home has left people confused and exhausted.

A national test-and-trace program to find people who have been exposed to the virus has also had persistent problems, and is failing to reach more than a quarter of infected people’s contacts.

Keir Starmer, leader of the opposition Labour Party, accused the government of “serial incompetence.”

“The prime minister is governing in hindsight,” Starmer told the Observer newspaper. “So he charges forward, not recognizing the problem, has a car crash, looks in the rear mirror and says: ‘What’s all that about?’”

Britain recorded 12,872 new coronavirus infections Sunday, by far the highest daily total since the outbreak began, according to official data. The number can’t directly be compared to the U.K.’s peak in April because many more tests are being performed now.

The number of hospitalizations and deaths in Britain is also rising, but remains far below the U.K.’s springtime peak. Another 49 deaths were reported Saturday, compared to almost 1,000 a day at the height of the outbreak.

Johnson acknowledged that many people feel “fatigue” after months of restrictions, and expressed hope that progress on vaccines and testing would “change the scientific equation” in the next few months, allowing a return to normalcy.

But he warned “it’s going to continue to be bumpy through to Christmas. It may even be bumpy beyond.”

Pilgrims return to Mecca as Saudi Arabia eases restrictions

**Associated Press**

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — A very small, limited number of people, donning the white terrycloth garments symbolic of the Muslim pilgrimage, circled Islam’s holiest site in Mecca on Sunday after Saudi Arabia lifted coronavirus restrictions that had been in place since March.

The kingdom had taken the rare step in early March to suspend the smaller year-round “umrah” pilgrimage that draws millions from across the world, as the coronavirus morphed into a global pandemic and prompted countries to impose lockdowns and curfews to slow down transmission.

But as nations begin to ease those restrictions, the Saudi government Sunday started allowing a maximum of 6,000 pilgrims a day to enter the sprawling Grand Mosque in Mecca. Only Saudi citizens and residents will be permitted to enter the mosque during this first phase of reopening, and each person has up to three hours to complete the pilgrimage.

The Grand Mosque, which is being sterilized and cleaned multiple times a day, houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that observant Muslims pray toward five times a day.

Before visitors can enter the mosque to pray or perform the umrah, they will have to reserve a specific time and date through an online application to avoid crowding and maintain social distancing. Visitors can also select their means of transportation and specific meeting points via the app.

State TV showed Sunday what appeared to be less than 50 people circling the Kaaba at the same time and walking several feet apart. Typically, the mosque would be packed with worshipers from around the world crowded shoulder-to-shoulder at all times of the day and night.

The second phase for loosening restrictions at the Grand Mosque will begin Oct. 18, allowing for a maximum of 15,000 pilgrims and 40,000 for prayer from among residents and citizens based on allocated times via the app.

Muslim travelers from outside Saudi Arabia could eventually be allowed to perform the umrah pilgrimage as early as Nov. 1, the Interior Ministry has said. Saudi Arabia recently began easing some restrictions on international flights for the first time since March.

The kingdom held a dramatically downsized, symbolic hajj pilgrimage in July due to concerns that it could easily have become a global super-spreader event for the coronavirus. Pilgrims were selected after applying through an online portal, and all were residents or citizens of Saudi Arabia. Rather than the more than 2 million pilgrims the kingdom usually hosts for the annual event, as little as 1,000 took part after being tested for the virus and quarantined.

Despite taking early and sweeping measures to contain the virus, Saudi Arabia has recorded nearly 336,000 cases, including 4,850 deaths.
A look at the big issues on high court’s agenda

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will begin hearing arguments Monday after a summer break. Here are some of the issues either already on the court’s docket or likely to be before the justices soon:

- **Elections.** Trump has already predicted that the 2020 election will end up at the Supreme Court. That's part of why he says Amy Coney Barrett should be confirmed before Election Day to the seat left open by the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Trump says he wants a full court to be available to weigh in on any campaign-related litigation.
- **Religious rights.** The day after the election in November, the high court will hear a dispute involving Philadelphia’s Catholic agency that won’t place foster children with same-sex couples.
- **Technology.** The most high-profile, big-dollar case the justices will hear arguments over whether Congress can access secret grand jury testimony from special counsel Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation — a legal process that began in summer 2019, before Trump was impeached by the House.

President Donald Trump adjusts the microphone after announcing Judge Amy Coney Barrett as his nominee to the Supreme Court on Sept. 26. The court will begin hearing arguments this week after a summer break.

Calif. fires on brink of burning 4 million acres

**By Olga R. Rodriguez**
Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO — Red flag warnings of extreme fire danger subsided, but warm and dry weather continue to challenge firefighters battling more than two dozen blazes across California on Saturday as the state approaches an astonishing milestone: 4 million acres burned by wildfire this year.

The state was about 20,000 acres from reaching the unprecedented figure, fire officials said. Meanwhile, two major fires that have killed four people and incinerated hundreds of homes in the wine country and the far north continued to burn.

Powerful winds that had been expected to drive flames as Wednesday hadn’t materialized, and warnings of extreme fire danger for hot, dry and gusty weather expired Saturday morning as a layer of fog rolled in. Clearer skies in some areas allowed gusty weather expired Saturday morning as a layer of fog rolled in. Clearer skies in some areas allowed.

Above-normal temperatures and low humidity persisted Saturday, heightening the fire danger.

“It just leaves us kind of nervous that we’re not out of the woods yet when it comes to what might happen in California,” said Jonathan Cox, a deputy chief with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire.

A cooling trend was expected to slowly begin Sunday. Long-range forecast models hinted at the possibility of rain early this week.

The easing winds proved a mixed blessing at the Glass Fire in Sonoma and Napa counties. Although the fire raged on, crews got a break as they struggled to keep flames from jumping containment lines and renewing their march toward scenic communities.

“The good news is that with the lack of wind, we didn’t have continued control issues,” said Ben Nicholls, a Cal Fire division chief.

“However,” he added, “due to that lack of wind, the smoke has stayed in place” and hindered aircraft from attacking the blaze.

Evacuation orders for many of the 5,000 residents of Calistoga were reduced Friday to warnings, although trees and some homes on the town borders were burning.

The fire, which had destroyed about 600 homes and other buildings, still threatened around 29,000 homes.

The fire had burned 974 square miles and was only 10% contained.

Seattle defends police response to protest

**By Heidi Groover**
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — Lawyers for the city of Seattle on Friday rejected claims that police officers have violated court orders during recent protests where officers have cleared crowds with blast balls, pepper spray and foam-tipped projectiles.

While protesters allege police have used those weapons indiscriminately, the city argues police were responding to threats to officers or buildings.

“The reality is that not all participants in these protests were peaceful,” wrote attorney Robert Christie, whose firm represents the city.

After a case brought by the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington and other groups on behalf of Black Lives Matter Seattle-King County and several individuals, U.S. District Judge Richard Jones issued orders limiting police use of crowd-control weapons to cases where officers need to take “necessary, reasonable, proportional and targeted action” to respond to specific imminent threats.

The ACLU and others filed a motion last week arguing police officers violated those orders.

“Police threw blast balls indiscriminately into the middle of the densely packed crowd. Two of them exploded near my feet, painfully hitting my feet and leaving burn marks on my sneakers,” one protester said in a sworn declaration. “I wanted to run away from the resulting gas, but we were corralled in tightly with one another so there was nowhere to go.”

The city’s response argues police accounts “lack context” and information police had at the time. Some officer behavior raised in the ACLU filing is beyond the scope of the judge’s orders, the city argues.

“The issue is not whether crowd control devices were used and impacted members of the crowd,” but whether officers violated the orders, the city’s filing said.

The city says the Seattle Police Department has regularly reminded officers about the “rules of engagement” for crowd-control weapons.

The ACLU and other attorneys representing protesters proposed that the city require in-person training for officers about the court’s orders and file notices in court every time SPD deploys crowd-control weapons. The city called the proposed remedies “well beyond the bounds” of the judge’s orders.
contempt of court, Lt. Brennan ties, after Judge Steven Miller Webre said in a news release.

Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig from the 12-foot fall, then arrested authorities said.

first-floor window, falling into the from a courtroom and through a been told that he’d be jailed ran.

ticket lost in mail

boots, and had been in Vietnam gum’s office, Ronald Hepper had

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boots off his body in June 1969.

escapes twice in week

would bend the rules and pay
tery officials told the station they
delivered to the lottery office.

on Aug. 12. But the online track-
showed the ticket arrived at a Tal-
mail them to the headquarters.

n ot the n o p e n t o t h e p u b l i c d u e
to turn in a ticket to claim the
prize gives winners limited time
to turn in a ticket to claim the
prize. Their options are to either
put the ticket in a drop box at a local lottery office, which were
not then open to the public due
to the coronavirus pandemic, or
then mail them to the headquarters.

escapes twice in week

IN CROWN POINT — A northwestern Indiana police officer was placed on leave after the police dog she oversees escaped from her twice in the past week, leading to extensive searches for the canine.

LA THIBODAUX — A Louisiana man who had just been told that he’d be jailed ran from a courtroom and through a first-floor window, falling into the outdoor service stairwell below it, authorities said.

Tex: A local man told the station they would bend the rules and pay

 Martian said that after reviewing
the recent escapes by the dog,
named Dax, Officer Angelika Ventrice was put on paid admin-
istrative leave. He said the matter
remains under investigation and
additional disciplinary decisions are underway.

Lady Ninja takes down man who attacked friend

LOS ANGELES — Her martial arts skills may not be quite what they were but now, you don’t mess with Lady Ninja.

of materials described as auto shredder residue. It buried about 20,000 cubic yards of the material on its site after telling the state it had taken it to a landfill, the attorney general’s office said. The state found the material during a subsequent inspection and determined some qualified as hazardous waste. The facility lacked measures to contain the material, some of which migrated to groundwater and damaged Dover’s water supply, the state found.

THE CENSUS

$2.7M

Mural with a message

Artist Susely Sanchez works on her mural “Healing Hands” on the Suarez Law Group building in Orlando, Fla. Sanchez, whose work appears on numerous buildings in Central Florida, is painting the mural to promote environmental awareness and to encourage Latinos to vote in the 2020 election.

Art: The amount a metal recycler was fined for improper disposal of hazardous waste on its site. The settlement with New England Metal Recycling Inc. in Madbury, N.H., follows actions that it failed to properly dispose of hazardous waste. It buried about 20,000 cubic yards of the material on its site after telling the state it had taken it to a landfill, the attorney general’s office said. The state found the material during a subsequent inspection and determined some qualified as hazardous waste. The facility lacked measures to contain the material, some of which migrated to groundwater and damaged Dover’s water supply, the state found.

Soldier’s military tag returned to his widow

ND BISMARCK — The long-lost U.S. Army identification tag of a North Dakota soldier was returned to his widow, Ruth Hepper, after it re-
surfaced in Russia.

According to Gov. Doug Bur-
gum’s office, Ronald Hepper had

boots off his body in June 1969.

The military ID was found by an American citizen traveling in Russia. The American bought the ID from a street vendor in Mos
cow and brought it to the Ameri-
can Embassy.

Family threatened for flying Mexican flag

NC WILMINGTON — A North Carolina family was told in a threatening letter to take down a Mexican flag in front of their home or “feel my wrath,” but neighbors rallied around them and raised their own Mexican flags in solidarity.

Jessica Zambrano called the New Hanover County Sheriff’s Office after she received the anonymous letter several weeks ago, news outlets reported.

The letter said flying a Mexi-
can flag “means war” and that Zambrano should take the flag down or “feel my wrath.”

The sheriff’s office said it is in-
vestigating the case.

From wire reports

Officers were called to the apartment building on a report of possible gunshot.

Authorities said the man was threatening to blow up the building and everyone inside, KFGO reported. Police determined he had been setting off artillery-
shell size fireworks.

Officers negotiated with the man, who they said was heavily intoxicated, for about two hours and eventually convinced him to surrender.

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sands of dollars, prosecutors said. James Jackson, 58, was sen-
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tember 2019 of charges including mail fraud, aggravated identity theft and theft of mail, the U.S. attorney’s office said in a news release.

Jackson would impersonate
dead women and men and try to convince
customer service representatives at banks, credit card companies and financial firms to mail new
bank and credit cards to vacant
homes and hotels in the Memphis
area.

Man in gorilla suit

N D FARGO — A man who was dressed in a gorilla suit and was armed with a machete was arrested for threatening neighbors at a Fargo

apartment building, according to police.

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Man in gorilla suit

N D FARGO — A man who was dressed in a gorilla suit and was armed with a machete was arrested for threatening neighbors at a Fargo

apartment building, according to police.

The letter said flying a Mexi-
can flag “means war” and that Zambrano should take the flag down or “feel my wrath.”

The sheriff’s office said it is in-
vestigating the case.

From wire reports

N MEXPHIS — A Ten-
nessee man was sen-
tenced to more than 17 years in federal prison for using the iden-
tities of dead people to take over credit card, savings and stock ac-
counts and steal hundreds of thou-
sands of dollars, prosecutors said. James Jackson, 58, was sen-
tenced in Memphis federal court after he was convicted in Sep-
tember 2019 of charges including mail fraud, aggravated identity theft and theft of mail, the U.S. attorney’s office said in a news release.

Jackson would impersonate
dead women and men and try to convince
customer service representatives at banks, credit card companies and financial firms to mail new
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homes and hotels in the Memphis
area.

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homes and hotels in the Memphis
area.
North Carolina Senate race upended by sexting, virus diagnosis

By Gary D. Robertson
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina’s intensely competitive and expensive U.S. Senate race has been upended by personal and health disruptions that sent sharp tremors and uncertainty through the campaigns and an electorate already casting ballots.

Democratic nominee Cal Cunningham acknowledged and apologized for exchanging sexually suggestive text messages with a woman who’s not his wife, but he said he won’t drop out of the race. And just a few hours earlier Friday evening, his opponent, Republican Sen. Thom Tillis, announced he has tested positive for COVID-19. The first-term senator has “mild symptoms,” and the positive test forced Tillis to cancel in-person events as several members of his campaign staff headed into quarantine, less than five weeks until Election Day.

“It’s chaos — it’s really what I see it is,” David McLennan, a political science professor at Meredith College in Raleigh, said in a Saturday interview.

In the text message exchanges, Cunningham tells the woman he wants to kiss her and she says she wants to spend the night with him. The messages were first reported by the website NationalFile.com.

“I have hurt my family, disappointed my friends, and am deeply sorry. The first step in repairing those relationships is taking complete responsibility, which I do,” Cunningham said in his statement late Friday. The race is the nation’s most expensive Senate campaign and considered key to determining the power balance in the chamber.

Democrats need to gain four seats in November to take control. The developments come as voting already has gone on for four weeks in North Carolina, as 341,000 completed mail-in absentee ballots already have been accepted and will be counted. Early in-person voting begins Oct. 15.

As for Tillis, a spokesman for the Republican said Tillis has “mild symptoms” and will be staying at home for 10 days. Cunningham tweeted that he wished Tillis a “quick recovery.”
PARIS — French authorities deployed about 1,000 firefighters, four military helicopters and troops Sunday to help search for at least eight people still missing in a mountainous southeastern region after devastating floods that killed two people in neighboring Italy.

Floods washed away houses and destroyed roads and bridges surrounding the city of Nice on the French Riviera after almost a year's average rainfall fell in less than 12 hours. Nice Mayor Christian Estrosi said over 100 homes were destroyed or severely damaged.

Rescuers on Sunday were also providing emergency assistance, including food and water, to residents living in isolated villages. The missing people include two firefighters whose vehicle was carried away by a torrent when a road collapsed south of the village of Saint-Martin-Vesubie. Authorities fear more victims as many families couldn't reach out to relatives due to cellphone services being down.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex, who flew over the area in a helicopter, expressed "grave concern" over the toll of the flooding.

POPTUN, Guatemala — Hundreds of U.S.-bound Honduran migrants who had entered Guatemala last week without registering were being bused back to their country's border Saturday by authorities who met them with a large roadblock.

By 5 a.m. Saturday, none of 1,000 or so migrants who had been stalled by police and soldiers along a stretch of rural highway remained. Police said that hours earlier, migrants had boarded buses and army trucks to be taken back to the border. Small groups of fewer than 10 migrants each could still be found walking along the highway before the roadblock Saturday morning.

Olvin Suazo, 21, was walking with three friends, all from Santa Barbara, Honduras. “We're going to continue,” he said. “We were resting and the bigger group continued. We didn't know what happened to them.”

The four, all in their early 20s, are farmworkers. They heard about the caravan that formed last week in San Pedro Sula via WhatsApp and Facebook.

On Friday, over 100 Guatemalan soldiers and police blocked the migrants, who became increasingly frustrated with the lack of food and forward movement after walking from Honduras earlier in the week.

Migrants' voices rang out on the rural highway, demanding authorities either let them through or provide them food. Guatemala immigration authorities said some of the original group of about 2,000 migrants had agreed to return to Honduras, though Guatemala's vice minister of foreign relations, Eduardo Hernandez, issued a video Saturday complaining that Honduras was refusing to receive some of them.
Zemeckis’ ‘The Witches’ headed to HBO Max

The Robert Zemeckis adaptation of “Roald Dahl’s The Witches” has found a new home on HBO Max just in time for Halloween. Warner Bros. said “The Witches” will debut on the subscription streaming service Oct. 22.

The dark fantasy starring Anne Hathaway, Octavia Spencer, Stanley Tucci and Kristin Chenoweth was originally intended as a theatrical release, but like many others was delayed due to the effects of COVID-19 on movie theaters. Dahl’s 1983 novel is about an orphaned boy who discovers a coven of witches that hate children. This movie adaptation has actor Jahzir Bruno playing the boy who must try to stop the witches from turning the world’s children into mice. Chris Rock provides his adult narration.

Shia LaBeouf charged with battery, petty theft

Shia LaBeouf has been charged with misdemeanor battery and petty theft.

Prosecutors allege that the 34-year-old actor fought with a man named Tyler Murphy and took his hat, according to a criminal complaint obtained by The Associated Press on Oct. 1 from the Los Angeles city attorney.

The charges were filed Sept. 24 for the June 12 incident.

A representative for LaBeouf did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

LaBeouf, who first gained fame as a teenager on the Disney Channel show “Even Stevens,” has had several run-ins with the law during his career, including a 2017 New York arrest for public drunkenness and disorderly conduct that was captured on a livestream video.

Actor Moranis punched while walking in NYC

Actor Rick Moranis was sucker punched by an unknown assailant while walking Oct. 1 on a sidewalk near New York’s Central Park, a law enforcement official told the Associated Press.

Surveillance video shows a man wearing a black “I (heart) NY” sweatshirt and a backpack hitting the 67-year-old “Ghostbusters” star and knocking him to the ground around 7:24 a.m.

Moranis took himself to the hospital and later went to a police station to report the incident, according to the official.

Nicki Minaj gives birth to her first child

Nicki Minaj has welcomed her first child. The “Super Bass” rapper gave birth Wednesday in Los Angeles, the Los Angeles Times confirmed. No additional birth details were available.

It’s the first child for the 37-year-old artist and her husband, Kenneth “Zoo” Petty. Minaj and Petty got married last October.

Minaj, whose full name is Onika Tanya Maraj-Petty, announced her pregnancy on social media in July.

BLACKPINK’s arrival complete with well-rounded ‘The Album’

BLACKPINK — from left, Rose, Jisoo, Jennie and Lisa, shown in February 2019 in Los Angeles — released “The Album” on Oct. 2.

By Mesfin Fekadu

Associated Press

Four years after they debuted as the next buzzed-about girl group on the K-pop music scene, BLACKPINK’s lofty dreams in music have come into fruition.

Perform at Coachella: Check.

Record a song with Lady Gaga: Check.

Collaborate with Selena Gomez: Check.

Get a verse from Cardi B: Check.

And another major objective: Record their first-full length album after being known for dropping hit single after single to showcase a deeper, more personal side of the group.

Boldly titled “The Album,” the eight-song project released Oct. 2 highlights all the things BLACKPINK have become known for: fun, big, explosive songs that mesh hip-hop, dance and trap.

“We had so many things to take into consideration. When it comes to one song, the video, the choreography, the fashion, the visual, everything is just put into one — it’s just that times that by how many. We were kind of freaking out at first, but then we had been working for it for a long time,” Jennie, 24, said in an interview with The Associated Press. “It gave us enough time to perfect everything and make it into our own.”

BLACKPINK — which also includes Rose, Jisoo and Lisa — debuted with the singles “BOOMBAYAH” and “WHISTLE,” which quickly topped the South Korean music charts. They’ve had success with other hits and marked their debut on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2018 with the gold-selling “DDU-DDU DDU-DU,” which has more than 1 billion views on YouTube, and “Kiss & Make Up,” a collaboration with English hitmaker Dua Lipa.

A year later, they nearly cracked the Top 40 with “Kill This Love,” while a pair of their eight-song project reached the Top 40 on the Billboard 200 albums chart.

They performed on a worldwide tour last year, taking on U.S. arenas like The Forum in Inglewood, Calif., and Prudential Center in Newark, N.J. They became the first K-pop girl group to perform at Coachella when they hit the stage there last year.

Those moments have prepared them for “The Album,” partially recorded during the pandemic. Outside of the big beats and slick choreography, the members wanted to get deep on the songs.

“We feel like we tried to put as many personalities of us as we could in the album. We have some very personal songs; songs that are a little more close to our hearts, that speak our story a little more. Personal songs take a little more to record, definitely. We had to bring our souls into the recording studio. It was us being very vulnerable,” Jennie said. “As soon as we heard the verse we were like, ‘Ah! Cardi B!!!’”

The collaborations with Cardi and Gomez come months after BLACKPINK recorded “Sour Candy” for Gaga’s “Chromatica” album, released in May.

BLACKPINK say they’re excited to see female artists open their doors to the group finding its way in the international music industry. “We feel very supported,” Rose said.

“The fact that they’re reaching out to us. The fact that they’re featuring us. That move itself kind of speaks to that there are no boundaries and they are willing to create something fun, which we love to do,” Jennie said. “It’s a great feeling and we’re so lucky to be able to make things happen.”

Though BLACKPINK’s rise to fame might have come out of nowhere to some audiences, the performers have trained for years to get to this point. Through South Korean entertainment company YG Entertainment — which launched the 2012 viral and colorful “Gangnam Style” song and video from Korean rapper PSY — each singer auditioned individually as teenagers, spending years in vocal, dance and language training.

It’s documented in Netflix’s “BLACKPINK: Light Up the Sky,” the streaming platform’s first K-pop documentary. It will be available Oct. 14.
Eugene Sheffer Crossword

ACROSS
1 911 responders
5 “The X-Files” org.
8 Vipers
12 Stead
13 Groop up
14 Yuri Zhivago’s
15 Nest egg
16 Busy street
18 Deli meat
20 Atomizers
21 1492 vessel
23 Slowly, in
24 Entree
28 Ham’s dad
31 Crib
32 Imam’s faith
34 “Today” rival, briefly
35 – Romeo
37 Square-riggor need
39 Check-cashing
41 Item on stage
42 Renowned
45 Droid’s rival
49 Principal artery
51 Novelist Hunter
52 Wine region
53 Monopoly
56 Consume
57 Right angles
22 Get — on the wrist
24 CEO’s deg.
25 Have a bug
26 Never-ending
27 Most precarious
29 Paris pal
30 “Valley of the Dolls” author
33 L-Q bridge
36 Handsome guy
38 Orb
40 Check-cashing
41 Astronaut
43 Speedy
44 Green land
46 Cameo shape
47 Hammer
48 Target
49 Term
50 19 Calf-length
51 50 Big D.C. lobby

DOWM
1 Yale students
2 Actress Sorvino
3 Pond duck
4 “Valley of the Dolls” author
5 Gloria
6 Steinem’s
gose
7 Bikini half
8 Apollo 11
test
9 1777 battle site
10 Use a rosary
11 Groop up
12 “Fresh Air” ainer
19 Calf-length

Answer to Previous Puzzle

AUDIT WASHED
ALLUDE HUGELY
WEASEL ON TASK
LENT SAT DEE
SEAL SIC
ALB ALAN CHIP
SURPRISE GUEST
ACCESS HUG DRA
ING ERSE
DAN RED D SCAB
UNFAIR TATAMI
ADORN S ICESI
DIGEST CERES

10-5 CRYPTOQUIP

YZPW L ELWL GQFQX I YMZI ILW
FMXRQIB NQGLHFL UHXBHZTF
ZPXVE FVNZI’F YZUQEZW:

EML OMZHEXVT ILERXHO.
Saturday’s Cryptoquip: IF A BIG EMERGENCY
INTERRUPTS A FASHION SHOW, I IMAGINE
SOMEONE WOULD CRY “STOP THE DRESSES!”

Today’s Cryptoquip Clue: W equals L
What if illness leaves Trump ‘unable’ to govern?

BY CAS R. SUNSTEIN

Bloomberg Opinion

ow that President Donald Trump has tested positive for COVID-

19, the Department of Justice is almost certainly focusing on the 25th Amendment, which provides for the transfer of presidential authority to the vice president.

No one who works for a sitting president wants to think about that amendment. But in any administration, worst-case scenarios get attention, and if the president is sick or dies, the lawyers and the vice president have to be clear on what the 25th Amendment says and requires.

The good news is that for most imaginable health outcomes associated with the virus, it is entirely clear. The less good news is that for some imaginable health outcomes, especially those associated with COVID-19, the 25th Amendment is ambiguous.

It offers two different routes by which the transfer of power can occur. Section 3 says this:

Whenever the President transmits to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his written declaration that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office of the President, and until the transfer of power shall have been duly accomplished, there shall be an Acting President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, or in his absence, the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Section 4 says this:

Whenever the Vice President and a majority of either the principal officers of the executive departments or of such other body as Congress may by law provide, transmit to the President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives their written declaration that the Vice President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of the office of the Vice President, the President pro tempore of the Senate, or in his absence, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall immediately become the President.

The issue for many people isn’t lack of money; it’s a lack of certainty that they will continue to have enough money in the future.

The issue for many people isn’t lack of money; it’s a lack of certainty that they will continue to have enough money in the future. This fear led to a significant increase in savings when the federal government’s roughly $1,200-per-adult stimulus checks were mailed earlier this year, and spending growth is slowing despite the improving overall economic situation. Solve the uncertainty for people formerly employed in these pandemic-sensitive sectors, and employment in other sectors will surely rise as a result.

It’s hard to know how this dark picture can brighten without a safe, effective and widely available vaccine against the coronavirus. Without that, many, many people, especially the elderly and those with chronic illnesses, will hold back from eating out, watching a movie in a theater or taking vacations. A safe vaccine could dramatically reduce consumer uncertainty.

The issue for many people isn’t lack of money; it’s a lack of certainty that they will continue to have enough money in the future.
Saturday's transactions

**BASEBALL**

Major League Baseball

CHICAGO CUBS — Placed RF Jon Jon Lester, OF Nelson Cruz, 3B Kris Bryant, C Willson Contreras, RF Jason Heyward, SS Javy Baez and 2B JustinBrains on the injured reserve list. Activated C Willson Contreras from the practice squad.

DETAILED PROJECTS

Major League Baseball

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Activated CB Lucas Johansen to a one-year, two-way contract.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed WR Austin Pictures from the practice squad.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Re-signed LB Alonzo Tweeddale to a one-year contract.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Activated CB Shaqfec on reserve/COVID-19 list.


dward national team for 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifications.

ROCKET Gallery's Scott Bolin of defending Far East Division II football champion Zama. “I'm hoping it will happen for the kids.”

Rinnick and E.J. King have not yet decided. “That was disappointing enough, the way last season ended,” Humphreys boys coach Ron Merriweather, adding that he had nine players returning from last year’s team. “You have to feel for the kids. But it’s definitely different and not what I was expecting for my senior year,” Daegu volleyball middle-blocker Xiyu Lin said. “But I’m grateful that we still get to play and have at least some volleyball experience during the craziness.”

Regarding winter season, DODA health-protection guidelines termed wrestling a high-risk sport due to frequent contact, according to McKinney said. Basketball is a medium-risk sport, but DODA’s current guidelines is only allowing conditioning and individual skill development.

“We have to wait and see what the medical community brings in the coming months,” said coach Dave Ornauer. “We still get to play and that’s big.”

**GOLF**

Sanderson Farms Championship

Saturday at Country Club of Jackson

Purse: $6.6 million

Yardage: 6,896 yards

Third Round

Cameron Davis 66, 67, 63—196

TJ Purdy 66, 68, 67—191

Brandon Fritsch 68, 67, 67—192

Kristoffer Ventura 67, 68–26–223


Tyler McCumber 69, 68, 69–76–232

Chad R袖 69, 67, 67–73–23–8


MJ Dafaw 68–65–72–70–70–221

Wybo Swing 72, 66–69–69–72–72–221


Matthew NeSmith 68, 71–66–73–70–73–221

Daniel Berger 67, 66, 69–67–70, 70–221

Sebastian Mun 67, 63–70–73–70–79

Peter Malnich 67, 70–72–70–79

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Basketball and wrestling are out. Extended fall and spring seasons are in. There’s even a slim hope for football in the spring.

That’s why an announcement from DODA Pacific spokesperson Miranda Ferguson that outlined a range of changes to athletics for the rest of the school year.

The most immediate change is adding volleyball and doubles tennis to DODA Pacific’s fall season. The fall season should be initially for fall, but — sparked by a request from command at Camp Humphreys — doubled the program for the Korea district.

“With command’s support, the DODA Pacific District has worked with military and public health officials to put in place appropriate mitigation measures to allow for additional sports,” Ferguson said.

Other schools and districts were asked to submit similar plans, Ferguson said.

“We have developed a process through which command and districts may request athletic offerings,” she added. “Many athletes are interested in tennis offering in addition to tennis, cross country and golf and as a result we’ve expanded the fall season for DODA Pacific for the fall season.

The move to add volleyball and doubles tennis to the program will allow many athletes who were not receiving the program for the fall season.

Fall sports season dates have been extended through Jan. 9, with Japan, Okinawa and Korea holding in-district tournaments the week of Jan. 4. Outdoor sports in Korea and Misawa in northern Japan may wrap up earlier due to the colder climate there.

Spring sports season dates are Jan. 19-May 1, Ferguson said, though tennis in Korea and Misawa could force those locales to begin later. Spring sports to be held are baseball, tennis, track and field, softball and soccer.

DODA schools will compete only with each other and not in DODA Pacific’s athletics coordinator Tony McKinney said.

“Some commands have said they don’t want it,” McKinney said, referring to travel between the two commands.

“They’re definitely different and not what I was expecting for my senior year,” Daegu volleyball middle-blocker Xiyu Lin said. “But I’m grateful that we still get to play and have at least some volleyball experience during the craziness.”

Regarding winter season, DODA health-protection guidelines termed wrestling a high-risk sport due to frequent contact, according to McKinney said. Basketball is a medium-risk sport, but DODA’s current guidelines is only allowing conditioning and individual skill development.

“We have to wait and see what the medical community brings in the coming months,” said coach Dave Ornauer. “We still get to play and that’s big.”

As for football, it, too, was considered too high risk to offer for the fall. But Ferguson said a decision whether football can be played in the spring is to be made Dec.

“Hey, we’ll be hoping it will happen for the kids.”

No winter sports in DODA Pacific

Fall season extended, expanded for some; football considered for spring season

I’m grateful that we still get to play and have at least some volleyball experience during the craziness.

Lexie Berry

Daegu volleyball middle-blocker

Saturday's transactions

**BASEBALL**

Major League Baseball

ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS — Placed RHP Jon Lester and 5B Matt Klentak stopped down as general manager.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Activated C Wilson, 1B Jose Martinez and 3B Miguel Almora Jr. from the injured reserve list. Placed 3B Urias, 2B Dugout, 2B Dugout and 2B Dugout from the practice squad.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Activated WR Deebo Arkansas and TE Jordan Reed on injured reserve. Signed RB JaMycal from the practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Placed LB Crawley, TE Garrett Griffin and G/C Will list.

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Placed LB Brandon Harrison, LB Kameron Carter and DE Jordan Willis on the practice squad.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Placed DT Mike Daniels on injured reserve. Waived CB Norman from injured reserve. Signed G Joshua Garnett from the practice squad.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Activated WR Michael Pittman on injured reserve.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Activated WR Gunther Holton and TE Parker Hanks from the practice squad.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Re-signed LB Alonzo Tweeddale to a one-year contract.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Placed LB Gunther Holton on the injured reserve list.

WASHINGTON FOOTBALL TEAM — Loaned F Jesper Clapp from the practice squad.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Activated LB Christian Sam and LB Chris Orr from the practice squad.

CAROLINA PANTHERS — Activated WR Michael Pittman on injured reserve.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Activated WR Gunther Holton and TE Parker Hanks from the practice squad.

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Spoelstra, at last weekend's close lines Arena offices prepared to arrived at the Heat's AmericanAir-Butler. a similar audience with Jimmy Dwight Howard, stood poised for pitches to Shaquille O'Neal and successful previous free-agency NBA Finals the latest example. pitches and pleas. everything, with NBA executives for a free-agent marriage was pionships for the Golden State Hamptons Five that won cham- ment of Tim Duncan in 2000, Orlando Magic’s failed recruit- of Tiger Woods for his role in the events. Ultimately, he acted stricter tampering rules, Irving and others showed, the em- ment no longer is with the powerment no longer is with the Irving had been linked to his eventual destination months in advance. "I didn’t feel like that much ten- sion," McPeek said. "I feel like we had her well-prepared." Albarado got rid of any tension more than halfway through, tak- ing the chance given to him by John Velazquez when Authen- tics Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez abandoned the rail.
2 new Titans cases; Pats-Chiefs delayed

By Teresa M. Walker
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Another Tennessee Titans player and another staff member have tested positive for the coronavirus, while the rest of the NFL returned no new positive tests on Sunday, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press.

The Titans’ outbreak is now at 20 cases, with 185 negative tests returned since Tuesday. The results from around the league came as the NFL postponed the Patriots’ game at Kansas City to Monday night. New England starting quarterback Cam Newton and Chiefs practice squad quarterback Jordan Ta’amu were both added to the COVID-19 reserve list Saturday.

The person spoke on the AP because neither the NFL nor the Titans had announced the latest results.

On the negative test results Sunday include a New Orleans Saints player who tested positive on Saturday, a person familiar with the situation said. The Saints learned of the positive test after leaving New Orleans for Sunday’s scheduled game in Denver and ran another series of tests on players and staff overnight.

The latest testing results has Minnesota (0-3), which lost to Tennessee a week ago, ready to play Houston (0-3) on Monday night.

On Monday, the league will hold a conference call with all 32 teams to reinforce the necessity of following protocols — including regular testing, contact tracing and to share best practices.

On Monday night, the Patriots will play at Kansas City in a game airing on CBS at 7:05 p.m. EDT. The Atlanta Falcons-Green Bay Packers game will shift to an 8:50 p.m. EDT start on ESPN.

The Atlanta Falcons-Green Bay Packers game will shift to an 8:50 p.m. EDT start on ESPN.

The NFL scoreboard

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**Winds of change blow on day of upsets in Paris**

By John Leicester
Associated Press

PARIS — On a Sunday of upsets among the women at the French Open, revenge was a dish served up in an autumn chill by a Polish tennis player.

It was only partially business as usual for the men, too. Rafael Nadal advanced, but his opponent in the fourth round at Roland Garros will be dangerous debutant Janicki Sinner. By making the men’s last eight as a newcomer, the 19-year-old Italian matched a feat last achieved by Nadal himself, in 2005, on his march to the first of his 12 titles in Paris.

So impressive has Sinner been on the clay this 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 win against U.S. Open finalist Alexander Zverev hardly seemed like an upset, despite the 68-spot gulf separating them in tour rankings. Sinner pulled the sixth-seeded German this way and that with precision groundstrokes and unfurled his wingspan to make 21 winners.

Against fourth-round foe Sebastian Korda, a 20-year-old qualifier who idolizes him so much that he named his cat “Rafa,” Nadal was — excuse the pun — practically purr-fect, winning 6-1, 6-2, 6-3.

Korda lapped it up. His long-term sights are set on winning at least two Grand Slam titles, one more than his dad, 1998 Australian Open champion Petr Korda.

In the meantime, the spanking from Nadal was “definitely the best tennis.”

“Super awesome,” he said. “I asked him for a signed shirt when he hit enough balls that he didn’t even know I was there. He had a very nice word for me. I feel like I have one in my bag right now. So I’m super stoked.”

Nadal has yet to drop a set in his pursuit of a 13th French Open crown that would be his 20th major title overall, tying Roger Federer’s record.

Although Nadal and Sinner have practiced together throughout the 34-year-old and the youngest man in a Grand Slam quarterfinal since Novak Djokovic in 2006.

“Yet another lesson,” Nadal said.

“The game is not easy. You have to show your best tennis.”

“Amazing potential. He move the hand very quick and he’s able to produce amazing shots.”

That’s also true of the new generation making a mark in their dawning era of the French Open where most everything feels unusual because of the coronavirus-enforced shift from May to June. The golden leaves and cold of autumn have added to a sense of cyclical change.

Against the player who humbled his 6-1, 6-0 at the same stage last year, 19-year-old Iga Swiatek used the tables on top-seeded Simona Halep, sending the 2018 champion packing 6-1, 6-2 with powerful groundstrokes and exquisite pressure points.

Halep, who also lifted the title at Wimbledon last year, never got into her stride under the roof on Court Philippe Chatrier and was unable to exert any pressure on the now-confident Polish player who wilted with nerves in their fourth-round meeting last year that was over in just 45 minutes.

Swiatek used that as fuel.

“A huge lesson,” she said. “I knew that I can, like, play differently and I can finally show my best tennis.”

Nadal and Sinner
Astros vs. Athletics


Season Series: Athletics won 7-3.

Houston A's

Record: 29-31.

Playoff Entry: Second place, AL West.

Playoff Seed: No. 6.

Manager: Dusty Baker (first season).

Projected Rotation: RHP Zack Greinke (3-3, 4.03 ERA, 67 Ks), LHP Lance McCullers Jr. (3-3, 3.93, 56 Ks), RHP Jose Urquidy (1-1, 2.73, 17 Ks), LHP Framier Valdez (3-5, 3.57, 76 Ks), RHP Cristian Javier (5-2, 3.48, 54 Ks).

Top Hitters: DH Michael Brantley (.300, 5 HRs, 22 RBIs, 15 doubles), LG George Springer (.270, 14 HRs, 37 doubles, 108 RBIs, 60 walks, .803 OBP, .893 SLG).

Top Relievers: RHP Ryan Pressly (1-3, 4.34 ERA, 12 saves), RHP Brooks Raley (0-1, 3.90 ERA, 8 saves), LHP Frank Schwinden (6-1, 3.57 ERA, 2 saves), RHP Deivi Garcia (3-2, 4.98, 34 Ks in 34 2/3 IP).

Top Pitchers: LHP Adam Jones (1-0, 3.90 ERA, 8 saves), RHP Lance McCullers Jr. (3-5, 4.47, 2.25 WHIP in 53 IP), RHP Deivi Garcia (3-2, 4.98, 34 Ks in 34 2/3 IP).

Note: The Athletics are in the playoffs for the fourth straight year but still looking for their first pennant since winning the 2002 World Series. The A's, who are 25-35 in the regular season, are one of the most aggressive teams in the majors, with 1,021 stolen bases in the regular season. The A's are 11th in the majors in a half dozen categories.

Oakland Athletics

Record: 36-24.

Playoff Entry: AL West champions.

Playoff Seed: No. 3.

Manager: Bob Melvin (10th season).

Projected Rotation: RHP Chris Bassitt (5-2, 2.29 ERA, 55 Ks), LHP Sean Manaea (4-3, 4.50, 49 Ks), RHP Mike Fiers (6-3, 3.40, 49 Ks), LHP Jesus Luzardo (3-2, 4.12, 59 Ks), RHP Frankie Montas (3-5, 5.60, 60 Ks in 53 IP).

Top Hitters: 1B Matt Olson (.255, 14 HRs, 42 RBIs, 734 OPS), SS Marcus Semien (.223, 7 HRs, 17 doubles, 29 RBIs, .734 OPS), CF Ramon Laureano (.233, 11 HRs, 25 RBIs, .779 SLG), 2B Brandon Lowe (.269, 14 HRs, 42 RBIs, .734 OPS), SS Marcus Semien (.223, 7, 17, .679 OPS), LF Kyle Tucker (.268, 9 HRs, 42 RBIs).

Top Relievers: RHP Liam Hendriks (1-3, 1.78 ERA, 14/15 saves), LHP Jake Diekman (2-0, 0.42).

Series Summary: The A's are in the playoffs for the third straight season and 11th time since 2000. Playing at home, they rebounded from a loss in their first-round opener to win the next two games, eliminating the Chicago White Sox 2-1 in the best-of-three series. Fiers started Game 3 but lasted just 1 1/3 innings. Montas won in relief. It was the first time Oakland advanced in a postseason series since reaching the 2006 ALCS, where the A's were swept by Detroit. Oakland had lost nine straight winner-take-all postseason games, a major league record. (2015 World Series. The A's also had dropped six consecutive playoff series. ... Last November, ex-Houston pitcher Collin McHugh was fired from the A's as part of a second-half slide. And he was on a short hook against the Twins, taking a no-decision in Game 1 when he allowed one run, two hits and three walks in 10-1/3 innings of four outings. Valdez was 4-3 with five shutout innings of two-hit ball. ... Houston's lineup isn't nearly as potent as the Yankees.
Dusty Baker will likely get a cold reception this week. Despite being a former Dodgers player, Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker will likely get a cold reception this week.

\[ \text{FROM BACK PAGE} \]

Three years have done little to stem the tide of scorn that has crashed over the Astros. They've been tarred and feathered as cheaters by other teams and fans, even though the current mix of rookies and second-year players hardly resembles Houston's powerhouse rosters of recent years.

“We're doing it with an oddball group,” Astros reliever Brooks Raley said.

After winning 101, 103 and 107 games in the last three regular seasons, capturing the 2017 World Series and losing the championship in seven games to the Washington Nationals last year, the Astros stumbled through this shortened season at 29-31.

They swept the Minnesota Twins in two games in the AL wild-card series with a group of many first- and second-year players filling the gaps created by injuries, slumps and departures.

“I felt like there was big relief after that first game,” Raley said. “We're finding guys to step up and finding offense to come through.”

The Astros worked out Friday at Target Field in chilly Minneapolis before flying to Los Angeles.

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**Hostile: Angry Dodgers fans likely to ‘greet’ Astros**

Goin’ back to Cali,” said Baker, the ex-San Francisco Giants manager and former Dodgers player.

Baker has yet to announce his rotation against the A’s. West champion Oakland advanced to the Division Series by beating the Chicago White Sox in three games, ending 14 years of postseason futility.

Both the Astros and A’s have played at the stadium recently. The A’s dropped two of three to the Dodgers from Sept. 22-24. The Astros split a two-game series with the NL West champions on Sept. 12-13.

Angry Dodgers fans greeted Houston’s buses as the team pulled in, hoisting large garbage cans in the air, chanting and waving signs. The Astros banged on a trash can to let their hitters know which pitch the opposing catcher was calling for in the World Series.

During both days of the series, the Astros were bombarded with messages tossed by planes over the field. “Steal This Sign Astros” read one. “Astros Cheated! Never Forget! Go Dodgers!” and “Hey Astros Try Stealing This Sign” read others.

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**Scoreboard**

Despite being a former Dodgers player, Houston Astros manager Dusty Baker will likely get a cold reception this week.

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**Playoffs**

**WILD-CARD SERIES**

**American League**

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**National League**

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**DIVISION SERIES**

**American League**

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**Pitchers seeing the extremes**

It’s been a feast-or-famine postseason on the mound so far

Trevor Bauer took the mound for Cincinnati’s playoff opener and produced a line never before seen in the postseason — 12 strikeouts, no walks and no runs allowed in 7 2/3 two-hit innings. The Reds and Atlanta Braves struck out 37 times — no playoff game had ever stayed scoreless for so long.

Then, hours later, the Cleveland Indians and New York Yankees played a game that might as well have been a different sport.

“Another notch of experience for these guys in tough situations — in adverse situations, at times,” Yankees manager Aaron Boone said, describing a victory in a contest that included 19 runs and 19 walks.

It’s been a feast-or-famine postseason on the pitcher’s mound so far. Bauer and Clayton Kershaw were both dominant, while Brandon Woodruff and Yu Darvish were impressive in a losing cause. Then there were teams like the Indians and Chicago White Sox, whose seasons are over in large part because of control problems that popped up at the worst possible time.

The contrast was unusually clear Wednesday, when the Braves and Reds played 4 hours, 39 minutes, and it felt like they might never score. Then the Indians and Yankees went 4:50 — plus over an hour waiting out the weather — because outs were so hard to come by.

The Atlanta-Cincinnati contest was the first postseason game to be scoreless after 11 innings. The Braves finally won 1-0. New York beat Cleveland 2-0.

“You’ve got to start with Sixto, right?” Miami manager Don Mattingly said. “We felt good about him. When he gives us a solid five, we get us back into the back end where we can use our guys the way we want to use them, he set the tone for that.”

In Friday’s second game, San Diego beat St. Louis 4-0 in Game 3 of their series. The Padres, without injured starters Mike Clevinger and Dinelson Lamet in this series, sent reliever Craig Stammen to the mound to begin a bullpen game with the season on the line.

“We came into the series with 2 1/2 starters and had to use two of those guys yesterday,” manager Jayce Tingler said before the game. “This is where we’re at and we’re good with it. ... We’re going to go with Craig and get the ball in his hand at the beginning and get as many outs as possible, and from there we’re going to have to put it together.”

Nine San Diego pitchers managed to hold the Cardinals without a run.

San Diego was only in that position because the Cardinals couldn’t hold off the Padres’ sluggers Thursday. San Diego rallied from a 6-2 deficit and homered five times in an 11-9 win.

The Padres used nine pitchers in that Game 2 and St. Louis used eight. That makes for a particularly tough turnaround in this year’s postseason. The lack of scheduled off days during a series — as baseball tries to complete a postseason amid a pandemic — could force teams to go deeper into their bullpens.
Tulsa snaps No. 11 UCF’s 21-game home winning streak

By COREY LONG
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — There is something about UCF that brings that best out of Oklahoma’s favor when he sacked Purdy, causing him to fumble at the Iowa State 39. Four plays later Rattler found Jeremiah Hall for a 4-yard touchdown pass that put the Sooners up 30-23 with 8:17 left.

Kene Nwangwu returned the ensuing kickoff 99 yards, setting up Purdy’s short touchdown run that tied it. Rattler had played a strong game, committing no turnovers before Young in front of his pass to Charleston Rambo to secure one of Campbell’s biggest wins in Ames.

“We were one play short,” OU coach Lincoln Riley said. “Obviously, our back is against the wall as a football team. We know that, we accept that. Our guys are hurt.”

“Most of our guys haven’t experienced a start to the season like this. It’s still about how you respond. I believe I know how this group will. Despite the sickening feeling in my stomach right now and how disappointed we are, we know there are the makings of a good football team in there right now. I’ll continue to ride with this team. There are a lot of guys who are down, but they aren’t out of the fight.”

UFC (2-1) drove into Golden Hurricane territory, but after a holding penalty pushed the Knights out of the red zone Dillon Gabriel’s Hail Mary pass fell incomplete.

Gabriel was 25 of 39 for 330 yards with a touchdown and an interception.

“There were opportunities in the game that we didn’t take advantage of,” Gabriel said. “I put this on me. There has to be better QB play. I have to execute at a higher level.”

Tulsa was the last team to beat UCF at home with a 35-20 win on November 19, 2016, when Scott Frost was the Knights’ head coach. The Golden Hurricanes also upset UCF last season 34-31 in Tulsa.

Smith threw for 273 yards and T.K. Wilkerson rushed for 86 yards and a touchdown in front of his pass to Charleston Rambo to secure one of Campbell’s biggest wins in Ames. The sophomore quarterback completed just 21 of 40 passes for 177 yards.

Tulsa’s scores

Tuesday, Oct. 13

No. 9 Texas (2-0) beat Oklahoma (38-24). Next: at No. 13 Texas, Saturday, Oct. 17.


No. 12 Ohio State (2-1) lost to Penn State (31-27). Next: vs. No. 3 Michigan, Saturday, Oct. 17.

No. 10 Penn State (2-0) beat Michigan State (28-7). Next: vs. No. 11 Penn State, Saturday, Oct. 17.

No. 11 UCF (2-1) lost to Tulsa (34-26). Next: at No. 25 Memphis, Saturday, Oct. 17.


No. 14 Oregon (0-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 7 UCLA, Saturday, Oct. 17.

No. 15 Georgia (2-0) beat South Carolina (41-13). Next: at No. 6 Ohio State, Oct. 17.

No. 7 Auburn on Saturday night in the Southeastern Conference rivalry.

The game was stopped by the Iowa State clock with 3:42 left in the first half, but Auburn’s offense simply never got going behind Bo Nix. The sophomore quarterback completed just 21 of 40 passes for 177 yards.

UFA (2-1) drove into Golden Hurricane territory, but after a holding penalty pushed the Knights out of the red zone Dillon Gabriel’s Hail Mary pass fell incomplete. "It's our senior class," Cyclones coach Matt Campbell said. "We've got 16 seniors who came together. We've always been a gritty, tough, hard-nosed football team and we proved that again tonight."

Smith threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Keylon Stokes to give Tulsa a 31-26 lead with 12:56 remaining. Zack Long added a 34-yard field goal with 1:30 remaining to make it 34-26.

Tulsa (1-1) made it two straight wins over the Knights (2-1), who were plagued by penalties (18 for 124 yards) and turned the ball over three times.

"New year, new season," Golden Hurricane coach Philip Montgomery said. "We've got a lot of talent on this football team. On the road in a tough environment, I'm proud of these guys for sticking together. We've always been a gritty, tough, hard-nosed football team and we proved that again tonight."

Smith threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Keylon Stokes to give Tulsa a 31-26 lead with 12:56 remaining. Zack Long added a 34-yard field goal with 1:30 remaining to make it 34-26.

Georgia lineman Adam Anderson levels Autumn quarterback Bo Nix, who was called for intentional grounding, during the Bulldogs’ 27-6 win on Saturday in Athens, Ga.

Tulsa coach Mike Gundy said. "It's still about how you respond. I believe I know how this group will. Despite the sickening feeling in my stomach right now and how disappointed we are, we know there are the makings of a good football team in there right now. I'll continue to ride with this team. There are a lot of guys who are down, but they aren't out of the fight."

Tulsa was the last team to beat UCF at home with a 35-20 win on November 19, 2016, when Scott Frost was the Knights’ head coach. The Golden Hurricanes also upset UCF last season 34-31 in Tulsa.

Smith threw for 273 yards and T.K. Wilkerson rushed for 86 yards and a touchdown to lift the Golden Bears to their first win against a Top 15 opponent since 1991. Stokes had six catches for 96 yards and a touchdown to lift the Golden Bears to their first win against a Top 15 opponent since 1991. Stokes had six catches for 96 yards and a touchdown.

"I thought we found ways to run the football, we got some explosive runs," Montgomery said. "And we found ways to protect Zach and give him time. Our offensive line and tight ends did a fantastic job to help us push the ball down the field."
Kicker, defense deliver Air Force’s rout of Navy

By PAT GRAHAM
Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The Air Force Falcons took advantage of their defensive-minded approach, which was to settle on a kicker, to plug holes on a decimated defense, to game plan for rival Navy. Time very well spent.

Senior George Silvanic, who was moved from offensive line to defensive tackle a few weeks ago out of necessity, got the idea. “I’ve got to keep moving forward.”

Sophomore QB Haaziq Daniels rushed for a score in his first career start as the Falcons (1-0) took a big first step toward capturing the coveted Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy between the service academies.

Schuettelpelz-Rohrl connected from 48, 33, 32 and 49 yards in front of a crowd that consisted only of Air Force cadets given the COVID-19 restrictions. It’s the 11th time a Falcons kicker has made that many in a game.

To think, he was still trying to win the job about a week ago.

“Hoping I could prove myself and it all turned out for the best,” Schuettelpelz-Rohrl said.

The Falcons weren’t even sure if they would be taking the field this fall after the Mountain West postponed the season in August. Then, they learned they would play the two service academy games. Later, the league announced its resumption, with the intent to play eight games.

But there was no telling what Air Force would resemble on the field with quite a few players taking military turnabouts (an option a cadet has to leave the academy for up to two semesters). A big portion of the missing personnel was on defense, but the Falcons didn’t miss a beat in shutting down Navy (1-2). They held the Midshipmen to 90 yards rushing. The last time Navy was held under 100 yards rushing was at Air Force in 2016 when the team had 57, according to Navy’s game notes.

In addition, the Falcons forced two turnovers and had three sacks.

“It speaks to the preparation that we made,” said Silvanic, who had ½ sacks. “There’s a lot more preparation to be done for the rest of the season.”

Air Force improved to 14-0 in season openers under coach Troy Calhoun. It’s the latest the team has kicked off a season — and the first time opening with the rival Midshipmen.

Before the game, Navy announced starting quarterback and senior George Silvanic, who was moved from offensive line to defensive tackle a few weeks ago out of necessity, got the idea. “I’ve got to keep moving forward.”

The game was the first for Silvanic, who has been with the team since his freshman year. He was redshirted in 2019.

The Midshipmen never completely found their groove on offense.

“It hurts to lose to Air Force and to lose this way in a convincing manner, is very disheartening,” Navy coach Ken Niumatalolo said. “They got after us.”

The win puts the Falcons in prime position during the annual round-robin Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy competition between the academies. Should Air Force win at Army on Nov. 7, they would seal the title from Navy.

The takeaway

Navy: Niumatalolo and Navy haven’t won at Falcon Stadium since 2012.

Air Force: The Falcons extended their winning streak to nine straight dating to last season.

This & that

The pregame skydivers socially distanced by landing in the field adjacent to Falcon Stadium. ... Falcons CB Davide Eure was ejected on the second play of the game for targeting. ... Navy safety Kevin Brennan was disqualified for targeting early in the third quarter. ... Air Force unsealed uniforms to honor the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of World War II Black pilots and ground crew from the U.S. Army Air Forces that fought in World War II.
Goin’ back to Cali
Baker leads Astros to hostile Los Angeles for Divisional-round showdown with A’s

By Beth Harris
Associated Press

The Houston Astros are returning to the scene of the crime. The Los Angeles Dodgers won’t be there, but their fans surely won’t let the visitors forget.

While the Dodgers head to Texas for the NL Division Series, their ballpark is hosting the AL Division Series in a post-season relocated due to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

The Oakland Athletics and pitcher Mike Fiers will be in Los Angeles, too. Fiers last year revealed the Astros’ sign-stealing plot during the 2017 World Series, which they won in seven games over the Dodgers and celebrated on their rival’s field.

Now, Fiers will be facing his old team in the best-of-five series that begins Monday. “Nobody’s mentioned his name,” first-year Astros manager Dusty Baker said Friday. “I haven’t heard Mike Fiers’ name all year until you just mentioned it.”

SEE HOSTILE ON PAGE 21