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General: Troops will not deliver vaccine

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Military troops will not have a hands-on role in distributing coronavirus vaccines to Americans once inoculations are ready to go to the public, said the Army general in charge of the federal government's effort to quickly secure and dispense a vaccine.

"There will not be this vision that some people have that there will be Army trucks driving through the streets delivering vaccines," said Gen. Gustave Perna, the chief operating officer of the public-private effort dubbed Operation Warp Speed. "That is not feasible or the right way to do it."

The military's role in the process is largely already being conducted, Perna said Tuesday during a virtual event with The Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington think tank. That role is providing planning, contracting and logisti-

cal analysis necessary to move some 300,000 doses of a Food and Drug Administration-approved coronavirus vaccine across the country to be given to Americans.

Despite some recent setbacks, including brief pauses of clinical trials of two of the six drugs undergoing testing as part of Operation Warp Speed, Perna said he was certain the mission of producing a tested, approved vaccine for public distribution by January was on pace to happen. Clinical trials for those vaccines under development by Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca have recently restarted, the general said.

Perna spoke at the event as the United States faced a spike in coronavirus cases, including a new record high of 83,000 new cases on Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University. Another 63,000 new cases were reported Monday, as more than 8.7 million Americans have contracted the virus. More

than 226,000 Americans have died of coronavirus complications during the pandemic, according to Johns Hopkins data.

Perna said McKesson Corp., a Texas-based pharmaceutical and medical supplies distribution giant, had been selected to move the vaccines across the nation. The company will be responsible for delivering vaccines to some 70,000 hubs throughout the country in an effort that Perna labeled "Herculean." Ultimately, state and territorial governments will be responsible for getting Americans physically vaccinated.

All U.S. states and territories have recently submitted their distribution plans, and Perna said Warp Speed officials were working to finalize them.

Once the vaccine has been proven safe and effective and approved by the FDA, Perna said, the intention is to trigger the distribution processes, so the first groups of recipients can receive them as soon as

within one day.

Officials said last week that the most vulnerable individuals — front-line health care workers and seniors — are first in line for the vaccine by the end of January. Operation Warp Speed officials hope to make the vaccine available by April to any Americans who want it. Pentagon officials have previously said military troops, other than front-line health care providers, will not receive special priority for the vaccine.

Dr. Matthew Hepburn, who is leading the vaccine development efforts for Operation Warp Speed, said Tuesday that he believes Americans should trust that the process to produce and test the vaccines has been successful so far. On Tuesday, speaking alongside Perna, he encouraged Americans to participate in clinical trials, which still need tens of thousands of volunteers.

Pompeo brings anti-China message to Indian Ocean islands

Associated Press

MALE, Maldives — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday brought the Trump administration's anti-China campaign to two Indian Ocean island nations considered particularly at risk for what American officials allege is Chinese exploitation. In one significant step, Pompeo announced that the United States would for the first time open an embassy in the Maldives.

Pompeo visited Sri Lanka and the Maldives to press the two countries to be on guard against potential predatory lending and investment by China. He was making the case less than a week before the American elec-

tion in which President Donald Trump is seeking to paint his rival, former Vice President Joe Biden, as weak on China and beholden to it.

Even before Pompeo arrived, China had fired back at the U.S. message, accusing Washington of bullying smaller nations. Pompeo, who will also visit Indonesia, pressed each country to push back against increasing Chinese assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific.

U.S. officials complain that development and infrastructure projects benefit China more than the presumed recipients — a refrain Pompeo repeated with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Dinesh Gunawardena.

Pompeo said the country could be "a beacon" for freedom and democracy in the region as long as it retained its "full sovereignty."

Gunawardena appeared unwilling to get involved in the spat with China, and said Sri Lanka is willing to cooperate with all friendly countries.

"Sri Lanka is a neutral, non-aligned country committed to peace," he said. "We hope to continue in our relations with the United States and with other parties."

Earlier this month, Beijing announced that it would provide Sri Lanka with a \$90 million grant to help rural development, after President Gotabha-

ya Rajapaksa sought help from a visiting Chinese delegation in disproving a perception that China-funded megaprojects are "debt traps."

Similarly, the Maldives, a tiny archipelago nation in the Indian Ocean known for its luxury tourist resorts, is facing major debt of more than \$1 billion for Chinese infrastructure projects. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has expressed concern about the amount.

In a nod to U.S. concerns about Chinese influence, Pompeo announced that the U.S. would open an embassy in the Maldives for the first time since the countries established diplomatic relations in 1966.

Satellite photos show construction at a nuclear site in Iran

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran has begun construction at its Natanz nuclear facility, satellite images released Wednesday show, just as the U.N. nuclear agency acknowledged Tehran is building an underground advanced centrifuge assembly plant after its last one exploded in a reported sabotage attack last summer.

The construction comes as the U.S. nears Election Day in a campaign pitting President Donald Trump, whose maximum pressure campaign against Iran has led Tehran to abandon all limits on its atomic program, against Joe Biden, who has expressed a willingness to return to the accord. The outcome of the vote likely will decide which approach America takes. Heightened tensions between Iran and the U.S. nearly ignited a war at the start of the year.

Since August, Iran has built a new or regraded road to the south of Natanz toward what analysts believe is a former firing range for security forces at the enrichment facility, images from San Francisco-based Planet Labs show. A satellite

image Monday shows the site cleared away with what appears to be construction equipment there.

Analysts from the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies said they believe the site is undergoing excavation.

“That road also goes into the mountains, so it may be the fact that they’re digging some kind of structure that’s going to be out in front and that there’s going to be a tunnel in the mountains,” said Jeffrey Lewis, an expert at the institute who studies Iran’s nuclear program. “Or maybe that they’re just going to bury it there.”

Rafael Grossi, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that his inspectors were aware of the construction. He said Iran had previously informed IAEA inspectors, who continue to have access to Iran’s sites despite the collapse of the nuclear deal.

“It means that they have started, but it’s not completed. It’s a long process,” Grossi said.

Navy names new barracks after USS John S. McCain

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS

Stars and Stripes

The Navy has named the newest barracks at Naval Station Great Lakes after one of two guided-missile destroyers involved in fatal collisions in 2017.

The USS John S. McCain barracks opened Tuesday and will house junior sailors learning at technical schools at the base near Chicago, according to a Navy statement Tuesday. All barracks at Great Lakes are named after warships. Others include the USS Reuben James, USS Mason and USS Farragut.

“By treating each barracks as a ship, recruits and students learn the fundamentals of watch-standing,” the statement said. “The students who occupy the new barracks will, on average, be around the same age as those who served aboard the ship McCain” and died in the collision.

All the fallen sailors started their Navy careers in boot camp at Great Lakes, and eight of them received their follow-on training there afterward, said Great Lakes’ commander, Capt. Raymond Leung, according to a recording of the ceremony.

Ten McCain sailors died, and

several were injured on Aug. 21, 2017, when the ship collided with a Liberian-flagged tanker, the Alnic MC, in the Strait of Malacca near Singapore. The impact crumpled a berthing area and caused heavy flooding.

Confusion among watchstanders had led to a loss of steering control, and the destroyer crossed into the tanker’s path, according to post-collision reports. The ship underwent more than two years of repairs before returning to sea in June.

The barracks designation honors the McCain sailors who died, as well as the three men for whom the destroyer is named: the late senator from Arizona, and his father and grandfather, both Navy admirals.

Some of the fallen sailors’ family members attended the barracks’ ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday.

Leung said he hoped “students are inspired by the crew’s seamanship and heroism, and use the lessons learned from the incident as motivation to study hard, be ready to save a ship at a moment’s notice and be ready for duty in the Fleet,” according to the statement.

Pentagon urged to halt new Tricare fees that are set to rise

By STEVE BEYNON

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mont., is urging Defense Secretary Mark Esper to hold off on implementing new Tricare enrollment fees for a year to give military families some economic relief amid the coronavirus pandemic and so they can become informed

about the new charges.

“The [coronavirus] pandemic has had unprecedented impacts on the health and economy of our nation,” Tester, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee, wrote Monday in a letter to Esper. “By implementing a 12-month grace period, the [Defense Department] can ensure that all mili-

tary retirees and their families have adequate time and notice to meet the new Tricare Select requirements and maintain their health care coverage.”

On Jan. 1, Tricare Select Group A retirees will be required to pay new fees. An individual’s monthly enrollment fee will be \$12.50, or \$150 annually.

Monthly family fees will be \$25, or \$300 annually. There are 407,431 beneficiaries of Tricare Select, according to 2019 data from the Defense Department. The new fees were mandated by the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act’s reorganization of Tricare, the health care program for service members, retirees and their families.

National Guard sent to Philly protests

The Washington Post

PHILADELPHIA — On the second night of mass demonstrations over the fatal police shooting of a 27-year-old Black man, about 1,000 protesters marched through the streets of West Philadelphia on Tuesday demanding justice for Walter Wallace Jr.

Following a smaller protest that turned destructive on Monday, Pennsylvania Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf authorized the National Guard to deploy troops Tuesday to help police protect property and quell unrest in the state's largest city.

Monday's demonstrations and looting left shops damaged and at least 30 officers injured, including one hospitalized with a broken leg after being struck by a truck. On Tuesday, police and protesters clashed again, but officers, aided by National Guardsmen, took a more aggressive tack, filling the streets with lines of riot police who stopped marchers and made several arrests earlier in the evening.

On Tuesday evening, a racially diverse crowd gathered at Malcolm X Park in West Philadelphia, near the neighborhood where Wallace was shot and killed by police on Monday. The group wound through residential streets until their path collided with a line of police

officers in riot gear. Protesters chanted directly to the police.

"Who killed Walter Wallace?" they asked. "No justice, no peace! No racist police!"

Wallace died Monday after two Philadelphia police officers shot him multiple times while responding to a call reporting a man with a knife. His family said he suffered from mental health issues, which his doctors had been treating with medication. A lawyer for the family told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Wallace's relatives had called for an ambulance to take him to the hospital for medical care, but police showed up.

A video of the fatal encounter raised questions about why officers approached an apparent mental health crisis with guns drawn and why they did not first attempt to subdue Wallace with a less lethal weapon.

"We're out here to decimate the system that's meant to decimate us," said Mikal Woods, a 24-year-old Black man who lives in the West Philadelphia neighborhood that has been rocked by the shooting and subsequent protests. "They shot that man to kill him. Fourteen times."

"I've been afraid of the police every day of my life," he added.

Some pockets of the city's demonstrations remained calm as late evening turned to night.

Calmer winds help wildfire fight in Calif.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Calmer weather on Wednesday allowed firefighters to beat back twin blazes that drove nearly 100,000 Southern California residents from their homes amid fierce winds and extremely dry conditions.

Authorities lifted some evacuation orders Tuesday as winds began subsiding and containment was increased for the massive wildfires in brushy hills above cities in Orange County. More residents were expected to receive permission to return to their homes on Wednesday.

"With favorable weather, fire crews will find opportunities to establish more control lines," the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, said in a statement.

The Silverado Fire broke out in gusty weather around dawn Monday near Irvine, a city of 280,000 about 35 miles south of Los Angeles.

That blaze and the Blue Ridge Fire just to the north, which broke out several hours later near the city of Yorba Linda, sent tens of thousands of residents fleeing densely populated neighborhoods. At least 10 homes were damaged by flames.

Scientists have said climate change has made California much drier, meaning trees and other plants are more flammable. October and November are traditionally the worst months

for fires, but already this year 8,600 wildfires in the state have scorched a record 6,400 square miles and destroyed about 9,200 homes, businesses and other buildings. There have been 31 deaths.

Two firefighters who battled the Silverado Fire remained hospitalized in critical condition Tuesday after suffering second- and third-degree burns over large portions of their bodies, Orange County Fire Authority Chief Brian Fennessey said.

At one point, the winds were so fierce that gusts blew over tractor-trailers and grounded firefighting aircraft. They subsided Tuesday night and calmer winds were predicted for the rest of the week, the National Weather Service said.

But continued warm and dry weather that make for potentially dangerous wildfire conditions were forecast into November, with no rain.

The Southern California Edison utility reported to state officials that it was investigating whether its equipment might have sparked the Silverado Fire. According to Edison's report, a "lashing wire" that ties a telecommunications line to a supporting cable may have come into contact with a separate 12,000-volt conductor line.

Facing extreme wildfire conditions this week, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in Northern California cut power to nearly 1 million people.

Hurricane Zeta intensifies to Category 2 on way to La.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Zeta was speeding toward storm-weary Louisiana and intensifying, with landfall expected as a Category 2 hurricane Wednesday afternoon. New Orleans, where a pump system failure has raised flood risks, was squarely in its way.

Life-threatening storm surge and strong winds were ex-

pected beginning around midday along the U.S. Gulf Coast, where residents braced for the 27th named storm of a historically busy Atlantic hurricane season.

Louisiana has had the worst of it, hit by two tropical storms and two hurricanes. New Orleans has been in the warning area for potential tropical cyclones seven times this year,

each one veering away.

"I don't think we're going to be as lucky with this one," city emergency director Collin Arnold said.

Zeta had been predicted to hit as a relatively weak Category 1 hurricane, but Louisiana residents awoke to updated forecasts predicting a Category 2, with top winds of nearly 100 mph at landfall.

While state and city officials urged people to take precautions and prepare to shelter in place, there were few signs of concern in New Orleans. Uptown, there were only a few boarded windows, and it was business as usual in the French Quarter. Winds picked up and water rose above the docks in Lafitte, a small community south of New Orleans that takes its name from a French pirate.

Washington joins pact to review vaccine

Associated Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — Washington is among a handful of Western states that have joined California in a pact to independently review the safety and efficacy of any coronavirus vaccine that is ultimately approved by the FDA before any distribution occurs in those states, Democratic Gov. Jay Inslee announced Tuesday.

“We would like to give Washingtonians the highest confidence that when a COVID-19 vaccine is available, that it’s safe and works,” Inslee said at a news conference, saying the review is an added layer of assurance in order to encourage more people to get the vaccine once available.

Last week, California was the first to announce such a plan, and fellow Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom said the independent review would happen regardless of who wins next week’s presidential election. Oregon and Nevada are also part of the pact, according to Newsom’s office. New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo last month appointed a similar independent task force.

Inslee stressed that the public health experts in the group will concurrently be reviewing publicly released data before FDA approval of a vaccine, and that any decision should come within days after federal approval.

Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — A coronavirus outbreak in the Arkansas Legislature grew by two on Tuesday, pushing the number of lawmakers who have caught the disease in the past week and a half to nine, including a niece of Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

Reps. Jeff Wardlaw and Gayla McKenzie are the latest to test positive for the virus, a House spokeswoman said.

Arkansas’ outbreak is the second-largest among state legislatures, according to figures compiled by The Associated Press. The largest outbreak was in Mississippi this sum-

mer, when dozens of legislators tested positive.

Florida

DAYTONA BEACH — Several mothers in Florida were removed by law enforcement from a school board meeting Tuesday after they ignored repeated requests to wear masks during a discussion on whether the school district should extend its mandatory mask policy amid the coronavirus pandemic.

No one was arrested, but seven people were trespassed, which means they can’t return to the property for one year, The Daytona Beach News-Journal reported.

The Volusia County School Board adopted a mandatory mask policy that applies to students, staff and visitors on school district property, but it expires early next month. School board members were voting on whether to extend the policy at Tuesday’s meeting.

Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Surging COVID-19 cases in Chicago prompted Gov. J.B. Pritzker on Tuesday to ban indoor dining and bar services and limit the number of people gathering in one place.

Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, however, said she isn’t sure Pritzker’s new restrictions are targeting the right people and worries that they will adversely affect the city’s economy.

The rules taking effect Friday will force diners and bar patrons outdoors and shut down service at 11 p.m. in the nation’s third-largest city. No more than 25 people may gather at one time, or fewer if that number would exceed 25% of room capacity.

Kansas

TOPEKA — Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly and top Republican legislators agreed Tuesday to try for now to encourage Kansas counties to adopt local mask mandates rather than

consider a statewide rule as the state experiences its biggest surge in new coronavirus cases of the pandemic.

Kelly had a private Zoom meeting with eight leaders of the GOP-controlled Legislature, six of them Republicans, and participants said afterward that they discussed encouraging greater mask use. The state health department reported Monday that the state’s rolling seven-day average for new cases set a record of 815 a day for the seven days ending Monday.

Kelly issued a statewide mask mandate July 2, but a state law enacted only the month before allowed the state’s 105 counties to opt out, and most did. The governor said last week that she wanted to work with top Republican lawmakers on a bipartisan mandate to require people to wear masks in public.

Oregon

SALEM — Gov. Kate Brown on Tuesday extended Oregon’s declaration of a state of emergency until Jan. 2 as COVID-19 cases in the state continue to rise.

The Oregon Health Authority reported 391 new confirmed and presumptive cases of COVID-19 on Tuesday, bringing the state total to 42,808. There were nine additional deaths, increasing the death toll to 664.

The declaration is the legal underpinning for the executive orders the governor has issued, including her orders surrounding reopening Oregon, childcare, schools and higher education operations. Extending the state of emergency declaration allows those orders to stay in effect.

South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS — South Dakota’s largest medical organizations on Tuesday launched a joint effort to promote mask-wearing to prevent the spread of the coronavirus as the state suffers through one of the nation’s worst outbreaks, a move that countered Gov. Kristi No-

em’s position of casting doubt on the efficacy of wearing face coverings in public.

As the number of cases, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19 have multiplied in recent weeks, the Republican governor has tried to downplay the severity of the virus, highlighting that most people don’t die from COVID-19. Noem, who has staked out a reputation on refusing to issue any mandates to stem the virus’s spread, has repeatedly countered recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to wear masks in public settings.

Shortly after the Department of Health reported that the number of hospitalizations from COVID-19 broke records for the third straight day on Tuesday, people who represent doctors, nurses, hospitals, school administrators and businesses huddled to promote mask-wearing, social distancing and handwashing.

Wyoming

CHEYENNE — Wyoming now ranks among the worst states for spread of the coronavirus, as its residents grow weary of measures to protect themselves and state officials refrain from reimposing public health orders to try to force compliance.

Wyoming ranks among the top five states for new virus infections per capita over the past week of surging cases nationwide, according to Johns Hopkins and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Almost 3,300 people in the state had tested positive for COVID-19 as of Tuesday and not yet recovered, up from about 500 in July, according to the Wyoming Department of Health.

People hospitalized with COVID-19 in the state this week topped 100, more than double the number just two weeks ago.

The state’s death toll increased by seven in the past week to reach 77.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man accused of using bat to threaten police

DE MILLSBORO — A Delaware man accused of threatening troopers with a wooden and metal baseball bat while they were responding to a call was arrested.

The incident happened when the troopers arrived at a home in Millsboro for a call about a disorderly subject, Delaware State Police said in a news release.

That's where they found Theodore A. Guajardo. Authorities said he was intoxicated and refused to leave the home when asked by the resident.

The release said Guajardo, 48, eventually approached the troopers with the bat and began swinging "recklessly."

A stun gun was used after he failed to obey commands to put down the bat, authorities said.

Walker injured by 'nail trap' in wilderness

NC ASHEVILLE — A man suffered deep puncture wounds to his heel after stepping on a so-called "nail trap" in the North Carolina wilderness.

The Asheville Citizen Times reported that the incident occurred in a remote area of western North Carolina's Pisgah National Forest.

The man, Tyler Mayo, was walking his dog with some friends and their dog. The trap was buried in a rut in a road and covered with leaves. It was made of plywood and 2-inch nails with the points facing up.

Mayo said the words "PETA paybak" were written on the trap and another one that he found, possibly referring to the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

PETA denies any involvement and is offering a \$1,000 reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

200-pound tortoise is home after escaping

AL SARDIS CITY — A 200-pound tortoise named Sparkplug that escaped from a pen in Alabama is back home.

Sparkplug, a 60-year-old African spurred tortoise that lived in an enclosure in Etowah County, pushed its way out of the fenced pen. A motorist who spotted the animal on the side of the road took it to his 200-acre spread in Marshall County, owner Ty Harris told The Gadsden Times.

Harris found out what had happened after using social media to spread the word about Sparkplug, but there was still the matter of finding the tortoise on the land where he'd been released.

The man who initially released Sparkplug into the wild found the tortoise and returned it to Harris.

Man accused in killing over stolen reptiles

WI WAUPACA — A Wisconsin man accused of killing a young man in a dispute over stolen reptiles was charged with first-degree intentional homicide.

Bill Zelenski, 44, of Waupaca, is accused of shooting the 18-year-old. The victim's name was not immediately released, but the victim's mother, Tiffany Powell, 34, was charged with first degree intentional homicide as party to a crime.

The dispute was over \$27,850 worth of reptiles and equipment, WLUK-TV reported.

According to a criminal

complaint, Zelenski called authorities to identify two young people who he said burglarized his home.

Not long after that call, the complaint said, Zelenski and Powell encountered Powell's son, one of the alleged thieves. The complaint said Powell's son said he wanted to fight Zelenski, who took out a shotgun.

A doorbell camera captured most of the altercation, though the complaint doesn't say whether that included the fatal shot. At one point, the video shows Zelenski handing the gun to Powell, who pointed the gun at her son before eventually giving the gun back to Zelenski, who told a 911 operator that he shot the victim after the young man attacked him.

Bear causes closure of area near park

AK ANCHORAGE — Alaska wildlife officials closed a forested area near an Anchorage park because of an aggressive brown bear that may be protecting a carcass.

Officials temporarily banned human traffic near the Abbott Loop Community Park as a precaution to allow the bear time to consume what could be a moose carcass.

Dave Battle, Anchorage-area biologist at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, said a brown bear charged three times at a man who was walking his dog. The bear came close, but did not make contact.

"Sounds like a classic defensive charge," Battle said.

Chihuahua dispute leads to man's arrest

TN SURGOINSVILLE — A Tennessee man was charged with felony vandalism after witnesses said he rammed his daughter's car in

a dispute over custody of a chihuahua, the Kingsport Times News reported.

The daughter filed a report with the Hawkins County Sheriff's Office alleging Jeffrey Lynn Bixler was riding around with her dog and threatening over the phone to cut the dog's throat. He eventually returned the dog, but the next day, Surgoinsville Police Department Chief James Hammonds received reports that Bixler was using his Chevy pickup to ram his daughter's Toyota Camry, which was parked and unoccupied.

"He wanted to keep the dog, and she had the legal right to get the dog back," Hammonds said. "What he did was drive to her apartment ... and shoved that car through the mulch into the tree. It's totaled."

Police: Man ran down signs with bulldozer

FL HAINES CITY — A 26-year-old man was accused of stealing a bulldozer from a Florida construction site, driving it into a neighborhood and knocking down campaign signs for Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, according to authorities and homeowners.

The man took the bulldozer in Haines City and repeatedly destroyed Biden signs in full view of people who live in the neighborhood, witnesses said. James Blight was charged with grand theft auto and trespassing, according to the Haines City Police Department.

Police said Blight claimed he was too drunk at the time to remember what happened.

From wire reports

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Dodgers top Rays, wrap up World Series

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — No large dogpile, no champagne and a mask on nearly every face — the Los Angeles Dodgers celebrated their first World Series title since 1988 in a manner no one could have imagined prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

They started the party without Justin Turner, too, after their red-headed star received word of a positive COVID-19 test in the middle of their clinching victory.

Turner was removed from Los Angeles' 3-1 win over the Tampa Bay Rays in Game 6 on Tuesday night after registering Major League Baseball's first positive test in 59 days. He wasn't on the field initially as the Dodgers enjoyed the spoils of a title earned during a most unusual season.

He returned to the diamond about an hour after the game, hugging longtime teammate Clayton Kershaw and sitting front-and-center for a team photo next to manager Dave Roberts with his mask pulled down under his bushy beard.

"Thanks to everyone reach-

ing out!" Turner said on Twitter. "I feel great, no symptoms at all. Just experienced every emotion you can possibly imagine. Can't believe I couldn't be out there to celebrate with my guys! So proud of this team & unbelievably happy for the City of LA."

Major League Baseball insulated postseason teams in neutral-site bubbles after traveling them across the country during a shortened 60-game season. Turner was the first player since the playoffs began to be flagged for the coronavirus.

"It's gut-wrenching," World Series MVP Corey Seager said. "If I could switch places with him right now, I would. That's just not right."

"We're not excluding him from anything," teammate Mookie Betts said.

Commissioner Rob Manfred confirmed Turner's positive test moments after presenting the World Series trophy to Los Angeles — a jarring reminder of all that's been different in this season where the perennially favored Dodgers finally broke through.

Betts bolted from third for

the go-ahead run on Seager's grounder in the sixth, even with the infield playing in, then had a punctuating homer leading off the eighth.

"It was absolutely phenomenal. This team was incredible," said Seager, also the NLCS MVP who set franchise records with his eight homers and 20 RBIs this postseason. "We were ready to go as soon as the bell was called. Once it did, we kept rolling."

Betts' 3.2-second sprint home was just enough to beat the throw by first baseman Ji-Man Choi, pushing Los Angeles ahead 2-1 moments after Rays manager Kevin Cash pulled ace left-hander Blake Snell despite a dominant performance over 5¹/₃ innings.

"It was kind of like a sigh of relief," Betts said. "It was the Cy Young Snell that pitched tonight."

Snell struck out nine — including the first time all season that Betts, Seager and Turner each struck out in their first two at-bats. But the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner didn't see the top three batters for the Dodgers again.

MLB received Turner's Monday sample from the Sports Medicine Research and Testing Laboratory in Utah in the bottom of the second inning, when lab president Dr. Daniel Eichner called deputy commissioner Dan Halem, who was in New York, a person familiar with the call said, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details were not released.

Eichner told Halem the result was inconclusive. MLB receives many inconclusive results, so Halem told Eichner to run Tuesday's pregame sample from Turner. That result came back positive in the sixth inning, the person said.

Halem called Chris Young, MLB's senior vice president of baseball operations, who was in Manfred's box at Globe Life Field, then called Dodgers president of baseball operations Andrew Friedman. He notified the dugout or clubhouse, and Turner was removed from the game after the seventh inning.

When asked about what happened after the game, Friedman said Turner wanted to take a picture with the trophy.

Seager named MVP after earning same honor in LCS

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Corey Seager hit a rare October double, becoming Most Valuable Player of the World Series after earning the honor for the League Championship Series.

Just as Orel Hershiser did when the Los Angeles Dodgers won their previous World Series title in 1988.

Seager batted .400 with two homers, five RBIs and six walks against the Tampa Bay Rays, including a sixth-inning grounder that allowed Mookie Betts to speed home from third base with the go-ahead run Tuesday night in Game 6. The star shortstop jumped into the arms of second baseman Kiké Hernández after Julio Urias struck out Willy Adames to end

a 3-1 victory that clinched the championship.

"To be able to win and to be able to do it with a team like this, it means everything," Seager said.

Especially after losing Game 7 to Houston three years ago and missing the entire 2018 postseason while injured.

"It hurt, obviously," he said. "This core has been around for a couple of years now, and to know what it feels like to lose and to be able to rebuild and come back and stay focused and to be able to finish it, it's special."

Seager hit .310 with five homers and 11 RBIs in the seven-game win over Atlanta in the NL Championship Series, including three homers as the Dodgers fought off elimination

in Games 5 and 6. He drove in runs in five consecutive plate appearances, starting with his last two at-bats in Game 2, matching a feat that had been accomplished only by Houston's Carlos Beltran in 2004.

The previous player to be selected MVP of both a League Championship Series and the World Series in the same year was San Francisco pitcher Madison Bumgarner in 2014. Only eight players have done it — all National Leaguers.

Seager finished the postseason batting .328 (22-for-67) with eight homers, 20 RBIs and 11 walks. The others to win LCS and World Series MVP in one year were Pittsburgh's Willie Stargell (1979), St. Louis' Darrell Porter (1982), Hershiser, the Marlins' Livan Her-

nandez (2003), Philadelphia's Cole Hamels (2008), the Cardinals' David Freese (2011) and Bumgarner.

"Does everything right," Betts said about Seager.

Seager was the 18th overall pick in the 2012 amateur draft and just 21 when he debuted in September 2015.

He became a unanimous pick for 2016 NL Rookie of the Year after hitting .308 with 26 homers and 72 RBIs, then made his second straight All-Star team in 2017, when he batted .295 with 22 homers and 77 RBIs.

Seager missed the 2017 NL Championship Series because of a back injury, then returned for the World Series against Houston and hit .222 (6-for-27) with four RBIs.

Players rip Cash's decision to pull Snell

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Blake Snell turned away from his manager and yelled an expletive as Kevin Cash headed to the mound. In control all night, the Tampa Bay ace no longer had the ball in his potent left hand.

Soon, the Rays no longer had a grip on the lead, either.

The team that reached the World Series leaning largely on analytics was undone by the data — and a decision sure to become part of October lore.

With Snell still seething, wobbly reliever Nick Anderson was on the mound when Mookie Betts' double started a sequence that led to two quick runs as the Los Angeles Dodgers rallied for a championship-clinching 3-1 victory in Game 6 on Tuesday night.

"I guess I regret it because it didn't work out," Cash said, later adding, "personally, I thought Blake had done his job and then some."

Said Snell: "At the end of the day, I see both sides."

"The hardest thing for me is I was rolling, I was in a groove. I felt like I had them guessing. It's just tough for me. It's going

to be tough for me to accept that. I really don't know [how] to look at it. However you look at it, we lost."

The Rays' pitching philosophy focuses on not allowing starters to face hitters for a third time in a game, and Snell has gotten in trouble when he's stuck around too long. But the 2018 AL Cy Young Award winner was dominant this time, and steaming when he handed the ball to Cash, regarded as one of the bright, young minds in the majors.

"I totally respect and understand the questions that come with it. Blake gave us every opportunity to win. He was outstanding. They're not easy decisions. I didn't want Mookie and (Corey) Seager seeing Blake a third time," Cash said.

While Anderson was warming up, the baseball world was heating up to skewer Cash.

From the harsh words of New York Mets ace Noah Syndergaard to the more measured reaction of longtime reliever Jerry Blevins, the sentiment was the same.

"So who gets to pull the manager?" Syndergaard tweeted.

"You manage a baseball game with your EYES, HEART, &

GUT as well as your BRAIN," Blevins posted.

Some older sluggers weighed in as well, such as Hall of Famer Frank Thomas.

"Another Analytical Melt-down!! Total Disaster for Tampa," Thomas wrote. "Blake Snell was your only chance of winning a tight game tonight."

Why pull your best pitcher with a reasonable pitch count, nine strikeouts and just two hits simply because it's about to be the third time through the order?

"I'm not exactly sure why. I'm not going to ask any questions, but he was pitching a great game," Betts said.

"It was kind of like a sigh of relief," Betts said. "Had he stayed in the game, he might have pitched a complete game. It was the Cy Young Snell that pitched tonight."

Count Dodgers manager Dave Roberts, himself a frequent target for criticism over pulling starters, among those happy to see Snell go.

"Mookie looked at me with a little smile, and we were all just excited that Snell was out of the game," Roberts said.

Heck, the move even reverberated through the LA front

office.

"Our hitters got a real jolt from that," said Andrew Friedman, the president of baseball operations for the Dodgers since October 2014 after spending the previous 10 years with Tampa Bay and helping build the team that made that franchise's only other World Series appearance in 2008.

Catcher Austin Barnes, the No. 9 hitter, singled on Snell's 73rd pitch with one out in the sixth when Cash made the same decision he has so many times in the fifth or sixth inning.

The sixth-year skipper turned it over to a bullpen that set a major league record with 12 different pitchers recording saves, despite just a 60-game schedule reduced by the pandemic.

Anderson was the best of them all in the regular season, allowing five hits and one earned run in 16¹/₃ innings over 19 outings. But the tall right-hander — who came from Miami at the trading deadline last year — has been ordinary in the postseason.

Anderson allowed a run in his seventh consecutive appearance.

Arozarena was stellar for Rays during postseason

Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Randy Arozarena did pretty much everything during a breakout performance for the Tampa Bay Rays.

Except win it all.

Arozarena extended his big league record with his 10th postseason homer Tuesday night, but Tampa Bay lost 3-1 to the champion Los Angeles Dodgers in Game 6 of the World Series.

Arozarena batted .364 (8-for-22) with three homers and four RBIs in the Fall Classic, but it wasn't enough. The rookie outfielder also set a major league record with 29 hits and 64 total bases for the postseason.

"That was unbelievable. We were watching him in San Diego, what he did against the two AL teams, and then he brought it over in the World Series. He never stopped," Dodgers slugger Cody Bellinger said. "Really special talent, clearly, and he's going to have an unbelievable career ahead of him."

One year ago, Arozarena was coming off his first stint in the majors with St. Louis. The Cuban Rocket hit .300 in 19 games with the Cardinals, and then went 0-for-4 with three strikeouts in five appearances during the team's run to the NL Championship Series.

The Rays acquired Arozarena and utilityman Jose Martinez in a January trade that sent

touted pitching prospect Matthew Liberatore to St. Louis.

Arozarena missed the start of this season after he tested positive for the coronavirus. He was working out at the team's alternate training site when Tampa Bay traded Martinez to the Cubs on Aug. 30, clearing the way for his promotion.

The 25-year-old Arozarena hit .281 with seven homers and 11 RBIs in 23 games during his first season with the Rays, helping the team win the AL East for the first time in 10 years.

Arozarena put together a strong finish to the season, and then carried his momentum into the playoffs. He went 12-for-20 with three homers in his first five postseason games.

His last homer in the World Series, an opposite-field drive to right in the first, gave Tampa Bay a 1-0 lead in Game 6.

"The home run the first inning, I was like, you've got to be kidding me," Bellinger said. "A slider three inches away it seemed like, and he barreled it up and hit it out. I'm like, this guy is unbelievable."

There were runners on first and second when Arozarena batted again in the second, but he struck out swinging for the final out of the inning.

Arozarena also singled with two outs in the fifth, but was stranded there when Austin Meadows bounced out.

Jags' Marrone plans moves to halt skid

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Jacksonville Jaguars coach Doug Marrone said Tuesday he plans to shake things up during the team's bye week, which comes amid a six-game losing streak.

Marrone offered no details Tuesday, but he insisted repeatedly he was "fired up" to make sweeping changes.

Rookie Jake Luton, a sixth-round draft pick from Oregon State, at quarterback? Dynamic receiver Laviska Shenault in the veer option? Maybe the Emory & Henry? How about never punting or always going for 2?

Marrone sure made it sound as if anything is possible.

"I'm kind of fired up," Marrone said. "And I know you guys are probably (thinking), 'What the hell's going on? How can this guy be fired up? They just lost six games in a row.' And I understand that. I totally do, but I'm going to bust my (butt). I'm telling you now."

"I'm going to look at some things. I want to go a little bit outside the box. I want to challenge these coaches and challenge these players and see (what they can do). I'm going to do whatever I can to get the best out of this team and best out of these players."

Marrone was just getting started with his rant, too.

"I'm sure people are going to mock me for that or say whatever the hell they want. But I really don't give a (care). I'm fired up. I'm going to go after it and however it falls, it falls, but it's open for me."

"I've done crazy (stuff) before. A lot of people don't know. We changed an offense four or five days prior to the opening of our season in Syracuse my last year. We just went in a whole different direction and, (shoot), it worked out."

Marrone pointed to dumping running back Leonard Fournette and taking a chance on undrafted rookie James Robinson from Illinois State just days before the opener. Robinson has been the Jaguars' most consistent player this season.

No one would be surprised to see Marrone move away from second-year pro Gardner Minshew, who's been off target with several throws in recent weeks and even prompted frustrating body language from Pro Bowl receiver DJ Chark.

Marrone has little to lose at this point. He's 24-34 in three-plus seasons in Jacksonville, falling a few plays shy of the franchise's first Super Bowl in 2017 and then mirroring mostly in mediocrity since. The Jaguars have dropped 12 of their past 15, including 10 by double digits.

The past month has been far from ideal. Miami, Cincinnati and Houston got their first wins of the season against Jacksonville

in consecutive weeks. Detroit followed with a lopsided victory at the Jaguars, and then Los Angeles Chargers rookie quarterback Justin Herbert picked up his first win in five starts Sunday.

Jacksonville has done little right during its skid. It set franchise records by allowing at least 30 points in six consecutive games and by giving up a whopping 1,878 yards — the most in any four-game stretch — in losses to Cincinnati, Houston, Detroit and the Chargers.

Minshew had a season-low passer rating (70.5) two weeks ago against the Lions and tied a season low with 173 yards passing against the Chargers. Could it be the end of Minshew Mania in Jacksonville? Could Marrone make even more drastic moves before next week's home game against Houston?

"We have to take a look at how can we get these guys playing to a level where we can win games," Marrone said. "I think that we have to get improvement in a lot of different areas and that's why I say it's on everybody. It's easy to place the blame on one player, one position."

"But it's our job to go ahead and do that and never use that as an excuse. So we'll see where we are. I think that we'll take a good look at it."

Rutgers surprising again with Schiano

Associated Press

The college football world has no idea what to expect from Rutgers anymore.

Heading into the start of Greg Schiano's second stint as coach, no one would have been surprised if the Scarlet Knights went winless in a schedule consisting of nine games against Big Ten Conference opponents.

After all, Rutgers had one of the worst programs in college football. It had three wins in the past two seasons and a 21-game losing streak in conference play.

The gloomy expectations ended Saturday when the Scarlet Knights stunned college football fans with a 38-27 win

at Michigan State in their season opener.

That left many with questions.

Is Schiano, who made Rutgers a winner in his first stint between 2001-11, a miracle worker? Is the team actually better than expected? Is Michigan State that bad?

Answers should come this weekend when the Scarlet Knights host No. 17 Indiana. The Hoosiers stunned then-No. 8 Penn State 36-35 in overtime last weekend to jump into the rankings.

Schiano got a lot of congratulatory emails and texts messages after the game and told his players to enjoy the win.

Wisconsin cancels game after positive COVID tests

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — No. 9 Wisconsin has canceled its game at Nebraska on Saturday and paused all team activities for at least seven days after a dozen people within the program including coach Paul Chryst tested positive for COVID-19.

School officials said athletic director Barry Alvarez and chancellor Rebecca Blank made the decision in consultation with Big Ten officials. The game with Nebraska won't be rescheduled.

"This morning I received the news that I had tested positive via a PCR test I took yesterday," Chryst said in a statement. "I informed my staff and the team this morning and am currently

isolating at home. I had not been experiencing any symptoms and feel good as of this morning."

Wisconsin said six players and six staff members had tested positive in the past five days.

The announcement followed reports that starting quarterback Graham Mertz had tested positive twice since the Badgers' opener — which would require him to sit out at least 21 days under Big Ten protocols — and that backup quarterback Chase Wolf had tested positive at least once.

Wisconsin already had lost 2019 starting quarterback Jack Coan to foot surgery that has left him out indefinitely.