

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

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## Trump, Biden take separate stages

*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Democrat Joe Biden squared off, in a way, in dueling televised town halls that showcased striking differences in temperament, views on racial justice and approaches to a pandemic that has reshaped the nation.

Coming just two and a half weeks before Election Day, the events Thursday night offered crystalizing contrasts and a national, if divided, audience. But it seemed unlikely to have produced a needed moment for a president running out of time or opportunities to appeal beyond his core base. He was defensive about his administration's han-

dling of the coronavirus, which has claimed more than 217,000 lives in the U.S., and evasive when pressed about whether he took a required COVID-19 test before his first debate with Biden. Angry and combative, Trump refused to denounce the QAnon conspiracy group — and only testily did so regarding white supremacists.

The Republican president also appeared to acknowledge revelations from a recent New York Times report that he was in debt and left open the possibility that some of it was owed to a foreign bank. But he insisted that he didn't owe any money to Russia or any "sinister people" and suggested that \$400 million in debt was a "very, very

small percentage" compared to his overall assets.

Biden denounced the White House's handling of the virus, declaring that it was at fault for closing a pandemic response office established by the Obama administration in which he served. Though vague at times, he suggested he will offer clarity on his position on expanding the Supreme Court if Trump's nominee to the bench is seated before Election Day.

Trump and Biden were supposed to spend Thursday night on the same debate stage in Miami. But that faceoff was scuttled after Trump's coronavirus infection, which jolted the race and threatened the health of the American president.

Trump wouldn't say whether he had tested negative on the day of his first debate with Biden on Sept. 29, allowing only, "Possibly I did, possibly I didn't." Debate rules required that each candidate had tested negative prior to the Cleveland event, but Trump spoke in circles when asked when he last tested negative.

The presidential rivals took questions in different cities on different networks: Trump on NBC from Miami, Biden on ABC from Philadelphia. Trump backed out of plans for the presidential faceoff originally scheduled for the evening after debate organizers said it would be held virtually following his COVID-19 diagnosis.

## DOD study: Low risk of catching COVID on airliners

BY ROSE L. THAYER

*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — The risk of catching the coronavirus through the air aboard a crowded commercial airplane from an infected passenger who is wearing a mask is very low, according to a new Defense Department study on the safety of air travel during the pandemic.

The Commercial Aircraft Cabin Aerosol Dispersion Test conducted by U.S. Transportation Command, or TRANSCOM, found 99.99% of particles released into the air from an infected person wearing a mask were removed from an airplane cabin within six minutes of being released, according to the study, which was released Thursday. It takes about 90 minutes to clear the particles in the average home.

"Within the scope of the test, the analysis showed overall low exposure risk on these air-

craft from airborne pathogens like [coronavirus]," Vice Adm. Dee Mewbourne, deputy commander for TRANSCOM, said during a briefing with reporters. "We invested in the aerosol particles study to better inform us how to complete the mission of transporting our passengers within this pandemic environment while maximizing their safety."

Conducted aboard Boeing 767 and 777 jets, which are part of United Airlines' fleet, the "favorable results" stemmed from the combination of the planes' high air-exchange rates, the air filtration and recirculation system and the downward airflow ventilation design, Mewbourne said, speaking alongside scientists who conducted the six-month study. These aircraft were chosen because they are often the model of plane contracted by the military to conduct Patriot Express flights between bases.

The study was conducted during an eight-day period in August at Dulles International Airport in Virginia and cost about \$1 million.

Boeing provided engineers to answer questions about the aircraft, and United Airlines provided the flight time at no cost to the government.

Mannequins were placed in various locations on the plane to measure aerosols released from breathing and coughing, with and without surgical masks. More than 300 aerosol releases were performed and involved in-flight, simulated in-flight and on-the-ground testing.

"We found that on cough stimulations [with the mask], there was a very large reduction in aerosol that would come from the mannequin — greater than 95% in most cases. It greatly showed the benefit of wearing a mask during a flight for these tests," said David

Silcott, an author of the study from S3i, a biological research company.

The 53-page report of the study will be reformatted for journal entry submissions and peer review.

The researchers involved see the study as a launchpad for further research on the subject because it did not include variables such as multiple infected passengers, large projectile droplets containing the virus and movement in the cabin, such as the infected passenger getting up to use the restroom or even turning their head to speak.

"From the commercial travel perspective what this study provides you is a foundational set of data the commercial aircraft industry can utilize for modeling applications," said Eric Van Gieson, program manager at Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

# Advocates push for food help for struggling military families

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Military spouse Bianca Strzalkowski faced what too many military families are experiencing today: not enough food.

When her husband, a Marine, received orders to move from their first duty station at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma in Arizona, Strzalkowski was unable to find work there.

“We quickly spiraled into a very sad, and what I consider shameful time, as he was a sergeant in the Marine Corps. We had to rely on food bank food,” she said during an event Wednesday hosted by MAZON, a Jewish advocacy organization focused on ending hunger.

The current rate of unemployment for military spouses is 24%, according to the Defense Department. When Strzalkowski’s family moved again, back to North Carolina, the financial strain continued.

“We could not get out of this cycle of financial hardship.

We leaned on payday advance loans that sometimes had interest rates of 40%,” Strzalkowski said.

Service members and their families were already struggling to afford enough food before the coronavirus pandemic hit. Now with the economic downturn, organizations are concerned that as more Americans look to food banks, so will more military families. A provision in the pending defense funding bill would help military families receive more money to improve their financial situation.

“It’s just absurd to me that that this continues to be an issue and that there’s a denial that there’s a problem,” Josh Protas, the vice president of public policy at MAZON, said in an interview with Stars and Stripes last month.

“There is nothing more stressful than having your husband fighting in combat in Afghanistan and having to lean on your extended family members or payday loans to feed your

children,” Strzalkowski said.

She added that she was only telling her story now because her husband retired from the Marine Corps two years ago.

“I was very aware of the different programs and resources that exist, but there is a very real stigma and fear to our service members’ careers to report these things that are happening in our household,” Strzalkowski said.

The Pentagon does not like to talk about food insecurity because “they find it embarrassing to have military families on food stamps,” Protas said.

“DOD has really been reluctant in gathering this data and has been asking the wrong questions. For example, in its quadrennial review of military compensation, they’re just looking at how many military families actually participate in [the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program], but they’re not asking how many struggle and can’t get the help that they need,” Protas said Wednesday during the MAZON event.

## Priest gets prison for Navy base trespassing

*Associated Press*

BRUNSWICK, Ga. — A 71-year-old Roman Catholic priest has been sentenced to federal prison for breaking into a Navy submarine base in Georgia with a group protesting nuclear weapons.

A U.S. District Court judge sentenced the Rev. Stephen Michael Kelly on Thursday to 33 months in prison. He’s already served most of that sentence, as the judge gave Kelly credit for the roughly 30 months he spent behind bars awaiting trial and sentencing since his arrest in April 2018.

A year ago, Kelly and six fellow activists were convicted by a jury of trespassing, destruction of government property and other charges stemming from their arrest at Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base.

The activists in 2018 took videos of themselves using wire cutters to enter a locked security gate at Kings Bay, the East Coast hub for Navy submarines armed with nuclear missiles. Inside the base, they spray-painted anti-nuclear messages and hammered on an outdoor display.

Defense attorneys had argued in pretrial hearings that the activists shouldn’t be prosecuted because they acted on sincere religious beliefs. Judge Lisa Godbey Wood ruled they couldn’t use that defense at trial.

Federal prosecutors said in a news release that Kelly had previously served more than eight years in prison for similar trespassing and vandalism convictions.

They said the priest was on probation when he was arrested at the Georgia base.

The judge previously sentenced another of the activists. The remaining five are still awaiting sentencing.

## Taliban to suspend assault after US pledge

*Associated Press*

ISLAMABAD — The Taliban said on Friday they have agreed to suspend attacks in southern Afghanistan that have displaced thousands this week — but only after the U.S. promised to halt airstrikes in support of Afghan forces in the latest fighting in Helmand province.

The development came after a meeting with U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and Gen. Austin Miller, commander of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, a Taliban figure familiar with the discussions said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The Taliban pledged to suspend their operations after the Americans agreed to end drone strikes on Taliban positions, as well as night raids and air assaults, the Taliban figure said.

Southern Helmand province has been the scene of a blistering Taliban assault since last

week, undermining U.S. efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the 19-year war. Rocket attacks from the Taliban and retaliatory airstrikes from U.S. and Afghan aircraft have forced more than 5,600 families to flee their homes, seeking refuge in the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah and Nad Ali and Marja districts.

Over the past few years, a resurgent Taliban have gained control of roughly 80% of the province, mainly the rural areas, while the district centers are still under government control.

In a series of tweets Thursday, Khalilzad said he would meet with the Taliban and then, after several rounds, he said both sides agreed to a “reset” which will result in “reduced numbers of operations.”

Khalilzad tweeted that attacks have been “threatening the peace process and alarming the Afghan people and their regional and international supporters.”

# Pfizer: Mid-November is earliest for vaccine

Associated Press

NEW YORK—Pfizer Inc. cannot request emergency authorization of its COVID-19 vaccine before the third week of November — and that’s if everything goes well, the company’s CEO announced Friday.

Despite President Donald Trump’s repeated promises of a vaccine before Election Day, scientists have been cautioning that it’s unlikely data showing a leading shot actually works would come until November or December.

Another leading U.S. contender, Moderna Inc., previously announced the earliest it could seek authorization of its own vac-

cine would be Nov. 25.

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla has long said it’s possible testing might reveal by the end of October if his company’s vaccine actually protects against the coronavirus. But in Friday’s announcement, he made clear that effectiveness is only part of the equation.

The vaccine also must be proven safe. And to qualify for an “emergency use authorization,” any COVID-19 vaccine must track at least half the participants in large-scale studies for two months after their second dose, the time period in which side effects are likely to appear.

Bourla estimated Pfizer’s 44,000-person

study will reach that milestone in the third week of November.

“We are operating at the speed of science,” he wrote in a letter posted to the company’s website.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech is among several leading candidates in final testing.

Even if a vaccine emerges by year’s end, only limited doses will be available right away. The U.S. government is deciding who would be first in line, almost certainly health care workers, and estimates there may be enough for widespread vaccinations in the spring.

## Record heat, strong winds return fire danger to Calif.

The Washington Post

An extreme heat event and strong winds are sending fire danger soaring yet again across nearly the entire state of California, from northern to the Mexican border. Any fires that start today could spread rapidly out of control, particularly in the San Francisco Bay area and Southern California.

The state is still dealing with the effects of its worst wildfire season on record, with over 4.1 million acres burned, more than twice the previous record set in 2018. It’s also grappling with the dilemma of how best to carry out preemptive power cuts in fire-prone areas, which has proven to be an effective way of reducing ignitions.

Short to medium-term forecasts are foreboding, as computer models signal the possibility of a series of similar fire weather

outbreaks in the next two weeks.

One additional strong wind event may occur in Northern California midweek next week, for example, though the intensity of that episode is currently unclear.

Many of the state’s recent destructive blazes are still burning, so the high winds threaten to reverse some of the progress firefighters have made in recent weeks. In addition, any new fires that start would grow rapidly and exhibit extreme fire behavior, the National Weather Service warns.

Heat advisories are in effect Friday for the entire San Francisco Bay area all the way to the southern border with Mexico for potentially record-breaking heat. Temperatures in the Bay Area, for example, are predicted to reach the 90s Friday, 15 to 25

degrees above average, with inland areas reaching the 100s.

Cooler and somewhat more humid air is expected to move into northern California late this weekend into early next week, temporarily reducing wildfire risks, but wildfires will remain a major concern until winter rain and snows move in from the Pacific.

On that point, the Weather Service is not optimistic. In a technical forecast discussion, meteorologists at the agency’s San Francisco office stated early Friday, “Still no rain in sight.”

In response to this spike in fire risk, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. moved ahead with power cuts to a total of about 53,000 customers in 24 counties from Wednesday night into Thursday.

## DEA recruits complain of racism at training academy

Associated Press

At the Drug Enforcement Administration’s Training Academy in Virginia last year, an instructor on the firing range called out a name that was shared by two trainees, one Black and one white.

When both responded, the white instructor clarified, “I meant the monkey.”

That behavior, as alleged in an internal complaint, didn’t stop there. The instructor also was accused of going on the loudspeaker in the tower of the outdoor firing range to

taunt Black trainees by making “monkey noises.”

“We were like, ‘It’s 2019. That shouldn’t even be a thing that we’re dealing with,’” said Derek Moise, who did not hear the noises himself but recalled the discomfort they caused his fellow Black trainees who did. “Everybody knows what those sounds and noises stand for.”

As the DEA continues a decades-long struggle to diversify its ranks, it has received a string of recent complaints describing a culture of racial discrimination at its training academy in which minorities

are singled out, derided with insults and consistently held to a higher standard than their white counterparts, according to interviews with former recruits and law enforcement officials and records obtained by The Associated Press.

In one case, a Black recruit was told his skin color made him a surefire candidate for undercover work. In another, a Hispanic woman, chatting in Spanish with a fellow trainee, was admonished to “speak English, you are in the United States.” At least two of the complaints prompted internal DEA

investigations, one of which remains ongoing.

The complaints, which are not typically made public, offer a rare window into the frustration minorities have voiced about their treatment at DEA since the filing of a 1977 civil rights lawsuit that remains unresolved despite a series of court orders governing the agency’s hiring and promotion practices.

Last year, a federal judge ruled that DEA had run afoul of court orders intended to remove subjectivity from agent promotions.

# Early vote rush changes 2020 election

Associated Press

More than 17 million Americans have already cast ballots in the 2020 election, a record-shattering avalanche of early votes driven both by Democratic enthusiasm and a pandemic that has transformed the way the nation votes.

The total represents 12% of all the votes cast in the 2016 presidential election, even as eight states are not yet reporting their totals and voters still have more than two weeks to cast ballots. Americans' rush to vote is leading election experts to predict that a record 150 million votes may be cast and turnout rates could be higher than in any presidential election since 1908.

"It's crazy," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who has long tracked voting for his site Elect-Project.org. McDonald's analysis shows roughly 10 times as

many people have voted compared with this point in 2016.

"We can be certain this will be a high-turnout election," McDonald said.

So far the turnout has been lopsided, with Democrats outvoting Republicans by a 2-1 ratio in the 42 states included in The Associated Press count.

Republicans have been bracing themselves for this early Democratic advantage for months, as they've watched President Donald Trump rail against mail-in ballots and raise unfounded worries about fraud. Polling, and now early voting, suggest the rhetoric has turned his party's rank and file away from a method of voting that, traditionally, they dominated in the weeks before Election Day.

That gives Democrats a tactical advantage in the final stretch of the campaign. In many critical battleground states, Demo-

crats have "banked" a chunk of their voters and can turn their time and money toward harder-to-find infrequent voters.

But it does not necessarily mean Democrats will lead in votes by the time ballots are counted. Both parties anticipate a swell of Republican votes on Election Day that could, in a matter of hours, dramatically shift the dynamic.

"The Republican numbers are going to pick up," said John Couvillon, a GOP pollster who is tracking early voting. "The question is at what velocity, and when?"

Couvillon said Democrats can't rest on their voting lead, but Republicans are themselves making a big gamble. A number of factors, from rising virus infections to the weather, can impact in-person turnout on Election Day. "If you're putting all your faith into one day of voting, that's a really high

risk," Couvillon said.

That's why, despite Trump's rhetoric, his campaign and party are encouraging their own voters to cast ballots by mail or early and in-person. The campaign, which has been sending volunteers and staffers into the field for months despite the pandemic, touts a swell in voter registration in key swing states like Florida and Pennsylvania — a sharp reversal from the usual pattern as a presidential election looms.

But it's had limited success in selling absentee voting. In key swing states, Republicans remain far less interested in voting by mail.

"This is all encouraging, but three weeks is a lifetime," Democratic data strategist Tom Bonier said of the early vote numbers. "We may be midway through the first quarter and Democrats have put a couple of points on the board."

## Ex-Mexican army chief arrested on drug charges

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Former Mexican defense secretary Gen. Salvador Cienfuegos, who led the country's army for six years under ex-President Enrique Peña Nieto, has been arrested on drug trafficking and money laundering charges at Los Angeles International Airport, U.S. and Mexican sources said Thursday.

Two people with knowledge of the arrest said Cienfuegos was taken into custody on a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration warrant. One of the people said the warrant was for drug trafficking and money laundering charges. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the case publicly.

Mexico's Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrard, wrote on his Twitter account that U.S. Ambassador Christopher Landau

had informed him of the retired general's arrest and that Cienfuegos had a right to receive consular assistance.

A senior Mexican official, who also spoke on the condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to give details of the case, said Cienfuegos was arrested when he arrived at the airport with his family. His family members were released, and he was taken to the Metropolitan Detention Center.

Cienfuegos served from 2012 to 2018 as secretary of defense under Peña Nieto. He is the highest-ranking former Cabinet official arrested since the top Mexican security official Genaro Garcia Luna was arrested in Texas in 2019.

Garcia Luna, who served under former President Felipe Calderon, has pleaded not guilty to drug trafficking charges.

## Hundreds of ISIS militants freed from camp in Syria

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Kurdish-led authorities released on Thursday hundreds of militants from the Islamic State imprisoned in northern Syria, as part of a general amnesty in the region controlled by the U.S.-backed fighters.

Amina Omar, the head of the Syrian National Council, told reporters that ISIS members who were released have "no blood on their hands" and have all repented joining ISIS at some point.

"They are people who can be reformed," Omar said shortly before the men were freed.

The Syrian Democratic Council said the 631 prisoners were released Thursday while 253 others will have their terms cut in half. It said the amnesty and the release followed requests by tribal leaders in northeast-

ern and eastern Syria.

Kurdish authorities currently operate more than two dozen detention facilities scattered across northeastern Syria, holding about 10,000 ISIS fighters. Among the detainees are some 2,000 foreigners whose home countries have refused to repatriate them, including about 800 Europeans.

Earlier this month, the Kurdish-led authority said it will allow Syrian citizens to leave a sprawling camp that houses tens of thousands of women and children, many of them linked to ISIS.

The overpopulated camp is home to a total of 65,000 people and has been a burden to the Syrian Democratic Forces and the Kurdish police in charge of security at the facility.

Over the past 10 days, dozens of families have left the camp.

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Dean accidentally emails bar exam results

**SC** COLUMBIA — The dean of South Carolina's largest law school is apologizing for forwarding an email that contained the names of students who failed the exam to become a lawyer and the confidential bar exam grades of every student.

University of South Carolina School of Law Dean William Hubbard said he was so excited last week when he got the official email that 82% of his students passed that he forwarded it without noticing the attachments that were supposed to remain private.

"It was totally an accident, an accident I deeply regret," Hubbard told The State newspaper.

### Father, daughter survive tree crashing into home

**LA** BAKER — A woman and her father lived to tell their tale after a tree crashed through their Louisiana home during Hurricane Delta and almost crushed them.

Coral Anne Dunn and her father, Thomas Dunn, were sitting on two reclining chairs last Friday when the roof came down, trapping them under the rubble, WAFB-TV reported.

"God is so good because there's no reason we should be alive in here," Coral Dunn said. "God put his hand down and said, 'Baby, it's not your time to go yet.'"

Thomas Dunn, a U.S. Navy veteran, said the incident happened suddenly but soon after, he was screaming his daughter's name to get her attention. Coral Dunn said she blacked out for a brief moment, then woke up to see her father buried under the rubble.

Coral's daughter was in the home and able to call 911.

Emergency crews arrived quickly and were able to pull the pair from the rubble.

### San Francisco zoo's missing lemur found

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — A ring-tailed lemur stolen from the San Francisco Zoo has been found, police said Thursday.

The 21-year-old male lemur named Maki was discovered missing shortly before the zoo opened to visitors on Wednesday. Investigators found evidence of a forced entry to the lemur enclosure.

Someone called police Thursday evening to say that Maki was spotted in Daly City, a few miles south of the zoo, officials said.

Maki was found to be in good health and was transported back to the zoo, San Francisco police said in a statement.

Detectives are still investigating the break-in.

### City takes step to move Confederate monument

**AL** FLORENCE — An Alabama city has taken a step toward removing a Confederate monument following weeks of pressure.

The Florence City Council voted Tuesday to ask the state for permission to move the memorial from outside the Lauderdale County Courthouse, WHNT-TV reported. Other places have sought similar state waivers, which are required because of a law that imposes a \$25,000 fine for disturbing such memorials.

The city also asked county commissioners to relocate the monument as soon as possible.

Dedicated in 1903 during a ceremony that included an overtly racist speech, the memorial was erected by Confederate descendants.

### Researchers discover fossils of new species

**AZ** PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK — Researchers have discovered fossils of a tiny burrowing reptile among a vast expanse of petrified wood in eastern Arizona.

The new species has been named *Skybalonyx skapter*, a part of a group known as drepanosaurs from the Triassic Period, about 220 million years ago.

Petrified Forest National Park outside Holbrook is considered one of the premier places to study plants and animals from that period, sometimes known as the dawning age of dinosaurs.

The researchers say the ancient reptiles are strange because of morphologies that include enlarged second claws, bird-like beaks and tails with claws. They likely looked like a cross between an anteater and a chameleon.

### Police officer arrested for drunken driving

**MD** BALTIMORE — A Baltimore police officer was arrested for drunken driving after he was found passed out, his second arrest in three years, authorities said.

A police incident report indicated that Officer Adrian Ortiz said he lost a personal handgun, The Baltimore Sun reported Wednesday. The latest charges occurred Oct. 7.

An officer wrote in an incident report that he was called to investigate a man lying in the street at a convenience store.

Ortiz was charged with driving while under the influence and driving while impaired by alcohol. A police spokeswoman said Ortiz has been suspended with pay. Ortiz was charged with DUI in January 2018.

### Teacher puts training to use, saves choking boy

**IN** FORT WAYNE — A teacher in Fort Wayne is being credited with rescuing a student who was choking on candy.

Christine Levy performed the Heimlich maneuver on a 9-year-old boy who was struggling to breathe at Croninger Elementary School. Levy told WANE-TV that she recently had training in the first aid procedure.

"My guardian angels were looking after me and Alan. It's something you pray you never have to do, but instincts set in and it's just survival mode, I guess," Levy said.

Alan McGauley's parents gave Levy a card and flowers.

"You can go through all of the training, but the fact that she made all of the right decisions at the right time and did what she needed proves good decision making," Scott McGauley said.

### Juneteenth becomes an official holiday in state

**NY** ALBANY — Gov. Andrew Cuomo on Wednesday signed legislation officially making Juneteenth, a day commemorating the emancipation of enslaved people in the U.S., a New York state holiday.

"This new public holiday will serve as a day to recognize the achievements of the Black community, while also providing an important opportunity for self-reflection on the systemic injustices that our society still faces today," said Cuomo in a statement. The Democrat had used an executive order to make Juneteenth a paid holiday for state employees this year.

From wire reports

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# Braves one victory from World Series

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Marcell Ozuna and the Atlanta Braves turned things around in a hurry, and now are one win from ending a two-decade World Series drought.

Ozuna homered twice, rookie right-hander Bryse Wilson made his postseason debut by outpitching three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw and the Braves bounced back from a lopsided loss with a rout of their own, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 10-2 on Thursday night.

“Feels good. Feels really good,” Braves manager Brian Snitker said. “Still have a lot of work to do. You know how quick things can turn. I was really proud of the guys, how they bounced back.”

The Braves took a 3-1 lead in the NL Championship Series, a night after a 15-3 loss. Atlanta was trying to reach its first World Series since 1999 when

it played Game 5 Friday night.

Atlanta became the first team in MLB history to have back-to-back games in a single postseason where it lost by at least eight runs and then won by at least eight runs, according to STATS.

Ozuna had four hits and drove in four runs. It was 1-all in the sixth when the Braves scored six times, with MVP candidate Freddie Freeman hitting a tie-breaking double and Ozuna following with an RBI double that chased Kershaw.

A night after the Dodgers had a record 11-run first, they managed only one hit — a solo homer by Edwin Rios — over six innings against the 22-year-old Wilson.

“He was in complete control. ... He had a really good look about him. He had good tempo, and the stuff was live,” Snitker said. “It was huge, a huge effort by him.”

Ronald Acuna Jr. led off the decisive six-run sixth with an

infield single on a play that ended with him, Kershaw and second baseman Kiké Hernández all on the ground. They all took tumbles because of their effort, and weren’t knocked down by the sometimes bothersome breezy conditions in the new Texas ballpark with the roof open.

Kershaw fell down after coming off the mound while reaching up to try to field the high chopper. Hernández went to the ground after grabbing the ball and making a sidearm throw that went wide while Acuna tumbled after passing the base and landed awkwardly on his left wrist that was irritated twice during the regular season. Acuna went to second base because of the errant throw after being tended to for several moments.

After trying glasses in the field and getting eyedrops early in the game, Freeman apparently had no problems seeing when he doubled home Acuna

for a 2-1 lead before Ozuna followed with another double. Reliever Brusdar Graterol got the first out before giving up three consecutive hits, including Dansby Swanson’s two-run double and Austin Riley’s RBI single. Rookie Cristian Pache capped the inning with an RBI single that made it 7-1.

“They’re similar to us as far as they build on momentum really well,” Kershaw said. “It just seems like they have that domino effect when one thing gets going. They just continue to build on that. And they’ve got great hitters, too.”

Freeman and Ozuna each added RBI singles in the eighth.

“We have fun today,” Ozuna said. “Yesterday, before we start, we were on a little streak. Today, we come in with the same energy and give our best.”

# Correa’s walkoff homer keeps Astros alive

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Carlos Correa homered with one out in the ninth inning and the Houston Astros beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 Thursday behind sensational pitching from five rookies to remain alive in the AL Championship Series.

Correa drove a fastball at the letters from Nick Anderson to straightaway center field, watched the ball for a few steps and then flung his bat. He was greeted at home by his ecstatic teammates. Correa is only 3-for-18 in the series, but two of the hits are homers.

“I knew it was gone,” Correa said, “the moment I hit it.”

It was the second walk-off postseason home run for Correa — joining David Ortiz and Bernie Williams as the only others with multiple walk-offs — and the first managed by Dusty Baker, spanning five teams and

61 postseason games.

Baker might have had an idea this one was coming — before striding to the plate, Correa, who has the fourth-most home runs in playoff history, walked over to Baker and called his shot.

“Before he went up there,” Baker said, “he said, ‘Walk off,’ and I said, ‘Go ahead on, man.’”

Baker lowered his head, and prayed to his late father, Johnny Baker Jr., and his brother, Victor.

“Please Lord,” Baker said, “let us walk it off.”

And just like that, the Astros became the first team in playoff history to hit the first and last pitches of a postseason game for home runs.

“We had a meeting after we lost that third game. We said, ‘Hey, we’re not ready to go home, so we’ve got to do something about it.’” Correa said.

“But we’ve still got a long ways to go. We’ve got to keep taking care of business.”

Houston won a second straight elimination game thanks in large part to starter Luis Garcia and four fellow rookies, who combined to hold the Rays to two runs and four hits through 6<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings before Baker finally turned to a veteran, Josh James. Ryan Pressly, the seventh Astros pitcher, got the victory.

The Astros pulled to 3-2 and forced Game 6 on Friday, which will be a rematch between left-handers Blake Snell of Tampa Bay and Framber Valdez of Houston.

“Boy, that will go down as one of greatest games in history and hopefully go down as one of greatest comebacks in history after two more games,” said Baker, 71, the first manager to take five different teams to the playoffs. “That’s as big a game

as I’ve been involved in.”

The Astros, who got into the playoffs with a 29-31 regular-season record, are trying to reach the World Series for the third time in four years. They are trying to get there in a year when they have been criticized for a cheating scandal en route to the 2017 title, uncovered last offseason.

Correa also hit a walk-off homer in Game 2 of the 2017 ALCS off Aroldis Chapman of the New York Yankees.

George Springer homered on opener John Curtiss’ first pitch and Michael Brantley broke a tie with a two-run single.

“You go from feeling pretty good about our chances to knowing the game was over a short time after that,” Rays outfielder Kevin Kiermaier said. “They played a little bit better than us today, and it came down to one swing.”

## College football weekend preview

# Georgia hosts Alabama in SEC showdown

Associated Press

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic is packing a punch in college football this week, nowhere harder than in the Southeastern Conference.

Alabama coach Nick Saban won't be on the sideline when the No. 2 Crimson Tide host No. 3 Georgia on Saturday in perhaps the biggest game of the season. LSU's game at No. 10 Florida and Vanderbilt's visit to Missouri have been postponed.

Two other games involving Top 10 teams also are off: No. 7 Oklahoma State at Baylor and No. 8 Cincinnati at Tulsa.

FIU-Charlotte was postponed, as was the matchup between Appalachian State and Georgia Southern, which hurriedly scheduled a replacement home game against independent Massachusetts.

No. 1 Clemson, No. 4 Notre Dame and No. 5 North Carolina all are double-digit favorites as they look to stay unbeaten in the ACC. The Tigers head to Georgia Tech, the Irish host Louisville and the Tar Heels visit Florida State.

### Best game

#### No. 3 Georgia at No. 2 Alabama

It's the only matchup of Top 25 teams and was supposed to be the second straight game Saban faced off against a former assistant, Bulldogs head coach Kirby Smart.

Steve Sarkisian will be in charge of the Tide with Saban quarantining at home.

Alabama got into a scoring contest in last week's 63-48 win against Lane Kiffin and Mississippi. Georgia was challenged for a while against Tennessee, trailing at half-time before winning 44-21.

The Crimson Tide have won five straight against Georgia and will be meeting the Bulldogs in the regular season for the first time since 2015.

Georgia presents a much bigger physical challenge than the Tide faced last week. The Bulldogs' run defense is the best in the nation. Opponents are averaging 1.49 yards per carry and have scored no rushing touchdowns. The Bulldogs, however, haven't seen a running back like Najee Harris, who went for a career-high 206 yards and five touchdowns against Ole Miss.

The last two Georgia-Alabama games were classics.

In 2018, Jalen Hurts took over for an injured Tua Tagovailoa in the fourth quarter and led the Tide to a 35-28 win in the SEC championship game in Atlanta. Eleven months earlier on the same field, Tagovailoa had replaced an ineffective Hurts and brought back the Tide from a 13-0 deficit to beat the Bulldogs 26-23 in overtime in the national championship game.

### Heisman watch

Ian Book became Notre Dame's first quarterback to pile up 2,500 yards passing, 500 yards rushing and 30 touchdown passes in a season, and he's been steady through three games against overmatched competition.

The third-year starter's status as a second-tier Heisman candidate could change quickly if the Irish keep winning and he has a big outing against Clemson on Nov. 7.

### Numbers to know

**1** — Career fumbles by Alabama's Harris, whose streak of 466 touches without losing the ball ended in the first quarter against Mississippi last week.

**8** — Fumble recoveries by Central Florida through three games, matching its 13-game total in 2019.

**9** — Notre Dame's winning streak, the longest among Power Five teams.

**21** — Sacks allowed by Syracuse through four games.

**51** — Consecutive Big 12 road losses by Kansas since it won at Iowa State in 2008. The Jayhawks visit West Virginia.

**60-3** — SMU's first-quarter scoring margin during its 4-0 start.

**73** — Clemson wins since 2015, the most in the nation and four more than Alabama.

## NCAA's next challenge: Restructuring Division I

Associated Press

As the NCAA moves toward landmark changes that will empower athletes more than ever, the next big debate within college sports is on the horizon: How to reform and restructure Division I?

A survey of college sports leaders, including university presidents, conference commissioners and athletic directors, was released earlier this week by the academic watchdog Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.

The survey results went public the day before the NCAA Division I Council approved two proposals that will lift longstanding restrictions on college athletes.

On Wednesday, the council rubber-stamped proposed legislation that will allow college athletes to earn money off their names, images and likenesses — through things such as personal endorsement deals and appearance fees — as never before.

The council also gave the go-ahead to expanding the one-time transfer exception to all athletes, giving players in revenue-generating sports such as football and basketball the ability to switch schools one time as an undergrad and be immediately eligible to compete. Current rules require athletes in those sports, along with baseball and hockey, to sit out a year after transferring as

undergraduates.

Both proposals now go to membership for comment and feedback and could be tweaked before they go back to the Council for a vote in January.

Federal lawmakers still need to weigh in on name, image and likeness rules, but NIL compensation and less restrictive transfer rules should be in place for the 2021-22 school year.

Those issues, which had been debated and argued for years as the NCAA held firm to its old rules, have now been settled in favor of what college sports leaders now frame as modernization.

The next big project in college sports, especially as insti-

tutions deal with the financial fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, could be deciding what Division I should be. Or more precisely, what do the schools that make up D-I want to be?

"I think there is going to be a great deal of interest in 'Where does my institution fit best in this environment?'" said Nancy Zimpher, former chancellor of the State University of New York and a member of the Knight Commission.

Zimpher said university presidents should be willing to ask hard questions about what kind of investments they want to make in football and basketball in the hope the revenue from those sports can fund others.

# Brady, Rodgers meeting for just 3rd time

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady has a score to settle with Aaron Rodgers, and it's got nothing to do with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Green Bay Packers.

The Super Bowl-winning quarterbacks meet for just the third time in their long careers Sunday, with Rodgers' Packers (4-0) trying to remain unbeaten and Brady's Bucs (3-2) eager to see how they measure up with one of the NFL's top teams.

The stars understand they're the focal point of the matchup, but reject the notion it'll be Brady vs. Rodgers.

"When you play against another great quarterback, you

always know those are the tough teams to beat because they're prepared, they're going to play well on offense, they've got a very talented defense. It just means you can't make a lot of mistakes," Brady said.

"I'm not defending Aaron. We've got a whole defense that's doing that. But from my standpoint, what does that mean? I can play a role in that by doing our job on offense, so that a guy like that doesn't have his offense on the field trying to score points," Brady added. "You just can't give guys like that extra opportunities because they make you pay."

Rodgers, who has thrown for

13 touchdowns and zero interceptions through four games, struck a similar tone.

"I'm not playing against Tom; I'm playing against the Buccaneers' defense. That's how it should be viewed," Rodgers said.

"He's obviously done it at the highest of levels for so long. He's been an icon at the position. He's been somebody that we've all looked up to for so many years as the standard of excellence," Rodgers added. "I think there's a ton of admiration and respect for the way that he's played the game from so many of us, especially us guys who've been in the same

era ... and gotten to compete with him."

Brady's good-natured beef with his Green Bay counterpart actually stems from some time they spent together a few years ago in Los Angeles.

Among other things, they talked about how eating healthy and taking care of the body could extend playing careers and improve overall quality of life.

They also played nine holes of golf.

"He made a putt at the end to win, so I was a little (ticked) about that," Brady recalled. "I always enjoy my time around him. Still trying to get him back on the golf course, though."

## Briefly

### Rockets GM Morey stepping down of his own accord

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston Rockets general manager Daryl Morey is stepping down on his own accord, a little over a year after sparking a rift between the NBA and Chinese government.

Morey said he made the decision to spend more time with his two college-aged children, who are taking a year off from school during the pandemic, and to "see what other potential challenges could be out there."

The Rockets announced the move Thursday night. Morey said he's leaving the team Nov. 1.

Tilman Fertitta, who has owned the Rockets since 2017, said Morey told him of his decision the day the team got back to Houston from the NBA bubble about a month ago.

Morey worked as Houston's assistant general manager for one season under Carroll Dawson before he retired after the 2007 season and Morey was promoted to his job.

Though he's taking a break for now, Morey hasn't ruled out a return to sports or maybe

even the NBA.

"I'm sort of open on what's next," he said. "But I do love sports. I do love the NBA. And I do think a big part of doing this is to see — I haven't had a chance for many years to just see what new challenges might be out there."

In other NBA news:

■ A person with knowledge of the situation says Tyrone Lue has agreed to become the next coach of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Final terms were still being worked on, said the person who spoke to The Associated Press on Thursday on condition of anonymity because no contract had been signed.

Lue will replace Doc Rivers, who had coached the Clippers for the last seven seasons. Lue was on Rivers' staff this season when the Clippers wasted a 3-1 lead over Denver and lost in the Western Conference semifinals.

#### Chiefs sign Bell after Jets release him

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Chiefs signed run-

ning back Le'Veon Bell two days after he was released by the New York Jets.

The team announced the move Thursday to add another potential dynamic offensive player to an offense that already features Patrick Mahomes, Tyreek Hill and Travis Kelce.

Bell was cut by the Jets after a disappointing tenure in New York that lasted less than two full seasons. Bell and coach Adam Gase appeared to not mesh since the running back signed a four-year, \$52.5 million contract with \$35 million guaranteed last year as a free agent.

Bell spent his first six NFL years in Pittsburgh, was an All-Pro twice and ranked second in the NFL in yards from scrimmage with 7,996 from 2012-17.

In other NFL news:

■ The Indianapolis Colts closed their practice facility Friday after "several individuals" tested positive for COVID-19, then the retests came back negative.

"Earlier this morning, we were informed that four individuals within the organization

tested positive for COVID-19," the team said in a late-morning statement. "The four positive samples were retested and have been confirmed negative."

#### Wimbledon plans return in 2021

WIMBLEDON, England — The Wimbledon tennis tournament is planning its comeback in 2021.

Wimbledon was the only Grand Slam tournament canceled this year because of the coronavirus pandemic, but the All England Club announced plans Friday for its return next year.

"Staging The Championships in 2021 is our number one priority and we are actively engaged in scenario planning in order to deliver on that priority," All England Club chief executive Sally Bolton said.

The tournament, canceled this year for the first time since 1945, is scheduled to run next year from June 28-July 11. It could be held at full capacity, reduced capacity or without fans, the club said.