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

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

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

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

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

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

“In light of COVID-19, advanced health and safety precautions have become a top priority and part of the new normal for TSA,” Administrator David Pekoske said in a statement that accompanied the announcement.

“As a result, we are exploring rapid testing and deployment of this touchless, self-service technology.”

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

TSA pilots ‘self-service’ ID checks at airport
Exchange doubles credit limit on troops’ uniforms

By Corey Dickstein
Stars and Stripes

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

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

Soldiers, airmen, Marines and members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to participate in the program. About 474,000 troops are now enrolled in the exchange’s uniform fast-train program, according to the exchange statement.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Correction

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

USMC base barbecue blamed for firefighting foam leak

By Matthew M. Burke and Ayami Ichihashi
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An outdoor barbecue near the Marine Corps Air Station Futenma flight line triggered the release of 60,000 gallons of potentially toxic firefighting foam on April 10, according to a Marine Corps review of that event.

About 22,000 gallons of the aqueous foam were contained on base. The remainder traveled off base through a storm drain and into a nearby stream and neighborhood.

Japanese government officials condemned the incident at the time. Afterward, the Marines escorched Japan’s environmental experts onto MCAS Futenma to obtain soil and water samples.

The Marine Corps Installations Pacific announced the results of its probe in an emailed statement Friday evening. They provided no further information on the barbecue incident and did not return messages seeking further comment Friday evening.

The Marines said their investigation found “no threat to human health from either the storm water or soil levels,” according to the statement. “There were no drinking water sources impacted by the effects of this spill,” it stated.

U.S. military officials in Japan say the foam used at Futenma contains PFOS and PFOA.

PFOS, or perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, and PFOA, perfluorooctanoic acid, are known to cause tumors, increases in body and organ weight and death in animals.

The synthetic organic acids are also found in aircraft grease, water-repellant materials, cleaning agents and other products.

Japaen set a combined safety threshold of 0.05 micrograms per liter for PFOS and PFOA on April 1. The threshold is not law, but a quality standard guideline. The United States’ threshold is 0.07 micrograms per liter.

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

The Marines said the levels of contamination found in stormwater off base were below the 0.05 micrograms per liter target value established by Japan for PFOS and PFOA.

As a result of its review, Marine Corps Installations Pacific held an all-hands seminar to teach Marines about the fire suppression system, improved the signage regarding the system’s use and increased restrictions on the use of open flames near the flight line, the statement said.

Results of the investigation were shared with the Japanese and Okinawa prefectural governments as well as with the city of Ginowan.

The Marine statement indicated they would replace the firefighting foam.

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

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

“I am sure they came up with the prevention plan not to repeat this incident again,” said a prefectural spokesman from the U.S. military matters section. “We will monitor to make sure they follow the new prevention protocol.”

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

An official from Okinawa prefectural environmental section said Friday evening that the Defense Ministry would soon start monitoring PFOS and PFOA levels in the Uchidomari River, into which base stormwater drains.

“We cannot say we are relieved because there are other places around Futenma where high amounts of PFOS and PFOA were detected,” the spokesman said. “We will keep asking Marine officials to allow us into the base to investigate the other locations where the high amount ... has been detected.”

Austal USA delivers 12th fast transport ship to Navy

By Christian Lopez
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of its 12th Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship, the USS Independence-class ship that can successfully meet a wide range of missions, Tim Roberts, strategic and theater sealift program manager, Program Executive Office, Ships, said in a Navy release Thursday.

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

Austal is building the 13th fast transport ship, the USNS Apalachicola, and construction on the 14th, the USNS Cody, is expected to begin before the end of the year.
Taliban members return to Doha for Afghan peace talks

**BY KATHY GANNON**

Associated Press

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

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

Less than 24 hours after the delayed negotiations were the second, critical part to a peace deal the United States signed with the Taliban in February in Doha.

The Taliban delegation’s arrival in Qatar, where the group keeps its political office, came as a top Afghan government body has offered to help mediate for delays in starting talks.

In a tweet Saturday, the spokesman for Kabul’s High Council for National Reconciliation, Faizullah Khwazoom, said the government was ready to start direct negotiations.

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

In a subsequent Saturday tweet, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid announced a delegation to the U.S. for peace negotiations.

The U.S. Department of State had said Friday evening that a senior delegation was expected to arrive in Doha on Sunday.

The Taliban delegation’s insufficient planning for the hazards of the vessel’s intended transit, according to the report.

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

The Fitzgerald returned to sea in February, after about 2 1/2 years of repair work.

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s National Transportation Safety Board released its report last month.

The report’s findings mirror those of the Navy’s 2017 post-collision report that called the accident preventable.

The Navy said it had already made such revisions and has implemented 107 of 111 recommendations in its own post-collision report, including improving training and certification standards, tightened surface warfare officer qualifications and changed sleep schedule policy to better complement circadian rhythm.

The remaining four recommendations are expected to be implemented by the end of December.

The Fitzgerald returned to sea in February, after about 2 1/2 years of repair work.

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

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Sexual Abuse Claims in Boy Scouts Bankruptcy

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

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

Who Should File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

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

When and How Should I File a Sexual Abuse Claim?

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

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

ACT NOW Before Time Runs Out:

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

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

Other Support

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

Your information will be kept private.

www.OfficialBSAClaims.com  1-866-907-2721
**VIRUS OUTBREAK**

**‘Small number’ of Reagan sailors test positive**

**By Caitlin Doornbos**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan - A “second wave” of coronavirus aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan tested positive for the coronavirus while underway last week, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Kathleen Mommsen confirmed on Friday to Stars and Stripes.

The sailors tested positive on Aug. 27, received immediate medical treatment and were taken off the ship, she said in an email. None were hospitalized.

“There are currently no positive COVID sailors aboard USS Ronald Reagan,” Mommsen said. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The Navy is investigating how the coronavirus made its way onto the carrier, which was at sea in June. Personnel who deploy to the ship are required to undergo a two-week quarantine and test negative for the coronavirus before boarding the vessel, according to Navy policy.

“An investigation is underway to determine the source of infection,” Mommsen said. “The Reagan crew has worked extremely hard to minimize the risk of infection onboard since they deployed more than three months ago.”

The aircraft carrier made a brief port visit to Guam on Aug. 22-26, but crewmembers were not allowed to leave designated liberty areas on the pier and a secured beach at Naval Base Guam to prevent exposure to the virus, according to a Navy statement from Aug. 21.

The 7th Fleet has conducted five “safe haven” liberty port visits for deployed ships this year as the Navy keeps ships at sea longer to avoid coronavirus exposure, according to the statement.

“With the exception of a few mandatory personnel to ensure the ship’s safe arrival, there will be no interaction with any personnel outside the designated liberty areas,” the Navy said about the Reagan’s visit. “For the docking process, all COVID mitigations will be in place to include social distancing, masks, gloves and minimal interactions.”

A coronavirus outbreak on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in March sidelined the aircraft carrier for more than a month in Guam. Meanwhile, the Navy disembarked, isolated and tested crewmembers and sanitized the ship. More than 1,150 Roosevelt sailors tested positive in that outbreak, one of whom died.

The Reagan cases did not appear to slow the carrier, whose crewmembers took part in a live-fire exercise on Thursday in the Philippine Sea, according to Navy photographs posted online.

The ship is taking aggressive action and applying all mitigations to protect the health of our sailors and stop the spread of the virus in accordance with [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and Navy guidance as we continue to identify and eliminate any potential vectors of the virus,” Mommsen said.

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**Barbecues help Yokota’s new airmen get through coronavirus quarantine**

**By Seth Robson**
Stars and Stripes

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

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

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

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

Staff Sgt. Valerie Williams, 30, of Washington, D.C., was one of a few quarantined airmen chomping burgers Friday in a yard about 20 yards from where meat sizzled on grills and party music blared from a speaker outside a tower block on Yokota.

The aerospace ground-equipment airman, who arrived in Japan after 18 months at Osan Air Base, South Korea, said she was surprised when someone knocked on her door to invite her to lunch after five days in quarantine.

“If I was wandering around there was somewhere for us to go and get food and go outside and see what’s going on,” Williams said. “Being able to see the base and look around is really good.”

The time alone hadn’t been too bad, she said, adding that the two-bedroom apartment where she is staying is bigger than her digs at Osan. During the time alone she’s been studying Japanese and itching to get out and explore Japan and taste local food such as ramen and sushi.

Master Sgt. Christopher Smith, 43, of Rochester, Minn., was at the barbecue representing the Yokota First Sergeants State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**21st TSC soldiers have more flexibility for leave following rule change**

**By Jennifer H. Swan**
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Service members assigned to the Army’s 21st Theater Support Command in Europe no longer need a two-star’s approval for leave following a rule change in June. Personnel who deploy to the high-risk area need to be approved by the commander, according to a 21st TSC memo.

The change, part of updated travel guidance issued by the command last month, allows requests for unofficial travel to be handled by the service members’ units and gives 21st TSC soldiers more choice in where they go on leave, officials said.

Under the new rule, which supersedes a general order first issued in June, commanders at the rank of lieutenant colonel or higher — essentially the first lieutenant colonel in a soldier’s chain of command — had the authority to approve leave requests, said Master Sgt. Dan Bailey, 21st TSC policy planning chief.

Prior to the rule change, which was announced on Aug. 28, officials or unofficial travel to areas at high risk for coronavirus required an “exception to policy” from 21st TSC commander Maj. Gen. Christopher Mohan, Bailey said. Most requests were denied, he said.

Service members with the 21st TSC are still required to complete a 14-day quarantine upon return from a high-risk area, per the Army’s COVID-19 guidelines.

But commanders at the battalion level can determine whether they can afford to have a soldier in quarantine or arrange for an alternate workplace or schedule when they return, he said.

“Service members must get permission for any overnight stays outside of the country they are assigned to, the updated guidance says.”

Soldiers with the 21st TSC are assigned to U.S. Army Garrison Rheinland-Pfalz, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux, Kosovo, Romania and Bulgaria.

Official international travel to high-risk locations still requires approval from Mohan, Bailey said.

For official travel, command members use a U.S. European Command map to determine if an area is high-risk, while for unofficial travel, they use host nation references, Bailey said.

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

In its latest update issued Wednesday, the German public health agency said the whole of Spain, including the Canary Islands, has been classified as a risk area, as has Zadar county in Croatia, joining Sibenik-Knin and Split-Dalmatia counties, which were added to RKI’s list last month.

Antwerp in Belgium has been removed from the list of at-risk areas, but Brussels is still on it.

Swan.jennifer@stripes.com
Twitter: @JenniferSwan
US Army bans masks with valves for soldiers in S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

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

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

South Korea’s Ministry of Food and Drug Safety also recommended against wearing masks with valves. U.S. Forces Korea made it mandatory for people to wear masks when in public off-base, in accordance with rules set by local communities after another coronavirus outbreak began last month.

On base, people must wear them inside stores and other crowded facilities. Some troops say it’s impossible to maintain a safe distance from other people, USFK said.

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

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

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

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

Some also asked if refunds would be provided since the Vogmasks sold at the post exchanges cost about $30.

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

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

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

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

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

The Air Force has begun encouraging people not to wear them based on the CDC recommendations but hasn’t issued a policy.

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

USFK previously banned soldiers from wearing masks while playing sports, but several months ago the service issued a new policy to allow face coverings under certain conditions following complaints that more protection was needed against poor air quality in South Korea.

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

Masks with valves, a common site among construction workers, may be more comfortable and make it easier to breathe.

However, recent studies have found that they are less effective at preventing the spread of the coronavirus because they put people near the wearer at risk.

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

“Masks with exhalation ports include a one-way valve, which restricts airflow when breathing in, but allows free outflow of air,” the article said. “The inhaled air gets filtered through the mask material; however, the exhaled breath passes through the valve unfiltered.”

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

Yokota creates specialized medical squadrons to improve health care

BY ERICA EARL
Stars and Stripes

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

The restructuring is part of a transition announced by the 374th Medical Group on Aug. 25. It creates two new medical squadrons — one solely for active-duty troops and another to treat family members and Defense Department civilians.

The tweaks were scheduled prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

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

“We are at an unconventional time with COVID-19, so the timeline and how we had to modify,” COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

Heath said that being among the last groups to make the changes allows her to see how the transition took place elsewhere.

She said she would like to see Yokota do a better job than its stateside counterparts notifying its clients of their new primary care managers.

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

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

Heath said the 374th Medical Group is seeking outpatient reactions and requesting feedback during the transition.

People may contact the patient advocates in each of the hospital’s departments, fill out customer comment cards on site or complete surveys after appointments.

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

“The purpose is not to separate patients, but to get staff that should be working as a team together in one location,” she said.
VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDPUP

As deaths slide, vigilance urged over long weekend

Associated Press

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

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

On Saturday, the state reported nearly 3,800 news cases of COVID-19, pushing the total number of infections to nearly 644,000 since the outbreak began in the spring.

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

Arizona

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

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

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

Some Arizona schools have reopened for in-person instruction, but J.O. Combs Unified in San Tan Valley, was thwarted last month because numerous teachers called in sick while voicing concerns about the safety of reopening schools.

Arkansas

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

There are a total of 64,690 total cases and 882 people have died, the health department said, an increase from 64,175 cases and 873 deaths reported Friday. The true number of cases in Arkansas is likely higher because many people have not been tested, and studies have suggested people can be infected and not feel sick.

Illinois

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

An additional 23 deaths linked to the coronavirus were reported Saturday. Illinois has reported 28,177 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike said the state’s four-week-old “reopening” will be slowed if new cases of COVID-19 continue to increase.

The state data showed the infection rate for the week ending Sept. 6 was 2.56%. The new case rate is 2.80%.

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

Missouri

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

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

Health officials also reported that the number of confirmed cases had risen by 1,987 to 92,202.

Amid the rise in cases, St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson said the city would revert to its distance learning model. Vaccines for all school staff are expected to be delivered by early December.

Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Health officials have directed the members of nine fraternities and sororities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to quarantine themselves after 38 students tested positive for COVID-19.

The orders from UW-Madison and Dane County health officials affect 420 Greek life students, who have been instructed to quarantine for two weeks, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

UW-Madison is also requiring COVID-19 tests for students who live in the 38 Greek life houses. The university did not say if the cases were linked to any parties or large gatherings, though the Madison city attorney’s office last month warned two fraternities that their gatherings violated local public health orders.

So far, 440 UW-Madison students have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the university.

Nevada

OMAHA — The varsity and junior varsity football teams at Omaha Creighton Prep are in a two-week quarantine after a player tested positive for the coronavirus.

Creighton Prep said through a notice to parents and later in a news release Saturday that all activities for the varsity and JV teams are suspended for now, the Omaha World-Herald reported.

The school said that all players on those squads and their coaches had enough contact with the player to require a self-quarantine.

The state’s online tracker shows 35,661 have tested positive for the virus and 404 have died from it. The 7-day rolling average of the positivity rate in Nebraska has risen over the past two weeks to 11.18% on Friday, according to data from The COVID Tracking Project.
Harris’ mostly virtual campaign gets Wis. road test

By Kathleen Ronayne  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Kamala Harris told a friendly crowd of Hollywood donors on Thursday they’d be surprised by how many states she’s visiting daily, if only virtually.

Earlier in the week, she’d campaigned before supporters in Minnesota, California and Connecticut, and she was greeting Missouri donors next.

Harris hasn’t been on a plane in more than a month. Three weeks after joining Joe Biden as the Democratic vice presidential nominee, the California senator is still campaigning largely in front of a computer screen to relatively small audiences.

That’s about to change. On Monday, Harris will travel to Milwaukee on her first traditional campaign trip. Biden’s campaign hasn’t yet said what she plans to do in the critical swing state. Her trip to Wisconsin comes after Biden visited Kenosha this past week to meet with the family of Jacob Blake, who was shot by police, and talk to the community about racial justice and protests in the city.

The coronavirus pandemic has radically altered campaigning for Democrats, who, unlike Republicans, are largely avoiding in-person gatherings and organizing digitally.

For Harris, that’s so far meant a mix of fundraising and organizing events, along with local press interviews and one speech aimed at President Donald Trump’s handling of the coronavirus. Leaning into her role as the first Black woman on a major party’s presidential ticket, Harris has spoken with Black leaders and activists in events that aren’t open to the press, but she did not travel with Biden to Kenosha.

“She’s been on the road. She’s out herself,” Biden said Friday. “I talk with her almost every day. I speak with her and we work together and I have every confidence in her. There’s nothing about not campaigning together. It’s about being able to cover more territory.”

In private events over the past two weeks, Harris has met with Black leaders and activists to thank them for their support and motivate them as the campaign enters the final stretch. Last Saturday, Harris held one with Black women leaders who had urged Biden to choose a Black woman as his running mate and another with Black men, said Donna Brazile, a former head of the Democratic National Committee, who was on the first call, where singer Bebe Winans serenaded Harris with his song “Born for This.”

“We had a wonderful time just showering her with powerful energy for the battles ahead,” Brazile said.

Brazile said it will be important for Harris to get out for non-virtual events “where she can actually see the pulse of people,” but she said the digital organizing has created strong enthusiasm. Last week, Brazile joined a video call with students from historically black colleges and universities as they spoke about how to boost Harris and hold campus voter registration drives.

“She did something to make the VP seem like a rock star and people are just donating,” Brazile said.

Steve Benjamin, mayor of Columbus, S.C., said Friday it makes sense that Harris has been used mainly in a fundraising role thus far but that voters wanted to see her more.

“The importance of on-the-ground exposure, people seeing you in the community, is so important,” said Benjamin, who initially supported Mike Bloomberg’s 2020 Democratic presidential bid before backing Biden. He joined Harris’s private call with Black male leaders, discussing issues like racial injustice and economic inequality. He said he expects there will be opportunities for Harris to get out in swing states like Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida and Georgia.

“It matters right now,” he said. “More and more citizen engagement by Sen. Harris is what people want.”

Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., will travel to Milwaukee, Wis., on Monday for her first traditional campaign trip.

Protesters and supporters of President Donald Trump gather Saturday outside Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Va. before the departure of Trump’s motorcade.

Census Bureau ordered to stop winding down operations

By Mike Schneider  
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The U.S. Census Bureau for now must stop following a plan that would have it winding down operations in order to finish the 2020 census at the end of September, according to a federal judge’s order.

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose late Saturday issued a temporary restraining order against the Census Bureau and the Commerce Department, which oversees the agency. The order stops the Census Bureau from cutting back on full-time field workers until a court hearing is held on Sept. 17.

The once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident helps determine how $1.5 trillion in federal funding is distributed and how many congressional seats each state gets in a process known as apportionment.

The temporary restraining order was requested by a coalition of cities, counties and civil rights groups that had sued the Census Bureau, demanding it restore its winding-down plan for finishing the census at the end of October, instead of using a revised plan to end operations at the end of September. The coalition had argued the earlier deadline would cause the Census Bureau to overlook minority communities in the census, leading to an inaccurate count.

Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau pushed back ending the count from the end of July to the end of October and asked Congress to extend the deadline for turning in the apportionment numbers from December, as required by law, into next spring. When the Republican-controlled Senate failed to take up the request, the bureau was forced to create a revised schedule that had the census ending in September, according to the statistical agency.

In her order, Koh wrote that previous court cases had concluded that it’s in the public interest that Congress be fairly apportioned and that the federal funds be distributed using an accurate census.

“Thus, the balance of the harms weighs in public interest tip sharply in Plaintiffs’ favor,” Koh said.
Portland protests hit its 100th day, no sign of ending

By Andrew Selsey
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

Lealhy said he wanted to see a significant reduction to the local police budget, with the money directed to other community needs.

A protester screams at police as Portland protests continue, reaching 100 consecutive nights Saturday, in Portland, Ore.

More than 200 airlifted to safety from Calif. wildfire

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

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

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

Tune said the campers were told to shelter in place until fire crews, aided by water-dropping aircraft, could gain access to the site.

The lake 35 miles northeast of Fresno is surrounded by thick pine forests and is a popular destination for boating and fishing. Bone-dry conditions and the hot weather fueled the flames.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Crowds pack beaches as temperatures rise

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

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

One death was reported because of the heat.

Officials urged people to conserve electricity to ease strain on the state’s power grid.
Police searching for man groping women

IL

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

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

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

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

Paddlewheels from 1819 sunken steamer found

VT

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

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

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

The Phoenix was launched in 1815. It sailed a regular schedule along the lake.

Un-bee-lievable

Local beekeeper Tim Vermillion is surrounded by worker bees in his backyard as he inspects a hive for healthy honeybees and a queen bee for the coming fall season in Roanoke, Va.

Backyard beekeeping is increasing in popularity across the nation even as honeybees and other bee species, crucial for pollinating crops, are facing declines in population.

Couple believed dead after blast, standoff

WA

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

KOMO reported deputies responded to a 911 call about a domestic violence shooting.

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

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

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

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

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

From wire reports
one of nuclear-armed states, global institutions and much deeper economic interdependence.

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

“The means by which China would increase its power are vastly different, as are the means by which other countries might resist it,” said Jennifer Lind, an Asia expert at Dartmouth University.

The rest of Asia is watching with a mixture of opportunism and trepidation, eager to benefit from China’s trade and investment, wary of its size and strength and its sprawling territorial claims. Much larger than Japan, with 10 times the population, it is potentially better able to resist it,” said Lind, by which other countries might be willing to stake out its territorial claims.

Less welcome is China’s growing outreach and a gradual buildup of its military forces to boost its standing.

“A rising Japan sought to join the league of European colonial powers by invading and occupying China and several Southeast Asian nations, often in brutal fashion. Japan formally surrendered 75 years ago this week onboard the USS Missouri, its empire-building ambitions in tatters after U.S. atomic bombs leveled two cities, ushering in the nuclear age. Chinese leaders marked the anniversary Thursday in a brief and solemn ceremony at a memorial hall that remembers those who fought the Japanese.

Rama Natarasaha lived through Japan’s World War II occupation of Malaysia as a boy. The veteran commentator who has written a book on the Japanese invasion of Southeast Asia, cautions against comparing China’s Belt and Road Initiative to the Japanese occupation of Malaysia as a boy.

“Japan could match the United States, even in the Pacific,” said Richard Heydarian, a Philippine analyst who has written a book on the Japanese invasion of Southeast Asia, cautions against comparing China’s Belt and Road Initiative to the Japanese occupation of Malaysia as a boy.

“Where China is fighting the Japanese.

Ramón Navarrete, an Oxford University scholar and author of a book on the Japanese invasion of China, cautions against comparisons between then and now.

“The age of classic empires is over,” he said. “Tomorrow’s disputes will be about economics and technology, both civilian and military. Reading history is useful and necessary but it is not a guide to the future.”

Again similar to Japan, China is accused of stealing technology and falling short on promises to open its own markets as it strives to become a global competitor in industries from electric cars to advanced medical equipment.

More fundamentally, China’s ruling Communist Party fears that its one-party system will never be accepted by the West, said Richard Heydarian, a Philippine analyst who has written extensively about the U.S.-China rivalry in the Pacific.

That generates “the sense that … no matter what they do, the West will always see them as a threat” and seek to contain or sabotage China’s rise, he said.

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

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

China assembles most of the world’s smartphones, personal computers and other electronics. Its growing market is critical to China. The Trump administration is putting curbs on Chinese tech companies, from telecom giant Huawei to the highly popular TikTok video app, and leaning on its allies to do the same.

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China assembles most of the world’s smartphones, personal computers and other electronics. Its growing market is critical to China.

Announcing the Best of 2020

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Japan hit with second typhoon

By Yuri Kageyama
Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Political protests in Hong Kong lead to about 290 arrests

Associated Press

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Loud and happy screams erupt in unison from the seven-member pop stars BTS when they hear they have notched their first No. 1 hit on the all-genre Billboard Hot 100 chart. “DREAM,” yells band member RM.

“It still doesn’t feel real,” adds SUGA, “like the song of the year.”

“Dynamite,” the group’s first all-English song, debuted at No. 1 on the U.S. music charts last week, making BTS the first Korean pop act to top the chart. The upbeat song supplanted “WAP,” the raunchy smash hit by Cardi B and Megan Thee Stallion.

“Never expected it,” RM tells The Associated Press of beating “WAP” for the top spot. “Never! It’s like the song of the year.”

“The Batman” filming shut down amid positive COVID test for star Pattinson

From wire reports

Warner Bros.’ much anticipated revival “The Batman” was halted after the star of the production tested positive for COVID-19, making it one of the highest profile sets to be hobbled by the health crisis.

The Batman himself, Robert Pattinson, is the person infected, according to a person familiar with the production who was not authorized to comment.

Vanity Fair first reported the actor had tested positive.

Filming, which had restarted in Britain on Sept. 1, is now paused, Warner Bros. confirmed.

The action movie is one of the biggest productions to get back to filming since a global shutdown of the industry in March. “The Batman” is the latest reboot of the DC Comics character.

The hiatus shows the difficulties Hollywood faces in trying to resume filming as the pandemic persists. Studios, which have major movie productions not only to complete but to launch, have been delaying release dates for films.

The death of a crew member after a commercial shoot in Austin, Texas, last month has divided many in the film community over whether it is safe enough to resume filming.

“The Batman” had been set for release on June 25, 2021, but that has since been pushed back to Oct. 1, 2021.

‘Goofather: Part III’ to get new ending

“The Goofather: Part III” will be rereleased in select theaters in December. “Part II” and “Goofather” were announced in a news release Sept. 3.

Retrofitted “The Goofather, Coda: The Death of Michael Corleone,” this director’s cut has a new beginning, ending and various other edits courtesy of director Francis Ford Coppola alongside screenwriter and original “Gooffather” author Mario Puzo. It will later be released on digital and DVD.

The new version “is an acknowledgment of Mario’s and my preferred title and our original intentions,” said Coppola in the release. “With these changes and the restored footage and sound, to me, it is a more appropriate conclusion to the ‘Goofather’ and the ‘Goofather: Part II’...”


Other news

Silento, the rapper known for “Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae),” was charged Sept. 3 with trying to hit two people with a hatchet in their home.

Prosecutors allege that Silento, whose legal name is Richard Lamar Hawk, walked into an unlocked stranger’s home in the Valley Village area of Los Angeles and swung a hatchet at the two people inside before one of them disarmed him. The rapper is charged with assault with a deadly weapon and is being held in jail on $105,000 bail, the Los Angeles County district attorney’s office said.

The alleged attack occurred while he was out on bail for another arrest in Orange County, authorities said.

Army service could be delayed for BTS

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

Legislation proposed in South Korea would add entertainers who have made “great contributions” in popular culture to the list of men who can delay mandatory military service. That would almost certainly include BTS. The bill would ensure that the boy band can perform with its current lineup for at least a few more years. The group’s oldest member, Kim Seok-jin, is 27 and would normally be required to enter the military by the end of next year.

BTS grossed $170 million last year, ranking it fifth among the world’s top concert draws, according to concert trade publication Pollstar. All male citizens aged 18 to 28 are required to serve in the military for about two years. Current law allows waivers for some elite athletes and classical musicians, but doesn’t include popular entertainers.

Ken Jennings, a 74-time champion, will serve as a consulting producer on season 37 of “Jeopardy!”

“Jeopardy!” is returning for its 37th season, with greater social distance between Alex Trebek and the contestants, and a new role for all-time great contestant Ken Jennings.

A redesigned set for the coronavirus era will allow for the contestants to be further apart and at a greater distance from Trebek, who has continued as host after a diagnosis last year of pancreatic cancer.

Trebek said last month that he’s responding exceptionally well to treatment for and expects to mark his two-year survival next February.

The casting of contestants was done entirely online for this season, which will have a 100 percent studio audience. Jennings, the record-setting contestant who won 74 straight shows and took last year’s “Jeopardy! The Greatest of All Time” title, is joining the series as a consulting producer.

He’ll appear on-air with his own video categories, develop projects and act as a public ambassador for the show.

From The Associated Press
Russia using media to wage war in Belarus

By Eli Lake
Bloomberg Opinion

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

Of course, President Vladimir Putin recently mused, Russia may eventually need to intervene in Belarus militarily. But as his spokesman put it last week: “At present we see that the situation is under control.” Putin is trying to convey the impression that he has addressed his neighbors’ crisis that has exploded in national unrest since Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko declared victory in a stolen election last month. Russia, Putin wants the world to believe, is holding back.

This perception is deceiving. In reality, Russia is very active — the largest intervention in Belarus, the first part of which is taking place in the media. Belarusian state television last week repeated a false report on a nonexistent politician with those from the Kremlin-financed RT network, which Lukashenko confirmed last week in an interview. “You understand how difficult it was for me to take the decision in such a difficult period,” he told an RT correspondent.

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

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

This is the opposite of what was happening in Belarus. The state began arresting protesters almost immediately after the disputed election last month. The BBC has reported that some of those detained said they were tortured in jail.

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

There is no direct evidence that FSB officers were on those flights. But Barros and Clark note that before there is any confirmation of the FSB’s role in advising Lukashenko on how to dispel the protests. After that first flight on Aug. 18, for example, the Belarusian security services ended a policy of mass arrests, which fueled unrest, and began a strategy of targeted detentions of organizers and opposition leaders.

In an interview with reporters last week, Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun said there was little doubt that Russia was “exercising some influence” in Belarus, and said that publicly available flight tracking data showed that “elite aircraft from the FSB intelligence service has flown into Minsk on more than a couple of occasions.”

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

More broadly, Putin’s offensive in Belarus is yet more evidence that Russia considers the media landscape a battlefield for its own influence in neighboring states. Moscow, the war requires actual troops, as in 2014 in Ukraine. Other times, the goal is to sow chaos and mistrust in democracy. This time, the Kremlin’s strategy is to be trying to quell a democratic uprising without firing a single shot.

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

Rest of Asia will miss Abe more than Japan will

By Mihir Sharma
Bloomberg Opinion

A month before he ended his first stint as prime minister in 2007, Shinzo Abe addressed the Indian Parliament in New Delhi. Quoting the Mughal scholar-prince Dara Shikoh, Abe spoke of the “confluence of the two nations’ values and beliefs,” hingeing on regional and international dynamics that would have a bearing on how democratic institutions develop.

Three years since, it has become commonplace to speak of the “ Indo-Pacific.” Abe’s vision, as expressed then, is now central to how diplomats and politicians across Asia, Oceania and beyond have begun to think. No leader in recent memory has so completely and profoundly transformed the strategic thinking in it.

This point should not be lost now that Abe is stepping down from a second spell as prime minister. Abe’s domestic political journey, as prime minister and opposition leader, is likely to continue to dominate his domestic politics and regional policies. Where Abe’s absence will be felt most keenly is in the region he transformed just as dramatically.

Abe’s presidency will have to hope that Japan continues down the path he laid out, for several reasons. First, they need the consistent leadership that has driven the region toward the kind of policies that will benefit its interests. Second, the countries of the Indo-Pacific need a self-confident Japan to continue to promote its values overseas. This is partly a question of sustaining a positive, liberal narrative that continues to stress the importance of open seas and open markets. But it’s also about hard cash: Under the “Abe model,” Japan has invested strongly in regional infrastructure, such as land and through the Asian Development Bank. Many growth-hungry countries in Asia are struggling to attract Western finance and are turning to Chinese investment. Japan’s huge pool of investable savings is central to their aspirations.

Yet I, for one, still worry that the energy and enthusiasm for making over Japan’s role in the world will be lost now that he’s left the scene. That would be a disaster for the region’s democracies.

Abe’s reference to “like-minded” countries in his 2007 speech seems prescient today, given the global slide toward illiberalism, including within our own polities. The day Abe returned to office in 2012, he wrote a column that put forward “the Indo-Pacific” as a vision for regional cooperation, further specifying that the region’s democracies needed to commit themselves to “providing the foundation for peace.”

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

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

BY JASON BURWEN Special to The Washington Post

Nearby 20 minutes into my daughter's second grade of school, her first-grade class is still focused on how to mute and unmute during the videoconference. The teacher is making valiant attempts to keep her 6-year-olds engaged while guiding them through the process of learning how to use a very kid-unfriendly user interface of Microsoft Teams. To break up the muting-unmutting experiments, she calls on the students, one at a time, to say what they think their favorite animal is. But we wonder how we will manage our daughter while also serving as technical assistants. I'm impatient with my daughter's flailing attention, but I realize that the real targets of her ire are the compounding societal failures. It is aggravating to see a first grader having to deal with the concealment of political mismanagement, and who assumes that she's doing something wrong. This shouldn't be her first lesson of first grade.

If you haven't seen virtual elementary school in action, you can't grasp the mad-dening technical hurdles. After the animal-naming exercise, the teacher splits the kids into two groups — which means detailed instructions on how to leave our current videoconference and join the new one. The teacher offers these instructions twice. My daughter unplugs the laptop and carries it to her bed where she can lie down on her back, chin on her chest. A parent pipes up to say the new videoconferences are locked. The teacher can't unlock them; meanwhile, parents trickle back into the original videoconference, each announc- ing the same problem.

It's clear that my wife and I will be helping our daughter for many more days, and many more hours, than we anticipated. Still, an hour into the day, my daughter begins to impress me with her attention to the screen. Well done, kiddo! Then a system alert chimes. I go over to look at the screen, which reveals that she has discovered Microsoft Paint and is experimenting with electronic doodling while the teacher talks. "I can still listen while I do this!"

G.O.P. attempts to limit vote-by-mail put veterans at risk

BY SEN. TAMMY DUCKWORTH Special to Stars and Stripes

When you're deployed to a war zone where even a fleeting moment of democracy seems a dream, thou- sands are dying for the significance of being able to take part in your own country's free, fair elections comes into sharp relief.

I still remember the afternoon I received a vote-by-mail ballot at my Army Helicopter Battalion Operations Center in Balad, Iraq. The election was 10 days before an RPG exploded in the Black Hawk I was flying. The candidates whom I could vote for — so while I didn't know it then, filling out that ballot would be one of my last acts of civic duty. The ballot was a window into the United States I longed for — without American forces I was proud of in that moment: Six thousand miles away from my usual polling place, my unit and I were locked in the most American act possible. We were making our voices heard, even if it was from the edge of the world.

It shouldn't have been easier for troops to vote from Iraq in 2004 than it is for veterans to vote in 2020 on U.S. soil. Never- theless, that's the reality as millions of veterans now face an impossible decision: whether to risk their lives to go to the ballot box in the midst of a deadly pandemic.

But let's be clear: That's the reality only because certain Republicans are making it so. For voters in the few states that conduct their elections nearly entirely by mail, there is no real decision; they can safely, securely send in their ballots from home, without worrying about taking public tran- sit to polling places, getting too close to others or touching shared voting screens.

Yet in an obviously partisan ploy, the G.O.P. has been trying to stamp out any efforts to expand that kind of no-excuse vote-by-mail access to more Americans.

Led by President Donald Trump, Republic- ans have weaponized this pandemic to continue their decades-long march to sup- press the ballot, knowing that fewer people will vote this fall if not given the option to do so safely, with the belief that lower turn- out will help their candidates. And they're doing so despite research suggesting that voting by mail doesn't give either party an advantage and polling showing that about 65% of Americans support no-excuse mail-in voting as a safe alternative during this pandemic.

The Republican National Committee has sued states to try to keep them from ex- panding vote-by-mail. Trump has continu- ally threatened states' funding for pushing that expansion, suggesting it could lead to cats and dogs getting ballots — ignoring that he voted by mail in Florida's primary last month. Then most recently, Trump megalodon-turned-Postmaster General Louis DeJoy tried to please his boss by nix- ing overtime for postal employees, cutting hours at post offices and shuttering mail processing facilities, all of which would've made it unimaginably harder for Ameri- cans' mail-in votes to get tallied this fall.

The glare of national scrutiny forced him to backtrack — although he's still refus- ing to address the damage already done, including saying he has "no intention" of reinstalling the mail-sorting machines that've been taken away under his watch.

We know what would happen if Trump continues to get his way. We saw a preview of it in Wisconsin's election in April, when only five of Milwaukee's 180 polling plac- es were open, forcing voters to risk their health by waiting hours for their turn at the ballot box. And since at least 40 states have election laws as bad or worse than Wiscon- sin's, an untold number of Americans will be more likely to fail sick come November if Republican officials insist on putting po- litical self-interest ahead of the health and constitutional rights of the people.

This should not be anything close to a partisan issue. The people most hurt here will be the people most vulnerable to this virus, which includes many of our veter- ans. Almost half of American Veterans are over age 65. Millions were exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam, while countless more have been exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan in more recent conflicts — two types of exposure that we know lead to serious respiratory issues that, in turn, make those suffering more susceptible to COVID-19.

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

That's a shameful, shameless strategy from a president who has clearly forgotten that we fought for this country, and that we'll vote for it just weeks ago. No true leader would put our veterans' health in unnecessary danger. But we will do it, "one says. It's at that point that our collective failure is her failure.

Our veterans deserve better. Because while we here at home can afford to vote by mail just weeks ago. No true leader would put our veterans' health in unnecessary danger. But we will do it, "one says. It's at that point that our collective failure is her failure.

Jason Burwen is a father of two young children.

Tammy Duckworth, a democrat, represents Illinois in the U.S. Senate.
**Sports on AFN**

**Auto racing**

**Satellite's transactions**

**Deals**

- **Saturday's transactions**
  - Major League Baseball
  - **Baltimore Orioles**
    - Traded RHP Relievo Jimenez to the Seattle Mariners.
  - **Chicago Cubs**
    - Trading 1B Anthony Rizzo to the San Francisco Giants.
  - **Los Angeles Dodgers**
    - Traded C Will Smith to the Chicago Cubs.

**Saturday's races**

- **Bally Total Rewards 200**
  - NASCAR-Sprint Cup Series
  - **Keep Money 150**
    - William Byron
    - John Hunter Nemechek
    - JKich Garnett
    - Jordan Pardy
    - Brandon McOld

**Race Statistics**

- Average Speed: 101.642 mph
- Time of Race: 1 hour, 58 minutes, 32 seconds
- Margin of Victory: 17 seconds

**Next:**

- Mike Tyson on Thursday, 11/2
- C.B. Risco, R.J. Rice, B.B. Jones
- 3: C.B. Risco, R.J. Rice, B.B. Jones
- 4: C.B. Risco, R.J. Rice, B.B. Jones

**Leaders Summary (Driver, Times, Laps, Wins, Wins, Wins, Wins)**

- **Overall Standings**
  - New York 7
  - New York 6
  - New York 5
  - New York 4
  - New York 3

**Sports news**

- **AFN**
  - Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.
  - myafn.net

**Pro soccer**

- **Eastern Conference**
  - Columbus
  - Toronto FC
  - Montreal Impact
  - D.C. United
  - New England
  - Atlanta United
  - Cincinnati
  - Chicago Fire

**Western Conference**

- Sporting KC
  - Houston
  - Minnesota United
  - Portland
  - Vancouver
  - San Jose

**US Championship**

- **East LA City College**
  - **Yardage**: 3,698 yards
  - **Par**: 70
  - **Second Round**

**Pro basketball**

- **Western Conference**
  - **Los Angeles Lakers**
  - **Before**: 70-73-13
  - **After**: 69-71-13
  - **Points**: 70-73-13

- **Eastern Conference**
  - **Philadelphia 76ers**
  - **Before**: 73-64-13
  - **After**: 70-67-13
  - **Points**: 73-64-13

**Pro golf**

- **Tour Championship**
  - **East Lake Golf Club**
  - **Yardage**: 7,469 yards
  - **Par**: 70
  - **Points**: 70-73-13

**Laurens**

- **Major League Soccer**
  - **New York Red Bulls**
  - Named Bradley Wiese as interim head coach.

**Golf**

- **US Championship**
  - **East LA City College**
  - **Yardage**: 3,698 yards
  - **Par**: 70
  - **Second Round**

**Cycling**

- **Tour de France**
  - **Stage 1**
    - **A 142-kilometer (88-mile) ride from**
    - **Koln (Köln)**, Germany to**
    - **Saint-Quentin-Fallavier**, France.
**Williams tops Stephens after slow start**

### US OPEN/KENTUCKY DERBY DAY

**Scoreboard**

**US Open**

**Saturday**

At USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center

**New York**

**Purse:** $21,656,000

**Surface:** Hardcourt outdoor Men’s Singles

**Third Round**

Andrey Rublev (10), Russia, def. Salvatore Caruso, Italy, 6-9, 6-4, 6-3. Daan Nedved (3), Russia, def. Jeffrey John Wolf, United States, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Matteo Berrettini (6), Italy, def. Casper Ruud (30), Norway, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Alex de Minaur (21), Australia, def. Karen Khachanov (11), Russia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Vasek Pospisil, Canada, def. Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Felix Auger-Aliassime (15), Canada, def. Corentin Moutet, France, 6-1, 6-0, 6-4.

Francis Tiafoe, United States, def. Martin Fucsovics, Hungary, 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

**Women’s Singles**

**Third Round**

Maria Sakkari (15), Greece, def. Amanda Anisimova (22), United States, 6-2, 6-2.

Elise Mertens (16), Belgium, def. Caty McNally, United States, 7-5, 6-1.

Karinna Muchova (20), Czech Republic, def. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 6-2, 7-6 (7-4).

Serena Williams (3), United States, def. Sloane Stephens (26), United States, 2-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Donna Vekic (18), Croatia, 6-4, 6-1.

Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, def. Iga Swiatek, Poland, 6-4, 6-2.

Alize Cornet, France, def. Madison Keys (7), United States, 7-6 (4), 3-2, ret.

Sofia Kenin (2), United States, def. Ons Jabeur (27), Tunisia, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

**Men’s Doubles**

**Third Round**

Jamie Murray and Neal Skupski, Britain, def. Matew Middelkoop, Netherlands, and Marcelo Demoliner, Brazil, 6-3, 6-2.

Jared Donaldson and Mate Pavic, Croatia, def. Jack Sock and Jack Whittow, United States, 6-7, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4.

Horia Tecau, Romania, and Jean-Julien Rojer, France, def. Jean-Michel Perniciaro and Juan Sebastian Cabal (1), Colombia, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Roban Bopanna, India, and Denis Shapovalov, Canada, def. Kevin Krawietz and Andreas Mies (6), Germany, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.

**Women’s Doubles**

**Third Round**

Kvetta Peschke, Czech Republic, and Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, def. Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, and Oksana Kastanikova, Georgia, 6-4, 7-5.

Haley Carter, United States, and Lulu Pon, United States, def. Elizabeta Bencova and Evi Konavleova, Slovak Republic, 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Marija Maksimovic, Montenegro and Ayumi Sakurai (2), Belarus, def. Shelby Rogers and Jessica Pegula, United States, 6-3, 6-4.

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

socially distanced in the infiller winner’s circle. “Johnny V. gave him an incredible ride.”


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

Sent off at 3-5 as the biggest Derby favorite in 31 years and part of a smaller field than usual, Tiz the Law settled into fourth while Authentic ran unopposed in front. With a quarter-mile to go, Tiz the Law pulled alongside Authentic and the two hit the top of the stretch together.

Under Manny Franco, Tiz the Law briefly struck his head in front only to have Authentic right back and spurt clear of the Belmont winner, who came in 4-4-4 this year.

“Yes! Yes!” Baffert shouted in the paddock, where he watched on the video screen.

**By Howard Fenchich**

Associated Press

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

Williams emerged from the third round matchup between two Americans who are past champions at Flushing Meadows who’s won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles at the place — with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over 2017 titlist Stephens on Saturday.

Afterward, Williams’ 3-year-old daughter, Olympia, wore a mask and waved at Mom while sitting on her father’s lap in a front-row seat. On her way to the locker room, Williams waved back.

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

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

“She served a lot better,” said Stephens, now 1-4 against Williams, although they hadn’t played each other since 2015. “Obviously she has one of the greatest serves in the game. It’s really difficult to read.”

Williams collected 10 of the last 12 games by lifting her level, to be sure. But it helped that Stephens went from playing nearly perfectly to missing more and more. Failing mistakes, Stephens would look over at her coach, Kamau Murray, or smack her right thigh with her palm so loudly that it echoed through a nearly empty Arthur Ashe Stadium.

“In that first set, I don’t think she made any errors, honestly. She was playing so clean. I said, ‘I don’t want to lose in straight sets,’” said Williams, whose only career U.S. Open loss before the fourth round came in the third against Irina Sperleia in 1998 at age 16.

Williams, who turns 39 in three weeks, said she told herself Saturday: “OK, Serena, just get a game. Get a game.”

There were, of course, no fans — banned because of the coronavirus pandemic — and so the whole thing was flush with the feel of a practice session, rather than a high-stakes contest on a Grand Slam stage.

There were some other players on hand to watch, including 15th-seeded Maria Sakkari, who sipped orange juice on Saturday.

Serena Williams serves to Sloane Stephens during the third round of the US Open on Saturday, in New York. Williams defeated 2017 U.S. Open champion Stephens 2-6, 6-2, 6-7.
American League

East Division

Tampa Bay
New York
Boston
Tate W, 1-0 1-0

Cleveland
Minneapolis
Detroit
Kansas City
Helsley, W, 1-0 1

Central Division

Cincinnati
Chicago
St. Louis
Cleveland
Houston

West Division

Cleveland
Minnesota
Chicago
Kansas City
Los Angeles

National League

East Division

Atlanta
Philadelphia
New York
Washington

West Division

Los Angeles
San Diego
Colorado
San Francisco
Arizona

Friday’s games

Minnesota 6, Baltimore 5
Seattle 3, Detroit 2
Texas 5, Oakland 4
Kansas City 1, Los Angeles 3
Arizona 15, 25 .375 14
Pittsburgh 12, 26 .316 10
Atlanta 23, 16 .590 —
Tampa Bay 27, 13 .675 —

Scoreboard

Seattle 5, Texas 3
Pittsburgh 4, Cincinnati 3, 2nd game
Seattle 6, Texas 3
Chicago White Sox 7, Kansas City 4
Boston 3, Toronto 2, 2nd game
Milwaukee 7, Cleveland 1
Minnesota 3, Detroit 2, 8 innings, 2nd

Washington at Toronto
Kansas City at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Washington
Washington at Atlanta
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
Detroit at Minnesota
Chicago White Sox at Kansas City
Toronto at Boston

Saturday’s games

Seattle 2, Oakland 0
San Diego 9, Colorado 5
Kansas City 8, Detroit 4
Tampa Bay 9, Texas 7
San Francisco 5, Rangers 3

Sunday’s games

New York Yankees at Baltimore
Miami at Tampa Bay
Cleveland at Detroit
Chicago at Kansas City
Cincinnati at St. Louis
Colorado at Pittsburgh

Cardinals 4, Brewers 3

Indians, 4, Brewers 3

Reds, 6, Pirates 2

San Francisco

Tigers, 4

Detroit

Twins, 4

Rockies, 5

Athletics, 8

Red Sox, 9

Angels, 7

Angels, 10

See scoreboard on page 21
Trout hits 300th HR, Angels sweep Astros

The Angels’ Mike Trout, right, celebrates his two-run home run with Andrelton Simmons, left, and Shohei Ohtani during the third inning of the first game of a doubleheader against the Astros, Saturday.

Associated Press

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

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

Mike Trout became the Angels’ career home run leader with No. 300 in his first game before a sellout crowd of 37,425. Pujols celebrated with a two-run single in the seventh inning to give Los Angeles a 10-9 win.

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

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

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

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

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

Noe Ramirez (1-0) worked a scoreless sixth to get the win and Ty Buttrey retired the side in the seventh.

FROM PAGE 20

Twins 4, Tigers 3: Two runs in the seventh inning and catcher Christian Vazquez manufactured the winning run with his legs, rallies placed a bunt single between first baseman Freddie Freeman and reliever Tyler Matzek (3-3), and the Red Sox won for the third time with the go-ahead run.

Red Sox 9, Blue Jays 8: Xander Bogaerts hit a two-run, walk-off triple in the ninth inning and catcher Christian Vazquez manufactured the winning run with his legs, rallies placed a bunt single between first baseman Freddie Freeman and reliever Tyler Matzek (3-3), and the Red Sox won for the third time with the go-ahead run.

Bogaerts’ leadoff shot against Anthony Bass (2-3) made it 8-all before Vazquez reached on a fielder’s choice with one out. Vazquez stole second and advanced to third on Matt Chapman’s walk before Billy McKinney’s sacrifice fly put Boston up.

Yairo Munoz hit a dribbler to shortstop with two outs in the ninth inning, catcher Christian Vazquez manufactured the winning run with his legs, rallies placed a bunt single between first baseman Freddie Freeman and reliever Tyler Matzek (3-3), and the Red Sox won for the third time with the go-ahead run.

Mariners 5, Rangers 3: Jose Alcantara pitched six effective innings and Corey Dickerson homered, sending visiting Miami to the victory.

The Marlins improved to 15-8 against the Rangers, who are 21-5 in their last 26 games.

Twins 4, Tigers 3: Miguel Sano led host Minnesota’s rally against the Detroit bullpen with a home run and the tying single in the ninth inning, before Byron Buxton beat out an infield single for the winning run double.

Seattle 5, Rangers 4: After two runs in the ninth inning, catcher Christian Vazquez manufactured the winning run with his legs, rallies placed a bunt single between first baseman Freddie Freeman and reliever Tyler Matzek (3-3), and the Red Sox won for the third time with the go-ahead run.

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

Associated Press

TORONTO — Coach Barry Trotz has spent the past two seasons attempting to instill a team-first, all-in identity with the New York Islanders.

No more was that evident than Saturday night, when the Islanders faced off against the rival Philadelphia Flyers in Game 7 of the second-round series.

The Islanders advanced to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 1993, when they’d face the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The win came courtesy of a balanced approach. Thomas Greiss, stopping 16 shots for his first playoff career shutout in his first Game 7. Brock Nelson scored a goal and set up two others. And defensemen Scott Mayfield, with four points, and Mathew Barzal, with two goals, helped New York blanks Flyers in Game 7.

The memories of past Islanders playoff losses, including the sting of losing Game 7 to Washington in the opening round of the 2015 playoffs.

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

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

Hart stopped 22 shots.

“A lot of the game I thought we had momentum, but it’s always a struggle when you get down in a series, when you’re at your best, there’s a lot of things you have to do to take that step,” he added.

McCoy runs for 3 TDs as Army wins opener

WEST POINT, N.Y. —桑顿·马修·马特森·沃森·罗宾逊在2017年当选FBS队后，本赛季以47-0的胜利战胜了米奇·马修·史密斯，使他成为了FBS队的一员。在10场的比赛中，他以9-2的成绩结束了7-3的赛季。

Deshaun Watson reached agreement on a multiyear, $160 million contract that ranks only behind the 10-year, $503 million deal for Kansas City’s Patrick Mahomes. Coincidentally, those two will meet in the season opener on Thursday night.

“As a child growing up in Georgia, it was always my dream to play in the NFL,” Watson wrote on social media. “Today, I couldn’t be more honored and humbled to be a part of the deal in Houston, the city that I’ve grown to love so much and now call my home.”

McCoy ran for 340 yards on an average of 5.5 yards per carry on 62 attempts.

The shutout was the first since a 47-0 victory over Wake Forest in 1963.

Butt said recently.

“If you’ve been through an ACL surgery, it’s always a struggle when you get down in a series, when you’re at your best, there’s a lot of things you have to do to take that step.”

McCoy made Washington’s first touchdown of the season with 2:23 left in the fourth quarter. Army’s long touchdown came on a 43-yard interception return by Jon Rhatigan.

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

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**NBA PLAYOFFS**

**Scoreboard**

**Playoffs**

All games in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

**CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS**

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

**Eastern Conference**

Miami 3, Milwaukee 0

- Game 1: Miami 125, Milwaukee 104
  - G: 8, FT: 18, AVG: 45.0

Miami 3, Milwaukee 1

- Game 1: Miami 115, Milwaukee 104
  - G: 7, FT: 28, AVG: 45.5

Miami 3, Milwaukee 1

- Game 1: Miami 107, Milwaukee 100
  - G: 7, FT: 24, AVG: 42.9

**Western Conference**

Denver 3, L.A. Clippers 1

- Game 1: Denver 122, L.A. Clippers 93
  - G: 8, FT: 19, AVG: 45.6

Denver 3, L.A. Clippers 1

- Game 1: Denver 128, L.A. Clippers 103
  - G: 8, FT: 23, AVG: 45.2

Denver 3, L.A. Clippers 1

- Game 1: Denver 110, L.A. Clippers 107
  - G: 8, FT: 24, AVG: 45.3

Denver 3, L.A. Clippers 1

- Game 1: Denver 113, L.A. Clippers 100
  - G: 8, FT: 28, AVG: 45.5

**Saturday, Sept. 12:**

- Game 1: Miami 112, L.A. Clippers 104
  - G: 8, FT: 22, AVG: 45.1

- Game 1: Denver 119, L.A. Clippers 117
  - G: 8, FT: 23, AVG: 45.4

- Game 1: Nuggets 100, Celtics 118
  - G: 8, FT: 25, AVG: 46.9

- Game 1: Raptors 100, Celtics 93
  - G: 8, FT: 28, AVG: 46.1

**Saturday, Sept. 19:**

- Game 1: Miami 107, L.A. Clippers 130
  - G: 8, FT: 31, AVG: 42.4

- Game 1: Denver 134, L.A. Clippers 112
  - G: 8, FT: 34, AVG: 43.9

**Saturday, Sept. 26:**

- Game 1: Nuggets 126, Celtics 95
  - G: 8, FT: 31, AVG: 43.8

- Game 1: Raptors 108, Celtics 95
  - G: 8, FT: 32, AVG: 44.8

**Thursday, Sept. 30:**

- Game 1: Nuggets 118, Celtics 97
  - G: 8, FT: 33, AVG: 44.5

- Game 1: Raptors 109, Celtics 99
  - G: 8, FT: 35, AVG: 45.5

**Raptors even series with Celtics at 2-2**

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — It only took a few plays for Denver coach Michael Malone to like what he was seeing Saturday night. The Nuggets were physical on both ends, getting rebounds they wanted offensively and setting a tone defensively.

“We were a noticeably different team,” Malone said.

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

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

“We were tired,” Murray said about the Game 1 performance. “We came out sloppy, we didn’t make shots and it showed.”

That wasn’t the case Saturday. Murray and Jokic were a combined 20 for 38 from the floor, 7-for-13 from the 3-point line.

Paul George scored 22 points for the Clippers, who got 15 from Ivica Zubac and eight from Patrick Beverley, getting ejected with a pair of technicals.

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“They dug ourselves in a 20-point hole early,” Lowry said. “We just trying to contain those guys. Tatum, Brown, Walker even Smart. We’ve just got to continue to make it tough on those guys.”

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

The Nuggets have way with Clippers in Game 2

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — No need for any big shots this time. Not the way the Toronto Raptors just kept getting stops.

Pascal Siakam had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Kyle Lowry added 22 points and 11 boards and the Raptors won their first six postsea-son Conference semifinal at two games apiece, beating the Boston Celtics 101-93 on Thursday night.

Two days after winning Game 3 on O.G. Anunoby’s three-pointer as time expired, the Raptors shut down the Celtics’ offense and defense.

“People are spécifique,” Lowry said. “We’re just trying to contain those guys. Tatum, Brown, Walker even Smart. We’ve just got to continue to make it tough on those guys.”

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BY BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

BOB BAFFERT endured the lowest of lows and highest of highs within minutes in the Kentucky Derby.

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

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

"This is the craziest year ever," he said.

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

"I've had some great Derby rides, but what that guy did," Baffert said, gesturing toward Velazquez, who stood

SEE SIXTH ON PAGE 19

Jockey John Velazquez riding Authentic, right, holds off heavy favorite Tiz the Law down the stretch Saturday at Churchill Downs, in Louisville, Ky. to win the 146th Kentucky Derby by 1 ¼ lengths.

Jeff Roberson/AP

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