

STARS AND STRIPES®

Monday, August 24, 2020

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Troops should plan ahead when voting

The Washington Post

As the partisan fight over mail-in voting intensifies ahead of the November presidential election, hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops and their families are preparing, as they have for decades, to cast absentee ballots by mail.

Defense Department officials say that the delivery of ballots cast by troops at military installations across the United States and far-flung locations around the globe should not be significantly impacted by recent U.S. Postal Service changes and an expected crush of mail-in voting because of the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Peter Graeve, chief of plans and policy for the Military Postal Service (MPS) Agency, ballots completed by service members, their family members and military contractors overseas between Sept. 1 and Dec. 8 will receive a USPS Express Mail label for expedited handling. The average transit time to voting centers in the U.S. — whether ballots are sent from giant bases in Germany or tiny outposts in the Syrian desert — should be six days, Graeve said.

But a Pentagon office dedicated to facili-

tating voting for troops and other Americans overseas has cautioned that remote voting could be more complicated this year.

“Communication with the voter is more important now than ever,” the Federal Voting Assistance Program said in a recent COVID-19 update on its website, urging election officials to communicate potential options to voters to ensure ballots arrive in time. “Due to international airport interruptions, many military and overseas voters will face greater-than-normal challenges with returning mail back to the United States in a timely fashion,” it said.

Lisa Lawrence, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said mail, including ballots, had “continued to move to overseas military personnel regardless of international postal disruptions.”

But, she added, “slight delays have occurred and the Military Postal Service Agency continues to monitor conditions globally with specific attention given to balloting materials.”

The military’s ability to ensure that service members can successfully vote is under heightened scrutiny as the U.S. Postal Ser-

vice warns that some of the ballots Americans cast by mail may not arrive in time to be counted.

Military personnel, including those who are located within the United States but outside their state of residence, have been taking part in U.S. elections on an absentee basis since as early as the War of 1812 and, in greater numbers, the Civil War, according to the National Postal Museum.

In the 2016 election, service members and their families sent more than 633,000 ballots to their home jurisdictions. About 20,000 of those were rejected, half because they weren’t received in time.

The successful delivery of those ballots to voting centers relies on a vast logistical operation overseen largely by the MPS, which is run by the Army but provides service for all troops and their families overseas.

According to an overview provided by MPS, mail processed at the service’s network of overseas post offices is taken by commercial or military aircraft to military mail terminals, then flown by commercial or military aircraft to airports or bases in the United States.

Memorials documented as Camp Taji handed to Iraqis

By CHAD GARLAND

Stars and Stripes

The U.S.-led coalition formally transferred Camp Taji near Baghdad, handing over to the Iraqi security forces nearly \$350 million in equipment and property, including blast walls once painted with murals honoring military units and fallen comrades.

A small number of remaining coalition troops at the base will depart soon, after finalizing the transfer of some \$10 million in excess property, about \$13 million in base improvements and nearly \$325 million in vehicles, weapons, clothing, equipment, ammunition, medical supplies and spare parts, the coalition said in a statement on Sunday.

Many of the more than two dozen tributes, some painted on concrete “T-walls” over 10 feet tall, had to be left in place, so they were documented with photographs and painted over to prevent vandalism or defacement, a separate statement said.

But at least one — a faded portrait honoring 1st Lt. Weston Lee, an infantry officer killed by an improvised explosive device blast while on patrol outside Mosul in 2017 — will be going home with the Americans. It had hung in a fieldhouse named in the Bluffton, Ga.-native’s honor.

“When we found 1st Lt. Lee’s memorial, we worked swiftly to make sure it was taken into our custody and moved to his former

unit,” Chaplain Joel Reynolds, a captain deployed with the Tennessee Army National Guard, said in the statement.

Lee’s portrait will travel back to the U.S. with members of 1st Battalion, 325th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, the unit he was serving with when he was killed on his first deployment.

“We look forward to offering it to the Lee family as a token of our continued appreciation for their son’s service and sacrifice to this great nation,” said Capt. Tyler Morgan, commander of the battalion’s Charlie Company.

The coalition’s withdrawal from the base about a dozen miles north of Baghdad was part of a plan to consolidate

international troops as Iraqi security forces take on more responsibility for their own training and counter-Islamic State operations, officials have said.

An important coalition training site over the past six years, Taji has in recent months been the target of frequent rocket attacks, which the U.S. has blamed on Iran-backed militias. Three coalition troops were killed and more than a dozen wounded when rockets fell on Taji in March.

Sunday’s transfer ceremony came just days after President Donald Trump reiterated his promise to bring home the roughly 5,200 American troops still in Iraq.

Calif. guardsman, 36, dies from coronavirus

BY CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—A 36-year-old staff sergeant assigned to the California National Guard has died from the coronavirus about a week after the Defense Department announced the death of an Army reservist from the disease, the Pentagon said Monday.

The soldier died Thursday and he was assigned to the 40th Combat Aviation Brigade out of Fresno, Lt. Col. Jonathan Shiroma, a spokesman for the California Military Department, wrote Monday in an email.

Shiroma did not release the soldier's name, an official photo or any other personal details, citing a request for privacy from the soldier's family.

The death was first reported only as an increase in the number of deaths in the Pentagon's coronavirus case chart, which was updated Monday.

The soldier's death was just days after Army Master Sgt. Brian K. Tolliver, 46, died Aug. 17 in Largo, Fla. Tolliver died more than a month after he first tested positive for the virus on July 10, according to an Army statement. He was the third Army Reserve soldier to die of the virus.

The soldier from California is the second member of the National Guard to die from the virus this year. In March, Army Capt. Douglas Linn Hickok, 57, was the first service member to die of the virus. He was with the New Jersey National Guard.

S. Korea warns of lockdown amid COVID-19 resurgence

BY KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean President Moon Jae-in warned a lockdown may be necessary as 266 new coronavirus cases were reported Monday, a sharp drop from the previous day but the 11th consecutive day the number was in triple digits.

Meanwhile, six more American service members tested positive after flying to South Korea from the United States, the military said Monday, raising its total to 166 since the pandemic took hold on the divided peninsula in late February.

Four of the infected troops arrived at Osan Air Base on government-chartered flights on Aug. 10 and Aug. 19, while two arrived at Incheon International Airport on commercial flights on Aug. 12 and 21, U.S. Forces Korea said in a press release.

The command said the new cases posed no threat to the broader community because they were contained in a strict testing and two-week quarantine process that begins as soon as the plane lands.

Two of the individuals received positive results on their first mandatory test before entering quarantine, while the other four tested positive on a second test required before people can exit quarantine, USFK said.

All six have since been transferred to isolation facilities on Camp Humphreys or Osan Air Base, it added. Any transportation or quarantine facilities used by the troops also have been thoroughly cleaned.

The military has reimposed coronavirus restrictions, including limiting access to bases and barring personnel from most recreational activities off-post as the virus has resurged in South Korea after months of relatively low numbers.

First day at DODEA schools is different amid new guidelines

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

The first day of school on U.S. military bases overseas took on the trappings of a pandemic Monday as children hustled off to class in masks or logged on to meet their teachers from home.

Schools on a handful of bases with a substantial risk of the coronavirus spreading, or Health Protection Condition-Charlie in military terms, are holding class remotely under a policy set by the Department of Defense Education Activity for the new school year.

In the Pacific, that includes DODEA schools at Yokosuka Naval Base and the Army's Camp Zama in mainland Japan, as well on installations in Okinawa, Guam and South Korea.

Under DODEA-Europe, 58 schools opened their classrooms while retaining a remote option, while six schools located in Bahrain, Spain and Ankara, Turkey, began the year with distance learning due to health concerns.

The day was embraced with a mix of excitement and trepidation by parents leaving their kids at school for the first time in more than five months.

"We feel our kids are in good hands," said Army Master Sgt. Faustin Desir, while dropping off his two children, in first and third grades, at Vogelweh Elementary School in Germany.

But "as a parent, it is very difficult, because of the unknown," said Desir, who works for the 21st Theater Sustainment Command in Kaiserslautern. "This morning, my wife and I, we prayed for our kids."

At Vogelweh, like other DODEA schools in Europe, parents were asked not to ac-

company their children into the building for health reasons.

Vogelweh principal David Lee gave parents a glimpse of how the morning was going through a series of live videos posted on the school's Facebook page Monday.

Students were spread out at tables or desks "by at least a pool noodle away from each other," he said.

At Yokosuka, several parents said remote learning didn't stop them from keeping up their yearly back-to-school traditions. Navy spouse Karina Moretz packed a lunchbox for her fourth-grade son, Nathan Moretz, 9.

"Keeping to our tradition helped make the transition from being at home to remote schooling," she said. "I've always done the first-day-of-school photo because I want to look back over the years and see how he's changed."

"I didn't want to miss this year's photo just because the school year will start at our table," she added.

At Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, Donald Williams, community superintendent for DODEA Pacific East, called this school year a "new era of education." Yokota High School, for example, launched the day with a seminar on hygiene practices, proper mask-wearing and social distancing.

In the hallways, students will travel a predetermined path to avoid getting too close to each other; instead of using drinking fountains, they're instructed to carry water bottles. Video chats linked to classrooms replace large assemblies.

Stars and Stripes reporters Erica Earl, Brian Ferguson, Theron Godbold, Seth Robson and Jennifer H. Svan contributed to this report.

President touts plasma treatment for virus

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump announced emergency authorization to treat COVID-19 patients with convalescent plasma — a move he called “a breakthrough,” one of his top health officials called “promising” and other health experts said needs more study before it’s celebrated.

The announcement Sunday came after White House officials complained there were politically motivated delays by the Food and Drug Administration in approving a vaccine and therapeutics for the disease that has upended Trump’s reelection chances.

On the eve of the Republican

National Convention, Trump put himself at the center of the FDA’s announcement of the authorization at a news conference Sunday evening. The authorization makes it easier for some patients to obtain the treatment, but is not the same as full FDA approval.

The blood plasma, taken from patients who have recovered from the coronavirus and rich in antibodies, may provide benefits to those battling the disease. But the evidence so far has not been conclusive about whether it works, when to administer it and what dosage is needed.

In a letter describing the emergency authorization, the chief scientist for the FDA, Denise Hinton, said: “COVID-19 convalescent plasma should not be considered a new standard of care for the treatment of patients with COVID-19. Additional data will be forthcoming from other analyses and ongoing, well-controlled clinical trials in the coming months.”

But Trump had made clear to aides that he was eager to showcase some good news in the battle against the virus, and the timing allowed him to head into his convention with momentum. He and his aides billed it as a “major” development and used the White House briefing room to make the announcement.

During Sunday’s press conference, Trump said he thought

there had been a “logjam” at the FDA over granting the emergency authorization. He alleged there are people at the FDA “that can see things being held up ... and that’s for political reasons.”

Dr. Joshua Sharfstein said the statement, and silence from the head of the FDA, Stephen Hahn, while Trump said it, “was disgraceful.”

“The FDA commissioner basically allowed the president to mischaracterize the decision and attack the integrity of FDA employees. I was horrified,” said Sharfstein, a vice dean at Johns Hopkins University’s school of public health who was a top FDA official during the Obama administration.

Gulf Coast towns brace for severe storms’ deluge

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — As two powerful storms menaced the Gulf Coast on Monday, forecasters feared Marco would drive sea water onto the shore and unleash torrential rains just two days before Laura lashes the same region with potentially more powerful storm surge and hurricane-force winds.

Forecasters raised the ominous possibility that warm waters in the Gulf of Mexico could super-charge Laura into a powerful hurricane. Laura’s center was remaining just off Cuba’s shore, and was not expected to weaken over land before entering the gulf.

“Laura will be moving over the very warm and deep waters of Gulf Stream and Loop Current located over the southeastern Gulf, which could trigger a brief period of rapid intensification,” the National Hurricane Center wrote in a Monday morning update.

That’s a recipe for damaging, hurricane-force winds of more than 110 mph as Laura approaches the U.S. coast, forecasters said.

“There is definitely a pos-

sibility that it could be a little bit stronger and be a Category 3,” said meteorologist Benjamin Schott, who runs the National Weather Service office in Slidell, La.

Marco was centered about 85 miles south-southeast of the mouth of the Mississippi River and heading northwest at 10 mph Monday morning. Forecasters expected it to remain just offshore Tuesday as it weakens and dissipates, leaving a flooded coastline as it sets the stage for Laura.

Laura was centered just south of central Cuba on Monday morning, drenching most of the island with rain and tropical storm force winds. Its top sustained winds were 65 mph.

Rain bands from both storms could bring a combined total of 2 feet of rain to parts of Louisiana and several feet of potentially deadly storm surge, forecasters said.

“Basically that would be 10-foot plus along the southwest Louisiana coast line” in a reasonable worst-case scenario, Schott said. That surge could also push water up to 30 miles up the rivers, he said.

China says it already began public use of a virus vaccine

The Washington Post

China is claiming the dubious honor of the first nation to roll out an experimental coronavirus vaccine for public use, saying it began inoculating high-risk groups in late July.

For those keeping score, that would put Beijing’s civilian rollout three weeks earlier than Russia’s, with neither vaccine having yet passed standard clinical trials. Beijing health officials said Saturday they began dosing some medical workers and state-owned enterprise employees with an experimental COVID-19 vaccine in late July under “urgent use” protocols.

Officials around the world have been debating how far they should suspend ordinary drug-development protocols to get virus vaccines and treatments to markets. Many governments declared early on that they would not cut corners in developing a vaccine, but they are proving amenable in practice to corner-cutting as the pandemic’s human and economic tolls mount.

The Beijing announcement

followed a diplomatic controversy last week, in which Papua New Guinea said it had turned back a group of Chinese miners who had received an experimental coronavirus vaccine.

There were signs of impatience in the White House as Beijing trumpeted its vaccine rollout over the weekend. President Donald Trump tweeted Saturday alleging that either the Food and Drug Administration or the “deep state” was delaying further progress for a U.S. coronavirus vaccine, without providing substantiating detail.

On Chinese state TV on Saturday, Zheng Zhongwei, head of China’s coronavirus vaccine development program, said that “urgent use” of Sinopharm trial vaccines were launched on July 22, with initial use for medical workers and some state-owned enterprises. This came a month after China’s military began inoculating troops with an experimental vaccine.

Authorities are considering expanding the inoculations this fall to employees of food markets, transport systems and service industries, he said.

GOP formally nominates Trump again

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Republican Party formally nominated President Donald Trump for a second term in the White House on Monday, one of the first acts of a GOP convention that has been dramatically scaled down to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

Trump has sought to minimize the toll of the pandemic, but its impact was evident as proceedings began in Charlotte. Instead of the thousands of people who were expected to converge on this city for a weeklong extravaganza, just 336 delegates participated in a roll-call vote from a Charlotte Convention Center ballroom.

Earlier, the convention renominated Vice President Mike Pence, and he thanked the delegates in person.

“The choice in this election has never been clearer and the stakes have never been higher,” Pence said. “We’re going to make American great again. Again.”

Party Chair Ronna McDaniel said as she began the proceedings: “We are obviously disappointed we could not hold this event in the same way we had originally planned,” But she thanked the city for allowing the convention to move forward in its truncated form.

Many of the usual trappings of a convention were present, including signs designating each state and gift bags with Republican swag. But chairs on the ballroom floor were arranged with lots of space between them and convention organizers told participants to wear masks, though adherence to the rule

was uneven. Still, the fact an in-person meeting was held at all marked a sharp contrast with Democrats.

Last week, the Democrats created a well-received roll call via video montage with diverse officials and others from states across the country. The Republicans, overwhelmingly white, spoke from the ballroom floor.

After Trump’s renomination, much of the action is shifting to Washington, where Republicans will spend the week trying to convince the American people that the president deserves a second term.

The GOP convention is a crucial moment for Trump, who is trailing in national and battleground state polls and under intense pressure to turn the race around. Just 23% think the country is heading in the right

direction, while 75% think it’s on the wrong path, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

After the Charlotte kickoff, most of the GOP convention will take place in Washington at and around the White House, as well as by video. It will feature remarks from well-known Trump supporters, including members of the Trump family, outspoken conservatives and everyday Americans who campaign officials say have been helped by Trump’s policies.

First lady Melania Trump will speak Tuesday from the Rose Garden, Pence will appear from Fort McHenry in Baltimore on Wednesday and Trump will deliver his marquee acceptance speech Thursday from the South Lawn.

Pompeo hopes other Arab countries forge Israeli ties

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said he hoped other Arab countries would also establish diplomatic relations with Israel as he kicked off a Mideast tour Monday to press the momentum of the Trump administration’s Arab-Israeli peace push.

Pompeo spoke during a joint statement with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem, the first stop on a multi-country tour of the region following the Aug. 13 announcement of the historic agreement between Israel and the United Arab Emirates, brokered by Washington, to establish diplomatic ties.

“I am hopeful that we will see other Arab nations join in this,” Pompeo said. “The opportunity for them to work alongside, to recognize the state of Israel and to work alongside them will not only increase Middle East stability, but it will improve the lives for the people of their own countries as well.”

The Israel-UAE agreement delivered a key foreign policy victory to President Donald Trump as he seeks reelection and reflected a changing Middle East in which shared concerns about archenemy Iran have largely overtaken traditional Arab support for the Palestinians.

Both Pompeo and Netanyahu criticized the lack of international support for the U.S. demand for the restoration of U.N. sanctions against Iran.

“We are determined to use every tool that we have to ensure they can’t get access to high-end weapon systems,” Pompeo said. “The rest of the world should join us.”

Earlier this month, the U.S., Israel and the UAE announced the deal to establish full diplomatic relations, which also requires Israel to freeze its plans to annex parts of the occupied West Bank sought by the Palestinians as part of their future state.

Protest erupts in Wis. after police shoot man from behind

Associated Press

KENOSHA, Wis. — Officers deployed tear gas early Monday to disperse hundreds of people who took to the streets following a police shooting in Kenosha that also drew a rebuke from the governor after a video posted on social media appeared to show officers shoot at a Black man’s back as he leaned into a vehicle.

A person was hospitalized in serious condition following a shooting by officers about 5 p.m. Sunday as officers were responding to a “domestic incident,” the Kenosha Police Department said in a news release. Police did not provide details about what led to the shooting, but said the person was transported to a hospital in Milwaukee for treatment.

By late Sunday, multiple vehicle fires had been set and windows smashed along city thoroughfares as crowds faced off with law enforcement. Officers in riot gear stood in lines and SWAT vehicles re-

mained on the streets to move people away from city buildings despite the declaration of an overnight curfew. Tear gas was used to disperse groups of people, according to reporters at the scene.

In the video posted earlier on social media that appeared to show the shooting from across a street, three officers could be seen shouting and pointing their weapons at the man as he walked around the front of a parked SUV. As the man opened the driver’s side door and leaned inside, one officer grabbed his shirt from behind and then fired into the vehicle. Seven shots could be heard on the video, though it was unclear if more than one officer fired.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice, which is investigating the shooting, did not release any details about the involved officers except to say they have been placed on administrative leave.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Lifeguard shortage prompts swimming ban

IN CHESTERTON — A lifeguard shortage has prompted Indiana Dunes State Park to ban beachgoers from swimming and wading in Lake Michigan at the lakeside park until September.

Park officials announced the ban Friday, but stressed that the beach will remain open for walking and other activities on the shore during regular park hours, The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

The park is located about 50 miles southeast of Chicago and is a popular summer recreational destination for the region.

Officials said the park's main and west parking lots will remain open and its Beach Trail boardwalk will continue to give beach access for those staying at the campsites. But on busy days when the parking lots are full, cars will only be admitted as other cars leave, in an effort to reduce beach congestion for better social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Police searching for pawn shop robbers

MN ST. CLOUD — Police in St. Cloud are searching for three men suspected of robbing a downtown pawn shop.

The St. Cloud Times reported officers responded to a report of a robbery at Security Coin and Pawn Shop around midday Friday. Three men had entered the store and approached two employees behind the counter. All three men were wearing masks.

One of the men left but the other two each grabbed an employee and punched them in their faces. The two men then

leaped over the counter, took jewelry from a display case and left.

The employees, a 75-year-old woman and a 76-year-old man, were taken by ambulance to a hospital. Their injuries aren't believed to be life-threatening.

Seawalls shored up to protect 2 historic homes

IN BEVERLY SHORES — Crews are shoring up seawalls that protect two historic World's Fair homes along Lake Michigan's northern Indiana shoreline from the lake's worsening erosion.

The Wieboldt-Rostone House and the Florida Tropical House were featured in the 1933 World's Fair in nearby Chicago but were moved after the fair closed to lakeside property that's now part of the Indiana Dunes National Park.

They're owned by the National Park Service and leased to residents who are paying for the seawall work and to restore the historic buildings.

Now, crews are spending nearly a month to make the homes' seawalls taller due to record high water levels on the lake, The (Northwest Indiana) Times reported.

"We figure just a couple more feet is all they needed," said Paul Labovitz, superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Park.

That work is above the high-water mark and therefore not subject to approval by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, he said.

Sheriff charged with giving alcohol to minor

KY FRANKFORT — A sheriff in Kentucky has been indicted on charges that he provided alcohol to

someone underage and tampered with the testimony of a potential witness, the state attorney general announced Friday.

According to Attorney General Daniel Cameron's office, Trigg County Sheriff Jason Barnes, 50, faces a Class A misdemeanor charge of unlawful transaction with a minor and a Class D felony charge of witness tampering. A Trigg County grand jury handed down the indictment.

Cameron's office said it worked with Kentucky State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. attorney's office to determine Barnes illegally provided the alcohol to someone younger than 21 in February. Months later, Barnes "knowingly practiced deceit with the intent to affect the testimony of a potential witness," according to the attorney general's office.

Barnes, who has served as sheriff since 2018, is resigning effective Aug. 31, Cameron's office said.

Man given 18 years after fleeing hit-and-run

IL URBANA — A Champaign man who drove into a crowd of people and fled the scene has been sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Derek Overton was sentenced Thursday for the Sept. 24, 2019, incident that left one man paralyzed. Overton, who has already served 253 days in county jail, said he drove into the crowd of people to escape from getting jumped, The News-Gazette reported.

Assistant State's Attorney Christopher McCallum, who negotiated the plea agreement with Assistant Public Defender Matt Ham, said several people were in the parking lot during the night of the incident when several fights broke out.

He noted that it reportedly involved a quarrel over the car Overton was driving, which he was keeping for another man serving a prison term.

McCallum said the fights had already ended when Overton backed into a crowd, hitting people, then put the car in drive and ran over a sidewalk where more people were standing before taking off.

Overton was on the run until mid-December, when U.S. marshals found him in Champaign. He said he plans to seek drug treatment in prison.

Man arrested for highway shootings

OR ROSEBURG — A 49-year-old man has been arrested in connection with a series of highway shootings in southwest Oregon, state police said.

Kenneth Ayers, of Roseburg, was arrested on suspicion of attempted murder, assault, recklessly endangering another person and other charges, police said.

At least eight vehicles have been struck by bullets on Interstate 5 since the end of May, police said. The most recent shooting happened Wednesday in Jackson County when a woman in a vehicle was struck by a bullet, police said. She has since been released from the hospital.

Police had been investigating a possible link between the shootings and a UPS truck when they found Ayers north of the spot where the woman was hit, Oregon State Police Capt. Tim Fox told The Oregonian/OregonLive. Police found a gun in his truck consistent with the gun used in the shootings, Fox said.

Police said Ayers was a UPS employee.

From wire reports

On a mission to provide objective reporting
to America's military, wherever they serve.
Read us online at www.stripes.com.

STARS AND STRIPES®

Sato wins his second Indy 500

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — At an eerily empty Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Takuma Sato snatched a second Indianapolis 500 victory in an odd and unsatisfying finish to “The Greatest Spectacle in Racing.”

Sato held off Scott Dixon and won under caution after teammate Spencer Pigot crashed with five laps remaining in Sunday’s race, held in front of empty grandstands for the first time in 104 runnings because of the pandemic.

Pigot needed medical attention on the track, the crash scene was a massive debris field and the cleanup time would have been lengthy. There were also just four laps left in the race, not enough time to allow for a proper restart.

If it had been a NASCAR race, a stoppage would have been immediate to set up a final shootout. IndyCar tends to avoid gimmicks and a late red-flag in the 2014 Indy 500 incensed purists.

Dixon, the five-time IndyCar champion who had dominated the race, asked on his radio if IndyCar was going to give the drivers a final shootout.

“Are they going red?” Dixon asked. “They’ve got to go red. There’s no way they can clean that up.”

The answer was no, turning the end of the race into a game of what-ifs.

“It is a little silly to predict what might have happened. The reality is Takuma won,” said winning car owner Bobby Rahal. “This isn’t the first 500 to be flagged under yellow and there was a hell of a mess out there.”

IndyCar said in a statement after the finish “there were too few laps remaining to gather the field behind the pace car, issue a red flag and then restart for a green-flag finish.”

Dixon was visibly disappointed after leading 111 of the 200 laps in pursuit of his own second Indy win.

“Definitely a hard one to swallow for sure. We had such a great day,” Dixon said. “First time I’ve seen them let it run out like that. I thought they’d throw a red.”

Dixon had figured he would ultimately run down Sato as Sato worked through lapped traffic, and he believed Sato’s team was cutting it close on fuel. Rahal said his driver had

enough gas to get to the end.

None of it mattered in the end as Sato was able to coast around the speedway then ride the lift new track owner Roger Penske installed to take the winner to an elevated victory circle. Along for the ride were Rahal, the 1986 Indy 500 winner, and David Letterman, his mask buried in an unruly gray beard as the longtime comedian and TV host greeted Sato.

“Let me just say, if someone said to me this morning at the end of the Indianapolis 500 that Takuma Sato and Scott Dixon and Graham Rahal would be racing for the lead, I would say that’s a dream, that’s a dream come true,” Letterman said. “And I woke up and it turned out we won the Indianapolis 500.”

Sato became the first Japanese winner of the Indy 500 in 2017. Graham Rahal, Sato’s teammate at Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, was third behind Dixon.

Sato knew Dixon was going to be tough to beat under green.

“I know Scott was coming right through, out of turn four, he was screaming coming,” Sato said. “I had to hold him off.”

D. Johnson No. 1 again with TPC Boston win

NORTON, Mass. — Dustin Johnson is back to No.1 in the world and wants to stay there as long as he can.

The manner in which he obliterated one of the strongest fields of the year at The Northern Trust is to wonder how he ever left in the first place.

At his best, no one makes golf look easier.

“He can absolutely dismantle a golf course,” said Kevin Kisner, who used to ride to junior golf tournaments with Johnson when they were kids in South Carolina. “I’ve been watching it for 25 years. I’m pretty accustomed to it. When he’s on, I just step to the side and try to add on to my bank account.”

The numbers that defined Johnson’s dominance go well beyond the \$1.71 million he earned for his 22nd career victory on the PGA Tour, his second this summer since golf returned from the pandemic or his fifth title in the FedEx Cup playoffs, tying him with Rory McIlroy for most in the postseason.

He started with a five-shot lead Sunday and matched the low score of the final round with an 8-under 63. Harris English, playing with Johnson in the last group, shot 32 on the front nine and lost ground.

“Kind of had my own tournament that I was playing,” English said.

His 11-shot victory was the widest margin on the PGA Tour since Phil Mickelson won by 13 at the TPC Sugarloaf outside Atlanta in 2006, a week before the Masters.

When he tapped in for birdie on the final hole at TPC Boston, he was at 30-under 254, both personal bests.

Johnson became only the third player to finish at 30-under par or better on the PGA Tour. He was one shot from the record Ernie Els set in 2003 at Kapalua. Jordan Spieth was 30 under at Kapalua in 2016. He also was one shot from the 72-hole record Justin Thomas set — 253 — when he won the Sony Open in 2017.

— Associated Press

Racing roundup

Harvick dominates at Dover for 7th Cup victory

Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — Kevin Harvick views his NASCAR championship chase as him against the field. His budding rivalry with Denny Hamlin, however, has turned into a can-you-top-this showdown that promises to last until the finale.

A day after Hamlin’s victory, Harvick regained the Cup Series lead with his seventh, dominating Sunday at Dover International Speedway.

Harvick and Hamlin have emerged as the clear contenders to win it all — and again they proved their mettle in doubleheaders. At Pocono in

late June, Harvick won the Saturday race and Hamlin followed with the checkered flag 24 hours later.

Harvick won the finale of the final scheduled twinbill of the season required by the pandemic hiatus. Harvick and Hamlin long ago clinched their spots in NASCAR’s postseason, and can rest easy — though they won’t — headed into the regular-season finale Saturday night at Daytona International Speedway. The final three playoff spots are up for grabs, with seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson needing a win to make a run at a record eighth title in his farewell season.

Briscoe calls shot, wins Xfinity race

DOVER, Del. — Chase Briscoe called his shot at Dover International Speedway on Sunday and won his sixth Xfinity Series race of the season.

Briscoe won five of the first 13 races this season but was winless in the last seven. That streak ended at Dover not long after Briscoe called his wife, Marissa, and said he would win the race. He went out and delivered in what he called his best Ford of the season.

Briscoe won for the eighth time in his career.

Darvish fans 10 as Cubs stop White Sox

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago Cubs ace Yu Darvish is rolling.

Not even the slugging White Sox could take him down.

Darvish struck out 10 in his career-high fifth consecutive victory, and the Cubs beat the White Sox 2-1 on Sunday to stop the South Siders' seven-game win streak.

"Seeing what he did out there was spectacular," teammate Kyle Schwarber said.

Schwarber hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning as the Cubs won for just the fourth time in their last 11 games. The NL Central leaders were outscored 17-5 in the first two games of the series.

"What I was trying to do, when I tried to throw a chase pitch — slider, cutter mixed in — that works," Darvish said. "But when

I tried to go fastball in or sinker in, they hit real well."

Jose Abreu went deep for the White Sox in the second, matching a major league record with a home run in four consecutive at-bats. Abreu connected five times in the first two games against the Cubs, including three homers and four RBIs in Saturday night's 7-4 win.

"I'm never satisfied with what I do," Abreu said through a translator. "I always think I can do better, I can do more. That's why I work so hard."

The White Sox have hit 28 homers over their last eight games. They blasted 12 in the weekend set at Wrigley Field.

Darvish (5-1) allowed one run and six hits in seven innings. He is 5-0 with a 1.09 ERA since he struggled in his first start of the year against Milwaukee on July 25.

"I don't want to think about that. I don't care, just focusing next pitch," Darvish said about potentially being in the NL Cy Young Award discussion.

Jeremy Jeffress got four outs for his third save. Jeffress replaced Craig Kimbrel with runners on first and second in the eighth and retired Eloy Jimenez on a liner to center. He got Yoan Moncada to ground out with the bases loaded in the ninth.

Schwarber had two of the Cubs' five hits. Javier Baez doubled and scored on Schwarber's fifth homer.

Abreu led off the second with a 449-foot drive to left-center. His home run streak ended with a groundout in the fourth. Abreu became the first player in White Sox history to hit five home runs in two games when he smacked two Friday and a career-high three Saturday.

MLB roundup

Dodgers pound 7 homers, sweep Rockies

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Kike Hernandez hit a three-run drive, crossed the plate and motioned taking a three-point jumper in a tribute to Kobe Bryant on what would have been the late NBA superstar's 42nd birthday.

"It's probably one of those that I'll always remember," Hernandez said. "We lost Kobe a little too soon."

Mookie Betts went deep twice in the Dodgers' seven-homer attack, powering Los Angeles past the Colorado Rockies 11-3 on Sunday for a three-game sweep.

"We like when it's warm in here," Hernandez said, referring to the game-time temperature of 91 degrees. "When it's a little cooler, the ball tends to die. The last four games at home has been pretty warm and we've enjoyed that."

The Dodgers are the only team in the majors yet to lose a series, unbeaten in 11. They have won 11 of 12 games overall and own the best record in baseball at 22-8 at the halfway point of this abbreviated season.

"The simple truth of this series is they outpitched us and

they outhit us," Rockies manager Bud Black said. "They came in with a lot of momentum, they were playing well, and they continued."

Padres 5, Astros 3: Fernando Tatis Jr. made two spectacular plays at shortstop, Manny Machado hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, and host San Diego completed a three-game series sweep.

The Padres have won seven straight, all against the two Texas teams. The Astros have lost three straight. They came in on an eight-game winning streak.

Athletics 5, Angels 4: Mark Canha hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning, and host Oakland improved to 5-0 in extra innings.

The game was played despite poor air quality from several fires in Northern California that have raged on for most of the week. The A's said the situation was being monitored throughout the day.

Cardinals 6, Reds 2: Yadier Molina had four hits and top prospect Dylan Carlson hit his first career homer, helping host St. Louis to the victory.

Harrison Bader also con-

nected for the Cardinals, who won three of four in the series. Molina, Carlson and Bader each finished with two RBIs.

Rays 5, Blue Jays 4: Josh Fleming pitched five innings of two-run ball for host Tampa Bay, winning his major league debut.

Fleming (1-0) is the 11th different starter in 29 games this season for the injury-filled Rays pitching staff.

Twins 5, Royals 4: Nelson Cruz hit his 10th homer for visiting Minnesota, and closer Taylor Rogers dodged trouble in the ninth inning.

Cruz connected on Trevor Rosenthal's 99-mph fastball for a solo shot that went an estimated 441 feet to center field in the ninth. The drive gave the Twins a two-run lead and helped the team win its eighth series in nine tries this season.

Giants 6, Diamondbacks 1: Mike Yastrzemski celebrated his 30th birthday with a go-ahead home run, and host San Francisco earned its sixth consecutive victory.

Trevor Cahill and four relievers held Arizona to five hits, and the Giants completed their first three-game series sweep

of the season.

Mariners 4, Rangers 1: Kyle Lewis and Sam Haggerty homered and Justin Dunn pitched one-hit ball over six innings, leading host Seattle to the win.

Pirates 5, Brewers 4: Gregory Polanco hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning, helping host Pittsburgh complete a three-game series sweep.

Orioles 5, Red Sox 4: Rio Ruiz drove in four runs, Thomas Eshelman provided exceptional relief for injured starter Wade LeBlanc, and host Baltimore beat Boston to earn a split of the four-game series.

Tigers 7, Indians 4: Tarik Skubal and Daniel Norris combined to pitch six innings of one-run ball, leading visiting Detroit to the victory.

Nationals 9, Marlins 3: Anibal Sanchez pitched seven effective innings for host Washington, and Trea Turner drove in three runs.

Phillies 5, Braves 4: Rhys Hoskins, Didi Gregorius and Alec Bohm homered, visiting Philadelphia's bullpen turned in a rare sparkling performance and the Phillies snapped a five-game skid with a win over Atlanta.

NBA roundup

Doncic's 3 lifts Mavericks in overtime

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Luka Doncic stepped back for a winning three-pointer — on a tender ankle, no less.

Another installment in the ever-growing legend of Doncic.

Doncic's deep shot at the buzzer capped a triple-double and the short-handed Dallas Mavericks beat the Los Angeles Clippers 135-133 in overtime Sunday to even their playoff series at two games apiece.

Doncic finished with 43 points, 17 rebounds and 13 assists for his second straight triple-double.

"We know this kid has got a flair for the dramatic," Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said. "He's a guy that lives for these moments."

To think, Doncic was a game-time decision due to the left ankle he hurt in Game 3. But once he stepped on the floor, he knew he would give it a go.

And once crunch time hit, the ankle wasn't even a thought.

"One of the best feelings I've ever had as a player," Doncic said about the winner. "Just something special."

Marcus Morris hit a three-pointer with around 9 seconds remaining in OT to give the Clippers the lead. It simply set the stage for Doncic's winner over Reggie Jackson.

His teammates rushed out to congratulate him.

"Big-time players make big-time plays. He's a big-time player," teammate Trey Burke said. "He's proved it already in this league."

Doncic's theatrics helped seventh-seeded Dallas post its biggest playoff comeback win, overcoming a 21-point, second-quarter deficit. Its previous best was 19 against the Spurs in San Antonio during Game 5 of the 2003 Western Conference Finals.

Jazz 129, Nuggets 127: Donovan Mitchell scored 18 of his 51 points in the fourth quarter and Utah withstood a 50-point night from Jamal Murray to beat Denver and take a 3-1 series lead.

Mitchell was 15-for-27 from the floor and went 17-for-18 from the free-throw line. He had 57 points in Game 1 and is averaging 39.5 points in the series. The Jazz can close it out in Game 5 on Tuesday.

Murray, who hit a long three-pointer near the buzzer, had the most-ever by a Denver player in a postseason game, surpassing Spencer Haywood's mark of 45 in an ABA playoff contest on April 19, 1970. Murray also had 11 rebounds. Nikola Jokic added 29 points for the Nuggets.

Mike Conley had 26 points for Utah in his second game since returning to the

NBA bubble after leaving for the birth of his son. Rudy Gobert had 17 points and 11 rebounds.

Celtics 110, 76ers 106: Kemba Walker scored 32 points and Boston pulled away in fourth quarter to complete a first-round series sweep of Philadelphia.

Jayson Tatum added 28 points and had a playoff career-high 15 rebounds for the Celtics, who advanced to Eastern Conference semifinals against defending champion Toronto.

Joel Embiid led the 76ers with 30 points and 10 rebounds. Tobias Harris added 20 points and five rebounds.

Raptors 150, Nets 122: Norman Powell scored 29 points, fellow reserve Serge Ibaka added 27 points and 15 rebounds and Toronto steamrolled into the Eastern Conference semifinals by routing Brooklyn to complete a four-game sweep.

The Raptors lost Kyle Lowry to an ankle injury in the first quarter but the defending NBA champions had more than enough depth and power left to wrap up the first sweep in franchise history.

Pascal Siakam had 20 points and 10 assists for Toronto, which upped its record to 11-1 in the bubble. Caris LeVert scored 35 points for the Nets.

NHL roundup

Bruins edge Lightning as Halak stops 35 shots

Associated Press

TORONTO — Brad Marchand says it's no coincidence the Boston Bruins are starting to look like the team that led the NHL regular season with 100 points and 44 wins.

After floating through the preliminary seeding round a few weeks ago, the President's Trophy-winning Bruins have flipped the switch now that the real playoffs have begun.

Jaroslav Halak stopped 35 shots to win his fourth straight game since starter Tuukka Rask opted out of the playoffs, and the Bruins beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-2 to open their second-round series on Sunday night.

Marchand and regular-season leading scorer David Pastrnak had a goal and assist each, and Charlie Coyle also scored for a Bruins team that has won five of six since opening the playoffs by losing all three round-robin seeding games.

"I think maybe there was a little bit of concern from some people after the first four games, but for the teams that weren't fighting for a playoff position and playing for standings, those games really didn't mean a whole lot," Marchand said. "We obviously buckled down once the playoffs started and when the games matter. That's kind of how this group is

when it's time to play."

The Bruins got off to a fast start, weathered a second period in which they were outshot 18-7, and wound up hanging on in a game Tampa Bay's Victor Hedman scored twice in the final 11:10.

Golden Knights 5, Canucks 0: Robin Lehner recorded his first career playoff shutout and the Vegas Golden Knights beat the Vancouver Canucks in Edmonton in the first game of their second round playoff series.

The 29-year-old Lehner, who is playing for his fifth NHL team, turned aside 26 shots.

"I thought we played a helluva game, a real good team

game," Lehner said.

"Everyone was working hard, blocking shots, back-checking, all the small things. It was nice to come out strong and start the series strong."

Reilly Smith, Jonathan Marchessault, Alex Tuch, Mark Stone, and Max Pacioretty scored and chased Vancouver starting goaltender Jacob Markstrom from the net.

Markstrom, making his 11th consecutive playoff start, stopped 29 of 34 shots and was pulled midway through the third period for Thatcher Demko after allowing the fifth goal. The Canucks had just a handful of dangerous scoring chances.