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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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US Navy in Japan reports 12 new cases

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The number of new coronavirus cases in Japan's capital city fell to 100 on Monday, the lowest daily count in a week, according to public broadcaster NHK.

Meanwhile, the U.S. military in Japan reported 13 new infections Monday: 12 at Yokosuka Naval Base and one at the Marine Corps' Camp Courtney on Okinawa. All the individuals who tested positive were already in quarantine, according to those installations.

The new cases in Tokyo on Monday pushed the pandemic total to 20,817, according to NHK, which cited the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

The daily count has been higher than 100 for seven consecutive days; it peaked at 472 cases on Aug. 1. The metro area reported

95 cases on Aug. 24, according to the metro government website.

The seven-day moving average of new cases in Tokyo fell from 275.3 on Aug. 20 to 197.7 on Sunday, according to the metro government website.

At Yokosuka, about 40 miles southwest of central Tokyo, seven new cases identified as close contacts tested positive for the virus, according to a base news release. Base spokesman Randall Baucom said those seven were tested in quarantine.

Another five individuals had recently arrived in Japan and were in mandatory 14-day quarantine when they tested positive, the Yokosuka release said.

Okinawa prefecture reported 23 new cases Monday, according to the Ryukyu Shimpō newspaper, which cited a prefectural official.

On its website, the prefecture reported 31 new coronavirus infections on Saturday and 33 on Sunday. A man in his 80s died

Saturday in Okinawa city, the 27th death linked to the virus on the island, according to the prefecture. The prefecture also reported three recent false positives: one on Aug. 25 and two on Thursday.

Friday, Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki extended to Sept. 5 a state of emergency just before the Okinawa Obon holiday started Monday. The holiday concludes on Wednesday.

"Please this year, have a quiet Obon; do not go to meet your grandpa and grandma," Tamaki said during a press conference. Obon typically involves travel to visit family.

"We cannot afford to have another complete lockdown like April to May; our economy will not survive," Tamaki said. "We have to live with coronavirus, and we must keep preventing the spread of the virus."

Avoid crowded spaces, wash hands frequently and maintain social distancing "and maybe one day, we'll have zero coronavirus," he added.

US bases prep as typhoon barrels toward Okinawa

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — U.S. bases on Okinawa completed preparations Monday for Typhoon Maysak, a Category 4 storm expected to pass within 70 miles of Kadena Air Base on Tuesday morning, according to military spokespeople.

Maintenance and service personnel finished policing base and unit facilities, boarded up buildings, tied down loose equipment and deployed sandbags to combat flooding, Marine Corps and Air Force officials said. Activities were postponed or canceled across the island.

Kadena Air Base declared Tropical Cyclone Condition of Readiness 1-Caution at 3:45 p.m. Monday, meaning winds of up to 45 mph were occur-

ring. The 18th Wing Weather Flight's wind-forecast timeline indicated destructive winds of 58 mph or greater could occur by 8 p.m.

The typhoon is expected to pass 64 miles southwest of Kadena at 5 a.m. Tuesday, according to the 18th Wing Weather Flight. Sustained winds could exceed 138 mph by 9 a.m., with gusts higher than 167 mph.

To prepare for typhoons, the facility maintenance branch and camp services at Marine Corps Installations Pacific boards up certain facilities and essential services, spokesman 1st Lt. Tim Hayes wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes on Monday.

At readiness condition 1, "non-essential personnel are released and advised to begin implementing safety protocols in

their prospective areas of shelter in order to prepare for the incoming typhoon," he wrote.

Hayes said service members, civilian employees and their families have been encouraged to follow posted typhoon readiness guidelines, such as stocking up on food, water and flashlights.

Hayes said the Marine Corps expected no complications arising from the coronavirus during the storm. The Marines, who have recorded more than 300 infections, have experienced the bulk of virus cases on the island, although most have recovered.

Stravolo wrote that any recent arrivals to Okinawa still in quarantine have necessary supplies to weather the storm and maintain contact with their units until the "all clear" is sounded.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki called Maysak the first "very strong" typhoon of the year to target Okinawa and cautioned residents in disaster areas and low-lying regions to beware of landslides from heavy rain, according to remarks posted Sunday on the prefecture's official website. He also called on people to stay away from the ocean and other waterways and to make adequate preparations.

"The ocean will stay very stormy until Tuesday and strong rain and high tides are expected," Tamaki said. "Please use caution when the strong rain warning gets declared and follow the guidance when an evacuation is necessary."

Approximately 180 flights have been canceled, impacting 9,200 people, Okinawa Times newspaper reported Monday.

Russian jets fly within 100 feet of US bomber

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A U.S. B-52 bomber's maneuvers above the Black Sea were restricted by two Russian fighter planes that flew in an "unsafe and unprofessional manner" when they crossed within 100 feet of the Air Force's long-range bomber, the military said.

Two Russian Su-27 Flankers intercepted the B-52 Stratofortress bomber while it conducted "routine operations" Saturday over international waters, U.S. Air Forces in Europe said in a

statement.

"The Russian pilots flew in an unsafe and unprofessional manner while crossing within 100 feet of the nose of the B-52 multiple times at co-altitude and while in afterburner causing turbulence and restricting the B-52's ability to maneuver," USAFE said in a statement.

The incident came as U.S. B-52 Stratofortresses and fighter escorts from several nations flew over all 30 NATO member states as part of a training mission that launched Friday. Multiple bombers from the 5th Bomb Wing at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., were in Europe for

that drill.

"Actions like these increase the potential for midair collisions, are unnecessary and inconsistent with good airmanship and international flight rules," said USAFE boss Gen. Jeff Harrigian said in a statement. "While the Russian aircraft were operating in international airspace, they jeopardized the safety of flight of the aircraft involved."

The incident is one of several examples in recent years of Russian intercepts of U.S. aircraft in the Black Sea and the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

In April and May, the United

States accused Russia of multiple unsafe intercepts involving fighters flying as close as 25 feet from a U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance aircraft over the eastern Mediterranean. Russia has also lodged complaints about U.S. operations near its borders.

In response to the latest Black Sea incident, U.S. European Command in a statement Sunday said that "one unsafe intercept is too many."

"Whether in the sky or on the ocean, we expect the forces of every country to maintain safe and professional behavior at all times," EUCOM said.

Afghans who killed Americans to be freed

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three Afghans accused of involvement in the deaths of American troops in so-called "insider" attacks are among more than 300 high-value Taliban prisoners that the Afghan government is set to release to facilitate direct talks with the militant group, according to a senior Afghan official and a Kabul-based diplomat briefed on the matter.

The United States has not publicly objected to the expected release of the three prisoners. Instead, negotiators are exploring other options, including temporarily placing the inmates under house arrest, the two officials said.

The U.S. response puts it at odds with its Western allies: France and Australia have publicly opposed the release of at least three other prisoners accused of carrying out separate attacks against French and Australian nationals, including humanitarian workers.

Since a peace deal between the U.S. and the Taliban was inked in February, U.S. officials have applied consistent,

intense pressure on the Afghan government to quickly release all those remaining of the 5,000 Taliban prisoners cited in the deal as a precondition to talks.

It was unclear what attacks the three prisoners are alleged to have been involved in or how many Americans were killed. Insider attacks are assaults by Taliban infiltrators of the Afghan security forces against foreign forces.

The State Department did not respond to questions about the prisoners. Resolute Support, the U.S. military command in Kabul, and the Department of Defense referred questions to the State Department, which also declined to comment. The Afghan government said it could not immediately provide further information on the matter.

A senior Afghan government official said he was "surprised" by Washington's support for the prisoners' release. But he said the consensus among Afghan government officials is that U.S. Afghan policy is now largely being dictated by the Trump administration's desire to show voters he is ending the war in Afghanistan.

Four South Koreans killed in crash with US armored vehicle

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — A crash involving a U.S. military vehicle killed four South Koreans, prompting U.S. Forces Korea to temporarily suspend training in the area, which is near the border with North Korea, officials said Monday.

An SUV carrying the four civilians rear-ended the armored personnel carrier — which was a tracked vehicle — at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday on a road near the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex in the city of Pocheon, local police and fire officials said.

The four civilians were pronounced dead at the scene, a fire official said. The two soldiers in the military vehicle were not seriously injured. One was taken to a nearby hospital for evaluation but was cleared and released back to his unit, according to the 2nd Infantry Division.

USFK expressed "its deepest condolences" to the families and loved ones of the deceased and said the military was fully

cooperating with the South Korean police investigation into the crash.

"USFK is aware of the fatal accident near the Rodriguez Live Fire Complex," the command said in a statement. "Out of respect to those killed and their families, Eighth Army is temporarily suspending training in the area."

Photos of the scene showed a camouflaged M577 Armored Command Vehicle that was mangled in the back, including damage to the right-side tracks.

South Korea's Defense Ministry also expressed condolences and promised to work with USFK and other relevant organizations to make sure "follow-up measures are able to be properly implemented in accordance with the results of the investigation into the accident."

The crash occurred in a sensitive area for the U.S. military. Residents in Pocheon, a mountainous area about 30 miles north of Seoul, have long complained about noise, unexploded ordnances and stray rounds from the range, which is used year-round.

1st direct Israel-UAE flight lands

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — A Star of David-adorned El Al plane has landed in Abu Dhabi after flying in from Israel, carrying a high-ranking American and Israeli delegation in the first-ever direct commercial passenger flight to the United Arab Emirates.

The Israeli flag carrier's flight Monday marks the implementation of the historic U.S.-brokered deal to normalize relations between the two nations and solidifies long-clandestine ties that have evolved over years of shared enmity toward Iran.

With the U.S. as matchmaker, Israel and the UAE agreed earlier this month to work toward normalization, which would make the UAE the third Arab nation to have full relations with Israel, after Egypt and Jordan.

Monday's three hour, 20 minute flight saw the El Al plane fly through Saudi airspace and over the kingdom's capital, Riyadh.

That signals the possibility the kingdom

could regularly allow these flights, which would make them viable commercially. Otherwise, flights would need to take seven hours to detour, burning more jet fuel.

The American delegation includes President Donald Trump's senior adviser and son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as national security adviser Robert O'Brien, Mideast envoy Avi Berkowitz and envoy for Iran Brian Hook. Israel was represented by national security adviser Meir Ben-Shabbat and the director generals of several ministries, who will meet with their Emirati counterparts.

"While this is a historic flight, we hope that this will start an even more historic journey for the Middle East and beyond," Kushner told reporters before boarding the plane.

Ben-Shabbat said he was excited about the trip and that the aim was to lay the groundwork for cooperation in areas like tourism, medicine, technology and trade.

"This morning the traditional greeting of 'go in peace' takes on a special significance for us," he said.

The El Al flight, numbered LY971 as a gesture to the UAE's international calling code number, flew into Saudi Arabian airspace shortly after takeoff and later passed over the capital, Riyadh. That marked another historic first for Israel and at least an acquiescence by the kingdom for the UAE's move.

Saudi King Salman, along with other Gulf Arab leaders to varying degrees, maintain their boycotts of Israel in support of Palestinians obtaining an independent state. Any long-term flights between Israel and the UAE would require Saudi clearance to be profitable. Otherwise the three hour, 20 minute flight would take more than seven hours.

El Al spokesman Stanley Morais said the 737-900 is equipped with a missile-defense system, a standard feature on these types of planes and a requirement for this flight. After grounding its fleet due to the coronavirus, it is the airline's first flight since July 1.

Australia records its deadliest virus day

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Australia recorded its deadliest day of the pandemic Monday as the government urged hot spot Victoria state to announce plans to lift a lockdown on the country's second-largest city.

Victoria's health department reported 41 deaths from COVID-19 and 73 new infections in the latest 24-hour period. While the deaths were a state and national high, the tally of new infections was Victoria's lowest since 67 new cases were recorded on June 30 in the early weeks of the second wave of the pandemic, which has primarily been concentrated in the state capital, Melbourne.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said only eight of the 41 fatalities occurred in the latest 24-hour period. The other 33 fatalities occurred in aged care since late July and were

reported on Sunday following a tightening of reporting obligations and a review of previous reporting, Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said.

A six-week lockdown in the city is due to be relaxed on Sept. 13. But the state government has not said how it will be relaxed or given any assurances that it won't be extended.

Victoria has recorded more than 19,000 cases, almost 80% of Australia's more than 25,000 cases, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The state also accounts for the vast majority of Australia's more than 650 deaths.

Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said on Monday he disagreed with the Victorian government that it was too early to announce plans to reopen its economy.

Court OKs probe into Flynn case dismissal

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A federal judge can scrutinize the Justice Department's decision to drop the criminal case against President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn, a federal appeals court ruled here Monday, allowing the legal saga to continue.

The divided decision from the full U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit gives U.S. District Judge Emmet Sullivan the go-ahead to question prosecutors' unusual move to dismiss Flynn's case ahead of sentencing. The retired general twice pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his Russian contacts before Trump took office in 2017.

In an 8-to-2 ruling, the court denied Flynn's request, backed by the Justice Department, to shut down Sullivan's planned review and appointment of a retired federal judge to argue

against the government's position.

The decision by the full court reverses an earlier ruling by a three-judge panel of the same court that ordered Sullivan to immediately close the case.

Judge Thomas Griffith said it would be premature for the appeals court to intervene before Sullivan had rendered a decision.

"Today we reach the unexceptional yet important conclusion that a court of appeals should stay its hand and allow the district court to finish its work rather than hear a challenge to a decision not yet made. That is a policy the federal courts have followed since the beginning of the Republic," Griffith wrote in a statement concurring with the court's unsigned per curiam order.

Judges Karen Henderson and Neomi Rao filed separate dissents.

Virtual classes may mean snow day's demise

Associated Press

RUTLAND, Vt. — Some Vermont educators are wondering if remote learning could mean the end of snow days, the unexpected days off when weather conditions make it too hard for staff and children to reach school.

Bryan Olkowski, the superintendent of the Washington Central Supervisory Union, recently floated the idea at a school board meeting.

He said he brought it up lightheartedly, but it could be possible. Many school districts are working to switch to at least part-time remote education this fall.

It's unclear if those systems could work with less than a day's notice.

David Younce, of the Vermont Superintendents Association, said he hasn't heard any formal conversations on the topic, but called the idea "common sense commentary."

"The ability to work and learn from home is going to become more and more normalized, I suspect," Younce told the Rutland Herald. "I think that makes it much easier to make a decision."

But he said any decisions to shift to remote learning for inclement weather should be made in advance, such as noon the day before, to provide time for teachers, students and families to plan accordingly.

Massachusetts

QUINCY — The city of Quincy fined a wedding venue on Saturday for violating limits on gatherings. The rules are intended to cut down the spread of the coronavirus.

The Neighborhood Club of Quincy received a \$300 fine, The Patriot Ledger reported. A spokesperson for the club said it was hosting an outdoor wedding when rain and thunder motivated the general manager to move it indoors.

Quincy Health Department Commissioner Ruth Jones said she received a call there were more than 50 people at the venue. Republican Gov. Charlie

Baker issued an order in early August limiting indoor gatherings to no more than 25 in a single, enclosed space.

California

VENTURA — A study shows California's stay-at-home order in response to the coronavirus seems to have saved some wildlife, as decreased traffic resulted in fewer collisions with mountain lions, deer and other large animals.

A study by the Road Ecology Center at the University of California, Davis found traffic declined by about 75% after the emergency health regulation went into effect in March, The Ventura County Star reports.

The number of animals struck and killed by vehicles also fell, including a 58% decrease in fatal crashes involving mountain lions between the 10 weeks before and 10 weeks after the order was in place.

Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS — A northern Indiana woman has filed a lawsuit against the distributor of a recalled hand sanitizer over the presence of toxic methanol, alleging her children had severe side effects.

The lawsuit, filed earlier this month in St. Joseph County, seeks penalties. It names Texas-based 4e Brands North America, which distributes Blumen hand sanitizer. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration found the product contained methanol, or wood alcohol, which can be deadly.

The company issued a voluntary recall in July.

The Osceola woman claims her children's side effects included headaches and vomiting. The lawsuit accuses the company of violating Indiana's Products Liability Act and Deceptive Consumer Sales Act and seeks class action status.

Iowa

DES MOINES — The numbers on Iowa's online coronavirus tracker varied widely this weekend because of a maintenance

problem with the site.

The Iowa Department of Public Health reported Saturday morning that 1,108 Iowans had died from COVID-19. Later in the day, the number of deaths fell to 894 before rebounding Saturday evening to 1,109.

Department of Public Health spokeswoman Amy McCoy told the Des Moines Register by email late Saturday that the problem appeared to be fixed.

Pennsylvania

PHILADELPHIA — Temple University has announced a two-week halt of in-person classes as Philadelphia officials called on all college and university students in the city to avoid all social gatherings with people outside their households.

Temple officials said Sunday that new test results over the weekend had pushed the number of active COVID-19 cases from the 58 reported Friday to 103 active cases, most of them among people with no symptoms and a small number with mild to moderate flu-like symptoms.

University president Richard Englert said officials believe they are seeing "new cases that result from small social gatherings happening off campus."

Temple said in-person classes were to go online starting Monday and continue online through Sept. 11, with only classes deemed essential by college deans held in person.

Texas

AUSTIN — Texas health officials on Saturday reported the number of deaths due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, has surpassed 12,500 and the number of reported cases increased is now above 610,000.

There are 610,354 coronavirus cases and 12,510 deaths, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The true number of cases in Texas is likely higher because many people haven't been tested and studies suggest people can be infected and not feel

sick.

The number of reported cases rose by 3,759 and the total COVID-19 deaths is up by 90 from Saturday, the department said.

The department also reported an estimated 98,326 active cases, a decline of 2,863 from the 101,189 reported Saturday.

Utah

LOGAN — Utah State University plans to test nearly 300 students for COVID-19 after wastewater samples from four dormitories showed elevated levels of the coronavirus, school officials said Sunday.

The 287 students who were to be tested Sunday and Monday live in the Rich, Jones, Morgan and Davis dorms on the campus in Logan. There have been no reported positive tests for COVID-19 in those residence halls so far.

Students in those dorms must quarantine until the test results are available, which could take up to four days. They are also asked to fill out a form to ensure they receive academic support, food deliveries and other resources.

Classes are scheduled to begin on Monday for about 28,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

Nebraska

LINCOLN — The Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln has been placed under quarantine after 29 inmates tested positive for the coronavirus, officials said Sunday.

The positive cases were identified by tests that were done Friday. Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Director Scott Frakes said the positive cases included inmates in four different housing units, so the entire prison was placed under quarantine.

Officials said roughly 600 inmates were initially offered tests under the voluntary program, and 332 inmates agreed to be tested. The remaining inmates will be offered tests starting Sunday.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Memorial recalls 2019 tornado that killed 23

AL BEAUREGARD — A new memorial in Beauregard remembers the nearly two dozen people killed when a deadly tornado swept through the east Alabama county last year.

The names and images of the 23 victims who died during the storm are etched into main layer of the stone monument, WSFA reports. The second layer is dedicated to the first responders and volunteers. At the top is a cross and the saying, Beauregard Strong, an expression that the community used to rally together as they rebuilt from the storm.

"It's so beautiful, Tyesha Hart, who lost her 8-year-old daughter Mykhayla, told the station.

The monument was constructed at Providence Baptist Church

White woman slapped Black child, used slur

FL BOCA RATON — A white woman is facing felony child abuse charges after police said she slapped an 11-year-old Black child and called him a racist slur after his go-kart bumped hers at a Florida amusement park.

Boca Raton police said in court records that Haley Zager, 30, and the boy were driving go-karts at the Boomers amusement park Saturday night when they accidentally collided. They said Zager confronted the child after the ride and, in the presence of three Boomers employees, slapped him in the face, using a racist slur to justify the strike to bystanders.

Court records said Zager admitted to officers that she struck the child but denied using the slur.

Commuter bus slams into divider, 16 hurt

NY NEW YORK — A commuter bus slammed into a divider at New York City's main bus terminal on Saturday, injuring 16 people including one critically, the fire department said.

The New Jersey Transit bus crashed on an upper ramp at the Port Authority Bus Terminal in Manhattan, tossing passengers around and causing major damage to the vehicle's front end.

"There were multiple patients laying on the floor, around the vehicle and then multiple patients that were still trapped inside of the vehicle," EMS Deputy Chief Kevin Ramdayal said.

Eleven people were taken to hospitals for treatment, including one person who Ramdayal said had "severely critical" injuries.

Lack of wood halts boardwalk re-decking

MD OCEAN CITY — Ocean City is postponing plans to re-deck its iconic boardwalk because of a lumber shortage caused by the coronavirus outbreak.

The Daily Times of Salisbury reported that the boardwalk, which stretches over 30 blocks, is typically re-decked every 10 years or so.

When city workers began making inquiries to potential suppliers, they learned that it might cost double the \$468,000 that had been budgeted for the first half of the project.

Lumber prices have more than doubled since April, as the coronavirus prompted both a supply shortage and a spike in demand as people stuck at home embarked on home-improvement projects. Tariffs

on Canadian lumber have also contributed to the price increase, experts said.

Suspect arrested in poker champion theft

NV LAS VEGAS — Authorities in Nevada have arrested an Arizona woman on suspicion of stealing about \$1 million in cash, gambling chips and jewelry from an international poker champion and his father.

Svitlana Silva, 46, was charged with residential burglary and possession of stolen property valued at \$100,000 or more, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

Las Vegas police reported that poker champion Antonio Esfandiari and his father Bejan Esfandiari called authorities July 14 to report that several valuables were missing from their safe at their Panorama Towers condominium near the Strip, including \$150,000 in cash and up to \$500,000 in poker chips.

Silva lived with Bejan Esfandiari on and off for several months, according to the police report.

Shirtless man with spear cuts teen

NY NEW YORK — A shirtless man wielding a homemade spear sliced a 15-year-old boy in the forehead Friday in a brazen attack in New York City's Times Square, police said.

Roland Pacheco, 52, is undergoing a psychiatric evaluation while awaiting arraignment in a Manhattan court on assault, weapon possession and menacing charges.

Pacheco fled after attacking the boy, who was hospitalized and treated with stitches, only to be caught slashing tires a

few blocks away, police said.

Officers used a stun gun to subdue Pacheco after he started swinging the weapon — a pocket knife attached to a broomstick — at them, police said.

Woman killed by dog, man hospitalized

FL MARGATE — Officials in Florida said an 84-year-old woman was mauled to death by her dog while a man was hospitalized with serious injuries.

The South Florida Sun-Sentinel reported the elderly woman Carolyn Varanese was pronounced dead at the scene while Joseph Varanese, 57, was taken to Northwest Medical Center in Margate, Fla., a Fort Lauderdale suburb.

The dog is now in the custody of the Broward County Animal Care and Adoption Center as police investigate the cause of the late Friday attack.

Streets to be named for 14 Guard soldiers

ND BISMARCK — Streets in a housing development east of Bismarck have been dedicated to honor fallen North Dakota National Guard soldiers.

The Bismarck Tribune reported the streets will be named after 14 soldiers in the Clear Sky Addition.

Maj. Gen. Alan Dohrmann of the North Dakota National Guard and Sen. Kevin Cramer spoke at the ceremony Friday, which was hosted by Bismarck Mayor Steve Bakken

Matt Geiger of Geiger Construction and Development said the development in the future will be home to Heroes Park, a public facility that will include a monument to the soldiers.

From wire reports

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Pioneering coach Thompson dies at 78

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Thompson, the imposing Hall of Famer who turned Georgetown into a “Hoya Paranoia” powerhouse and became the first Black coach to lead a team to the NCAA men’s basketball championship, has died. He was 78.

His death was announced in a family statement released by Georgetown on Monday. No details were disclosed.

“Our father was an inspiration to many and devoted his life to developing young people not simply on but, most importantly, off the basketball court. He is revered as a historic shepherd of the sport, dedicated to the welfare of his community above all else,” the statement said. “However, for us, his greatest legacy remains as a father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. More than a coach, he was our foundation. More than a legend, he was the voice in our ear everyday.”

One of the most celebrated and polarizing figures in his sport, Thompson took over a moribund Georgetown program in the 1970s and molded it in his unique style into a perennial contender, culminating

with a national championship team anchored by center Patrick Ewing in 1984.

Georgetown reached two other title games with Thompson in charge and Ewing patrolling the paint, losing to Michael Jordan’s North Carolina team in 1982 and to Villanova in 1985.

At 6-foot-10, with an ever-present white towel slung over his shoulder, Thompson literally and figuratively towered over the Hoyas for decades, becoming a patriarch of sorts after he quit coaching in 1999.

One of his sons, John Thompson III, was hired as Georgetown’s coach in 2004. When the son was fired in 2017, the elder Thompson — known affectionately as “Big John” or “Pops” to many — was at the news conference announcing Ewing as the successor.

Along the way, Thompson said what he thought, shielded his players from the media and took positions that weren’t always popular. He never shied away from sensitive topics — particularly the role of race in both sports and society — and he once famously walked off the court before a game to protest an NCAA rule because he felt it hurt minority athletes.

“I’ll probably be remembered for all the things that kept me out of the Hall of Fame, ironically, more than for the things that got me into it,” Thompson said the day he was elected to the Hall in 1999.

Thompson became coach of the Hoyas in 1972 and began remaking a team that was 3-23 the previous season. Over the next 27 years, he led Georgetown to 14 straight NCAA tournaments (1979-92), 24 consecutive postseason appearances (20 NCAA, 4 NIT), three Final Fours (1982, 1984, 1985) and won six Big East tournament championships.

Employing a physical, defense-focused approach that frequently relied on a dominant center — Alonzo Mourning and Dikembe Mutombo were among his other pupils — Thompson compiled a 596-239 record (.715 winning percentage). He had 26 players drafted by the NBA.

Off the court, Thompson was both a role model and a lightning rod. A stickler for academics, he kept a deflated basketball on his desk, a reminder to his players that a degree was a necessity because a career in basketball relied on a tenuous “nine pounds of air.”

NBA roundup

Murray, Nuggets force Game 7 with Jazz

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — The Jamal Murray-Donovan Mitchell duel will be settled in the first Game 7 in the bubble.

Murray extended his torrid run with 50 more points, leading the Denver Nuggets to a 119-107 victory over the Utah Jazz on Sunday night.

Murray had his second 50-point game of the series to equal Mitchell, who finished with 44 in this one. No player has ever had more in an entire postseason.

They will go at it one more time Tuesday, with the winner advancing to face the Clippers.

Mitchell was disappointed the Jazz had missed a chance to wrap up the series in Game 5, but understands the interest in seeing he and Murray square off in the ultimate contest.

“As a fan perspective I see it and I respect it, but I can’t tell

you as a player that I want to play Game 7 if we’re up 3-1,” he said. “I don’t think anybody wants to do that but we’re here, so play the hand that you’re dealt and we’re going to go out there and execute and do what we’ve got to do.”

Mike Conley had 21 points for the Jazz, but Rudy Gobert and Jordan Clarkson were each held to 11.

A seventh game between the third-seeded Nuggets and No. 6 Jazz seems fitting. Though Denver won all three meetings during the regular season, the total margin was just 11 points.

The Jazz came into the day topping all teams in the postseason in field goal percentage and three-point percentage, and ranking third in scoring with 121.8 points per game.

It will be the third straight Game 7 for the Nuggets, who beat San Antonio before losing to Portland last year.

Clippers 111, Mavericks 97: The Los Angeles Clippers knocked him around and shut his teammates down, and still Luka Doncic kept coming.

Kawhi Leonard wasn’t worried, because nothing rattles him in the postseason.

“This is playoff basketball and everything is not going to go your way,” Leonard said. “Just got to keep playing.”

Now his team will keep playing into the second round.

Leonard had 33 points and 14 rebounds and the Clippers eliminated Doncic and the Dallas Mavericks with a 111-97 victory Sunday in Game 6 of the first-round series.

Doncic capped a superb first postseason with 38 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, keeping it interesting into the fourth quarter even while playing without injured teammate Kristaps Porzingis.

Leonard also had seven assists and five steals. The Clippers said he was the first player in at least the last 20 postseasons with 30 points, 10 rebounds, five assists and five steals in a game.

Celtics 112, Raptors 94: Jayson Tatum and Marcus Smart each scored 21 points, Kemba Walker added 18 points and 10 assists and Boston beat Toronto in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Celtics improved to 4-1 against the Raptors this season — no other team has beaten the reigning NBA champions more than twice — and both of their meetings in the NBA’s restart bubble at Walt Disney World have been one-sided. The Raptors are 11-0 at Disney against everybody else.

Kyle Lowry had 17 points for defending champion Toronto.

NHL roundup

Islanders have Flyers on the brink

Associated Press

TORONTO — Jean Gabriel Pageau scored the go-ahead goal 7:18 into the third period and the New York Islanders moved within one win of advancing to the Eastern Conference finals with a 3-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday night.

Brock Nelson scored twice, both set up by Josh Bailey, and the Islanders gained a 3-1 lead of the best-of-seven second-round series with Game 5 set for Tuesday night. New York is seeking to make its first conference finals appearance since 1993, when the Islanders lost to Montreal to six games.

Backup goalie Thomas Greiss stopped 36 shots in making his first start of the playoffs.

Sean Couturier and Ivan Provorov scored for the East's top-seeded Flyers, who were coming off a 3-1 loss on Saturday. Philadelphia lost consecutive games for the first time since an 0-3-1 skid from Dec. 31-Jan. 7.

Flyers goalie Brian Elliott stopped 30 shots in place of Carter Hart. It was Elliott's third appearance this postseason, and second start.

Stars 5, Avalanche 4: Radek Faksa had a goal and two assists, Roope Hintz scored the last of three power-play goals by Dallas and the Stars beat Colorado in Edmonton, Alberta, to take 3-1 series lead in the Western Conference semifinal series.

Dallas, which led 3-0 in the first period before the Avalanche had their first shot on goal, saw its margin cut to one before Hintz was patient with the puck about 7½ minutes into the third period. There were only a couple of seconds left on a power play when he scored on the Stars' seventh shot during that segment after initially waiting for some traffic to clear.

Dallas then got a gift goal only 32 seconds later when Colorado rookie defender Cale Makar, who had scored late in the second period, tried to clear a puck from behind his own net and flubbed the attempt.

Stars rookie Denis Gurianov knocked it in for a 5-2 lead.

Golden Knights 5, Canucks 3: Max Pacioretty scored twice and added an assist, and Vegas rallied for three goals in the third period and beat Vancouver in Edmonton.

The Golden Knights took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven second-round series. With a win in Game 5 on Tuesday, Vegas can eliminate the Canucks, the last Canadian team from the postseason.

William Karlsson, Nate Schmidt, and Chandler Stephenson also scored for the Golden Knights. Goalie Marc-Andre Fleury made 27 saves and earned his third win of the playoffs.

Shea Theodore added two assists, giving him four goals and 10 assists in the playoffs.

Bo Horvat, Elias Pettersson, and Tyler Toffoli scored for Vancouver. Jacob Markstrom, in his 14th start, made 28 saves in the loss.

Briefly

Padres deal to acquire Clevinger from Indians

Associated Press

The San Diego Padres acquired Mike Clevinger in a multiplayer deal with the Cleveland Indians on Monday, bolstering their rotation with another bold move ahead of baseball's trade deadline.

San Diego got Clevinger, outfielder Greg Allen and a player to be named from Cleveland for a package of young players that included outfielder Josh Naylor, right-hander Cal Quantrill and catcher Austin Hedges.

Led by Fernando Tatis Jr., San Diego is going for its first playoff appearance since 2006. The acquisition of Clevinger is the Padres' fifth trade since Saturday.

San Diego acquired veteran catchers Jason Castro and Austin Nola in a pair of deals

Sunday, making Hedges expendable. First baseman Mitch Moreland came over in a trade with Boston, and the Padres added reliever Trevor Rosenthal in a deal with Kansas City.

Rahm wins at BMW with 66-foot putt

OLYMPIA FIELDS, Ill. — Jon Rahm, on the first playoff hole at the BMW Championship, nailed a 66-foot putt to prevent Dustin Johnson from his second consecutive win. Johnson had hit a 45-footer to get into the playoff.

Rahm had to send his putt at nearly a 90-degree angle to the top of the ridge. From there, it was a replay of Johnson's putt as it headed down the slope, kissed off the pin and disappeared into the cup.

Jaguars waive Fournette

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jaguars moved another step closer to purging Tom Coughlin's tumultuous tenure in Jacksonville.

The team waived running back Leonard Fournette on Monday, a stunning decision many outsiders view as the latest in a series of head scratchers that could help the franchise tank the season and get the No. 1 draft pick.

"If that's the case, then the realization is if that happens, then I'm not going to be here," coach Doug Marrone said. "At the end of the day, if I don't win enough games or do enough with this team, I don't foresee me still being employed. I'm doing everything I can to make sure we have the best team to make sure we win football games. That's as simple as I can be on it."

Coughlin wanted Fournette as the centerpiece of his old-school, run-first philosophy.

It worked in 2017, although it became clear that Fournette needed to be a better pro. He was fined repeatedly for being late and skipping mandatory functions.

The Jaguars spent months trying to trade Fournette, the fourth overall pick in the 2017 NFL draft who's coming off a career year. He was on the block during the NFL draft and again over the summer.

"We couldn't get anything, a fifth, a sixth, anything," Marrone said.

So they dumped the 25-year-old former LSU star one day after trading former Pro Bowl defensive end Yannick Ngakoue to Minnesota in exchange for a second-round draft pick in 2021 and a conditional fifth-rounder in 2020. Jacksonville also traded Jalen Ramsey, fellow cornerback A.J. Bouye and defensive end Calais Campbell in the last 10 months.

"It's going to fall to me as to who those best players are," Marrone said.

Sanchez's slam helps Yanks sweep Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gary Sanchez and Aaron Hicks — among the few remaining regulars healthy enough to be in the Yankees' lineup — made sure the Bronx Bombers held serve at home.

Sanchez delivered the first pinch-hit, extra-innings grand slam in Yankees history, Deivi Garcia made a strong impression in his big league debut and New York beat the crosstown Mets 5-2 to complete a doubleheader sweep Sunday night.

The Yankees stormed back in the opener, erasing a five-run deficit with two outs in the seventh to win 8-7 in eight innings. Hicks lined a tying, two-run homer in the seventh, and Gio Urshela hit a game-end-

ing single off Edwin Diaz an inning later.

Sanchez had been in a 1-for-18 slump and is still batting just .134 this season.

"I'm excited for him," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "He means so much to this team. I'm really happy for him to take the air out of one."

The Yankees won the final three games of this five-game Subway Series, snapping a seven-game skid. Sanchez blasted a 2-2 fastball from Drew Smith into the left field bleachers for a 5-1 lead. It was his first career pinch-hit homer and second career grand slam.

Garcia took a shutout into the sixth until allowing Dominic Smith's tying single. Smith's hit came after Jeff McNeill

reached on an error by first baseman Luke Voit, who had the ball kick off the heel of his glove into right field.

Garcia allowed four singles, struck out six, walked none and threw 75 pitches in six innings. At 21 years, 103 days, Garcia became the youngest pitcher to start in the majors in the abbreviated 60-game game season.

Garcia got a huge hug from veteran batterymate Erik Kratz in the dugout after his outing was done — the 40-year-old Kratz caught Garcia often in Triple-A last year and thinks highly of the young right-hander. Kratz calls Garcia son and Garcia calls Kratz "padre," Garcia said.

MLB roundup

Cards' Wainwright throws 4-hitter on birthday

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Adam Wainwright turned back the clock with a complete game on his 39th birthday as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Cleveland Indians 7-2 on Sunday.

Wainwright threw a four-hitter for his 23rd career complete game and first in four years. The Cardinals snapped a four-game skid in which they scored six total runs.

Dexter Fowler homered and had three RBIs for St. Louis, which stopped Cleveland's four-game winning streak. The Indians had won nine in a row on the road.

Wainwright (3-0) settled in after allowing Tyler Naquin's two-run homer in the second inning. The right-hander struck out nine and walked two, going the distance for the first time since July 2016 against the Marlins. He threw 122 pitches, most in the majors this season, and gave a much-needed breather to a Cardinals bullpen that worked 15¹/₃ innings in the previous two games.

Dodgers 7, Rangers 2: Cody Bellinger and Los Angeles set the National League record for home runs in a month, powering its way to a win at Texas.

Bellinger's two-run drive gave the Dodgers 57 long balls

in August after solo shots from Corey Seager and Will Smith.

White Sox 5, Royals 2 (10): Prized rookie Luis Robert hit his first game-ending homer, a three-run drive in the 10th inning that lifted Chicago to a win over visiting Kansas City.

Dane Dunning threw five no-hit innings before being pulled from his second major league start, and the surging White Sox won for the 11th time in 13 games to move into a first-place tie with Cleveland in the AL Central.

Rays 12, Marlins 7: Willy Adames hit a grand slam, helping surging Tampa Bay finish a three-game sweep at Miami.

Joey Wendle, Yoshi Tsutsugo and Kevin Kiermaier also went deep for the Rays, who have won 12 of their last 14 to move an American League-best 13 games over .500.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 1: Johnny Cueto pitched effectively into the seventh inning, Alex Dickerson homered and had two RBIs, and San Francisco won its first road series.

Cueto was sharp in his last start before the trade deadline, allowing a run on three hits in 6²/₃ innings.

Pirates 5, Brewers 1: Josh Bell and Gregory Polanco homered off Brandon Woodruff and

Pittsburgh won at Milwaukee.

Bell broke a 1-all tie in the fourth with a towering, two-run blast that hit an SUV parked well above the wall in right-center as part of a promotion.

Padres 13, Rockies 2: Eric Hosmer started San Diego's power surge with his three-run homer in the first, Chris Paddack threw six efficient innings and the Padres rolled at Colorado.

Hosmer's homer was one of five for San Diego, which ranks second in the majors with 66 homers this season. Jake Cronenworth added a two-run drive in the seventh before Jurickson Profar and Trent Grisham lined solo shots in the eighth. Josh Naylor finished it off with a two-run shot in the ninth.

Cubs 10, Reds 1: Kyle Schwarber, Jason Heyward and Ian Happ became the first starting outfield to hit multiple homers in the same game, and Chicago routed host Cincinnati for a split of their four-game series.

Schwarber hit the first and last of the Cubs' season-high six homers, belting a solo drive in the fourth inning against Luis Castillo (0-5) and a grand slam off Jose De Leon in the ninth.

Tigers 3, Twins 2: Jonathan

Schoop hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth inning, and host Detroit finished off a three-game sweep.

Tyler Alexander (2-1) pitched 3²/₃ scoreless innings of relief for the Tigers, who handed Kenta Maeda (4-1) his first loss of the year.

Blue Jays 6, Orioles 5: Teoscar Hernandez hit a two-run single with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting host Toronto to its fourth straight win.

Hernandez came up with the bases loaded and grounded a single into left field. Pinch runner Santiago Espinal scored easily and Randal Grichuk slid in safely just ahead of the throw by left fielder Mason Williams.

Red Sox 9, Nationals 5: Bobby Dalbec hit a two-run homer in his major league debut, leading host Boston to the win.

Mariners 2, Angels 1 (10): Pinch hitter Tim Lopes drove in Kyle Lewis with the tiebreaking run in the 10th inning, sending Seattle to the road victory.

Braves 12, Phillies 10: Austin Riley homered, doubled and drove in three runs in Atlanta's 10-run second inning. Dansby Swanson also went deep and the Braves held on for a wild victory at Philadelphia.