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# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 79, No. 79 @SS 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

平成32年4月6日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## Cost creeps up for Navy's next carrier

By TONY CAPACCIO  
*Bloomberg*

The Navy vowed that a run-away budget wouldn't be allowed again after the USS Gerald Ford, the first in a new class of aircraft carriers, cost a record \$13.3 billion. Now, the price for the second ship is creeping up.

The service's estimate for shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries to design and construct the USS John F. Kennedy has increased to \$3.58 billion, up 7% from the \$3.35 billion contract awarded in 2015, according to the carrier program's Selected Acquisition Report for fiscal 2021.

That underscores previous warnings that the fully outfitted carrier may exceed an \$11.4 billion cost cap imposed by Congress. The contractor is falling short by a key measure of labor efficiency, the Navy said in the report obtained by Bloomberg News.

Its workforce performed 91 cents of work for every Navy dollar spent in the last year, down from the more acceptable level of 95 cents per dollar over the same timeframe, according to the report.

Huntington Ingalls also is falling short of a Navy goal to reduce cumulative labor hours by at least 18% from the first ship. With the vessel 69% complete, the Kennedy is performing at a 16% improvement over the Ford at the same point, Capt. Danny Hernandez, a Navy spokesman, said in an email.

**SEE CARRIER ON PAGE 7**

### \$3.58B

The service's estimate for shipbuilder Huntington Ingalls Industries to design and construct the USS John F. Kennedy, up 7% from the \$3.35 billion contract awarded in 2015, according to the carrier program's Selected Acquisition Report for fiscal 2021.

### HIROSHIMA AT 75



## 'Irresistible weapon'

### Historians say US accounts oversimplify atomic bombings on Japan

Library of Congress Archives

By JOSEPH DITZLER  
*Stars and Stripes*

TOKYO

In spring and summer 1945, American politicians, generals and scientists pondered how to best use the terrible power of the atomic bomb created by the Manhattan Project in New Mexico.

They deliberated killing tens of thousands of civilians to end the war with Japan, attacks finally carried out on the president's authority.

It's been 75 years since the U.S. Army Air Force dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and 9, 1945, respectively. Both cities were basically leveled, and hundreds of thousands of people were killed or injured.

After Nagasaki, the Japanese realized further resistance was futile. They surrendered, but only on the condition that the emperor retain his throne.

The battleship USS Missouri steamed into Tokyo Harbor, the surrender documents were signed, Gen. Douglas MacArthur called it good and the rest is history.

Not so fast.

**SEE BOMBINGS ON PAGE 6**



EUGENE HOSHINO/AP

**Above: The Atomic Bomb Dome is seen in Hiroshima, Japan, on Tuesday. The building was registered as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1996. At top: A photograph believed to have been taken from the B-29 bomber Enola Gay after it dropped the world's first atomic bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.**

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Virgin Atlantic files for US bankruptcy protection

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Virgin Atlantic, the airline founded by British businessman Richard Branson, filed Tuesday for protection in U.S. bankruptcy court as it tries to survive the virus pandemic that is hampering the airline industry.

The airline made the Chapter 15 filing in U.S. federal bankruptcy court in New York after proceeding in the United Kingdom.

A spokeswoman for Virgin Atlantic said the bankruptcy filing

is part of a court process in the United Kingdom to carry out a restructuring plan that the airline announced last month. The process is supported by a majority of the airline's creditors, and the company hopes to emerge from the process in September, she said.

A Virgin Atlantic lawyer said in a court filing that the company needs an order from a U.S. court to make terms of the restructuring apply in the U.S.

The airline is primarily a long-

haul operator, including flights between the U.K. and the U.S. It stopped flying in April due to the pandemic and only resumed flights in July. It closed a base at London's Gatwick Airport and cut about 3,500 jobs.

Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines, which owns 49% of the airline, agreed to defer payments it was owed, and hedge fund Davidson Kemper agreed to lend Virgin Atlantic 170 million pounds. Virgin Atlantic also delayed deliveries of Airbus jets.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 6)	\$1.16	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3767
Dollar buys (Aug. 6)	60.8235	British pound	\$1.3150
British pound (Aug. 6)	\$1.28	Canada (Dollar)	1.3248
Japanese yen (Aug. 6)	103.00	China (Yuan)	6.9362
South Korean won (Aug. 6)	1,161.00	Denmark (Krone)	6.2658
		Egypt (Pound)	16.0447
		Euro	\$1.1890/0.8410
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7503
		Hungary (Forint)	299.89
		Israel (Shekel)	3.4054
		Japan (Yen)	105.39
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3055
		Norway (Krone)	8.9644
		Philippines (Peso)	49.05
		Poland (Zloty)	3.70
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.3673
		South Korea (Won)	1,185.54
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9061
		Thailand (Baht)	30.98
		Turkey (New Lira)	7.0355

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	1.24

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### THURSDAY IN EUROPE



### FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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## STARS AND STRIPES

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### EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111  
DSN: 314.583.9111

### PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI

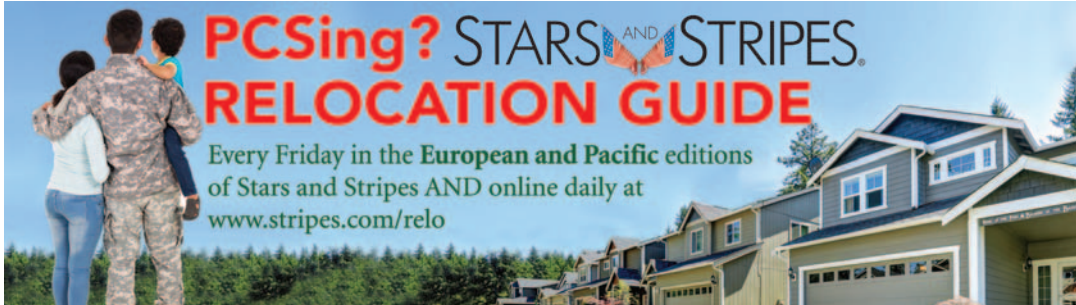
PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

ADVERTISING

CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313  
DSN: 227.7313

# PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES RELOCATION GUIDE

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## MILITARY

# Sunken vehicle and troops' remains found

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The bodies of service members who were aboard an assault amphibious vehicle last week when it sunk during a training exercise off the California coast have been found, the Marine Corps announced Tuesday.

The location of the vehicle was identified Monday by officials with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, I Marine Expeditionary Force and the Makin Island Amphibious Ready Group, according to a statement from LMEF.

The assault amphibious vehicle was carrying 15 Marines and one sailor from 15th MEU when it began to take on water Thursday evening. The crew had just finished training on San Clemente Island and were traveling back in the vehicle to their

ship. Eight Marines were rescued from the sinking vehicle, though one died at the scene. Two more Marines were sent to a nearby hospital in critical condition. The 15th MEU is based at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Seven Marines and a sailor missing with the vehicle were presumed dead Sunday after a search and rescue effort that lasted days.

"The U.S. Navy's Undersea Rescue Command confirmed that human remains have also been identified using their underwater remotely-operated video systems from the merchant vessel HOS Dominator, a ship specializing in undersea search and rescue," according to the statement Tuesday.

The Navy is working now to recover the remains of the service members and raise the vehicle. The statement did not say how many remains were found. The equipment

needed to get to the vehicle off the sea floor will be at the location by the end of the week, according to the Marine Corps.

The vehicle, which weighs about 26 tons, had sunk to a depth of 385 feet almost a mile from San Clemente Island, according to the statement.

When the assault amphibious vehicle began to sink, two nearby vehicles and a safety boat were at the scene immediately and watched it go under, Lt. Gen. Joseph Osterman, the commander of I Marine Expeditionary Force, said Friday during a news briefing at Camp Pendleton. The service members who were aboard were wearing their normal combat gear, which includes body armor, because of the training that they were doing on the island. They were also wearing flotation vests, according to Osterman, and some of the Marines were rescued because they were floating.

The cause of the sinking is still under investigation.

Gen. David Berger, commandant of the Marine Corps, announced Friday during the briefing that he had suspended water operations for all assault amphibious vehicles as a precaution until they determine what caused Thursday's accident. Berger also said every assault amphibious vehicle in the fleet was going to be inspected. Osterman said the Marines have more than 800 of them.

President Donald Trump tweeted he was deeply saddened by the loss of the service members.

"Our prayers are with their families. I thank them for the brave service their loved ones gave to our nation. #SemperParvulus," he wrote Tuesday afternoon.

kenney.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @caitlinmkenney

## Air Force: Pants OK for women's 'mess dress'

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

Women in the Air Force now have the option of wearing pants with their semi-formal "mess dress" uniforms instead of a floor-length skirt, the service said Tuesday.

Before the change in policy, which was effective immediately, women were required to wear a floor-length skirt with the mess dress uniform, which is the Air Force equivalent to the civilian world's black-tie tuxedo or evening gown. It is worn during official formal and semi-formal functions.

The pants option came as a result of "overwhelming feedback from the field" and is "a step in the right direction in creating an inclusive culture," the Air Force said in a statement Tuesday.

The new dress regulation is the latest in a series of changes by the Air Force prompted by widespread national protests after George Floyd, a 46-year-old Black man, died while being arrested in Minneapolis on May 25.

In June, the Air Force ordered

an independent review of discipline and advancement opportunities in regard to racial disparities. The ongoing review is assessing "Air Force-specific causal factors like culture and policies, assimilate the analysis and conclusions of previous racial disparity studies by external organizations, and make concrete recommendations resulting in impactful and lasting change."

Last month, for example, the Air Force revised its Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel instructions by deleting the term "faddish" in references to "complexion" because its enforcement was highly subjective in the context of race and culture.

"It's our responsibility to provide flexible uniform options that are functional and comfortable for all Air and Space Professionals," Lt. Gen. Brian Kelly, deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, said in the Tuesday statement. "We have a lot of people working really hard to review our existing policies to make sure there are no unintended barriers or unfair practices



**Air Force Chief Master Sgt. JoAnne Bass sports the mess dress uniform while speaking at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., in April 2019. The Air Force has now replaced the floor-length skirt with trousers.**

KEMBERLY GROUCE/U.S. Air Force

that may be impacting specific groups of people on our team."

Because official female mess dress slacks will not be available for at least 18 months, women are authorized to purchase and alter men's mess dress pants during the interim, the statement said.

Alterations of men's trousers will be provided for free by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the statement said.

"We hear you," Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth Wright said in the statement. "This is a bit of good news for

some of our teammates who've wanted this change for a while now. A small thing, but one that I hope can go a long way to helping Airmen realize that we listen, we hear and we care."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattOlson

## Air Force F-15 fighter jet loses 8-pound part during flight over Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An Air Force F-15 fighter jet lost a part Tuesday while flying over Okinawa, Japanese government officials said.

A 7-inch, 8-pound part called an "eagle claw" fell from the aircraft at approximately 10:30 a.m., a spokesman from the Okinawa Defense Bureau told Stars and Stripes by phone Wednesday. The defense bureau represents Japan's Defense Ministry on the island.

It is unknown where the part fell from the aircraft, but the F-15 had flown along Okinawa's main thoroughfare, Route 58, and then over the ocean about 60 miles

east-southeast from Kadena Air Base, the spokesman said.

Officials from Kadena Air Base's 18th Wing reported the details to the defense bureau Tuesday evening, he said.

"We were told there was no damage or injuries related to the falling part," the defense bureau spokesman said. "We are currently asking Kadena what this part does and where it belongs in the jet."

The 18th Wing did not immediately answer questions from Stars and Stripes about the incident.

Bureau officials have also requested more precise details on the aircraft's flight path and point of origin, the spokesman said.

The incident riled prefectural officials

struggling to contain the coronavirus pandemic.

"With everything going on with coronavirus, we just want them to not cause any more trouble at this moment," a prefectural spokesman told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

The official said prefectural authorities were still gathering information about the incident.

"Once we receive enough information, and if necessary, we will lodge a protest with Kadena Air Base over this incident," he said.

It's customary in Japan for some government officials to speak to the media on condition of anonymity.

Several incidents in recent years of fall-

ing parts from U.S. aircraft on or around Japan's southern island prefecture have drawn condemnation from local residents.

On Aug. 27, 2019, a Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter lost a cabin window over open water off the Okinawa coast, U.S. military officials reported at the time. No injuries or property damage were reported.

In December 2017, a 3-foot-by-3-foot window fell from a Super Stallion from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and landed on an elementary school sports field near the base fence line. More than 50 schoolchildren were playing nearby at the time.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1  
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Ayaiichihashi

MILITARY



SWAYER CONNALLY/U.S. Navy

An MH-60R Sea Hawk helicopter assigned to the "Grandmasters" of Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 46 takes off from Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Thomas Hudner's flight deck Sunday.

# US engages in Arctic exercise amid more activity from Russia, China

By CATLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of American sailors and Coast Guard members will learn to maneuver and operate in the Arctic as part of an annual Canadian maritime exercise as Russia and China continue to increase their activity in the region, according to military officials.

"The Arctic is the new frontier of our homeland defense. Our competitors are steadily expanding military presence in the region and left us with no choice, no option but to improve our homeland defense capability and capacity," Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, the commander of 2nd Fleet, said Tuesday during a news briefing about Operation Nanook 2020.

The annual Canadian exercise started in 2007, though this year it will be shortened due to the coronavirus pandemic. The maritime component of the exercise, Tuugaalik, started Tuesday and ends Aug. 24. Ships participating are from the United States, Canada, France and Denmark. The USS Thomas Hudner, a guided-missile destroyer, will participate as well as a detachment from Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron 46 and the Coast Guard cutter Tahoma, according to a 2nd Fleet statement.

This is the fourth time that the 2nd Fleet has operated in the Arctic and the first time they have sent rigid inflatable boats from

the Hudner to work in those temperatures, according to Lewis.

The Pentagon's 2018 National Defense Strategy puts Russia and China at the center of the military's renewed focus on great-power competition. Based at Naval Station Norfolk, Va., 2nd Fleet focuses on the Atlantic Ocean including up to the Arctic, which is becoming a greater strategic concern as more ice is melting, opening more routes to travel through the region. Russia has increased its presence in the region by establishing more military bases and operating a large icebreaker fleet.

China is also attempting to become more involved in the region, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last year during an Arctic Council meeting.

There is growing international interest in the region's resources, fishing and global strategic positioning, according to Vice Adm. Steven Poulin, the commander of Coast Guard Atlantic Area.

"I think it's important that we continue to showcase our mutual commitment to safety, security and environmental protection. As I said at the outset, our commitment is to safeguard the Arctic, and that includes those three elements: safety, security and environmental protection," he said Tuesday.

The Arctic's warm season is lasting longer each year, which is causing more traffic, according to Rear Adm. Brian Santar-

apia, the Canadian commander of Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic.

"As we see traffic increase, we know that we need to be ready to operate in the north ourselves to a much greater degree," he said.

The ships will work together on tactical scenarios, according to Santarapia, including gunnery, locating and tracking ships and basic security tasks.

Experiencing how to operate in the Arctic through training allows sailors to understand how different it is from other parts of the world, according to Lewis. That includes special clothing in case they fall into frigid waters or just the longer time it takes to navigate the waterways.

"The Arctic Region requires specialized training, gear, and a unique skill set that can only be honed and developed over time and repetition," he said.

Having the navies and coast guards of several nations working together in this operation sends a message that their alliance and presence in the region is strong, according to the naval officers.

"The strength of that partnership and the ability to operate safely and in accordance with international norms is what we are intending to do. And that's what the expectation is of all the parties that are [participating]," Lewis said.

kenney.catlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @catlinmkenney

# Suicide prevention measure draws support in Congress

By NIKKI WENTLING  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A suicide prevention measure that would create a safe word for troops to seek mental health care was introduced in the Senate last week and added to the House's version of the annual defense bill.

The legislation, called the Brandon Act, is named for 21-year-old sailor Brandon Caserta, who died in 2018 after throwing himself into the spinning tail rotor of a helicopter at Naval Station Norfolk, Va. A command investigation into his death determined that belligerent and brash leadership of his unit contributed to Caserta's decision to end his life. He felt alone, stuck and afraid of retaliation, said his parents, Patrick and Teri Caserta.

The goal of the Brandon Act is to create a pathway for service members to seek mental health evaluations in confidence, without disclosing to their command.

Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., introduced the bill June 25, the second anniversary of Caserta's death. The measure was added as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act, which the House passed June 21.

The Brandon Act was not part of the Senate's version of the annual defense legislation, and it's uncertain whether lawmakers will decide to keep the measure when members of the House and Senate convene to negotiate a final bill. The NDAA sets the Defense Department's annual budget and includes a slew of policies for the Pentagon.

Though it wasn't added to the Senate's NDAA, Sen. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., introduced the Brandon Act as a standalone bill

last week.

"This legislation honors Brandon's legacy of selfless service and kindness by creating a confidential reporting method for service members struggling with their mental health," McSally said in a statement. "We must continue to break the stigma around mental health."

Brandon Caserta was one of 325 active-duty service members who died by suicide in 2018, and one of 68 sailors, according to military data. Less than half, or 44.6%, of troops who died by suicide that year had a documented behavioral health diagnosis, according to a report the Pentagon released in April.

The Brandon Act creates a system based on the process available to victims of sexual assault, which would allow service members who experience mental health issues to receive care without notifying their command or opening an official investigation of any allegations they raise. The Casertas believe the change would help reduce the perceived barriers of self-reporting for mental health evaluations and ease service members' path to care.

Patrick and Teri Caserta, who advocated for years to get the measure introduced in Congress, think the latest developments are a good sign.

The couple live in Peoria, Ariz., and were planning a trip to Washington in September to promote the bill. With the coronavirus pandemic still ravaging parts of the United States, the Casertas are instead sending emails and trying to call lawmakers from their home.

wentling,nikki@stripes.com

**“This legislation honors Brandon's legacy ... by creating a confidential reporting method for service members struggling with their mental health.”**

Sen. Martha McSally  
R-Ariz.

# USAA's pandemic-related auto policy rebates surpass \$1 billion

By JAMES BOLINGER  
Stars and Stripes

USAA, the insurance company with armed forces roots, will return an additional \$270 million to its 7 million auto policy holders amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic, the company announced Tuesday evening.

This pushes the total rebates from the San Antonio-based

company since the start of the pandemic to well over a billion dollars.

The financial services and insurance company, which provides insurance and banking services to more than 13 million active-duty military members, veterans and their families, returned \$580 million in auto policy rebates in April and another \$280 million in May, each totaling 20% of mem-

bers' monthly premiums.

"Giving money back to our members, especially now when budgets are stretched, is another way we are helping," said USAA President and CEO Wayne Peacock in the statement. "We see that members are driving less than when the pandemic hit. As these patterns unfold, we are adjusting our auto insurance rates." Dividends for the previous

coronavirus.

"Giving money back to our members, especially now when budgets are stretched, is another way we are helping," said USAA President and CEO Wayne Peacock in the statement. "We see that members are driving less than when the pandemic hit. As these patterns unfold, we are adjusting our auto insurance rates." Dividends for the previous

coronavirus rebates have already been applied to customers' bills, the statement said.

"The new rebates will be automatically applied to members' next billing cycle and no further action is required to receive the dividend, according to the statement.

bolinger,james@stripes.com  
Twitter: @bolingerj2004

## MILITARY



Juergen Masching

The BMW belonging to a Vilseck-based soldier ended up in a field after skidding and colliding with a Citroen carrying a family of three on a Bavarian country road Tuesday. The soldier and two adults in the Citroen were slightly injured in the accident, but a baby was unharmed, German police said.

## Vilseck-based soldier could face charges in high-speed crash

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
*Stars and Stripes*

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A Vilseck-based American soldier could face up to three years in prison after he was accused of causing a traffic accident on a Bavarian country road in which he and a couple were injured, German police said Wednesday.

The 20-year-old soldier and a couple in the other vehicle involved in the collision were only slightly injured in the accident Tuesday morning, but both vehicles were totaled, the police in Auerbach, the town closest to where the accident happened, said in a statement.

The couple's 1-year-old child, who was taken with the parents to a clinic in the town of Peggitz, was not injured in the crash, the statement said.

"It looks like the cause of the accident was speeding," said Auerbach policeman Benjamin Hoerl.

"There were no indications that alcohol or drugs were involved," Hoerl said. He did not specify how fast the soldier was driving when he smashed into the family's Citroen.

The Vilseck-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment was "aware of an accident involving a service mem-

ber driving his personally owned vehicle off the installation," said spokesman Maj. John Ambelang, without going into detail.

"The soldier is in good condition following his release from the hospital," Ambelang said.

The soldier could be charged with causing negligent bodily harm, the police said. The charge carries a sentence on conviction of up to three years in prison or a fine.

Auerbach police said the American was driving too fast as he entered a right-hand turn on a country road between the villages of Gunzendorf and Ranzenthal, and veered off the road when he saw another car coming toward him.

When he tried to regain control by steering to the left, his BMW skidded and slammed into the front passenger side of the oncoming vehicle, which was carrying the family of three from Auerbach, the statement said.

The soldier's BMW came to a halt in a field, about 30 yards from the road. Its back end and the front of the German family's Citroen were damaged beyond repair, and both vehicles had to be towed from the scene, the statement said.

Kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com  
john.immanuel@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Manny\_Stripes

# IG report: Turkey remains major hub for ISIS militants

By JOHN VANDIVER  
*Stars and Stripes*

Turkey continues to be a regional transit hub for Islamic State, even though the NATO ally has recently stepped up efforts to counter attempts to smuggle ISIS fighters and weaponry into war-torn Syria, a new Inspector General's report says.

In a report released Tuesday by the Lead Inspector General for the military's mission in Syria and Iraq, U.S. European Command called Turkey a "major facilitation hub" for ISIS and said security at the country's southern borders with Syria and Iraq continues to be a problem.

Turkey has been criticized for years by Western allies for failing to stop the flow of foreign fighters into Syria, something critics have said contributed to the initial rise of ISIS in the region. But in recent months, Ankara has dealt more aggressively with ISIS within its borders and inside Syria, EUCOM said in the report.

Operations launched by Turkey against ISIS have impacted the group's ability to smuggle fighters, funds and supplies, EUCOM told the IG. However, the difficulty of securing Turkey's border with Syria and Iraq will likely ensure that the extraction of Syria will be able to continue moving supplies and fighters from one country to another, the report said.

Although the U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq and Syria has pushed ISIS out of what used to be its major strongholds in the large swath of territory it once held in the two countries, the terrorist group remained active in the region, it said.

Attacks by ISIS surged from late April to late May during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, and the terrorist group has exploited restrictions placed on security forces because of the coronavirus pandemic to conduct even more attacks, the Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve said in the report.

But a year-to-year comparison of attack numbers, and the complexity and consequences of those attacks, "indicate that ISIS is not resurging," CJTF-OIR said.

ISIS relies mainly on small-scale local attacks and is "most likely" unable to lead operations outside of Iraq and Syria, the Defense Intelligence Agency said in the report.

While there is no evidence that ISIS has the ability to retake or hold territory in areas where the U.S.-led coalition operates, the report said defeating ISIS in areas like Syria, where coalition and partner forces have limited reach, remains a challenge.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

## Toxic exposure bill would expand veterans' access to health services

By ROSE L. THAYER  
*Stars and Stripes*

AUSTIN, Texas — Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., introduced ambitious legislation that would expand access to preventive health care and diagnostic services to veterans exposed to toxins while also creating training materials for providers and authorizing research on toxic exposure.

The Toxic Exposure Act of 2020, or TEAM Act, fundamentally reforms and improves how veterans exposed to toxic substances receive health care and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. Tillis said he has watched as veterans have spent decades pushing for documentation of exposure and fair treatment within the system.

"After working alongside veterans who were stationed at Camp Lejeune and fighting for service members exposed to toxicants from burn pits in Afghanistan and Iraq, it's clear the men and women who served our country

deserve better. The bipartisan TEAM Act ensures that all veterans are given a fair and uniform process to receive the health care and benefits to which they are entitled following exposure to toxicants during their service," Tillis said in a prepared statement.

Rosie Torres, executive director of Burn Pits 360, a nonprofit dedicated to toxic exposure among mainly post-9/11 veterans, said data that she received from the VA shows it denied 10,588 burn pit claims and approved 2,360 from June 2007 through February 2019.

Burn pits have been used to dispose of trash at military bases. In Iraq and Afghanistan, service members often lived near and breathed in the toxic fumes that wafted from the pits as trash that included human and medical waste, computers and jet engines, burned continuously. The toxins released from the pits have been linked to cancers and other chronic conditions.

Tillis said he wrote the legislation in close coordination with

a coalition of 30 veteran service organizations and subject-matter experts, including Burn Pits 360. For two years, a group known as the Toxic Exposure in the American Military Coalition has focused on coming together to see how the challenges faced by generations of veterans seeking help for varying types of toxic exposure can be addressed through Congress. This bill is one of the first major outcomes of the coalition.

The TEAM Act, which was expected to go before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee on Wednesday, improves access to health care by providing consultation and testing through the VA for eligible veterans exposed to toxic substances, expanding training on toxic exposure issues for VA health care and benefits personnel, and by requiring VA to develop a questionnaire for primary care appointments to help determine whether a veteran might have been exposed to toxic substances during service.

Thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Rose\_Lori

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**STARS AND STRIPES**

# HIROSHIMA AT 75

## Bombings: Historians argue whether bomb alone ended war

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Alex Wellerstein, a historian of science at the Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., author and blogger on atomic bomb history, said time has smoothed the wrinkles and simplified the facts that are often taught about the first and only wartime use of atomic weapons.

"The difficulty of these sort of simple ways of understanding it, or these ways of framing it, the first one is just not historically how people thought about it at the time," Wellerstein said in a phone interview July 10. "It wasn't seen as this big deliberation, this big debate. That's a later framing of it that was put on in order to justify having used the bombs."

Within the population that day in Hiroshima, site of a military depot, were 31,000 Japanese troops — thousands of Korean forced laborers fortifying the city and a handful of U.S. prisoners of war, said Alex Carr, the official historian at Los Alamos National Laboratory in Los Alamos, N.M., where the bomb was designed and built.

The bomb fell near the city center, where the bombardier aboard the B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, Maj. Thomas Ferebee, had aimed it. At Nagasaki, however, the bomb fell wide of its intended mark and detonated over the Mitsubishi Nagasaki Arms Factory where, Carr said, the torpedoes employed at Pearl Harbor were likely manufactured.

### No brainer

Those losses hastened the war's conclusion but were not solely responsible for it, both Wellerstein and Carr said. Likewise, other misconceptions form a familiar story surrounding the bombings.

For example, Wellerstein said, not much deliberation went into using the bomb. Other historians hold the same view, including Carr. He cited a paper by historian Barton Bernstein, a Stanford University professor, from 2005.

"He said it wasn't a decision so much as the implementation of an assumption," Carr said by phone from Los Alamos on July 16. "And I really do think that was the case, looking back on this."

The scale and momentum of the war dictated using the bombs, Carr said. Every day, hundreds of Americans died in combat. Every 500-plane raid launched by U.S. Army Air Forces over Tokyo put hundreds of airmen in harm's way. During peak fighting on the Eastern Front, tens of thousands of Soviet troops and civilians died daily. And thousands of Americans were expected to die in an invasion of the Japanese homeland, planning for which went on despite the atomic bombings.

"All of sudden you have what is essentially an irresistible weapon. There is no countermeasure for a nuclear bomb. One plane out of nowhere could destroy a city in a moment," Carr said. "These were weapons that were made to go into combat and serve a purpose and I think that's what happened."



U.S. soldiers on Tinian prepare to load the Fat Man bomb for the atomic bombing mission to Nagasaki, Japan, on Aug. 9, 1945.

National Archives and Records Administration



The "Enola Gay" Boeing B-29 Superfortress lands Aug. 6, 1945, at Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands after the bombing mission against Hiroshima.

AP

### Final act

Did the bombs alone end the war? Historians argue this point, Wellerstein said.

"It's not clear," he said. "There's a lot of stuff going on at the end of World War II and the atomic bombs are part of that. Most people don't realize that there's a lot more complexity."

U.S. history downplays the Soviet Union's declaration of war Aug. 8, 1945, against Japan, and the Soviets' subsequent invasion of Manchuria, events sometimes cast as last-minute land-and-power grabs by Soviet leader Josef Stalin.

Actually, the Allies broached the Soviets' entry into the Pacific war in 1943; the Soviets agreed at the Yalta Conference in February 1945.

"We wanted them in the Pacific just as they wanted us to invade France leading up to D-Day to produce a multi-front war," Carr said.

Japan's leaders were stunned by the Soviet declaration. They had a non-aggression pact with the Russians and through them were trying to reach terms for an acceptable peace with the Allies.

The U.S. and its partners threw everything they had at Japan, who clung to the idea of a negotiated peace, Carr said. Bringing the Soviets aboard was part of the Allies' plan, even though Truman distrusted Stalin, he said.



Koko Kondo prays at the cenotaph for the atomic bombing victims near Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima, western Japan, on Wednesday.

EUGENE HOSHINO/AP

### Presidential authority

The advent of nuclear weapons brought with it another important doctrine: civilian control, namely final authority for nuclear weapons resides with the president. It didn't arise automatically, Wellerstein said.

Although the Hiroshima bombing was closely tracked, history suggests Nagasaki proceeded almost automatically, without explicit presidential authority, Wellerstein said. He has examined the historical record looking for the sequence of events leading to the Nagasaki bombing.

He said President Harry Truman seemed surprised when it took place.

"Truman is given all sorts of updates on the first one, he is interested in that, they tell him the day before the mission is going on the next day," Wellerstein said. "Nobody tells him about the second bomb."

He said the Nagasaki order passed between generals, along with information on additional bombs becoming available for more targets. "It's a sort of a blank check sort of order," he said.

"The decision to use the second bomb, that was made by military people," he said. "Not with any consultation with Truman at all."

Once Gen. Leslie Groves, who ran the Manhattan Project, updated Truman after Nagasaki, the president put a halt to further bombing. With that, he regained control of atomic weapons, Wellerstein said.

"He basically said you can't use atomic bombs without my explicit permission," he said. "You cannot just keep dropping them as soon as they're available."

Another notion holds that Japan, after two atomic attacks, surrendered only on condition that Emperor Hirohito retain his throne. Nothing in the historical record suggests that was true, Carr said.

"I've seen it repeated often in history books. I've asked folks like [Wellerstein] but I've not found anybody yet who can produce the document for me," Carr said.

The final telegram between the warring sides, Carr said, went something like this: The Japanese said they're ready to quit but let us keep the emperor; the U.S. reply ignored the request and said that upon surrender the emperor's authority transfers to a U.S. military governor.

"But I've seen nothing that guaranteed the emperor's position," either overtly or implied, he said.

### 'Easy moralizing'

After the fact, some Manhattan Project scientists voiced reservations about using the atomic bombs, saying it wasn't necessary, Wellerstein said. "So interestingly, it isn't like the bombs were used and were credited by many with ending the war and that made the people opposed think it was a good idea."

The destruction of two Japanese cities in 1945 created its own version of American history, "and what it means to be American," he said. The Manhattan Project also gave rise to a belief that technological superiority will win the day, which proved false in subsequent conflicts, he said.

"It doesn't boil down to easy moralizing or arguments for or against the atomic bombs," Wellerstein said.

"Separately, and the more deeper question, this question of what are you allowed to do in war if you believe your cause is right?" Wellerstein said. "How much civilian loss are you willing to tolerate if it's going to get you the victory that you want?"

ditzier.joseph@stripes.com  
Twitter: @josephditzier

MILITARY

# Airmen again can travel to Belgium, Spain

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Belgium and Spain are back as approved travel destinations for Air Force personnel in Germany after the service backtracked Wednesday on a travel ban to the countries, which have seen increases in coronavirus cases.

Two days after it removed Belgium and Spain from a safe travel list posted on its website, Ramstein Air Base said it adjusted its approval process.

"Until today, the Ramstein COVID-19 webpage included a

list of countries that U.S. European Command (EUCOM) classified as "green" to determine which countries are approved for leisure travel," the base said in a statement to the Ramstein community.

Now, Ramstein personnel will need to refer to the website of the Robert Koch Institute, Germany's agency for disease control, to determine if a destination is designated as a risk area, the Air Force said.

The change aligns the Air Force in Europe with EUCOM, which follows guidelines put out by European Union and the Robert

Koch Institute regarding what countries are designated as "red" high-risk areas and "green" safe areas for leisure travel.

Both Belgium and Spain are listed as green by the EU. However, the Spanish regions of Catalonia — which includes Barcelona — Navarre and Aragon are risk areas and travel could require a quarantine upon return to Germany, the Robert Koch Institute said.

U.S. European Command staff now need special approval for business trips to Belgium and Spain because of coronavirus concerns in those countries, the

command said Tuesday. However, the changes don't apply to leisure travel, EUCOM said.

Still, a EUCOM map meant for official staff travel that marked Spain and Belgium "red" countries caused confusion among some commands at a time when many military families are taking leave.

Ramstein Air Base on Tuesday cited EUCOM's guidance on travel — which didn't actually ban leisure travel to those countries — as a reason for taking Spain and Belgium off its approved list.

On Wednesday, Air Force officials said it's OK to go there, but

urged caution in case the EU and Robert Koch Institute change a country's status.

If a country is deemed "red" after personnel return from their trip, they may still be subject to quarantine depending on the time frame, Ramstein officials said.

"It's very important for people to do their research before traveling to avoid a quarantine situation," they said on the Ramstein Facebook page.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver



MARCUS KLOECKNER/Stars and Stripes

The Bostalsee, a popular lake about 18 miles west of Baumholder, Germany. Two service members saved the life of a toddler who nearly drowned in waist-deep water at the lake Sunday.

# Airmen save toddler from drowning in German lake

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A toddler over her life to the quick reactions of two U.S. airmen who saved her from drowning last weekend in a popular recreational lake in southwest Germany.

Staff Sgt. Corey Drake of Ramstein Air Base and Senior Airman Ezekiel Lopez ran to the aid of the 2-year old girl, who nearly drowned Sunday in waist-deep water at the Bostalsee reservoir, a man-made lake about 30 miles west of Ramstein.

Drake, a client systems technician with the 1st Combat Communications Squadron at Ramstein, was visiting the lake with family and friends, and playing with his 2-year-old son in shallow water when he noticed something about 30 yards away in the lake.

"It was really slow. It wasn't panicked," he told Stars and Stripes. "It looked like a kid swimming."

But when the child stopped moving, he became concerned, picked up his son and quickly waded out to where the other child was, he



Drake

said. "She had stopped moving, she was face-down, and all of her limbs were hanging below her," he said.

Holding the girl's limp, pale body on one hip and his son on the other, Drake shouted for help as he made his way back to shore.

Lopez — who was also at the lake with his family — immediately ran over to help, taking the little girl from Drake and sprinting toward the lifeguard station about 50 yards away.

"The only thing going through my mind was 'don't die, try to stay awake, don't die,'" he said.

Once at the station, Lopez, 21, who works at the fitness center at Spangdahlem, began chest compressions until the lifeguards could take over, he said.

Several minutes later, the girl began crying.

She was flown by helicopter to a hospital in the town of Win-



Lopez

terberg, 186 miles north of the lake, the German police said in a statement Tuesday.

The little girl has recovered from her ordeal and is in excellent health, the police said.

Three days after saving the little girl, "I can't stop thinking about her," Drake said. "I can't get her face out of my mind."

She was at the lake with a large party of people who spoke Arabic, he said. Her family, paramedics and the police have thanked him and Lopez for saving her life.

The service members "did exactly the right thing," said Armin Stengel, police chief in the town of Wadern, which is near the lake.

A lifeguard had also seen that the child needed help, but the airmen reached her first, Stengel said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesktown

# Carrier: Report warns cost trend could cause Kennedy's budget to be exhausted early

FROM FRONT PAGE

Hernandez said the cost report's figures stem in part from changes such as improvements in warfare capability and lessons learned from the Ford's recent post-delivery "shakedown" sea trials. There are additional costs "from congressional direction" requiring that the Kennedy be capable of deploying with F-35 jets by mid-2025, he said.

The cost increases are also "due to delays relating to electrical, sheet metal, painting and platform engineering work," the Navy said in the Selected Acquisition Report. The JFK is expected to be delivered in 2024.

But the report warned that "if the current cost performance continues, then the budget will be exhausted prior to the completion" of the carrier. That could force the Defense Department to make the case to lawmakers for easing the cost cap.

Beci Brenton, a spokeswoman for Newport News, Va.-based Huntington Ingalls, said the carrier's construction is about 72% complete. The company "continues to see the benefits associated with significant build strategy changes and incorporation of lessons learned" from its predecessor.

"We track cost and schedule trends continuously and share that information with our customer," the Navy, Brenton said. The company reports earnings

Thursday.

Shelby Oakley, an acquisition director for the Government Accountability Office, said in an email that "our past work has shown that during the last phases of construction, programs generally experience their highest levels of cost growth as they are finishing the detailed stages of construction."

Earlier, the cost of the Ford soared as it was plagued by technical problems with its combat systems. Since 2008, its cost has increased \$2.8 billion amid congressional criticism.

The Navy needs to retain congressional and public support to boost funds for shipbuilding if it's to achieve its goal of a 355-ship fleet, up from 300 today.

The newly disclosed information indicates construction cost performance on the second carrier "has been eroding gently over time," said Ronald O'Rourke, naval analyst for the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service. He said "the Navy believes there is more than a 50% chance that the ship will experience cost growth" driving it above the \$11.4 billion congressional cap.

The cap is supposed to apply to the fully outfitted ship.

O'Rourke's assessment matches that of the Congressional Budget Office, which in October said the Navy informed it "that there is a greater than 60% chance that the ship's final cost will be more than the current estimate."

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## VIRUS OUTBREAK

# New cases reported on US bases on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Okinawa recorded 77 new cases of coronavirus, its second highest daily count, on Wednesday, as its wait list for quarantine space grew longer.

The U.S. military reported 11 new cases: seven at the Marines' Camp Courtney on the central coast, three at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa at Camp Foster and one at the White Beach Naval Facility, according to posts on official Facebook pages.

At a press conference Wednesday, Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki asked nightclubs, bars and cabarets in the Misaki area of Ishigaki Island and the Hirara district of Miyako to close Friday through Aug. 20. Both areas are sites of cluster outbreaks.

He urged residents to stay home except for urgent or necessary trips and nonresidents to avoid trips to the island prefecture for the time being. He especially asked nonresidents to refrain from trips to Okinawa to visit elderly family members who are at greater risk for the disease.

"Please use your phone to say hello to your grandparents or write a letter instead of visiting them," Tamaki said.

While not discouraging tourists from coming to the island, he asked that they "please be considerate as Okinawa is under a state of emergency." Tamaki declared the state of emergency on Friday.

Of the 715 coronavirus cases reported in Okinawa since the pandemic started, 572 have been announced since July 8. The list



KARIS MATTINGLY/U.S. Marine Corps

**Floor decals urge exchange shoppers to practice social distancing at Camp Foster, Okinawa. The U.S. military has reported 11 new coronavirus cases on bases in Okinawa.**

of infected individuals with no symptoms or mild symptoms waiting for a hospital bed or hotel room designated for quarantine is now 253, according to the prefecture.

The 11 new cases among the Navy and Marines brings to 295 the total military cases there since the pandemic began.

The Marines did not specify whether the individuals are service members, civilian employees, contractors or family members.

The individuals at Courtney quarantined themselves after developing symptoms; their close contacts are also quarantined, according to a Facebook post by Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

"Some residents of Camp Courtney barracks have been directed to return to their quarters and await further instructions from their commands," the Facebook post said.

Two of the individuals at U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa had no recent contacts with patients and one with only a "few individuals," the Facebook post said. During those contacts, the individual was wearing full protective gear as a member of a virus testing team.

"Close contacts of these individuals have also been directed to quarantine," the post said. "None of these individuals worked in the main hospital facility."

The naval hospital is at Camp Foster, headquarters of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, which encompasses all Marine bases on Okinawa, and Marine Corps Installations Pacific.

The infected patients' recent contacts are being traced, according to the Facebook post. Locations they visited will be posted to the command's COVID Trace Tracking map, which can be found at the Marine Corps Installations Pacific website. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

At White Beach Naval Facility, the one individual there tested positive at the end of the mandatory 14-day quarantine period for new arrivals, according to a post Tuesday on the Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa Facebook page.

"The individual has not had any contact with the local community since arriving on Okinawa and is currently in isolation on base," the post said.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1  
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Ayavichihashi

## Army reservist is 4th military virus death

By CATLIN M. KENNEY  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An Army reservist from Virginia is the fourth service member to die from the coronavirus, the Army announced Tuesday.

Spc. Curtis Fort, 61, of Roanoke died July 30 from complications related to the coronavirus, Lt. Col. Simon Flake, a spokesman for the Army Reserve, said in a statement.

Fort was a radio and communications security repair assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2-319th Cadet Summer Training Battalion in Salem, Va., according to Flake. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal and the Army Service Ribbon.

Fort was also a pastor, a husband and a father of five children, according to a GoFundMe page for his funeral.

Fort's death was not announced by the Pentagon, just noted as an increase in the column of total military deaths in the Defense Department's coronavirus case chart, which is updated every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The death is the first reported since another Army reservist died in May. The other two

military deaths were a National Guard member from Pennsylvania and a sailor who was aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt during the aircraft carrier's coronavirus outbreak.

Army Capt. Douglas Linn Hickok, 57, of the New Jersey National Guard was the first service member to die of the virus. He was preparing to activate in response to the pandemic at the time of his death on March 28.

Charles Robert Thacker Jr., 41, a chief petty officer from the Roosevelt, died April 13 after being found unresponsive while in quarantine on Guam.

Army Sgt. Simon Zamudio, a 34-year-old reservist from Illinois, died May 22, becoming the third service member to die of the coronavirus.

As of Monday, the military has had 28,769 cases of the coronavirus and 495 have been hospitalized. Of the service branches, the Army has had the highest number of coronavirus cases at 9,697, followed by the Navy with 6,888 cases. In the early months of the pandemic, the Navy led the services in number of cases, in part due to the outbreaks aboard the Roosevelt and the USS Kidd.

The number of Air Force cases have grown to 4,595 as of Monday. The National Guard, which continues to assist throughout the



Facebook

**Spc. Curtis Fort, 61, of Roanoke, Va., died July 30 from complications related to the coronavirus. He is the fourth service member to die from the virus.**

country in response to the pandemic, has 3,857 cases, and the Marine Corps has 3,445 cases.

As of Wednesday, the United States has 4.7 million cases of the coronavirus, the highest number in the world, according to Johns Hopkins University. More than 156,000 people have died from the virus in the U.S., which also is the most worldwide.

The rate of positive coronavirus cases in the military is slightly lower than the American average in all age groups except for troops between the ages of 18 and 24, Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, the Joint Staff surgeon, said last week.

Kenney.Catlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @catlinmkenney

## 14 new cases brings Guam total to 381

Stars and Stripes

Coronavirus continues to spread on Guam with another 14 infections reported Wednesday.

The Guam governor's office confirmed the new patients in a statement listing 65 active cases on the island.

Of the 14 newly confirmed cases, two had recently traveled to the continental United States, the statement said. "One case was identified in a quarantine facility. The remaining cases are currently under investigation."

One of the positives was confirmed by the laboratory at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, according to a chart with the statement, but it is unknown if that patient is a service member.

Guam has had 381 confirmed coronavirus cases and eight probable ones, with five deaths and 319 people released from isolation. The cases included 49 service members, according to Wednesday's statement.

The aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt diverted to Guam on March 26 and spent two months there after several of its sailors became ill with the virus. By the time the vessel left in early June, more than 1,150 of the crew had tested positive, one of whom died, according to the Navy.

news@stripes.com



# VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

## School districts seek best route to use buses in reopening

Associated Press

HARRISBURG — School districts nationwide are puzzling over how to safely educate children during a pandemic have a more immediate challenge — getting 26 million bus-riding students there in the first place.

Few challenges are proving to be more daunting than figuring out how to maintain social distance on school buses. A wide array of strategies have emerged to reduce the health risks, but nobody has found a silver bullet.

Should students with COVID-19 symptoms be isolated at the front of the school bus? Should bus seats be assigned? Should buses be loaded from the back? Should buses only carry a few students at a time?

Many schools have been surveying parents to determine how many students will take the bus and how many will be privately driven to school. Others are making decisions about bus capacity that involve a trade-off between safety and affordability.

### Arizona

PHOENIX — A judge has ruled that Gov. Doug Ducey's closure of gyms across Arizona in response to the pandemic violates the due process rights of health clubs, and he set an Aug. 11 deadline for the governor to set up a system for giving fitness businesses a chance to apply to reopen.

Judge Timothy Thomason wrote in the ruling Tuesday that health clubs which have been shut down for more than a month might not be able to survive, yet they were denied due process because they couldn't apply to reopen until Ducey ended the shutdown.

Tom Hatten, chief executive of Mountaintop Fitness, one of the two health club chains that challenged the order in the case, said he plans to reopen his clubs on Aug. 11. The judge said a health club would be allowed to reopen once it attests to the state that it is following COVID-19 prevention guidelines, though the state could still deny individual reopening applications as long as it's providing due process.

The ruling represents a turnaround for the fitness chains,

which had lost an earlier legal battle in the case. Nearly a month ago, Thomason rejected a request by the clubs to stop enforcement of Ducey's shutdown, ruling that elected officials must be given wide latitude in making decisions in emergency situations.

In the latest ruling, the judge noted that the governor has a rational basis for concluding health clubs should be shut down for a period, but he also noted that Ducey provided little evidence to show health clubs that follow the rules pose significant dangers to the public.

### Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson on Tuesday said scammers fraudulently filed on his behalf for unemployment assistance intended for people affected by the coronavirus pandemic, as officials said thousands of claims have been frozen over potential fraud concerns.

Hutchinson said he received a notice over the weekend that he had been approved for unemployment assistance intended for independent contractors, gig workers and the self-employed. Hutchinson said he never applied for the assistance.

"It can happen to anyone," Hutchinson said. The Republican governor said that the FBI is investigating a scheme which includes other fraudulent applications.

State Commerce Secretary Mike Preston said 27,000 Pandemic Unemployment Assistance claims and another 10,000 unemployment claims have been frozen after they were flagged for potential fraud. Preston said several other Cabinet secretaries had received similar notices to Hutchinson's.

Preston said people whose claims have been frozen because of fraud concerns will receive letters detailing how they can verify their identity and allow their claims to move forward. The state is setting up "verification stations" around the state, he said.

### Georgia

ATLANTA — Two subur-



ROCK BOWMAN/AP

Taylor Lopez, holding sign, a junior at Clearfield High School, protests with others in front of the Davis School District Office on Tuesday in Farmington, Utah.

ban Atlanta school districts that began in-person classes Monday with mask-optional policies face more questions about COVID-19 safety protocols after on-campus pictures showed students packed shoulder-to-shoulder.

In Cherokee County, dozens of seniors gathered at two of the district's six high schools to take traditional first-day-of-school senior photos, with students squeezing together in black outfits. No one in pictures at Sequoyah High School in Hickory Flat or Etowah High School in Woodstock wore a mask.

In Paulding County, student pictures taken Monday and Tuesday show crowded hallways at North Paulding High School in Dallas. Fewer than half of the students shown are wearing masks.

Critics widely derided the pictures on social media, although some residents of the counties voiced support.

Georgia's largest school district, Gwinnett County, said Tuesday it hopes to make a phased return to face-to-face instruction after an all-remote start to classes. All students seeking in-person classes could be welcome by Sept. 8, in what Superintendent Alvin

Wilbanks wrote is a "best case" scenario.

### Tennessee

NASHVILLE — Tennessee voters can begin requesting absentee ballots for the November election.

In June, a judge ordered that all eligible Tennessee voters would have the option to vote by mail during the coronavirus pandemic. The ruling remains effective, but that could change.

The state appealed the expansion and the Tennessee Supreme Court is deciding whether to keep the wide eligibility. Currently, first-time voters still need to vote in person or show ID at the local election office to vote absentee.

The state usually requires absentee excuses, from being 60 or older to being sick, and planned to allow COVID-19 reasons like testing positive, exposure requiring quarantine, caretaking for someone exposed and underlying health conditions in the household. Fear of the virus would not be a valid excuse if the expansion is overturned.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is Oct. 27. The registration deadline is Oct. 5. In-

person early voting begins Oct. 14.

### Texas

AUSTIN — Texas health officials reported almost 9,200 confirmed new coronavirus cases Tuesday as a convention center in the hard-hit Rio Grande Valley opened as a makeshift hospital for COVID-19 patients.

The Department of State Health Services on Tuesday reported 245 confirmed new deaths from the virus that has taken a particularly grim toll along the Texas border. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said the McAllen Convention Center will be able to treat as many 250 patients to ease the strain on local hospitals.

The total number of cases reported since the outbreak began in March has topped 451,000, with the death toll approaching 7,300, state officials said. Almost 138,000 cases remain active, with almost 8,700 cases requiring hospitalization, down from just over 8,800 on Monday. The testing positivity rate has climbed to 13.88% as of Monday, the most recent figure available.

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# VIRUS OUTBREAK

# ‘Too many are selfish’: US nears 5M cases

Associated Press

BOSTON — Fourth of July gatherings, graduation parties, no-mask weddings, crowded bars — there are reasons the United States has racked up more than 155,000 coronavirus deaths, by far the most of any country, and is fast approaching an off-the-charts 5 million confirmed infections, easily the highest in the world.

Many Americans have resisted wearing masks and social distancing, calling such precautions an overreaction or an infringement on their liberty. Public health experts have said the problem has been compounded by confusing and inconsistent guidance from politicians and a patchwork quilt of approaches to containing the scourge by country, state and federal governments.

“The thing that’s maddening is country after country and state after state have shown us how we can contain the virus,” said Dr. Jonathan Quick of the Duke Global Health Institute. “It’s not like we don’t know what works. We do.”

Confirmed infections in the U.S. have topped 4.7 million, with new cases running at more than 60,000 a day. While that’s down from a peak of well over 70,000 in the second half of July, cases are on the rise in 26 states, many in the South and West, and deaths are climbing in 35 states.

On average, the number of COVID-19 deaths per day in the U.S. over the past two weeks has gone from about 780 to 1,056, according to an Associated Press analysis.

In Massachusetts, health officials are investigating at least a half-dozen new clusters of cases connected to such events as a life-guard party, a high school graduation party, a prom party, an unsanctioned football camp and a packed harbor cruise trip.

One recent house party on Cape Cod attended by as many as 60 people led to more than a dozen new cases and prompted some restaurants to close or limit service at the height of tourist



People wearing face masks pass by newlyweds kissing as they pose for wedding photos at the Olympic Forest Park in Beijing on Thursday, July 2.

ANDY WONG/AP

season.

Hot spots around the U.S. are popping up in what once seemed like ideal places to ride out the outbreak: rural, less populated and with lots of outdoor space. In South Dakota, a spike erupted at a Christian youth summer camp in the Black Hills, with cases growing to 96 among 328 people who attended.

“We’re at a point where there’s enough spread of COVID-19 that people throughout the U.S. are at an increased likelihood of encountering the virus and getting exposed,” University of Florida epidemiologist Dr. Cindy Prins said.

She added: “This is a behavioral disease right now for a lot of people.” Prevention means “changing our behavior, and it’s so hard for humans to do. We’re social creatures.”

In Mississippi, Republican Gov. Tate Reeves grudgingly reversed course and announced a statewide order requiring the wearing of masks because of a resurgence of the virus. He also delayed the start of the school year for upper grades in eight hard-hit counties.

“Wearing a mask — as irritating as it can be, and I promise you

I hate it more than anyone watching today — is critical,” he said.

In Virginia, cases have surged so much in cities like Norfolk and Virginia Beach that Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam placed limits there last week on alcohol sales and gatherings of more than 50 people. Northam, the nation’s only governor who is a doctor, cited rising infections among young people and said the problem is that “too many people are selfish.

“We all know that alcohol changes your judgment,” he said. “You just don’t care as much about social distancing after you’ve had a couple of drinks.”

Dr. Demetria Lindsay, the Virginia Department of Health’s district director for Virginia Beach and Norfolk, said there has been a pronounced spike among people ages 20 to 29. She said the factors behind the surge include gatherings of people not wearing masks or maintaining a safe distance.

“Father’s Day, Memorial Day, graduations, birthdays, backyard barbecues, you name it,” Lindsay said.

In Brandon, S.D., thousands of car racing fans packed the 9,000-seat Huset’s Speedway over the

weekend. Many did not cover their faces or stay away from others.

“We’re kind of over this whole COVID thing. I won’t wear a mask unless I absolutely have to,” 21-year-old Veronica Fritz said. She added: “I am a very strong Christian and I know where I’m going, and I believe God will take me when I’m supposed to go. So if I get COVID and I die from COVID, it’s not my decision.”

Research has shown that people can spread the virus before they feel sick. Masks lower the likelihood of their respiratory droplets reaching other people.

Josie Machovec, a mother of three who is suing over a mask ordinance in Palm Beach County, Fla., said that she doesn’t believe the government has the right to require people to wear medical devices, and that she hasn’t seen clear evidence that masks stop transmission of the virus.

“I’m someone who has looked into this extensively and don’t feel that it’s the right thing for me and my kids. If we are healthy, we don’t need to be wearing them,” she said, “and if we’re not healthy, if we’re sick, then we stay home.” In Minnesota, a group of voters

sued Gov. Tim Walz and other officials on Tuesday to try to block a requirement that voters wear face masks at polling places.

Nearly a quarter of Wisconsin’s more than 55,000 cases had been confirmed over the past 14 days. Much of the spike has occurred in the state’s densely urban southeast corner, but the disease has also spread with amazing speed in rural and sparsely populated northern Wisconsin.

Despite the trend, health industry software provider Epic Systems is requiring its 9,000-plus employees to return to work in person at its sprawling campus outside of Madison by Sept. 21. Workers decried the order, but company CEO Judy Faulkner defended the decision, saying better work is done on campus than from home.

Zona Wick, a spokeswoman and contact tracer for the health department in Wisconsin’s Iron County, attributed the dramatic rise in cases to July Fourth gatherings, birthday and graduation parties, out-of-county visitors and people crowding into bars.

“The Fourth of July was tough on us,” Wick said. “People had a bit of quarantine fatigue, is what I’m calling it. People got a bit tired of staying in. People just got together like they have for years on the Fourth of July and spread it to one another.”

The wedding industry likewise is seeing no-mask receptions with busy dance floors and no social distancing.

Wedding planner Lynne Goldberg has a December wedding scheduled for 200 guests at the home of the bride’s parents in upstate New York.

“They have emphatically shared that this pandemic is not going to get in the way of their wedding plans and that there will be no masks handed out and no signs promoting social distancing at their wedding,” she said. “The bride has said she’ll wear a mask when she shows her children her wedding video, she doesn’t want it to be a documentary of the 2020 pandemic.”

# Progress slows as urgency grows on relief legislation

By ANDREW TAYLOR

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Frustrated Senate Republicans re-upped their complaints that Democratic negotiators are taking too hard a line in talks on a sweeping coronavirus relief bill. But an afternoon negotiating session brought at least modest concessions from both sides, even as an agreement appears far off.

Top Democrats emerged from a 90-minute meeting Tuesday with Trump administration officials to declare more progress. The Trump team agreed with its assessment and highlighted its offer to extend a moratorium

on evictions from federally subsidized housing through the end of the year.

“We really went down, issue by issue with slugging through this. They made some concessions which we appreciated. We made some concessions that they appreciated,” said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. “We’re still far away on a lot of the important issues, but we’re continuing to go back.”

White House chief of staff Mark Meadows said Tuesday’s session was “probably the most productive meeting we’ve had to date.” Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said the two sides set a

goal of reaching an agreement by the end of the week to permit a vote next week.

“I would characterize concessions made by Secretary Mnuchin and the administration as being far more substantial than the concessions that had been made by the Democrat negotiators,” Meadows said.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., issued a pointed reminder that she and Schumer are “legislators with long experience” and a track record of working complicated deals — a rejoinder to critics complaining that they are being too tough and that the talks are taking too long.

“We agree that we want to have an agreement,” Pelosi said. “Let’s engineer back from there as to what we have to do to get that done.”

Another glimmer of hope emerged as a key Senate Republican hinted that the party may yield to Democrats on an increase in the food stamp benefit as part of the huge rescue measure, which promises to far exceed a \$1 trillion target set by the GOP.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chair Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said Tuesday that “you can make an argument that we need some kind of an increase” in food stamps and that he’s raised the topic with

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. He added that an agreement on the issue could lead to further overall progress on the legislation, which remains stalled despite days of Capitol negotiations. “They are taking a look at it, and I think we can get a positive result,” Roberts told The Associated Press. “If we can get a breakthrough on that, it could lead to some other stuff.”

The food stamp issue — left out of earlier relief bills — is a top priority for Pelosi, among other powerful Democrats, who have passed a 15% increase in the food stamp benefit as part of their \$3.5 trillion coronavirus relief bill.

NATION

# At least 7 killed as Isaias batters East Coast swath

BY BRYAN ANDERSON AND SARAH BLAKE MORGAN  
Associated Press

WINDSOR, N.C. — At least seven people were killed as Tropical Storm Isaias battered the U.S. East Coast with rain and fierce winds after making landfall as a hurricane in North Carolina. Millions of people were without power on Wednesday after felled trees downed power lines.

The sound of generators and chainsaws punctuated the sunrise in New Jersey, where more than 1 million homes and businesses were without electricity. NJ Transit train service remained suspended while crews cleared about 150 trees and repair signals and overhead wires.

Regional rail service was also suspended in Philadelphia after Isaias raised the Schuylkill River and sent an unsecured construction barge into a bridge. Inspectors were checking for damage. Interstate 676, which crosses the bridge, was also closed in both directions.

Patrick Foye, chairman of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority, said more than 2,000 trees fell across the system's train and bus network. "This storm caused severe damage," Foye said Wednesday. "Not since Superstorm Sandy has our system experienced this type of wind."

Two people died when Isaias spun off a tornado that struck a North Carolina mobile home park. Another person died in Pennsylvania when their vehicle was overtaken by water and swept downstream. Three others were killed by falling trees toppled by the storm in Maryland, Con-

necticut and New York City, and a seventh person died in Delaware when a tree branch fell on them, authorities said.

Isaias sustained top winds of up to 65 mph more than 18 hours after coming ashore, but it was down to 45 mph max winds as of late Tuesday, according to the National Hurricane Center.

Isaias toggled between hurricane and tropical storm strength as it churned toward the East Coast. Fueled by warm ocean waters, the storm got a late burst of strength as a rejuvenated hurricane with top sustained winds of 85 mph before coming ashore late Monday near Ocean Isle Beach, N.C. Its tropical storm status was sustained, but weakened, as it headed north into Canada on Tuesday night.

Before making landfall late Monday, Isaias killed two people



JULIA WALL, THE (RALEIGH, N.C.) NEWS & OBSERVER/AP

Relatives of a woman who was injured when a suspected tornado ripped through the area southeast of Windsor, N.C., during Tropical Storm Isaias sort through the rubble Tuesday.

in the Caribbean and battered the Bahamas before brushing past Florida.

Tornadoes were confirmed by the National Weather Service in Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and New Jersey. Power outages also spread as trees fell, with more than 3.7 million customers losing electricity across multiple states as of late Tuesday, accord-

ing to PowerOutage.US, which tracks utility reports. New York City's power utility said it saw more outages from Isaias than from any storm except Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

In Doylestown, Pa., officials said four children were treated for minor injuries after high winds partially tore the roof off a day care center. Also in the Phila-

delphia suburbs, rescue workers in Delaware County were searching for a young person who fell or jumped into the fast-moving water of a swollen creek, said Timothy Boyce, the county emergency services director.

Some of the worst damage seemed to be east and north of where the hurricane's eye struck land in North Carolina.



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Philadelphia firefighters walk through a flooded neighborhood after Isaias moved through on Tuesday.



DAVID MAIALLETI, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

A tornado tore through Marmor, N.J., causing damage to Glory Road Memorials, on Tuesday.

# Protest leader Bush ousts 20-year Rep. Clay in Mo.

Associated Press

Cori Bush, a sometime homeless woman who led protests following a white police officer's fatal shooting of a Black 18-year-old in Ferguson, ousted longtime Rep. William Lacy Clay on Tuesday in Missouri's Democratic primary, ending a political dynasty that has spanned more than a half-century.

Bush's victory came in a rematch of 2018, when she failed to capitalize on a national Democratic wave that favored political newcomers such as Bush's friend, New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

During this time around, Bush's supporters said protests over the death of George Floyd in police



Bush

custody in Minneapolis and outrage over racial injustice finally pushed her over the top.

An emotional Bush, speaking to supporters while wearing a mask, said few people expected her to win.

"They counted us out," she said. "They called me — I'm just the protester, I'm just the activist with no name, no title and no real money. That's all they said that I was. But St. Louis showed up today."

Bush's campaign spokeswoman, Keenan Korth, said voters in the district were "galvanized."

"They're ready to turn the page on decades of failed leadership," Korth said.

Bush, 44, also had backing from political action committee Justice Democrats and Fight Corporate Monopolies this election. She campaigned for Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders during his presidential bid.

Bush's primary win essentially guarantees her a seat in Congress representing the heavily Democratic St. Louis area. Missouri's 1st Congressional District has been represented by Clay or his father for a half-century. Bill Clay served 32 years before retiring in 2000. William Lacy Clay, 64, was

elected that year.

Clay didn't face a serious challenger until Bush. This year, he ran on his decades-long record in Congress.

"This election is a simple choice," Clay said in a Monday statement. "Cori Bush's Empty Rhetoric, or my record of real results and real reforms for the people."

Both Clay and Bush are Black, and Black residents slightly outnumber whites in the district that includes St. Louis and north St. Louis County.

Bush became ill while pregnant with her second child in 2001 and had to quit her job at a preschool. When she and her then-husband were evicted from a rental home, the couple, their newborn and 14-

month-old son lived out of a Ford Explorer for several months.

Eventually, the couple divorced. Bush earned a nursing degree. She also became a pastor.

Michael Brown's death in 2014 in Ferguson vaulted her into another role: activist. She became a leader of some of the many protests that followed the fatal police shooting of the Black, unarmed 18-year-old. She was back on the streets in 2017 after a white St. Louis officer was acquitted in the shooting death of a Black suspect.

She continues to lead protests. "She's being buoyed by this movement, and the movement's origin is in Ferguson," Justice Democrats' spokesman Waleed Shahid said.

NATION

# Portland federal agents won't wear camo

By STEVE BEYNON  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Agents assigned to protect federal buildings in Portland, Ore., during ongoing protests will stop wearing camouflage uniforms in response to criticism that the officers look too much like troops, a top official for the Department of Homeland Security told senators.

“We are moving rapidly to replace those uniforms for those personnel,” Acting Deputy Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli told the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday.

Cuccinelli said the agents will remain largely unidentified, however, despite some lawmakers blasting the move, calling Homeland Security personnel a “secret police.”

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said during the hearing that President Donald Trump deployed “heavily armed secret police snatching Portlanders off the streets.” He said that Trump did so “to create images of chaos for his own political gain — to air in campaign ads.”

Protests have roiled Portland since the death of George Floyd at the hands of a Minneapolis police officer in May. Demonstrations swelled after clashes between protesters and federal law enforcement. Protesters targeted the federal courthouse, vandalizing the area, throwing objects and setting fires in the streets.

Police have been criticized for using aggressive tactics on protesters not engaging in violent or destructive acts, sometimes attacking journalists with tear gas and rubber bullets. Two weeks ago, an unarmed Navy veteran was beaten with a baton and doused with pepper spray.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown had demanded federal agents withdraw from Portland, calling them an “occupying force” who “refused accountability and brought violence.” She announced last



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Federal agents use crowd control munitions to disperse Black Lives Matter demonstrators during a protest at the Mark O. Hatfield United States Courthouse in Portland, Ore., on July 24.

week that some federal agents began leaving the city.

Cuccinelli said that the lack of identification on uniforms protected officers and their families from being targeted and harassed. He also said the use of unmarked vehicles is a common law enforcement tactic to “avoid unnecessary, potential attacks by lawless criminals, such as the ones assaulting our officers in Portland on a nightly basis.”

“Violent extremists across the country have intentionally attacked marked police vehicles

and attempted to set them on fire — including with officers inside — which creates significant danger for the public and our officers,” Cuccinelli said.

Officers using uniforms virtually identical to the Army has raised eyebrows at the Pentagon. Defense Secretary Mark Esper said last month that he was worried federal agents could be confused with military personnel.

“There are some law enforcement that wear uniforms that make them appear military in appearance. The secretary has ex-

pressed a concern of this within the administration that we want a system where people can tell the difference,” chief Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said last month. “I know [Esper] has expressed his concern that in some cases, law enforcement, appropriately performing law enforcement duties, were misconstrued with military personnel who would not be appropriately doing those roles.”

beynon.steven@stripes.com  
Twitter: @StevenBeynon

## Biden won't travel to receive nomination

Joe Biden will not travel to Milwaukee to accept the Democratic presidential nomination because of concerns over the coronavirus, party officials said Wednesday, signaling a move to a convention that essentially has become entirely virtual.

Neither the Biden campaign nor Democratic National Convention officials offered details about how Biden might accept the nomination, which even in the pandemic could be a made-for-screen event that reaches tens of millions of voters.

A DNC official said all speakers and presenters for the Aug. 17-24 convention are now expected to speak from remote locations.

Biden and Democrats for months have moved toward a virtual convention, first by delaying the convention from its original mid-July date to the week before Republicans' scheduled convention.

## Trump may give RNC speech at White House

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump said Wednesday that he's considering delivering his Republican convention acceptance speech from the White House after his initial plans to hold the event in two different battleground states were foiled by coronavirus concerns and health restrictions.

The move would mark an unprecedented use of public property for partisan and political purposes.

Trump said holding the speech at the White House would be the “easiest from the standpoint of security” and the least expensive option because he — and the many staffers who accompany him — wouldn't have to travel.

Trump said that a final decision on the speech location hadn't been made, but he seemed to be leaning toward a White House setting for what traditionally is the highlight of a national political convention.

The Associated Press

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WORLD

# Beirut port officials facing house arrest after explosion

## Massive blast killed more than 100, injured thousands

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Investigators began searching the wreckage of Beirut's port Wednesday for clues to the cause of the massive explosion that ripped across the Lebanese capital, and the government ordered port officials put under house arrest amid speculation that negligence was to blame.

The investigation is focusing on how 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive chemical used in fertilizers, came to be stored at the facility for six years, and why nothing was done about it.

International aid flights began to arrive, as Lebanon's leaders struggled to deal with the aftermath of Tuesday's blast, crippled by an economic crisis and facing a public where many already blame chronic mismanagement and corruption among the ruling elite for the disaster.

The explosion at the port killed

at least 135 people and wounded about 5,000. Hospitals were overwhelmed — one that was damaged in the blast had to evacuate all its patients to a nearby field for treatment. Buildings were damaged for miles around the city, and Beirut's governor said Wednesday that hundreds of thousands might not be able to return to their homes for two or three months.

Fueling speculation that negligence was to blame for the accident, an official letter surfaced online showing that the head of the customs department had warned repeatedly over the years that a huge stockpile of ammonium nitrate stored in a hangar in the port was a danger and asked for a way to remove it.

Ammonium nitrate is a component of fertilizer that is potentially explosive. The 2,750-ton cargo had been stored at the port since it was confiscated from a

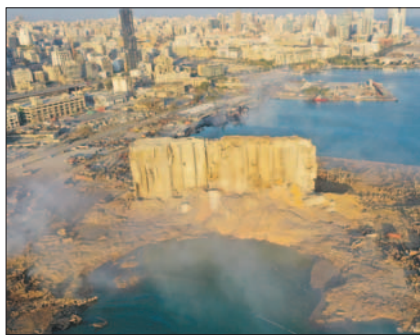
ship in 2013, and on Tuesday it is believed to have detonated after a fire broke out nearby.

The resulting explosion — hitting with the force of a 3.5-magnitude earthquake — was the biggest ever seen in Beirut, a city blasted by a 1975-90 civil war, bombarded by conflicts with Israel and hit by periodic terror attacks.

The 2017 letter from the custom's chief to a judge could not be immediately confirmed. If authentic, it could deepen the belief already expressed by some Lebanese that widespread mismanagement, negligence and corruption among the country's ruling class is to blame for the explosion.

President Michael Aoun vowed before a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday that the investigation would be transparent and that those responsible will be punished.

After the meeting, the Cabinet



HUSSEIN MALLA/AP

A drone picture shows the scene of an explosion that hit the seaport of Beirut, Lebanon, on Wednesday.

ordered an unspecified number of Beirut port officials put under house arrest pending an investigation into how the ammonium nitrate came to be stored at the port for years. The government also declared a two-week state of emergency, effectively giving the military full powers.

State prosecutor Ghassan Oueidat ordered security agencies to start an immediate investigation and collect all reports and letters related to the materials stored at

the port, as well as lists of people in charge of maintenance, storage and protection of the hangar.

In the letter, the customs chief warned of the "dangers if the materials remain where they are regarding the safety of (port) employees" and asked the judge for guidance on what to do with it. He said five similar letters were sent in 2014, 2015 and 2016. The letter proposed the material be exported or sold to a Lebanese explosives company.

# SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Crews rescue ostrich that fell into ravine

**IL** O'FALLON — An ostrich that escaped from a southwestern Illinois farm was rescued after the 300-pound bird fell into a ravine and was injured, fire officials said.

A veterinarian tranquilized the ostrich before four members of a fire rescue crew entered the ravine near O'Fallon and strapped the bird to a board before it was moved using a pulley system.

O'Fallon Fire Chief Brad White said the ostrich had fallen about 15 feet into the ravine and suffered a long neck laceration that caused it to lose "a good amount" of blood.

After its rescue, the ostrich was treated by the veterinarian and returned to its owners at a nearby farm, White told the Belleville News-Democrat.

## Event to give women free firearms training

**MI** TAYLOR — Free gun lessons are being offered in the Detroit area to 1,500 women interested in learning about firearms and personal protection.

Gun advocacy group Legally Armed in Detroit has scheduled its annual firearms training event on Aug. 15-16.

Sessions include a firearms safety briefing, use of a firearm, ammunition and gun range time.

No previous firearms training or experience is required.

Firearms trainer Rick Ector said 50 women received training during the first free event nine years ago. More than 800 women took part last year.

## Officials seek public's help in antelope deaths

**WY** GILLETTE — Game wardens want to find out who killed seven antelope in northeastern Wyoming.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department game wardens Levi Wood and Jacob Miller found the six adult and one fawn antelope shot July 22. The animals were near a road between the North Antelope Rochelle and Black Thunder coal mines in southern Campbell County.

They suspect the animals were killed a couple days earlier, the Gillette News Record reported.

"To solve poaching cases like these, we really rely on the help of the public and someone's willingness to come forward with information," Wood said.

## Man arrested for shining laser pointer at aircraft

**MD** TOWSON — Police in Maryland said they arrested a man who shined a laser pointer at one of their helicopters.

The alleged incident happened last month in Essex as officers were flying the helicopter during an unrelated investigation, Baltimore County police said in a news release.

Police said Brandon Dunevant, 31, stood on a road and shined a



ANDRE TEAGUE, BRISTOL (TENN.) HERALD COURIER/AP

## Time for a touch-up

Working from a lift, artist Tim White repaints his Birthplace of Country Music mural in downtown Bristol, Tenn. The mural, which depicts Bristol musical history, was originally painted by White in 1986. The restoration is expected to take about a month to complete.

laser pointer through the cockpit. He has been charged with pointing a laser pointer at an aircraft, the release said.

Dunevant could face up to three years in jail for the charge.

## Police: Woman pepper sprays eatery workers

**MO** AFFTON — Police said a 27-year-old St. Louis woman pepper sprayed employees at a pizza place after she was asked to leave because she wasn't wearing a mask.

St. Louis County police responded to a call at Incredible Pizza Company, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Police said customers were asked to leave because they weren't wearing masks, then a woman used pepper spray on employees.

The woman was issued a summons for assault.

## Lights likely misled newly hatched turtles

**SC** EDISTO BEACH — Dozens of newly hatched sea turtles were recently found dead by a gas station at Edisto Beach, likely because white lights by the beach led the turtles toward land instead of the ocean, according to a conservationist

## THE CENSUS

### 4K

The approximate number of laptops missing in one South Carolina school district. Greenville County's public school district has been trying to recover the Chromebooks, valued at almost \$1.2 million, since June. Initially 4,992 machines were missing, Greenville County Schools spokesman Tim Waller said. Recovery efforts

turned up another 800 and families reported that 208 were lost or stolen, he said. The only way an insurance claim will be honored is if the machines have been reported as lost or stolen to local law enforcement, Waller said. Parents and guardians of children who failed to give their laptops back at the end of the school year were contacted by phone, email and with visits to their homes, he said.

with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

Sea turtles can mistake the light for the horizon and head toward the road instead of the ocean after hatching, Marine Turtle Conservation Coordinator Michelle Pate told WCSC-TV.

Pate recommended homeowners and beachgoers to leave lights off on the beach at night.

Officials are tracking 5,200 nests along the state's coast.

## Passenger refuses to don mask, delays flight

**VA** RICHMOND — American Airlines said a flight out of Virginia was delayed after a passenger refused to comply with its policy requiring a face mask.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported that the incident occurred at Richmond Interna-

tional Airport.

The airline said the plane returned to the gate. And the passenger ultimately exited the plane. The flight then departed for North Carolina's Charlotte Douglas International Airport without further issues.

American has required passengers to wear face coverings since May 11. Passengers who don't comply are denied boarding.

## 4 bears hit by vehicles in Yosemite park

**CA** YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK — Officials are urging drivers to slow down after four bears were struck by vehicles and two were killed in Yosemite National Park in recent weeks, according to a newspaper report.

The surviving bears were be-

lieved to be seriously injured after being hit by vehicles going faster than the 25 mph speed limit, the Fresno Bee reported.

The National Park Service estimates over 400 bears have been hit by cars in Yosemite dating back to 1995, the newspaper said. Wildlife protection zones were established for motorists to slow down and help protect animals.

## Variety of fish in city's waters increases

**IL** CHICAGO — The variety of fish swimming in Chicago's rivers has increased in recent decades, which authorities attribute to a decline in pollution, according to a sampling study released by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

The report claims there are nearly 60 different types of fish swimming in the Chicago and Calumet rivers. There were fewer than 10 types of fish in the waterways in the 1980s, according to the Chicago Tribune. Carp is the most frequently found species in the rivers. Among other species netted by district biologists were bluegill, catfish, largemouth bass and yellow perch. Those fish are less tolerant of pollution than carp.

From wire reports

FACES



DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC./AP

“Mulan,” which stars Yifei Liu, is no longer headed for a major theatrical release. The film will debut on the subscription service Disney+, on Sept. 4, for an additional \$29.99.

# ‘Mulan’ coming, for a price

Live-action blockbuster to stream on Disney+ for \$29.99

By LINDSEY BAHR  
Associated Press

“Mulan” is no longer headed for a major theatrical release. The Walt Disney Co. said Tuesday that it will debut its live-action blockbuster on its subscription streaming service, Disney+, on Sept. 4.

But this is no “Hamilton”: Customers will have to pay an additional \$29.99 on top of the cost of the monthly subscription to rent “Mulan.” The company plans to release it in theaters where Disney+ is not available.

“In order to meet the needs of consumers during this unpredictable period, we thought it

was important to find alternative ways to bring this exceptional family-friendly film to them in a timely manner,” Disney CEO Bob Chapek said.

The live-action remake of the animated film was one of the first major films to be affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Originally set for a March 27 release, “Mulan” moved to late July, then late August and was then pulled from the calendar entirely as COVID-19 cases spiked throughout the U.S.

Along with Warner Bros.’ “Tenet,” “Mulan” was going to be one of the first major movies to open in theaters since the shutdown. Exhibitors, most of

which have been closed for more than four months, have been desperate for new films to draw audiences back to theaters.

But while Warner Bros. is moving forward with a theatrical release plan, which involves opening “Tenet” internationally first and then in select U.S. theaters a week later, on Sept. 3, Disney decided to direct consumers to its streaming service.

It is not unprecedented for a major studio to offer a premium video on demand release during the pandemic. Universal Pictures debuted “Trolls World Tour” on streaming in April while most theaters were shuttered.

# Chance the Rapper teaching daughter that ‘Black power is her superpower’

By LAURA ZORNOSA  
Los Angeles Times

Long before he won three Grammys and acclaim for the mixtapes “Coloring Book” and “Acid Rap,” Chance the Rapper was rapping about parenthood and racially motivated violence. Now the artist has two children of his own — Kensli, 5, and Marli, who turns 1 in September — and he recently talked to Parents magazine about what it means to be a dad right now.

“My kids are young,” he said. “Mainly, we’ve been teaching Kensli to love herself, to understand that her opinion is important, to understand that Black is beautiful and that Black power is her superpower. Marli, I’ve just been trying to teach her how to walk.”

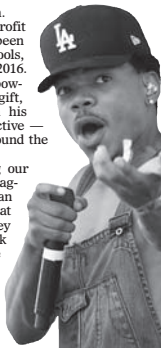
The Chicago MC has long been invested in social change. After the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police in May, Chance helped or-

ganize a protest in his hometown.

Perhaps most notably, his nonprofit organization, SocialWorks, has been supporting Chicago Public Schools, the city’s school district, since 2016. Chance founded the youth-empowerment group with a \$1 million gift, and now education weighs on his mind from a parenting perspective — especially as a debate rages around the reopening of schools.

“If we thought that teaching our kids how to read was hard, imagine teaching them that there’s an entire system of oppression that our society is built on, that they can either be complicit in or work to change,” he said. “I think we have a pretty crazy opportunity right now to change the trajectory of humanity.”

Chance the Rapper  
World



# Chip, Joanna Gaines resume ‘Fixer Upper’

From wire reports

Chip and Joanna Gaines are returning to “Fixer Upper” as they build their new network.

The series, which made the couple do-it-yourself celebrities, will be part of their Magnolia Network set to launch next year. The series aired for five seasons, until April 2018, on HGTV.

“These past few years, we’ve continued tackling renovations and projects, doing the work we’re passionate about, but I don’t think either of us anticipated how the show would become such a permanent fixture in our hearts,” they said in a statement.

Two others shows were announced Tuesday for the Magnolia lineup. One showcases interior designer Brian Patrick Flynn, and the other features Texas entrepreneur Jonathan Morris telling the stories of “inspiring” small business owners nationwide, the network said.

## Danza, Milano in reboot of ‘Who’s the Boss?’

A brand new life is ahead for the vintage sitcom “Who’s the Boss?” and its devoted fans.

Tony Danza and Alyssa Milano are set to reprise their father-daughter roles for a sequel that’s in the works at Sony Pictures Television, the studio said Tuesday.

The original series created by Martin Cohan and Blake Hunter ran from 1984 to 1992 and was a hit for ABC, if not a critical darling. A total of 196 episodes aired over its eight seasons.

The modern-day reboot revolves around Danza’s Tony Mirelli, a former ballplayer and now retired housekeeper, and Milano’s Samantha. The daughter lives in the home where the original series was set and is a single mother, Sony said.

Veteran producer Norman Lear is among the “Who’s the Boss?” producers, as are Danza and Milano.

The new comedy “will explore generational differences, as well as opposing world views and parenting styles within the dynamic of a modern family in 2020,” Sony said in a statement.

## Neil Young sues Trump campaign over tune use

Neil Young sued President Donald Trump’s reelection campaign Tuesday for copyright infringement, saying he doesn’t want his music used as a theme song for a “divisive un-American campaign of ignorance and hate.”

The Grammy-award winning Canadian-born musician filed the lawsuit through his lawyers in Manhattan federal court, seeking up to \$150,000 in statutory damages for each infringement.

The legendary singer cited repeated use of two songs: “Rockin’ in the Free

World” and “Devil’s Sidewalk.”

The campaign has used the tunes numerous times at rallies and political events, including on June 20 in Tulsa, Okla., the lawsuit said.

Young said he was not suing to “disrespect the rights and opinions of American citizens, who are free to support the candidate of their choosing,” the lawsuit said. “However,” it added, “Plaintiff in good conscience cannot allow his music to be used as a ‘theme song’ for a divisive, un-American campaign of ignorance and hate.”

## BTS to perform at VMAs for first time

The Korean pop sensation BTS will perform at the MTV Video Music Awards for the first time on Aug. 30 when the annual awards show hits the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, organizers announced Tuesday.

The seven-member group from Seoul will perform a new single, “Dynamite,” marking the TV debut of the song.

BTS announced earlier that “Dynamite” would be released as a single on Aug. 21.

The wildly popular band is nominated for three awards at this year’s ceremony, all for the song “On”: best pop, best K-pop and best choreography.

The award show will mark the first event at the Barclays Center since the coronavirus pandemic led to shutdowns in March.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo and MTV confirmed in late June that the event could physically take place at the arena with “limited capacity or no audience.”

## Steve McQueen sets 3 premieres at NY fest

Three original films by Oscar-winner Steve McQueen will debut at the New York Film Festival this year, organizers said Monday. The “12 Years a Slave” director will get the opening night slot for the 1980s-set music romance “Lovers Rock” in addition to two other premieres for films in his anthology series.

McQueen’s “Small Axe” anthology is comprised of five films telling stories about London’s West Indian community from the 1960s to the mid-1980s.

The other two films premiering are “Mangrove,” with “Black Panther” actor Letitia Wright, which tells the true story of a group of Black activists called the Mangrove 9 who clashed with police in the 1970s and “Red, White and Blue,” another true story about a man, Leroy Logan, who joins the police to try to inspire change from within. John Boyega stars.

The five films will premiere this year on Amazon Prime Video in the U.S. and on BBC One.

New York Film Festival organizers say the date of the event will be announced in the coming weeks.

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
 leonard.terry@stripes.com  
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 reid.robert@stripes.com  
 Tina Croyley, Managing Editor for Content  
 croyley.tina@stripes.com  
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
 moores.sean@stripes.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

EUROPE STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
 Erin Slavik, Europe & Mideast Business Editor  
 slavik.erin@stripes.com  
 +49(0)31.3615.9350, DSN (314)583.9350

**Pacific**  
 Aaron Kidd, Pacific/Bureau Chief  
 kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
 +81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

**Washington**  
 Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
 caccioli.joseph@stripes.com  
 (+1)202.886-0031  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com

CRIMINAL

**Mideast**  
 Robert Reisman, Mideast/Circulation Manager  
 reisman.robert.naf@mail.com  
 xscirculation@stripes.com  
 DSN (314)583-9111

**Europe**  
 Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager  
 lewis.karen@stripes.com  
 +49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

**Pacific**  
 Marli Mori, Customerhelp@stripes.com  
 (+1)233.6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

**Washington**  
 tel: (+1)202.886.0003  
 633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

**Reader Letters**  
 letters@stripes.com

**Additional contacts**  
 stripes.com/contactus

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 56 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45202, APO AP 96302-0102. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45202, APO AP 96302-0102.

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OPINION

Long lines to vote are deadly in a pandemic

By FAYE FLAM  
 Bloomberg Opinion

In this pandemic-tainted election year, long lines at the polls have the potential to be catastrophic. The kinds of interventions needed to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in stores are unlikely to be helpful at polling places if people still have to wait hours to vote.

The latest studies showing how the coronavirus is transmitted put the blame on crowded, indoor environments, says Erin Bromage, a biology professor at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, who's been tracking the science of the pandemic's spread. If anyone were to catch COVID-19 from voting in November, it would most likely be picked up from waiting in a long line, indoors, with many other people.

While distance from other people matters, so does the amount of time spent in their vicinity. Asking people to stand 6 feet apart won't help much if the wait to vote is a long one. Briefly passing someone else at a polling place is unlikely to transmit the virus, but standing in a crowded room for hours is a significant risk.

There's no way the current voting infrastructure can accommodate this pandemic, says Rebecca Mercuri, a founder of the company Notable Software and an expert on voting security. But the solution is simple: Rely on paper ballots that can be mailed in or filled out at home and delivered to designated drop-off spots.

Despite President Donald Trump's feigning anger about mail-in ballot fraud, she says, paper ballots are less prone to tampering and malfunction than voting machines. And absentee voting and mail-in voting are the same thing, despite the president's claims that the former is fine

By now, it's safe to say the pandemic should give us all an automatic and legitimate reason to vote remotely.

while the latter is vulnerable to abuse. She says the notion that absentee voting can't be made secure is a conspiracy theory.

That doesn't mean the system shouldn't be made more secure. States need to work fast to ensure that paper ballots are secure and easy to obtain, fill out, and mail in or drop off.

Mercuri has long argued that machines with no paper trail can be hacked or malfunction, and that absentee forms are actually a more secure way to vote. But instead of relying on the mail, she finds out where she can turn her ballot in herself — so she's sure it will be counted. With the pandemic, we might need more drop-off sites for these ballots, and a longer window of time for voters to submit them. We'll also need videos and public service announcements explaining how to vote by mail, because some absentee ballots involve a complicated series of envelopes, seals and stickers to ensure nobody votes more than once, and these are not all user-friendly.

Polling places can stay open for a degree of normal, in-person voting on Election Day, as long as some creative thinking goes into avoiding indoor crowding and lines. Mask-wearing is not going to solve all the problems on its own. Masks do reduce risk, but all the same, Bromage says, "having a snaking line through a gymnasium is a terrible idea." Setting up outdoor tents would help prevent transmission, along with asking people to stay apart and wear masks. Polling places should also let people hand in their ballots quickly, rather than making them wait for each form to be scanned.

It will help alleviate the strain on polling places, though, if many people can vote by mail. Plus, there are lots of people who shouldn't be going to their polling place at all, and not just because they're older or immunocompromised. Bromage points out that many thousands of people are likely to be under quarantine on Election Day — right now, there are around 60,000 new cases a day, but provided they fall to zero, 50,000 and people observe a 14-day quarantine period, that's 700,000 people who should not be going out to vote but who are entitled to have their votes counted. And some people will be too sick with COVID to leave the house.

Which is all the more reason for every state to make paper ballots easy to get. In some states, Mercuri says, absentee voting is becoming the norm, while in others, people need a reason to obtain an absentee ballot. By now, it's safe to say the pandemic should give us all an automatic and legitimate reason to vote remotely.

What officials should be doing now is walking people through the steps of absentee or mail-in voting — not drumming up fears of fraud that will weaken the election's legitimacy, or insisting on in-person voting that will extend the pandemic and cost more lives.

Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. She has written for the Economist, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science and other publications. She has a degree in geophysics from the California Institute of Technology.

Virtual work upends the office power dynamic

By CONOR SEN  
 Bloomberg Opinion

There's more to the virtual work trend than days full of Zoom calls from a home office. It also means the possibility of new ways of getting work done. In the physical world, work at a company or university exists in a hierarchical structure; in a virtual world, that work can get done in a more decentralized, democratic manner. Those who lacked influence suddenly can acquire much greater visibility and prominence, all without the approval of traditional gatekeepers. This potential for expanded participation from previously excluded voices is an underappreciated disruption that could change the way society operates.

The story of Nathan Tankus, recently written up by Bloomberg Businessweek, is one such example. Despite not even having a bachelor's degree yet, he's become an influential voice on economics and monetary policy, writing in a clear and compelling manner on the subject. We might not give credit to working from home or virtual work for this, but those lines have become blurred in economics and finance. Long gone are the days where traders had to be on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, or where economists and academics had to be in Washington, New York or on a college campus to contribute to the field.

What's notable about Tankus is the progressive angle of his views, which might be related to not having to get past the sentries in academia or Wall Street to make his views heard. He's found an audience on his own, is building a base of subscribers to his newsletter and can expand from there. The more economics, media and financial industries become detached from physical offices, the more opportunities there are for people like Tankus without traditional pedigrees to influence debates from which those like him were once excluded.

Another example is the growing community known as Election Twitter. A generation ago, the political campaign infrastructure and media was concentrated in Washington, with a focus on the national and state parties and their leadership. Increasingly, that's happening in a more decentralized manner and on the internet, with Election Twitter being an extreme example of how that can play out in practice. Many members of this community are quite young — some are even in their teens — and their hobby is generating color-coded maps for past elections and scrutinizing political polls.

And they may be in the process of going from observing elections to shaping them. Noticing that national trends might mean Alaska races in 2020 could be competitive, but lacking polling for the state, they set out to crowdfund a poll to gauge the state of the race there. They succeeded, and the poll they commissioned showed a close race. With that information now public, campaigns in Alaska can show that poll to their supporters, leading donors to target the race in a way they might not have otherwise. It's another example of people working remotely, coordinating to get things done.

Music is another industry that's been reshaped by virtual work. Last year's viral sensation, "Old Town Road" by Lil Nas X, was a song that was a product of virtual

work. It was a beat that Lil Nas X, living in suburban Atlanta at the time, bought from a producer he didn't know and had never met who lived outside of Amsterdam, turned into a song, and then marketed on social media platforms such as SoundCloud, TikTok and Twitter before he had a record deal or had even performed the song in public.

Taylor Swift's latest album was produced virtually as well. Different parts of the album were created in New York, Los Angeles, Paris and Wisconsin, with nobody meeting face-to-face because of coronavirus travel restrictions. Although the music industry may continue to be anchored in traditional hubs like Los Angeles, New York and Nashville, Tenn., it's now possible to participate from anywhere with talent and luck.

What ties all of these stories together is the blurring of working virtually and the way content is created and distributed on the web. Given before the pandemic led to the closure of offices, people were responding to work calls and emails on their phone, and companies were putting out corporate communications on Facebook and Twitter. Now big companies and their employees are being forced to operate on the same playing field, competing with people who are native to the new virtual world and have already found success working this way. The old hierarchies and the role of the gatekeepers may never be the same.

Conor Sen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He has been a contributor to the Atlantic and Business Insider. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.



## OPINION

## Profoundly significant history not yet repeated

BY GEORGE F. WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

SEVENTY-FIVE years ago Sunday, three days after the first use of a nuclear weapon, the second occurred. There has not been a third in the subsequent 27,394 days. One of humanity's remarkable achievements is this absence of something.

President Harry S. Truman, who ordered the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, did not learn about the existence of the Manhattan Project that developed the weapons until he became president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 12, 1945. The developers did not know until July 16, in the New Mexico desert, whether the weapon's physics would work. Truman used the bombs to avoid invading Japan. His decision, following the bitter-end Japanese fanaticism on two Ijima and Okinawa, was a moral and successful wager on economizing violence.

In the decision's immediate aftermath, however, little was known of the scale and nature of the violence, and for a while the U.S. government wanted to prevent knowledge. When reports said the Hiroshima bomb was equivalent to more than 20,000 tons of TNT, a young reporter stationed in Europe, named Walter Cronkite, assumed this was a typo, which he changed to 20 tons. "It was just the same as getting a bigger gun than the other fellow had to win a war," said Truman, adding, "Nothing else but an artillery weapon."

Except this one melted eyes in their sockets. Radiation sickness — the bomb's lethality long after detonation: uncontrollable vomiting, diarrhea, bleeding gums, wounds that would not heal, disappearing white blood cells, fevers reaching 106 degrees — had been defined, then minimized. Adlai L. Gen. Leslie Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, first dismissed Japanese reports of lethal radioactive effects as "pure propaganda," then told a Senate com-

mittee that radiation poisoning "is a very pleasant way to die." In May 1946, however, John Hersey arrived in Hiroshima.

One of his earlier New Yorker stories had concerned the sinking of a PT boat commanded by a young sailor named John F. Kennedy. Two years later, another story began:

"At exactly fifteen minutes past eight in the morning, on August 6, 1945, Japanese time, at the moment when the atomic bomb flashed above Hiroshima, Miss Toshiko Sasaki, a clerk in the personnel department of the East Asia Tin Works, had just sat down at her place in the plant office and was turning her head to speak to the girl at the next desk."

What followed was, Lesley M.M. Blume says, "one of the most important works of journalism ever created," 30,000 words that filled the entire Aug. 31 issue of the New Yorker and became the book "Hiroshima," which has not since been out of print. Blume's new book about the making of Hersey's essay, "Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-up and the Reporter Who Revealed It to the World," argues that by defeating Gen. Douglas MacArthur's censorship regime in Japan, Hersey compelled Washington to surmount its reticence, born of queasiness, about the bombings. Even Groves registered few, if any, objections to the essay.

After the war had killed perhaps 60 million combatants and civilians, and after the Holocaust's industrialized murder, people experienced what Blume calls "atrocity exhaustion." Nevertheless, Hersey's unsparing journalism, Blume argues, made impossible any further discussion of the bomb as a conventional weapon, and his understated, matter-of-fact presentation of horrific facts facilitated the implementation of deterrence, which has been successful. So far.

Hersey could not, however, immunize his nation from some subsequent follies when nuclear weapons became entangled



ЕВГЕНИЙ МОШНИКОВ/АФ

Diplomats to Japan offer flowers to the cenotaph for the atomic bombing victims Wednesday near the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in western Japan. Thursday marks the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing on Hiroshima.

in interservice parochialism and rivalries. Fred Kaplan's jaw-dropping 2020 book "The Bomb: Presidents, Generals, and the Secret History of Nuclear War" reports that a Navy commander once minimized the military effectiveness of nuclear weapons — the Air Force had custody of them — by testifying "that you could stand at one end of Washington National Airport, set off an atom bomb on the other end, and walk away 'without serious injury.'" The Air Force, exuberantly multiplying potential Soviet targets to match the expanding U.S. nuclear arsenal, assigned 17 nuclear weapons to a Soviet base inside the Arctic Cir-

cle, where Soviet planes would land after bombing U.S. sites. U.S. nuclear weapons were allocated not just to Soviet tanks but also to the factory that produced them, the steel mill that supplied the factory, the ore-processing facility that supplied the mill, and the ore mine.

The human capacity for such lunacy suggests that people are too optimistic when they say that the vast majority of human beings who will ever live have not yet lived. If true, this will require an endless supply of the skill, leavened by luck, that has got humanity through its most recent 27,394 days.

## Hezbollah will not escape blame for Beirut blasts

BY HUSSEIN IBISH

Bloomberg Opinion

AS IF the Lebanese haven't suffered enough. For months, they have been caught between an economic meltdown, crumbling public services, and a surging pandemic. Now they must count the dead and survey the extensive damage to their capital after two giant explosions on Tuesday.

The blasts, especially the second, were so huge they were reportedly heard and felt in Cyprus. At least 100 people are reported to have been killed — that number will almost certainly rise — and thousands injured. A large expanse of the Beirut port and its immediate neighborhood lies in smoking ruin. Miles away, streets are full of shattering glass.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government says the explosions were caused when careless welding ignited about 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly combustible material used as fertilizer and for bomb-making. By comparison, Timothy McVeigh used about 2 1/2 tons of the same chemical in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The 2015 disaster in the Chinese city of Tianjin was caused by the explosion of 800 tons of ammonium nitrate.

The equivalent of 2,000 Oklahoma City-sized bombs could indeed account for the devastation and deadly residues mushrooming cloud that plumed gaudily over the Beirut

**Even in this country that has suffered so much and for so long, the latest of Lebanon's tragedies will not soon be forgotten, nor its perpetrators forgiven.**

port. But it doesn't mean Lebanese will simply accept that the explosion was an unavoidable, force majeure event. Assuming the official account holds up, the disaster again exposes the rot that is destroying the country — an especially corrosive mix of corruption, ineptitude and malign intentions.

The ammonium nitrate was apparently seized in 2013 from a Moldovan-flagged ship traveling from Georgia to Mozambique. But someone — who we don't yet know — brought it into the Beirut, instead of returning, auctioning or disposing of it, the port management inexcusably allowed it to be stored there for years.

There are no prizes for guessing who in Lebanon might be interested in keeping such vast quantities of explosive material close at hand. The U.S. Treasury and Israel both believe Hezbollah controls many of Beirut's port facilities.

Diab, whose government is entirely dependent on political support from Hezbollah and its Maronite Christian allies, has vowed to hold those responsible to account. More than likely, some minor officials will be fingered for permitting improper storage of highly dangerous material. [The Lebanese government said Wednesday it is putting an unspecified number of Beirut port officials under house arrest.]

Iran-backed Hezbollah, with its large and well-armed militia as well as its political hold on the prime minister, has nothing to fear from the state. But it will not escape public opprobrium: Most Lebanese will assume the ammonium nitrate belonged to the militia, for use in Syria and against Israel.

Why the chemicals exploded is another matter, rich with possibilities of conjecture. In the court of public opinion, the usual suspects will be rounded up from the ongoing shadow war between Iran and Hezbollah on one side and Israel on the other. President Donald Trump, who can be relied upon to make everything worse, speculated it was a deliberate attack. He will be picked up and amplified by conspiracy theorists in the Middle East.

But suspicions of Hezbollah's culpability will intensify on Friday when a United Nations special tribunal for Lebanon that has been looking into the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is expected to issue verdicts in cases

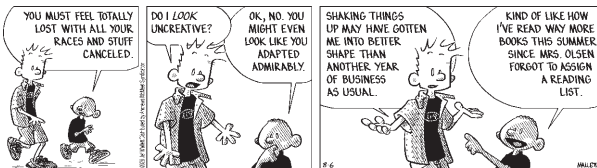
against four Hezbollah cadres being tried in absentia. The men are in hiding, and have not been seen in years; even if they are found guilty, no one expects them to be handed over. Hariri, remember, was killed in a massive blast. A guilty verdict would increase domestic pressure on Hezbollah, its allies and the government. When Lebanon have finished mourning their dead, anger will return — the kind that fueled the massive street demonstrations that brought down Diab's predecessor last October.

Even without the Beirut blasts, the timing of the verdict would have been awkward for Diab, who is struggling to negotiate an economic bailout with the International Monetary Fund: Among the hurdles is Hezbollah's resistance to the necessary reforms.

Hezbollah finds itself uncomfortably positioned as the principal backer of the government presiding over a thoroughgoing collapse of the Lebanese state and society. It will not easily shake off blame for the Beirut blast, or for the Hariri assassination. Even in this country that has suffered so much and for so long, the latest of Lebanon's tragedies will not soon be forgotten, nor its perpetrators forgiven.

Hussein Ibish is a senior resident scholar at the Arab Gulf States Institute in Washington. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

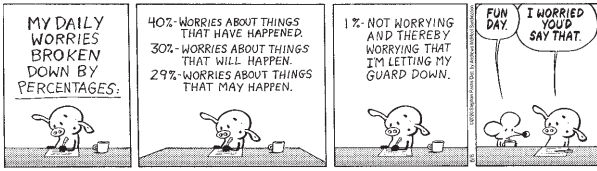
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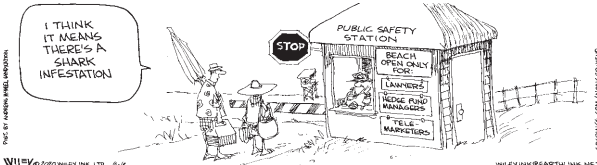
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Pearls Before Swine



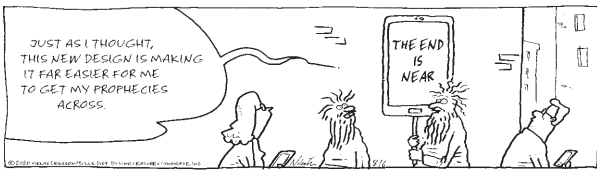
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11		
12						13					14			
15						16					17			
18									19	20				
			21				22	23						
24	25	26					27			28	29	30		
31									32			33		
34			35							36		37		
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41	42									43		44	45	46
47							48	49	50					
51										52				53
54										55				56

ACROSS

- 1 Obi
- 5 College VIP
- 9 Chatter
- 12 Jazzy Fitzgerald
- 13 Scarce
- 14 Enzyme ending
- 15 Hotel atrium
- 17 Hwy.
- 18 Call for
- 19 Passion
- 21 Atop
- 22 Threaded hardware
- 24 Chess soldier
- 27 One of the five W's
- 28 Froth
- 31 Equal (Pref.)
- 32 Football filler
- 33 Hitter's stat
- 34 Knitting stitch
- 36 Transcript no.
- 37 Furniture brand
- 38 Flying toys
- 40 Harris or Asner
- 41 Maestro Zubin
- 43 Egyptian deity
- 47 Santa — winds
- 48 Paved tennis surface

DOWN

- 1 Brief moments
- 2 Matty of baseball
- 3 Urban blight
- 4 "NCIS" star Mark
- 5 — Mawr speech
- 6 Goat's cry
- 7 Bruins legend
- 8 Fragrant wood
- 9 Raking leaves, mowing the lawn, etc.
- 10 Regarding
- 11 Equal
- 16 Heavy weight
- 20 Ump
- 22 Fleet members
- 23 "Downton Abbey" countess
- 24 Domino spot
- 25 Tempse sch.
- 26 Toil away
- 27 Carry on
- 29 Copper head?
- 30 Soccer's Hamm
- 35 Set afire
- 37 Figures of speech
- 39 Western resort lake
- 40 PC key
- 41 Pulverize potatoes
- 42 "May It Be" singer
- 43 Praiseful pieces
- 44 Wreck
- 45 Cookbook author
- 46 Dance move
- 49 Busy insect
- 50 Sony rival

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	D	E	M	O	E	T	M	A	N
E	D	I	T	A	N	S	R	I	L	E
W	I	S	H	L	I	S	T	I	S	M
D	E	C	E	I	T	O	L	D	H	A
B	F	F	D	I	S	G	N	A	S	H
C	R	I	B	S	A	C	T	S	K	S
C	A	S	E	D	O	R	B	H	I	T
H	O	T	T	E	A	S	T	A	G	E
E	L	A	L	D	I	S	H	R	A	C
M	I	N	E	I	L	E	T	R	O	Y
I	N	K	S	O	K	S	S	Y	N	E

8-6

CRYPTOQUIP

M A B C D CORXX C B I Q K L Z Y C

U D Z D Y D V L I L M D X F I B M

C M Z R I Q D Z C. M A D F J I D U D R G A

B M A D Z V Z B O U R F K R G J U Z D I.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL THE MONEY THAT PEOPLE SPEND ON HAWAIIAN DANCE LESSONS? HULA MOOLA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals T

# SCOREBOARD/PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

## Deals

### Tuesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**Major League Baseball**  
**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** — Placed LHP Carlos Rodon on the 10-day IL. Purchased contract of RHP Brady Lail from his alternate training site and designated LF Luis Baez for assignment.  
**DETROIT TIGERS** — Options RHP Anthony Rizzo to their alternate training site.  
**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Selected OF Jo Adell. Recalled RHP Kyle Keller from the alternate training site. Placed RHP Cam Bedrosian on the 10-day IL.  
**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Placed LHP Rich Hill on the 10-day IL.  
**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Options RHP Brooks Kivvich to their alternate training site. Outrighted C Chris Laney to their alternate training site.  
**PALMDALE ATHLETICS** — Placed RHP Jordan Weems on the 10-day IL and re-signed RF James Sauer from their alternate site.  
**TAMPA BAY RAYS** — Options RHP Trevisble to their alternate training site. Activated RF Austin Meadows from the 10-day IL. Recalled 1B Brian O'Grady from their alternate training site. Placed CF Manuel Margot on the bereavement list.  
**TEXAS RANGERS** — Activated LHP Joey Rodriguez on the 10-day IL. Placed 1B Greg Bird on 10-day IL.

**National League**  
**ATLANTA BRAVES** — Recalled RHP Chad Sobotka and RHP Husnar Ynoa. Placed RHP Mike Soroka on the 45-day IL and designated LHP Chris Rusin for assignment.

**MIAMI MARLINS** — Placed RHPs Sandy Alcántara, Jeff Brubaker, Robert Duggar, Yimi García, Jordan Holloway, Nick Neidert and Ryne Stanek. LHP Adán Centeno, RHP Ryan Fralton, OF Willie Washington, Justin Shafer and Rodrigo Yamamoto, LHP Josh Winder and RHP Jhonny Peralta. Reinstated OF Lewis Brinson and OF Matt Joyce from the 10-day IL.  
**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES** — Placed RHP D. Dan Castano, RHP Josh A. Smith, RHP Nick Vincent, C Ryan Larcen and RF Edgardo Alvarez on the 10-day IL.  
**NEW YORK METS** — Selected of Billy Hamilton from the alternate training site. Placed RHP Jacob deGrom on the 45-day IL.

**SAN DIEGO PADRES** — Options RHP David Bednar to their alternate training site. Placed RHP Ryan Helsinger on the bereavement list from Padres Alternate Training Site.  
**ST. LOUIS CARDINALS** — Placed RHP Brad Miller from the 10-day IL and placed CF Yadiel Rodriguez on the 10-day IL. Placed INF Mando Sosa, RHP Carlos Martínez, RHP Junior Fernández and RHP Kodi Whitely on the 10-day IL.  
**WASHINGTON NATIONALS** — Reinstated OF Adam Lind from the alternate training site and optioned Andrew Stevenson to the alternate training site.

**National Football League**  
**ATLANTA FALCONS** — Waived CB Roquan Smith. DE Austin Larkin and DE Bryson Young.

**ARIZONA CARDINALS** — Signed OG Kevin Norwood to a one-year contract.  
**BUFFALO BILLS** — Activated DT Vincent Taylor from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Reinstated LB Mike Bell and DL Spencer Long.

**CAROLINA PANTHERS** — Claimed RB Trent Williams from the reserve/COVID-19 list. New York Jets.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS** — Activated RB Dontrell Hillard and S Jovante Moffatt from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Andrew Billings on reserve/opt-out. Placed WR Marcus Bradley on reserve/COVID-19 list.

**DETROIT LIONS** — Activated CB Justin Coleman from the reserve/COVID-19 list.  
**LAS VEGAS RAIDERS** — Waived MLB Matt Kemp.

**MIAMI DOLPHINS** — Activated CB Cordell Webster from the reserve/COVID-19 list and waived LB Rex Sunahara and CB Cordrea Tankersley.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Activated S Brian Cole and WR Justin Jefferson from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed RB Matt Watts on the reserve/COVID-19 list. Reinstated RB Matt Healy from the Las Vegas Raiders.

**NEW ORLEANS SAINTS** — Waived DT Tyrell Crawford.  
**NEW YORK JETS** — Waived DE Wyatt Miller.

**NEW YORK GIANTS** — Re-signed LB Matt Milano.  
**PHILADELPHIA EAGLES** — Claimed TE Cole Van Orman from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Placed WR Brandon Brinkley on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

**SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS** — Activated WR Brandon Aiyuk from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Reinstated RB Phillip Lindsay from the 10-day IL. Placed RB Matt Breida on the 10-day IL. Activated WR Richie James from the 10-day IL. Placed RB Matt Breida on the 10-day IL. Placed RB Matt Breida on the 10-day IL. Placed RB Matt Breida on the 10-day IL.

**WASHINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB** — Signed RB Lesean McCoy.  
**WASHINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB** — Signed WR Dontrell Inman.

**NHL** — Fined Florida Panthers D Mike Matheson \$2,500 for high-sticking.  
**WASHINGTON CAPITALS** — Signed D Adam Clendinning to a one-year contract. Club, and Tobias Geisler to EV Zug (Swiss National League).

# Woods likes 'is approach' for PGA

By Doug Ferguson  
 Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The course is one Tiger Woods knows well and where he has winning memories. The PGA Championship is a major he has won four times, more than anyone except Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen.

Woods learned last year that brings no guarantee of playing well.

Coming off the deep emotions of a Masters victory that capped his remarkable comeback, Woods lasted only two days at Bethpage Black and missed the cut.

He said Tuesday he's in a much better place at the TPC Harding Park.

Never mind that Woods has played only one tournament — a tie for 40th at the Memorial — in the last six months because of the COVID-19 pandemic and his own limited schedule. The biggest difference was showing up on Sunday in the sunshine to play 18 holes at Harding Park, followed by nine holes Monday as fog crept through the cypress trees and the temperature plunged into the 50s.

A year ago, he played 18 holes a week before the PGA Championship and only nine holes in the three days leading to the opening round. This year, his approach appears more serious.

"After I won the Masters, it was a bit of a whirlwind," Woods said. "We got a chance to go to the White House and meet with our president. It was exciting winning the Masters for quite some time. Came to Bethpage and played awful, and felt like Brooks (Koepka) beat me by like 30 shots on two days."

It wasn't that bad. Koepka pipped him by only 17 and went on to win a second straight Wanamaker Trophy.

"My game is better than it was going into that PGA," Woods said. "And hopefully, I can put it together this week."

They were encouraging words, not quite to the level he shared about a few past majors.

Woods said that only three times in the 15 majors he won did he realize "all I had to do was keep my heartbeat going and I was going to win."

One was his 12-shot victory in the 1997 Masters. The others were his 15-shot win at Pebble Beach in 2000 and his eight-shot win at St. Andrews in 2000.

"My game was clicking on all cylinders for maybe the week prior. The week of it, got a little bit better and just had to maintain it the rest of the week," he said. "Those were the rare exceptions."

He can't predict how his surgically repaired back will feel tomorrow, much less for an entire week. And he hasn't competed enough lately to get a true sense of how he will perform.

Woods just knows it will be quiet. This is the first major without spectators. The atmosphere is nothing new for players who have been back at work for the last two months on the fan-free PGA Tour. The stakes are higher now with a major, no matter how silent it might be.

"The atmosphere will not be the same, and I can say from experience," Jon Rahm said. "You're coming down the stretch and you're hitting some shots and you don't know what's going on, you don't know what the people in front of you are doing. And you're hitting shots into the green and you don't know how those they can be. It's very odd down the stretch."

It wasn't anything like that when Woods played at Harding Park in 2005, beating John Daly in a World Golf Championship that felt like a rock concert with two of the biggest draws of golf — one predictable, the other not so much — in a playoff. It was so loud that Woods recalled being half-deaf from the screaming.

And now there are only silent spectators, for him and so many others.

For the second straight year, Koepka comes to Northern California with a chance to win the same major three years in a row, a feat achieved by only six players in the 160-year history of the majors. He was runner-up at Pebble Beach last summer in the U.S. Open. Now he's the two-time defending champion for the PGA, and he found some form last week with a runner-up finish in a World Golf Championship.

"My game feels like it's in really, really good shape right now," he said. "Every day, I feel a bit more comfortable. I'm excited. This is a big-boy golf course."

Harding Park at 7,251 yards feels long at sea level, with heavy air and marine layer so



JEFF CHAU/AP

Tiger Woods walks along a green during practice for the PGA Championship at TPC Harding Park in San Francisco on Tuesday.

thick that the sun is a rumor. The PGA Championship has never been known for its sweaters. Woods said he was on the range Monday listening to players who were in Memphis, Tenn., last week talking about the difference in how far the ball was going.

The cool air can be an issue for Woods, who has had four back surgeries and has struggled at times in the chill.

His back acted up in the cold of Riviera in Los Angeles in February, leading him to take off a few weeks, and then the pandemic shut down golf. Then again, his back didn't feel right in the July heat of Ohio for a few days. That's one area of his game Woods can't control.

"I know I won't have the same range of motion as I would back home in Florida where it's 95 every day. That's just the way it is," Woods said. "I think the weather forecast is supposed to be like this all week — marine layer, cool, windy, and we're all going to have to deal with it."

## Quiet: Plunge in world ranking shows why 'Golden Child' is off radar

### FROM BACK PAGE

So much has changed since his last visit to the TPC Harding Park. That was in 2015 for the Cadillac Match Play. Spieth was the newly minted "Golden Child" in golf as the Masters champion. He won the U.S. Open the following month, missed a British Open playoff by one shot at St. Andrews and was runner-up in the PGA Championship.

No one ever made such a spirited bid for the calendar Grand Slam.

Now, the world ranking tells the story. Spieth was No. 2 after winning at Royal Birkdale and getting his first shot at the career Grand Slam in the 2017 PGA Championship (he tied for 28th). He was No. 8 in the world going to Bellverre for the PGA Championship the following year (he tied for 12th).

He was No. 39 going to Bethpage Black last year. He played in the final group with Brooks Koepka on Saturday, albeit eight shots behind, and fell back quietly. He tied for third.

Now he has plummeted all the way to No. 62, out of the top 50 for the first time since he was a 20-year-old rookie.

More troublesome than not winning is that Spieth has rarely contended. He has not finished within three shots of the lead since his remarkable rally in the final round of the Masters two years ago left him two shots behind Patrick Reed.

Is there hope? He has no doubt. Is there a chance at Harding Park? He has experience. "My game is necessarily totally about form," Spieth said. "They're about experience and being able to grind it out, picking apart golf courses. So I feel like I probably have more confidence going into a major no matter where my game is than any other golf tournament."

Exactly what went wrong is a topic of debate and discussion. He was ill all of December before going into the 2018 season. His alignment got off. His putting, the hallmark of his game, went sideways. And he's been trying to put back the pieces ever since. The last two years he hasn't made it to the Tour Championship.

His only real success of late has been a more positive attitude. Spieth used the word "grace" at Colonial, his way of saying he will learn to shrug off mistakes and keep going.

"I almost feel at times like the game is testing me a little bit right now," he said.

Last week, he spoke of a shot that hit a tree. Whereas it used to bounce in the fairway, this one went off a cart path and out-of-bounds. The same thing happened at Hilton Head.

"I feel like you can look at it a couple ways," Spieth said. "You can get really upset and complain about it — which I've done and that's not helpful — or you can look at it like, 'Hey, this is part of the game testing you, and the better you handle these situations, the faster you progress forward.'"

Spieth says he is in no hurry. At 27, he has plenty of golf ahead of him in his career. As brilliant as his 2015 season was, he'd like to think his best years are ahead of him.

But there's only one PGA Championship this year. One shot at the career Grand Slam. "It's something that I really want," Spieth said. "It's probably the No. 1 goal in the game of golf for me right now is to try and capture that. I'd love to be able to hold all four trophies."

The way the last three years have gone, any trophy would do.



## MLB ROUNDUP

## Retooled, rested Marlins blank Orioles in return

Associated Press

**BALTIMORE** — After enduring one final delay in their effort to return from an eight-day, coronavirus-induced hiatus, the Miami Marlins found enough power and pitching within their vastly overhauled roster to beat the Baltimore Orioles 4-0 Tuesday night.

Francisco Cervelli and Jesus Aguilar homered for the Marlins, who had their season halted after 18 players tested positive for COVID-19 following the opening series in Philadelphia.

Pablo Lopez (1-0) threw five innings of two-hit ball and the bullpen allowed just one hit in Miami's first shutout victory since Sept. 8 against Kansas City.

Late Tuesday afternoon, the Marlins were still awaiting the result of further COVID-19 tests, a process that stalled their arrival at Camden Yards and pushed back the scheduled 7:35 p.m. start by 41 minutes.

Orioles starter John Means (0-1) allowed one run and two hits in 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings. He retired 13 in a row before Cervelli drove a 3-1 pitch into the left-field seats to end the left-hander's night.

After the final out, Miami lined up and did "air" high-fives in which the players didn't make contact with their hands.

**Nationals 5, Mets 3:** Star slugger Juan Soto danced on the dugout roof to celebrate solo shots by Howie Kendrick and Josh Harrison, and host Washington returned from a coronavirus-caused four-day break to beat injury-depleted New York in a rain-interrupted game.

Kendrick — who missed the Nationals' last two games with a bad back, so he hadn't played in a week — went 4-for-4. Harrison drove in two runs and stole a base, and Patrick Corbin (1-0) allowed three runs in 5 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings while striking out eight.

When Kendrick drove a change-up from Steven Matz (0-2) over the wall in the first, Soto — who was sitting in the stands, wearing a red mask — hopped atop the home dugout and boogied as the speakers blared Montell Jordan's 1995 hit, "This Is How We Do It."

Daniel Hudson pitched the ninth for his second save in two chances.

**Rockies 5, Giants 2:** German Marquez (2-1) struck out nine in efficiently throwing into the eighth inning and benefited from an overturned home-run call for rolling Colorado. The host Rockies moved to 8-2 for the second time in franchise history, joining a 2011 team that finished 73-89.

Trailing 3-0 in the fifth, San Francisco thought it tied on a three-run homer by Steven Duggar that hit off the top of the wall. A crew chief review overturned the call and awarded Duggar a two-run double. Marquez struck out Mike Yastrzemski



Miami Marlins catcher Francisco Cervelli, center, does air high-fives with teammates after defeating the Baltimore Orioles 4-0 Tuesday in Baltimore.

and got Alex Dickerson to fly out to keep it a 3-2 game.

Nolan Arenado went deep for a second straight night, and Yency Almonte got five outs, including two double plays, pick up his first career save.

Giants starter and Denver native Kevin Gausman (0-1) threw 5 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings and allowed four runs in his first appearance at Coors Field. He struck out seven.

**Athletics 5, Rangers 1:** Stephen Piscotty hit host Oakland's second walkoff grand slam of the year and gave the club its fourth straight win.

The late-game theatrics helped the A's win on a night when prized pitching prospect Jesus Luzardo pitched five scoreless innings in his first career start for Oakland and Texas starter Lance Lynn allowed his first run of the season.

Edinson Volquez (0-1) got into trouble quickly in the ninth inning when he walked two batters and gave up a hit to load the bases with nobody out. Volquez retired Robby Grossman on a pop-up before Piscotty hit a first-pitch drive over the wall in center to match the opening night 10th-inning slam by Matt Olson against the Angels.

**Dodgers 5, Padres 2:** AJ Pollock hit a pinch-hit, go-ahead double in the seventh inning and added a solo homer, and Dustin May struck out a career-high eight in a win at San Diego.

Mookie Betts entered the game in right field in the eighth inning after missing Monday night's 5-4 loss in the series open-

er due to a finger injury.

May (1-0) held the Padres to three hits and two runs in six innings, with one walk. Kenley Jansen pitched a perfect ninth for his third save in three chances.

**Angels 5, Mariners 3:** Mike Trout homered in his first plate appearance as a father. Albert Pujols moved one step closer to Willie Mays on the career home runs list and top prospect Jo Adell got a hit in his big league debut in a win at Seattle.

Trout missed four games while on paternity leave for the birth of his son, Beckham Aaron Trout. He returned with a solo shot to left-center in the first inning. Pujols hit a two-run homer later in the first for a 3-0 lead, giving him 659 for his career, one behind Mays on the career list. Adell legged out an infield single in his first at-bat. David Fletcher also homered.

Los Angeles starter Andrew Heaney (1-0) struck out three, walked four and allowed a run and three hits in 5 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings.

**Twins 7, Pirates 3:** Jose Berrios (1-1) pitched six strong innings. Nelson Cruz had three hits and host Minnesota beat Pittsburgh in a game briefly delayed when an unauthorized drone flew over Target Field.

The Twins won their fifth in a row and improved to 9-2 for the second time in the team's 60-year history. The other was 2001.

Miguel Sano doubled and Eddie Rosario dribbled a single through the shift — a swing where he reached out without moving his feet — as part of a three-run first

inning off Joe Musgrove (0-3).

**Rays 5, Red Sox 1:** Austin Meadows got two hits after missing the first 10 games of the season with the coronavirus and host Tampa Bay stopped its losing streak at five.

Boston lost its fourth in a row, including a three-game sweep at Yankees Stadium over the weekend, and fell to 3-8 overall.

Meadows hit an RBI triple in the fifth inning off Nathan Eovaldi (1-1) and scored on Brandon Lowe's single to put the Rays up 4-1.

**Braves 10, Blue Jays 1:** Max Fried boosted Atlanta's depleted rotation by allowing only one run in six innings, and Austin Riley hit a three-run homer.

The visiting Blue Jays played their first game since Thursday. Their weekend series against Philadelphia was postponed in this virus-interrupted season.

**White Sox 3, Brewers 2:** Jose Abreu hit a tiebreaking single in the seventh inning, Lucas Giolito (1-1) struck out nine and allowed two runs in six innings and visiting Chicago won its sixth straight game for the first time since April 2017.

White Sox rookie second baseman Nick Madrigal left the game with an injured left shoulder in the third inning after he was thrown out trying to get from first to third on a single up the middle. Designated hitter Edwin Encarnacion departed in the sixth inning with left shoulder soreness. Both are expected to undergo examinations Wednesday.

**Cubs 5, Royals 4:** Jason Heyward, Jason Kipnis and Wilson Contreras homered and host Chicago overcame another shaky outing by closer Craig Kimbrel to beat Kansas City for its fifth straight win.

Kimbrel took over to begin the ninth inning with a 5-2 lead but struggled again and allowed two runs and two hits while getting only one out. He's yielded six runs in 1 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings in three appearances.

**Indians 4, Reds 2:** Shane Bieber (3-0) overcame two solo home runs to pitch into the eighth inning. Frammel Reyes hit a tie-breaking, two-run homer and Cleveland snapped a four-game skid with a win at Cincinnati.

Reyes capped the Indians' comeback from a 2-0 deficit with his first homer of the season after hitting 37 with San Diego and Cleveland last year. His shot in the eighth inning to deep right-center field against Nate Jones (0-1).

**Astros 8, Diamondbacks 2:** Jose Altuve and Carlos Correa hit solo homers, George Springer added a two-run double and Houston roughed up Madison Bumgarner (0-2) for eight runs in 4 $\frac{2}{3}$  innings in Arizona.

The Astros put the game away in the fifth inning with five runs, including two on Springer's bases-loaded double.

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# NH/ COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Aino, Hurricanes sweep Rangers

Associated Press

TORONTO — Petr Mrazek got the Carolina Hurricanes off to a strong start in net for the NHL's return to play, only to see James Reimer turn in an eventer performance when he was his turn.

And that was the Hurricanes moving on in the expanded Stanley Cup playoffs with confidence in their goaltending after some question as to who might give them their best chance to win.

For this week, at least, the answer seems to be: either one.

Sebastian Aho scored twice in the third period while Reimer was strong in net to help Carolina beat the New York Rangers 4-1 on Tuesday night and sweep the Stanley Cup qualifier series.

Warren Foegele scored the go-ahead goal early in the third period for the Hurricanes, redirecting a shot from the point by Brady Skjeet to beat rookie Igor Shesterkin at 5:07 in the third. Then Aho followed with a highlight-reef goal about 5½ minutes later, taking the puck from Rangers defenseman Jacob Trouba along the boards and skating in on Tony DeAngelo to backhand the puck past Shesterkin as he went to his knees.

Aho added a short-handed empty-netter late to seal it, with the Hurricanes sweeping the best-of-five series after losing all four regular-season meetings against the Rangers in the regular season.

Aho's big night, which included an assist, came after he had three assists in Monday's Game 2 win as well as a goal and an assist in the series opener.

"I felt like I worked really hard after the season was paused... and I knew if the season would continue I would be in good shape," Aho said. "I feel good right now."



FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

## The Hurricanes' Sebastian Aho, lower right, is congratulated by teammates after scoring against the New York Rangers on Tuesday.

Reimer had a huge part of the win too, finishing with 37 saves. Reimer got the start after Mrazek won the first two games of the series.

"We knew going in this was the plan," coach Rod Brind'Amour said. "Both guys were dialed in right from the start of training camp... That was an incredible performance, really all three games by our goalies. Happy for the group, but happy for those two guys because they deserve it."

Reimer had a couple of big stops during a wild second-period sequence. He stopped Brendan Lemieux as he skated in toward the crease. Carolina defenseman Jacob Slavin and Sami Vatanen dove into the crease to clock the net, with Vatanen managing to make his own diving stop of Lemieux's follow-up shot with his left shoulder.

That bought time for Reimer to get to his feet, then make another in-close stop on Filip Chytil near the crease by extending out his right arm to deflect the puck.

# Colorado State will investigate claims on COVID reporting

Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Colorado State president Joyce McConnell says she will launch an investigation into how the athletic department handled COVID-19 safety protocols amid a report that players were told not to reveal symptoms.

The investigation stems from an article published in the Coloradoan on Tuesday. According to the newspaper report, Colorado State football players and members of the athletic staff say coaches told them not to report coronavirus symptoms and threatened players with reduced playing time should they quarantine.

McConnell promised a swift investigation and full transparency. "The story raises concerns about whether the health and well-being of our student athletes is truly the top priority of Colorado State University," McConnell said in a statement. "Let me reiterate: the health and well-being of the CSU community is our top priority."

Colorado State voluntarily paused football team activities on July 29. The school said there have been 16 positive cases among all student-athletes, including 11 in football.

On Monday, Colorado State announced it had conducted 150 tests on student-athletes for the coronavirus. The results are expected later this week.

"We take the concerns of our student-athletes extremely seriously," McConnell said. "If we learn that there are any employees of CSU Athletics who do not share Colorado State University's commitment to student health and well-being above all else, we will address the issue immediately."

Director of athletics Joe Parker said in a statement he embraces the investigation. He said the report that student-athletes were instructed to withhold symptoms would "run counter to repeated communications we have had with our staff and student-athletes."

"This is unacceptable and will be dealt with swiftly," Parker maintained.

Rams football head coach Steve Addazio added in a statement: "Health and welfare of our student-athletes on the Colorado State football team is our top priority, and I fully support president McConnell's investigation into concerns about whether these protocols were properly followed by everyone involved with our program."

## NHL scoreboard

### Stanley Cup qualifiers

**Best-of-five**  
**if necessary**  
**EASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**At Toronto**  
Carolina 3, N.Y. Rangers 0  
Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 2  
Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 2  
Tuesday: Carolina 4, N.Y. Rangers 1  
N.Y. Islanders 4, Florida 2  
N.Y. Islanders 2, Florida 2  
Wednesday: Florida vs. N.Y. Islanders  
Florida vs. N.Y. Islanders  
X-Sunday: N.Y. Islanders vs. Florida  
**Montreal 1, Pittsburgh 1**  
Pittsburgh 3, Montreal 1  
Wednesday: Montreal vs. Pittsburgh  
Friday: Montreal vs. Pittsburgh  
**Saturday: Pittsburgh vs. Montreal**  
**Western Conference**  
**At Toronto**  
Columbus 1, Toronto 1  
Columbus vs. Toronto  
Tuesday: Toronto 3, Columbus 0  
Thursday: Columbus vs. Toronto  
Friday: Columbus vs. Toronto  
**X-Sunday: Toronto vs. Columbus**

**ROUND ROBIN**  
**(determines playoff seeding)**  
Philadelphia 4 vs. Tampa Bay 3  
Washington 2 vs. Tampa Bay 3  
Wednesday: Boston vs. Tampa Bay  
Thursday: Philadelphia vs. Washington  
Saturday: Washington vs. Boston  
Sunday: Tampa Bay vs. Washington  
**WESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**At Edmonton**  
Chicago 1, Edmonton 1  
Edmonton 0, Chicago 3  
Chicago 3, Edmonton 1  
Wednesday: Chicago vs. Edmonton  
Thursday: Chicago vs. Edmonton  
X-Saturday: Edmonton vs. Chicago  
**At Winnipeg**  
Calgary 4, Winnipeg 6  
Winnipeg 3, Calgary 6  
Wednesday: Winnipeg vs. Calgary  
X-Saturday: Calgary vs. Winnipeg  
**Arizona 1, Nashville 1**  
Nashville 4, Arizona 2  
Friday: Arizona vs. Nashville  
X-Saturday: Nashville vs. Arizona  
**Minnesota 3, Vancouver 0**  
Tuesday: Vancouver vs. Minnesota  
Thursday: Minnesota vs. Vancouver  
X-Saturday: Minnesota vs. Vancouver  
**At Dallas**  
X-Sunday: Vancouver vs. Minnesota  
**(determines playoff seeding)**  
Colorado 2, St. Louis 1  
Las Vegas 5, Dallas 3  
Wednesday: Dallas vs. Colorado  
Thursday: St. Louis vs. Vegas  
Saturday: Colorado vs. Las Vegas  
X-Sunday: St. Louis vs. Dallas

### Tuesday

**Hurricanes 4, Rangers 1**  
Carolina 0 1 3-4  
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 1 0-1  
**Second Period**—1, N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 1 (Strome, Trouba), 0:12; 2, Carolina, Teravainen 1 (Svechnikov, Aho), 3:18.  
**Third Period**—3, Carolina, Foegele 1 (Necas, Skjott), 5:07; 4, Carolina, Aho 2:10:25; 5, Carolina, Aho 3 (Teravainen), 19:29 (pen).  
**Shots on Goal**—Carolina 6-14-11—31.0. N.Y. Rangers 14-14-10—38.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Carolina 0 of 3; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3.  
**Goalies**—Carolina, Reimer 1-0-0 (38 shots; 37 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Shesterkin 1-0-1 (30-27).  
T—2:33.

### Wednesday

**Islanders 4, Panthers 2**  
Florida 1 1 0-2  
N.Y. Islanders 0 0 1 0-1  
**First Period**—1, Florida, Hoffman 1 (Yandle, Huberdeau), 11:16.  
**Second Period**—2, N.Y. Islanders, Martin 1 (Kuhnhackl, Greene), 6:13; 3, Florida, Barkov 1 (Yandle, Hoffman), 7:54 (pp). 4, N.Y. Islanders, Pulock 1 (Grassl, Toews), 13:48 (pp). 5, N.Y. Islanders, Eberle 1 (Pulock, Barzal), 15:27.  
**Third Period**—5, N.Y. Islanders, Eberle 2 (Grassl, Barzal), 18:19.  
**Shots on Goal**—Florida 8-11-9—28. N.Y. Islanders 13-10-11—34.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Florida 1 of 3; N.Y. Islanders 2 of 7.  
**Goalies**—Florida, Bobrovsky 0-0-0 (34 shots; 30 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Varlamov 2-0-0 (28-26).  
T—2:36.

### Thursday

**Predators 4, Coyotes 2**  
Arizona 0 0 2-4  
Nashville 1 1 1-1  
**First Period**—1, Nashville, Bonino 1 (Jussela, McElhinney), 7:50; 2, Nashville, Johansen 1, 10:27.  
**Second Period**—3, Nashville, Jankrok 1 (Jussela), 13:49 (pp); 5, Arizona, Kellor 2 (Stepan), 19:02; 6, Arizona, Cruise 1 (Oesterle, Fischer), 19:12.  
**Shots on Goal**—Arizona 14-4-8—26. Nashville 5-10-13—28.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Arizona 0 of 3; Nashville 1 of 4.  
**Goalies**—Arizona, Kutmper 1-0-0 (28 shots; 23 saves). Nashville, Saros 0-0 (26-24).  
T—2:26.

### Canucks 4, Wild 3

**Minnesota 1 0 2-3**  
Vancouver 0 1 1-4  
**First Period**—1, Vancouver, Pearson 1 (Horvat, Edler), 0:24; 2, Minnesota, Kunin 1 (Suter, Ristolainen), 17:16 (pp).  
**Second Period**—3, Vancouver, Miller 1, 3:01; 4, Vancouver, Boeser 1 (Pettersson, Edler), 8:42.  
**Third Period**—5, Vancouver, Horvat 1 (Hushech, Miller), 8:22 (pp); 6, Minnesota, Flaia 2 (Parise, Staal), 17:31; 7, Minnesota, Flaia 3 (Staal, Dumba), 19:21.  
**Shots on Goal**—Minnesota 9-10-16—35. Vancouver 10-10-8—28.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Minnesota 0 of 6; Vancouver 1 of 7.  
**Goalies**—Minnesota, Stalock 1-1-0 (28 shots; 24 saves). Vancouver, Markstrom 1-1-0 (30-27).  
T—2:39.

### Friday

**Flames 6, Jets 2**  
Calgary 1 1 3-6  
Winnipeg 1 1 0-2  
**First Period**—1, Winnipeg, Ehlers 25 (Kutikov, Beaulieu), 10:04; 2, Calgary, Lindholm 29 (Monahan, Gustafsson), 10:22 (pp).  
**Second Period**—3, Calgary, Backlund 16 (Mangiapane), 5:37; 4, Calgary, Monahan 22 (Gardiner, Redden), 7:49 (pp); 5, Winnipeg, Copp 10 (Pironk, Wheeler), 8:09 (pp); 6, Calgary, Tkachuk 23 (Backlund, Mangiapane), 8:28.  
**Third Period**—7, Calgary, Lucic 8 (Duke, Girardot), 3:28 (pp); 8, Calgary, Gaudreau 18 (Monahan), 17:41 (en).  
**Shots on Goal**—Calgary 18-10-4—32. Winnipeg 13-12-10—35.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Calgary 3 of 4; Winnipeg 1 of 2.  
**Goalies**—Calgary, Talbot 12-1-0 (35 shots; 23 saves). Winnipeg, Hellebuyck 31-21-5 (31-26).  
T—2:36.

### Saturday

**Maple Leafs 3, Blue Jackets 0**  
Columbus 0 0 0-0  
Toronto 0 1 1-2  
**First Period**—1, Toronto, Matthews 1 (Hyman), 16:00.  
**Second Period**—2, Toronto, Tavares 1 (Dermott, Nylander), 4:56; 3, Toronto, Rielly 1 (Kerfoot, Matthews), 19:17 (en).  
**Shots on Goal**—Columbus 6-8-20—34. Toronto 15-14-10—39.  
**Power-play opportunities**—Columbus 0 of 4; Toronto 0 of 5.  
**Goalies**—Columbus, Korpiola 1-1-0 (38 shots; 36 saves). Toronto, Saros 1-1-0 (20-20).  
T—2:38.

# Pac-12 players meet with governor's office in Calif.

By RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

A group of Pac-12 football players with the #WeAreUnited movement met with officials from the California governor's office Tuesday to discuss concerns about their schools' COVID-19 protocols and protecting their college eligibility.

Meanwhile, the NCAA's highest governing body put off a decision on whether to conduct fall championship events, and is moving toward passing on making that call altogether.

The Pac-12 players hope an executive order from Gov. Gavin Newsom could mandate playing approved, third-party oversight of COVID-19 rules at the Pac-12's four California schools and ensure players who opt out of the coming season because of coronavirus won't lose a year of eligibility.

The Pac-12 has said athletes who opt out will stay on scholarship this season, but whether they would be allowed to preserve their eligibility in that situation is undetermined.

"We really want to be able to move a little faster in getting health guidelines out there for us," California offensive lineman Valentino Daltoso told AP during a conference call with several

players from the group. "The eligibility piece is huge for us. If you want to opt out without eligibility guarantees you could be effectively ending your eligibility. The governor's office can help us with that."

After about a month organizing behind the scenes, the players took their movement public Sunday, issuing a lengthy list of demands related to health and safety, racial injustice and economic rights. They say if the demands are not addressed, they will opt out of the season.

Elsewhere in college sports, the NCAA Board of Governors met Tuesday to consider canceling or postponing fall championships — in sports such as soccer, volleyball and lower-division football — in all three divisions.

"In order to ensure the health and well-being of college athletes, we have to consider all the implications when determining our next steps, and we plan to provide an update to our membership and the public (Wednesday)," NCAA President Mark Emmert said in a statement.

A person who was briefed on the board's discussion told the AP that the board members decided each division will determine what to do with their fall championship events.



## SPORTS



**UConn suspends season**  
Huskies become 1st team in FBS  
to halt play » **College football, Page 23**

## PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

# Quiet quest

Spieth chasing career Grand Slam and hardly anyone notices

By DOUG FERGUSON  
Associated Press

## SAN FRANCISCO

**T**he spotlight on Jordan Spieth should be bright enough to cut through the marine layer blanketing Harding Park this week at the PGA Championship.

Win this major and he joins the most exclusive club in golf with the final leg of the career Grand Slam. Only five other players — Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Ben Hogan and Gene Sarazen — have won all four majors since the Masters began in 1934.

This is his fourth chance, and each year becomes more difficult. The longest anyone went from winning the third leg to completing the Grand Slam was three years by Player and Nicklaus.

And hardly anyone is talking about it.

It's not because Brooks Koepka is trying to become the first player to win the PGA Championship three successive times in stroke play, or because Tiger Woods is going for his record-tying fifth PGA. It's not even because golf has returned amid a coronavirus pandemic that has kept spectators away from a major championship for the first time.

Spieth has become an afterthought because he hasn't won since he captured the British Open three years ago.

Who would have guessed that? Certainly not the 27-year-old Texan.

"If you told me that, I'd probably say that guy is kind of a jerk and I'd walk the other way," Spieth said with a smile. "But here we are. And I hope to end that as soon as possible."

SEE QUIET ON PAGE 19

■ Woods says he's in better place than before last season's PGA Championship, Page 19

Jordan Spieth hits to the ninth fairway during the third round of the Memorial on July 18 in Dublin, Ohio. Spieth, who was No. 2 in the world when he took his first shot at the career Grand Slam in 2017, has fallen out of the top 50 for the first time since he was a 20-year-old rookie.

Daron Cummings / AP



Hurricanes complete sweep of Rangers in Stanley Cup qualifier » **NHL, Page 22**

Best race in bubble is chase for No. 8 seed in Western Conference » **NBA, Page 23**

