

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

## NTSB report echoes Navy on 2017 collision

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — More than three years after the USS Fitzgerald collision that killed seven sailors, the U.S. federal agency investigating the cause has released its findings, which echo the Navy's conclusions from months after the 2017 accident.

The National Transportation Safety Board report, released Thursday, declared that watch-standing failures led to the guided-missile destroyer's collision with the Philippine-flagged container ship ACX Crystal on June 17, 2017.

According to the report, "[the] Fitzgerald's bridge team's failure to take early and substantial action to avoid collision as the give-way vessel in a crossing situation" was the probable cause of the collision.

The Navy censured the Fitzgerald's then-commander and a tactical action officer after the accident. Neither was punished and both were allowed to retire.

The Fitzgerald was about 60 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka, where it was homeported, when the collision happened. As the vessel approached the ACX Crystal,

neither radioed the other, according to the NTSB report.

By the time watch officers identified the danger and tried to turn the ship to avoid collision, it was too late, according to the report. Seven sailors died, three were seriously injured and the Fitzgerald sustained \$300 million worth of damage.

Contributing factors included "ineffective communication and cooperation among the Fitzgerald crew on the bridge and in the combat information center, and the Fitzgerald commanding officer's insufficient planning for the hazards of the vessel's intended transit," according to the report.

The report also pointed to the Navy's "ineffective operations scheduling, crew training and fatigue mitigation."

The findings mirror those of the Navy's 2017 post-collision report that called the accident preventable. That report identified the bridge team's failure to "plan for safety," "adhere to sound navigation practices," "properly use available navigation tools" and "respond deliberately and effectively" as contributing factors in the collision.

The report also noted the ACX Crystal's failure to detect the Fitzgerald early and "insufficient actions to avoid collision."

The transportation board's findings are

also similar to those in a Japan Transport Safety Board report released last year. The Japanese government ordered that investigation because the incident took place in Japanese waters.

The U.S. transportation board's report recommended revising "fleetwide training and qualification requirements for officers of the deck" and improving communication between the bridge and combat information center teams.

Previously, the Navy said it has already made such revisions and has implemented 107 of 111 recommendations in its own post-collision report, including improved training and certification standards, tightened surface warfare officer qualifications and changed sleep schedule policy to better complement circadian rhythm. The remaining four recommendations are expected to be implemented by the end of December.

The Fitzgerald returned to sea in February, after about 2 ½ years of repair work.

The Fitzgerald crash was the first of two deadly collisions that the Navy suffered in 2017. The USS McCain collided with another civilian ship in August, claiming the lives of 10 sailors. The McCain returned to sea in October 2019.

## 'Small number' of Reagan sailors test positive

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS

*Stars and Stripes*

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A "small number" of sailors aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan tested positive for the coronavirus while underway last week, 7th Fleet spokeswoman Cmdr. Reann Mommsen confirmed Friday to Stars and Stripes.

The sailors tested positive Aug. 27, received immediate medical treatment and were taken off the ship, she said in an email. None were hospitalized.

"There are currently no positive COVID sailors aboard USS Ronald Reagan," Mommsen

said. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

The Navy is investigating how the coronavirus made its way onto the carrier, which has been at sea since June. Personnel who deploy to the ship are required to undergo a two-week quarantine and test negative for the coronavirus before boarding the vessel, according to Navy policy.

"An investigation is underway to determine the source of infection," Mommsen said. "The Reagan crew has worked extremely hard to minimize the risk of infection onboard since they deployed more than

three months ago."

The aircraft carrier made a brief port visit to Guam on Aug. 22-26, but crewmembers were not allowed to leave designated areas on the pier and a secured beach at Naval Base Guam to prevent exposure to the virus, according to a Navy statement from Aug. 21.

The 7th Fleet has conducted five "safe haven" liberty port visits for deployed ships this year as the Navy keeps ships at sea longer to avoid coronavirus exposure, according to the statement.

"With the exception of a few mandatory personnel to ensure the ship's safe arrival, there

will be no interaction with any personnel outside the designated liberty areas," the Navy said about the Reagan's visit. "For the docking process, all COVID mitigations will be in place to include social distancing, masks, gloves and minimal interactions."

A coronavirus outbreak on the USS Theodore Roosevelt in March sidelined the aircraft carrier for more than a month in Guam. Meanwhile, the Navy disembarked, isolated and tested crewmembers and sanitized the ship. More than 1,150 Roosevelt sailors tested positive in that outbreak, one of whom died.

# Exchange doubles uniform credit limit

By COREY DICKSTEIN

*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — Most U.S. troops can now receive up to \$1,000 credit with no interest for one year on military uniform purchases through the Army and Air Force Exchange Service's credit program, officials announced last week.

The change marks the first major adjustment to the Military Star card, the exchange's credit program since it was launched in 1979, and it comes as the Army's new World War II-inspired Army Green Service Uniform hits shelves at exchange shops at some installations. The changes double the long-standing \$500 credit limit on zero-interest uniform-purchasing plans and extends

them from nine-month payment plans to 12-month plans, exchange officials said in a Tuesday statement.

Soldiers, airmen, Marines and members of the National Guard and Reserve are eligible to participate in the program. About 474,000 troops are now enrolled in the uniform credit program, according to the exchange statement.

Sailors and Coast Guard members are eligible for a promotional 0% plan for purchasing uniforms on the Military Star card's standard credit line, which is separate from its uniform credit line.

The credit increase on the military clothing plan is meant to give troops new opportunities to build credit and give them more flexibility to pay for

their uniforms, said Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Osby, the senior enlisted leader for the exchange.

"The Military Star card offers this benefit as a service to the services, reflecting the Exchange Credit Program's commitment to ensuring the readiness and resiliency of warfighters across the globe," Osby said in the statement.

It will also allow soldiers to pay over time for the new green uniforms, which will replace the blue Army Service Uniform as soldiers' standard office attire by 2027. The blues will become the Army's uniform for more formal settings, such as unit galas.

The Army Greens are expected to be available at most exchange stores within the

continental United States by December and at Army posts across the globe by March, the exchange said.

Some soldiers have already adopted the new look, modeled after the popular World War II uniform known as "pinks and greens." Drill sergeants, recruiters, and general officers who deal with the public have been among the first to receive the new uniforms.

By December, the Army expects to issue the Army Greens to incoming recruits.

Early adopters of the new uniform will pay more for it. The standard uniform now costs about \$500, said Daniel Koglin, a military clothing manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service.

## Census Bureau ordered to extend its operations

*Associated Press*

ORLANDO, Fla. — The U.S. Census Bureau for now must stop following a plan that would have it winding down operations in order to finish the 2020 census at the end of September, according to a federal judge's order.

U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose late Saturday issued a temporary restraining order against the Census Bureau and the Commerce Department, which oversees the agency. The order stops the Census Bureau from winding down operations until a court hearing is held on Sept. 17.

The once-a-decade head count of every U.S. resident helps determine how \$1.5 trillion in federal funding is distributed and how many congressional seats each state gets in a process known as apportionment.

The temporary restraining order was requested by a coalition of cities, counties and civil rights groups that had sued the Census Bureau, demanding it restore its previous plan for finishing the census at the end of October, instead of using a revised plan to end operations at the end of September. The coalition had argued the earlier deadline would cause the Census Bureau to overlook minority communities in the census, leading to an inaccurate count.

Because of the pandemic, the Census Bureau pushed back ending the count from the end of July to the end of October and asked Congress to extend the deadline for turning in the apportionment numbers from December, as required by law, into next spring. When the Republican-controlled Senate failed to take up the request, the bureau was forced to create a revised schedule that had the census ending in September, according to the statistical agency.

The USNS Newport is the third Austal delivery to the fleet this year. Earlier, it handed over two Independence-class littoral combat ships — USS Kansas City and USS Oakland. The Newport, 337-feet-long and capable of an average of 35 knots will be operated by Military Sealift Command. The command provides ocean transport and sealift to all U.S. military branches as well as government agencies.

## Austal USA delivers 12th fast transport ship to Navy

By CHRISTIAN LOPEZ

*Stars and Stripes*

The U.S. Navy accepted delivery of its 12th Spearhead-class expeditionary fast transport ship from shipbuilder Austal USA's shipyard in Mobile, Ala., on Wednesday.

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The Newport, 337-feet-long and capable of an average of 35 knots will be operated by Military Sealift Command. The command provides ocean transport and sealift to all U.S. military branches as well as government agencies.

"I'm proud to be a part of delivering this highly-capable ship that can successfully meet a wide range of missions," Tim Roberts, strategic and theater sealift program manager, Program Executive Office, Ships,

said in a Navy release Thursday. "Newport will continue to provide flexible warfighting capabilities around the globe."

The Navy in 2008 awarded Austal USA, the American branch of an Australian defense firm, a \$1.6 billion contract for 10 Spearhead-class vessels. Two more contracts followed: \$248.8 million in 2016 for the 11th and 12th fast transports, and \$261.8 million in March 2019 for the 13th and 14th ships, according to Austal USA.

Austal is building the 13th fast transport ship, the USNS Apalachicola, and construction on the 14th, the USNS Cody, is expected to begin before the end of the year.

Alongside the fast-transport program, Austal has delivered 12 littoral combat ships out of a contract to build 19. Five of the remaining ships are under construction, according to Austal USA.



# Japan hit with second typhoon in a week

Associated Press

TOKYO — The second powerful typhoon to slam Japan in a week unleashed fierce winds and rain on southern islands on Sunday, blowing off rooftops and leaving homes without power as it edged northward into an area vulnerable to flooding and mudslides.

Weather officials warned that the rainfall from what could be a record storm would be fierce. Warnings were issued days in

advance for people to be ready to take shelter and stock up on food and water.

Several rivers on the main southwestern island of Kyushu were at risk of overflowing, officials said. Public broadcaster NHK TV said evacuation warnings were issued for more than 50,000 people in Okinawa and Kyushu, including Kagoshima and Nagasaki prefectures.

News footage showed people in Kyushu starting to gather at gymnasiums, before winds

gather momentum in the evening. Social distancing will be in place to guard against the coronavirus pandemic, officials said.

The Japan Meteorological Agency said Typhoon Haishen, which means “sea god” in Chinese, was packing sustained winds of up to 100 miles per hour after battering Okinawa and the southern Kyushu island of Amami Oshima early Sunday. Alerts for strong winds, waves, high tides, rain-

fall and lightning were issued for Amami Oshima alongside evacuation orders.

There were no immediate reports of any injuries in Okinawa, home to more than half of the roughly 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan under a bilateral treaty.

Haishen was not only powerful — equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane — but also large in its reach, according to the meteorological agency.

## More than 200 airlifted to safety from Calif. wildfire

Associated Press

SHAVER LAKE, Calif. — More than 200 people were airlifted to safety early Sunday after a fast-moving wildfire trapped them in a popular camping area in California’s Sierra National Forest, one several fires that broke out amid record-breaking, triple-digit temperatures that baked the state.

The California Office of Emergency Services said Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters were used for the rescues that began late Saturday and continued overnight. At least two people were severely injured and 10 more suffered moderate injuries.

The wildfire, named the Creek Fire, started Friday and by Saturday afternoon

exploded to 56 square miles, jumped the San Joaquin River and cut off the only road into the Mammoth Pool Campground, national forest spokesman Dan Tune said. At least 2,000 structures were threatened in the area about 290 miles north of Los Angeles, where temperatures in the city’s San Fernando Valley reached 117 degrees.

Tune said the campers were told to shelter in place until fire crews, aided by water-dropping aircraft, could gain access to the site.

The lake 35 miles northeast of Fresno is surrounded by thick pine forests and is a popular destination for boating and fishing. Bone-dry conditions and the hot weather fueled the flames.

“Once the fire gets going, it creates its

own weather, adding wind to increase the spread,” Tune said.

Ashley Wagner was among those rescued, along with two relatives and a friend. They were trapped in Logan’s Meadow behind Wagner’s Store, a 63-year-old business run by her aunt that was destroyed.

“My family’s history just went up in flames,” she told Fresno station ABC30.

In Southern California, a fire in the foothills of Yucaipa east of Los Angeles prompted evacuation orders for eastern portions of the city of 54,000 along with several mountain communities. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, known as Cal Fire, said the fire scorched at least 4.2 square miles of brush and trees.

## Portland protests hit its 100th day, no sign of ending

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Hundreds of people gathered for rallies and marches against police violence and racial injustice Saturday night in Portland, Ore., as often violent nightly demonstrations that have happened for 100 days since George Floyd was killed showed no signs of ceasing.

Molotov cocktails thrown in the street during a march sparked a large fire and prompted police to declare a riot. Video posted online appeared to show tear gas being deployed to clear protesters from what police said was an unpermitted demonstration. Arrests were made, but it wasn’t immediately clear how many.

At least one community member was injured, police said. A person’s shoes caught fire after flames broke out in the street,

video showed. People were “engaging in tumultuous and violent conduct thereby intentionally or recklessly creating a grave risk of causing public alarm,” the department tweeted. “Fire bombs were thrown at officers.”

Protesters, most wearing black, had gathered around sunset Saturday at a grassy park in the city. Wooden shields were placed on the grass for protesters to use as protection.

Demonstrations in Portland started in late May after the police killing of Floyd in Minneapolis. During the clashes, some have broken windows, set small fires and pelted police with rocks and other objects.

On the 100th day of protests in Portland, demonstrators vowed to keep coming into the streets.

Tupac Leahy, a 23-year-old Black man

from Portland, said he had probably been out to protests for about 70 of the 100 days of demonstrations.

Leahy said he wanted to see a significant reduction to the local police budget, with the money directed to other community needs. He said the demonstrations would continue for some time.

“I think it’s going to keep going on until the election,” Leahy said. “I don’t see it slowing down.”

Earlier Saturday, hundreds of people gathered in a park just north of Portland in Vancouver, Wash., for a memorial service for Aaron “Jay” Danielson, a supporter of a right-wing group called Patriot Prayer, who was killed Aug. 29. The suspect was shot and killed by police Thursday.

# As virus deaths slide, vigilance still urged

Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida officials continued urging vigilance over the Labor Day holiday weekend, even as the coronavirus pandemic continued on a downward trajectory Saturday with the fewest number of new deaths — about 60 — since mid-July.

Officials have been urging Floridians to wear face masks and observe social distancing throughout the three-day holiday weekend, particularly at beaches and other public places.

On Saturday, the state reported nearly 3,800 new cases of COVID-19, pushing the total number of infections to nearly 644,000 since the outbreak began in the spring.

The 60 new deaths from the coronavirus brought the weekly average of deaths — now at 102 — to its lowest since July 18.

## Arizona

PHOENIX — A suburban school district in metro Phoenix has put off its plan to return its high school to in-person instruction from remote learning starting Tuesday.

Cactus Shadows High School principal Tony Vining announced late Friday that Cave Creek Unified School District's sole high school didn't "have enough staff to safely open and will need to revert to our distance learning model."

Vining said in a statement that remote learning would be provided Tuesday when the district would provide an update on "the situation for the rest of the week with our goal to open safely for our students and staff as soon as possible."

## Illinois

CHICAGO — Illinois health authorities reported 2,806 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 on Saturday, one day after a recently discovered backlog of tests added more than 5,000 cases to the statewide totals.

An additional 23 deaths linked to COVID-19 were also reported Saturday. Illinois has

reported 248,177 cases and 8,166 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

About 96% of people have recovered. The state data showed health authorities received lab results for a total of 61,935 tests during the past 24 hours.

On Friday, state health officials said the backlog included two days worth of test results from Tuesday through Thursday.

## Indiana

SOUTH BEND — Some Indiana high school athletic programs are turning to pay-per-view broadcasts of their football games and other fundraising efforts to help make up revenue they've lost due to a drop in fan attendance amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Athletic directors have had to be resourceful while trying to adhere to health department guidelines and still provide a way for fans to view their athletic contests. Northern Indiana's Mishawaka High School, for example, is charging fans \$9.99 to view broadcasts of its football games, with the school receiving 60% of the revenue from each purchase. The broadcasts, run by Mishawaka students and faculty, had been free to watch for the past three years.

The football broadcasts are produced by the school's Mishawaka Network and streamed on the IHSAA Champions Network.

## Iowa

DES MOINES — An Iowa judge has refused to allow some Des Moines area bars to reopen while their lawsuit challenging Gov. Kim Reynolds' new round of bar closures makes its way through the courts.

The Des Moines Register reported that Polk County Judge William Kelly emphasized the importance of public health Friday in his explanation of the ruling denying a temporary injunction to the bar owners in Polk and Dallas county.

Attorney Billy Mallory, who

is representing the bar owners, said he will appeal the denial while continuing to prepare for trial, where he will seek a permanent injunction. The suit alleges that the closure of bars in Dallas and Polk counties is unconstitutional and unfairly targets some businesses, while others, like restaurants and coffee shops, may continue operating.

Reynolds' office issued a statement Friday afternoon expressing appreciation for "the court's thoughtful order."

## Missouri

ST. LOUIS — Missouri added 77 coronavirus-related deaths to its total Saturday, most of which occurred weeks or months ago.

The state's Department of Health and Senior Services blamed technical issues in a tweet for the spike that brought the state's total number of deaths since the pandemic began to 1,639. The newly reported deaths included five that occurred over the past 24 hours, with the bulk occurring from June to August.

Health officials also reported that the number of confirmed cases had risen by 1,987 to 92,202.

Amid the rise in cases, St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson announced Friday in a social media post that bars, restaurants and nightclubs must continue to restrict capacity to 50% and close no later than 11 p.m. each night. The restrictions were originally set to end Sept. 7.

## Nebraska

OMAHA — The varsity and junior varsity football teams at Omaha Creighton Prep are in a two-week quarantine after a player tested positive for the coronavirus.

Creighton Prep said through a notice to parents and later in a news release Saturday that all activities for the varsity and JV teams are suspended for now, the Omaha World-Herald reported.

The school said that all play-

ers on those squads and their coaches had enough contact with the player to require a self-quarantine. Freshman and reserve (sophomore) football teams, the school said, will not be affected.

## Texas

AUSTIN — Health officials in Texas on Saturday reported 4,456 new coronavirus cases in the state and 177 additional deaths due to COVID-19, the illness caused by the virus.

There are a reported 635,315 total cases and 13,408 deaths, up from 630,829 cases and 13,231 deaths on Friday, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services. The true number of cases in Texas is likely higher because many people haven't been tested and studies have suggested that people can be infected and not feel sick.

The health department reported 83,625 estimated active cases, and that an estimated 538,282 people have recovered.

## Wisconsin

MILWAUKEE — Health officials have directed the members of nine fraternities and sororities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to quarantine themselves after 38 students tested positive for COVID-19.

The orders from UW-Madison and Dane County health officials affect 420 Greek life students, who have been instructed to quarantine for two weeks, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

UW-Madison is also requiring COVID-19 tests for students who live in the 38 Greek life houses. The university did not say if the cases were linked to any parties or large gatherings, though the Madison city attorney's office last month warned two fraternities that their gatherings violated local public health orders.

So far, 440 UW-Madison students have tested positive for COVID-19, according to the university.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police searching for man groping women

**IL** URBANA — Police in Urbana have been looking for a man who is allegedly grabbing and slapping women's buttocks in public areas.

The Urbana Police Department has been receiving groping reports since April 2019, unable to identify the offender, according to The News-Gazette. The reports stopped between Sept. 18 and March 25, but they picked back up with about 10 more since late March.

Most of the reports appear to have come from near the University of Illinois campus in "neighborhoods with a lot of foot traffic, densely populated with students," Lt. Dave Smyser said.

## Paddlewheels from sunken steamer found

**VT** COLCHESTER — The two paddlewheels from the second commercial steamboat that sailed Lake Champlain more than two centuries ago have been found on the bottom of the lake, officials said.

The paddlewheels from the steamboat Phoenix were discovered recently off Colchester Shoal in separate dives by Gary Lefebvre of Colchester using a remotely operated vehicle.

The Phoenix was launched in 1815. It sailed a regular schedule between Whitehall, N.Y., and St. Johns, Quebec, stopping at ports along the lake.

## 2, dog rescued after 48 hours in ravine

**OR** MOUNT HOOD — A man and his young daughter, along with their dog, were rescued from a ravine where the man had been in-

jured and stuck for more than 48 hours without supplies, officials said.

Peter Munro, a 37-year-old Canby resident, had gone to Kinzel Lake in the Mt. Hood National Forest to set up camp. Munro's wife, Camille Munro, arrived that evening, but found the camp empty.

The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office dispatched a search-and-rescue team. People scoured the remote terrain overnight for any sign of the child and her father.

Around 6 a.m. Thursday, teams found the lost hikers, along with their dog Buck, in a ravine. Peter Munro was hurt and unable to walk.

## FBI: Coach posed as a girl to get explicit pics

**KS** TOPEKA — The FBI said an assistant boys high school basketball coach in Topeka posed as a teenage girl on social media to get explicit photos from other teenagers.

The Topeka Capital-Journal reported that the FBI is seeking tips from anyone who may have been contacted by Jeffrey Pierce, 40, on Instagram, Snapchat, Kik and Grindr. The usernames he is alleged to have used included Addie Strode, Kennedy and Jordy Rey Rey.

Pierce was suspended from his job at Seaman High School because of the investigation that resulted in two federal counts of producing child pornography and one count of possessing it.

The Seaman Board of Education voted to fire Pierce.

## 2 bears killed after entering campgrounds

**MT** BOZEMAN — Wildlife officials in Montana said two grizzly bears were killed last week after

entering an occupied tent and a recreational vehicle storage compartment near Yellowstone National Park.

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks responded to 15 reports of two bears getting into garbage, approaching houses and entering campgrounds, the Bozeman Daily Chronicle reported.

"When garbage and other attractants are left unsecured and available to bears, human safety becomes a huge concern, and bear mortalities are the unfortunate result," department southwest Montana Regional Supervisor Mark Deleray said.

The department decided to euthanize the bears over concerns for human safety after consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## 'Casket' seen in river turns out to be dock

**MD** ANNAPOLIS — Police in Maryland investigating reports of a casket photographed bobbing up and down in a river discovered the object was something far less macabre.

A post to a local radio station's Facebook page showed a rectangular object with flat sides and a curved top floating in the South River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay near Annapolis.

Department of Natural Resources police were dispatched to the river, where a hydrographic operations team helped pull what turned out to be a floating dock from the water, according to the agency.

## Authorities find 26 firearms during search

**KS** TOPEKA — Local and federal law enforcement authorities recovered 26 firearms while executing

a search warrant at a Topeka house, police said.

Topeka police said in a news release that Rodolfo V. Arzate, 42, of Topeka was taken into custody. He was booked on suspicion of criminal possession of a firearm, interference with a law enforcement officer and Topeka bench warrants.

## Couple believed dead after blast, standoff

**WA** HOQUIAM — Authorities said a husband and wife are believed to be dead after a standoff with police ended in a gun battle and explosions at a home near Hoquiam.

KOMO reported deputies responded to a 911 call about a domestic violence shooting.

The Grays Harbor County Undersheriff Brad Johansson said the 911 caller, a 47-year-old woman, said her 18-year-old son had been shot in the hand and her 56-year-old husband had been shot in the chest.

The son and another person fled from the residence to try and get help.

After more than three hours of negotiations, a large explosion erupted from the front of the house followed by another large explosion. After the two explosions, authorities said the husband started firing multiple rounds out the front of the home at the law enforcement officers.

Seven members of the crisis team responded by returning fire at the suspect. No law enforcement officers were injured.

As the house burned, multiple loud explosions came from the home. The suspect was not seen leaving the house and investigators believe he and his wife were still in the house when it was on fire.

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# Authentic surprises at Kentucky Derby

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Bob Baffert endured the lowest of lows and highest of highs within minutes in the Kentucky Derby.

He was bummed before the horses left the paddock after Thousand Words reared up and fell on its side, getting disqualified and injuring Baffert's assistant trainer. That emotion was quickly replaced by Authentic's front-running victory that gave Baffert a record-tying sixth Derby win.

Then Baffert found himself down again, literally, knocked to the grass by a skittish Authentic in the winner's circle.

"This is the craziest year ever," he said.

Authentic kicked away from heavy favorite Tiz the Law in the stretch on Saturday, winning the 146th Derby by 11/4 lengths without the usual crowd of 150,000 on hand at Churchill Downs for the first time because of the coronavirus pandemic. The bay colt ran 11/4 miles in 2:00.61 under John Velazquez, who won his third Derby.

"I've had some great Derby rides, but what that guy did," Baffert said, gesturing toward Velazquez, who stood socially distanced in the infield winner's circle. "Johnny V. gave him an incredible ride."

Baffert tied Ben Jones (1938-52) for the most wins by a trainer. His other victories came in 1997, 1998, 2002, 2015 with eventual Triple Crown winner Justify and 2018.

"Bob, he's got the magic touch," said Jack Knowlton of Sackatoga Stable, owner of Tiz the Law. "He had this horse ready at the right time and he beat us. Hopefully, we'll get some more shots at him and we'll turn the table on him."

Sent off at 3-5 as the biggest Derby favorite in 31 years and part of a smaller field than usual, Tiz the Law settled into fourth while Authentic ran unopposed in front. With a quar-

ter-mile to go, Tiz the Law pulled alongside Authentic and the two hit the top of the stretch together.

Under Manny Franco, Tiz the Law briefly struck his head in front only to have Authentic fight right back and spurt clear of the Belmont winner, who came in 4-for-4 this year.

"Yes! Yes!" Baffert shouted in the paddock, where he watched on the video screen.

In the winner's circle, the long ribbons hanging off the garland of red roses kept hitting Authentic's hind leg, agitating him, and in turn he knocked the white-haired trainer to the ground.

"He spun around and he was like a bowling ball. He just spun us all around," Baffert said. "The turf course is pretty soft here, so it wasn't too bad. I was probably more embarrassed than anything."

It's been that kind of year for Baffert. The Hall of Fame trainer was loaded with promising 3-year-olds early on. Then Nadal got hurt and had to be retired and Charlatan went on the shelf with a minor injury. Authentic had issues, so Baffert gave him an extended break.

In between, Charlatan and another of Baffert's horses had positive drug tests in Arkansas. Baffert is appealing his resulting 15-day suspension. The trainer mourned the death of Arrogate, North America's all-time earnings leader, this summer.

"It's been a roller-coaster year, but thankfully it's the love of the horses that keeps me going," said Baffert, his voice breaking. "They're the best therapy a human can have. I love being around them."

The field of 15 horses was the smallest since 1998.

Honor A. P. was fourth, followed by Max Player, Storm the Court, Enforceable, Ny Traffic, Necker Island, Major Fed, Sole Volante, Winning Impression, Money Moves, Attachment Rate and South Bend.

# Williams starts slow, rallies past Stephens

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In danger of her earliest exit at the U.S. Open since her debut 22 years ago, Serena Williams turned things around and took over against Sloane Stephens.

Williams emerged from the third-round matchup between two Americans who are past champions at Flushing Meadows — she's won six of her 23 Grand Slam singles titles at the place — with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-2 victory over 2017 titlist Stephens on Saturday.

Afterward, Williams' 3-year-old daughter, Olympia, wore a mask and waved at Mom while sitting on her father's lap in a front-row seat. On her way to the locker room, Williams waved back.

"I hope," Williams said, "that she saw her mama fighting."

Other women into the fourth round: No. 2 Sofia Kenin, No. 16 Elise Mertens, No. 20 Karolina Muchova, Tsvetana Pironkova and Alize Cornet. Pironkova

defeated No. 18 Donna Vekic 6-4, 6-1. Cornet led 7-6 (4), 3-2 when No. 7 Madison Keys retired because of a neck injury.

Keys, the runner-up in 2017, said she didn't think her injury was serious.

In men's action, 2019 runner-up Daniil Medvedev and another semifinalist from a year ago, No. 6 Matteo Berrettini moved on, as did No. 2 Dominic Thiem, No. 10 Andrey Rublev, No. 15 Felix Auger-Aliassime, No. 21 Alex de Minaur, American Frances Tiafoe and Vasek Pospisil, who's been in the news lately because he teamed up with Novak Djokovic to set up a new association to represent players.

Pospisil eliminated No. 8 Roberto Bautista Agut 7-5, 2-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, and next faced another five-set winner, de Minaur, who defeated No. 11 Karen Khachanov 6-4, 0-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1.

# McCoy's 3 TDs lead Army to win in opener

Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Sandon McCoy ran for three first-half touchdowns and Army opened its season with a 42-0 victory over Middle Tennessee on Saturday.

McCoy scored on runs of 1, 2 and 4 yards, twice finishing drives that began after Blue Raiders turnovers.

Quarterback Christian Anderson added a 24-yard run up the middle in the third quarter and Anthony Adkins' 22-yard run completed a 99-yard drive for the Black Knights' final score in the fourth quarter. Army's longest touchdown came on a 43-yard interception return by Jon Rhattigan.

Army's triple-option offense rushed for 340 yards on an av-

erage of 5.5 yards per carry on 62 attempts.

The shutout was the first since a 21-0 win at Air Force in 2017 and the largest shutout win over an FBS team since a 47-0 victory over Wake Forest in 1963.

Middle Tennessee quarterback Asher O'Hara, who rushed for 1,058 yards last season, ran for just 37 yards on 10 carries and was 9-for-14 passing for 46 yards and two interceptions before being replaced.

Army limited fan attendance to the academy's approximately 4,300 cadets who were spread out over Michie Stadium, which has a capacity of 38,000. As the academy is under federal jurisdiction, they were not limited by New York state COVID-19 restrictions regarding crowds.

## MLB roundup

# Trout hits 300th HR, Angels sweep Astros

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Anthony Rendon hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning, Albert Pujols drove in three runs and the Los Angeles Angels rallied for a 7-6 victory over the Houston Astros to sweep Saturday's doubleheader.

It was not a walk-off win for the Angels, though. They were the visiting team in the nightcap because it was a makeup of the Aug. 26 game in Houston that was postponed due to Tropical Storm Laura.

Mike Trout became the Angels' career home run leader with No. 300 in the first game and Jo Adell celebrated with a game-winning, two-run single in the seventh inning to give Los Angeles a 10-9 win.

The Angels have won a season-high four straight following their first doubleheader sweep since 2015.

**Indians 4, Brewers 3:** Milwaukee closer Josh Hader allowed his first hit of the season, and then gave up Cesar Hernandez's game-winning single in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Oscar Mercado, who scored on Hernandez's liner through a five-man infield, led off the ninth with a double, ending Hader's major league-record streak of 12 hitless appearances to start the season.

**Orioles 6, Yankees 1:** New York ace Gerrit Cole had a

dominating start go awry during a nightmarish sixth inning against host Baltimore, who got a slump-breaking homer from DJ Stewart.

Cole (4-3) lost a third straight start for the first time since July 30-Aug. 10, 2018, with Houston. Prior to this skid, the right-hander had reeled off 20 straight regular-season victories.

**Reds 6, Pirates 2:** Eugenio Suarez hit three homers in a game for the first time in his career, driving in five runs and powering visiting Cincinnati to the victory.

Suarez hit a three-run shot deep down the left-field line to cap a four-run third inning. He added solo homers in the sixth and eighth innings, giving him 12 this season — he hit 49 last year.

**Athletics 8, Padres 4:** Ramon Laureano homered to help Sean Manaea win his third straight start, and host Oakland snapped a three-game losing streak.

Matt Olson hit a two-run triple and new addition Tommy La Stella had an RBI double for the A's, pounded 7-0 on Friday night as they returned to the field following four postponed games because of Daniel Mengden's positive coronavirus test.

**Mets 5, Phillies 1:** Seth Lugo got host New York's rotation its first win in more than

three weeks, and Philadelphia star Bryce Harper screamed in an umpire's face after being ejected for arguing over a foul ball.

In his third start since moving out of the bullpen, Lugo (2-2) pitched five innings of one-run ball and tied a career high with eight strikeouts.

**White Sox 5, Royals 3:** Jose Abreu hit his 13th homer for visiting Chicago in the first inning, and Yasmani Grandal added a two-run shot. Abreu, who leads the majors with 40 RBIs in 40 games, extended his hitting streak to 19 games.

**Cardinals 4, Cubs 2; Cardinals 5, Cubs 1:** Tyler O'Neill and Paul DeJong homered, five St. Louis pitchers combined on a three-hitter and the Cardinals beat host Chicago to sweep a doubleheader.

In the opener, Adam Wainwright (4-0) pitched into the seventh inning to lead the Cardinals.

**Marlins 7, Rays 3:** Sandy Alcantara pitched six effective innings and Corey Dickerson homered, sending visiting Miami to the victory.

**Twins 4, Tigers 3:** Miguel Sano led host Minnesota's rally against the Detroit bullpen with a home run and the tying single in the ninth inning, before Byron Buxton beat out an infield single for the game-winning RBI.

**Giants 4, Diamondbacks 3:** Evan Longoria and Darin Ruf launched back-to-back home runs in the second inning, and the Giants spoiled Madison Bumgarner's return to San Francisco by topping Arizona.

Bumgarner (0-4) came off the injured list to make his first start in nearly a month after recovering from a mid-back strain. The left-hander allowed two earned runs on three hits in four innings in his first appearance against his former team.

**Rockies 5, Dodgers 2:** Nolan Arenado drove in the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning, pinch-hitter Josh Fuentes added a two-run double and visiting Colorado snapped Los Angeles' six-game winning streak.

**Nationals 10, Braves 4:** Victor Robles drove in the go-ahead run with his third hit, a bunt single in the sixth inning, and Brock Holt had four hits as visiting Washington leaned on its bullpen to beat Atlanta.

**Red Sox 9, Blue Jays 8:** Xander Bogaerts hit a tying homer in the ninth inning and catcher Christian Vazquez manufactured the winning run with his legs, rallying host Boston past Toronto.

**Mariners 5, Rangers 3:** Jose Marmolejos hit a tiebreaking single in the eighth inning after twice leaving the bases loaded during host Seattle's victory over Texas.

## NFL teams send third-string QBs packing in final cuts

Associated Press

The theory that NFL teams would go with three quarterbacks to start the pandemic-impacted season took a hit Saturday.

Lots of third-stringers were sent packing as the 32 teams got down to the 53-man limit. The season opens Thursday night with Houston at Super Bowl champion Kansas City.

Perhaps most noteworthy was Miami releasing Josh

Rosen, a first-round selection by Arizona in 2018 who was dealt to the Dolphins last year after the Cardinals took Kyler Murray with the top overall selection. Rosen was behind veteran Ryan Fitzpatrick and first-rounder Tua Tagovailoa on the depth chart.

"The most important thing is to kind of move forward and not look back," Dolphins coach Brian Flores said. "You don't hit on every play, on every trade, on every draft pick. Show me a

team that has hit on every one. I'll applaud that team."

Alex Smith made Washington's 53-man roster, another significant step in his remarkable comeback 22 months since severely breaking his right leg and then having medical complications. Coach Ron Rivera said there's no plan to put Smith on injured reserve in the coming days. Smith might even be Dwayne Haskins' backup in the season opener Sept. 13 against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Other quarterbacks released were veteran Mike Glennon and Josh Dobbs of the Jaguars, David Blough of the Lions, who lost all five of his starts subbing for the injured Matthew Stafford in 2019; Paxton Lynch of the Steelers; Cooper Rush and Alex Tanney of the Giants; Kurt Benkert and Kyle Lauletta of the Falcons; Chad Kelly of the Colts; and David Fales and Mike White of the Jets, who said veteran Joe Flacco passed his physical after neck surgery.



# Isles romp to first East finals since '93

Associated Press

TORONTO — Coach Barry Trotz has spent the past two seasons attempting to instill a team-first, all-in identity with the New York Islanders.

No more was that evident than Saturday night, when the Islanders handily confronted their biggest test of the year — decades perhaps — in beating the Philadelphia Flyers 4-0 in Game 7 of the second round series.

The Islanders advanced to the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 1993, where they'll face the Tampa Bay Lightning.

The win came courtesy of a backup goalie, Thomas Greiss, stopping 16 shots for his first playoff career shutout in his first Game 7. Brock Nelson scored a goal and set up two others. And defensemen Scott Mayfield, with his first career playoff goal, and late-season trade addition Andy Greene, spurred the victory by scoring 3:46 apart in the first period.

"We didn't get small by the moment. We got big by the moment," said Trotz, who landed in New York after leading the Washington Capitals to a Stanley Cup championship in 2018.

"I liked the fact that we recognized when we're at our best. And when we're at our best, there's always a sharp focus," he added. "It's the commitment. If you need to block a shot, you block a shot. Don't go halfway in, be all in."

It was a game in which the Islanders outshot the Flyers 26-16, and showed resilience in bouncing back after losing the past two games in overtime.

For Nelson, the win helped ease the memories of past Islanders playoff losses, including the sting of losing Game 7 to Washington in the opening round of the 2015 playoffs.

"I'm sure everybody remembers that day. It wasn't our best game, and it's always tough losing a Game 7," Nelson said. "And getting this one tonight

definitely feels good."

The Flyers ran out of gas, with coach Alain Vigneault pulling Carter Hart for an extra attacker with seven minutes remaining, which led to Anthony Beauvillier sealing the win with an empty netter.

Hart stopped 22 shots.

"After they scored that first goal, we just never had that same bounce or the same pop," Vigneault said. "We weren't good enough tonight. That's why we lost."

Flyers forward Sean Couturier returned after missing Game 6, and revealed he had a sprained knee ligament.

"We didn't create enough. we didn't win enough 1 on 1 battles to get our chances," said Couturier, who hit the post in the opening minute. "It wasn't good enough."

Defense became an issue for Philadelphia. After allowing just nine goals through the first seven playoff games, they closed giving up 31 in their last nine.

Philadelphia's power-power play unit particularly fizzled in closing the playoffs going 0 for 17 over its final eight games, and converting just 4 of 52 chances.

The Islanders became the third team of the second round of the playoffs to win Game 7 after squandering a 3-1 series lead. The Dallas Stars and Vegas Golden Knights advanced to the meet in the Western Conference finals after each won Game 7 of their series on Friday night.

The Islanders face a short turnaround in having to travel to Edmonton, Alberta, to face the well-rested Tampa Bay Lightning in a conference final series that opens Monday. The Lightning have been off since a 3-2 double-overtime win over Boston in Game 5 on Monday.

# Raptors even series with Celtics at 2-2

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — No need for any big shots this time. Not the way the Toronto Raptors just kept getting stops.

Pascal Siakam had 23 points and 11 rebounds, Kyle Lowry added 22 points and 11 boards and the Raptors evened the Eastern Conference semifinal at two games apiece, beating the Boston Celtics 100-93 on Saturday.

Two days after winning Game 3 on OG Anunoby's three-pointer as time expired, the Raptors shut down most of Boston's perimeter shooters and Jaylen Brown in particular.

Serge Ibaka had 18 points off the bench on 7-of-9 shooting and Fred VanVleet finished with 17 points, six rebounds and six assists. The Raptors shot only 39.5% but believe they'll eventually put their offense and defense together on the same night.

"I think we can always get to another level. I feel like we can always do that and obviously

everyone clicking at the right time, and once we have that we're a pretty special team," Siakam said.

Jayson Tatum had 24 points and 10 rebounds for the Celtics. They won their first six post-season games before dropping the last two. Kemba Walker had 15 points and eight assists.

"Obviously, we didn't play that well, I didn't play that well," Brown said. "We've got to bounce back and be ready to fight. That's what it comes down to."

The Celtics were 7-for-35 (20%) from three-point range. Brown missed his first nine attempts behind the arc and finished 2-for-11, and 4-for-18 overall. Tatum, Walker and Marcus Smart were all 1-for-6 on three-pointers.

"I think we made it a little bit tougher for them tonight but they still had a lot of shots that they were able to get off," Lowry said. "We're just trying to contain those guys: Tatum, Brown, Walker even Smart. We've just got to continue to make it tough on those guys."

# Nuggets lead wire-to-wire in Game 2 victory over Clippers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — It only took a few plays for Denver coach Michael Malone to like what he was seeing Saturday night. The Nuggets were physical on both ends, getting whatever they wanted offensively and setting a tone defensively.

"We were a noticeably different team," Malone said.

Blown out in Game 1, the Nuggets led wire-to-wire in Game 2 of their Western Conference semifinal series with the Los Angeles Clippers. Jamal Murray scored 27 points, Nikola Jokic had 26 points and 18 rebounds and the Nuggets prevailed 110-101 to knot the series at a game apiece.

Gary Harris and Paul Millsap each added 13 points for Denver, which lost by 23 in the series opener.

"We were tired," Murray said about the Game 1 performance. "We came out sloppy, we came out exhausted, we didn't make shots and it showed."

Paul George scored 22 points for the Clippers, who got 15 from Ivica Zubac and endured a rare off night offensively from Kawhi Leonard. The two-time NBA Finals MVP had 13 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists, but shot only 4-for-17.

Leonard had scored at least 20 points in 27 of his last 28 playoff games — and had at least 29 in all seven playoff games this season.