

STARS AND STRIPES®

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A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

stripes.com

Navy base school in Bahrain set to reopen

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

U.S. military and school officials on Bahrain plan to resume classes Sunday for elementary and middle school students, despite teacher concerns that the health risk is still too high for in-person learning.

Bahrain School has been closed since February, when the coronavirus pandemic first hit the small island kingdom, home to U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and 5th Fleet headquarters.

The school, which houses kindergarten through 12th grade, was one of a handful overseen by Department of Defense Education Activity-Europe to start the fall with remote learning.

About one-third of students are enrolled in virtual school and aren't expected to return to class until the second semester, at the earliest.

High school students in grades 9 to 12 will continue remote learning for the time being, said Stephen Smith, a DODEA-Europe spokesman. Some high school teachers are still in the U.S. and some new hires have had their permanent-change-of-station moves delayed, he said.

The decision to reopen "was made in direct consultation with the installation and public health officials," Smith said.

The base recently eased its coronavirus risk level from Health Protection Condition-Charlie to HPCON-Bravo. Charlie indicates sustained community transmission while Bravo specifies a risk of increased transmission.

The change comes as Bahraini authorities recently decided to postpone allowing indoor dining at restaurants until Oct. 24 and delay in-person classes at public schools until Oct. 11, due to a rise in cases.

Bahrain has the world's fifth-highest per capita rate of confirmed coronavirus infections over the past seven days and the second-highest since the pandemic began its spread, The New York Times reported.

As of Wednesday, the country had an average of 680 daily cases, or about 43 per 100,000 people.

The Navy says commanders may consider lowering an HPCON level to Bravo when there are less than 50 cases per 100,000 local residents per week.

Easing the health threat level is "also based on our ability to conduct testing and to care for those who are infected by the

coronavirus," Navy Capt. Gregory Smith, the base commanding officer, said in an Sept. 10 video message, shortly after 5th Fleet commander Vice Adm. Samuel Paparo Jr. made that decision.

However, the return to the classroom has teachers worried, said Linda Hogan, the president and executive director of the Overseas Federation of Teachers, the union representing DODEA teachers working in Spain, Turkey, Bahrain and Italy.

In a letter sent to Michelle Howard-Braham, DODEA's Europe South District superintendent, the union's Bahrain representatives urged DODEA to delay the reopening "until the current health conditions in Bahrain improve."

Hogan said in an interview Wednesday she thinks DODEA is pushing to reopen "because the military members need their kids in school. I'm hearing this everywhere. It's not just in Bahrain — they want their kids back in school so the military members can do their mission."

The school will require masks, space desks at least 6 feet apart and follow other safety precautions upon reopening, military and school officials said.

2 Marines accused in drug overdose case

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Two U.S. Marines were arrested Tuesday on a federal grand jury indictment that alleges the lance corporals were involved in selling drugs to Marines, including to a fellow Marine who died from an overdose.

Lance Cpls. Anthony Ruben Whisenant and Ryan Douglas White were arrested at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, north of San Diego. They were expected to appear later that day in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles. Neither Marine responded to an email from The Associated Press asking for comment or to be connected

to their legal counsel.

Both Marines are from 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division and are accused of being part of a ring of drug dealers that included three civilians, according to the indictment.

Whisenant and three civilians were charged with conspiring to distribute narcotics, including to the Marine who overdosed. White was charged in the indictment with being an accessory after the fact.

From November 2019 to September 2020, members of the group are accused of being involved in multiple sales of fentanyl-laced oxycodone to an undercover agent, for

roughly \$1,000 or more for each transaction, according to the indictment.

Jordan Nicholas McCormick would obtain drugs, including oxycodone pills containing fentanyl, cocaine and other substances from an unknown source.

Another civilian, Gutavo Jaciel Solis, supplied the drugs for Whisenant's military customers, according to the indictment.

On May 22, Whisenant ordered 10 oxycodone pills containing fentanyl from Solis on behalf of the Marine, who died the next day from an overdose, according to the indictment. Whisenant and White met Solis

with the Marine to complete the drug deal, according to court records. White is accused of later trying to interfere with the arrests of Whisenant and Solis.

Solis and another civilian member of the group, Jessica Sarah Perez, were indicted on Aug. 11 on fentanyl and cocaine distribution charges, and Solis was indicted on firearms-related charges. They have pleaded not guilty. Their trial date is scheduled for Oct. 27.

Solis is in federal custody and Perez is free on \$25,000 bond. McCormick is also in federal custody.

Lt. Cameron Edinburgh said the military has been helping with the investigation.

Cutter docks in Japan for repairs after fire

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The U.S. Coast Guard cutter Waesche docked here Tuesday for inspection and possible repairs after a 90-minute fire damaged the ship at sea on Sunday, according to a Coast Guard statement.

Five crew members were hurt fighting a fire in the exhaust stack and nearby areas after black smoke was reported on board at 5:18 p.m. Sunday, the statement said. The injuries were not serious and were treated by the cutter's medical team.

Coast Guard photos show orange flames shooting from the Waesche into the night sky.

"The rapid response and courageous efforts from the crew members aboard Waesche to quickly contain and extinguish the fire are a testament to the bravery and skill of this crew," the cutter's commander, Capt. Jason Ryan, said in the statement.

Investigators in Yokosuka are assessing the Waesche to determine the fire's cause and the extent of the damages, according to the Coast Guard statement.

"While at Fleet Forces Yokosuka, the cutter will undergo

further inspection and potentially repairs," the statement said.

Yokosuka is home to the U.S. Naval Ship Repair Facility and Japan Regional Maintenance Center.

The Waesche left its homeport in Alameda, Calif., on Aug. 22 to patrol the Western Pacific. Its crew was scheduled "to engage in professional exchanges and capacity-building exercises with partner nations" in the region, according to the Coast Guard.

At more than 400 feet long and with crews of about 150, national security cutters "are among the largest and

most technologically sophisticated vessels in the Coast Guard's fleet," according to the statement.

This is at least the second blaze aboard a Coast Guard cutter this year. In August, a fire aboard the Coast Guard cutter Healy, one of two U.S. icebreakers, put a temporary end to U.S. patrols in the Arctic Ocean.

An electrical fire in a main propulsion motor broke out shortly after the Healy departed Seward, Alaska, bound for the Arctic Ocean with 11 scientists aboard. The crew extinguished the fire within a half-hour and no injuries resulted.

Blast kills explosives experts surveying WWII munitions on Guadalcanal

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Two explosives experts were killed Sunday in a blast in the Solomon Islands while surveying munitions left over from World War II, according to police and the aid group they worked for.

The men, one British and one Australian, worked for Norwegian People's Aid and died when an explosion ripped their home and office in the Tasahe residential area of West Honiara on Guadalcanal, according to a statement Monday from the Royal Solomon Islands Police Force.

The two were working on a "non-technical survey of explosive remnants" of the war, according to the police statement.

"We do not know what exactly happened that led to the bomb blast," but a preliminary investigation indicates the pair had several pieces of unexploded ordnance, or UXO, at their home "and they may have been conducting some UXO work," said police Inspector Clifford

Tunuki, who is overseeing the investigation, in the statement.

Killed were Luke Atkinson, a New Zealander with British and Irish citizenship, and Trent Lee, an Australian, the aid group said in a statement Sunday.

Police removed other unexploded ordnance discovered at the property, Tunuki said.

Norwegian People's Aid, a nongovernmental organization that has been working in the Solomons since 2019, has suspended its operation, according to the statement. The group has been helping authorities create a database of known and suspected unexploded ordnance.

Guadalcanal, the Solomons' main island, was the site of the first major U.S. ground offensive against the Japanese empire. Between Aug. 7, 1942, and Feb. 9, 1943, air, land and sea battles there claimed the lives of about 30,000 Japanese and 7,000 U.S. and Allied troops along with two U.S. aircraft carriers, numerous other ships and hundreds of aircraft before Japanese forces evacuated.

Military reports new virus case on Okinawa

BY JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The U.S. military in Japan reported one new patient infected with the coronavirus as of 6 p.m. Wednesday, an individual affiliated with the Marine Corps on Okinawa.

That person tested positive while still in the mandatory quarantine period required of new arrivals to Japan or returning from travel abroad, according to a post on Facebook by Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The Marines reported two new cases on Okinawa on Tuesday, both individuals in quarantine.

U.S. Forces Japan requires all U.S. military personnel arriving in Japan to spend two weeks in quarantine and test free of the virus before being released. Most of the military's new coronavirus cases now are discovered in quarantine among returning travelers and new arrivals rather than in personnel already in Japan, according to recent military accounts.

The U.S. military in Japan reports new case numbers but

does not typically identify the patient as a service member, Defense Department civilian employee or family member.

Also Wednesday, the commander of Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo lifted a ban on public transportation during peak commuting hours. Now anyone affiliated with the base may ride local buses and trains at any time. However, the order by Col. Andrew Campbell stipulates travelers must wear masks and if a train is too crowded, wait for another.

Campbell on Sept. 10 permitted Yokota personnel to travel on planes, trains and buses within Japan but not during the morning and evening periods when Japanese commuters pack trains and buses to standing room only.

Yokota has the widest permissible travel area of the U.S. military bases in Japan. Campbell on Sept. 10 opened all of the country, except Okinawa and central Tokyo, for off-duty travel by base personnel. Traveling shinkansen, or bullet train, is also permitted and people may ride local trains into central Tokyo to board them.

Seoul: Missing official may be in N. Korea

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — A South Korean official who disappeared off a government ship near the disputed sea boundary with North Korea this week may be in North Korea, South Korea's Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

The ministry said the 47-year-old official was aboard a government vessel that was checking on potential unauthorized fishing near a South Korean border island. Colleagues noticed the man was missing at lunchtime and found only his shoes still on the vessel, prompting a so-far fruitless

search involving aircraft and ships.

In its statement, the Defense Ministry said it had information that the missing official was on North Korean shores on Tuesday afternoon. The ministry did not elaborate on how it obtained that information.

The ministry said officials will contact North Korea to ask about the missing official and take other steps to find more details.

The Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, which was operating the vessel the man was on Monday, said 18 people were on

board when the man went missing.

It didn't provide information about the missing official.

More than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea in the past 20 years for political and economic reasons, but it's highly unusual for a South Korean national to defect to North Korea.

At the height of Cold War rivalry, North Korea often forcibly towed South Korean fishing boats operating near the sea boundary into its waters, holding some of those on board and returning others. No such incidents have been reported recently.

Cindy McCain endorses Biden's bid for president

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Cindy McCain has endorsed Democrat Joe Biden for president in a rebuke of President Donald Trump by the widow of the Republican Party's 2008 nominee.

Trump has had a fraught relationship with John McCain's family since he disparaged the Arizona senator during the 2016 campaign. But the family has until now stopped short of endorsing Trump's rivals.

Cindy McCain cited the decadeslong friendship between her family and Biden's, and their bond as the parents of children serving in the military.

"He supports the troops and knows what it means for someone who has served," McCain told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Tuesday. "Not only to love someone who has served, but understands what it means to send a child into combat.

We've been great friends for many years, but we have a common thread in that we are Blue Star families."

Trump reacted harshly to the endorsement, disparaging both Biden and John McCain.

"I hardly know Cindy McCain." Trump tweeted Wednesday as McCain's widow discussed her decision in morning talk show interviews. "Joe Biden was John McCain's lapdog. So many BAD decisions on Endless Wars & the V.A., which I brought from a horror show to HIGH APPROVAL. Never a fan of John. Cindy can have Sleepy Joe!"

McCain's backing could help Biden appeal to Republicans disaffected with the GOP president and give the former Democratic vice president a boost in Arizona, a crucial swing state that McCain represented in Congress for 35 years. He's remained a revered figure since his 2018 death from

complications of a brain tumor, particularly with the independent voters Biden is courting.

"I decided to take a stand, and hopefully other people will see the same thing. Other women particularly," she said. "You may have to step out of your comfort zone a little bit, but Biden is by far the best candidate in the race."

Biden told donors on Tuesday evening that McCain's endorsement was coming "because of what (Trump) talks about how my son and John and others who are heroes, who served their country. You know, he said they're 'losers, suckers.'"

Biden was referring to comments Trump reportedly made mocking the American war dead. Trump has denied making the remarks, first reported through anonymous sources by The Atlantic, but many of the comments were later confirmed by The Associated Press.

Crews making progress against LA-area wildfire

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters are finally starting to tame an enormous wildfire burning in the mountains northeast of Los Angeles.

Officials are confident that crews will make more progress on the Bobcat Fire after containment on Wednesday hit 38% — a 21% jump from a day earlier — before hot, dry winds return to Southern California in a few days.

Meanwhile, a major fire in the northern part of the state, the CZU Lightning Complex in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties, was 100% contained, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection,

or Cal Fire, said Tuesday evening. The fire was ignited during a barrage of lightning on Aug. 16, and the cluster of blazes went on to destroy 925 homes and kill one person.

Firefighters have also controlled several other lightning-sparked wildfires burning for more than a month in Northern California.

Crews battling the Bobcat Fire took advantage of two days of calmer weather after erratic winds last weekend pushed flames out of the Angeles National Forest and into communities in the desert foothills, fire spokesman Larry Smith said Wednesday.

"Because the fire transferred out of the timber and into the light fuels near the

desert, we were able to make some real progress," Smith said. Crews will shore up containment lines ahead of hotter, gusty weather predicted for the weekend, he said.

Thousands of residents remain under evacuation orders and warnings near the fire that's now one of the largest on record in Los Angeles County. It's burned for more than two weeks in the San Gabriel Mountains and has destroyed at least 27 homes and other buildings.

It's one of dozens of other major wildfires raging across the West, including five in California that are among the largest in state history.

Colo. state workers get mandatory furlough

Associated Press

DENVER — Colorado Gov. Jared Polis announced mandatory furloughs of state workers due to pandemic-related budget cuts, and warned Tuesday about a third wave of coronavirus outbreaks if the state's upward trend continues.

The number of days are based on an employee's annual salary with exemptions for those necessary for the COVID-19 response, assisting Coloradans in finding jobs, and protecting public safety and roads, as well as workers earning \$50,000 a year or less.

Workers earning \$50,000 to \$70,000 will be furloughed for one day, \$70,000 to \$90,000 for two days, \$90,000 to \$140,000 for three days and above \$140,000 for four days.

Polis also said that Colorado had 654 new positive cases of the coronavirus Tuesday. The largest number of cases in the state is among 18-to-25 year-olds, most from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Hawaii

HONOLULU — Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said Tuesday that the city plans to allow some activities that were shut down last month to control the spread of the coronavirus to resume under new guidelines.

Beginning Thursday, the city will allow social gatherings of up to five people, including at beaches and hiking trails. Retail businesses will be allowed to open at 50% of capacity.

Caldwell said Gov. David Ige verbally approved the new guidelines, but hadn't yet signed them.

Restaurants would be allowed to seat up to five diners at a table as long as the patrons provide their names and contact information so tracers can reach them later if necessary. Diners will have to wear masks when they are not eating.

The guidelines call for restrictions to be relaxed further if cases continue to drop.

Illinois

CHICAGO — Chicago offi-

cials Tuesday told visitors from Wisconsin for the second time that they must stay in quarantine for two weeks if they visit the city.

The order set to take effect Friday comes as Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers declared a "new public health emergency" because of a spike in coronavirus cases in that state and extended a statewide mask mandate there until Nov. 21.

Tuesday's order was not surprising after Allison Arwady, Chicago's health commissioner, said last week that Wisconsin would land on the list again if the state's case rate did not fall below 15 cases per 100,000.

But Wisconsin is not even close to that rate. On Tuesday, Arwady said with 31 cases per 100,000 residents, the state has the third-highest rate in the nation behind North Dakota and South Dakota.

Kentucky

FRANKFORT — Kentucky won swift federal approval for another infusion of extra unemployment payments for many people who lost work during the COVID-19 outbreak, Gov. Andy Beshear said Tuesday.

The go-ahead came one day after Beshear announced that his administration requested the supplemental \$400 in weekly jobless benefits for an additional three weeks. It means that qualified Kentuckians will receive higher benefits for the weeks of Aug. 22, Aug. 29 and Sept. 5, he said.

With many schools preparing to resume in-person classes next week, the Democratic governor urged Kentuckians to redouble their efforts to contain the virus by wearing masks in public, adhering to social distancing guidelines and limiting contacts.

Nevada

CARSON CITY — As facilities throughout the United States prepare to expand the use of rapid coronavirus tests, Nevada officials are weighing how to incorporate them into the data they present to the public.

Since the start of the pandemic, the state has relied heavily on molecular tests — nasal or throat swabs that detect the virus's genetic material. The tests are comparatively expensive and time-intensive, requiring health care workers to collect and test samples.

Officials have expressed skepticism over tests found to be less accurate, including antigen tests, which check for viral proteins rather than the virus itself, and antibody tests, which check blood for proteins the body creates to fight the virus.

But now they are re-examining these tests and how to best use them. After entering into a \$760 million contract with medical device company Abbott Laboratories, the federal government is preparing to deploy 150 million rapid antigen tests to strategic sites throughout the country, including to Nevada. These tests yield results in minutes, but they are generally considered to be a less accurate measure of infection.

Ohio

COLUMBUS — Indoor visits with residents of Ohio's nursing homes will be allowed once again as cold weather approaches, Gov. Mike DeWine said Tuesday, lifting a ban instituted at the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Republican governor said at his twice-weekly coronavirus briefing that details will come within a week and that in the meantime, the state is asking long-term care facilities to examine their air filtration and ventilation systems in preparation.

DeWine also said it's possible the state could institute real-time COVID-19 testing of visitors before they enter a nursing home, although the ability to offer that isn't available yet.

The state has allowed outdoor visits since late July after concerns grew about residents with memory issues such as those that come with Alzheimer's disease declining because of a lack of interaction. Permitting the practice is up to individual nursing homes, although

the governor said he is concerned when he hears reports that homes still don't allow the visitations.

Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma Department of Corrections on Tuesday reported that two more inmates have died due to COVID-19, and seven other deaths are possibly the result of the disease caused by the coronavirus.

Of the department's nearly 25,000 inmates, 3,168 have tested positive for the virus, and 1,398 cases are currently active, according to DOC Director Scott Crow. The new numbers show increases of 554 positive cases and 414 active cases from Monday.

The nine deaths are an increase of six from the number reported a week ago. COVID-19 has been confirmed to be the cause of death for two inmates, while the seven other deaths are pending autopsies from the state medical examiner.

Crow said that difficulty in achieving social distancing within prisons has contributed to the increase in positive cases in recent weeks, in addition to resistance to wearing masks.

Utah

SALT LAKE CITY — Gov. Gary Herbert will increase pandemic restrictions in two Utah cities. But he stopped short of implementing any mask mandates as COVID-19 cases continue to surge in the state, state officials announced Tuesday.

Herbert is imposing new restrictions in the cities of Provo and Orem that will limit social gatherings to 20 people starting Wednesday. The state health department is granting one exception to the new rules that will allow team sports, but without spectators.

Local leaders are considering a countywide mask mandate, but the state has not set a deadline for how quickly they must make that decision, Herbert said. The county's sole face-covering mandate is in the city of Provo.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Climber dies when boulder severs rope

NH LINCOLN — A man died when a tumbling boulder severed his rope, causing him to fall 150 feet while climbing on Cannon Cliff in New Hampshire's Franconia Notch State Park, conservation officers said.

Several people saw the climber fall and called for help. The climber was identified as Benjamin Kessel, 34, of Somerville, Mass., officials said. Kessel was climbing up the cliff when a rock the size of a refrigerator dislodged and sliced his rope, officials said.

Men convicted of fishing tournament cheating

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A pair of Utah men were convicted of felony charges stemming from attempts to cheat in a bass fishing tournament.

Robert Dennett, 45, and Kamron Wootton, 35, pleaded guilty last month to felony bribery or threat to influence a contest and misdemeanor unlawful release of wildlife and unlawful captivity of protected wildlife, KTVX-TV reported.

Charging documents said Dennett and Wootton took several bass from the Quail Lake Reservoir in southwest Utah without authorization or permits and transported the fish to Lake Powell.

The men then submitted the fish to a Lake Powell large-mouth bass fishing tournament in 2018.

Man guilty of putting semen in worker's drink

CA SANTA ANA — A California man who put his semen in a co-worker's water bottle and on her comput-

er was convicted of assault and battery for sexual purposes.

Stevens Millancaastro, 30, of Palmdale, was convicted of misdemeanors by an Orange County judge and must register as a sex offender, the Orange County Register reported.

Millancaastro was obsessed with his co-worker and stared at her incessantly after she turned him down for a date, prosecutors said.

After she filed a formal human resources complaint, Millancaastro placed semen several times in her half-full water bottle, in a jar of honey she used for tea and on her computer keyboard, prosecutors said.

Millancaastro could face up to two years and six months behind bars.

Man shoots self in groin in supermarket

OR LINCOLN CITY — Police said an Oregon man is recovering after he accidentally shot himself while flaunting a handgun at a Lincoln City supermarket.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported the mishap happened when Nicholas J. Ellingford brandished his Glock 9mm in the checkout line at McKay's Market and tried to show it off to a friend, according to the Lincoln City Police Department.

Police said Ellingford mistakenly pulled the trigger as he stuffed the weapon back into his pants. Police said a bullet tore through his groin and exited his thigh, just missing the man's femoral artery.

Man accused of hitting bride with car at wedding

ME LIVERMORE — A Maine man was arrested on assault charges for allegedly striking a bride and two others with his car at a wedding.

Curtis Moody, a guest at the private wedding, allegedly struck three people when others at the private event attempted to stop him from driving, the Sun Journal reported.

Chief Deputy William Gagne said that Moody, 51, was arrested later at his residence on three counts of assault, reckless conduct, driving to endanger, and other charges.

Gagne said that Moody started pushing people that were attempting to stop him from driving and a fight broke out.

Moody then allegedly drove his car at the crowd striking the bride and two others.

Museum vandalized with swastikas, racial slurs

AZ PHOENIX — A museum dedicated to the history of African Americans in Arizona was found vandalized with racial slurs and swastikas.

Phoenix police said they are investigating the vandalizing of the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center.

Authorities said the spray-painted graffiti was found on the sidewalk and a column in front of the downtown museum. The Carver Museum has been closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Man pleads guilty to having meth, guns

KS WICHITA — A man who had 11 weapons and about 20 pounds of methamphetamine at his rental home in Wichita pleaded guilty to drug and weapons charges, federal prosecutors said.

Wichita police officers who searched the home of Luis M. Hernandez, 40, in December 2018 found baggies of methamphetamine in a dresser and more of the drug wrapped

in plastic in a barrel in a garage, according to a criminal complaint.

Hernandez pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and unlawful possession of firearms by a person in the U.S. unlawfully.

Trucker rescued from rig wedged under overpass

FL ORLANDO — Fire officials rescued a truck driver after his big rig got stuck under a Florida overpass when the trailer dramatically raised upright and became wedged perpendicular between the ground and the overpass.

The Seminole County Fire Department posted a photo on social media showing the shocking angle with all but the back wheels tipped up, making the vehicle look like a dog sitting on its hind legs under the overpass along Interstate 4.

The Orlando Sentinel said the driver was trapped in the cabin, but was not injured.

Steakhouse to close after nearly 50 years

IL CHICAGO — A Chicago restaurant that has been serving steaks for nearly 50 years will close at the end of the year.

Lawry's The Prime Rib is the victim of the coronavirus pandemic, an expiring lease and other issues, said Ryan Wilson, chief executive of Lawry's Inc.

"We've done everything we can to hold on, but as ... the pandemic and closures get longer, we're playing the long game here," Wilson told the Chicago Sun-Times.

Wilson's grandfather opened the restaurant in 1974.

Wilson didn't rule out a return to Chicago.

From wire reports

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Nuggets get back in series with Lakers

Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Jamal Murray had 28 points, 12 assists and two late three-pointers to halt a Lakers charge, helping the Denver Nuggets to a 114-106 victory Tuesday night that cut Los Angeles' lead to 2-1 in the Western Conference finals.

The Nuggets lost almost all of a 20-point lead in the fourth quarter but held on to win, avoiding a 3-0 hole that would have been daunting even for this never-out-of-it team.

Denver has set a record by erasing two 3-1 deficits in this postseason, but no NBA team has ever come back from 3-0.

Jerami Grant added a playoff career-high 26 points and Nikola Jokic had 22 points and 10 rebounds for the Nuggets, who will try to even the series in Game 4 on Thursday.

"We didn't collapse," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "We withstood their run, their punch and we had the poise to get ourselves out of it."

LeBron James had 30 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who remain two

wins from their first NBA Finals appearance in a decade. Anthony Davis, who made the winning three-pointer at the buzzer in Game 2, scored 27 points.

The Nuggets led by 20 with 10½ minutes left and soon after were hanging on after the Lakers charged back with a 19-2 run, turning to a zone defense and forcing turnovers that led to easy baskets.

With Denver's lead down to four, Murray made a three-pointer with 2:16 remaining. He then found Paul Millsap under the basket for a score before hitting a long three to push the lead back to 111-99 with 53 seconds to play.

Coach Frank Vogel acknowledged the Lakers were fortunate to win Game 2, in which they committed 24 turnovers, and would have to be better Tuesday.

Instead, it was the Nuggets who raised their game and played from ahead, ending a streak of six straight games where they trailed at halftime.

The Lakers built leads of 15 or more in the second quarter of

the first two games. This time it was the Nuggets who started to run away in that period, even with Jokic on the bench resting for their big run that started it.

Denver began with a 7-0 spurt, the last five from Michael Porter Jr., to open a nine-point lead. After a dunk by James, Murray made a three-pointer and Monte Morris scored the next five to make it a 15-2 start to the period and give the Nuggets a 44-29 advantage.

It grew to 18 and could have been worse if not for Davis, who scored nine straight Lakers points. Markieff Morris' three-pointer trimmed it to 63-53 at halftime.

The Lakers got the first five points of the third to cut the lead in half, but Denver regained control and led 93-75 after three.

Murray finished with eight rebounds.

Tip-ins

Lakers: The Lakers had a six-game winning streak snapped and fell to 10-3 in these playoffs. ... Dwight Howard started the second half at center, re-

placing JaVale McGee.

Nuggets: Denver's last half-time lead had been a 59-57 edge over the Clippers in Game 3 of the West semifinals. ... Malone wished his parents a happy anniversary during his interview after the third quarter. His father, Brendan, was a longtime NBA assistant coach who also coached the Toronto Raptors in 1995-96, their inaugural season.

The air up there

The Lakers came into the game 4-0 in the playoffs as the designated road team. Vogel said nothing really changes in the Walt Disney World bubble except the benches the teams are sitting on, but he joked about the big difference that would have awaited his team in a normal situation.

"You know, I did make sure our guys did whatever they needed to do to adjust to the altitude of playing in Denver tonight because Game 3, you've always got to account for that altitude," he said. "Maybe we don't have to account for it tonight in Orlando."

Bulls snag big name in coaching search, hire Donovan

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Billy Donovan wasn't on the market for long — hardly a shocker given he's won everywhere he's coached.

That he's headed to Chicago might be a surprise, only because big and bold moves have been few and far between for the team. Then again, these aren't the same old Bulls.

Chicago struck it big Tuesday, hiring Donovan and landing one of the top candidates on the market to lead a rebuilding team with an overhauled front office.

The 55-year-old Donovan spent the past five seasons with the Oklahoma City Thunder. He replaces Jim Boylen, who was fired after the Bulls finished 22-43 and were one of the

eight teams that didn't qualify for the NBA's restart at Walt Disney World.

In a statement, Donovan thanked ownership and said he's looking forward to working with new executive vice president of basketball operations Arturas Karnisovas.

"I'm excited to partner with Arturas as we work together on behalf of this historic franchise," he said.

The Bulls came into the season with their sights set on a playoff spot. They were 11th in the Eastern Conference when play was stopped in March and decided they needed new leadership.

Chicago hired Karnisovas as executive vice president of basketball operations in April out of Denver's front office and

shifted John Paxson into an advisory role. The Bulls also brought in general manager Marc Eversley to replace the fired Gar Forman, and they let Boylen go last month.

Donovan went 243-157 as coach of the Thunder and reached the playoffs each year. He was a finalist for Coach of the Year this season after his team outperformed expectations and pushed the Houston Rockets to seven games in the first round of the playoffs. But with his contract expiring, the Thunder announced two weeks ago he would not return, saying it was a mutual decision.

Before his time with the Thunder, Donovan coached for 19 seasons at the University of Florida, winning two NCAA titles.

"We are very pleased to welcome Billy and his family to the Chicago Bulls," Karnisovas said. "The success that he has sustained over the course of his coaching career puts him on a different level. We feel his ability to help his players reach their potential, both individually and collectively, will mesh well with our roster. Whether as a player or as a coach, he has won everywhere his career has taken him, and we hope that will continue here in Chicago."

Donovan inherited All-Stars Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook when he was hired before the 2015-16 season. Oklahoma City reached the Western Conference Finals, squandering a 3-1 lead against Golden State.

Bears great Sayers dies at 77

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Hall of Famer Gale Sayers, who made his mark as one of the NFL's best all-purpose running backs and was later celebrated for his enduring friendship with a Chicago Bears teammate with cancer, has died. He was 77.

Nicknamed "The Kansas Comet" and considered among the best open-field runners the game has ever seen, Sayers died Wednesday, according to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Relatives of Sayers had said he was diagnosed with dementia. In March 2017, his wife, Ardythe, said she partly blamed his football career.

Sayers was a blur to NFL defenses, ghosting would-be tacklers or zooming by them like few running backs or kick returners before or since. Yet it was his rock-steady friendship with Brian Piccolo, depicted in the film "Brian's Song," that marked him as more than a sports star.

"He was the very essence of a team player — quiet, unassuming and always ready to compliment a teammate for a key block," Hall of Fame President David Baker said. "Gale was an extraordinary man who overcame a great deal of adversity during his NFL career and life."

He became a stockbroker, sports admin-

istrator, businessman and philanthropist for several inner-city Chicago youth initiatives after his pro football career was cut short by serious injuries to both knees.

"Gale was one of the finest men in NFL history and one of the game's most exciting players," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "Gale was an electrifying and elusive runner who thrilled fans every time he touched the ball. He earned his place as a first-ballot Hall of Famer."

Sayers was a two-time All-American at Kansas and inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame as well. He was selected by Chicago with the fourth pick overall in 1965, and his versatility produced dividends and highlight-reel slaloms through opposing defenses right from the start. He tied one NFL record with six touchdowns in a game and set another with 22 touchdowns in his first season: 14 rushing, six receiving, one punt and one kickoff return. Sayers was a unanimous choice for Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Sayers followed that by being voted an All-Pro during the first five of his seven NFL seasons (1965-71). But he was stuck on a handful of middling-to-bad Bears teams and, like Dick Butkus, another Hall of Fame teammate selected in the same 1965 draft, he never played in the post-

season. Sayers appeared in only 68 games total and just two in each of his final two seasons while attempting to return from those knee injuries.

Butkus said he hadn't even seen Sayers play until a highlight film was shown at an event in New York that both attended honoring the 1964 All-America team. He said the real-life version of Sayers was even better.

"He was amazing. I still attribute a lot of my success from trying to tackle him (in practice)," Butkus said at the Bears' 100th anniversary celebration in June 2019.

"I never came up against a running back like him in my whole career, as far as a halfback. And that was counting O.J. (Simpson) and a couple of other guys," he added. "No one could touch this guy."

The Bears drafted them with back-to-back picks in '65, taking Butkus at No. 3 and Sayers at No. 4. It didn't take long for Sayers to win over veterans who had helped the Bears take the NFL championship in 1963.

"We were both No. 1s, so they're going to make it hard on us and show us the ropes and everything else," Butkus said. "But Gale just ran circles around everybody. Quickly, they adopted him."

Another game postponed; Mountain West eyes fall

Associated Press

As the Atlantic Coast Conference worked Tuesday to reschedule another league game postponed because of a COVID-19 outbreak within one of its teams, the Mountain West was zeroing in on a possible late October start to its football season.

No. 7 Notre Dame's game at Wake Forest on Saturday was postponed after positive COVID-19 tests landed 13 Fighting Irish players in isolation and another 10 in quarantine.

The schools said they were working with the ACC to reschedule the game. Both teams have off Oct. 3.

Mountain West university presidents moved up a scheduled Friday meeting to Thursday, a person with knowledge

of the meeting told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the league is not making its move toward a possible return to fall sports public.

It was unclear whether the Mountain West presidents would vote Thursday on any proposals, the person said.

Mountain West athletic directors are aiming for an Oct. 24 or Oct. 31 start for the football season. The conference is close to an agreement that will provide its 12 schools with the capacity to perform daily COVID-19 antigen tests on its athletes, the person said.

Mountain West Commissioner Craig Thompson told the AP last week the conference would not move forward on a fall football season without its schools having the ability to test daily.

The Mountain West postponed its fall sports season on Aug. 10, the day before the Big Ten and Pac-12 did the same.

The Pac-12's CEO Group of presidents and chancellors is also meeting Thursday and is expected to make a decision on whether the conference can start its football season as soon as Halloween weekend. The Pac-12 announced early this month it had acquired daily COVID-19 testing for its members.

The Big Ten announced last week it will kick off its football season the weekend of Oct. 24. The conference plans to start testing its fall sport athletes daily on Sept. 30.

The hope is daily testing will prevent those who are infected from spreading the virus and cut down on the number of peo-

ple who end up in quarantine because they were in close contact with someone who tested positive.

The conferences that are currently staging fall football seasons have been testing athletes at least three times per week, but not daily.

Also Tuesday, No. 18 BYU announced that its next two games will be played without fans at LaVell Edwards Stadium in Provo, Utah. The school said health officials in the state had moved Provo from low to moderate COVID-19 risks, which prompted the switch to no fans for Saturday's game against Troy and the Oct. 2 game against Louisiana Tech.

BYU had to postpone its game last week at Army after having players test positive for COVID-19.

Dodgers take 8th straight NL West title

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Wrapping up an NL West title has become routine for the Los Angeles Dodgers, but in a year in which no one was sure three months ago if there would be a baseball season, manager Dave Roberts wanted his team to still savor the moment.

The Dodgers clinched the NL's top post-season seed and eighth straight division title Tuesday night with a 7-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics. They are third team to win at least eight straight division titles, joining the Atlanta Braves (14 straight from 1991-2005) and the New York Yankees (nine straight from 1998-2006).

"To fast forward a couple months and be crowned NL West champs is a credit to ev-

eryone. It should never be taken for granted," Roberts said. "Truth be told, a lot of guys didn't know we could clinch. We were responsible but I let it know that it has to be appreciated."

Los Angeles, which owns the best record in the majors at 39-16, was the first team in the majors to clinch a playoff berth on Sept. 16. The Dodgers will open postseason play on Sept. 30 by hosting every game in a best-of-three series against the No. 8 seed.

Los Angeles came into the day with a magic number of two and got help with the Angels' 4-2 victory over the San Diego Padres.

Instead of a wild celebration on the mound after Jake McGee struck out Sean Murphy for the final out, players briskly

walked out of the dugout to celebrate with teammates. Everyone grabbed a division clinching shirt and cap before heading to the mound for a group photo.

The clubhouse celebration was also muted. Champagne was still involved, but players toasted each other with a glass instead of being showered in it.

"We talked about it instead of dumping stuff on people. It's a moment you need to celebrate and we did," said Corey Seager, who had three hits and one of the Dodgers' four home runs. "It stinks not being able to do champagne and beer showers because some of the younger guys haven't been able to experience that."

Max Muncy, Chris Taylor and AJ Pollock also went deep for Los Angeles.

MLB roundup

Ramirez 3-run homer puts Indians in playoffs

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Jose Ramirez hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning, giving the Cleveland Indians a 5-3 win over the Chicago White Sox to clinch a postseason berth.

Ramirez's drive off Jose Ruiz scored Cesar Hernandez and Francisco Lindor, setting off a wild celebration at home plate as the Indians reached the postseason for the fourth time in five years.

Lindor had pulled Cleveland within one on a two-out double that plated Roberto Perez, who began the inning on second base. After Matt Foster (5-1) walked Hernandez, Ruiz entered and gave up the game-ending drive.

Braves 11, Marlins 1: Bryse Wilson pitched five scoreless innings, Marcell Ozuna drove in five runs with four hits that included two homers and host Atlanta clinched its third straight NL East title.

The Braves hit five homers, including drives by Dansby Swanson and Freddie Freeman off Nick Vincent in a five-run seventh. Freeman drove in two runs with three hits.

Wilson (1-0) allowed three hits and one walk, striking out a career-high seven.

Yankees 12, Blue Jays 1: Gerrit Cole limited Toronto to five hits over seven innings in his final preparation for the playoffs, and Aaron Hicks drove in three runs in a road win for New York.

Cole (7-3) struck out seven and walked none, inducing 11 ground-ball outs and 14 swings and misses. His one mistake was Cavan Biggio's sole homer in the fourth.

Brewers 3, Reds 2: Tyrone Taylor homered, Eric Sogard doubled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, and Milwaukee rallied to a win at Cincinnati.

Taylor had a solo shot off Sonny Gray, who went five innings in a solid return from a hip injury. The Brewers rallied against Tejay Antone (0-3), who gave up Daniel Vogelbach's single and Jedd Gyorko's double to open the seventh.

Nationals 5-8, Phillies 1-7: Philadelphia tumbled out of a playoff position, getting swept in a doubleheader at Washington when Yadiel Hernandez hit a game-ending, two-run homer in the eighth inning off Bran-

don Workman (1-4) in the second game.

The 32-year-old Hernandez became the oldest player to hit a walk-off homer for his first big league home run, according to STATS.

Pirates 3, Cubs 2: Jacob Stallings hit a solo home run in the bottom of the ninth inning and host Pittsburgh stalled Chicago's bid to win the NL Central.

The Cubs began the day with a 4½-game lead over St. Louis and Cincinnati in the division standings and a magic number of four to clinch the title.

Mets 5, Rays 2: Pete Alonso and New York prevented visiting Tampa Bay from clinching the AL East crown, winning behind three home runs and Seth Lugo's bounce-back pitching performance.

Red Sox 8, Orioles 3: Nick Pivetta struck out eight in five innings of one-run ball in his Boston debut and Christian Vazquez hit a three-run homer in a win over visiting Baltimore.

Cardinals 5, Royals 0: Austin Gomber tossed six innings of four-hit ball in a crucial spot start and St. Louis capitalized on some erratic pitching from

Brady Singer to win at Kansas City.

Twins 5, Tigers 4 (10): Max Kepler hit the tying home run in the eighth inning and the game-winning single with two outs in the 10th, giving host Minnesota a victory over Detroit that tightened the AL Central race.

Diamondbacks 7, Rangers 0: Carson Kelly had a three-run homer, Caleb Smith and Riley Smith combined to throw a six-hitter and Arizona blanked visiting Texas.

Angels 4, Padres 2: Max Stassi had two impressive home runs among his four hits, Griffin Canning struck out 10 in six innings and Los Angeles won at San Diego.

Astros 6, Mariners 1: Martin Maldonado hit a three-run home run, Framber Valdez struck out eight to set career highs for wins and strikeouts, and Houston won at Seattle to close in on its fourth straight playoff berth.

Giants 5, Rockies 2: Pinch-hitter Alex Dickerson hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh, Austin Slater also connected, and San Francisco beat Colorado to stay right in the playoff race.