

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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USAF pilot to face AI in simulated dogfight

BY JAMES BOLINGER

Stars and Stripes

The Air Force will pit an experienced F-16 fighter pilot in a virtual reality dogfight for the first time against artificial intelligence as part of a Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency event Thursday.

The AlphaDogFight Trials event is three days of cyber competition, during which eight AI teams will determine which of their programs will face the human pilot, a DARPA statement said. The event will be livestreamed, with commentary from agency officials.

"We are still excited to see how the AI algorithms perform against each other as well as a Weapons School-trained human and hope that fighter pilots from

across the Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps, as well as military leaders and members of the AI tech community who will register and watch online," Col. Dan Javorsek, program manager in DARPA's Strategic Technology Office, said in the statement.

During the trials, the audience members will see dogfights in real time and hear experts and guests from the Control Zone, akin to a TV sports commentary desk.

The competition is like an aerial dogfighting video game in which one player is a human and the other is an AI agent, Col. Dan Javorsek, program manager in DARPA's Strategic Technology Office, said Wednesday in an email to Stars and Stripes. The human pilot

will sit in an F-16 simulator wearing virtual reality goggles to provide a realistic cockpit view for the engagement.

They will face off in a series of dogfights with variable starting conditions to ensure an even contest, Javorsek said. Each aircraft will start with a full set of health points.

During the dogfight, the pilots maneuver to place their weapons zone on the opponent's aircraft, reducing health points. The engagement ends when either one aircraft is out of health points or time expires.

The first day of the competition will feature each of the eight teams flying their algorithms against five adversary AI algorithms developed by the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory, the statement said.

On the second day, the teams will fly against one another in a round-robin tournament before competing in a single elimination tournament on day three. The eventual champion will face the human F-16 pilot.

AlphaDogFight Trials was supposed to take place before a live audience at AFWERX, a research and development program at Las Vegas, with fighter pilots from the Air Forces Weapons School at nearby Nellis Air Force Base taking part.

The coronavirus pandemic forced the event online, however, and all three days will instead be livestreamed on multiple channels as a ZoomGov webinar from the Johns Hopkins laboratory in Laurel, Md., where the pilot will be participating.

Due to virus, smaller RIMPAC drills begin

BY WYATT OLSON

Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Scaled-down Rim of the Pacific maritime drills kick off Monday in Hawaiian waters, significantly reduced in size, length and scope due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Ten countries and 20 ships are participating in the biennial exercise, to be held all at sea over two weeks, said Cmdr. John Fage, spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 3rd Fleet.

That is a substantial decrease from the 26 nations, 47 surface ships and five submarines that joined the drills two years ago.

Vice Adm. Scott Conn, commander of U.S. Navy's 3rd Fleet, will announce which countries are participating on Monday.

Running to Aug. 31, the exercise's at-sea-only drills will include "antisubmarine warfare, maritime intercept operation, live-fire training events and other cooperative training opportunities," according to a 3rd Fleet statement.

"A minimal footprint of staff will be ashore for command and control, logistics and other support functions," the statement said. "All other personnel participating in RIMPAC are doing so at sea."

About 5,300 people will take part in the exercise, Fage said.

In 2018, 25,000 personnel attended from the nations of Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, South Korea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Thailand, Tonga, Vietnam, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The USS Essex, an amphibious assault ship, arrived Monday at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and will participate in RIMPAC.

Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono told reporters last month that the country's Maritime Self-Defense Force will send the JS Ashigara, a guided-missile destroyer and the JS Ise, a helicopter destroyer.

Australian Defense Minister Linda Reynolds said last month that a naval task

group would attend, with ships selected from a half-dozen that went to sea in June.

Past RIMPAC drills have included significant portions on the Hawaiian Islands and off the coast of Southern California. The Marine Corps has culminated its training in the past with large and complex amphibious landings on the east side of Oahu.

In 2018, the exercise included two ship-sinking exercises. Staged at Pacific Missile Range Facility Barking Sands on Kauai Island, the U.S. Army and Air Force and the Japanese Self-Defense Force sank a ship with an assault that included planes, helicopters, missiles and rockets.

Since last spring, the state has required all visitors to quarantine for 14 days after arrival. In early July, Gov. David Ige announced his original plans to ease that restriction on Aug. 1 by allowing visitors to skip quarantine if they tested negative for the virus before travel.

But that plan was postponed after an uptick in community spread of the virus in the last half of July.

More women found in combat roles

By STEVE BEYNON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army has been slowly integrating women into ground combat units since the Defense Department opened all military jobs to all troops in 2015. The initiative garnered a good deal of media attention for female “firsts” throughout the force. Now, five years later, women have expanded their footprint in combat arms and are taking command of units that have been exclusively male for centuries.

Capt. Candice Bowen took command of Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, last month. She is one of the first Black women to take command of a rifle company in the National Guard and the first female infantry commander in Virginia. The company’s history traces back to Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson’s brigade.

“I think in general people have their own perceptions of what a female officer is going to be. It’s ‘Maybe women shouldn’t be in combat arms,’ but at the end of the day, a capable soldier is a capable soldier,” Bowen said. “The Army is changing, it’s evolving, it’s growing, we’re making sure we have the best people for the job. That’s it. As long as the standards don’t change, let the best person compete.”

Gender integration into combat arms kicked off in August 2015 when captains Kristen Griest and Shaye Haver became the first women to graduate Ranger School, one of the most grueling military courses in the world. A year later, Griest became the Army’s first female infantry officer. Haver took command of a rifle company in the 82nd Airborne Division in 2018, and she has since been promoted to major.

“Possibly going into combat arms is a daunting thing to look at; it’s a dirty, thankless job and you’re required to do bad

things to bad people and that is not for everyone. But sometimes you’re too hard on yourself thinking you cannot do those things,” Haver said in a panel discussion at West Point in 2018.

‘Leaders First’

Bowen, 31, commissioned as a military police officer in 2012. She deployed to Qatar with 3rd Battalion in 2016 and after her return, immediately went to Afghanistan with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, where she earned her combat action badge. She made the switch to infantry in 2019 after Virginia scaled-down military police forces.

Her move to infantry was amid the Army’s “Leaders First” effort, which started in 2016. The goal was to place female leaders in combat units ahead of junior enlisted women joining the ranks. Critics of the policy and even the Army have said the measure slowed down gender integration. All leaders start as newly recruited privates, but privates couldn’t necessarily be assigned to a combat unit without a woman in a leadership role, meaning the military had to entice female officers and NCOs to switch jobs. The policy shifted to companies only being required to have female E5 of any military job to be in a unit before junior enlisted women can join the ranks.

Women are still a minority in the Army, and especially in combat arms. Women make up just 14% of the Army’s enlisted and 19% of its officer corps, according to 2018 data from the Council on Foreign Relations, a U.S. foreign policy think tank. The Marine Corps has the fewest number of women, with 8% enlisted and 9% officers.

“The Army as a whole is predominantly male; it’s not new to be one of the only females in a group,” said Capt. Amie Kempainen, an Iraq War veteran.

Kempainen, 46, took command of B Company, 3rd

Battalion, 126th Infantry Regiment, in March. She is the first woman in the Michigan National Guard to command an infantry company. She joined the infantry after 25 years of service in support units.

Thrust into combat

The decision to open combat arms came after nearly two decades of post-9/11 wars, where women were thrust into combat for the first time on a large scale due to the nature of the conflicts. The lines blurred between combat and support units, and the traditional front line was erased by an insurgency that could take the fight to American troops anywhere.

The breaking point for the Defense Department came in 2012 when a lawsuit was filed by Army Reservists, Command Sgt. Maj. Jane Baldwin and Col. Ellen Haring accusing the government of violating the constitutional rights of women by excluding them from ground combat units solely due to gender, and arguing that the ban hinders careers.

“This limitation on plaintiffs’ careers restricts their current and future earnings, their potential for promotion and advancement, and their future retirement benefits,” the women said in the suit filed in U.S. District Court.

Women have been playing a major role in ground combat for years. However, until recently, women have had to stick to support roles. When the ban was lifted, women could enlist and commission into roles that are exclusively combat-focused, such as special forces, infantry and cavalry scouts.

Initial concerns

Kempainen said there was skepticism when she showed up to her infantry company as a platoon leader, restarting her career after initially enlisting in 1994.

“The real goal was that the only real way to earn command

was to start from the beginning,” she said.

Part of integrating is making it clear things in an infantry unit will operate as they always have, Kempainen said. But the initial concerns on her arrival to what had been a male-only regiment for nearly 200 years were mostly skepticism that any new lieutenant would face.

“The biggest reward for me was guys who were skeptical became my biggest allies and supporters,” she said. “It was necessary to prove I can hack it physically. But that is also the same with men.”

No segregation

2nd Lt. Colleen O’Callaghan serves in 1st Battalion, 148th Infantry Regiment of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. She recently returned from a civil disturbance mission in the White House area.

She is the Ohio National Guard’s first female infantry platoon leader, but she said all her issues were related to men being almost uncomfortably respectful.

“I think the biggest thing women run into is people trying to do the right thing, but they do the wrong thing,” O’Callaghan said.

O’Callaghan, 27, said a routine occurrence is when someone is talking to a group of officers, giving the regular courtesy of addressing the group as “gentlemen,” then quickly correcting themselves by adding “and ma’am.”

“I don’t care if people call me a gentleman, or sir,” she said. “It’s not necessary to call out the one woman.”

O’Callaghan expressed some frustration of early efforts to segregate her from her troops in barracks, saying getting her own space during training was detrimental to her ability to lead.

“I don’t think there should be any segregations, if you’re in a platoon you’re in a platoon and should not be apart,” she said.

Germany-based military families bumped from flights to Greece

BY KARIN ZEITVOGEL
Stars and Stripes

Tara Krause's kids were "super-excited" about the family's trip to Greece, the 35-year-old said, but their excitement turned to disappointment when ground staff at Frankfurt-Hahn airport barred the U.S. military family from traveling because of coronavirus restrictions.

"They told us, 'No, you can't fly,' and they said it's because we're American," Krause told Stars and Stripes last week. "One of my 9-year-old twins cried herself to sleep that night."

Krause, her husband, Michael, a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force, and their three children were at the airport for their flight to Kefalonia, an island south of Corfu in the Ionian Sea.

The Ramstein-based family presented staff at the check-in desk with the QR code they received after filling out an online form required by the Greek government for entry into the country, their passports, which included Status of Forces Agreement stamps, a utility bill and other paperwork to show they lived in Germany, Krause said.

"They looked at everything and said we needed proof that we're legal residents," she said.

Greece had changed its rules the night before because of the rising number of coronavirus cases in the country, Ryanair staff told the Krauses. The family and around a dozen other Americans who were trying to travel that day, including other airmen and families, were told they "had to have German residency cards" to travel to Greece, Krause said.

"But that's basically what our SOFA stamp is," she said.

Ryanair said in a statement sent to Stars and Stripes that the Americans had been barred from traveling "as per the current Greek Govt restrictions regarding non-EU nationals."

"As a result of COVID-19, Greece has a ban on non-essential travel from the US," the statement said. The low-cost airline did not reply to an email pointing out that the Americans' travel originated in Germany.

The Greek consulate in Berlin referred Stars and Stripes to the reopen.europa website, which says travel is allowed to Greece from all EU countries, with the exceptions of Bulgaria, Romania and Malta, which have high numbers of coronavirus cases. The website does not mention travelers' nationalities, only where they are traveling from.

But a Greek government rule dated Aug. 11 says only EU na-

tionals and citizens of European countries like Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, which have travel agreements with the EU, can enter Greece on unofficial travel.

That rule, which has been in effect since the country started reopening to tourists, has been applied haphazardly.

One American family posted on Facebook that they had flown on Ryanair from another Frankfurt airport to Mykonos on Thursday.

They had "no issues," Destin Beckworth said. At least eight other military families were on the same flight.

But an American family from Wiesbaden said they were barred from boarding a Ryanair flight to Greece from Baden-Baden airport.

And a day after the Krauses, Alisha Bell and her family were told they couldn't fly from Hahn to Chania, on Crete. They, too, were told it was "because we were U.S. citizens," Bell said.

"I and other families who were being denied travel called the (Greek) Embassy and they said we were allowed in the country," Bell said. "But one lady at Ryanair, the supervisor, said it was Ryanair policy."

Neither the Bells nor the Krauses have been offered refunds by Ryanair.

US, S. Korea joint training resumes

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United States and South Korea will begin annual joint military exercises this week, but they will be reduced in scope due to a spike in coronavirus cases.

The announcement came as South Korea reported 279 new confirmed coronavirus cases, the largest daily count since early March and the third consecutive day with triple digit figures.

The drills, a linchpin of the alliance between the two nations, already have been cut back since 2018 as part of U.S.-led efforts to facilitate nuclear talks with North Korea.

The computer-simulated combined command post training drill will be held from Tuesday through Aug. 28 "while taking into consideration the COVID-19 situation," South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

"This drill will focus on maintaining the joint defense posture," the JCS said. The allies also will do a practice run of the future combined command structure after wartime operational control, which is currently held by the Americans, is returned to South Korea, it said, without providing more details.

Both militaries have been hit by the virus. Some 80 South Korean soldiers have been infected since the initial outbreak began in late February.

U.S. Forces Korea has had 152 confirmed cases, including 128 service members and other personnel who tested positive after traveling to the South from abroad.

The influx prompted local authorities and activists in Gyeonggi province, which includes the main Army base Camp Humphreys, to call for the exercise to be canceled.

North Korea usually lashes out against the joint exercises, which it considers rehearsals for an invasion, despite U.S. and South Korean insistence that they are defensive in nature.

USFK restrictions return as cases rise in S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — As coronavirus cases spiked in South Korea, the U.S. military said it would reimpose restrictions nationwide effective Monday, including health checks at access gates, limited access to base stores and minimum essential staffing at work.

The reversal came Sunday as South Korea's number of confirmed cases reached tri-

ple digits for the third day in a row.

U.S. Forces Korea, which commands some 28,500 troops, announced Saturday that it was raising the health protection level to "Charlie" for Seoul and surrounding areas.

The commander of Camp Humphreys, the main Army garrison, said Sunday that was being extended for all bases on the divided peninsula, beginning at 5 a.m. Monday.

HPCON Charlie indicates

an area is experiencing sustained community transmission, according to the Defense Department.

"We're absolutely going to minimum essential manning only," Col. Michael Tremblay said in a brief Facebook live appearance.

"We want to protect our bubble," he said, promising more details in coming hours. "We're going back into a defensive position."

Baby believed to be 1st to contract virus in womb

From wire reports

FORT WORTH, Texas — Doctors at Parkland Hospital in Dallas reported the first baby in the U.S. known to have contracted the coronavirus while in the womb.

Baby Alexa Figueroa tested positive for COVID-19 less than 24 hours after being delivered six weeks early by mother Wendy Figueroa on May 2, according to Star-Telegram media partner WFAA-TV.

Doctors delivered the baby prematurely after Wendy Figueroa tested positive when she was 34 weeks pregnant.

"We immediately separated baby from mother. Mom was wearing a mask during delivery to reduce transmission," Dr. Mamarambath Jaleel, who runs the Parkland Neonatal ICU, told WFAA.

After baby Alexa tested positive, doctors tested the placenta, which also came back positive.

"Having the testing positive of the placenta, the most likely explanation was the transmission of infection was when the baby was in the mother's womb," Jaleel said.

A day or two later, Alexa developed a fever and required supplemental oxygen, Jaleel told WFAA. According to Jaleel, 128 pregnant women at Parkland have tested positive for COVID-19. Six of the babies later tested positive, but only Alexa got sick, Jaleel said.

Wendy Figueroa was unable to hold Alexa for three weeks after giving birth.

Both mom and daughter eventually recovered from the coronavirus.

Florida

DAYTONA BEACH — As Major League Baseball adapts to its pandemic-shortened 60-game season, a Daytona Beach business has become ground zero for Tampa Bay Rays fans.

Well, two-dimensional versions of them, at least.

With no crowds allowed in ballparks, the Rays and other teams have turned to selling oversized cutouts of fan photos to populate grandstands and

offer an entertaining diversion amid the disruptions of the coronavirus pandemic.

At Tropicana Field, home of the Rays, those graphically generated fans are the creations of DME Visual, a Daytona Beach wide-format printing company.

The company already has produced roughly 1,500 of the 18-x-30-inch photo cutouts that the Rays debuted at Tuesday's home game against the Boston Red Sox in St. Petersburg.

Georgia

ATLANTA — A 15-year-old boy in metro Atlanta has died from complications caused by COVID-19, making him the second-youngest individual to die from the virus in Georgia, according to state health officials.

The Georgia Department of Public Health said the Gwinnett County teenager had no underlying conditions, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Saturday.

Officials did not say when or where the teenager contracted the virus. A spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Public Health said no additional details would be released.

His death comes after many Georgia school districts reopened for in-person classes. School officials say a total of 1,106 students and employees have needed to quarantine.

The youngest confirmed death caused by COVID-19 in Georgia was a 7-year-old boy from Savannah. Officials say he was not believed to have had any preexisting conditions.

Hawaii

KAHULUI — Kahului Airport on Maui has completed its second phase of its thermal screening project meant to combat the spread of the coronavirus.

The screening uses thermal imaging and facial recognition technology to pinpoint people with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

Dual-lens cameras have been installed at all arrival gates and TSA checkpoints in

the airport.

When phase three is completed, the cameras will be able to track travelers with high body temperatures so contact tracers can stop and screen them before they leave the airport, The Maui News reported.

Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — Carlos Gomez was not able to work at his construction job for three weeks after he tested positive for COVID-19 in April.

"I didn't know what to do," he said, "so I went to the emergency room."

Gomez, 44, who doesn't have health insurance, received a \$900 bill from his emergency visit to the hospital that he was not able to pay.

Once he recovered, and after a series of calls to friends and others he knew, a group from his church was able to help him financially, he said. Gomez, who is originally from Mexico, has lived in Indianapolis for over a decade and told IndyStar this is the first time he felt the need to ask for help.

In Indianapolis, the Immigrant Welcome Center developed a program 14 years ago to help empower immigrants who might not know about resources available.

The organization's Natural Helpers program is made up of volunteers — many of them immigrants themselves — helping the immigrant and refugee communities in Marion County find the resources they need to better navigate life in the United States.

New York

NEW YORK — The annual light display honoring victims of 9/11 is back on, officials announced Saturday, saying New York health officials will supervise this year's tribute to ensure workers' safety amid concerns related to the coronavirus pandemic.

"This year it is especially important that we all appreciate and commemorate 9/11, the lives lost and the heroism displayed as New Yorkers are

once again called upon to face a common enemy," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in a statement.

The announcement came days after the National September 11 Memorial & Museum canceled the Tribute in Light over concerns the coronavirus might spread among crews creating twin columns of light to represent the World Trade Center in the Manhattan sky.

Nevada

LAS VEGAS — The food service provider at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas will lay off 940 employees the organization said in a letter to Nevada officials.

HMSHost sent a letter to the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation about the decisions last week. The group also said that any workers that were furloughed and not scheduled to return to work by Oct. 15 will also be let go.

Most of the layoffs are for those working as fast-food clerks, restaurant hosts, baristas, bartenders and servers.

Food and retail outlets at the airport have been severely affected by the pandemic, which has greatly diminished air travel.

Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA — The coronavirus pandemic has slammed the brakes on this year's Philly Naked Bike Ride.

The annual event, which usually draws thousands of nude cyclists for a trip around Philadelphia and its tourist sites, had been set for later this month. But organizers who had been gearing up for it said the city's COVID-19 cases made them halt their planning.

"After much debate, we feel that cancelling this year's event is the most responsible thing to do," they said on their website.

"We hope to see you next year, hopefully under better and healthier circumstances," they said. "Keep up your (socially distant) riding and be safe."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

MAGA hat cake sparks protest at bakery

NY COLONIE — Protesters and counterprotesters gathered at a New York bakery in response to an image of a cake made to resemble a Make America Great Again hat that was posted on social media in July.

Employees at Coccadotts Cake Shop in Colonie were still working as protesters chanted outside, the Times Union reported.

Black Lives Matter protesters were outnumbered by the counterprotesters who came out in support of the bakery. There were more than 125 people outside the bakery, the newspaper reported.

Retailer removes towel depicting Hindu deity

MA BOSTON — Online home goods retailer Wayfair pulled a beach towel depicting the Hindu deity Lord Ganesha, according to a Hindu organization that raised objections.

Rajan Zed, president of Universal Society of Hinduism, said in a statement that the Boston-based company had apologized and removed the towel from its website within an hour of the organization's raising concerns.

Zed called the "Hindu Elephant Beach Towel," which retailed for about \$26, "highly inappropriate" and thanked Wayfair for understanding the Hindu community's concerns.

County votes to keep Confederate memorial

MD EASTON — A county on Maryland's Eastern Shore voted to keep a memorial honoring Confeder-

ate soldiers, sparking a protest outside the meeting as activists said officials had used the coronavirus pandemic as an "excuse" to shelve the issue.

The Talbot County Council voted 3-2 to keep the memorial on the lawn of the Talbot County Courthouse, The Washington Post reported.

Car theft suspect found after stealing police car

WA RENTON — The Renton Police Department said one person was detained after a Renton police car was stolen.

Renton police said officers saw a potential auto theft suspect on foot at a car dealership. They attempted to talk to the man but he walked away.

As officers were walking back to their patrol cars, a witness called 911 to report the man had reached into the open window of one of the patrol cars, unlocked the door and drove away.

Seattle Police located the stolen police car 30 minutes later. The suspect, an adult male in his 30s, was found several blocks away and arrested for felony theft.

Man: State flag with mosquito was a joke

MS JACKSON — A Mississippi man who submitted a proposal to place a giant mosquito on the new state flag, a design that went viral on social media, said he created it as a joke.

Thomas Rosete, a deckhand on the Yazoo River, told the Clarion Ledger he created the "mosquito flag," which features a giant mosquito surrounded by a circle of stars, to poke fun at a coworker who had been against changing the flag.

Lawmakers took a vote this

year to take down the old state flag, which featured the Confederate battle flag, a symbol widely condemned as racist.

Man pleads guilty to buying tiger skin rug

OH COLUMBUS — An Ohio man who bought a tiger skin rug from an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife agent in violation of the federal endangered species act, pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge, the government said.

Ryan Gibbs of Cincinnati must serve a year on probation, perform 80 hours of community service, and donate \$100,000 to a federal fund used to provide rewards for tipsters in illegal wildlife trade cases, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Gibbs, 44, a Cincinnati attorney, also agreed to give up a stuffed lion, two stuffed puffins, a panther skin and a sawfish rostrum — the bill or beak of the sawfish — which he owns, according to the government.

Driver injured, firetrucks damaged in collision

NC SALISBURY — A truck driver was injured and three firetrucks were damaged after a collision on Interstate 85 in North Carolina, the N.C. State Highway Patrol said.

The patrol said three firetrucks were responding to a tractor-trailer fire, news outlets reported. A second tractor-trailer hit the three firetrucks from the Miller Ferry Fire Department, pushing them into one another, patrol 1st Sgt. G.A. Barger said.

According to Barger, the truck driver suffered second- and third-degree burns and was taken to a Winston-Salem hospital. No firefighters were injured.

Alerts to notify Android users of earthquakes

CA SACRAMENTO — California's earthquake early warnings will be a standard feature on all Android phones, bypassing the need for users to download the state's MyShake app in order to receive alerts, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services said.

The state worked with the U.S. Geological Survey and Google, the maker of Android, to build the quake alerts into all phones that run the common-place operating system.

The technology is designed to quickly take data from seismic sensors and send warnings to potentially affected areas if a quake of magnitude 4.5 or greater occurs.

Dorms honoring white supremacists renamed

VA BLACKSBURG — Virginia Tech is renaming two of its dorms that honored men who espoused white supremacist views.

The buildings built in the 1960s will now instead be named for Black people who fought for the right to be on Tech's campus, according to The Roanoke Times.

Lee Hall will be renamed Hoge Hall in honor of William and Janie Hoge, who hosted Black students in their home in the 1950s, a time when the university denied campus housing to Black students.

Barringer Hall will be renamed to honor Leslie Whitehurst Jr., a 1963 graduate who became the first Black student allowed to live on campus in 1961 and who in 1970 became the first Black member of Tech's board of visitors.

From wire reports

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and Military News

Blazers make playoffs, oust Grizzlies

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — A fourth consecutive down-to-the-wire finish, a fourth consecutive win for the Portland Trail Blazers.

They needed all that just to get into the playoffs.

Damian Lillard scored 31 points, CJ McCollum had 14 of his 29 in the fourth quarter — including a pair of big jumpers over Ja Morant late — and the Blazers clinched the NBA's final playoff spot by beating the Memphis Grizzlies 126-122 on Saturday.

Portland's reward: a matchup with the

top-seeded Los Angeles Lakers, starting Tuesday. Jusuf Nurkic had 22 points and 21 rebounds for the winners, who got 21 points from Carmelo Anthony.

"What we've done in these two weeks is really special," Blazers coach Terry Stotts said. "I couldn't be more proud of a group of guys because we were up against it every game, nine straight games where our season was basically in the balance. ... They found a way."

Morant scored 35 for Memphis, which got a 22-point, 16-rebound day from Jonas Valanciunas and 20 points apiece from Dillon Brooks and Brandon Clarke.

It was the start, and the end, of the Western Conference play-in series — a wrinkle the NBA added to the restarted season because the coronavirus pandemic meant no team would play its allotted 82 games. Portland finished eighth in the West, Memphis was ninth, and the Grizzlies needed to sweep a two-game matchup to advance.

They had a chance, up eight in the final quarter, before Portland did what Portland does in the bubble — pull games out at the end. The Blazers' last four wins have come by a combined 11 points.

So they go on, and Memphis goes home — knowing its potential is very real.

Eastern Conference matchups

No. 1 Bucks (56-17) vs. No. 8 Magic (33-40)

Season series: Bucks, 4-0

Story line: Here they go again — reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks have the best record in the NBA for the second straight season and enter the first round against an opponent that they dominated in four meetings. Out of the 192 minutes of basketball between the clubs this season, the Magic led for 11 of them.

Key matchup: Antetokounmpo vs. Nikola Vucevic. The MVP won't be guarded 1-on-1 by Vucevic often, if at all, but Orlando's best rim protector is going to have to do quite a job against the NBA's leader in points in the paint for the Magic to have hope.

Prediction: Bucks in 5.

No. 2 Raptors (53-19) vs. No. 7 Nets (35-37)

Season series: Raptors, 3-1.

Story line: The defending NBA champion Raptors lost Finals MVP Kawhi Leonard, lost starter Danny Green, and put together the best regular-season record in franchise history anyway. The Nets ... have played extremely hard for Jacque Vaughn.

Key matchup: Kyle Lowry vs. Caris LeVert. Lowry is as good a defensive player as there is in the NBA and will be one of the Raptors tasked with not letting LeVert get on a big scoring roll. The Nets will be playing a loose brand of basketball, knowing that almost nobody would expect them to win the series.

Prediction: Raptors in 5.

No. 3 Celtics (48-24) vs. No. 6 76ers (43-30)

Season series: 76ers, 3-1.

Story line: Pay no attention to that season series result. It came with Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid playing. Simmons is out with a knee injury and Embiid hasn't looked right at Disney, so these are not the same 76ers that the Celtics saw in the regular season.

Key matchup: Jayson Tatum vs. Tobias Harris. Tatum is becoming an absolute star in this league, standing out on a Boston roster that already has plenty of talent. But Harris is strong, smart on the defensive end, is going to have to take on more of a leadership role for Philly.

Prediction: Celtics in 5.

No. 4 Pacers (45-28) vs. No. 5 Heat (44-29)

Season series: Heat, 3-1.

Story line: These teams met in three consecutive postseasons during Miami's Big 3 era, with the Heat winning them all in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Indiana will miss Domantas Sabonis, leaving the chore of guarding All-Star Heat center Bam Adebayo almost solely to Myles Turner.

Key matchup: Jimmy Butler vs. TJ Warren. It's not solely because of their little war of words back in January, either. Butler's first postseason series with the Heat is a chance for him to put his stamp on things. Warren has a big opportunity at Disney and largely has taken advantage of it at this point.

Prediction: Heat in 6.

— Associated Press

Western Conference matchups

No. 1 Lakers (52-19) vs. No. 8 Blazers (36-39)

Season series: Lakers, 2-1.

Story line: With LeBron James leading the league in assists and Anthony Davis the beneficiary of many of them, the Lakers rolled to the best record in the West and their first playoff appearance since 2013. They finally learned their opponent Saturday when Portland beat Memphis to win the NBA's first play-in spot.

Key matchup: James or Davis vs. Carmelo Anthony. Anthony hit some clutch shots during the restart and has a chance to win a playoff series for the first time since 2013, but he'll have to show he can defend a likely first team All-NBA selection to stay on the floor, a lot to ask at 36.

Prediction: Lakers in 6.

No. 2 Clippers (49-23) vs. No. 7 Mavs (43-32)

Season series: Clippers, 3-0.

Story line: Kawhi Leonard carried Toronto to its first NBA title last year and will look to bring Los Angeles its first now, backed by fellow superstar Paul George and perhaps the league's deepest roster.

The Clippers will be tested defensively by Luka Doncic, Kristaps Porzingis and a dangerous Dallas offense.

Key matchup: Leonard, George and Patrick Beverley vs. Doncic. Doncic led the NBA in triple-doubles this season so he can hurt teams in a number of ways. But the Clippers can rotate multiple defenders in hopes of slowing down the point guard.

Prediction: Clippers in 5.

No. 3 Nuggets (46-27) vs. No. 6 Jazz (44-28)

Season series: Nuggets, 3-0.

Story line: The Northwest Division rivals seem evenly matched, as seen when they played a double-overtime thriller during the seeding games that the Nuggets won 134-132 in Jamal Murray's "bubble" debut and the famous "We all we got" game when Denver won in Salt Lake City despite suiting up just seven players.

Key matchup: Nikola Jokic vs. Rudy Gobert. Jokic is perhaps the best all-around center in the NBA and Gobert, the two-time Defensive Player of the Year, remains a stopper in the middle.

Prediction: Nuggets in 7.

No. 4 Rockets (44-28) vs. No. 5 Thunder (44-28)

Season series: Thunder, 2-1.

Story line: The trade of Russell Westbrook to Houston last summer for Chris Paul and multiple first-round picks was thought to signal a rebuild in Oklahoma City. Instead, Paul had a terrific season in leading the Thunder to the same record as the Rockets, who don't know when the injured Westbrook will be available.

Key matchup: Westbrook vs. Paul. Paul's injury in the 2018 Western Conference finals against Golden State helped cost the Rockets a chance to reach the NBA Finals. Now Houston has to hope Westbrook returns soon — with the explosiveness that made him a perennial All-Star.

Prediction: Rockets in 7.

— Associated Press

Braves end skid behind Duvall's HR in 9th

Associated Press

MIAMI — Max Fried hit the corners, and Adam Duvall hit the foul pole.

The combination helped the Atlanta Braves break a four-game losing streak by beating the first-place Miami Marlins 2-1 Saturday.

Fried pitched 6¹/₃ shutout innings, lowering his ERA to 1.24. Duvall broke a tie by golfing his 100th career homer, which caromed off the left-field pole with one out in the ninth.

"With the skid we had going, it was good to scrape that out," Duvall said. "I'd like to start hitting them a little bit straighter. That was like a 9-iron draw. I just caught enough there."

Fried was in line for his fourth victory until Monte Harrison hit his first major league homer leading off the eighth against Will Smith for a 1-all tie.

"It's a great moment, but we didn't win the game," Harrison said, "so it doesn't really mean much to me right now."

The Braves regained the lead when Duvall lunged at an outside pitch from Brandon Kintzler (1-1) and pulled it down the line.

Marcell Ozuna produced the game's first run when he led off the seventh with his fifth homer off Daniel Castano, making only his second major league start.

Fried, who allowed four hits and struck out seven, again pitched like an ace for the

injury-plagued Braves.

"He's like all good pitchers — they have a plan for every ball they throw," manager Brian Snitker said. "I feel so good with him on the mound. It's fun to watch. He has a chance to be really good for a long time."

The left-hander allowed at least one runner in each of the first three innings, but then had a stretch where he struck out six of seven batters.

"I just wanted to go out there and keep it simple, eat as many innings as I could and hopefully start a nice little winning streak," Fried said.

The Braves' other starters are 0-8, but thanks to Fried, Atlanta trails Miami by only one game in the NL East.

MLB roundup

Indians top Tigers for 19th straight time

Associated Press

DETROIT — Shane Bieber struck out 11 in seven scoreless innings, and the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 3-1 on Saturday.

It was the Indians' 19th straight win over the Tigers, the longest streak against one opponent since the Baltimore Orioles beat the Kansas City Royals 23 times in a row in 1969.

Bieber (4-0) allowed three hits and a walk and lowered his ERA to 1.30 in five starts this season. He fanned the side in the third and fourth and added two more in the fifth.

Nick Wittgren pitched a perfect eighth. JaCoby Jones made it 3-1 with a pinch-hit double in the ninth before Brad Hand finished for his fifth save.

Spencer Turnbull (2-1) gave up three runs on six hits and four walks in 4.2 innings.

Dodgers 6, Angels 5 (10): Chris Taylor scored on Max Muncy's sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and the Dodgers rallied to beat the host Angels for their season-high fourth consecutive victory.

Mookie Betts hit a tying homer in the seventh and drove in three runs for the NL West-leading Dodgers, who also got

three RBIs from Muncy while improving to 9-2 on the road this season.

Mike Trout homered and drove in three runs for the Angels, who have lost three straight and six of eight after dropping the first two in the Freeway Series.

Astros 2, Mariners 1: Rookie Cristian Javier allowed one hit over six shutout innings, Yuli Gurriel homered and host Houston edged Seattle for its third straight win.

Javier (2-1) struck out five and walked three. He retired 10 of the first 12 batters before Kyle Seager walked and a single by Austin Nola accounted for the Mariners' only hit off the rookie in the fifth.

Gurriel extended the Astros' lead to 2-0 in the fourth with a solo home run.

Orioles 7, Nationals 3: Baltimore struck early against lefty Patrick Corbin and got a home run from Rio Ruiz in a victory over visiting Washington.

Light-hitting Andrew Velazquez had two hits, scored twice and drove in a run for Baltimore, which has won seven of eight — a streak that includes four victories against the Nationals.

Corbin (2-1) was roughed up

by the Orioles, who built a 4-0 lead in the second inning and held on. He allowed five runs and eight hits with just two strikeouts in five innings.

Athletics 7, Giants 6: Mark Canha hit a go-ahead, three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning and Oakland rallied late for the second straight game, slugging to a win at San Francisco.

Marcus Semien hit a two-run homer and Matt Olson also connected for the A's, who won for the 12th time in 14 games.

Twins 4-2, Royals 1-4: Whit Merrifield had three hits, including a three-run homer, to back Danny Duffy's strong start as Kansas City took the second game of a doubleheader and earned a split with host Minnesota.

Duffy (1-2) allowed two runs — one earned — on two hits in five innings. He struck out eight for the Royals, who have won six of their past eight games, including a home sweep of the Twins last week. Trevor Rosenthal issued a leadoff walk in the seventh but struck out the next three batters.

Diamondbacks 7, Padres 6: Speedy San Diego pinch runner Jorge Mateo was thrown out at the plate trying to score from

first base on a single to end the game and Arizona held off the host Padres.

Rangers 6, Rockies 4: Kyle Gibson pitched into the seventh inning for his first win with Texas and newly signed Derek Dietrich hit a two-out, three-run home run in the eighth as the visiting Rangers won their fourth straight.

Brewers 6, Cubs 5 (10): Avisail Garcia doubled home the go-ahead run in the 10th inning and visiting Milwaukee handed Chicago its first two-game losing streak this season. Garcia doubled to deep right off Jeremy Jeffress (1-1) to score automatic runner Christian Yelich from second base to start the 10th. Luis Urias reached on an infield single for an additional run.

Cardinals 5-6, White Sox 1-3: Paul Goldschmidt and Tyler O'Neill homered, and visiting St. Louis completed a doubleheader sweep in the Cardinals' long-awaited return from a coronavirus outbreak.

Phillies 6, Mets 2: Rhys Hoskins hit a three-RBI double, Jean Segura hit a solo homer and Aaron Nola tossed seven scoreless innings to lead host Philadelphia past New York for the second straight game.

Miocic dominates Cormier, retains title

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Stipe Miocic defeated Daniel Cormier by unanimous decision in a five-round bout Saturday night to win the rubber match in a fantastic trilogy between the fighters and retain his heavyweight championship at UFC 252.

Miocic (20-3) swept the scorecards 49-46, 49-46 and 48-47 to stake his claim as perhaps the greatest heavyweight in UFC history.

"I'm happy to cement my legacy," Miocic said.

Miocic tagged Cormier with a vicious poke to his left eye late in the third round that sent the challenger staggering to his corner. Cormier's eye was about swollen

shut, but he gamely fought on the final two rounds in the main event of UFC 252 at the UFC APEX complex in Las Vegas.

"I can't see anything out of my left eye," Cormier said. "It's black."

Miocic said he apologized to Cormier for the poke.

"I totally poked him in the eye, my bad," Miocic said.

Cormier was taken to the hospital after the bout. There was no immediate word about his condition.

The 41-year-old Cormier (22-3, 1 NC) is a former two-division champion and has already cemented his status as one of the greatest pound-for-pound fighters in UFC history. The amiable Cormier, who has found his niche as a successful broad-

caster, had vowed to retire after Saturday and end a career in which 10 of his last 11 fights were fought with a championship on the line.

Cormier said he stood by his decision to retire. He won the first fight between the two but dropped two straight to Miocic.

"I'm not interested in fighting for anything but titles and I don't imagine there's going to be a title in the future," Cormier said. "That will be it for me. I've had a long run, it's been great, I just fought my last fight for a heavyweight championship and it was a pretty good fight."

UFC President Dana White had said Francis Ngannou was next in line for a heavyweight title shot.

Briefly

Cindric wins Xfinity race on road course

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Austin Cindric threw a water bottle at one competitor early and escaped a wild melee that took out several others late. Although not as smooth a run as he's grown accustomed to lately, he still ended the day in a familiar spot: in victory lane.

Cindric won the NASCAR Xfinity Series race on the road course at Daytona International Speedway on Saturday, his fifth victory in the last six events.

Cindric looked like the guy to beat early but had to escape a crazy restart late to stay in contention. He passed leader Brandon Jones shortly after taking the green flag with five laps to go on the 14-turn, 3.61-mile layout and did what he's done often in the last months and a half — take the checkered flag.

Halep tops Mertens in Prague Open final

PRAGUE — Top-seeded Simona Halep defeated third-seeded Elise Mertens 6-2, 7-5 in the Prague Open final on Sunday to claim her 21st WTA title.

The second-ranked Romanian broke Mertens for a 6-5 lead in the final set before converting her first match point to win her second title this year.

In other tennis news:

■ Jennifer Brady won her first WTA title at the Top Seed Open in Lexington, Ky., overcoming a shaky serve and using a five-game run to seize control for a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Jil Teichmann in Sunday's final.

It was the first professional tennis event in the United States since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, and no spectators were allowed.

NCAA medical officer: Better tests needed

The NCAA's chief medical officer says there is a narrow path to playing college sports during the coronavirus pandemic and if testing nationwide does not improve, it cannot be done.

Dr. Brian Hainline told CNN late Saturday that "everything would have to line up perfectly" for college sports to be played this fall.

NHL roundup

Bruins take 2-1 series lead on Hurricanes

Associated Press

TORONTO — Jaroslav Halak stopped 29 shots after goalie Tuukka Rask opted out of the NHL playoffs and Charlie Coyle had a goal and assist to help the Boston Bruins beat the Carolina Hurricanes 3-1 on Saturday for a 2-1 series lead.

Rask's absence was announced Saturday morning and it did not seem to rattle the defending Eastern Conference champions later in the day.

Game 4 is Monday night, when fifth-seeded Carolina may be without Andrei Svechnikov against fourth-seeded Boston. The 20-year-old Russian forward was injured late in the game when his right leg buckled after getting tied up with Bruins defender Zdeno Chara in front of the net.

Lightning 3, Blue Jackets 2: At Toronto, Andrei Vasilevskiy made 16 saves and Tampa Bay beat Columbus to take a 2-1 series lead.

Alex Killorn, Brayden Point and Victor Hedman scored, and the Lightning held off a late 6-on-5 push by the Blue Jackets.

Game 4 is Monday.

Golden Knights 2, Blackhawks 1: Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 26 shots and Vegas held off Chicago to take a 3-0 lead in the series at Edmonton, Alberta.

William Karlsson and Patrick Brown scored for the Golden Knights. Vegas is 6-0 in the postseason, having also won all three of its round-robin games in the preliminary round to take the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference.

Coyotes 4, Avalanche 2: At Edmonton, Darcy Kuemper stopped 49 shots and Arizona beat Colorado to cut the Avalanche's series lead to 2-1.

The Coyotes took the early lead on Derek Stepan's first-period goal, then spent most of the day counterpunching against Colorado's relentless pressure.

Andre Burakovsky tied it in the second period, but Brad Richardson Richardson put Arizona up 2-1 in the closing seconds.

Kuemper took made a series of difficult saves in the third period and Taylor Hall scored on an empty net.

Lawson Crouse finally put it out of reach with an empty-net goal.